

# THUNDERBOLT

VOL. 5, No. 1

Pittsburgh, Pa.

December, 1951

## 83rd Reorganization Makes Progress



Left to right, standing: Rocco Catalfamo, Secretary-Treasurer; Raymond Varack, 1st Vice President; John McShane, 2nd Vice President; seated: Walter H. Edwards, President. Not shown, Robert Berstler, 3rd Vice President.

### NEW OFFICERS ON TOP DUTY ROSTER

At the fifth annual reunion held in Columbus in August of this year, the following officers were unanimously elected:

President, Walter H. Edwards, Jr., 2353 Winthrop Ave., Indianapolis 5, Ind. (331); 1st Vice President, Raymond J. Varack, 5227 Hamm Ave., Cleveland, Ohio (324 FA); 2nd Vice President, John J. McShane, 1094 Whittier St., Columbus, Ohio (329); 3rd Vice President, Robert Berstler, 18200 Loraine Ave., Cleveland, Ohio (331); Secretary-Treasurer, Rocco Catalfamo, 1435 Clark St., Pittsburgh 21, Pa. (330); Committee Chairman, Robert McGonagle, 318 W. 7th Ave., Columbus, Ohio (Div. Hq.)

President Edwards issued a statement directing that all officers be

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### Cooperation, Hard Work Seen For Successful Future

For those of you who don't know, formal plans fizzled for the past reunions, but things are reorganized and plans already are being made for next year. And, too, many steps have been taken in the right direction to further our progress for a bigger, better, and more solid organization of our Division Association.

Since our organization was without funds and property, a committee of the Executive Board was requested to investigate and locate such for the Association. Mr. James Hanrahan and Mr. Shelly Hughes are coordinating in that task and will report upon completion of the investigation.

This issue of the Thunderbolt is our first major accomplishment and soon we hope they will be published with regularity and smoothness as our New Thunderbolt staff gains experience in publication procedure.

Those of you who attended the Columbus reunion know that your new Sec. Treasurer Rocco Catalfamo has sent a complete financial report letting you know exactly how much was spent in Columbus and how much is now in the till. Previously, no report of this kind has informed the members to the whereabouts of his dollar. Another step in the right direction!

New Membership cards have been designed and printed. If you haven't already received yours, please send in your dues and contact your buddies to do the same. We will be very happy to send our new Membership cards to you by return mail.

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# THUNDERBOLT

Official Newspaper of the  
83rd Infantry Division Association

The Thunderbolt is written by and for  
past members and published at  
1435 Clark St., Pittsburgh 21, Pa.

**EDITOR** ..... Rocco Catalfamo  
**ASSOCIATE EDITORS** ..... Lawrence Leonardi,  
Francis Beerhalter  
**ASSISTANTS TO THE EDITOR** ..... William  
Appleton, Herbert Gibson  
**EDITORIAL STAFF** ..... Joe DePalma, Joe  
DeLuca, John Consigilo, Glenn Wible, Jules  
Desgain  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD** ..... James Hanrahan,  
Shelley Hughes, Maj. Gen. C. B. Ferenbaugh,  
Jack Strauss, Russell N. Schuck, Col. Conrad  
L. Boyle  
**HONORARY PRESIDENTS** ... Maj. Gen. Frank  
W. Milburn, Maj. Gen. Robert C. Macon,  
Ralph Neppel

## Return To Columbus In '52

Due to the splendid treatment accorded us by the management and staff of the Deshler Wallick Hotel, Columbus, Ohio and the much needed help given us by Columbus City Convention Bureau and Bob Wendelken, it was voted that we return to Columbus, August 21, 22, 23 to hold our Sixth Annual Reunion.

## Two Prior Meetings Planned

To make this the biggest and best reunion this Association has had, the officers, Committee Chairman and his committee will have two previous meetings prior to the convention dates.

## Treasurer Is Bonded

A bonding contract has been secured from the Aetna Casualty & Surety Co. This insurance policy guarantees the safety of the 83rd Association funds.

The contract is for \$5,000, a sum which will be sufficient to cover the treasury funds. The policy was purchased by our Secretary-Treasurer, Rocco Catalfamo, of Pittsburgh, Pa., and has been forwarded to President Walter H. Edwards, Jr., of Indianapolis, Indiana.

## The Primary Mission...

The primary mission of our Association is to keep firm the friendships and fraternal companionship that had their conception at Atterbury but matured and ripened through ageing of war. Within our ranks, in peace as in war, there are rich and poor; Republicans and Democrats; lawyers and laborers; farmers and factory men; Protestants, Jews, and Catholics and agnostics. The patch of the 83rd is big enough to shade and merge all difference.

Once a year, we will meet in a physical sense at our reunions. For the rest of our lives I pray we will be together constantly in the pleasant grip of comradeship.

James C. Hanrahan

## 83rd REORGANIZATION

(Continued from Preceding Page)

We have had some cooperation from those men who have sent in their company rosters but we will need many more before our mailing list is up to par. All of you who read this—PLEASE help by sending in your rosters or any list of names and addresses that you may have. Many of you have Xmas card contact with your buddies from the 83rd. Those may be just the names that **we do not have**. Come on fellows! LET'S start another "Rag Tag Circus" and send in those names and addresses to our Pittsburgh Headquarters, 1435 Clark St.

The great old 83rd is a part of all of us—let's pitch together for a bigger and better Association. In the years to come it will mean more and more to each of you.

## NEW OFFICERS ON TOP DUTY

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placed on active duty. "This is no honorary group," said Edwards, "roll up your sleeves, get down to work, we're going to put the 83rd Association back on its feet in the shortest possible time."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



**Major General Robert C. Macon**

Dear Rocco:

Your letter containing my membership card arrived today. The officers elected are all splendid and I know with them in the saddle the Association will "THUNDER AGAIN."

As we grow older, we are more inclined to look back on the past and no man living can possibly look at more glowing events than those we experienced together in the famed 83rd. For all history holds nothing more stirring than those campaigns through which we struggled with such heroic and successful contributions to the welfare and growth of our country. Our Association must be maintained not only for our own satisfaction but so that the exploits of the division may be kept vividly alive for the emulation by the next generation. The history of our success can contribute materially to the proper development of our national Character. Please accept and extend to the other officers my congratulations and warm thanks for undertaking the duties imposed. Enclosed is my check for \$10.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Macon,  
Major General

Some men have been very much interested in the old 83rd and still retain the Fighting spirit to keep the Association alive. Several letters have come to the Association Headquarters with their checks of \$4.00 which is greatly needed if we are to carry on with the printing of the Thunderbolt and to lay plans for the convention, August 21, 22, 23, 1952. Such as the ones below:

Dear Rocky:

With Walt Edwards as our new President and you as our new Secretary-Treasurer, our Association will make more headway than it ever has before. I realize you must have funds to carry on the good work and resume publication of our Association newspaper. Therefore, with great pleasure my check for \$4.00 for this year's dues is enclosed. I know all of us will get more than our money's worth when we pay our dues to you.

With best regards,

Jim Hanrahan

\* \* \*

Dear Rocky:

Received your financial report and in it the question was asked, "Do you want a bigger and better convention for next year?" The answer is yes. So enclosed is my check for \$4.00 This was the first convention I have ever attended but will be sure be there next year to meet more of my old buddies.

Your Buddy,

George Curtis

\* \* \*

Rocco:

Received your letter containing my membership card. The cards are sure nice. Enclosed is a list of names. Will do my best to help in any way I can. Lets make this the best convention ever.

John Spickler

(Continued on Next Page)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Preceding Page)

Dear Rocky:

Enclosed is my check for \$10.00, please add it to the Association funds and send me my membership card as I want to be a member in good standing.

Shelly Hughes

\* \* \*

Dear Rocco:

Enclosed is my check for \$4.00. While I had believed there was such an Association I am glad to learn of it's whereabouts. I was with 324 FA Bn., during all the time we were overseas.

George W. Irvine,  
Colma, Calif.

\* \* \*

Dear Rocco:

Enclosed is my check for \$4.00. Place me on the active mailing list. There are very few Thunderbolts deep in the heart of Louisiana, but enough of us to keep the fires burning. If any TB's should be down this way drop in and we will talk about old times.

Karl N. Smith, Lt. Col.

\* \* \*

Dear Rocco:

Received your letter and would like to know to whom I shall make out my check to, as I want to be a member in good standing. Hope to hear from you soon.

Edward Casper

## News of The Penna. Chapter

There is much to be said and such short space given that it would be impossible to put in this issue just what good work the men in this section have done.

After the convention in Boston, 1950, several men here got together and formed what they called the Pennsylvania Chapter. We had meetings once a month and had lots of fun. It wasn't all work. Along with our meetings, we talked over old times and more or less made a party out of it. We had food, drinks and movies. The men showed that they were interested in the old 83rd. We set up a club room and contacted men whom we knew were interested in the 83rd and wanted to know what the other men knew about the old buddies.

Much credit is due these men in the publication of the Thunderbolt this year. It is still the same old group. They are giving of their time and some are using their own money to keep the 83rd alive.

Since the convention, this year, they have been very busy trying to locate men and notify them that there is still an 83rd and will be so long as we all pull together. This is where you men outside of Pittsburgh can help. Since we do not have a complete roster, we need help so we can set up a man to man campaign. Several fellows have membership cards and will be glad to get yours if you will contact them.

Junior Krebs has put out letters to men in 330 Hq. Co. and if you receive one don't just say tomorrow but answer him today. He will be glad to answer you and upon receipt of your check for \$4.00 will send you a membership card by return mail.



John Krebs, Jr.

Our President, Walt Edwards, 2345-59 Winthrop Ave., Indianapolis 5, Ind., will be glad to take care of you fellows there in Indiana.

Joe DeLuca of Monessen, Pa. has membership cards and you fellows there can call him and he will hand out your membership card. Why don't we help the fellows out and look them up?

We could go on listing the various men who are trying hard to keep this fighting 83rd on the move but that would take up the entire TB, but in behalf of the officers and men of the 83rd, we would like to express our thanks to the many men whose names are not mentioned and to the men who are helping to publish this issue of the TB: Larry Leonardi, Bill Appleton, Glenn Wible, Jules Desgain, Joe DePalma, Joe DeLuca, Francis Beerhalter, Herb Gibson and, to Bob Weinman, our mail carrier, who has put notices in all VFW Clubs here in Pittsburgh.

The 83rd Association will continue and we here will do all we can to keep it on the move if you fellows out there will lend your support. Walt Edwards, President, has given us the ward to publish 5000 copies of the TB. We know there are more than that in the outfit BUT WHERE ARE THEY? Have you got an address of a buddy? If you will send it to us we will send him a copy.

This issue of the TB will be sent out to every man whose address we have but after that it will be mailed to paid members only, as the cost of printing and mailing will not permit us to do otherwise. If you have not paid your dues for this year, won't you do so by sending in your check or money order to the Association.

Address: 83rd Infantry Division Association, 1435 Clark St., Pittsburgh 21, Pa. You will receive by return mail your membership card which will also act as a receipt for your \$4.00

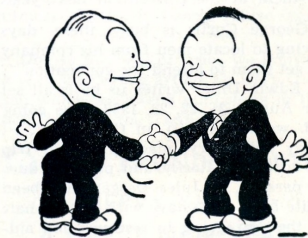
## 331st TO RESCUE

At the fifth annual reunion in Columbus, once more the 331st Infantry "SAW IT THROUGH" (financially that is). To help alleviate the lack of funds, the 331st Regiment voted to loan their regimental funds to the extent of \$200.00 to the Association. This money was greatly received in cash at the Friday afternoon meeting. A rousing vote of thanks was extended for their helping hand.



Don't Forget! Make Plans To Attend the  
**6th ANNUAL REUNION**  
Deshler-Wallick Hotel Columbus, Ohio  
August 21, 22 and 23, 1952

Shake Hands Once Again with All your former Buddies



## The Strolling Scribbler . . . .

Membership card has been sent to Ralph Neppell our only Congressional Medal award winner . . . Ed. "Rosie" Casper, Utica, Ohio has given up his B-A-R for a M-R-S. . . "Doc" Snyder, Manor, Pa. has aided greatly in the reorganization of the 83rd in spite of his growing practice. . . George Irvin sends his dues and a nice letter via Colma, Calif. . . Larry Leonardi, Pgh., Pa., now a commercial artist designed this year's membership card . . . George Kurpuski, Cleveland, Ohio is changing diapers again. Congratulations.

Lt. Col. Leinel McDonald, is now a student at Tulane University . . . Jimmy Glenn, Rome, N. Y., recently was a guest of our Pres. Walt Edwards . . . Capt. Joe Macaluso, is in New Orleans, in the construction business . . . Manny Epestein, Brooklyn, N. Y., now has a haberdashery of his own. Nice going Manny! . . . Judge Dennison Smith is now Dr. Smith, Law school, LSU.

Col. Jules Desholts is in the same assignment with the 39th Inf. Div. . . . Eugene Toler, Wichita, Kans., again traveled the farthest to attend the convention . . . Jack Neff has come in to his own as an author with his first publication "Maria" . . . Richard Ammon, wrote us that he has been on vacation and was visiting with Tom Rothchild and Melvin Riser, both of 331st . . . As we go to press we hear that Jack Chaplow is getting ready to pace the hospital halls again. This time we hope it is a girl, Jack . . . John Spickler has sent in a list of men from his Company and hopes to see more of them at the convention next year.

George Curtis is busy these days trying to locate men from his company to get them to attend the convention . . . Edwin Diller writes us he is all set for August 21, 22, 23, 1952. Nice going Ed. we'll see you in Columbus . . . Tony DiGregory, made a special trip to visit with Rocky and paid his dues in person . . . Jules Desgain has been quite busy these days with cutting hair in the day, going to reserves and aid-

ing in Reorganization of the 83rd.

Ray Clemmons, Bellevue, Ohio, is still on the ball. We got his letter requesting the Conventions dates—it was forwarded to us by the Inf. Journal . . . Ned B. Smith writes us he is all set for the convention next year and would like to hear from men from the Medical Dept. . . . John J. McShane, our 2nd Vice Pres. tells us he is getting writer's cramps from writing to his buddies, informing them of our reorganization. That goes to prove that the officers this year will do their share if you will help by letting us know where you are . . . Ed. Baechle, of Philadelphia, Pa., wants to know if more men from Postal Platoon Div. Hq., won't plan now to join him in Columbus this year.

Raymond Varack, Cleveland, Ohio, our 1st Vice Pres., tells us he is busy with his butcher shop these days but not too busy to take time out for any men around Cleveland to drop in and give him your correct address so we can get you on the active mailing list. See him at 5227 Hamm Ave. . . . Sgt. Bill Seavy, formerly of Co. C, 330th, is now in a Raider Bn. in Korea . . . This headquarters would like to hear from Capt. Allen, former Adjutant of 1st Bn., 330th Inf.

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## COMMITTEE ORGANIZED

In a recent letter from Bob McGonagle, our Committee Chairman, he states his committee is organized and have started their plans for the '52 Convention. He and his committee promises a bigger and better planned program.



**R. McGonagle**

This means that all those planning to attend next year's convention will have something worthwhile to look forward to and be assured of a wonderful time during the three days stay in Columbus.

## Application for Membership:

Name (please print) -----

Address -----

City or Town -----

Organization -----

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**

1435 Clark St., Pittsburgh 21, Pa.

Date ----- Signature -----

## GET A NEW MEMBER

With this issue of the Thunderbolt we are inaugurating a strenuous membership drive. We are trying to reach all men who previously had membership in the Association and also get as many of those who never had the occasion to belong to the Association, into the fold.

We can do this if everyone receiving this paper would send in their dues and then contact some of their old buddies and establish them as members in the "grand old 83rd." Several men have given of their time and even money to contact some of their old pals and their success in securing members has been highly satisfactory.

In an endeavor to renew lost members a copy of this paper is being sent to every man whose name we have on our files. But hereafter, only those who are paid up members will receive copies of future Thunderbolts.

We are looking forward to a banner year in membership and it will be realized if everyone does just a little more in securing renewals and new applications.

## NAMES WANTED

Approximately 35,000 men have served in the 83rd Thunderbolt Division. Where are they now? We would like to have the answer to that question. Can you give us the answer?

Perhaps you can give us the names and addresses of a few of your buddies. As of right now we know of only 1,000 men. Don't be afraid of sending your list for fear you'll be duplicating. Your editors will sift through all the lists sent in and compile a master list.

If you have any news or gossip which you think will make interesting reading for any Thunderbolt readers send it along to us and we will try our utmost to publish it some future issue.

Due to the lack of space we omitted a very interesting article by Herb Gibson which we intend publishing in the next issue of the Thunderbolt.

**TO ALL THUNDERBOLTS:  
A MERRY XMAS &  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

83rd Infantry Division Association

1435 Clark St.  
Pittsburgh 21, Pa.

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