

# BLUE RIDGE

The Service Magazine  
Volume 86, Number 347

Winter - 2005  
Issue 4



Official Publication of the  
80th Division Veterans Association, Inc.

**A. E. F.**

Artois-Picardy  
St. Mihiel  
Meuse-Argonne

**E. T. O.**

Northern France  
Ardennes  
Rhineland  
Central Europe



*A More Lasting  
Tribute...*

Submitted by  
Jeff Wignall



Deadline for the next issue is March 1, 2006



**Eightieth Division**  
**Veterans Association**

**BLUE RIDGE**

**The Service Magazine**

The official quarterly publication by the 80th Division Veterans Association.  
(Incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in the State of Pennsylvania).

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*All communications, including articles, photos, news items for publication, changes of address, dues remittances and death notices should be addressed to the Secretary/Editor.*

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**Felix J. Cistolo (G-317)**

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**Albert J. Cresson (C-315 FA)**

**Don Davis (K-319)**

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1 Year; Robert N. Nathason (L-317)

2 Year; Robert W. Smith (K-317)

3 Year; Felix Cistolo (G-317)

**2 Years**

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Andy Ferens (M-317)

Robert J. McDonald (C-319)

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Tom Pappas (F-318)

**3 Years**

Emil Magolin (B-305 MD)

Burt R. Marsh (M-319)

PNC Russell P. Sick (305 Eng)

*\* Deceased*

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# COMMANDER'S REPORT

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## *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

*Greetings to all the 80th Division Veterans and your families. It is hard to believe how fast the time passes. Although I am writing the day before Thanksgiving, you will not be receiving the Blue Ridge Magazine until late December.*

*Due to our very dry summer and fall, our crop yields were not what we had hoped. However, there is much to be thankful for in this season of the year. Our families, health and happiness are very important. I trust this finds you and your families enjoying good health, too.*

*Some of you may have known that Annabel and I attended the wedding of our granddaughter, Shannon, the week after the 86th Reunion in Costa Rica. Shannon has been in Costa Rica for more than 3 years as a missionary with Young Life.*

*We also attended the New York Post 43 Fall Meeting in October and enjoyed the fine hospitality and visiting with friends of the 80th.*

*As you know, Edgar Bredbenner, Jr., our Historian for many years, died this past summer. We need to seriously consider appointing his replacement. If you would like to be considered please let me know.*

*As we think of the Christmas season, many will remember the December of 1944. It was a most difficult time with cold and snow contributing to the discomforts of war. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and the very best in the New Year!*

*Finally, we look forward to seeing each of you in Columbus, Georgia at the 87th Annual Reunion of the 80th Division Veterans Association to be held September 20-23, 2006.*

*Best Regards,  
Walt Spangler*

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## **MEMORIAL FUND**

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If you have sent in money and I have omitted your name please let me know so I may give you credit. Last date I have entered a name 1 December 2005

New York Post #43

Norry, Gerald in memory of Edgar Bredbenner-Historian

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## **McBRIDE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

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If you have sent in money and I have omitted your name please let me know so I may give you credit. Last date I have entered a name 1 December 2005.

O'Nicoll, William O.

780th Ord

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## **LIFE PLUS CLUB 2004-2005**

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If you have sent in money and I omitted your name, let me know so I may give you credit. Last date I have entered a name 1 December 2005.

Pfledderer, Robert

Cn-319

Rice, Ludmilla, Mrs.

In memory of her husband Banner

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## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

---

Breen, Harry

2201 ACACIA PARK DR APT 124

Lyndhurst, OH 44124

Grof, Joseph J. Sv 313 FA Bn

P.O. BOX 32

Madison, OH 44057

Leenerts, Jess G. L-318

2119 ENNIS LANE

Quincy, IL 62305

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## **Secretary's REPORT**

FAX: (412) 828-7651 • E-MAIL ADDRESS: [divinf801@verizon.net](mailto:divinf801@verizon.net)

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### **NOTICE**

**Many of you are behind in your dues and some are close to being dropped.** In 1998 the Executive Council voted to drop anyone three or more years behind in his or her dues. Are you one of these? Look on the **FRONT COVER** of your magazine to check your dues date. Also if you are contemplating moving and have not sent in your new address and I receive your Newsletter back, costing the association money. I will not re-mail it until you send \$1.00. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** It is costing the association way too much money for the returns.

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# LETTERS

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From **LEONARD HANLINE** Hqs-319. I lost my wife of 59 years and 9 months on 22 September 2005. We attended three reunions, but missed the last one due to Doris being in the Hospital.

*We all send our Sympathy Leonard. (Editor)*

**Received by Lt. Pete Goodspeed, K-317**  
**6288 Greenway Dr.**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49546**

After reading the latest issue of the "Blue Ridge" service magazine, I would like to add some facts to Jack Edwards' letter, which was an excellent report of the happenings of Company K, 317th on or around February or March 1945.

First of all, a little bit of interest about Sergeant Frank Dobozy. When he was handling the affairs of the company command under our CO, Capt. Bill Beisner at the time, when a call came in on the phone, Sgt. Dobozy would answer saying "Company K leads the way. Sgt. Dobozy here, what do say?" At one time some high-ranking officer called, and Sgt. Dobozy got a bit of a tongue lashing for not being more official. What's wrong with a little good Morale?

Also some interesting facts about Capt. Charlie Garbuit. As he told us, he was a paratrooper, and after a jump, his chute got caught in some branches of a tree and he badly wrenched his back. In fact, he wasn't able to jump any longer. Therefore he was assigned to command Company K. At one time he told us that a fortuneteller told him that he would die by the blade. He believed that and therefore showed no fear from small arms fire.

When he got hit in his thigh, I was standing right next to him. It came from a German machine gun nest located on a small hillside off to our right. He seemed to know that he had the "million dollar wound that would send him back to the states. Boy, he was mad about that. He was a professional soldier and couldn't stand the thought of not being able to fight any longer. That was the last time I saw Charlie. I wonder what became of him.

P.S. Not knowing where the machine gun was located, we brought our mortars in to fire on the Germans that very effectively did the job.

**RONALD MACARTHUR HIRST**, a 9th Division Man (82 years of age) who lives at Mathildenstrasse 4, D-65189 Wiesbaden, Germany is seeking information on the capture of Weisbaden and the surrounding villages of Bierstadt, Schiersein, Dotzheim and Naurod. If you remember he would like for you to write him. Pictures are most welcome. If anyone writes he will be only too glad to return the favor.

## *Wanted: A Volunteer CPA to do the Annual 990EZ*

Bob Nathason who has been doing the tax report gratis for more years than I know, has given up doing the tax form due to his being in ill health. The forms come to me and I supply you with all the information to fill out the form. Will someone help? No the task doesn't pay you. Maybe four or five hours of work. Contact Robert T. Murrell, Sect/Editor. By Phone or Fax 412-828-7651-by E-mail Divinf801@verizon.net or by letter. Thank you.

## *October 26, 2005*

This is in response to the comments made by Mr. Einolf, Company L, 319th Inf., in Volume 86, Number 346, Issue 3 of The Service Magazine, regarding the Saturday Dinner Dance. In reading those remarks, a few things become quite obvious to those of us who know the "funny" member of the 80th Division who was at that next table. Allow me to enlighten the gentleman.

First, it would appear that this is the first reunion that Mr. Einolf has attended, for That 'funny' member of the association, Mr. Raymond Dumrauf, has been doing his routine for at least fifteen years at the Dinner Dances. It has become such a tradition that from the first day of his arrival at the reunion site; everyone inquires of him if he brought his mustache for the dance. Over the years, other members and their wives have asked to pose for pictures with Ray. In fact, a few years back, dignitaries from Germany attended the reunion and posed with Ray for pictures to take back to the "Fatherland".

Second, it is also obvious that Mr. Einolf doesn't know anything about the "funny" member of the association. Let me enlighten him, for I can only assume that modesty prevents Ray from doing so himself. On the evening of September 6, 1944, Ray, as a member of a squad from the 317th Headquarters Company, crossed the Moselle River at Pont A Mousson, France. After digging in on the opposite bank, they were fired upon by the Germans. It was during this action, that Ray suffered two chest wounds, a collapsed lung, and had His calf shot away. Over the next eight months, Ray convalesced as a guest of the Wehrmacht in Stalags XIIA and XIA. I find it refreshing that Ray can make fun of his experiences despite the pain and suffering he endured. I know that there are three generations in the Pittsburgh area that are happy he is alive today and can make jest of those lost months. I firmly believe that Ray Dumrauf has earned the right to be a member of the association, and, is far from being a disgrace to the 80th Division. I can see no dishonor to members of the Division who fought and died in the battles against the German Army. How does Mr. Einolf think that Ray became a member of the association?

It is regrettable that Mr. Einolf and members of his Company L party found Ray's act to be, "...a disgusting display, in poor taste and totally offensive." To be quite honest, I am rather pleased to be sitting at my office desk and am able to look up at a picture of Ray, in character, standing next to my father at one of the prior reunions. One might ask why I know so much about Ray. Well, my father, during those eight months of horrific internment, was Ray's nurse and companion. Dad cared for Ray despite his own wounds.

In closing, I would like to direct the associations' attention to an incident that occurred at the last Dinner Dance. I would suspect that it was either Mr. Einolf or

another member of the Company L party that felt it necessary to stand behind a seated Ray Dumrauf and grab him by the shoulders. After speaking to Ray for a while, this brave individual shoved Ray and his chair into the table before walking away. Ray, 'the hero', suffers the ill effects not only of his war injuries, but has never fully recovered from a stroke a few years ago and has had some rather poor knee replacement surgery. The actions of the "brave" individual who attacked Ray are more of a disgrace than anything that Ray did that night or any other Reunion Dinner Dance.

Frank Palombaro, 8002 Cooke Rd., Elkins Park, PA19027-1202

*I will not have any more letters or comments on this subject. Editor*

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



*Wishing all 80th Veterans and their Families  
Greetings of the Season and Best Wishes for  
a Healthy and Happy 2006*

Visit our website: [www.80thdescendants.com](http://www.80thdescendants.com)

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# TAPS

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Beattie, Paul R. 80th Signal  
1002 S. Odgen Street  
Denver, CO 80209-4428 Unknown  
Postal return marked Deceased

Biebaum, Paul M. Sr. 80th QM  
C/o 1443 Spruce Street  
Boulder, CO 80302  
5/13/05 / Rptd by Son, Paul Jr.

Bredbenner, Edgar E. Jr. B-318  
141 Honness Lane  
Ithaca, NY, 14850-6253  
9/8/05 / Rptd by Naomi Brockman

Bruskin, Sidney Dv-CIC  
75 Forest Court N  
Hamden, CT 06518-2710 8/13/2005

Grabert, Lester W. H-318  
5631 Forest Ave  
Evansville, IN 47712-4206  
9/19/2005 / Rptd by daughter

Hanson, William E. A-313th FA Bn  
716 Sugar Palm Street  
Largo, FL 33778-1377  
7/20/05 / Rptd by son Bryan

Hatcher, Lee R. A-313 FA Bn  
3712 Henderson Road  
Knoxville, TN 37931-1617  
Rptd by wife Ann

Kellerstedt, Burton A. Unit unknown  
New Britain, MA  
9/11/2005 / Newspaper Obit sent in by  
Jeff Wignall

Leibig, Theodore W. 314th FA Bn  
No address given  
Reading, PA  
10/2/05 / Rptd by Lou Shirey

Lis, Joseph W. L-319  
6578 Cronin Drive  
Dearborn, MI 48127-1962  
10/20/05 / Rptd by Lou Blatz

Sell, James J. Dv. Hqs  
3316 Brittany Pointe  
Lansdale, PA 119446-3884  
10/9/05 / Rptd by Donna McGroarty  
Niece

Smith, James C. 80th Signal  
1822 Eastridge Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35235-1858  
10/15/2005 / Rptd by Lynne Vinson, RN

Springs Jr., Samuel G-319  
2414 WESTFIELD RD  
CHARLOTTE, NC 28207-2720  
4/19/05 / Rptd by Wife

Vincent, George B. (Master Sgt.)  
Unit unknown  
Topeka, KS  
Newspaper Obit sent in by Don Richards

Vaughn, Lemoine L-319  
2601 Oakdale Road Suite C  
Modesto, CA 65355-2257 Date unknown  
Rptd by Hank Einolf

Weinheimer, Urban C-305 Eng's  
1300 McElheny Road  
Library, PA 15129-8839  
11/10/05 / Rptd by Barbara Briockman

Wilson, Onis C. A-317  
Broken Arrow, OK Unknown  
Rptd by Postal return marked Deceased

Wright, Mahlon G. Col. 8/4/2005  
11-2 Tamaron Dr

Waldwick, NJ 07463-1158  
8/4/20 / Rptd by Nancy Suplicki  
Daughter



## EDGAR E. BREDBENNER JR.



ITHACA - Edgar E. "Dusty" Bredbenner Jr., 80, of 141 Honness Lane, died September 8, 2005 at Cayuga Medical Center. Born August 22, 1925, in Ithaca, he was the son of the late Edgar Sr. and Mrs. Bredbenner. A decorated veteran of World War II, he was dedicated to his family, his community, and his alma mater, Ithaca College.

Dusty entered the U.S. Army at the age of 17 and served with distinction under General George Patton in the 80th Division. Seriously wounded in the Battle of the Bulge, he was recognized for his valor with three Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star, four Battle Stars, a Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Presidential Distinguished Service Award. He continued to be active in the U.S. Army's 80th Division Veterans Association, for which he served as commander and historian.

Following the war, Dusty studied at Ithaca College, graduating in 1950 with a bachelor of science degree in management. He was a member of the first group of students to graduate from the College's newly established four-year program in business. While attending the College he participated on the lacrosse team and was a member of Kappa Psi Alpha fraternity.

Dusty spent his professional career in banking, retiring as vice president of the Dryden branch of the First Federal Savings and Loan.

Dusty was a member of the Ithaca College Alumni Association Board of Directors since 1951, serving as treasurer from 1951-1965 and president from 1966-1968. He was an Alumni Representative to the Ithaca College Board of Trustee from 1970-1975.

An enthusiastic fan and strong supporter of Ithaca College's athletic programs, Dusty co-founded and served as president of the Sports Booster Club, now known as the Ithaca Fund for Athletics. He was inducted into the Ithaca College Sports Hall of Fame in 1992, and he maintained his active involvement by serving on the Athletics & Events Center Volunteer Committee.

For his lifelong friendship and support of Ithaca College he received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1983, and for his outstanding service to the Board of Trustees he was presented with an honorary doctor of laws degree from the College.

Among his numerous community activities, Dusty chaired the City of Ithaca Youth Bureau and the Ithaca Youth Advisory Council and was treasurer of the Greater Ithaca Recreation Council. He was also active in the Elks Club and American Legion, as well as with the local, state, and national associations of accountants.

Dusty was predeceased by his wife, Barbara J. Northrop Bredbenner. Survivors include his sister, Jeanne Hull; brother-in-law, Hal Northrop; and sister-in-law, Charlotte Northrop; along with several nieces and nephews.

—The Ithaca Journal

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## MAIL BAG

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Does anyone remember **NORMAN O. BRUNNER** (sometimes know as Bud) who was a scout in Company B 318th Infantry. He was wounded sometime in either December 1944 or January 1945. Bud lived in Carbondale, PA and passed away in April 1999. If you remember write or call his son Ray Brunner, 301 Lauren Drive Syracuse, NY 13205. Phone 315-443-9262

Congratulations to **GERALD V. MYERS** on his receiving an award of Honorary Citizen of Heiderscheid on 26 June 2005. Also to Charles R. Harmon (AT-319) who gave a speech in Jena, Germany this year, who was invited by Dr. Jeorg Nagler, who is the Director of American Histories Institute. Bob is a Professor Emeritus of History at Seattle University, Seattle, WA. He never fails to mention the 80th when he is overseas.

### *A joke...*

A panda walks into a bar, sits down and orders a sandwich. He eats the sandwich, pulls out a gun and shoots the waiter dead. As the panda stands up to go, the bartender shouts, "Hey! Where do you think you're going? You just shot my waiter and you didn't even pay for your sandwich!" The panda yells back, "Hey man, I'm a PANDA! Look it up!" The bartender opens his dictionary and sees the following definition for panda: "A tree dwelling marsupial of Asian origin, characterized by distinct black and white coloring. Eats shoots and leaves."

### *A reunion with a Luxembourg family after 60 years:*

It was 60 years ago the 80th Division specifically, the 319th Inf. Div., was relieved from the front lines for a five-day rest. We were disbursed to private homes north of Luxembourg City. Three others and I were placed in a home with the Thoma family. The family included twin daughters, 13 years of age, named Maria and Elise.

The evening of January 29, 1945 I was writing a letter home to my sister and asked the twins to write something in the letter. Maria volunteered to write something and then signed their names.

About two years ago my sister told me that she had kept all of my letters and asked if I would like to have them. Of course I wanted them. I was reading through the letters and found the January 29, 1945 letter with the twin's note and their names.

While attending the Florida Post reunion in Melbourne, Florida in March 2005, I learned that Virgil Myers had contacts in Luxembourg who found a boy for Howard Metzger whom he had stayed with in 1945. I met Virgil and asked him if he could have his Luxembourg friends find Maria and Elise Thoma in Steinsel, Luxembourg. I asked this of Virgil on March 20th and on March 30th he called and asked Barbara and I to meet him and his wife for lunch before we left Florida. When we met for lunch Virgil told me that the twins had been located in Steinsel and Maria's name was now Maria Kohl. I was so surprised that I almost fell out of my chair.

Barbara, myself, our daughter Tina and her husband Jeff Barton already had reservations to attend the Veterans Friends of Luxembourg Festival on June 21 to 26,

2005. The Friends of Luxembourg set up a meeting with the twins and incorporated it with their itinerary.

On June 26th we met the twins, now 73 years old, the mayor and their family and friends in the village square. We laid a wreath at a memorial by their church. Maria, Elise, their family and friends had a reception for us followed by dinner at a restaurant in Steinsel. The day wasn't done. Maria and Elise took our family to the house where I stayed back in 1945. Elise still lives there. We spent the evening with the twins and their family. Very late that evening Maria's daughters drove us back to the hotel. What a pleasant experience we all had. We have since corresponded with Maria.

The Veterans Friends of Luxembourg Festival was a well-planned week full of many activities. We saw all the country of Luxembourg with plenty of history pertaining to the Battle of the Bulge. We visited many monument locations, specifically in Dahl, Goesdorf, and Heiderscheid. During the reception at Heiderscheid, the mayor honored one of our own 80th Div. men Virgil Myers, as an "Honorary Citizen" of the town of Heiderscheid. Virgil was completely surprised as we all were. He served with Co. G, 317th Infantry Regiment of the 80th Div. There were eight veterans attending and six were from the 80th Division.

Upon our arrival in Luxembourg we met Bryan Basden and his two daughters Lynne and Sharon. Bryan served in Co. M 319th Infantry, 2nd platoon of the 80th Div. I served in the first platoon. The first day with them we made arrangements with two guides, George and Oliver, from the Veteran Friends of Luxembourg to travel to Wallendorf, Germany to locate the 319th crossing of the Our River into Germany and into the Siegfried Line. As most of us know, the 319th made several attempts to cross the Our River before we were successful. On February 11, 1945 we made it by crossing a footbridge, thanks to the 305th Engineers, although we waded the last fifty yards. The river was flooded because of the heavy snowfall and rain, as well as some of the dams being destroyed up river in Northern Luxembourg by the Germans. This was all accomplished under heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire.

After locating the exact area we crossed, we drove to the top of the hill west of Wallendorf, in the Siegfried Line and located several pillboxes that the 319th captured the night of February 12, 1945. Today, the pillboxes are demolished but the remains are still there. We did find two that were intact. If my memory is correct the 1st platoon was attached to "K" Company and Bryan said that the 2nd was attached to "L" Company. Bryan and I were both excited and happy to locate our battlegrounds and proud to have our families observe our exact location of battle.

The week after we were with the Veterans Friends of Luxembourg Festival, Barbara, Tina, Jeff and I spent another week touring Germany. We visited, Munich, the Eagles Nest. Frankfurt, and several towns along the Rhine River. We settled for three days in Oberwesel, Germany. We took a cruise on the Rhine one way to Rheins and returned to Oberwesel by train. A very enjoyable trip.

Our accommodations were at Gasthaus Stahl. A winery with a wine cellar and wine tasting. My wife Barbara's maiden name was Stahl. We were treated like family by the owner Paul Stahl. The meals were great, the wine was tasty. In fact, they gave us a key to the wine cellar, wow.

Over all, the trip was one of the best that we have ever taken. The hospitality and friendship of the Germans was unbelievable and in Luxembourg, it was the best. For a country that was in ruins when I left sixty years ago, I couldn't believe the recovery and how beautiful it is today.

*Burt Marsh, Co. M 319th Infantry*

# POST NEWS

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## Reading Post # 32

The Boone Area Library in Birdsboro had a reception to show off their exhibit of the 80th Division memorabilia. It was held 12 November and the Mayor was guest of honor. Several of the Post #32 members were present. They were Commander Hix, Paul Clouser and bride, Mr. and Mrs. Doyle from Harrisburg who drove over to see the exhibit.

A most pleasant surprise was the appearance of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Smith of the Descendants from Fayetteville, PA. They donated a copy of the 80th Division in WWI by Russell Stultz to the Exhibit. The Smiths were returning from the burial Of Col. Woods in Washington, DC and Arlington Cemetery.

The ladies in charge Carol and Shelly put out a spread that everyone enjoyed. If anyone wishes to donate any item of WW I or WWII to the Library, it would be appreciated and displayed.

*Thank you Lou Shirey*

## CO H 319th Infantry Post 33

To all members of Company H 319th Infantry 80th Division and friends.

News is again slow, although I have had phone conversations with our old First Sgt. John Beebe. He and Kate like the rest of us, need doctors help occasionally.

Also talked to Bill and Wilma McKinzie. Bill is being good and is preparing a list to increase his warehouse of little boys' toys (trains). Wilma has returned to work and feeling fine. She and Bill made a return trip to the site of her failure to fly like a bird. She took pictures but did not climb up on the rock side. Good thinking. Have not heard from Lois Kudrna for some time. At the time, she and Karol were preparing to snow bird it to Florida. I tried to contact her but no answer. I hope and pray her Florida home was not in angry natures path.

Theresa called to say she really enjoyed the group in Columbus. And now considers all to be her friend. She had knee surgery so she is now partially immobile and just waiting the time to get up and about but is planning on next simmer's party in Georgia. Jerry is flying Delta and making his little boy list of toys for Santa. Shalayla now rides her bike and goes with her dad on his runs.

Have not heard from people in California or the State of Washington. So get on the ball and try out SBC. I'll be flying to Massachusetts for Thanksgiving and a three week lobster feast. I guess Barbara watched the Colts get even with New England. Congrats! Drop me a line. I tried to contact Kenn Kerr but no luck. Hope he joins us next year.

*God Bless, Ohly*

## **3rd Battalion 317th Post #36**

Just a few notes for this issue. Bob Smith thanks everyone for their cards and phone calls during his illness. Bob fell in July and had three operations. He is now using a walker and cane but hope soon to be able to just use the cane. Again, he thanks all for thinking of him.

Rose and I moved to Masonic Village in October. Our address and phone number: 31 Eden View Road, Apt 352, Elizabethtown, PA 17022. Phone 717-361-4995.

Please send any news so I can include it in the next column. Our prayer and good wishes are with those who are ill and have physical problems.

*Bob Nathason, Sect.*

## **New York Post 43**

The fall meeting was held at the Ramada Geneva Lake Front, Geneva NY from October 10-13 2005. A nice turn out of twenty-four in attendance.

The membership voted to continue the Fall/Spring meeting at the same location. Spring gathering will be held 15-18 May 2006. They also voted to conduct one meeting a year.

The monument at Fort Benning will be dedicated at our Annual 80th reunion in Columbus, GA. Bob Burrows is handling all the arrangements for the reunion.

Gene reported progress on the Arlington Monument, with the American Legion assisting with the site.

Angelo Barone is working on a micro-fisch presentation of Ed. Bredbenner's work.

*Don Wilkinson*

## **Post 44 Company M 318th Inf.**

Well the 86th Annual Reunion is now history; hopefully all that attended had a good time. At this time I want to thank Walton Spanger and his daughters (THANKS GALS) and other committee members for a reunion well planned. Maybe a slip up here and there but for the most part everything went very well. Carol and Karen along with Walt turned a tidy sum.

I came home from the reunion with double pneumonia and thought it was the flu. Treating it as such all week and on Saturday morning 5AM I was taken to the Emergency room only to find I had the old double P. I was home approximately three weeks and again was taken to the hospital. This time I had a collapsed lung. While there the doctors found a blood clot in my right leg. I am now on Coumadin, I go to the doctor each week to have my blood checked. So Guys watch how you hit me, I bruise easily.

*Bob Murrell*

## POST # 47

As I promised in my last report I contacted the Holiday Inn in Indialantic, Florida. I was told they plan on being open by the first of the year. After I tour the new facilities I will contact all Post members as to the status and meeting dates in March.

We had another pleasant October meeting in Ocala. Our group was a very amiable and cooperative gathering. The ladies out did themselves in preparing a great luncheon spread. Our daughter Chris came and pitched in to help make it another wonderful day. In the evenings we of course indulged in the various cookies offered. We made the arrangement to meet back here next October.

Russell Sick and Elmer Dorsten came straight down from attending Chaplain Col. John O. Woods burial in Arlington, Virginia. There was a group from the 80th that attended. They said the weather cooperated and it was a very impressive ceremony.

Kay and I arrived down here in September to open our place before going to Tampa for our Grandson's wedding. It was very nice, very hot and very humid (if I lived here all year I would move to somewhere more comfortable in the summer like Ohio as we do). They will not start to repair our hurricane damage from Francis and Jean until December. We had to evacuate for hurricane Wilma and wound up in Georgia. She did a little damage to our place but nothing like last year. I know our members that live south of us must have sustained a great deal of damage and we hope things are getting back to normal.

Wishing everybody a Very Happy and Merry Holiday.

*Francis Rajniecek*

## Company L 319th Inf.

Now that the Thanksgiving Holiday is over, I would expect that all of you are gearing up for the coming Christmas Season. This is a hectic month in our lives but oh so much fun. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

Can you imagine Betts Flynn being teary-eyed? Well, she was and rightly so. Seems her son Dr. Rick Hodes received the "Best Citizen of The Year " award in Galveston, Texas recently and she being at the ceremony was asked to stand up and take a bow. Rick also will be receiving an Honorary Doctorate of Science Degree from Middleburg College in Vermont during May of 2006.

The Krehbiels are home again after spending time with sons Phil and Dane and then working on the new sanctuary for their church. They also were in Branson and attended several of the Veterans Week events while there. Bill's family honored him with an open house on his 80th birthday. Bill and Billie had Thanksgiving dinner at the local American Legion in Halsted, another in Whitewater KS and another in Salina KS. WOW three Turkey dinners-thankfully not all on the same day.

Jim Young said that he and Vera took a two week trip to Alaska in July. The first part was a land tour from Fairbanks to Anchorage by train and bus. The second part was a cruise going south on the ship Coral Princess with a visit to Glacier National Park and stops in Skatway, Juneau and Kakechkan ending up in Vancouver. The scenery according to Jim was spectacular and beautiful. They also took two helicopter rides toward Mt. McKinley and landed on a glacier and two airplane rides over lakes and mountains. Jim said they also had a delicious meal of grilled freshly caught salmon. It sounds like a wonderful trip and Jim thinks he would like to do it again.

Bill Siebert wrote and included a dollar in his letter. He said I should use it to get my eyes examined because of the line I wrote about him in last quarters Blue Ridge. He probably needs the eye exam because he got lost on the way home from the Reunion.

I had a note from my old foxhole buddy, Gayle Baker. He and his wife Gloria seem to be doing OK. They are finally giving up their antique business as it has become a burden instead of a pleasure and have just added an addition to their 100 year old home. Gayle has had some heart associated problems but medicines seem to be keeping them under control. Maria and I are looking forward to visiting Gayle and Gloria sometime in early 2006.

I try my darnest to get information from everyone who attends the Reunion but for some reason or other I get no response at times. For this report, I have not heard from Lou Blatz, Rudy Berman, John Balas, Fred Eckelmann or Frank Soloninka. I assume they are all OK. (I hate to assume anything).

As for the home front, Maria and I were scheduled to take a Rocky Mountain Express train trip across Canada from Toronto to Vancouver but had to cancel. We were to leave on the 2nd of October but Maria fell and broke the Humerus Bone in her left arm on September 5th. We have been running to Doctors and Therapy (three times a week) and have very little time to do anything else. However Maria has made good progress through her recovery period and should be close to 100% by Christmas.

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year.

*See you in Georgia. Hank Einolf*

## Lane Hall Post # 42

Hi Everyone, I guess most of us are looking forward to the Holidays and maybe better times for everyone in the country. There has been so much hardship this year and I guess we are all still thinking about those in Katrina and the rest of the Hurricanes and floods that have damaged so many people's lives in this country. I hope that next year will be a better one for everyone. Our reunion that we all look forward to every year is behind us, and we all can try to look forward to the next get-to-gather.

About Katrina, Audrey Blocker called to tell me that Eunice and Earl King who live in Houma, La. were safe. And we hope that not too much damage was done to their living place, and we hope to see them at the next get-to-gather.

On September 10, received news from Cecelia Smith, Secretary and Bruce W. Smith, Historian, descendants of the 80th Division Veterans that Bob Murrell on arriving home from the reunion, was put in the hospital, spending almost a week there with double pneumonia. Bob, we all hope you are doing well.

I was also informed that Ed Bredbenner, Co. B. 318th Infantry passed away on Thursday, Sept. 8th. Our prayers are with his family.

The morning of Friday, September 16th, I received an Email from Ann Hatcher, telling me that Lee had passed away that morning. Ann and Lee had sent me a group of poems pertaining to Veterans and their lives. I am sending this one on. I think most of us have experienced this at various parades we have attended, and I think it is appropriate at this time.

*continued on page 16*

## THE OLD VETERAN

Each year he stood on the corner  
As the colors came passing by  
He's remove his hat with great respect,  
Brush a tear from his eye

Just another tired old veteran,  
What stories he could tell,  
Of a brave young man who went to war  
And served his country well,

This year there's an empty space  
Where the old man used to stand  
Once more he's been called away  
To serve in a distant unknown lands.

Tomorrow they will honor him  
With his comrades standing near,  
They'll fold the flag that covers him,  
Hand it to someone dear.

The chaplain will offer prayers  
And the bugle will softly play.  
They'll pay him homage with a last salute  
As he is carried a way.

How sad it is as one by one  
We commit them to the ground  
To serve in god's great army  
Where their footsteps make no sound.

*UNKNOWN*



I think most of us know how Lee loved attending the reunions and being with everyone, even though sometimes he was not feeling well. Our love and prayers go to Ann and her family at this time.

Received a note from Ann on October 21, asking me to print the following note: “Special thanks to all who have called, written, sent gifts or made donations in Lee’s memory. We have been overwhelmed with the love and concern offered us—we greatly appreciate everything” Ann Hatcher and family.

Sophie Ellenberger called 9/17 and asked for everyone. She is doing well. It was great hearing from her. She loves hearing from everyone and I will keep in touch with her. Sophie enjoys receiving the Blue Ridger and reading about the 80th News.

Received a lovely note from Mary Bettencourt. She misses Frank very much, but is doing well she has one of her sons that lives with her. I will keep in touch with her and I’m sure she would like to hear from any of her friends in the 80th.

Was surprised when I opened my E-mail the week of October 16 and found an E-mail from Europe from Dom Abbruzzese. This is what he wrote:

“Just wanted to drop a quick note to let you know that we made it to Europe. We presently are in France and the country is much too beautiful to describe. I have been made an Honorary Mayor and Citizen of Pont a Mousson. The people here all remember the GI’s and what we did here so many years ago. We are pretty tired, as we have been traveling quite a bit through France and Luxembourg. There is so much to see. The boys have been doing all the driving. My friends Elizabeth and Alain from Corny have been our hosts and have been showing us the many sites. We also went to Paris for a few days and it was incredible. Everyone is having a great time and the entire vacation is going by much to fast. We have plenty of pictures to show you all. (See you soon).”

Getting back to Audrey Blocker, she called me on 10/28 to inform me that after two surgeries and 8-1/2 months living with her daughter and son in the Columbus, Ohio area recovering from the surgeries, and 28 weeks of home health care, her surgery wound has finally healed and she will be going home soon. It was a big fight for her, but she won. The best to you Audrey and take care.

I want to thank the members who have called or written to me these past few months. I enjoy hearing from you and I am sure everyone who reads the Blue Ridger does to. Keep it coming. And we hope to hear from everyone for our next issue.

*Fran Poletti*  
28 Arnold Lane  
Rowayton, Ct. 06853  
203-855-1928

## John O. Woods, Division Chaplain

*Those who attended the Burial of Colonel Woods in Arlington National Cemetery on 26 October 2005 were as follows:*

*PNC Max and PNP Alice Schmidt, PNC and PNC Clarence and PNP Naomi Brockman, PNC Russell Sick, 2nd Vice Commander Elmer Dorsten, 3rd Vice Commander Eugene O'Neil, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Smith, WW I and Decedents. The Woods family, Virginia, John and Harman, Family and friends from Greenville, PA, Edinboro, PA and Virginia.*





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## **OUT OF THE PAST...**

### **continued from last issue**

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*Sorry Fellows the End of the article in last issue was water damaged can't be read.*

## **Crossing the Rhine River**

With units of the XII Corps already up to the KYLE, General Eddy gave the job of forging a bridgehead to an infantry division, the 5th; then the 4th Armored Division was to pass through to drive northeast to Andernach. The 5th Division and the 80th Division were to follow, while the 76th Division protected the right flank.

On the enemy side, it was an understatement to say that German commanders viewed the pending 3rd Army offensive with anxiety, since the February attacks in the Eifel already had severely lacerated General Felber's Seventh Army. How long the Seventh Army could hold in the Eifel depended entirely on how soon and how vigorously the Americans attacked.

A breakthrough across the KYLE could prove fatal, not only to the corps (LXVI and LXVII) forming the center and south wing of the Fifteenth Army and to the entire First Army, the north wing of the entire First Army, the north wing of Hauser's Army Group G. Should the first and Third U.S. Armies quickly join along the west bank of the RHINE the two corps of the Fifteenth Army would be encircled. In the process, the 3rd Army's clearing of the north bank of the MOSELLE would expose from the rear of the West Wall pillboxes in the SARRLAND, still held by the First Army.

A partial solution, as the Seventh Army's General Felber saw it, was for the Seventh Army to withdraw from the EIFEL and protect Army Group G's rear by defending the line of the MOSELLE; but in view of Hitler's continuing stand fast orders, nobody higher up the ladder of command took the proposal seriously. The only change made was to transfer the faltering Seventh Army on a 2 March from Model's Army Group to Hauser's Army group. By vesting control in the army group headquarters that had most to lose should the Seventh Army collapse, the change inferred some strengthening of the Seventh Army by Army Group G. In reality, it merely shifted from one army group headquarters to another the dolorous task of presiding over the Seventh Army's agony.

## **The XX Corps in the RHINE-MAIN ARC**

By nightfall of 26 March General Bradley's 12 Army Group had established four solid bridgeheads across the RHINE - the first Army's VIII Corps along the RHINE gorge and XII Corps at OPPENHEIM and the Seventh Army's XV Corps at WORMS. A fifth was pending, for the Third Army's General Patton still had one corps on the RHINE's west bank that he chose to send across by assault rather than by staging through either of already established bridgeheads. He wanted General Walker's XX X Corps to cross between his other two corps at Mainz.

Just why General Patton chose to make another assault crossing at this stage is mainly conjectural. He probably disdained any thought that the Germans could interfere with a new crossing. Patton also wanted to get on with the task of building permanent rail and highway bridges across the RHINE to speed his army's advance. MAINZ with its network of roads and railways and its central location in relation to the army's boundaries was the logical spot for bridges; and an assault crossing appeared the quickest way to free the east bank of Germans.

Patton's original plan was to send a regiment from the already established VIII Corps bridgehead southward along the RHINE east bank to support the new assault crossing overlooking the crossing site. The 80th Division of the XX Corps then was to cross at MAINZ. Eddy's XII Corps was to continue its drive to cross the MAIN RIVER east of FRANKFORT, where upon all three corps were to head for the same objective, the town of GIESSEN and junction with the First Army. "I told each Corps Commander that I expected him to get ther first," Patton recalled later, "so as to produce a proper feeling of rivalry.

Somewhere along the line, Patton did away with the preliminary trust to take the high ground overlooking the 80th Division crossing site. The reason went unrecorded, but it may have been because of the explosive dash of an armored division from the First Army bridgehead that looked for awhile as if it would carry to WIESBADEN, across the RHINE from MAINZ. In late afternoon of 26 March the 12 Army Group chief of staff, Major General Leven C. Allen, telephoned the news that armor had seized a bridge intact over the LAHN RIVER, less than twenty miles from WIESBADEN. If the Third Army approved, a combat command was prepared to cut across the front of the VIII Corps and capture WIESBADEN.

Patton did approve, but it was well into the next day, 27 March, before the armored force could start its drive; although a bridge had been captured, the Germans had blown it after only four tanks had crossed. When units of Middleton's VIII Corps broke out of their bridgehead on the 27th, their columns quickly became entangled in those of the combat command. The objective soon ceased to be getting the armor to WIESBADEN; it became instead getting it out of Middleton's way. With the XX Corps scheduled to launched its crossing of the RHINE before daylight the next morning, chances were the attackers would find no friendly forces either in WEISBADEN or along the RHINE opposite MAINZ,

Details of the XX Corps plan were worked out not by Paton but by his chief of staff, General Gay, while Patton was in the XII Corps bridgehead setting up Task Force Baum. The 80th Division (General McBride) was to send one regiment across the RHINE at MAINZ while another regiment, having crossed into the XII Corps bridgehead, was to jump the MAIN RIVER three miles up stream from the RHINE opposite HOCHHEIM. Forces from the two bridgeheads then were to converge to clear the angle or arc formed by the confluence of the MAIN and the RHINE. Aside from the obvious advantages of dividing the opposition with two crossings, the decision to jump the Main as the RHINE hinged on a desire to make full use of existing stocks of bridging equipment. The stocks was insufficient for two RHINE bridges but suffice for one over the RHINE and another over the narrower MAIN.

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