



# THUNDERBOLT

83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

WORLD WAR II

Vol. 43 No.4

Summer Issue 1988

## THE 42<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL REUNION



COME JOIN THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER  
AND SEE THE HERSHEY MUSEUM

**SEPTEMBER 8, 9, 10**

**THE THUNDERBOLT**  
**Official Publication**  
**83rd Infantry Division Association Inc.**

The THUNDERBOLT is written by and for past members of the 83rd Infantry Division World War II and is published at 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013.

**Editor: Robert Derickson**

**STAFF REPORTERS**

Vito Palazzolo ..... 20,000 Lancaster, Harper Woods, MI 48236	Francis G. Beerhalter ... 4548 Valley View St., Pittsburgh, PA 15214
Ambrose Tynan ..... 121 Sanborn Ave., W. Roxbury, MA 02136	John Shepherd ..... 210 Lee Ave., Nitro W. Va. 25143
Nick Francullo ..... 10 Bessom St., Lynn MA 01903	S. Bielen ..... 71 Glenwood Terrace, Fords, NJ 08863
Joe Adam ..... 1753 Columbia Ave., Chicago, IL 60626	John G. Daum ..... 746 Fairfax Rd., Drexel Hill, PA. 19026
Joseph A. Macaluso ..... 5353 Pasteur Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70122	Frank Jackson ..... R.F.D. #1, Box 264, Oliver Springs, TN. 37840
Lee Titus ..... 534 Roosevelt St. Warren, OH 44483	Dan McCarthy ..... 3204 Layside Court, Louisville, KY 40220
Robert Uher ..... 7603 Pelham Dr., Parma, OH 44129	

**HONORARY PRESIDENTS**

\*Ralph G. Neppel, CMH  
 Alan F.S. Mackenzie

\*Maj. Gen. Robert C. Macon  
 Gurney S. Jaynes

\*Lt. Gen. Claude Ferebaugh  
 Daniel G. Hagman

**LIFE MEMBERS**

\*James C. Hannahan  
 \*Edward J. Murphy  
 Lawrence Redmond

\*Ralph B. Neppel CMH  
 \*Victor E. Landis  
 Samuel Klippa

\*Harry W. Lockwood  
 Walter H. Edwards, Jr.  
 \*William D. Doty

\*Robert T. Foster  
 \*Norman Campbell  
 \*Bill White

**ORGANIZATION 1987-88**

**PRESIDENT**

George A. Pletcher  
 2057 Roy Avenue  
 Abington, PA 19001

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

Albert A. Belvedere  
 65 West Minster Drive So.  
 Vincentown, NJ 08088

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

Louis Volpi  
 410 Merion Road  
 Merton, PA 19066

**THIRD VICE PRESIDENT**

Nick Francullo  
 10 Bessom Street  
 Lynn, MA 01903

**SECRETARY-TREASURER**

Robert E Derickson  
 3749 Stahlheber Road  
 Hamilton, OH 45013-9102

**CHAPLAIN**

Casey Kowalec  
 7719 Edgewood Lane  
 Seven Hills, OH 44131

**JUDGE ADVOCATE**

John Raikos  
 4039 Fir Court  
 Indianapolis, IN 46250

Matthew Pintar  
 P.O. Box 186  
 Mingo Church Rd.  
 Finleyville, PA 15332

**HISTORIAN**

Wm. Kent O'Connell  
 183 Acre Lane  
 Hicksville, L.I., NY 11801

**SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS**

Harry Stevenson  
 741 Hange Street  
 Philadelphia, PA 19128

Bernard Mendelsohn  
 1931 S. 30th Street  
 Philadelphia, PA 19145

Anthony Giannini  
 1638 Packer Avenue  
 Philadelphia, PA 19145

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Lawrence Leonard  
 1360 Preston St.  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Ralph Gunderson  
 631 S.E. 12th St.  
 Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Ames Miller  
 4283 W. 200 So.  
 Columbus, IN 47201

William Minick  
 R.R. #2  
 Kinards, SC 29355

James Prentice  
 R.R. #3 Box #140 D  
 Claremont, NH 03743

**A SALUTE TO PAST PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED US WELL**

*James C. Hanrahan ..... 1947	*Frank J. McGrogan ..... 1961	Bernard O. Riddle ..... 1974
Jack M. Straus ..... 1948	John W. Robinette ..... 1962	Robert G. Taylor ..... 1975
*Shelly Hughes ..... 1949	*Manuel C. Martin ..... 1963	Mike Skovran ..... 1976
*Julius Ansel ..... 1950	Julius Boyles ..... 1964	Manlius Goodridge ..... 1977
Walter H. Edwards Jr ..... 1951	Samuel Klippa ..... 1965	Joseph A. Macaluso ..... 1978
Leo Schneider ..... 1952	*William M. Doty ..... 1966	*William J. Chavanne ..... 1979
Finley Heyl ..... 1953	Albert A. Belvedere ..... 1967	Samuel Klippa ..... 1980
Lawrence J. Redmond ..... 1954-55	Vito C. Palazzolo ..... 1968	Michael Caprio ..... 1981
*Lt. Gen. Robert H. York ..... 1956	Pat DiGiammerino ..... 1969	Ralph Gunderson ..... 1982
*Harry W. Lockwood ..... 1957	Casey Szubski ..... 1970	Arthur Doggett ..... 1983
Raymond J. Voracek ..... 1958	*Charles Altomari ..... 1971	Bernie Cove ..... 1984
Charles Abdinoor ..... 1959	*Harold H. Dopp ..... 1972	Carroll Brown ..... 1985
*Joseph F. Minotti ..... 1960	Louis J. Volpi ..... 1973	John Hobbs ..... 1986

\*Denotes Deceased



In Memory Of

**ROBERT HOWARD YORK**  
**Lieutenant General**

**United States Army (Retired)**

**23 April 1913 - 15 April 1968**

Lieutenant General Robert H. York was born in Birmingham, Alabama, 23 April 1913.

His military career began in July 1933 when he enlisted in the Alabama National Guard. He graduated from the United States Military Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering in 1938 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry in the Regular Army.

His first assignment was with the 18th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division at Fort Wadsworth, New York. He was with the Regiment for 42 months serving as a Unit Commander.

In September 1942, as a 29-year-old Major serving as a Battalion Executive Officer, Lieutenant General York went overseas with the 18th Infantry and fought with the unit throughout all of its campaigns in Africa and Sicily and in the Normandy Invasion.

While with this unit, he served in all grades from Second Lieutenant to Lieutenant Colonel.

In July 1944, General York was transferred to the 83rd Infantry Division in Normandy and assigned as Regimental Commander of the 331st Infantry Regiment, the position he held until the division was deactivated in April 1946.

Approximately four months later he was assigned as an Instructor of Tactics at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

At the outbreak of the Korean War, General York was assigned to the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff G-3, Department of the Army, as a Staff Officer in Operations Division.

In August 1951, he was selected for attendance at the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Upon graduation he was assigned to the Office of Assistant Chief of Staff G-2, Department of the Army, as the United States Army Liaison Officer with station in Singapore. After first attending the Strategic Intelligence School, he served in this position until May 1956.

General York was assigned to the Infantry Center at Fort Benning, Georgia, in August 1956. While there he served successively as Director, Tactical Department, The Infantry School; Assistant Chief of Staff G-3, The Infantry Center; Director of Instruction and Deputy to the Assistant Commandant, The Infantry School; and Chief of Staff, The Infantry Center.

He was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff of the United Nations Command in Korea in July 1949 and served in this position until July 1960.

He returned to the United States in September 1960 with an assignment as Chief, International Division, Office of the Chief of Research and Development, Department of the Army.

Two years later in May, General York was reassigned as Military Advisor to the Deputy Director, Tactical Warfare Programs, Office of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, Department of Defense, Washington, D.C.

In November 1962, he assumed duty as Director, Advanced Research Projects Agency, Research and Development Field Unit, and Joint Operation Evaluation Group, Vietnam.

General York took command of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 21 February 1964, and went with that unit to the Dominican Republic when it was ordered there in April 1965 to protect American citizens and other foreign nationals during the uprising in Santo Domingo.

He returned to the United States to assume command of Fort Benning, Georgia and the Infantry School, 16 July 1965, where he served until he became Commanding General of XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, 1 August 1967. General York retired on 1 August 1968 and resided in Hartselle, Alabama, until relocating to the West Coast five years ago.

**Decorations:** Distinguished Service Cross; Distinguished Service Medal; Silver Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Valor; Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster; Bronze Star Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Valor; Air Medal; Purple Heart with Oak Leaf cluster; Combat Infantryman Badge; Distinguished Unit Badge; Croix de Guerre avec Palme; Legion E'Honneur; Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.

**Medals:** American Defense Service Medal; American Campaign Medal; European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (eight campaigns); World War II Victory Medal; Army Occupation Medal (Germany); National Defense Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Vietnam Campaign Medal; Vietnam Service Medal.

**Badges:** General Staff Identification Badge; Parachute Badge (Master); Aviator Badge.

A favorite verse of his... Isaiah 26:3  
*"Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind has stayed upon thee because he trusteth in thee."*



**Dear Bob:**

Enclosed is my article for G Company for the next issue.

I have also enclosed a copy of the Special Tribute paid to Bob York at the Memorial Services at Huntsville, Ala. This was delivered by Leo Schneider. I told Leo that I would send a copy of it for the *Thunderbolt*.

Also there is a copy of the Memorial Service program, with a complete list of Robert York's career in the Army.

I realize that this covers a lot of space in the *Thunderbolt*, but I believe that we owe it to this outstanding leader and to any of our other leaders that performed such great service to our division and the United States Army.

See you in Hershey,

**Joe Macaluso**

**The article to follow was delivered by Leo Schneider, 1st Bn Hq 331st Infantry Regiment, as a special tribute to LTG Robert H. York in a Memorial Service held at the Bicentennial Chapel at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.**

Friends and family - either form of address would do. If you were Bob's friend, you were practically in the family and positively the York family relationship is unique in the finest sense of the word. I am privileged, flattered, and honored to have been asked by Betty to present the military aspect of Bob York's life.

Bob deserved a more knowledgeable and more articulate spokesman on this subject. I have not been a career soldier and most certainly have won no awards for elocution.

Difficult to separate Bob York, the man from the soldier. Certainly he gave unparalleled meaning to the words Duty, Honor, and Country as a soldier and at the same time was a loving and caring father and husband and a great friend.

I could spend an hour or more on the subject of Bob York, soldier, and still not do General York fitting justice. My coverage is necessarily brief, therefore, incomplete. But I could not do fitting honors to the memory of Bob York if I had hours.

So, let me open with some comments from a professional soldier. Herbert J. Lloyd was a LTC in 1984, when he was attending the Army War College that year. Eight students were to conduct a study of eight of the U.S. Army's most successful generals.

Colonel Lloyd, who had been a captain under Bob York, when Bob commanded the 82nd Airborne, asked to study General York, because of their previous service together.

Colonel Lloyd was particularly aware of how highly respected General York was by his soldiers and by even generals senior to him. Colonel Lloyd's studies included a comprehensive coverage of Bob York's entire military history. But one section of his research was particularly noteworthy and interesting.

Colonel Lloyd set about contacting officers and enlisted men who had served with Bob York, primarily in combat. Colonel Lloyd went to the root source and sought out letters from a few of those individuals. It is published as **"The Legacy of LTG Robert H. York, as Told by the Soldiers He Led"**:

At this point I quote from Colonel Lloyd:

"As these letters arrived I began to see they were something rare indeed. The message of the letters went far beyond the needs of my study. The message is clear - SINCERE, ADMIRATION, RESPECT, LOYALTY, and GREAT PRIDE. The few trusted experience Combat Commanders I have shared these letters with all agree they have never seen anything like this before. Neither has the War College History Department."

I continue to quote Colonel Lloyd:

"The letters provide an insight into a great American who was blessed with a remarkable talent. I believe there are only a handful of leaders like this that are provided our nation every fifty years. We see the measure of the man under the most difficult circumstances. Circumstances that most mortals will never know." "Were it not for these letters you and I would probably never know much of this because General York always gave full credit to his soldiers."

Finally, Colonel Lloyd wrote:

"I am joined by many combat-experienced senior officers who believe that LTG Robert H. York, is the greatest Combat Commander the United States Army ever saw."

May I repeat the final paragraph from LTC Lloyd's summation of this study:

"I am joined by many combat-experienced officers who believe that LTG Robert H. York is the greatest Combat Commander the United States Army ever saw."

From where I stand, I could count thousands of Combat Infantrymen who would heartily endorse LTC Lloyd's conclusions.

Bob was commissioned at West Point in 1938 - Platoon Leader First Division.

In Africa the First Combat Action in the U.S. Army World War II.

I could quote a whole book of General York's accomplishments with the 1st Division that culminated with his command of an Assault Battalion on Omaha Beach on D-Day.

I will summarize Bob York's career with the 1st Division with a quote that I almost remember word for word that was stated to me by the late General Huebner. General Huebner commanded the 1st Division on D-Day. (This chat with General Huebner took place in our suite at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York probably some 20 or more years ago. Grace York and my wife, Shirley, were also present at this moment but General Huebner's remark was directed to me.

General Huebner said, in his opinion if any one man was responsible for maintaining the D-Day toe hold on Omaha Beach, literally keeping the 1st Division from being driven back into the sea, it was Colonel York. (Then a LTC, Bob commanded the 1st Battalion of the 16th Infantry Regiment in the First Division. Think about D-Day and its effect on the winning of WWII and relate that to the personal impact of Bob York.

After the war, Bob York was stationed at West Point. He was in Singapore as Military Attache and did a stint at Ft. Benning. There were several moves that led up to his assignment as Major General, commanding Ft. Benning on to Ft. Bragg as Commanding General of the 82nd Airborne.

Ultimately to the rank of Lt General, Commander of the 18th Airborne Corps which included the 82nd Airborne, the 101st Airborne and other Troops.

So much for that part of history.

Let's talk about the soldier and the man as I personally knew him. It was my distinct honor and privilege to have served



under General York in the 331st Infantry. I was a sometimes Buck Sgt., and was 1st Bn 331st Message Center Chief under Colonel York's Command. While obviously there was no social intercourse at all between Sgts and Colonels, it seemed our paths crossed often in the field. Bob spent considerable time away from Regimental Headquarters and he had no reluctances at all in pulling me out of the 1st Bn Headquarters location to expedite his visits to a Line Company. (Quite frankly, I was honored to have been singled out by Col. York, but given my druthers, I would have preferred to stay in my foxhole at Bn. Hqs. Of that relationship, I came to know a man, who next to my father, was a person whom I respected more than any other man I have ever known.

From that combat association came a post-war friendship that never stopped or wavered, a 40-year friendship was to include Grace York and my wife, Shirley, and our children. To me, General Robert York was the quintessential soldier. The proudest product of our country and of West Point. The best as a soldier and the best as a friend.

I want to mention certain words and other attributes which I have read and heard in describing Robert H. York. Brave; honest, strong, humble, integrity, caring, cool and unflustered, respectful, unpatronizing, brilliant, considerate, superior, superior leadership, unflappable under pressure, compassion for subordinates, courageous, charismatic and modest.

He commanded respect. He was sincerely admired. Loyalty - he earned it and returned it.

Of York, it has been accurately said he was "always visible to the troops."

He was "war wise." He was "always with the attacking unit." "unequaled tactician," "exemplary soldier," "great leader," "his troops would follow him to hell and back."

I feel that any small success that I may have achieved in business and in life was due in a great part that I tried to learn leadership from Bob York. I tried to emulate his unflinching integrity, and imitating, in my own poor way, his style and class.

I will end this with a first hand factual example of Bob York's charismatic leadership and military know how.

Bob came to the 331st Regiment on July 12, 1944, we had been in combat for 8 days. Our first day in combat was a July 4, a 4th I will never forget. By July 12th the organization and morale of the 331st were in a shambles. We had lost at least 5, maybe 6 Regimental C.O.'s in 8 days. 2 killed, 2 relieved and 2, I believe, replaced, one by Bob York.

We had also lost 3 Battalion Commanders, and at least 5 or 6 Company Commanders. The regiment had been fighting from dawn to dusk every day, taking tremendous casualties and yet accomplishing very little.

In 8 days we lost approximately 800 enlisted men and 75 officers, that was between July 4th and the time General York took over, on the 12th.

The newly promoted Bird Colonel York was ordered by the Division to attack almost simultaneously upon receiving command of the 331st.

Lt. Col. Staples who was a Regimental Staff Officer at the time, tells us, York persuaded the Division Commander to postpone committing the 331st to attack. Bob then ordered his people to get some rest, of course, excepting himself. York then visited every company and reorganized the entire combat element.

How can I explain to anybody who does not know the horror, the fear, the weariness, and distress of Infantry Combat, just how we, the troops felt - how depressed and low we were - at the time Colonel York took command.

Bob York told LTC Staples years later that when he saw the state of the regiment, it was the darkest day of his life. Incidentally, where I have mentioned Colonel Staples' name I am quoting from his letter to Colonel Lloyd. That letter and many others are now part of the War Department Historical Archives.

Bob York took on this impossible mission with a warm smile on his face, he gave courage and heart to a couple thousand weary, scared, thoroughly beaten and discouraged men.

In retrospect, I can well believe it could have been the blackest day of his life when he saw what he had to work with, but, he took the group and turned it into, what I believe, was one of the best combat regiments that ever served in the United States Army.

I believe that hundreds of 331st men and no doubt thousands of other soldiers are alive today because Bob York was their chief. He was the consummate soldier, tactician, and leader.

One other comment, I think I knew and was with Bob or with Bob and Grace through just about each post in elevation in command and rank. I never saw one bit of change in the man. This country boy, as Bob thought of himself, had no problem at all in taking off the 3 Star Jacket and all the panoply of rank and becoming a civilian and self-styled country boy.

I have heard the expression "Legend in His Own Time" applied to some people. I suspect most of them were just a legend in their own mind. Bob York would have been the first to say, Not me. Nevertheless, Bob York was and is a "Legend in His Own Time." I hope for the sake of our country that there will be other West Pointers and soldiers just somewhere near the caliber of Lt. General Robert H. York.

In behalf of Walt Ashmore and Joe Macaluso who are present here today, we've lost a wonderful friend, and in behalf of every dogface soldier of the 331st Infantry and perhaps everyman whoever served under General York, I salute and say a loving and fond farewell to the greatest combat leader that ever served in the United States Army.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN EVERLASTING PEACE.

Leo Schneider

**By Bruce Henderson**  
Staff Writer

Retired Army Lt. Gen. Robert H. York, former commanding general of Fort Bragg and its famed 82nd Airborne Division and 18th Airborne Corps, died Friday, April 15, in San Diego. He was 74.

Born in Birmingham, Ala., Gen. York began his 30-year military career as an enlisted man in the Alabama National Guard. He graduated in 1938 from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., where he was also an undefeated boxer. He went on to fight in World War II, work at Army headquarters in Washington and command units at Fort Bragg and Fort Benning, Ga.

During World War II, his infantry regiment fought campaigns in Africa, Sicily and took part in the Normandy invasion. Later assignments put him in Singapore, Korea and Vietnam. Among his military decorations were the Distinguished Service Cross, three Silver Stars and four Bronze Stars for valor, two Purple Hearts and the French Legion D'Honneur.

In a postwar book about Vietnam and the military, "The Best and the Brightest," journalist David Halberstam cited him for his courage.

Gen. York put his career in jeopardy, Halberstam wrote, by filing field reports describing American involvement and losses as much heavier than official accounts. His commanding general was livid.

And in a restricted-circulation booklet produced several years ago at West Point, "The Legacy of Lt. Gen. Robert H. York," several cadets used the general's example in an attempt to define the personal characteristics that contribute to leadership. Using letters solicited from some 35 officers and men who served with Gen. York in World War II, the cadets pieced together a picture of him they hoped would be a model for young officers.

After World War II, Gen. York served as an instructor in tactics at West Point and served at Army headquarters in Washington. Following other assignments, he became staff chief at the Infantry Center at Fort Benning, Ga., served as deputy chief of staff of U.S. forces in Korea, again served in Washington, and served in Vietnam.

In February 1964, he was appointed commander of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg and led the division's duty in the Dominican Republic in 1965. That year, he was named commander of Benning's Infantry Center and Infantry School.

In August 1967, he returned to Fort Bragg as commanding general of the 18th Airborne Corps and of the base. He retired in July 1968.

With retirement, he and his wife, Grace, moved to the general's home state in Huntsville, Ala. There he was active in church affairs, said his half-brother, Charlotte Observer reporter John York, and helped begin a halfway house for drug-abusing youths.

Characteristically, John York said, he spent little money on himself. "He lived in basics and that was all he cared about."

In retirement, the couple traveled in Europe and the Orient. They moved to San Diego several years ago.

Gen. York's daughter, Barbara Donnadieu, said her father had been diagnosed with cancer only in the past month and had been hospitalized two days.

Gen. York was "a very special man. Not just for his military career, but for his personal relationships and personal integrity and character," she said.

Active all his life, Gen. York enjoyed golf, hunting, fishing, reading and bridge. He was an avid boxing fan, from his four undefeated years in the ring at West Point, and a qualified parachutist.

He is survived by his wife, Grace Buckland York, and four daughters, Elizabeth Ann, Barbara Allison, Gail Andrea and Carol.

Military services will be held, possibly in San Diego, with memorial services planned at Fort Benning, Ga., and in Huntsville, Ala.

Gen York will be buried in West point.

### **My Observations Of Lieutenant General Robert H. York**

I first met with then, Colonel York in August 1944 at St. Brieuc, France, (Brittany Peninsula). George Company had taken it's objective, the C.O. of George Company (William E. Waters) was moved up to Battalion Staff as Operation Officer. As a Second Lieutenant, I was selected to become the new C.O. of George Company. At this time Colonel York gave his approval of my becoming C.O. as a Second Lieutenant and he told me that George Company was my Company and that no one could take it away from me.

At this time Colonel York expressed a great deal of confidence in me, and as it was I was determined to let him know that I would fulfill my obligation to him and the men of the Company.

I went to France as a Platoon Leader with George Company and from the day that we made our initial attack (4th of July) I knew that as Officers we had to develop into combat leaders. Within the next two weeks the 331st Infantry Regiment was to be commanded by a number of Lieutenant Colonels and Colonels. It was evident that none of these Officers were capable of leading a Regiment. The leadership was not there and as a result, the morale of the Regiment was at an extremely low level.

Word then came down, that we would have a Lieutenant Colonel, who was to be our new Regimental Commander, Robert H. York, a battle experienced Officer from the First Division.

As a platoon leader I was not in on the initial conferences that Colonel York had with the Battalion and Company Commanders. Word did infiltrate down, that now we finally had a leader. It was evident that immediately, planning for the attacks on enemy positions were given considerable amount of attention, and the plans of attack were well prepared.

The Regiment achieved instant success. Once success in combat came, then the morale of the Regiment reached new heights. With a high level of morale, came a great esprit de Corps within the Regiment. The Regiment then began to claim the honors which were bestowed upon it. The Regiment still had a large number of original compliment of Officers, but only through the leadership of Colonel York, did the Regiment finally begin to function as a true combat unit. Colonel York, through his motivation and leadership abilities, was able to bring out the best in each of his Officers. The enlisted personnel, within each unit, began to have confidence in the Officers that were leading them into combat.

Colonel York always had complete knowledge of what was taking place. On a number of occasions, when things began to break down and the pace began to slow, he always had the know-how of being there with the correct decisions.

When George Company was given Remich, in Luxembourg, as its objective, it was the first time that I had the Company in the attack on a built up area. The unit had been in a relative quiet area, with a considerable amount of patrol activity. For the first time since I took command, I was leading the unit in an attack on an objective. The Company had pushed to the outskirts of town, I was making plans for the attack. Colonel York was there, I gave him my plan of attack. His expressions and words of comfort gave me the confidence I needed to carry out my plans.

Needless to say, the attack was a complete success, and was achieved with few casualties. The next attack was in Gravenmacher, Luxembourg, and again we achieved success. I had set up the defense of the area for the night, and also the security of Company Headquarters. The only person to be challenged by the guard was Colonel York, checking the area, and he seemed extremely happy that the guard was on the alert.



Colonel York made himself known to all of the men of the Regiment. The lowest rank of enlisted man, at last, was able to see face to face with their Regimental Commander. This personal relationship with the Regimental Commander was an inspiration to all.

The Regiment spent considerable time in Luxembourg. Patrol activity was heavy, both with the Regiment and also with the enemy patrols that would cross the Moselle.

During this period, we were able to reorganize and to train our replacements. This was an order that came down from Regiment, that when units were not on the front lines, they would spend some time of the day in training for the next operation. As an Officer, I had attended many schools in the states and I had learned that once you are in a defensive position, you should plan for Alternate and Secondary position. I thought this was for tactical problems that were conducted in the states. Not so, within the 331st Regiment, the unit leaders were taken to the rear to select and to set up, Alternate and Secondary positions with the Regimental defense plan. Avenues of, and routes of withdrawals were selected and positions were designated for each unit.

As history tells us, the Germans attacked through the Ardennes, with it's left flank in the area of Luxembourg, where we were located. The Regiment had since moved to the Huertgen Forest area, but the unit that replaced our Regiment was able to stop the German advance in that sector. The planning by the Regiment would have paid dividends for us.

Our next movement into the Huertgen Forest area, was again a series of well planned against a well organized enemy. It took a considerable amount of initiative and leadership on the part of all Officers, originating with the Regimental Commander, to achieve our objective.

Colonel York was always at the Observation Post directing the Regiment in a series of offensive operations. After driving the enemy from the built up area of the town and into the open fields, Colonel York had remarked to me how well organized the German withdrawal had been executed. Our Artillery was on target, but because of their orderly withdrawal, Colonel York mistook the retreating Germans for advancing American troops, and he called off the Artillery fire.

It was later in this operation that Colonel York was wounded by mortar fire. He was told by the Medical Officer that he would have to be evacuated. Colonel York refused, and continued to lead the Regiment until it reached its objective on the Ruhr River.

When the Regiment was committed in the battle of the Ardennes, Colonel York was recuperating from the wounds that he received. He rejoined the Regiment after the Regiment had completed it's mission in the Ardennes. After a few days of rest, the units of the Regiment were subjected to an intense training program of River Crossing Operations. It seemed odd, that a unit with the amount of combat that we had, would need to do more training. However, when we considered the route of advance into Germany, it was only fitting that such a training program had to be carried out. As in combat, Colonel York was there to oversee the training. His ever presence was an inspiration to all, both enlisted and Officer personnel.

Once the Regiment crossed the Rhine River, it was evident that our training in the past week was to pay dividends. We encountered numerous rivers, which called for instant crossings in order to keep the enemy on the run.

My personal contact with Colonel York was limited for a period of ten days, mainly because of the fluid situation, which had developed. As we neared our objective on the Elbe River, I could sense that something was beginning to develop. As I reached the Regimental Objective on the River, at the town of Barbe, I was to make contact with the Regiment on the left. Upon moving to make contact, I was amazed that once again Colonel York had been in an advance position and had made the contact with the other Regiment.

Colonel York informed me that I was to move my Company to the River, cross the River in pontoon boats, and to secure the objective on the east side of the River. His order was to set up a defensive position and to make contact with the Regiment on the left, and to coordinate the defense of that position. In the tumult of the battle, his orders were clear to the point, there was never a need to question him as to how he wanted things done. The confidence that he expressed in each of his subordinate leaders had a tendency to bring out the best in each of them. His foresight in this operation enabled us to achieve not only our objectives, but also to withstand a determined counterattack by the enemy. The same enemy, just the day before, was able to drive a unit from another Division, back across the Elbe River.

When things seemed impossible, Colonel York always had a solution, such as deriving a method to get Tank Destroyers across the Elbe River, without a bridge, in order to assist the Infantry in driving back an enemy attack.

In the last operation across the Elbe, an attack by tanks and Infantry drove the enemy from a town that was well defended. In setting up a defense for the night, Colonel York was once again on hand to make sure that the tanks were dug in and that the units were ready for the counterattack that was sure to come in the morning.

I know that in this writing I had referred to myself and the Company I had commanded on many occasions, but in each of these actions, I have tried to relate overall the effect that Colonel York had upon myself and upon the members of my Company. Colonel York had an everlasting effect on not only my Military Career, I remained in the Military Reserves for over 25 years, but also upon my career. I have tried through the years to emulate Colonel York, because that only through proper planning and leadership ability, you are able to succeed. I am a member of the 83rd Infantry Division Association, and each year at our Annual Reunion, it is amazing the number of men, that served in the 331st Infantry Regiment, remember Colonel York. Each of them express a debt of gratitude that they owe to their Regimental Commander.

It is rare, that in the lowest grade of enlisted personnel, that these men would know their Regimental Commander. They know their Platoon Leader and the Company Commander, but never beyond that level of command.

The men of the 331st Infantry knew their Commanding Officer, because Colonel York during the time of his command, gained the respect of each individual within the Regiment and within the Division.

To me this is a tribute to his personal regard for the men, as individuals, and to his ability to lead through proper planning and personal supervision. Through his confidence in each of his subordinate leaders, he was able to motivate and to propel each of them to accomplish tasks that seemed almost impossible.

(The above article was written by Colonel Macaluso (Captain Mac to most of you) and I thought it would be a good idea to send it to his memory.)

**Samuel Klippa**

"D" Company

331st Infantry

P.S. We are deeply saddened by the loss of our great leader and he was a real gentleman to all of us.



## GENERAL YORK REVERED

A noted theologian once said: "Our concern is not how to worship in the catacombs but how to remain human in the skyscrapers." General Robert H. York could do both. As a military officer, he held with dignity, discipline and effectiveness, yet he never lost his humility. As a human being, he always treated other human's with utmost respect. A deeply religious man, he didn't have a single drop of bigotry coursing through his blood. Throughout his life, in the military and as a civilian, he faced challenges courageously and triumphed over all of them.

General York was the personification of all whom anyone would love, whom anyone would emulate -- an inspiration to everyone who met him, however brief.

The following anthology edited with excerpts from "The Legacy of Lt. Gen. Robert H. York As Told by the Soldiers He Led" reflect the gut feelings of officers and enlisted men who served with and under General York before, during and after World War II, attesting to the greatness of this exceptional, remarkable man.

To paraphrase Jon Stuart Mill's quotation (1806-1973): York was "capable of more wisdom and virtue than collective man can ever be."

*Jack M. Staus*

*Reg. Hds. 331st Infantry*

## From Col. H. J. Lloyd who compiled the letters

--- This year at the War College eight students were allowed to conduct a study of eight of the U.S. Army's most successful Generals. I asked to study Lt. Gen. York because of our previous service together and I was aware of how highly respected he was by his soldiers and by Generals senior to him.

--- The research to support this work is contained herein in the form of letters. As these letters arrived I began to see they were something rare indeed. The message of the letters went far beyond the needs of my study. The message is clear, sincere admiration, respect, loyalty and great pride. The few trusted experienced combat commanders I have share these letters with all agree they have never seen anything like this before. Neither has the War College History Department.

--- The letters provide an insight into a great American who was blessed with a remarkable talent. I believe there are only a handful of leaders like this that are provided our nation every fifty years. We see the measure of the man under the most difficult circumstances that most mortals will never know.

--- I am joined by many combat-experienced senior officers who believe that LTG Robert H. York is the greatest Combat Commander the United States Army every saw.

*Herbert J. Lloyd*

*LTC Infantry*

## First Infantry Division Officers

--- Essentially York was a very stable individual, not inclined to panic under the most adverse conditions and always exhibiting a calm, cheerful outlook on whatever situation existed. This being a natural trait of his character he projected a staunchness and sense of stability which, in turn, was transmitted to everyone around him.

--- In my own estimation one of his most valuable traits was that of dependability. Always mentally alert, he could grasp quickly the essence of any mission (instruction-directive-suggestion) and carry it through to a desired conclusion if such were humanly possible. There was never any doubt whatsoever of the accuracy of any report from York, such as where he (his battalion) was, what his situation was, etc. That factor alone was enough to attract the high regard of his commanders. Gen. Allen, CG 1st Div., had an immense confidence in Bob York as a Bn. Cmdr. So did his regimental commander. That high regard was held by York's contemporaries and was certainly held by successive commanders and their staffs, to include Gen. Huebner and whose exceptional insight as to the worth of any officer makes his opinion conclusive evidence.

--- Last it appeared that Bob York was some superhuman fantasy, I feel sure he would be the last person on earth to claim such Olympian powers. He was entirely human, with an extraordinary understanding of his fellow human beings. He was friendly and affable without losing control of modest reservedness. He was cooperative, not a syncope nor a problem creator. Though a cliché expression, he was always part of the solution, not part of the problem. With a pleasing personality, a convincing honest and sincere attitude, he was, not unexpectedly, well like and could fit in unobtrusively with any group. Throughout his range of attributes, he inspired confidence; certainly among those above him in the chain of command, and I am sure this confidence was transmitted to the troops under his command.

--- For a summation on Bob York - as a man, as an army officer, as a commander, and as a conspicuous example of what a good soldier should be - he consistently measured up to the highest standards. He exemplified the motto of his Alma Mater (the USMA). He was a great credit to the prestige of the 1st. Inf. Div. and he truly served his country with honor.

*Stanhope B. Mason*

*Maj. Gen. U.S. Army (Ret.)*

*First Infantry Division*

--- Bob York was without a doubt the most remarkable of the many fine officers with whom I served during my 28 years in the Active Army from 1946 to 1968 (both in combat and peacetime). Without even bordering or being flamboyant or demonstrative, he had an engaging personality as displayed through his friendly eyes and pleasing smile. He could be serious and quiet when the situation demanded but would rapidly assume a different altitude as things changed for the better. General York had an ability to inspire men with a soft firm voice, a sincere countenance, and a totally honest way of dealing with others. A God-fearing man, he was deeply religious without formally adopting any organized religion. A handsome man with outstanding military bearing, he possessed unusual physical stamina and was an accomplished athlete in several sports. If I were asked to single out any one or two characteristics that would best exemplify this unusual man it would be humanity and love for his fellow man.

--- One thing that impressed me very much at this stage of the game was Bob York's deep concern for the welfare and well being of the individual soldier. This attitude and feeling was to reappear time and time again; battle casualties grieved him.

--- I shall never forget when we were together in a landing craft moving in to assault our assigned portion of Omaha Beach on D-Day (June 6, 1944). As we approached the beach, Bob who never gave the appearance of fear or apprehension said to me quietly: "Mac I'd give anything if there were a band nearby playing the 'Stars and Stripes Forever.'"

--- Our work made easier by having Bob as our C.O. I do not know of anyone who did not like and respect him. He knew what he wanted and exercised command without bullying people. He was normally even-tempered. He respected his staff, his commanders and his men. In a combat situation he was always cool and unflustered.

--- During off-duty periods he was always friendly, took part in various activities and has as much fun as anyone else. A regular guy and a damned good poker player.

--- He is always gracious, friendly and totally unpatronizing.

*Herbert H. Scott-Smith  
Lt. Col. USA (Ret.)  
First Infantry Division*

--- We had no sooner begin to move than we knew our job was to have to dig, and dig deeply, because across a valley we would observe many German tanks grinding their way towards us. I have no direct memories here of personally hearing Col. York or observing him, but it was felt and obvious by everyone in the Battalion that his cool head in getting us damed well entrenched resulted in two things: 1) he was in command of a Battalion that wasn't going to move backwards; and 2) we were determined to stay alive even if we could hear the tracks caving in our hole on top of us.

--- Col. York became known to even the lowest Platoon leader, and that is because he had the damnest habit of moving all over with his Battalion up near the point.

--- He was also probing his nose up around the lead Platoons, up around the lead squads and finding out what was going on.

--- I'll never forget how quietly and professionally Col. York calmed him down and reasoned with him so beautifully, not with the shouting and obvious superiority of command, but with the reasoning of a friend in combat - the kind of thing that leaves you with even more profound respect for a leader.

--- It seemed to me that Sicily taught us all that a leader like Bob York can command a more total response from a junior officer with the mere suggestion of what he wishes than many a commander could with a shout.

--- He was never one to withhold a compliment from his officers when he knew that one was appropriate.

--- He was more than a commander. He knew how to counsel his troops. He knew how to assist in maintaining the moral and the physical excellence and the devotion to the job at hand.

--- One day there Bob York ordered me to take a few men and go out and find out precisely what I could directly ahead of our Platoon position. I put in a long, tough night that night hitting rifle fire in two or three places, but managed to get a good bit of information he wanted. About daybreak, I was off in a hedge row and I heard a scuffling a little behind me and I thought, oh no, they haven't done that. As I looked around I didn't find a German, I found none other than my Battalion Commander Bob York scrumpping around on his belly kind of wanting to know how things were going!

*Teno Roncalio  
First Infantry Division*

--- From the very outset of this encounter I perceived that here was a real soldier, resolute, but displaying a Solomon-like quality and sense of justice which later on continued to be manifest in all his dealings with officers and enlisted men alike.

--- On June 6, 1944, "D-Day," Colonel York, commanding the First Battalion, 18th Infantry, 1st U.S. Infantry Division landed on Easy-Red, Omaha Beach, Normandy, France. The landing of this Battalion was accomplished with a minimum of casualties (My Platoon did not lose a man until D-Day plus two). The Battalion moved through the 16th Inf. and reached the high grounds approximately eight hundred yards from the beach.

--- The night of June 6, 1944 the First Battalion moved through the rest of the 16th Infantry, whose complement of Officers and Non-coms had been drastically decimated during the Landing.

--- On June 7th, 1944 we moved in a southerly direction. The going was slow as we passed through Treviere and followed our Tank support. On the night of June 7th and during the early hours of June 8th, 1944 Colonel York led his First Battalion in an attack on the town of Formigny. The enemy was finally driving from the Eastern and Central part of town by Tank fire and small arms.

--- This man was blessed with nerves of steel, and that is one reason he instilled a sense of calm reasoning in his Officers and Enlisted Personnel. He could evaluate any situation in an instant. Then, in the twinkling of an eye, he would prescribe a solution which always succeeded. He had inner serenity which immediately impressed those individuals fortunate enough to make his acquaintance.

*George H. Duguay  
First Infantry Division*

--- Bob York is a country boy and always took a practical, common sense approach to problems. This carried over into his military career and was the core quality of his leadership. He was always close to his troops and had a fine understanding of their problems. He would not hesitate to do himself, anything that the lowest ranks were called upon to do. I remember once in Normandy when I was with him inspecting the Battalion outpost. It was a scary situation. A truck had a flat tire in a suspected mined area. The driver was scared and having a hard time fixing the tire. Bob York was right in there helping the driver change the tire. On another occasion he was found at night during an artillery attack helping soldiers push a bogged down jeep out of the mud.

--- Bob York never fought battles from maps. He always got out on the ground, up front, and knew for himself what the



situation actually was. He was not an Arm Chair Commander! I'm satisfied that he was one of the very few commanders in Viet-Nam who really understood the problem in the early days. And, he knew the problem from experience, night after night, out in the provinces and villages with the troops. He knew we were getting into an un-winable war, and his reports to Higher Headquarters so infuriated his seniors, who were painting a rosy picture, that he narrowly missed getting busted. Fortunately, he had already been selected for promotion to Major General before they could hurt him!

--- Gen. York was a brave soldier. He was without doubt the most courageous officer I've had the pleasure of knowing. Not blind courage, mind you! He would never risk the life of one of his troopers of action. And, if the orders from higher Headquarters didn't make good sense he would never fear telling them so.

--- So, to sum up, Gen. York possessed the most essential elements of good leadership: (1) Love and respect for the troops he led; (2) common sense, practical approach and problems, and simplicity of orders; (3) Physical courage, moral courage and courage of convictions.

--- P.S. He is also one of the world's greatest poker players.

*Maj. Gen. Ben Sternberg*  
*First Infantry Division*

--- Our first combat experience came on Nov. 8, 1942, in the North African Campaign. The 1st Battalion went ashore in assault boats at the seacoast town of Arzew. It was night landing and there was considerable confusion on the beach; units had become separated and the rifle companies were having difficulty re-grouping and starting to move inland. I recall that Bob York (who was still Battalion Exec. Officer) took charge at that time, calmed its first objective. That engagement lasted three days and his leadership qualities were quiet evident throughout that first engagement.

--- One of his interesting attributes was his ability to take short naps and awaken completely refreshed.

--- A few days before the end of the North African Campaign in Tunisia I was wounded and evacuated to a field hospital. As soon as the Campaign was over Bob York took the time to locate and visit me and others from the Battalion who were wounded. He also took the time to write a long personal letter to my wife explaining the nature of my wounds and to prepare her for my return to the states. He did these things even though he was very busy at the time because the division went into immediate training for the Sicilian Campaign which took place only 2 months after the North African Campaign ended.

*Ray Froncillo*  
*First Infantry Division*

### **First Infantry Division - Enlisted Men**

--- I was in the 1st Bn. 18th Inf. of the First Division. Second Lt. Robert H. York came to us fresh from West Point and you knew it in his every move that he was destined to be a professional soldier, but little did any of us think he would attain the heights he did.

--- I can't remember exactly the date he was made a Lt. Colonel, but I do know it was before the Sicilian Campaign ended and that was less than a years time in the Division. I can honestly say I never heard or knew of a soldier who wasn't elated to see this man progress the way he did, for to us he had long since become the man we wanted to lead us, anywhere we were needed. I heard my buddies say many times since, "We would follow the old man down the Barrel of a Cannon." I for one would be gladly done this. Respect to me is something you've got to earn and the General had long ago earned that from the men he led.

--- He was a modest man, and you knew from his actions, he was a family man. He used to get off to himself after we were relieved after long periods in the front lines, and look at the pictures of his wife and kids for long periods of time, and do all a soldier could do, think of the day he could return to them. When we were relieved and taken to the rear to rest, he would never rest until he went to each Company and made sure a hot meal for his men was being fixed and their bedding rolls was being brought up for them. Then and only then would he rest, tho he had to be as tired and weary as the rest of us.

*Melvin F. Kerr*  
*First Infantry Division*

--- Not only was he admired for being a regular army officer, but he was a "man's man", an 'officer's officer', and a born leader. He rarely raised his voice, yet he talked with authority. His positive, assertive attitude made him a standout among officers and enlisted men. He was cool under fire and would not ask for anyone something he wouldn't do himself.

--- I was close to him during the beachland in France. In the hedgerows country we were under continuous sniper fire, General York was concerned but not ruffled. He attempted to help locate the source of the fire and eliminate it.

--- I don't have enough positive adjectives to describe General York but speaking for the G.I.'s I knew and for myself as well we would have followed that man to hell and felt honored to have served him.

*Stewart Belknap*  
*First Infantry Division*

--- General York to me, was a very positive person. His actions, his bearing and his attitude always seemed to be giving and impression that there was definite job to be done so lets get on with it and get it over with. Don't worry about yesterday.

--- General York was a very thorough person in his assessment of a situation and very direct and decisive in his actions and orders once he had determined what he thought to be the best course to take and I believe that our regimental and battalion records will show that he was seldom wrong in his decisions

--- He was a very visible person. He was often in the line company areas visiting and talking to the enlisted men, and I think I am safe in saying that most of the battalion personnel knew him by sight. He was always at a forward command post, often with the company which was most heavily engaged. He wanted to know how things were going at any given time and being where things were happening was to him the best way to find out. He was a leader not a pusher

*Hal D. Steed*  
*First Infantry Division*



--- At the 1981 reunion of the Officers of the First Division, then Secretary of State Al Haig, was the after-dinner speaker. When General Haig entered the crowded room where cocktails were being served before the dinner, he spotted General York and immediately went to him and said, "General York, I've been wanting to tell you that while I was a cadet at West Point, you were my idol and inspiration." That, Colonel Lloyd, really sums up exactly how every man who served under General York felt about him

--- I heard Dr. Robert Green - and Dr. Green may have already written this to you - tell General York that the three military men he most admired were Marshall, Bradley, and York. (Dr. Green wouldn't even go to see the movie on Patton).

--- To try to list leadership qualities: He was first, a gentleman. He had unusual respect for each soldier regardless of rank; Never gave foolhardy order to any man, even when requested to do so by some officer of higher rank; Never raised his voice in giving a command; had his ears open and his mouth shut to anyone who could report anything in a battle situation and then acted or reacted; dealt in a very subtle and quiet way when reprimanding a soldier who have violated any rules.

--- Early one morning a private, who had just returned from a patrol into enemy lines, was giving General York a report. A replacement officer of the '90-day-wonder' variety kept butting in trying to speak to the then Colonel York. The Colonel kept telling the Lt. to wait. After getting the information from the private, Colonel York took the new officer into the underground battalion headquarters tent and gave him a lesson in military courtesy. The radio operator on duty only heard the opening remarks - "Who do you think you are? That private is as good a human being as you are."

*Norman W. Shrawder*  
*First Infantry Division*

--- Col. York seemed to understand that at best, men are pretty frail creatures, and knowing that, he had devised a system of disciplining his men in such a way that they had no loss of self-respect or dignity

*John M. Jamison*  
*First Infantry Division*

--- There is something very special about the man, something I had never experienced in any of the other Infantry Divisions I was in prior to coming to the 1st Bn. I never heard anyone criticize him, everything I heard was praise, the men all seemed to have so much respect for him. As time went on and I learned to know Col. York, I felt the same way. He was fair and honest with everyone. When an officer is so well thought of discipline is no problem

--- When I was put in charge of the Wire section Cpl. Wilson Douglas told me I should consider myself a lucky man. When I asked why, he said when we make the big invasion we're going ashore under the best commander in the U.S. Army (Co. York)

*Dean Weissert*  
*First Infantry Division*

--- The very first thing I noticed was his softspoken manner and a little twist at the one corner of his mouth. He always seemed to radiate sincerity and confidence in what he was doing. For twenty months we were together and cannot recall every seeing him angry. The General always seemed to be thinking and most sincere in his approach to matters at hand. Even in combat, he seemed the same, a smile on his face, although at times you could tell he was worried

--- To my knowledge, the General, never asked his men to do anything that he thought suicidal or just plain crazy, unless he was going to do the same. He dressed like the rest of the men and was always clean shaven. There was never any big talk of salutes except in Camp

--- Another time in Sicily we had just gotten a new Regimental Commander, and I overheard General York tell the new Commander, "I'm not sending my men up there until I know what's up there." He was great for night patrols and on occasion went on a few with us

--- He thought a great deal of his men and their safety. He always operated in a sensible quiet way. A way I might add which got the job done with the least amount of possible casualties.

*William J. Gatze*  
*First Infantry Division*

--- anything I could say about the General, (then my Colonel) would not be adequate to describe the greatness of the man

--- The General was a true leader of men. Regardless of the peril and difficulty of the mission, he led us in. We were confident we would succeed because he would always be with us; always with the attacking unit. We thought as long as Col. York was there, nothing was impossible. In combat, the Col. never sent us into attack without having a good idea of the enemy in front of us. Which, was without a doubt, the reason we were successful in our missions.

--- You would not have known a more 'war-wise' man. His combat tactics were well respected. He had the know-how to deploy his command to the best advantage

--- Every man I soldiered with said Gen. York influenced their lives in some way. He took the time to listen to your problems and always found a way to lessen the burden. Gen. York was a very compassionate man. I remember a few weeks before he left our command, we were stalled for about 30 days in one position. He and his driver were on a Recon Patrol when they ran into a fire fight. The driver was killed and I'll never forget Gen. York bringing him in: holding him in his lap crying. There's so many incidences like that I couldn't begin to remember them all

--- If this country ever goes to war again, there is nobody in the world I'd rather be with than Gen. York. If he was called on to serve, I'd try to be with him

*Warren 'Bucky' Rogers*  
*First Infantry Division*

## 331st Infantry Regiment - Officers

The facts, to reduce words, were our Battalion, which was to have Co. "C" at forward point of attack to take this fortress. Fortunately, then Colonel York came forward to discuss matters with us, and I had him accompany me to a large Castle building nearest the Fort. to observe the potential facts. Having German patrols in our vicinity we were in proper defense position, however we needed all the help possible. Thus Col. York observed all facts available and after consultation ordered an Anti Tank plus a Tank platoon into hedgerow in our position at a forward point - chosen as our line of Departure. This was the great key when these units and our Div. artillery went into rapid firing we were amazed at our good fortune. The Anti Tank and Tank units gunned a position, as designated by Col. York, (with great caution and all possible quietness) so when the Artillery and Tank units so mentioned - we jumped off using our predetermined Mortar and Machine Gun fire. The Tank fire hit directly down the tunnel where their bag gun was put it out of commission and destroying some ammunition stores. Then the artillery scored well also on the Concrete placements and my men moved forward rapidly - with the greatest of good fortune. We even turned some of the Germans' guns around against them. A planned attack of almost impossible results brought over 800 men of the enemy forth to surrender, plus a large number of their casualties. This is exemplary of then Col. York's excellent command decision and excellent attack plans which he observed being carried out.

--- Personally, I cannot overestimate Lt. General York's actions. His technical training and close personal follow through was always well known and greatly admired by all men of Charlie Company and the rest of the Regiment and attachments.

*Walter H. Edwards Jr.  
Then Capt. 331st, Co. "C"  
83rd Inf. Division*

--- In my lifetime, I have not known a man who more clearly met the qualities of leadership than Gen. York. Those qualities - intelligence, character, courage, confidence in himself, the ability to get along with people, and an inborn instinct to do the right thing at the right time. You were aware of it almost immediately after meeting him.

--- He lead by example; and, because of his obvious desire to get the job done and his demonstrated ability and courage in getting it done, his men have their best. He never lost his touch and concern for every individual under his command. I hear a lieutenant make the remark that, next to his father, he admired Colonel York more than any man he had ever known. A great many people felt this way.

--- He is a loyal, patriotic man, dedicated to God, Country, and profession. Bob loved to sing. When the opportunity presented itself we would have a few drinks and try to harmonize on songs we all knew. "Stout Hearted Men" was his favorite song.

*Robert C. Walker  
83rd Infantry Division  
331st Infantry Regiment*

--- York came to the regiment on 12 July 44. Organization and morale were in a shambles. We had had six Regimental C.O.'s in eight days. Two killed, two relieved and two replaced (one by York). We had also lost three battalion commanders and five or six company commanders. The routine for the regiment was attack every morning at 0600, fight until dark (about 2200 or 2300), button up for the night, go to Div. Hqr. for an order, assemble the Bn. Comdrs. for an order. I relate this sequence to demonstrate the lack of sleep and consequent exhaustion applicable to the staff. During this period, I got one hour sleep a night, the others were no different. York took one look at the staff and ordered every other one to get some sleep. He and I then visited every company and battalion headquarters and essentially reorganized the entire combat element. My recommendations were an important consideration in his decisions and illustrated his belief and practice that everyone be allowed to do their job until proven deficient. This aspect of his character, of course, only became apparent through longer association. York later told me that when he saw what shape the regiment was in that it was the blackest day of his life.

--- The evening of the day he took command Div. Hqs. ordered an attack for the following morning. York refused on the grounds that the regiment was not ready. No attack. He knew he would work in a tactical situation. We were in hedgerow country. Distances between hedgerows varied from 100 to 300 feet. York devised a plan whereby the 60m/m mortars would fire on the first row, 81s on the second, 105 mortars on the third, 105 Arty on the fourth and 155Arty on the fifth, regardless of distances between successive hedgerows. Prior to this Regimental COs had permitted no fire closer than 200 yards. On the next day he again visited each Bn. HQs company to explain the fire support plan and assure everyone that the attack would succeed. We advanced about ten times farther than we had on any previous day with few casualties. His visits and the success of the attack made him an instant hero to the entire regiment. Prior to the time he took command, we had suffered very heavy casualties. From July 4th to the breakout the regiment lost over 1,100 EM and 100 Officers. At least 75% of these occurred before York assumed command.

--- In the final analysis, York had that special quality of leadership that captures the imagination and inspires unserving allegiance and devotion: Charisma.

*John F. Staples  
83rd Infantry Division  
331st Infantry Regiment*

--- General York deports himself as a true professional and carries himself in a way that commands notice. He has a rugged masculine physique with a handsome face that suggests strength. His voice is not a particularly pleasant voice but it is distinctive and it, too, gets attention. At times when I think he is seeking complete attention this throaty-nasal toned voice will become so soft as to be almost inaudible and listeners do pay attention. It's a hackneyed expression, but applicable; "He's a man's Man". But, the York charm doesn't end with the Male associates. In a mixed crowd women, young and old are visibly fascinated as they unabashedly hang on his very word. York's secret of charm is really no secret to anyone who



has brushed elbows with the man. His personality is magnetic and appealing. He exudes charm and he bathes his audience in a warm glow.

--- He receives pleasure from group singing and his favorite song has been, "Stout Hearted Men." I have never seen him depressed nor have I seen him exhibit an exaggerated sense of buoyancy: emotionally, he keeps on an even keel.

--- If the General ever felt anger, it was always controlled and, during our entire association, he was never given to profanity or vulgarity.

--- He made it his personal business to inquire of men at company and/or squad levels as to how they were getting along, were they getting warm food and was the clothing adequate. This concern was well known through the command and the men responded with almost idolatrous loyalty.

--- Unconsciously, he transmitted to his officers, a feeling that each was important to him. Doing a good job for "The Colonel" became a personal thing with each of us. Being accepted by the group and, more importantly, by the colonel was all important. No officer in the regiment, to my knowledge, was ever made to feel inferior to or less important than any other.

--- there is no doubt his West Point experience brought all these things into focus but they are basically part of that mystical something we call Charisma.

--- I do not recall of him introducing himself but his presence was soon felt when food was brought up and the 'chow' line was formed. He spoke with several enlisted men asking if they had been receiving warm food and if they had what they needed in the way of clothing, then stepped back from the line to observe.

As had been the custom, officers were 'bucking the line' and stepping ahead of the enlisted men. One or two saw the colonel standing back of the line waiting and were quick to realize that he was sending a message. When the last man had cleared the line the colonel stepped up and was served. The officers were embarrassed and the enlisted men were both amused and impressed.

--- I asked him what was the colonel going to wear and he responded with "Oh, he's all dressed up - he took his entrenching tool off his belt."

*Charles P. Snyder  
83rd Infantry Division  
331st Infantry Regiment*

--- Colonel York always had a complete knowledge of what was taken place. On a number of occasions, when things seem to break down and the pace began to slow, he always had the know how of being there with the correct decisions.

--- Colonel York was always at the Observation Post directing the Regiment in a series of offensive operations.

--- Colonel York informed me that I was to move my company to the river, cross the river in pontoon boats, and to secure the objective on the east side of the river. His order was to set up a defensive position and to make contact with the Regiment on the left, and to coordinate the defense of that position. In the tumult of battle, his orders were clear and to the point, there was never a need to question him as to how he wanted things done. The confidence that he expressed in each of his subordinate leaders had a tendency to bring out the best in each of them. His foresight in this operation enabled us to achieve counterattack by the enemy. The same enemy, just the day before, was able to drive a unit from another division, back across the Elbe River.

--- When things seemed impossible, Colonel York always had a solution, such as deriving a method to get Tank Destroyers across the Elbe River, without a bridge, in order to assist the Infantry in driving back an enemy attack.

*Joseph A. Macaluso  
83rd Infantry Division  
331st Infantry Regiment*

--- I was a Captain of Field Artillery in the 908FA in direct support of the 331st C.T. I was attached to the 2nd Bn. 331 as Artillery Liaison and forward observer. Before Col. York's arrival, we placed our fire by working as far forward as possible and then engaging separate targets that we could observe and adjust on, e.g. tanks, troops movements, strong points, etc. Col York added to this a new and highly effective fire plan. All mortar and artillery support was coordinated as rolling barrage lines moving ahead of our attack. For the first time, the yard-by-yard hedgerow fighting gave way to organized assaults that took hundreds of yards across the regimental sector. Taking more ground with fewer casualties can be a real morale booster.

--- At St. Malo, the Germans had constructed a large elaborate fortress - a labyrinth of underground bunkers supporting heavy naval guns facing the ocean. The 331st attacked from the landside. the 2nd Bn. made the final assault and took the surrender of approximately 600 German troops. It was our first big bag of prisoners and, somewhat overcharged with success, we gathered with their officers in a nearby schoolhouse and shared some wine with our captives. Into this bizarre scene came Col. York. The Colonel, through hell and worse, was always quietly strong, always in control. This moment, however, the steady composure turned to fury. Col. York knew then his enemy and within a few minutes he made certain that we did too. The drinks smashed to the floor, all ranks were jerked to full attention and all Germans, including some very high rank, were lined up and marched off with their hands on their heads. We had learned another lesson.

--- In our drive to the Roer River, Col. York was wounded in the hell and evacuated to the 109 (/) Evac. Hospital. A new C.O. was sent from Division to take over the 331st. York's replacement arrived at a busy time. The action around Gey and the open fields to Duren and the river was very heavy. The Germans were being reinforced and their fire support increased every day. The Colonel's painful wound should have kept him immobilized and hospitalized for at least 3 weeks. York, however, kept in close touch with the Regiment from his hospital cot and, when convinced that his replacement was a disaster, he discharged himself (AWOL) and on day 4 after his wounding arrived to take over. Not a day too soon.

*Harry C. Fleming, Jr.  
83rd Infantry Division  
331st Infantry Regiment*



## 331st Infantry Regiment - Enlisted Men

-- I was in a Marauder platoon attached to the 331st Infantry, of which General York was the Regimental Commander. He truly epitomized this position as a decisive leader, a man of strong character and military bearing, commanding respect, fearless under fire, instilling confidence in the men around him, as only a professional can do under those circumstances. He was a "soldier's soldier", beloved and respected by those above him and those beneath him.

--- During the war and right after it, when one spoke of the 83rd Division, the name of General York was always at the forefront; not the

Division of Assistant Division Commander. He was the man of paramount importance. He inherited a well known military name and was a legend in his own right.

--- Some years after the war, I had the honor of being named Co-Chairman of conducting a Reunion of the 83rd Division in New York. There was a lot of work and effort in getting men from all over the country to attend the reunion. General York, who was still in service, was most helpful in getting our peacetime association rolling. He came to New York to attend meetings and to offer whatever help he could. He was still one of the "boys."

*Emanuel Epstein*

*331st Infantry Regiment*

--- we had outstanding commanders and at the same time Gen. York - then Colonel was certainly tops. We have rough assignments in combat at least from my standpoint. I knew we were guided by the best. I am sure from Gen. York down to my platoon leader the best was at hand.

--- Being attached to Message Center of Battalion I am sure I partook in many orders handed down by Gen. York and I can assure you that we always came up on top.

*John Walsh*

*331st Infantry Regiment*

--- The first time I saw Bob York created a photo in my brain which after all these years remain vivid, clear as yesterday. The action was hot, heavy and moving fast, altogether too much so for any of my liking. Here was this guy with two silver birds on his shoulder screwing around in places which I would have given anything just to get the hell out of. Until that day, I had never seen an officer any higher than Major working that close to the front. This was to continue all during his command. It was only several years after 1945 was I to really appreciate a leadership which provided a much greater chance of getting out of the affair with a whole skin or at worse, alive.

--- After the war there were many chances to observe and hear Bob York. Even to this day I am amazed at the warmth, sincerity and apparent interest this man can bestow even in the shortest time with him. In looking back with the memory of the day the group of men who had been formed up to hear Col. York thank us for our military service under his command, to wish us well in the future because we were leaving the ETO for home. It isn't easy to forget a man who cares enough to cry as a child.

*Nick Boyd*

*331st Infantry Regiment*

--- through my contacts with men and officers throughout the regiment, I was able to obtain first-hand reactions to our Commanding Officer, Robert H. York

---from the first month that York took command, the Regiment became a highly coordinated and spirited fighting unit. Admiration for York was exceptionally high. This was due largely to York's respect for the men serving under him; in stark contrast to our Division Chief of Staff, who refereed to replacements in the infantry as 'meat on hoof'. York's command were without threat, yet they came through 'loud and clear'. He was quick to discipline, yet always fair. -- He recognized laxity in leadership quickly. He changed command of his First Battalion four times

---At the battle of St. Malo, York was dubious about the accuracy of battle reports he was getting from one of his battalion commanders. He went forward, plugged a phone into battalion headquarters field line about 100 feet away and questioned the battalion C.O. as though York were back at Regimental Hqs. York's doubts were resolved in short order. The battalion commander was relieved on the spot.

--- He never issued orders expecting his men to accomplish the impossible without taking a full estimate of the situation even when this meant going up front himself but never with bravado and carelessness.

As York oriented himself on the battle situation in the Normandy Hedgerows when he assumed command he moved among the front line companies to obtain first hand information while getting personally acquainted with all of the officers. He followed one of the infantry lieutenants to a position at which point the lieutenant began describing the location of the enemy 88 tanks. York immediately recognized the vulnerability of the specific ground on which they were lying, yelled at the lieutenant: "What are we doing here"? Whereupon he moved out fast with the lieutenant close on his heels.

--- I recall the battle of Hamm, Germany when we were completely surrounded by German tanks; they were closing in on us. We felt we would be decimated. York's calm was pervasive. He grouped our men at strategic points. The tanks were stopped. Following this battle, York went on a forward mission in his jeep. His jeep hit a land mine. Fortunately, it was weighted down with sand bags. Though York and his driver were thrown and severely bruised, York called for the medics for his driver, while he commandeered another jeep and proceeded as though nothing had happened.

--- His leadership qualities were further evidenced by his ability to build confidence in his judgement, (which was highly regarded by Division Headquarters, Gen. Macon) to be strongly decisive, to keep his cool; he never appeared harassed or "rattled".

--- From his officers to his men, York's fighting spirit permeated throughout the Regiment.

*Jack M. Straus*

*331st Infantry Regiment*

**The Fall Issue of the THUNDERBOLT will have a continuation of General York's service during the Vietnam Conflict and any other special tributes.**

A Tribute In Memory Of  
**LESTER ELKINS**  
 83rd Inf. Div.  
 On Behalf Of The Card Bunch  
 Company "K" 330th

Lester was our long time friend, a very good neighbor and extra special to us all. We feel our lives have been enriched and we feel so blessed. It was certainly a beautiful relationship among us, as friends.

He always had a kind word and a pleasant smile with such pleasing mannerisms, being especially thoughtful of everyone, always ready to lend a helping hand when and wherever needed.

Lester had a good outlook on life in general. I believe he put the Lord first in his daily living, always reaching out to others whether it be his wife, other family members or friends and neighbors.

Lester was loyal to his home, his family and above all his country. He served in the army during WW II as a mess sergeant for his company, and made a host of lasting friends. He looked forward with enthusiasm to his army reunions each year. He enjoyed keeping in contact with his buddies.

When Lester and Dorothy were hosts for our "get togethers" he certainly made us feel welcome. He was a gracious host, as is Dorothy., He wanted to please and make comfortable his guests.

They weren't privileged to have their own children but they loved all of our (card bunch kids) and ours loved both of them.

Juli just told me last night that she and Dwain felt so honored that Lester had asked them to come help him farm when he was thinking of retirement. I know they gave it consideration. Denise and Steve enjoyed having them as their guests in Pennsylvania.

Lester had a good sense of humor. If laughter is the best medicine, he had an abundance of that.

Lester worked hard but enjoyed his labors as a top-notch farmer and an excellent gardener with his strawberries and potatoes being the envy of all. He had a precious wife, Dorothy whom we all love very dearly.

When we think of life as a school, we know Lester was a fine example and a good scholar. He was a great inspiration and a joy to know.

Lester will never know how much we miss him and in closing would like to dedicate this little poem to him.

We really hated  
 To see him go  
 But we trust Gods call  
 Was best you know.  
 'Twas a terrible shock  
 But our Lord who is kind  
 Had a place in heaven  
 Where his light doth shine.  
 He's sown his seeds  
 With others in mind  
 And spread lots of sunshine  
 With deeds so kind.  
 His hands were busy

He gave life its best  
 Now God has given him  
 Time to rest.  
 Our loving memories  
 Will never die  
 As years roll on  
 And days go by.  
 In our hearts  
 A memory is kept  
 Of one we loved  
 And will never forget.  
 Lois McMullen  
 1-18-1988



*The  
 President's  
 Corner*

**Hi Buddies:**

This is my last official message as your National President and I just can't find enough words to express how much it has meant to me. To be National President of our great 83rd Infantry Division Association is an honor that shall never be forgotten.

I am going out to Iowa in July where there will be two ceremonies in honor of our Congressional Medal of Honor winner, Ralph Neppel.

Our 42nd Annual Reunion in Hershey, Pennsylvania is getting closer all the time and I want to thank everyone for the way your ads and reservations are coming in, keep up the good work.

I also want to thank my reunion Chairman, Al Belvedere, for the super job he is doing on the reunion and ad book. Thanks to Larry Redmond, too, for working along

with Al on the ads.

Everything is going along fine for the reunion and I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Hershey.

I will say so long until then and God Bless all of you.

National President  
**George A. Fletcher**  
 L-Co. -330



**Reunion  
 Chairman's  
 Corner**

Here is hoping that everyone is in good health and good spirits, making plans to come to the 42nd Annual Reunion in Hershey.

Our Executive Board Meeting in Cincinnati, in May, went well. A great deal of time was spent going over the new schedule. The new schedule is in this issue of the Thunderbolt. Gentlemen, I am happy to say the Hospitality Room is included in this schedule. Make special note, instead of Hospitality Room on Saturday, free wine and beer will be served at the Banquet. This is being arranged so that everyone will benefit. We are sure all of you would want to go to the Park on Saturday, as it is the first day it



is open while we are in Hershey.

A five dollar (\$5.00) Registration Fee will be requested from members and male guests to help the Reunion Fund. There will be no other cover charges. Spouses and female guests will not be required to pay \$5.00

We were informed by the Hershey Lodge that 425 rooms are booked. (Plus). We must send the overflow to the Best Western which is four blocks from the Hershey Lodge. All reservations must be made through the Hershey Lodge. They, in turn, will send the overflow to the Best Western. Their room rates are as follows: \$65.00 Single, \$70.00 Double - rates are per room, per night, subject to 6% tax.

Anyone staying at the Best Western must obtain meal tickets at the Registration Desk to participate in the activities of the Reunion. Everyone will receive Meal Tickets whether they are staying at the Hershey Lodge or the Best Western.

A review of the Reservations is being conducted, noting all members who did not send in a one night's deposit. The rooms will be given to first come, first serve. So get those deposits in if you already have not done so. Do this immediately if you want your room.

I was also asked to get a Childrens' Price from the Hershey Lodge. It is as follows: Under this package, for children 17 and under staying in the same room with their parents or grandparents, the price is \$30 per child, per night. This would include breakfast, dinner, all taxes and gratuities daily.

We are trying to keep you informed so that you will have no surprises when you attend the Reunion.

We are still accepting ads until July 24th. Keep them coming.

Your National President, George Pletcher, your Reunion Committee and the Philadelphia Chapter is eagerly awaiting to be your host in Hershey.

Until we see you in Hershey, God Bless you all and stay well.

**Albert A. Belvedere**  
Co. K, 331st Inf.



On Friday, May 6, 1988, I felt honored to make the five hundred mile round trip from New Hampshire to West Point, N.Y. representing the 83rd Division in paying final respects to a great officer and gentleman, the late Lt. General Robert H. York. It rained torrents all the way down and back, but thankfully just sprinkled during the Chapel and graveside services.

Also in attendance, representing the 83rd Division were: Past President Bernie Cove, "D" 331st and his lovely wife Jean, from the Pines Hotel, N.Y.; Past President and this year's reunion chairman, Al Belvedere, "K" 331st, and his lovely wife, Anne, from N.J.; Mannie Epstein, "K" 331st from N.Y.; and Stan Bielen, Past Executive Board Chairman, 1st Bn. Hdqs. 331, from N.J.

Representatives were also there from West Point, the 82nd Airborne Division and the (Big Red One) 1st Division.

The service was held at 1:30 p.m. at the Post Chapel with final tributes expressed by a fellow officer who served and retired with General York at the same time; his daughter, Barbara and her minister from California. Two of General York's favorite hymns were sung. We then proceeded to the grave site, where services were conducted by the West Point Cadets.

Following the service, we were invited to the Officers Dining Room at West Point for refreshments and had the privilege of meeting and talking with members of his fine family

General York, was a highly respected officer in all the units that he commanded and will be sadly missed not only by his lovely family but by everyone who had the privilege of serving with and under him. He fought the good fight, may he rest in peace.

**"Jim" Prentice**  
Executive Board Member



**Executive Board Meeting in Cincinnati, May 1988.**



## Greetings

from the

**Secretary-Treasurer's Office**

Here we are. Last issue before another reunion. As the saying goes: "Time flies when you are having fun."

I guess I will start this article back with the Board Meeting which was held at the Clarion Hotel in Cincinnati on May 13 and 14. George and Jean Pletcher, Al and Ann Belvedere, Larry and Sue Leonardi, Jim Prentice, Meadors Minick, Ralph and Geri Gunderson, Pearl and I arrived on Thursday afternoon. John Raikos came in on Friday. Manny Goodridge and Charley Schmidt came for the meeting on Friday morning. The beginning plans for the reunion to be held in Cincinnati in 1989 were reviewed by the Board on Friday morning. Ames and Helen Miller could not be with us as they were still in Nebraska. They are planning on returning home next week. We missed them.

On Thursday night we all went to a restaurant that served Bar-B-Q'd Ribs. Very good. Within walking distance of the hotel. On Friday night, Pearl and I hosted the Board to a Carriage ride of the city. It had been raining all evening but when we got on the carriage it stopped and we had a delightful evening. Mark this as something to do also. The carriage picks you up right at the hotel. Vito and Ginny Palazzolo had a Business engagement in the city so they joined us for our activities. On Friday the ladies went shopping. We ate in the hotel that night. On Saturday we had the final review on the Hershey Reunion with the Philadelphia Chapter. A very good reunion is in store for you. The Board also finalized and approved the proposed changes to the By-Laws which has been requested by Joe Macaluso at the 1987 reunion in Charleston, West Virginia. Read the proposed changes to the By-Laws as recommended by the Executive Board as approved by the Judge Advocate elsewhere in this Thunderbolt.

Some of our members have commented about the reunions being held at such expensive hotels and cost being too high for all to attend. Let me just say that our Association has grown. We have to search for a hotel that has over 500 rooms to accommodate us. When you find one with that many rooms it is not a cheap hotel. To host a reunion you must also find one that has a ball room which has the capacity to serve approximately 1200 people. The reunion is moved to different areas each year so that people who do not want or cannot afford to stay in the Main hotel may stay out away from the hotel. In Hershey there are other motels that you may stay in that may be cheaper and you may commute in. Al Belvedere and George Pletcher have given us meal and entertainment prices per meal and per day.

The Board and the Reunion Committee does try to look out for all of you. We wish that all 1800 or more men and their wives could attend the reunion. That would be wonderful. Health keeps some men away. Some won't come anyway. This is their prerogative. The Board and the Reunion Committee do try to think of everyone. They will keep on trying. We have business meetings so that the member-

ship can approve or disapprove any location that is recommended.

On Saturday while we were meeting with the Philadelphia Chapter the Ladies and Vito went on the Boat ride up the river. Had lunch on the boat. All reported that they enjoyed it. Something else to do while you are in Cincinnati.

We were saddened at the Board meeting to hear that Janet Nolte Wife of Eugene Nolte had passed away on Wednesday. Eugene was a member of "D" 331st.

That gives you some idea of what we did on Friday and Saturday. John left after the meeting on Saturday afternoon because his daughter Margo was graduating from College. Best wishes, Margo. It is a busy time here in the office from now until reunion time. Pearl and I entertained the Kentucky Chapter on Friday and Saturday and breakfast on Sunday morning. We enjoyed ourselves doing this and from all reports everyone else did. Anyone is welcome to come and join us in June of next year.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the reunion in Hershey.

**Bob Derickson**  
3rd BN. HQ. 329th



The Spring Issue of our **Thunderbolt** arrived two weeks ago, and here it is, time to send in our reports for the Summer issue. Time certainly does not stand still, and as we see our grandchildren starting to graduate from schools, we realize we are in modern maturity.

Since our last issue, the names of Ted Gurgol-D-330th, David Nellies-HDG 323rd, Olin W. Phillips-I 329th, and William Collinson will be sent to Bob D. to be added to his list of deceased buddies. When you send us a name, if possible give us the man's outfit. He may not be a member of the Association, but his name will be read at the memorial services.

### **Voting--A Privilege and Obligation**

The national elections are just around the corner, and if you check the "state," it is a shame how many of our citizens do not cast a ballot. If anyone has the opportunity to travel to foreign lands, on returning it is such a thrill to be "home" in our country. We are the instruments of making our country, our communities, our neighborhoods, etc. It is our choice as to who guides and governs us, and in which way. Voting is this privilege and obligation. It is the tool for providing, correcting, and improving the persons and ways of our living. No tool is helpful unless used.

During the past few years the word "evangelization" has been used frequently, and many of us wondered what it meant. It means spreading the Good Word. Pope John Paul and Rev. Billy Graham have made this their "theme" in talks all over the world. This does not mean that we have to use words to evangelize. Whatever your faith, you must live your faith by giving examples. It may be just a smile or a kind word to someone who is down on their luck -- or when was the last time you visited a veteran's hospital, a nursing home -- or volunteered your services to a needy cause? The only payment you may receive for this is peace of mind, and a good night's sleep knowing that you have touched someone -- perhaps making it a better day for them. Always remember that Christ has no hands but our hands to do his work today; He has no feet but our feet to lead men in his way. He has no tongue but our tongue to tell them how he died; he has no help but our help to bring men to his side.

**Casey Kowalec**  
Chaplain

### **Bless Me, Lord! I Never Wore A Leisure Suit**

Life gets more risky by the minute. Nuts and drunks surround us, armed thieves and teen-age drivers abound, while beyond the blue horizon mushroom clouds threaten to snuff us out in large and mournful numbers.

Even if we survive these perils, time will see to it that we don't get out of this world alive. And as we feel the cold breath of fate on our necks, conscience nags. One of these days we are going to have to face that great gettin'-up morning. Even I.

When that day comes, Lord, I'm not looking for justice: I'm asking for mercy. I know my record is not free of blemish. There have been silly mistakes in wholesale lots and few vintage sins, and as soon I get just a little older, I swear I'm going to be ashamed of them.

But look at the whole record, Lord. It hasn't been all bad.

I never wore a leisure suit.

No man can be all bad who can make this claim.

I have been stupid, Lord, turned down a chance to buy Kentucky Fried Chicken stock when it came out, bought land in Florida. But I never wore a Nehru jacket, Lord. Please put that down on the plus side of the ledger.

And keep in mind, please, that while I may have dented a few of the Commandments, I have not fractured all of them. Some of them, yes, but not all. I think if You will check You will see that I have never been big on graven images. To the best of my recollection I have never coveted my neighbor's manservant. Or his ox. I confess (since You already know) that I felt a few random covetings for that neighbor's red-haired wife who lived down the street for a while, but I kept my lust in my heart.

And when all my shortcomings are being written on the blackboard of life, please save a piece of chalk for this: I never wore a powder-blue tuxedo, Lord. Nor a pink one. Once, in mad moment, I wore a gold vest, and once, for a passionate while, I had one made of purple brocade. But I never wore a white tuxedo, Lord. Doesn't that count for a point or two?

I admit, Lord, that I have borne false witness. Lied. Just flat out told some slimy, crawling, black lies. But the Arabs permit a lie when it is needed to close a business deal, compliment a woman or save one's life. I lied because I thought she was going to kill me. You've got to see these things in context.

But I never wore a black shirt open to my navel, please remember, never draped a gold chain around my neck or dangled an earring from my ear. I never wore one of those Dutchboy caps that make a man look like a house painter out of work. I never wore a Greek fisherman's hat. I never wore one of those blankets with holes cut in it for head and arms.

I know that in the weak and wayward heat of youth, my steps, like my thoughts, oft strayed from the path of righteousness. I have left undone those things I should have done; I have done those things I should not have done, and I tried like hell to do some others.

But when I am gone, my darlings, sing no sad songs for me. Just say that once, on this green spot, there lived a man who sinned and erred but, to his glory, never wore a cowboy hat, nor high-heeled boots with an embroidered start. Write somewhere on some lonely page that he never walked through the lobby of an office building in jeans and Levi jacket; that he looked upon a cowboy hat with a business suit as one would pantyhose on a rooster.

Lord, I confess that in the sweet, green days of youth I scoffed at St. Paul's warning that strong drink is raging. I looked oft upon the wine when it was red. But no man who has lived through a gin hangover should be regarded without some compassion, Lord, and may the record show also that I never wore one of those Texas ties that consisted of two strings hanging down from a piece of glass. I never had a Yul Brynner haircut. Or a Mohawk. A flattop. I never went around with my jacket collar up, my shirt collar loosened and my tie half-mist.

I have not been all bad. I have never struck a screaming child on a place or shot a dog barking in the night, though the desire to do so raged through me like a fever. And when that great scorekeeper comes to mark against my name, may he mark that I never wore white patent-leather shoes or a red jacket with polyester pants.

You will remember, Lord, that back in the '50s we had a fearful fad when all the men wore black suits with pink shirts and shiny black ties; when two or three were gathered together they tended to resemble a convention of funeral directors with their throats cut. Please credit me this: I never did.

Let it be written in the book of time that I have nothing against Italians. In high school I had a dear friend who was Italian. I once dated an Italian Woman. But I have never succumbed to Italian clothes designers, and I hope that fact will not go overlooked. Remember when the guys at the bar were all wearing suits that looked like wallpaper, with collars long enough to double as bras? And who stuck to the good old oxford cloth button-downs? A point for my side, Lord. And mark this, please: I never wore bikini undershorts.

Be not the first by whom the new is tried, said Alexander Pope, and I have inclined to heed his advice, Lord. Maybe this has made by clothing a bit on the dull side. I have never fancied myself a bird of paradise, nor yet a peacock. But if I have not enlivened the sartorial landscape and have stuck too closely to the course of the brothers Brooks, let it be noted that I have seldom caused dogs to bark or ladies to pale at my attire.

I have known polyunsaturated greed and lust that overflowed the heart. I have been silly and weak, Lord, and at times selfish and mean. But not often tacky, Lord. So when the hour arrives when the shadow of my transgressions blot out the sun of redemption, and the burden of my sin is too much to bear or be forgiven, please let this be remembered: I never wore a leisure suit.

P.S. Lord, let my 83rd buddies know that I'm "jest kiddin'."

Casey Kowalec  
322 FA



## CHAPLAIN'S STEEPLE

Death notices that have come either to Casey or to the Office. The families of all have the sympathy of the entire 83rd. May they rest in peace.

NAME	OUTFIT	DATE OF DEATH	SENT IN BY
Richard Ammon	"A" 331st	5/88	Larry Leonardi
Leo Boyd	1st BN 331st	6/1/88	Gale Baker, Bob Brinkman, Arthur Koerner
James J. Brennan	"D" 330th	5/88	Kent O'Connell
Merle L. Cailor	2nd BN 329th	3/27/88	Wife, Betty
William Collinson	HDQ 308th Eng.	5/87	George Settle
Frank DeStefani	SERVICE 908th	11/29/86	Tom Rybarczyk
Ted Gurgol	"D" 330th	4/88	Wife, Stella & Bob Uher
Donald H. Hildebrand	HDQ. 308th ENG	Fall Issue	Outfit sent in by Chet Colbourne. Thanks Chet
Ralph K. Harman	"A" 329th	5/88	Bob Grobelny & Wife Helen
Dwight H. Hinman	"C" 329th	4/2/88	William E. Stark
Bernard C. Harris	"A" 331st	3/4/88	Wife, Marcia
Stanley S. Imbody	Service 330th	4/5/88	wife Ruth
Ed Killery	"T" 330th	11/11/87	Buford Crouch
Albert Mislner	"D" 331st	10/14/85	Word from wife Norma
David Nellies	HDQ. 323rd B	5/88	Kid Williams
Olin W. Phillips	"T" 329th		Warren Knicley
Karl Sauer	"L" 329th	2/27/87	Wife Nadine
Al Unfried	783rd ORD	6/1/88	Arthur Doggett
T/Sgt John Swecker	"E" 331st	5/24/88	Fred Willmann
John Bonarek	83rd CHEMICAL Mortar	BN.	Richard Rynkowski
Leo J. Labuda	"H" 330th	11/20/86	From wife Dorothy



## Historian Corner

May 25, 1988

We have now lost the last of our Regimental Commanders who led the 329th, 330th and 331st of our 83rd Infantry Division to victory in World War II.

Lt. General Robert (Bob) H. York has joined Colonels Foster and Crabill of our honored dead.

Colonel York was the well loved and respected war time Commander of the "See It Through" 331st Regiment. (He took over after Colonel Barndollar was killed July 4th by a German sniper).

Robert York was respected, not only by the 83rd, but all the commands he held in the U.S. Army.

Many of us were honored and proud to call him "friend."

We will miss him, and salute him for his warmth and gentlemanly action throughout his lifetime.

We add our condolences to his wife Grace and his entire family.

He had the Grace of a happy death surrounded by his loving family.

Rest in Peace with God's Love.

Respectfully,

**Wm. Kent O'Connell**

A Friend

P.S. Bob's wish for his stone - "Just a common ordinary cuss. Just like the common run of us. No better and no worse."

Want to share news about your Chapter or Company or maybe find a lost Buddy send your articles to:



**Bob Derickson**  
**3749 Stahleheber Road**  
**Hamilton, Ohio**  
**45013-9102**

... and we'll try to get in our next issue of the great Thunderbolt.

*From The San Diego Union*  
 Saturday, April 16, 1988

Robert H. York, a much-decorated Army lieutenant general who fought in three wars, died yesterday morning of cancer in Balboa Naval Hospital with his family by his side.

Gen. York, who was 75, grew up in Alabama and graduated from West Point, where he was on the boxing team.

In World War II he commanded troops during the invasions of Africa, Sicily and Normandy, the latter at Omaha Beach heading an infantry battalion of the 1st Division. From Normandy until the end of the war he commanded the 331st Infantry Regiment of the 83rd Division.

He earned the Distinguished Service Cross and two Silver Stars, as well as a Purple Heart, for his role in the world war. In all, he was decorated 18 times in his career.

During the war he married Gracie Buckland of New York City. He later graduated from Harvard Business School, and the couple settled in Alabama before moving to San Diego five years ago.

He also fought in Korea and Vietnam, and was commanding general of the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga., and also of the 82nd Airborne Division. In 1968 Gen. York took command of the 18th Airborne Corps. He retired in 1973.

He was an avid skier and golfer, playing his last game of golf last month. "The illness came that quickly," said his daughter, Barbara Donnadieu of San Diego. "He was very happy in his last days; that's the miracle."

Memorial services are planned for 3 p.m. Tuesday at Del Cerro Heights Park. His ashes will be buried in West Point Cemetery, West Point, N.Y.

In addition to his wife and daughter Barbara, he is survived by three other daughters, Carol Winslow and Gail York-St. Germain of San Diego, and Elizabeth Ann Craven of Athens, Ala; 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a sister, Lorene Osborn of North Carolina; and a brother, John York of Charlotte, N.C.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BY-LAWS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE  
EXECUTIVE BOARD AS APPROVED BY THE JUDGE ADVOCATE**

THE PRESENT ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 2 OF THE BY-LAWS SHALL BE DELETED FROM THE BY-LAWS AND THE FOLLOWING SUBSTITUTED IN ITS PLACE.

**ARTICLE VIII--EXECUTIVE BOARD--SECTION 2 MEETINGS, ALLOWANCES AND FEES.**

A meeting shall be held each year during May, and shall be held at the discretion of the Chairman of the Executive Board as necessary to assure presence of a Quorum, with the Host Chapter for the next and any future Reunion. The Chairman of the Executive Board may, in his discretion choose both the date and the meeting place, but in no event shall such meeting take place less than seventy-five (75) days before said Annual Meeting.

- (A) Special meetings may be called by the Chairman of the Executive Board at any time, for any purpose. Approximately fifteen (15) months prior to a reunion date, the Executive Board shall meet with the Host Chapter and review the tentative REUNION program and proposed expenses and charges. At this meeting the Executive Board shall give approval of the chosen site. Approximately twelve (12) months prior to the REUNION DATE, the Executive Board will again meet with the Host Chapter to firm up the REUNION PROGRAM, and approve the CONTRACTS for the Hotel Facilities and Programs as are binding upon the Association, subject to the approval of the Judge Advocate at the Annual Reunion. No Special Meetings shall be called by the Chairman unless he is assured a Quorum of the Executive Board as required under SECTION 4 of this Article will come and be present for such Special Meeting.
- (B) At any Special or Regular Meeting of the Executive Board, The Host Chapter through the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association shall book a room at each such Hotel or place where such Executive Board Meeting is to be held for the use of the Executive Board as a meeting room, which meeting room shall adjoin or connect with the room occupied by the Secretary-Treasurer for the purposes enumerated in this article, the expense of which, in addition to Lodging Expense allowances shall be borne by the Association payable out of the Reunion Funds. Such rooms shall be available Tuesday, 3 p.m., through the following Sunday.
- (C) Members of the Executive Board are to be paid an allowance for their attendance at such Executive Board Meeting in lieu of their travel expenses, room expenses, and their meals. The amount of such allowance for attendance, shall not exceed the sum of \$300.00 per Board Member attending, unless exceeded by actual expenses incurred and approved by the Executive Board and the membership at the Annual Meeting.
- (D) The Secretary Treasurer of the Association in addition to his DUTIES as a Member of the Executive Board, and in addition to the Allowances paid as a Member of the Executive Board, shall also receive a fee based upon the total paid up MEMBERSHIP of THE ASSOCIATION, at the close of each fiscal year (July 30), in the amount of \$3.00 per each PAID UP MEMBER, for all other services and duties performed under ARTICLE VII, "DUTIES OF SECRETARY-TREASURER" OF THESE BY-LAWS. Any increase in the FEES paid to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association shall be approved by the Executive Board and the Membership at the Annual Meeting.
- (E) ANNUAL DUES FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THIS ASSOCIATION, shall remain at \$10.00 per year for each Member unless otherwise approved at any REGULAR OR SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP.
- (F) At each Annual Reunion, The Reunion Committee for the second succeeding Reunion shall meet informally with The Executive Board for total familiarization of all Reunion Policies and Procedures to be implemented by such committee.



FINAL SCHEDULE

SUBJECT TO MINOR CHANGE

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter  
**83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

**42nd ANNUAL REUNION**  
 HERSHEY LODGE, HERSHEY PA.  
**SEPTEMBER 8 - 9 - 10**  
 DEPARTURE SEPTEMBER 11, 1988

**Wednesday, September 7, 1988**

10:00 a.m. - Noon - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
 8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Early Bird Special  
 Registration  
 Gettysburg Tour  
 Other Tours  
 Square Dance Night  
 (For Beginners & Experienced)  
 Caller William Appleby

Convention Center  
 On Your Own  
 On Your Own  
 Cash Bar

**Thursday, September 8, 1988**

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
 9:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Registration  
 Hospitality Room  
 Sit Down Dinner  
 Entertainment & Dance

Convention Center  
 Cash Bar  
 Cash Bar

**Friday, September 9, 1988**

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon  
 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
 9:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Breakfast  
 Registration  
 Registration  
 Business Meeting  
 (For Women) Cosmetic Illustration  
Mary Kay Coordinator - June Zenz  
 Coordinator - June Zenz  
 Memorial Service  
 Hospitality Room  
 Sit Down Dinner  
 Entertainment & Dance

Buffet  
 Convention Center  
 Convention Center  
 Cash Bar  
 Cash Bar

**Saturday, September 10, 1988**

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon  
 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
 9:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Breakfast  
 Registration  
 Business Meeting  
 Hershey Park &  
 Hershey's Chocolate World  
 Catholic Mass  
 Banquet Dinner  
 Entertainment & Dance

Buffet  
 Convention Center  
 Cash Bar  
 Cash Bar For Hard Liquor

**Please Note: No Hospitality Room Open Saturday Afternoon. In Lieu of Hospitality, Wine & Beer served with Dinner**

9:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Entertainment & Dance

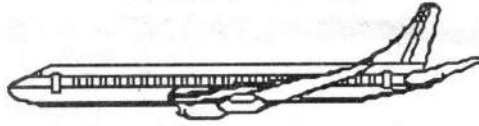
**Sunday, September 11, 1988**

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Brunch

**"FAREWELL! HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME"**

# DELTA AIR LINES, INC.



## 83rd Infantry Division Association Incorporated WW II Meeting September 8-10, 1988 Hershey, Pennsylvania

**Delta Air Lines Special Meetings Network** is pleased to have the opportunity to offer its personalized services for your upcoming meeting. We specialize in coordinating travel arrangements for meetings and strive to provide the best service possible at the lowest applicable fares available.

Provisions have been made to allow a 5 percent bonus off most Delta domestic published fares, if all rules and conditions of the air fares are met. Some promotional fares with discounts greater than 75 percent off the normal round trip coach fares may not be included in this offer.

For passengers not qualifying for published discounts, a 40 percent discount will be offered on Delta's domestic system for travel to the meeting. (Canadian originating attendees will receive a 35 percent savings). This discount will be based on the full nondiscounted round trip coach rates. To take advantage of these fares, follow these simple rules:

1. Valid for travel: September 6 - 13, 1988, inclusive
2. Valid for travel into: Philadelphia, PA
3. Tickets must be purchased at least 7 days prior to departure.
4. This discount has limited seat availability.
5. Valid for travel round trip on Delta only.
6. Call Delta or have your Travel Agent call 1-800-221-1212 and ask for Special Meetings Network. We are open daily 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Eastern time and will be happy to assist with your reservations.
7. Refer to File Reference Number: D16089



# USAIR

District Sales Office  
225 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Conventioneer,

USAir is please to announce a special air fare for your convention / meeting.

Conditions:

- \* Please make reservations round trip through our 800 national numbers or Yellow Pages local USAir number. (800-428-4322).
- \* Indicate at the time of booking that you are on a special convention fare (BE295Z) discount (25%). Please note: There are many promotional fares between cities. Our reservationists will make every attempt to secure the lowest fare possible for you.
- \* For your ticketing convenience please fill in, detach and mail the bottom portion of this letter.

Thank you for flying USAir.

-----  
To be completed by the passenger:

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Travel \_\_\_\_\_

Origination City and Flight Number \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment: [  ] Check: Please make check payable to USAir

[  ] Credit Card: Name of Card \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(This signature authorizes USAir to bill card holder for above)

Mailing address of Passenger: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form to:

**USAir**  
225 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

On May 12th to the 14th the Executive Board met at the Clarion Hotel in Cincinnati. First on the agenda were the final program plans for the Hershey Reunion. Our President George Pletcher indicated that the welcome mat is out and he is looking forward for this reunion to be one of the best. Reunion Chairman Al Belvedere reported that the Hershey Lodge has reserved all of its 425 allotted rooms. The Best Western nearby is accepting the overflow.

We also met with the committee who will be in charge of the Cincinnati Reunion. Charlie Schmidt and Manny Goodridge with the Executive Board, met with the Sales Manager of the Clarion Hotel. Manny Goodridge reported the tentative costs of the 1989 reunion. They are working on their program. Cincy is a fun city and many things of interest to see and do.

The Clarion management has submitted a contract to the 83rd Association to be signed. Before it is signed however, it must be approved first by Judge Advocate, John Raikos, the Executive Board and the membership at the next Annual Meeting, when new officers are elected for the 1989 reunion in Cincinnati.

Next on the agenda, discussed at great length was the proposed changes to the 83rd By-Laws which were drawn up by our Judge Advocate. These By-Law changes were recommended and agreed upon by the Executive Board and will be submitted to the Membership for approval at the next Annual Meeting at Hershey. These changes are published in this issue of the THUNDERBOLT for your study and close attention.

It was approved by the Board that the President, Secretary-Treasurer and Board Chairman would represent the 83rd Div. Association to attend memorial ceremonies and present plaques to honor the memory of our Ralph Neppel, CMH on July 14 at the Glidden, Iowa American Legion Post and also on July 15th or 16th at V.F.W. Post 2581 in Iowa City, Iowa. We officers humbly accept this honor and are privileged to represent all the members of our great division, who will always proudly remember Ralph Neppel.

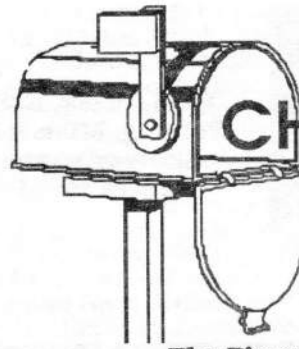
This year was marked by another milestone for the 83rd Association and me. It seems like yesterday, as a new board member and so inexperienced, I was trying my best to contribute something toward a successful reunion in Owensboro, Ky. As you remember it was 1983 and it was a great reunion. Joe Macaluso was then Chairman of the Board. I remember confiding in Joe to let him know what a great job he had done as our Chairman and wondered how I could ever take over when my time would come in five years. He said, "Don't worry, by the time it's your turn you'll know what to do." I've never forgotten those words.

Now it's my fifth year and also my final message as your Chairman. I want to say that every member of your Board is dedicated to make this the best Veteran's Association there is - anywhere. Most of you recognize this. A few others have let us know we are doing some things not to their liking. **So be it!** We are elected to determine what the right decisions are for the good of ALL the members. In my judgement, we have done this.

It has been a privilege to serve on the Board with such a fine group of devoted men, everyone. We have been so fortunate to have a hard working, dedicated Secretary-Treasurer as Bob Derickson and his never-tiring helper, Pearl. As Editor of the Thunderbolt and many other Association duties, our grateful thanks.

My good friend Ralph Gunderson will be your next Chairman and I wish him well.

**God Bless and Stay Healthy,  
Larry Leonardi**



**CHAPTER  
NEWS**

**The Pines Get-Together**

The Boston Chapter and friends of the 83rd met at the Pines Hotel in So. Fallsburg, the first week of May.

The 83rd members that attended came from Ohio, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. They all had a good time. The food was just excellent, and the entertainment was super.

Many people went on a tour of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Estate of Hyde Park. The tour through the mansion was very interesting. We walked around the Rose Garden, and saw the graves of the Roosevelts. One of the high points of the visit was a picnic on the beautiful grounds of the estate. The lunch was prepared by the fine chefs at the Pines Hotel, and was just delicious. The Pines Hotel also supplied luxury buses for our tour.

Our next stop was the Woodbury Shopping Mall, where the ladies had a ball shopping. We then proceeded to the Brotherhood Winery; the oldest winery in the United States. To finish off our tour, that evening, those who still had some energy went to Monticello Racetrack. The gamblers were happy, and the racetrack held special "83rd" races.

We are all looking forward to meeting again next year at the Pines Hotel, for more good times.



**Stan Bielin & his  
New Jersey Group at  
the "Pines"**

**Warren & Emily  
Boucher at the  
"Pines"**



**Mike Malik, Chet &  
Laurette Morely, Bob  
Hunnewell & Larry  
Redmond at the  
"Pines"**





**Thad Guzek, Emil Wehling, Mike & Liz Skovran at the Pines Hotel**



**Hy Goodman, Mike & Vera Caprio, Fran Arrigo at the Pines**



**Sam the Baker (Pines) having a class on making almond cookies**

**Co. H 330TH**

**Hello Buddies:**

Here it is time once again to sit down and write to you and let you know how much I thank you for the support you have given me over the years in making the CO. H Page in the Reunion Ad Book the great page that it is.

I had the great honor of being a member of Co. H, since we first started in Camp Atterbury, we had one of the finest, if not the finest Unit in the 83rd. We were not only the number one Company in the 2nd Battalion, but were tops in the Regiment. We were fortunate in having the finest leaders any Company had, we had a Company Commander who was tops, and fortunately he had Lieutenants under him that were among the greatest. As we go down the line, the Cadre of Non-Coms that were with us were of the finest caliber that any unit had. As we progressed, and it came time to advance our poor little privates into non-com status, the choices couldn't have been better. By the time we were ready to go overseas, we had a company that was superior to all. (Some of you men from other units may not like my bragging about our men, but the truth has to hurt sometimes.)

Well, Buddies, as we are almost ready to put another great year in the History of our Association behind us, once again I want to thank you for your support both in the AD BOOK and in being paid up members in our great association. We of Co. H can stand proud of not only our record in combat, but in our support of the association. Let us all try to make a reunion and join our two stalwarts who attend every year, Capt. Masters and Lt. Rudd.

Come out and meet those Buddies you haven't seen in years, I don't have space to name the men who attend, but you will find it a great feeling to meet them.

If you have any names and addresses, send them to me so I can contact them.

**GOD BLESS YOU ALL.**

**Larry Redmond**

**KENTUCKY CHAPTER NEWS**

The Kentucky Chapter met for the early bird part of the meeting on Friday, June 10, about noon. The group left the College View Motel about 2:00 and went to Lebanon, Ohio. They toured the town of Lebanon. All the antique shops and museums. At 5:30 the entire group met for dinner at the Golden Lamp restaurant. Twenty-five members and guests were in attendance for this. They were permitted to tour the entire Inn and gift shops. There are four floors. So they had quite a time. Arrived back at the motel about nine. Nora Lee and Cecil Walters had their tapes with them and they taught us all (or tried to) do some clogging and other dances. Too bad we don't have a picture.

On Saturday morning Bob led the caravan to Huestons Woods State Park where Pearl, her friend Gayle, her daughter-in-law, Kathy, had our breakfast going for us. Some more of our members came for breakfast along with Bob and Pearl's daughter, Fran, her husband Mike, children Katie and Ben from Minnesota joined us. Also another daughter, Cathy her husband, Bruce and their daughter Leslie. We were at the Marina where all the boats dock. That was a beautiful sight early in the morning with the mist rising from the lake. Saw some deer also. After breakfast Bob took us to the Pioneer Farm Museum where he had guides waiting to take on a tour of the Museum.

We then went back to the motel where Pearl and Bob had lunch waiting for us. We all just sort of rested after that until the meeting started at 3 p.m. Manny Goodridge could not be with us because of his son Keith's illness. Keith has been having trouble with his back. We all hope he is better soon. Charley came for the meeting. He reported that he and Manny are working with the hotel and plans are coming along.

Everyone is looking forward to the reunion in Hershey. Chester Wilson appointed a three man committee to work out next year's meeting places. The men are Gale Baker, Arthur Doggett and Floyd Richmond. Our next meeting will be at Owensboro, Kentucky on October 14th and 15th. Anyone wishing to be with us will be more than welcome. We plan to go on Friday and leave for home on Sunday. We will be meeting with the Dixie Chapter in December, in Gatlinburg.

Our evening meal was catered in. A delicious meal. Pearl and Bob had engaged a delightful lady from Middletown to come and entertain us after dinner. Well, she was early and played all during our meal and afterwards. Very talented person. She was really good. Everyone had a good time.

Sunday morning we went to our usual place for breakfast, the Hickory Hut. After lingering for a couple hours over breakfast everyone began to disperse for home.

We only had one casualty. Gordon Acton was in such a hurry to leave for the Flea Market that he left his suitcase on the ground in back of his car. Bob said he delivered it to Gordon on Monday morning.

Thanks to Bob and Pearl for another delightful summer picnic week-end. Also many thanks to Ed and Kathy Derickson for their wonderful hospitality. I can't think of any motel that goes all out for their guests like they do. Thanks to all of you.

**MEMORIES**

**908TH FIELD ARTILLERY BN.**

**OH-H HOW I HATE TO GET UP IN THE MORNING**  
VOL. I, No. 3 • May 16, 1988

**EDITORIAL:**

This is the last issue of "MEMORIES" until after the reunion in September. There has been a little favorable response to this publication, and we will decide in September if it should be continued. If you find this interesting and have not mentioned it, please let me know by mail or at the reunion. Stories about members' experiences have been hard to get, but maybe more will be willing to send in some personal accounts as we recall other parts of our training and combat. I am retiring from teaching tomorrow, so I will have plenty of time to work on this. However, my access to free printing is also coming to an end, so the cost will increase somewhat. Many thanks to HOWARD SWEET, who contributed to help out on the postage for this

edition. I hope to see many of you in Hershey in September.

**Del Jurden**

#### **HISTORICAL NOTE:**

The second and third phases of our training took place from February to June, 1943. The period after basic was called "unit" training. During that time we spent many days and nights in the field. The battalion was tested in combat-firing proficiency by the Corps Commander. We were given Army Ground Forces (AGF) Battery Tests. Sixteen hours of our training time were devoted to night training--motor marches, service practice, battery and battalion field training exercises (FIX's), difficult terrain expedients, and battalion firing. That period was followed by the third phase: eleven weeks of "combined arms" training. This was the time when our battalion functioned in field maneuvers and combat team exercises in direct support of the 331st Infantry Regiment. This would be our role in combat, and it was then when we became better acquainted with our infantrymen counterparts with whom we would work in the many months to come. Mention also is appropriate about some of the other elements of our training: physical training, obstacle courses, transition firing, and infiltration courses. We must have done well during that seven-month period of intensive training, because on June 21, 1943, we were already headed to take part in the big Maneuvers in Tennessee. (If there is another edition of this paper, it will deal with the maneuvers. If you have any stories to contribute, please send them in--all of us can remember things worth mentioning about Tennessee).

#### **NEWS ITEMS:**

In case you have not made arrangements yet and intend to attend the 42nd Annual Reunion, it will be at the Hershey Lodge, Hershey, Pennsylvania, from September 8-10. More information about it can be acquired from the Secretary-Treasurer of the 83rd Division Association, Robert Derickson, 3747 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013.

Our sympathies go out at this time to the family of Nelson V. Hetrick, whose death was announced in the Thunderbolt. Nelson died on September 21, 1987. Many of us knew him very well. Howard Sweet recalls him as a loyal and reliable member (radio operator) of his liaison section who was always with him in combat. "He was a gutsy little guy." We will miss him--he had attended several of the previous reunions.

Please send any news items about members or personal accounts to: Del Jurden, 4512 Sutton Ct., Kansas City, Kansas 66106.

**ATTERBURY TALES:** ("Trials and Tribulations--Life in a New Camp")

From **Jack Clevenger:** How can anyone forget the 83rd at Camp Atterbury?!!! We in the artillery had mud, mud, and mud. We pushed more trucks and guns in, around, and thru the mud. We just never ran out of mud. And who could forget Ernest (Slim) Campbell, and his size 13 shoes?... he could pick up a 50 cal. machine gun, stand and all, and hurry with it. Remember Kissell and Tidmore, two good friends, who drank too much one night and decided their name calling should be settled in the middle of the night, in the middle of the barracks, with mess kit knives. After a lot of noise, Sgt. Bert Hohenfelt came down from his room and settled it with one punch.... Who could forget the many hours we spent in the supply room, building shelves, etc., sometimes into the wee hours; but we still had to make drills the next day. And how about our 20 or 25 mile forced march, when hardly anybody had put water in our canteens? When we stopped alongside a stream, hot, dry, and exhausted, a lot of guys jumped into the water, clothes and all. Old Col. Thompson really had a bird, and raised the devil. He had non-coms pulling the guys out of the water for punishment later. I still enjoyed all of it, and don't think it hurt me at all.

From **Manny Goodridge** I remember an incident that happened during the early period before the fillers came in. I was in C Battery, and Captain Fosque was CO. We were always scrounging for tools and equipment to build training items, and especially shelves for the supply room. Captain Fosque would usually tell Sgt. Crow what was needed, and Crow was usually successful in getting what was needed. One day Fosque said that we needed tools, especially a

saw, so Crow left to hunt for one. Shortly he came back, got a 3/4-ton truck, and left with it. The next time I saw him, he had a big table saw loaded on the truck. This was about noon, so, instead of unloading the saw, he took his crew and went to the mess hall. In the meantime, the contractor, who missed the saw, happened to come by and claimed the saw. Sgt. Crow had to take the saw back and apologize to the contractor for liberating his equipment. We often kidded Crow later about this in that he let his stomach get the better of him.

(There were off-duty problems, too. Sometimes duty interfered with off-duty activities).

From **Nate Miller:** Red Bratton and I hitchhiked home from Atterbury (Nate lived in Vincennes) and got a late start back to camp. I talked mom out of her car... for a week in order to make it to camp on time. I didn't know that I would need the insurance policy on the car to get it on the post. Upon arriving at the main gate, the MP's were not going to let me on ... but they let me on and we parked it by the officers' barracks. Wednesday came and the survey crew...decided to go to Indianapolis...the MP's stopped us again and asked for the insurance papers.... They told me not to take the car back on camp. After a few too many beers...we started back to camp...We ended up on one of the back roads into camp and in the impact area and the car became centered on the ruts made by those ole 6 x 6 prime movers, with all four wheels off the ground...We shoved until the car came free. I forgot to mention that I knew the 324th was scheduled to fire at daybreak, and there we were....The rest of the week I was trying to figure out how to talk my way past the MP's on Saturday. On Friday night First Sergeant Sites asked if he could get a ride next day to Indianapolis, and I agreed. Sites must have told Captain Fleming, as he later asked me if he could ride also....We never did bother to get a pass over the weekend--we would just take off. We picked up Captain Fleming and Sergeant Sites and went right through the gate--the MP coming to attention, saluting the captain, and waved us through.

(This account was submitted by a former officer of C Battery, so his name is not mentioned, since he mentioned that he probably should not tell about it. Do any of you from old Battery C know who this was?).

"This happened shortly after we finished training at Camp Atterbury and decided to have a big party at the Div Arty Officers' Club....We all drank a lot, and I really became loaded, so started back to Indianapolis. We had gone in the day before and dropped off our uniforms with our wives to be sent to the cleaners on Monday--I had kept out one clean set of OD's for Div Arty review on Saturday. Anyhow, when we were about to leave the party, Harry Fleming said that we had to go into the BOQ for something. When I hit the warm air inside, I got sick and ended up on a bunk. The next morning I was awakened with someone shaking me. I scrounged around and found miscellaneous dirty and mussed pieces of uniform that I could wear for the review. The next morning I was the only officer available to take the troops on review. The Battery snickered as I marched them to the review field, but, just before we passed on review, the Battery Commander and Lt. Fleming arrived to relieve me--an unforgettable experience."



**"B" 329th**

Nothing much to write about this time as I haven't heard from anyone. Sgt. Iemole and Al Trofimuk called and said definitely they are coming to Hershey.

If you see anyone or can contact anyone, please tell them to come to the reunion. If you have any addresses, send them to me so I can contact them. It would be great to see some of the old gang.

See you all in Hershey.

**Bob Uher**  
"B" 329th



### To: "A" 330th

I am asking for help, not for myself but for a more deserving Buddy. When I came to the 83rd as a replacement in July, 1944, this man was a Platoon Sergeant of the Weapons Platoon; when I left he was a C.O. of "A" after a battlefield Commission. His name is Walter Pillion (Pill).

I met him again in West Virginia last year and found out he had a disability for which he had never filed a claim.

Through our V.A. here in Chicago I received and sent to him the necessary papers and the address of the V.A. in Tennessee.

He was standing under a tank when it fired, he was thrown to the ground and knocked out. He suffered damage to both ears. This happened in January, 1945. I was in an English hospital myself so cannot verify anything. He's a great guy and deserves anything he can get. He has two silver stars and two (2) bronze stars, so you can see the type of person he is.

Hope there is someone out there who can verify his claim. He needs affidavits signed and notarized to help his claim.

Send them to: Walter S. Pillion, Ferguson Ridge Rd., Tazewell, Tennessee 37879, S.S. 287-14-4440, Serial No. 0-1999874, Rank, 1st Lt.

Or to: Paul J. Reed, 1419 Fidelity Building, 201 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201 Paul was an officer and now is a lawyer helping Pill.

Sincerely,

Joe Adam  
"A" 330th

### Pittsburgh Chapter News

Due to unforeseen circumstances I was unable to attend the June meeting of the chapter, therefore this column will be short.

A few items of interest include: Gene Costanzo sent his daughter, Sandy, son-in-law Bill Ramsey and two grandchildren on an all-expense paid trip to Hawaii and the island of Oahu for one week recently.

June 21 was the last day of work for Al Seuss. According to my calculations all chapter members are now retired. Word has reached me that Greer Thompson suffered a heart attack in January. No further information available at this writing.

On Sunday, May 1, the chapter went on a dinner-dance cruise on the liner Majestic. Although attendance at this affair was below normal, those who did attend enjoyed a four hour cruise on the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio Rivers. Prior to this a short meeting was held in the Steamboat Room of the Sheraton Hotel at Station Square. This also served as a hospitality room before and after the cruise.

The chapter is currently engaged in a publicity campaign in an attempt to secure new members for the chapter and promote the 1990 reunion to be hosted by the Pittsburgh Chapter. The article which is printed below is being published in area newspapers but other media coverage is being considered. This is a project of Sam Klippa. A meeting with the women of the chapter will be held later in the summer.

**"The Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of the 83rd Infantry Division Association Incorporated, is looking for the hundreds of members in this area (World War II), to join them in preparing for a reunion they are planning for 1990.**

**Please contact: Edward J. Reuss at 10939 Highpoint Drive, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15235 or call at 412-793-5326 for more information.**

Francis G. Beerhalter  
4548 Valley View St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15214

### To: All K Co. Buddies, Wives/Friends

April 18, 1988  
I am contemplating a mini reunion of K Co, 329th, 83rd Div. the weekend of October 7 and 8 in "Moncks Corner", 30 miles from historical down-town Charleston if enough interest can be generated.

Listed below are former members from K Company who will receive this notice. If you know of anyone else, please let me know as soon as possible.

If there is enough response, I will make final plans and notify you. The motel cost: single \$30.50, double \$33.50. I will plan the two evening meals and the cost will be minimal.

Enclosed is self-addressed envelope for your convenience.

Let's Do It !!!!!

Perry H. Bobo  
118 Pinewood Drive,  
Moncks Corner, S.C. 29461

**Roster:** 1st Sgt. Kaylord E. Kelly, Andrew T. Balconis, Albert Benjamin, Ed Butram, George D. Hariss, William A. Hinton, Columbus Infanto, Leonard Ireland, Clifford Lemke, Leo Monnin, Frank Malleo, Clell I. Mayfield, John McMurray, Frank McNeil, Clarence Minniear, Louis Novotony, Chester Predenkiewicz, Charles Quill, Albert Rinaldi, Robert C. Senter, K.E. Tincher, K. R. Tincher, William Van Hoy, Charles Wilkins, Robert L. Wise.

### Cleveland Chapter

This report is being written on "D" Day plus 44 years. On Memorial Day the Cleveland Chapter was invited and did participate in a parade in Maple Heights, Ohio. Our Chapter made a great impression along the parade route. Bob Grobelny led the troops and gave the commands loud and clear which were executed correctly. Thank God! !

The parade was long and hot, just like Tennessee maneuvers. One of the speakers was Ed Jocek who spoke on "What is a Veteran?" Excellent speech. It seems that the veterans are getting older and many of the younger vets are not marching. The Chapter also placed a wreath in memory of all deceased soldiers on Victory Island in Cleveland, for the 21st year. A big salute to Al Uridel for getting the wreaths all these years and placing it at the monument.

After the parade we assembled at Czech acres for an 83rd picnic where the beer and stories flowed. The more beer drunk the better the stories got. At the end it seemed like the 83rd won the war single handed. Chester Czech and his lovely wife Emily did a great job on handling this affair, also their daughter Donna and her husband for the use of their grounds. They make us feel at home at their home. Many thanks.

Al Uridel received good news, when his grandson who is in the 102nd Airborne was changed from one helicopter to another while on California maneuvers. Later they found out the first one crashed and all aboard were killed. Ed Jocek made us all jealous by getting a hole in one at Atwood Lodge. It was attested by Casey Kowalec, our National Chaplain. So it must have been a miracle. He is still carrying the Club and ball for all to see.

My daughter Arylce was recently made head mistress of the upper school at the Cranbrook-Kingswood School in Bloomfield Hill, Michigan. Makes us all proud when we see our children make it.

We hear that Rollie Warner was billed 420.00 for being in arrears of his National Dues. He must still be in service to run up a bill like that. He is still in shock.

Now for the bad news. I am sorry to report that Ted Gurgol passed away in April. The National and the Cleveland Chapter lost a good member. Our sympathy to his wife Stella and his family, his half brother Chet Czech. Casey Kowalec presided at the funeral by having taps played and all veterans saluting. A fine tribute to a great fellow.

The Cleveland Chapter will see you all in Hershey. If you see someone without a smile give him yours. God Bless.

Bob Uher  
"B" 329th



### Florida Chapter News

We are happy to report that the Florida Chapter had a very successful Spring weekend meeting and social at the Rodeway Inn, in Clearwater, Florida hosted by Bill and Dorothy Nagel.

The Saturday night dinner was attended by over 70 people, members, wives and guests and was filled with surprises. We missed some of our Snowbirds who had already gone north and were unable to attend. We missed them.

For the early arrivals in Clearwater, we went on Friday evening to the famous Kapok Tree Restaurant for dinner. After our walk through the beautiful gardens and browsing through the shops, we had a wonderful meal and were entertained by a beautiful Russian concert pianist. A very enjoyable evening was had by all.

Some of our regulars were missing from the meeting because of ill health, our prayers go out to all of them, we wish them well and hope to see them soon. Our sympathy goes to Betty Jane Cailor and family on the death of her husband Merle, who was a chapter member.

Our next meeting will be in November and will be held in St. Augustine, Fla. and will be hosted by Jim and Martha Burt. If any 83rd members will be in Florida at that time and would like to attend our weekend, please contact me and I will be glad to send information and directions.

Up to date, we have an increase in membership and we welcome all of those who have joined us.

Hope to see you all in Hershey at the reunion.

**Bill Herhuth**  
324 Hdq. Btry. F.A.

### New Jersey Chapter

June 6, 1988

A number of important events took place since I last wrote. The foremost being the death of our 331st Regimental Commander, General Bob York. On May 6th, I along with Manny Epstein traveled to West Point where we were joined by Bernie and Jeanne Cove, Al and Ann Belvedere and Jim Prentice to represent the 331st at the services and interment of General York.

General York was a great man. Those that attended the services spoke of his concern for his fellow man, his great leadership ability, (classifying him as one of the greatest commanders in the Army). The Generals and Colonels who attended the services spoke with pride and affection of their association with Bob York. We in turn, spoke likewise.

We met Bob's four daughters and others from his family. They showed a deep interest in what we had to say when we told them we were from the 331st. Bob York had a deep affection for the men of the 331st and I'm sure this carried on to his family. Many of us would not be here today were it not for his outstanding leadership.

The service was held at the Old Cadet Chapel with the interment in the cemetery directly behind the chapel.

On May 1, nine members of the New Jersey Chapter attended the mini-reunion of the Boston Chapter at the Pines Hotel. Once again we had a wonderful time. Joining us again were Mike and Liz Skovran. We always enjoy being with them. Now if we can only get Mike to pay his Jersey Chapter dues. We'll put Freddie Rein on his case.

The highlight of our stay was when Ted Guzik and myself were called on stage to assist the hypnotist at the evening show. The true Party Animal in Ted surfaced that night. The audience roared with laughter when Ted and I were hypnotized. They told us later that when the hypnotist told us to pick a safe place on ourselves to conceal the money we supposedly won at a race track we both opened our flies to hide the money. The next day we both ran the gamut of autograph seekers. It's tough being famous!!

Thanks to Bernie Cove and the Pines staff for another great time.

At the Pines we met Frank and Mary Bradley who had accompanied Pat and Ginny DiGammerino. Frank served with the 4th Infantry Division during WW II. He now serves as editor of the 4th Infantry Division Publication, (The Ivy Leaves). They will be holding their reunion in Las Vegas in August. Fran and I were there the latter part of May. We had a great time partying from dawn to dawn. We were bushed when we arrived back home and slept for two

days.

It would be great for us to have a reunion there someday as the cost for room and food are very low. The 4th Division is paying \$42 a day for the Riviera Hotel which is right on the Strip. How about .99 cents for 3 eggs, bacon, toast, potatoes, juice and coffee and \$3.49 for a soup to nuts buffet. Sound interesting?

The Chapter offers our congratulations to Ted and Irene Guzik on the birth of their third grandson.

On June 12, Father Francis McCartin will be celebrating his 59th Anniversary of Priesthood. We consider Father Frank a dear friend and wish him all the best.

Most of the chapter will be going to the Hershey Reunion. We don't have too far to travel as it is only a 3 hour auto ride. Looking forward to seeing you all again. Have a safe journey and keep well.

**Stan Bielen**  
1st Bn. Hdqs. 331

### New England Chapter

#### Hello Buddies:

Spring has arrived and we just can't seem to get everyone together for someone has a wedding or sickness but we have plenty of time. Jim and Dot Brennan just returned from San Francisco. Had a wonderful time. Jim and Dot will become grandparents for the fourth time around the end of June. Their daughter Chris and husband Dean are expecting their second child at that time. Jim and Dot also visited their daughter Bernedette and her family in April. While they were there they called Bob and Pearl Derickson to see if they could get together and were sorry to hear that Bob's mother was critically ill. We hope that things are better by now, Bob.

Stopped over to visit Lou and Emma Rossi and Lou is still a very sick man, but he is a true 83rd man, a big fighter. We all are pulling for you, Lou. I just called Lou again and the Doctors have said that he is coming along good. Boy, do we like that report.

Had a call from John Ferreira of Chelmsford, Massachusetts and he had an eye operated on and is doing fine. Will make the reunion.

Helen and Dutchy Smith just got back from a Riviera Cruise with lots of food and booze. They had a great time. They also became grandparents again. Son, Jim Smith is a happy Pop again, a daughter named Hayley Smith. Good luck, Gramp and Grandma.

Bill and Betty Davis are still taking good care of Betty's mom and said to say hello to you all.

John Donahue, our great one, is holding his own just like a fine 83rd. He would like to travel but can't, but he said to say hello.

Joe Petrucci and Al Tartaglia will be stopping in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, September 4, 5, 6 for a mini reunion with the boys of "CN" 330th and then on to the Big Reunion. The Francullo's and the Brennan's will stop there also.

The Francullo's will be off to Kentucky the last of June for a family reunion in Owensboro, Kentucky and it will be a great time.

This is it till Reunion.

Your Buddy,

**Nick Francullo**  
3rd Bn. Hq. 330th

## memo:

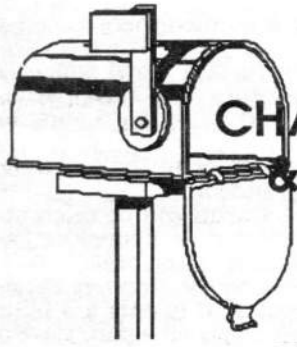
### DUES ARE NOW DUE IN THE OFFICE

I hope this will save us from having to send out reminders. Dues are due in the office. Some of you have not paid yet. Cannot understand why. PLEASE LOOK AT YOUR CARDS. IF IT DOES NOT SAY EXPIRES 1988 YOU ARE WAY OVERDUE. With postage the cost it is now we cannot keep sending you the Thunderbolt.

**WE NEED YOU AND WE HOPE THAT YOU NEED US.**  
Get your \$10.00 in the office immediately.

Bob





## CHAPTER & COMPANY NEWS

### The 783rd

As I begin this article, I have to tell you that the flags of the 783rd is at half mast. We have come to expect and realize that the sadness of losing another buddy is just part of this time of our lives. This, however, doesn't take away the sharp edge of reality. Al Unfried died suddenly during the 4th week of May. When Bert called it was a double shock to us as we had stopped in to see Al and Bert the last week of April. Al had recently been in the hospital for a benign tumor, but we had a great time enjoying one another's company. Al was a kindly, warm-hearted friend who will be missed but not forgotten.

The rest of our long trip was also a joyful experience that will not be forgotten. I won't bore you with all the details of our vacation but I have to report in on all the people we visited. If I don't they just might throw Ginny in the Hershey pool. First we drove down to see the Labbes in Dudson, La. Let me tell you that Lou is some Cajun cook. It was our first experience of gumbo and crawfish and I'm ready to go back tomorrow. Truly interesting country and Easy and Lou were delightful hosts.

The next stop was Tyler, Texas and (Ernie) Jim and Justine Christian. This was the first time we had met in forty-three years so you know it was a grand occasion. Once again we over ate but we had a joyous time relating our war experiences to their son, Preston. Did you know that Jim and Willey had a double foxhole and they used to sleep together? Jim has a health problem. He is fighting a rare disease, amyloidosis but he sure doesn't show any stress. Jim is still the easy going great guy he always was, really an up person who was a real joy to visit.

From Texas it was Tulsa, Oklahoma and Earl and Verdall Graham. Earl is now seventy-eight and while he's lost some weight he sure hasn't lost his sense of humor or his knack of getting the job done. Verdall has been slowed down with arthritis so Earl is the chief cook and bottle washer. We visited them at a camp site and unfortunately we could only spend the one night with them. Ginny never had the pleasure of meeting Earl and she thought he was a doll, so I guess it was just as well that we only stayed one night. The last time I saw Earl was in Passau so you know the one night meant a lot to all of us.

Ray and Mimi Wiggins thought we were never going to make their clock palace in Overland Park, Kansas. We were a day late and after the first day I was wishing we were two days late. Ray took me out to his golf course, and almost at the age of seventy-four, he carried all his clubs and shot a 78. Up to this point all the hosts were terrific! Naturally, Ray and Mimi made our stay entertaining and interesting. Ray's hobby is clocks of which I counted 83 unusual specimens, and the largest cat on either side of the Mississippi. There's never a dull moment at the Wiggins homestead.

We then left the car in Kansas City and took the wild blue yonder to the Gilmans staked out villa in Walnut Grove, California. You'll be surprised to learn that Ivan is a better cook than Parker. Meeting Pat for the first time was truly a delightful experience and she was a great travel guide through the Napa Valley. Ivan, of course, still hasn't changed. He refuses to take orders from me. I had made arrangements to traverse the thirty-five miles to his abode but instead, we were met with two smiling faces at the airport.

Our luck hit a little snag when Lloyd Grayson called us at the Gilmans to tell us that he was having a bad spell of health. We both regretted that our first time meeting had

to be called off but I'm happy to report Lloyd's condition improved by the time we called from San Diego. I also tried to find Vin Musser but he had just moved. Other than those two set backs California is a terrific visit spot.

We flew back, visited the Unfrieds, and then saved Millie and Arthur Doggett for last. We spent a relaxing three days resting up. This was our third visit with the northern, and southern hospitality King and Queen but they still had some good eating surprises left. I'm also happy to report that Art is doing much better with his health problems and it was a most enjoyable ending to a very interesting trip.

This was a trip that started out planning just a few stops, but then I figured, Ginny's not getting any younger so why not do it NOW. I guess that's my message for the month. If you're so inclined to travel, pick out one of your good old friends and work it into a vacation, it's a great experience.

Bill and Martha Appleby stopped in for a surprise visit to update me on the reunion reservations. All is well but a few regulars hadn't signed on. I called Paul Bryars on Doggett's phone to sadly discover that Paul is suffering from mini-skirtitis eyes. Actually it's not funny as Paul has an over abundance of "floaters" in his eyes which prevent him from driving too far. Barbara said, "That's also the trouble with his golf game." So right now we're trying to get Paul a ride.

And speaking of Phil Barbara can you imagine my surprise when I picked up the Philadelphia Daily News and read, in headlines, "Philip Barbara - 1988 Man Of The Year!" No kidding, it's true. The Osborn Club of Greenwich Village, N.Y. awarded Phil their prize of the year for his long standing as a prominent business man and a long standing supporter of the Children's Aid Society. Congratulations, Phil and of course you knew, I am but a child at heart.

To help spruce up our attendance from some of our eastern fellows I made a few phone calls. I called Bob Shutte and struck out, or maybe he did. He said he doesn't go anywhere or do anything but a little fishing. To each his own. Eino Suomela was glad to hear from me but his ruptured back of ten years really has him down. He does write to Lt. Kimball in Hawaii and Basil actually replies. He is loving Hawaii and is having a great time fishing and mountain climbing with his girlfriend. **Don Vandermergel** is still very active with his grandchildren and not so active with his 1983 Olds with 19,000 miles. He promised he would call the Hershey Hotel tonight so we're looking forward to seeing Don for the first time. The same is also true for **Joe Orbin**. I talked to his good wife Mary as Joe has a telephone hearing problem. They, too, are calling the Hershey tonight, so it looks like we are going to have a lot of virgins at this year's reunion.

Also, in the heard from department are **Steve Blasko**, who's a little bit alright, **Al Bensimon** and his winter tan plus always good for a couple of letters, **Carl Frederick** who reports that Alyce's leg is looking as good as ever. I can't think of a better leg to end on, so I'll blow you a Hershey kiss, and we'll see all you lucky people there.

**Hut Two,  
Rags Rangnow**

Just received a letter from the Labbes, and they had themselves a nice family reunion in Biloxi. Easy contacted Troy Bishop who lives in Biloxi only to learn that Troy's wife is confined to the house. Troy is in good health but he probably won't make Hershey.

### G Company 331st Infantry

6 June 1988

As I type this article, my thoughts wander back some 44 years to the 6th day of June 1944, the day that will go down in history as D-Day, the **Longest Day**, the day of the greatest invasion in the history of Warfare. Although the men of G Company and the men of the 83rd Infantry Division had no part in the invasion, we did play a major role in the overall plan for the liberation of Europe.

As I stated in my letter to the men of G Company last month, on April 30th I attended a Memorial Service for LTG Robert H. York at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. G Company and the members of the 331st Regi-

ment lost a great leader and a trusted friend. We should be proud to have served under an outstanding Regimental Commander.

After serving some 27 months in the Army, in August 1944 then, Colonel York, gave me the first real break that I received in my short army career. Col York assigned me as Company Commander of G Company at St. Braic. I am indeed grateful and indebted to LTG York because by giving me that command, he instilled in me the confidence I needed to lead the men of G Company. We lost a great friend and an outstanding leader.

I have received replies from Casel Bush, Mort Gaynor, Troy Mayse, Joe Philipone, Selma Corder, who was in the hospital in Feb., but seems to have recovered. The Three Musketeers from Pittsburgh, Ed Walsh, Al Suess and Gene Costanzo seem to be doing fine. Kermit Ralston is still working and plans to retire at age 65.

I am looking forward to seeing Mary and John Rung in Hershey. Bill Becker is still holding out in Nashville, and Joe Ruberto is still in Fresno, Ca. Bob Goldstein is living in New Jersey, I am still trying to get Bob and Gene together, maybe we can find out what went wrong in G Company.

I am told that if anyone wants to travel to Hershey, Pa., to be with the men of G Company, there is a small motel about three miles from where the action will be. I believe it is the White Rose Motel with reasonable rates for those who do not want to stay at the Hersey Lodge and Convention Center where the reunion will be.

We are looking forward to a good turnout from the men of G Company. I haven't talked to Pangle lately, but he does seem to be doing fine. Keep up the good work, Kate.

**Joe Macaluso**

#### Dear Bob:

Would you please put the following article in the next issue of the *Thunderbolt*.

"M" 330th Infantry Has Mini Reunion in Florida

While in Florida this winter we were able to round up enough "M" fellows and wives to have a "Snow Bird" mini get together. In attendance were: Frank and Bunny Ashe, Leo and Martha Hand, Mert and Jeanne Johnston, Bill and Juanita Roberts, Walter and Edith Wheeler, George and Anna Schmalzer, Jim and Martha Fowler.

George and Anna invited us to come to their Club House at their condominium in St. Petersburg, Florida for the happy outing. As most of you know, George has to be under oxygen twenty-four hours a day -- but he was in high spirits on this occasion. Anna really rolled out the red carpet and had done everything imaginable to assure us a great time for all.

Each couple took a picnic lunch and you never saw so much good food. Mid afternoon we left for Clearwater (all except George and Anna) and after the ladies did some shopping, we had dinner at the famous Kapok Tree Restaurant.

Everyone hated it when the day and evening ended.

**Leo Kenneth Hand**  
"M" 330th

#### Philadelphia Chapter News

After a month of unceasing rainy days, the skies cleared the Friday before Memorial Day and we were treated to a beautiful sunny day for the Annual Memorial Day Parade in Narberth. The Philadelphia Chapter Color Guard led the parade with George Pletcher, our National President, as our point man. Men, women and children of Narberth followed with their floats, Little Leaguers, Boy Scout, Girl Scout and Brownie troops, as well as the civic organizations of the borough.

The flag in all sizes was everywhere, and the music brought it all together at the beautiful war memorial created in the park some time ago by the members of the community. During the parade, our rifle squad and members stopped at the Italian American Legion Post memorial in the area and fired in formation at that site. They then continued the parade to the borough's official ceremony at the war memorial in the park. One of the speakers brought emphasis to the event when he spoke of how precious peace in our country is when at the present time

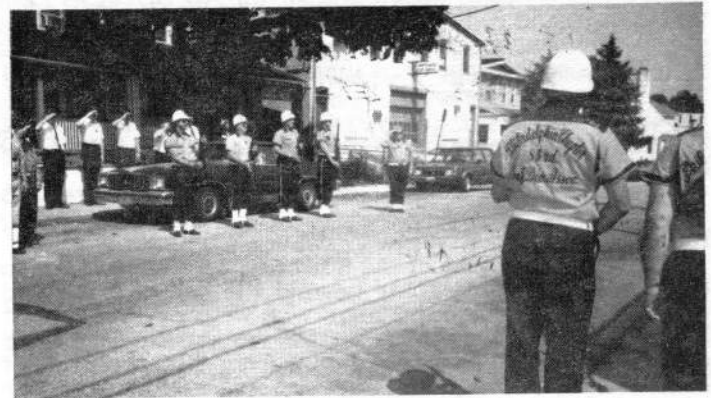
there are twenty-two wars in progress around the world. After the parade, members of the Chapter again assembled at a private cremory originated by Lou Volpi with a memorial set up on the lawn of his restaurant. It is a moving ceremony to those participating. The names of all those members of the Chapter, and wives of members, who have died since the armistice was declared, were read by George Pletcher. Each company and special group is represented by a white cross, a flower and a votive light arranged in line on the lawn. As each company is called, one of the wives lights one of the candles until all are lighted. Then the rifle squad fires a salute to those of us who are no longer there. It never ceases to be a moving experience, and each year becomes more personal as the list of names read becomes longer. Lou Volpi and Lucy have been, and continue to be, the purpose and dedication that make this annual personal event more meaningful each year.

In March of this year, several members of the Philadelphia Chapter accepted invitations from the Dixie Chapter to join their meeting in Williamsburg, Va. It was a thoroughly enjoyable long weekend. On one of the days, Bob Derickson took the men in his van to Virginia Beach to see the Army Transportation Museum and dropped the women off en route at Williamsburg to search out the boutique museums. Incredible as it seems, as the women started back to the main square in Williamsburg, shopping bags in hand, first they heard and then saw the group shown above just emerging from the ice cream shop, cones in hand. Everyone accepted full credit for the unbelievable timing.

At the present time we have plans to attend a dinner show at Lily Langtry's at the Valley Forge Hilton in place of our June meeting, and the July meeting is scheduled to be held at Les Hauck's estate where we have been having a picnic each year. Les and Elsie are wonderful hosts and the day is always so relaxing and enjoyable.

Plans for the reunion at Hershey are being fine tuned. We are happy to report that reservations have been coming in steadily, and we expect to have a fine crowd and a great time getting together one more time.

**John G. Daum**  
Co. "D", 330th



**Philadelphia Chapter  
Memorial Day May 30, 1988**



**The group above enjoying Williamsburg are: Lou Volpi, Fred Rein, Stan Bielen, Ted Guzek, John Daum, Bob Derickson and George Pletcher.**





## Cards & Letters

### HELLO BUDDIES:

Here it is that time again, we have just received our issue of the "THUNDERBOLT" and it is time to get another one ready to be printed. This is proof that we are getting older, we used to have 24 hours to a day, but not anymore, we hardly see sunrise and before we realize that it has risen, it is time for it to set.

Well buddies, before I get carried away, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of you who have so generously contributed to the AD BOOK. If only many of you knew of the importance of this Book, you would have contributed just as generously. This Book plays an important role in the success or failure of the Reunion in that there are so many commitments that must be met and the monies derived from this book helps to take care of them, thus allowing us to put on a good Reunion without having to make exorbitant registration fees.

As I read over the "THUNDERBOLT", I see remarks in there about the high costs of the Reunion, some of the men who make these remarks have had the chance to run a Reunion many years ago when the cost of living was much lower than it is now, they can't expect to be able to get the things needed for a Reunion at the same low costs. The cost of Banquet alone is about double of what it was about ten years ago, that is only one thing that there is to deal with.

Over the years I have worked hard with the Reunion Committees trying to solicit ads for the AD BOOK as I am well known, and feel that I can be of help to them. To those of you who sent me nice letters this year, I wish to thank you. To those few who sent me some very nasty letters, I wish to thank you also, at least you expressed your opinions. I am only sorry that you don't have the same feeling for the 83rd Infantry Division Assn. that I do. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

**LARRY REDMOND**

### Hi Buddies:

I salute all the men of the 83rd Div, all were heroes, in their own way, some going beyond the call of duty, and this short story is about 2 men, who went beyond. We all know what the hedgerows were, the intense fire from burp guns, the relentless bombardment from 88s, each row of trees and bushes a death trap. Several weeks before the breakthrough came, the 308th Engrs. B. Co. and the 329th Co. unknown were, almost surrounded by the S.S. panzer regi. We had to get men thru the next hedgerow, one of our sgts, suggested getting a bangalore torpedo and placing it or digging it into the next hedgerow. I remember a full bird colonel directing as we gave cover fire for the men dragging the explosive and then digging it in place, the colonel a tall light hair big fellow said, "look at those brave S.B.s, God we've got good men. What the two engineers didn't know was the fact that a german tank was just about in line with the torpedo, when the explosive went off, it ruptured the inside of the tank causing it to catch fire, the intense small arms fire from the Inf. Co. and Engr. Co. caused the german line to withdraw and we were able to get thru the hedgerow and straighten our line. I'm sure there must be many more of you soldiers that remember that day, when many of our lives were saved by those two brave Engineers, Sargent Emil Di Ubaldo and Corporal James Redden, they received the Silver Star by order of the Colonel. Please excuse any errors, I've tried sincerely to get the facts together as they happened way back then.

**Frank Ball**

497 RTG Box 1173  
APO NY 09633

8 May 88

### Dear Mr. Derickson,

I am a major in the United States Air Force, stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany. I was recently given your name and address by Mr. Joseph Lonteen (of "E", 329), and he said you might be able to help with with a little family research.

My uncle was Sgt. William G. Allen, Co "D", 331st Infantry. He was killed on 19 April 1945 near the Elbe River and was buried in the US Military cemetery in Margraten, Holland. I would like very much to get in touch with anyone who knew my uncle. Also, I would like to borrow or obtain a copy of the history of the 331st Combat Team and the 83rd Division. We have a collection of Uncle Bill's letters, but because of the heavy censorship imposed at the time, it's difficult to determine where he actually was.

I would appreciate it if you could have a notice placed in the next edition of the THUNDERBOLT with my name and address asking anyone who knew Uncle Bill to write. My address is: Maj Brian R. Allen, 497 RTG Box 1173, APO NY 09633.

Just a point of interest, Mr. Joseph Lonteen, from whom I got a copy of the THUNDERBOLT with your name and address, was a high school teacher of mine with whom I kept in touch. It wasn't till a visit home a couple of weeks ago when we were talking about why I named my new son William that we discovered that he and Uncle Bill were in the same division.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,  
**Brian R. Allen, Maj, USAF**

### Dear Bob:

I have been a member of the Association for four or five years. I plan to attend the reunion in Hershey, Pennsylvania this year. I served with the 331st Infantry Regiment in December 1944 and January 1945 as a replacement in a line company as rifleman. I left the Division in January 1945 with a bad case of frozen feet. I never returned to the company. After forty-four (44) years my memory fails me as to which company of the 1st Bn. I was with. I think it was either "B" "C" or "D".

I wonder if you could do some research and check the rosters of those companies at that time. My platoon commander was 2nd Lt. Lester Schwardon, if that is any help. They tell me he got the Silver Star. My name, rank and serial no: Private Eugene A. Mason, Army Serial No. 36800412.

Thanks for any help you can give me.

Sincerely,  
**Gene Mason**  
845 Catalonia Avenue  
Coral Gables, Florida 44134

### Dear Bob:

I received your note and as long as I am sending this letter to you, I would like to toot my own horn and enclose a copy of a publication on my award as "Volunteer of the Year - 1987."

Enclosed is a picture of some guys in "D" 308th Medical BN. in Belgium 1944.

Since the war, I went back to school for a Ph. D. in Bacteriology. I worked for the Upjohn Company until 1979 when I retired. Since retirement, I have been doing volunteer work in Clinical Microbiology in India, Taiwan, Peru, St. Lucia, Korea and Thailand.

If you use this - fine! If not - fine!

I would like the picture back.

Thanks,

Sincerely, Walt  
**Walter T. Sokolski**

### Options

A publication of Project Concern's Amdoc/Option, a nonprofit personnel service directing health care professionals into areas of need.



Left to right: Harvey Lackey, Harry Vitone, Walter Sokolski, John Kusic

**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

There is a certain quality in Dr. Walter Sokolski that endears him as a friend to many.

On December 18, at McCormick Hospital in Chiang Mai, Thailand, Dr. Sokolski was presented the AmDoc/Option "Volunteer of the Year" award for 1987.

It comes as no surprise to his friends and colleagues around the world that Walter was "at work" as an AmDoc/Option volunteer when he received the honor.

In fact, he had just begun his sixth assignment at the McCormick Hospital in Chiang Mai only two weeks before. He is a widely respected microbiologist and medical technician with a M.S. and Ph.D. in Bacteriology from Purdue University (Indiana).

Before his 1978 retirement, Sokolski spent 25 years in the Infectious Diseases Research and Microbiological Control Division of the Upjohn Company.

In the 10 years since, Dr. Sokolski has served as Acting Director of Panlabs, Taiwan, Ltd.; microbiology instructor at Nazareth College (Michigan); and as an AmDoc/Option volunteer serving without compensation in Thailand, the Republic of China, India, Korea and the West Indies. Previously he volunteered in Peru and Thailand through other organizations.

Accompanying the "Volunteer of the Year" plaque was a letter which reads: "Please accept this plaque as only a small token of our great esteem for you and for what you have done for others. Were it only possible, I know there would be a gathering of literally thousands thanking you. But they're out there, around the world, healthier and with hope because of you."

Dr. Sokolski responded to the award by writing: "Thank you very much. I feel embarrassed to be so honored for something I enjoy doing. I am deeply grateful!"

Sokolski's modesty and dedication is typical of AmDoc/Option volunteers. As the number of volunteers continues to grow, their willingness to freely give of professional talents helps to save lives throughout the world.

3550 Afton Road, San Diego, CA 92123  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 85322, San Diego, CA 92138  
 619/279-9690, Cable: AMDOC SAN DIEGO

**Blinded Veterans Association  
 Military Association**

Dear Sir/Madam:

We are the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA), a non-profit organization, that was founded in 1945 by a group of veterans blinded in World War II. We are unique. This is the only organization of its kind with programs and activities that emphasize seeking out blinded veterans where they live. Our field service program also assists veterans in obtaining benefits including disability compensation or pension.

We know that there are approximately 50,000 veterans who are blind. In addition to the above number, hundreds of veterans go blind every year.

Because it is sometimes difficult for us to inform blinded or newly blinded veterans of our services we are calling on you for assistance. We are also interested in your organization and intend to inform our members of the exist-

tence of your association.

Enclosed is a BVA Public Service Announcement that we would like to have published in your newsletter. Also, it would be greatly appreciated if you would include us on your mailing list.

Sincerely,  
 Field Representative

**BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION  
 VETERANS ADMINISTRATION REGIONAL OFFICE**  
 P.O. BOX 8136 • 536 SOUTH CLARK STREET  
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60680

**BLINDED VETERANS CAN CALL BVA FOR HELP  
 PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Four decades have passed since the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) started serving blinded veterans. We have enhanced the lives of many blinded veterans through our field services and outreach employment programs; however, we have only made a dent in the blinded veteran population.

Because we live primarily in a visually oriented society it has not been easy to establish contact with many of our visually impaired veterans. This is why we are asking you for help in locating legally blinded veterans so that we can inform them of benefits they rightly deserve. Contrary to what many people think, it is not necessary for veterans to have been blinded in the military to receive benefits from the Veterans Administration. Blind rehabilitation and possibly pension are but two benefits available to veterans even if blindness occurred many years after military service.

BVA services are not limited to veterans benefits, we also inform blinded veterans of state and community resources that are available.

The BVA could make a difference between night and day in a blinded veterans life.

For more information about the BVA contact: Mr. Arthur Matthews, Field Representative, VA Regional Office, Rm. 488, Tel: (312) 353-1740, FTS: 353-1740

**OUTFIT REUNION FORM**

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY IN INK the information requested below. Double check your information for accuracy and legibility—what you write is what will be printed. Because we receive numerous reunion notices each month, we ask that they be submitted at least five months before the event will occur. If you desire to know the month of publication of your notice, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with this form. *NOTE: WE RUN ONLY ONE NOTICE OF OUTFIT REUNION PER GROUP PER YEAR BECAUSE OF SPACE LIMITATIONS.*

A. Name of outfit: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Circle one of these: ARMY NAVY AIRFORCE COAST GUARD  
 MARINES MISCELLANEOUS

C. Month in which reunion is scheduled \_\_\_\_\_

D. Location of reunion (city and state) \_\_\_\_\_

E. Name, address and Zip Code of one PERSON to contact for additional information: \_\_\_\_\_

(Telephone) \_\_\_\_\_

F. Name, address, Zip Code and telephone number of the person submitting this form: \_\_\_\_\_

(Telephone) \_\_\_\_\_

G. SIGNATURE of person submitting this form: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: Outfit Reunion Department  
 THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE  
 P. O. Box 1055 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206



**To Whom It May Concern:**

"D-Day + 40/A Candid View" is a new WWII commemorative film which features the moving ceremonies attended by President Reagan and the Heads of State from Great Britain, France, Canada, Belgium, Luxembourg, Norway and The Netherlands.

The color film complete with live narration and sound effects retraces the steps and War Campaign of many veterans through England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and Germany. The presentation interacts by taking the viewer back and forth from 1944 to 1984. Some of the highlights include: ceremonies at Utah and Omaha beaches, Point du Hoc, Bastogne and West Berlin; battle scenes and strategies of the Campaign, personal experiences relative to veterans during that time; and the final unconditional surrender at Reims, France. "D-Day + 40/A Candid View" is a must for all veterans, their families and human beings everywhere. The 33 minute film capsules a period of time in history when freedom hung in the balance. It is poignant, factual, meaningful, tearful and memorable.

Our non-profit organization D-D + 40, Inc. plans to make the film available to Veterans Organizations, Veterans, Schools, Libraries, Government Organizations and Civic Groups. It will be made available in 35mm sound slide form for large groups or video cassette for in-home and smaller viewings. In either case, the film is very reasonable in cost and within the reach of most. Proceeds will be donated to veteran groups or organizations.

In order for veterans to receive their film by Veterans Day, November 11, 1988, we suggest the contents of this letter and the enclosed order form be sent to Veterans on your mailing list.

<h2>D-DAY + 40 A CANDID VIEW</h2> 	<h2>WWII VETS</h2> <p>★ D-DAY commemorative color film ★ 33 minutes with live "vet" narration &amp; sound effects ★ Viewer sees it "then" 1944 and "now" 1984 ★ Retraces steps of many vets and campaign through England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands &amp; Germany ★ Ceremonies at Utah and Omaha beaches, Pointe du Hoc, Bastogne and West Berlin ★ Unconditional surrender in Reims, France</p>
***** (PLEASE PRINT) *****	
<input type="checkbox"/> 35mm sound / slide film ..... \$97.50 <input type="checkbox"/> VHS <input type="checkbox"/> Beta ..... each \$29.20	NAME: _____
Send cashiers check or money order to: D-D + 40 Inc. • Suite 231 30559 Pinetree • Pepper Pike, Ohio 44124	ADDRESS: _____  CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
Because of demand, allow 2 months for delivery...be ready for Veterans Day November 11, 1988!	

**A Soldier's Job**

We propped him up and brushed the dirt away from his swollen lips,  
 A ragged breath escaped him as the guns boomed from our ships,  
 In his shattered arm he tried to clutch and protect an American flag,  
 He didn't seem to realize it was little more than a rag.

"I've got to plant her high, sir, that's my job, you understand,  
 Over there on the hill behind me, it's the highest point of land,  
 She's got to fly high for our boys to see wherever they may be,  
 I promised I'd get her up there: it's my responsibility.  
 Her field of blue like the skies back home, musn't carry any dirt,  
 The stars so white call a state to mind, a state that musn't be hurt,  
 Her blood-red stripes remind us of our mother land before,  
 The white bands separated us - but that was another war.  
 Will there ever be an end, sir, are we fighting just in vain?  
 We always say this is the last, then the guns sound off again.  
 Will you help me make it up the hill and help me plant her deep?

He didn't know he couldn't walk, he couldn't move his feet.

His eyes slowly closed and his blood ran red on the flag he loved so well,  
 His shattered arm released its hold and his hand away from it fell,  
 With tears and sweat streaming down like rivers of mud on our face,  
 We gently took the flag from him; we'd plant it in his place.

Amid the shots and confusion we struggled an inch at a time,  
 We'd get Old Glory on that hill, we'd make this soldier's climb,  
 Well, we got her there and stood her up and braced her good and tight,  
 And let me tell you, one and all, she sure was a beautiful sight.  
 Her field of stripes was torn and frayed and blood ran down her bands,  
 But every soldier in her sight had his helmet in his hands.  
 Everytime I see her waving, it's like she was saying to me,  
 "As long as there are men like you, Old Glory will fly free."

**-Joyce Gauthier**

**Veterans Can Order Service Medals**

Vets Service Medals  
 U.S. Army Reserve  
 Personnel Center  
 9700 Page Building  
 St. Louis, Missouri 63132

Send copy of your D.D. 214 along with the request. If you ever need copies of your D.D. 214 or other information in your service records write the same address, but address the request to National Personnel Records Center (Military). Send your full name, Social Security number, date and place of birth, branch of Military and date of separation. Next of kin may also obtain this information.

**Nick Francullo was kind enough to send this information to us.**

**Thanks, Nick.**

### Address Wanted:

**James Ganten** registered at the reunion in Charleston, West Virginia. All we have is his name. No company or unit.

If anyone knows Mr. Ganten would you please get in touch with this office. He paid his dues and received a membership card.

### For all you ladies and men also if you care to attend!

Please complete the following form and mail to June Zenz, 1125 Cannon Avenue, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015, as soon as possible. This will enable June to know approximately how many women or men would like to be a part of this program. Sounds like a fun time.

Be a part of this on Friday, September 9, from 10-12.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
BUS. PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1. By noon, my facial skin usually feels . . .

Tight, slightly dry or shows some flakiness     Neither dry nor oily     Slightly oily on the forehead, nose and chin (T-zone)     Only over most of my face

#### 2. My pores can best be described as . . .

Almost invisible     Small     Somewhat obvious in T-zone     Very obvious

#### 3. I experience problems with pimples, blackheads or whiteheads . . .

Never or rarely     Generally once a month     Sometimes, most often in T-zone or along jawline     Frequently

#### 4. The general condition of my skin . . .

Tends to be dry or tight     Is neither excessively dry nor oily     Is oily in some areas, dry in others     Is generally oily

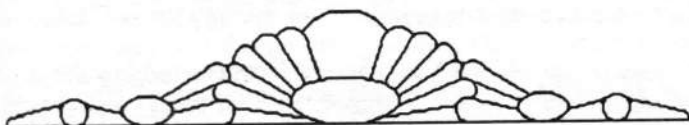
#### 5. Considering appearance only, by noon my face generally looks . . .

Dry with a matte or dull finish     Fresh, neither shiny nor dull     Slightly oily in T-zone     Shiny and oily over most of my face

### Life is Sweet

**When we wake up each morning  
And see the beautiful sun,  
Let's thank God for all our friends  
Through the 83rd Association we have won.**

**Just think of all the blessings  
That God has passed our way,  
Letting us stay around this long  
To enjoy the good life today.**



### The Rose Garden

Tulips Take Center Stage For First Act  
By Howard Kolus  
Palmyra/Hershey Bureau

HERSHEY - Incongruities strike the pre-season visitor to Hershey Gardens.

Although widely recognized for the beauty and vastness of its rose display, these lovely blooms don't arrive until summer, two months after the season begins.

When the gardens open April 2, tulips will be on center stage. Peak blossoms come during the third week in April. The tulips, this year planted in the colors of the rainbow, will continue to entrance visitors until mid-May. Hershey has established a "Tulip Hotline" (534-3492) callers may use to find out peak blooming days.

Forty-five thousand tulip bulbs from Holland have been planted, according to Mark Gruin, gardens director. Tulips are pulled after a single season to assure quality and top condition, he said.

Garden admission is free during the first week when blooms are few. Half price is charged the following week as more flowers begin to blossom. The full price isn't imposed until the third or fourth week. As always, there will be no charge on Mothers Day.

The winter aconite, breaking ground even before the tulip, is currently exhibiting its yellow blossoms in scattered appearances throughout the 23 acre site.

And swans will be gliding atop waters of the duck pond. Gruin is looking for a local source for the magnificently graceful bird.

"If anybody has some, they should call," he said.

Twelve large English yews (evergreens) were removed this year to open up the tulip areas. Taking out the overgrown plants, some of which were eight feet tall, brings the 51-year-old garden back to designer Harry Erdman's original 1939 concept, Gruin said. But, about those roses and other flowers. Gruin, watching as workers cleared leaves, branches and other accumulated winter debris recently, promised all would be in readiness for the season's opening.

"This year we're even ahead of schedule," he said, because the six member staff was kept on throughout the winter. Besides equipment maintenance, the men got a head start on pruning and cleanup activities. Ponds were filled, pumps checked, walks swept and beds edged.

Only a few of the 14,000 roses in 800 varieties are taken inside during winter months.

"This has been a moderately harsh year on roses," Gruin, in his third year as director, stated. Changing temperatures and not much snow cover resulted in conditions not kind to rose survival. He described snow as "the poor man's mulch," offering protection from chilling winds and freezing temperatures. Gruin said five to 10 percent of the plants are typically lost during cold months.

"Most of our new plantings are to add new varieties and to put in the All American Winner test roses," he added.

The All American plants are provided by growers for a two-year evaluation. Leone Gerberich, garden supervisor, said buds, fragrances, plant growth, vigor, resistance to disease and attractiveness are all recorded. Hershey Gardens is one of numerous locations nationwide to test the new plants. After the information is examined, the All American roses will be selected.

### It All Began With Three Acres

HERSHEY - Milton Hershey established Hershey Gardens as a three-acre rose plot in 1939. In 1939 it was expanded to 23 acres. Most of the additional land was used to highlight tulips, annuals and chrysanthemums.

The gardens consist of nine distinct botanical display sites, including the popular rose area.

Others are the Hohman Garden, a collection of dwarf evergreens; the Colonial Garden, actually three small gardens where perennial flowers, spring-flowering crabapples, herbs and Milton Hershey's original rose garden thrive; the English Formal Garden, with its hemlock and barberry hedges; the Seasonal Display Garden where tulips, annuals and chrysanthemums abound; the Garden of Ornamental Grasses; the Japanese Garden; the Garden of Old Roses and the Terraced Garden.



The gardens are open daily from April to October, sometimes later if weather permits. The bloom schedule is as follows: April - Early spring flowering bulbs, flowering magnolias, cherries, pears, plums and forsythia. May and June - Tulips, flowering crabapples, azaleas, rhododendrons, peonies, bearded irises, trees and shrubs. June through October - Roses. July and August - Annuals, daylilies, perennials, the herb garden. September - Late-season roses and annuals. October - Chrysanthemums.



**Haran & Dot Martin**

**Hi Bob:**

I am sending you a photo of a few of us in Germany. We were under Lt. McFarland. The names are on the back of the photo. The one sitting on the hood of the jeep is John Rothermel and he passed away 13 years ago.

Hope to see the both of you in Hershey, PA. next year.

**Mike and Mary Kadylak**

**Front row: Jim Cronin, John Rothermel, Joe Colby. Back row: Mosby Toms, Mike Kadylak.**



**VA Implements New Medical Eligibility Guidelines**

The Veterans Administration has implemented new eligibility guidelines for veterans who must meet certain income requirements to obtain VA medical care.

A January 1 cost-of-living adjustment to the agency's means test may allow no-cost care to veterans who previously had to pay for treatment.

VA Administrator Thomas K. Turnage explained the new limits apply only to veterans who do not have service-connected disabilities or other exemptions from the means test.

Before a new limit of \$21,111 was set, single veterans with annual incomes of more than \$20,260 had to pay for treatment at a VA medical facility. For married veterans the new limit is \$26,389 with one dependent and another \$1,055 for each additional dependent, as compared to the previous limits of \$25,325 and \$1,013.

Under the Congressionally-instituted Means Test, which went into effect July 1, 1986, the VA must provide no-cost hospital care to veterans who fall below the first and lowest annual income limits and, if space is available, may provide no-cost outpatient and nursing home care.

Veterans below the second income limit are eligible for no-cost hospital, outpatient and nursing home care, but only if space is available. Above the third, and highest, income limits, veterans must agree to pay the VA a portion of costs before being treated.

Effective January 1, 1988, income limits for the three categories of veterans seeking VA medical care are:

Category A: \$15,833 or less if single, and \$18,999 or less if married, plus \$1,055 for each additional dependent.

Category B: Above \$15,833 but less than \$21,111 if single, and above \$18,999 but less than \$26,389 if married, plus \$1,055 for each additional dependent.

Category C: Above \$21,110 if single, and above \$26,388 if married, plus \$1,055 for each additional dependent.

Category C veterans are charged for the cost of care they receive or \$540, whichever is less, for the first 90 days of care during any 365-day period. For each additional 90 days of hospital care, Category C veterans pay \$270, which is half the Medicare deductible of \$540. For each 90 days of nursing home care, Category C veterans pay the full Medicare deductible of \$540. For each outpatient visit, Category C veterans pay \$25.

All veterans with service-connected illnesses or disabilities are provided no-cost care regardless of income. Certain other veterans also are exempt from the Means Test, including former prisoners of war, veterans exposed to radiation or herbicides, and veterans of the Spanish-American War, the Mexican Border period and World War I.

Veterans in need of medical care should contact the nearest VA Medical Center.

**83rd INFANTRY DIVISION**

**45th Anniversary Celebration - Europe - 1989**

**June 2 - June 13, 1989**

In less than two years we will celebrate the 45th anniversary of most of the major battles of World War II. In spite of the passing of so many years, plans are already being made to commemorate these historic events throughout Europe. D-Day will once again occupy center stage, and as the months pass, other actions will receive their share of deserved recognition.

Join Us! The trip has been tailored to emphasize a more leisurely pace, eliminating long days of travel, yet allowing enough time in each of our WWII service areas to permit everyone to return to see his "special places". This will be once again be one of those extraordinary times when fun, camaraderie and momentous events combine to provide a new memory that will last a lifetime.

Remember, there is a very great demand for lodging and other arrangements so space is limited. Sign up today! Assure your part in another historic 83rd journey!

Mr. Robert E. Derickson  
3749 Stahlheber Road  
Hamilton, Oh 45013-9102

June 6, 1988

RE: MP story

Dear Bob:

Enclosed find story and pictures of the maneuver area in Tennessee and some facts about the MP work in those days.

On page 1,2,4,7 and 9 you will see before the beginning of a sentence an \*. This means that somewhere in the sentence is a misspelled word. The word will have a check mark over it like this.

I would appreciate if you'd alert your copyreader and typesetter to leave the sentence as is. I just feel it conveys a different thought.

You will also notice on the back side of the photos a suggested cropping of the picture.

I trust this is all satisfactory.

Sincerely,  
William F. Dyer

### Tennessee Maneuvers Revisited

HORN SPRINGS, SOUTHAMPTON, WHERE ARE YOU?

\* "Lootnant Dyer, Lootnant Dyer", the unmistakable, ungrammatical, urgent call of the company runner echoed through the woods near Hartsville, Tennessee early on a June night in 1943.

The identical call echoed again around midnight, British double summer time, in a Nissan hut near Stoke-on-Trent, England on a June night one year later, scant days subsequent to D-Day in Normandy.

The message was synonymous and for the same purpose, but trying to explain both in the same paragraph would not be rewarding either to the writer or the reader. The explanation, then, must come in chronological order, with Hartsville taking precedence over Southampton.

In the beginning was a bivouac area near Hartsville and one of the bivouacees was your writer who had just stretched out on a Navy hammock, recently liberated from a Wave student at Indiana University at Bloomington. She had heard of the terrible way the Army treated its people while they were on maneuvers. She had even been told that soldiers were forced to sleep on the ground--something not possible in the water-bound Navy. It was rumored that some men were even snake bitten. Though she knew nothing about maneuvers of the Tennessee kind, she had taken a course, with some success, of various other types of maneuvers. She never knew, and I'll never tell, that a Navy hammock is not a necessary item for a successful maneuver, but was a pleasant luxury.

Such thoughts made sweet dreams, but still the runner crashed through the brush with his anguished cry, "Lootnant Dyer."

"What's up?", I demanded.

"Major Ogilvie wants to see you rat now," he answered, relieved that he had actually found me.

Major Ogilvie was an impressive officer. Tall and thin, or mean and lean, depending on his mood, he knew the Army way after more than twenty years' service. As a sergeant in WWI, Ogilvie served as right guide in the Pershing Battalion, a show outfit organized post-Armistice, which served at numerous parades and ceremonies after that way. The battalion was composed of outstanding soldiers, each with ramrod posture and height of not less than six feet, in the image of its godfather, General of the Army John J. Pershing.

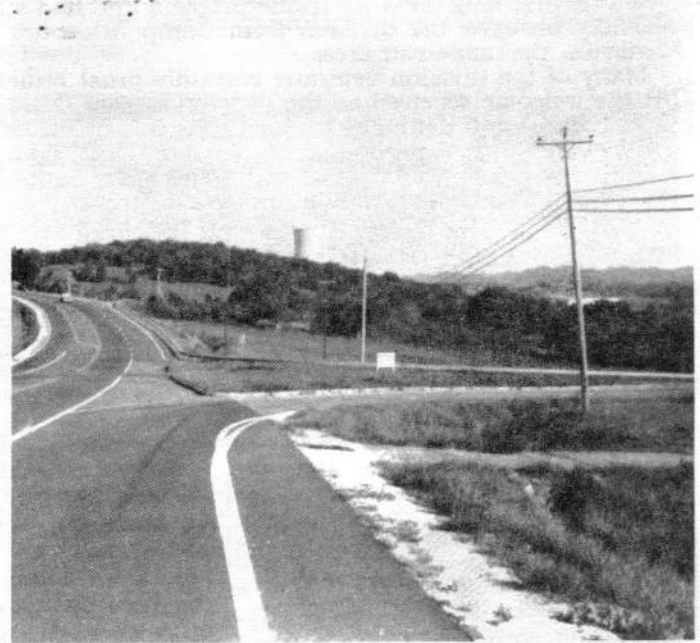
Following the war, Ogilvie remained in the Army, serving in various branches, and at the beginning of WWII, was commissioned captain, as were many other high ranking enlisted men.

During the build-up of the 83rd Division, Captain Ogilvie served with AGO, Division Headquarters, and was ready and waiting for a promotion and another post when Major Valentine Barnes, the Division Provost Marshal, was assigned to a Corps job overseas, Ogilvie became the second and last provost marshal. Known to his superiors as "Sheriff," to his subordinates as "Major Ogilvie," he was frequently referred to, out of his presence, as the "PM," in reference to Prime Minister Churchill.

This was the man who awaited me at division head-



The stubble-covered fields of Middle Tennessee where the GIs of the 83rd Division battled chiggers and ticks during the summer of 1943 are now the home of a nuclear plant near Hartsville, TN, the TVA folly that will never be completed.



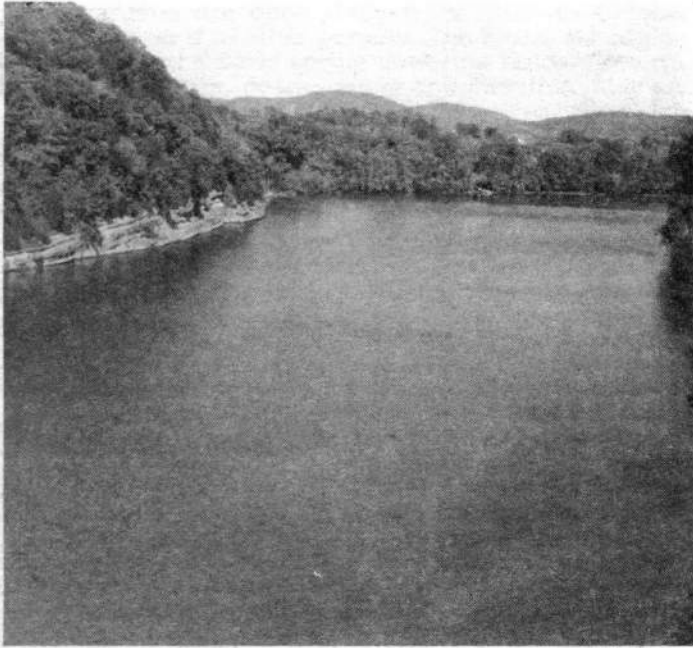
This is another picture of the nuclear plant showing the present road net in the Hartsville area. For the most part in 1943 the GIs hiked over dirt roads where the dust was sometimes six inches deep.

quarters.

The Military Police Platoon of an infantry division was at that time a bastard child of division headquarters Company. The table of organization combined the division band, division defense platoon, motor section and military police, with the MP's seated in the back of the bus.

At Camp Atterbury the platoon was detached from division headquarters company and attached to a company of the 329th Regiment for quarters and rations, nothing more. It served comparable to a company except that a major commanded, and two officers, first and second lieutenants were in charge of all the training. Somehow it worked.





**The Cumberland River, shown from the bridge at Hartsville. This river played a great part in the training phase of the Tennessee maneuver, and was the training ground for the division's successful crossing of the Rhine, Weser and Elbe Rivers in Germany.**

At this particular time the MP Platoon had just completed its first long distance traffic problem and had successfully brought the division from Camp Atterbury to Hartsville, the maneuver area.

Many of the division veterans certainly must remember the welcome received as the division passed through those Indiana and Kentucky towns during this move. Residents of one town in particular, Madison, Indiana, passed out cookies, cakes, cold drinks, coffee and appreciation in generous portions. This was a foretaste of treatment afforded the GI's as they passed in convoy through the liberated towns of France, Belgium and Holland.

The MP's on this move were stretched out for 150 miles, sort of living off the land, and when they re-formed in Tennessee, they were, to a man, exhausted. My condition being the same, when I got the call from Major Ogilvie, I felt about like the young Louisiana \* lady who told her GI date on a prior maneuver, "I feel lak I've been ironin' over a hot far all day."

Major Ogilvie, a man of few words, didn't say we had a problem; he came right out and said, "I've got a problem." Then he explained, "I've just been ordered to lead division headquarters' move to its permanent site at Horn Springs tonight, and Horn Springs isn't shown on the map." Then to ice the cake, he said the move would be made in blackout, and that I would be leading the convoy.

Naturally, as all OCS graduates were taught, I hedged by requesting permission to make a reconnaissance of the route of march, but was informed there wasn't time. So much for questions.

The PM next apprized me that I not only would lead the convoy, but would also be in charge of the move. "If you need me, I'll be at the courthouse in Hartsville", he blithely said. He threw me a cheerful salute, as if to say, "The chestnut is in the fire, pull it out." I didn't have time to remind him that this was his chestnut, but wouldn't have mentioned it, fire or no fire.

What Major Ogilvie didn't know was that a few years earlier I had attended school in Lebanon, TN; that my parents' home was in Lebanon; that Horn Springs was only a matter of two or three miles distance from their home; and that I knew the area like the back of my hand. Needless to say, I didn't have time to tell him that either.

This MP Platoon, bastard or not, was a cocky outfit, not in an overbearing way, but with the knowledge that we could do it. This feeling was enhanced when this platoon took top honors over regiments, battalions, companies

and special units in the division, during a Corps test on vehicle maintenance, much to the surprise of everyone, including Ogilvie.

Considering the calibre of the men in the platoon, my job of moving some unit in convoy in blackout was made easier. My driver, Edward Ross (the oldest man at the reunion in Owensboro in '85), quietly alerted personnel of the traffic section, and after a few words concerning the move from Hartsville to Horn Springs, I sent our champion motorcycle rider with a message to the PM that all was in order. (Blackout or blackin -- made no difference to stunt rider Tom Dailey)

The move was a breeze and division was safely at Horn Springs in record time, without a hitch. At the critique Major Ogilvie allowed it was an expert job and then added, "I just don't know how you did it." Later I regretted my not telling him then of my familiarity with the roadnet, including Horn Springs.

Revisiting the maneuver area is tantamount to revisiting the war zone in France and Germany. For example, the courthouse in Hartsville is just across the street from a building that served as a shower point, courtesy of the residents of Hartsville. Both buildings are still there and the shower point building is empty. Do you suppose it awaits another maneuver?

Middle Tennessee hosted some 600,000 troops during the field training exercise known as maneuvers, beginning in 1942 until the exercise closed 36 months later. Included were 19 infantry divisions, two airborne divisions and many detached units.

This exercise accounted for the deaths of 266 soldiers in all manner of accidents, including drownings and storms. Perhaps the one accident costing the most lives occurred when a tank, attempting to negotiate a pontoon bridge during blackout, slipped into the Cumberland River, drowning six crew members. A view of the important river is shown in a photo accompanying this story.

The maneuver was costly in other ways, for damages were paid for the use of some 3,820,633 acres of land. If an engagement took place in a field of growing corn or hay, the crop was usually trampled into the ground. Roads and streets took a beating from heavy tanks and other vehicles, and had to be repaired. The total damage paid to Middle Tennesseans was \$4,619,603.



**Remember telling your girlfriend, whether local or from your hometown, to meet you at Payne's Store at the intersection of U.S. Highway 231 and Tennessee Highway 25, near Hartsville? You can still use this famous old store as a reference point. About the only change is the modern version of a gas pump in front, and, of course, the civilian type cars and trucks rather than jeeps, carryalls, trucks and tanks.**



**This statue was a reference point in the move from Hartsville to Horn Springs, and such statues in memory of southern heroes of the Civil War are found at almost every county seat south of the Smith & Wesson Line, or as it is sometimes called the Mason & Dixon Line. A paragraph on this hero appears in the accompanying story.**

There were also humorous stories about the maneuver. Some called it the Second Yankee Invasion, the first, of course, being the Civil War of 1861-65. Some of the hardest fought battles of that war were fought in the area of maneuver and adjacent counties. One wag supposedly said that the maneuvers sure helped the economy of Middle Tennessee by making the bootleggers so rich they became respectable.

Many "yankee" soldiers were surprised to see the courthouse squares graced with statues of Confederate soldiers. An example is the General Hatton statue in the center of the Square at Lebanon. He was born in Youngstown, Ohio, came to Tennessee to be educated, remained in Lebanon, and was a member of Congress when General Lincoln asked for volunteers to put down the southern rebellion. Because of his strong feeling for the south, and Tennessee in general, Congressman Hatton formed a company that became a part of the 7th Tennessee Infantry Regiment, of which he was elected colonel. Later he was appointed brigadier general commanding the Fifth (Tennessee) Brigade, First Division, First Corps, Army of Virginia, and was killed in action at Seven Pines, leading his Brigade against the Union forces. (His statue is shown as one of the landmarks in a photo accompanying this story)

The facts of the maneuver were taken from Gene H. Sloan's **With Second Army Somewhere in Tennessee**, published in 1956. General Hatton's story is taken from **History of Wilson County**, published in 1961.

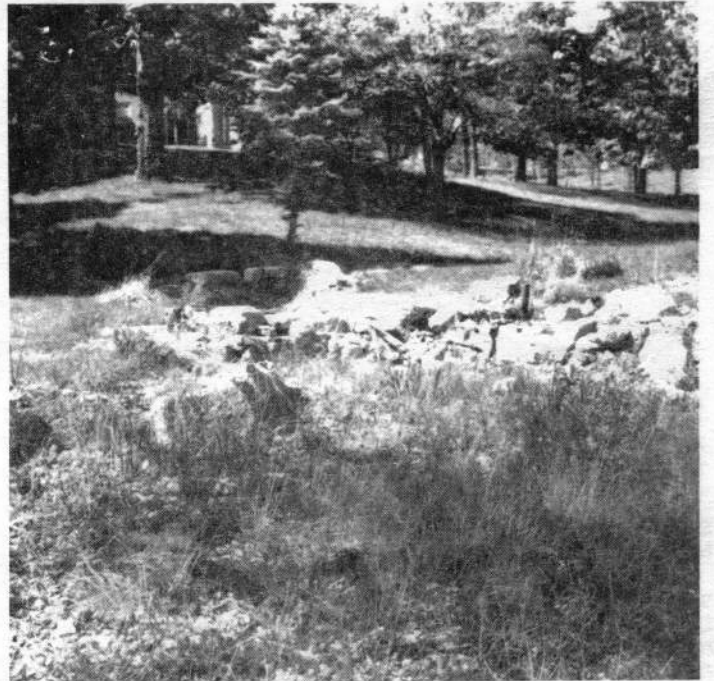
But this doesn't complete our story. Remember, in the beginning you were promised that Hartsville would take precedence and Southampton would come in second. This brings us to the June night in 1944 when the same company runner uttered his same urgent call, \* "Lootnant Dyer" in a Nissan hut near Stoke-on-Trent, England. And again, Lieutenant Dyer answered, "What's up doc?"

Believe it or not, the answer was the the same as it had been in Hartsville one year previously, "Major Ogilvie wants to see you at division headquarters."

I reported to the major with some measure of curiosity,



**All that remains of Horn Springs, the bivouac area for Division Headquarters that Major Ogilvie couldn't find on the map that June night in 1943, is a gabezo, foundations of burned-out buildings, and memories. During the early part of this century Horn Springs was a famous watering place or spa, and its claim to fame was that it had 3000 feet of porches.**

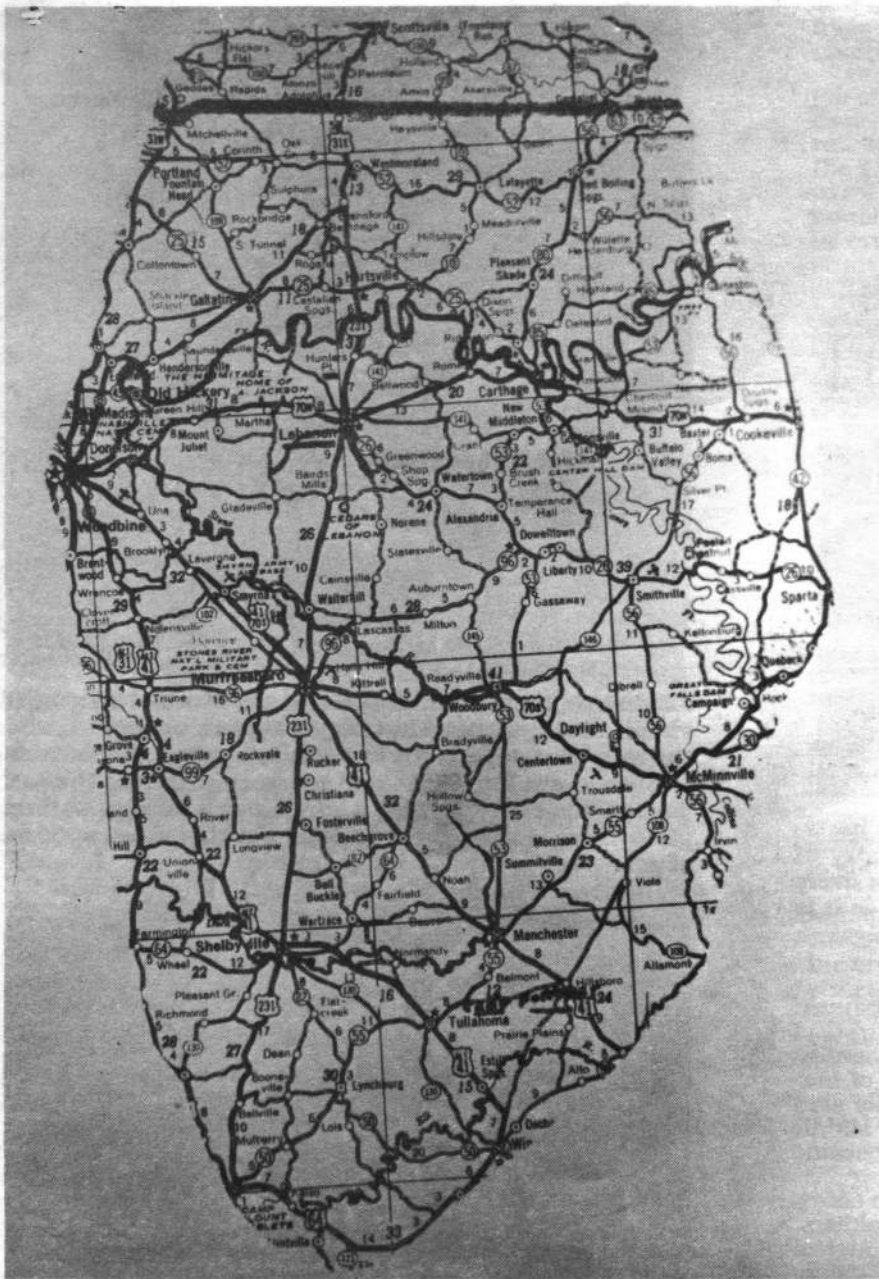


for this was only a few days after D-Day in Normandy. All GIs knew that it was only a matter of time before they, too, would be on the channel headed for France.

Once again the PM didn't waste any words about having a problem. He simply said, "Get your gear together and have your section ready to lead a conyoy to Southampton tonight."

If he had told me to take a jeep to the moon it wouldn't have shocked me more. All the roads in England were built for the movement of foot soldiers, mainly for the Roman Legions. They were all marked with such small road signs that if one wanted to see the name of the road he was forced to climb the sign pole and flash a light on the printed portion of the sign. The one saving item we had was a





**This map shows the 14 Middle Tennessee counties most used during the WWII maneuvers in Tennessee which lasted 36 months. Similar to the map used by Major Ogilvie, as told in the accompanying story, this map does not show Horn Springs. Photo courtesy of Gene H. Sloan's With Second Army Somewhere in Tennessee.**

strip map showing a roadway going south; hopefully to Southampton.

From a previous detail, I knew that Sergeant Butts was the only member of the traffic platoon who had traveled more than ten miles from the camp at Stoke-on-Trent, and that was to secure a payroll on a trip from London to our present area. He promised to help guide the convoy.

Edward Ross, driver during the Tennessee maneuvers, had taken a job in supply and Walter Kaminski was now driving. Lucky for us, Walt could see in the dark about as well as he could see in the daylight. Off we went!

**Remember how sweet it was when the final whistle blew at the end of the combat phase of the maneuver for the week? And the wonderful showers provided by the citizens of the small towns in the maneuver area? This corner building in Hartsville provided such service, and its still empty! Do you think there'll be another maneuver any time soon?**

Sgt. Butts had remembered to bring his jug of Guinness Stout, which helped during the long hours of driving on a lonely English road, without lights, with only a strip map and flashlight, and with the hope that somehow we would have enough luck to make it through the night.

Many times during that long, lonely, ride, I cursed myself for not telling Major Ogilvie that I had known all about Horn Springs on that night back in Hartsville. I felt sure then and I feel sure now that he thought anyone who could find Horn Springs, without a map, could surely find Southampton under the same conditions.

The English nights in June are short on darkness and it was only a few hours that we were traveling in blackout. And, as it has done for centuries untold, dawn came.

We all felt better when it was daylight and we felt even better when a military policeman was spotted along the road, holding his ubiquitous clipboard. When we stopped at his signal, he said the happiest words I will probably ever hear, "Lieutenant, you are five minutes late."

How in the cathair General Marshall planned for me to be leading a convoy in the middle of England and arriving at a checkpoint almost on schedule, I'll never know. The MP was assured we'd pick up the slack and away we went. Soon we were tailing another convoy that had left prior to ours and we were happy to know that we had blundered onto the road to the sea and France. Everything now being safely in the hands of Kaminski and Butts, we sailed on through Merry England. Arriving at Southampton on schedule, we loaded onto a boat and were soon on our journey to France, and possibly another story.

\*Sometimes in the middle of the night I hear that call, "Lootant Dyer!" Maybe one day the caller will tell me to report to Major Ogilvie, for the third time.



***A message to all 83rd members...***

Anyone wishing to purchase shirts, coats, and caps may write to: Vito C. Palazzolo, 20000 Lancaster, Harper Woods, Michigan 48225 for information.

He will send you an application form.

**National Lapel Pins, Bolo Ties, Necklaces, and 83rd Caps**

**\$5<sup>00</sup> each**

(Postage and Handling Included) Contact the Association Office

**83rd Reunion** will be held at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey Pennsylvania.

The dates are: **September 8-9-10, 1988**  
Start making your plans to attend, now!

**83rd Infantry Division History Book**

**AVAILABLE NOW**

The Reprint of 83rd Infantry Division (The Thunderbolt Across Europe) is now available. Send your order in with your check payable to: 83rd Infantry Division Association, Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013-9012.

The cost of the book is \$38.00 including postage and handling. This is a hard covered book and has in addition to the Thunderbolt Across Europe, two hundred and twenty-five (225) personal stories of 83rd veterans. Also a list of men killed in action and those that have died from wounds during the battles.

**THUNDERBOLT DEADLINES**

Deadline for ALL articles to be published in Thunderbolt must be at this office by Oct. 10; Jan. 10; April 10; and June 10.

Robert Derickson, 3749 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, OH 45013



# 83rd INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

3749 Stahlheber Road  
Hamilton, OH 45013

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 15  
OXFORD, OHIO

Robert Sessions                      F 331  
Route #1 Box 1665  
Norway, ME 04268

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, or TOWN & STATE \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Regiment \_\_\_\_\_ 83rd Division

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_

Please Enclose A Check or Money Order.

### DUES \$10.00 PAYABLE TO:

Robert Derickson  
3749 Stahlheber Road  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Office Phone:  
513-863-2199

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## BULLETIN

When you move and change your address, **PLEASE**, send me your change of address. It does no good to mail you a Thunderbolt at your old address. **The Post Office WILL NOT forward Third Class Mail.** It will just go to waste. With the cost of printing and postage this is very costly to the Association to have even one go to waste. Send your address change to the Association Office and not to someone else. Thank you for all your cooperation. *Send old and new address.*

Bob