



HONORING OUR WAR DEAD: Sergeant Walter Meek Shearer

80th Infantry Division — World War I

by Russell H. Shearer



LTC DAVID KING HONORED the World War I service of his uncle, John Abbey, in the December 2008 issue of OFFICER REVIEW, and recalled that he fought to take Montfaucon, the 37th ID objective. John Abbey's service is honored in our family, as well, because Montfaucon is hallowed ground, being the burial ground of more American war dead than any other cemetery in Europe, and the first interment place of my great uncle, Walter Meek Shearer.

Walter, or "Meek" as he was known, was not especially anxious to join the hardscrabble life of a Soldier. He was a stable hand in his father's livery stable and a volunteer fireman. But his duty to his Nation and to his family called, and he reacted like the rattlesnake coiled on the Gadsden Flag, which Benjamin Franklin observed, "never begins an attack, nor, when once engaged, ever surrenders: She is therefore an emblem of magnanimity and true courage: she never wounds till she has generously given notice, even to her enemy, and cautioned him against the danger of treading on her."

Meek was one of five boys born to Edwin and Anna Shearer. He was part of what Edwin referred to as "My thirty feet of boys," as each of the Shearer brothers was over six feet tall. And he was the next to the oldest of the brothers, born on July 28, 1888, in Parnassus, Pennsylvania, about twenty-five miles north of Pittsburgh. In Meek's time, Parnassus was a very small town, and commerce revolved around local business, such as the livery stable that Edwin owned and in which Meek worked. Social

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Editor's Notes

By Andy Adkins

DON'T LAUGH AT ME (or the rest of us Floridians), but it's been cold down here the last couple of weeks. I've been waking up to temperatures in the lower 30s and soon, it'll be the upper 20s. I know you Northerners like to joke about us Southerners when it comes to cold weather, and that's ok. I've lived here pretty much my whole life and while I'd like to say I'm used to it—it's still cold to me.

My dad, may he rest in peace, used to talk about how cold it was during the Battle of the Bulge. I can't imagine being out on a hillside in Luxembourg for weeks at a time with no semblance of warmth. Just a cozy foxhole with one Army-issued wool blanket to share between two men.

I also remember reading a letter from Henry "Bud" Leonard, may he rest in peace, that he wrote to my dad many years ago describing the cold winter they were having in Maine at the time and he likened it to the cold in the Ardennes. The only difference, slight as it may be, was that Henry was in his house in Maine warming up next to a big fire—the only fire he saw in the Ardennes in 1944-45 was in his foxhole, commonly called "Leonard's Foxhole Furnace," because he'd found a way to warm up by burning old mortar canisters (without the mortars, of course). I know many men in the 80th also found innovative ways to stay warm.

For those of you who were there, I hope that you are keeping warm this holiday season. For those of you who have lost your loved ones, either recently or long ago, it is my prayer that your hearts stay warm with the love of the many enduring sacrifices these brave men experienced during the coldest times in their lives.

In this Winter issue, we start off with a great World War I tribute to Sergeant Walter Meek Shearer, written by Russell Shearer. We've also got letters from World War II soldiers to their loved ones, and activities of the 80th Training Command. As you know, we've got 80th Division Veterans and family members representing World War I, World War II, and the current 80th Division—this is the first issue we've been able to combine articles from all three generations. I hope we can continue to provide you with these great stories.

May God be with each and every one of you during this holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

TO ALL MY FELLOW VETERANS, Military, Descendants, Family, Friends and Guests who attended our 91st Annual Reunion in Arlington, VA., August 11-15, 2010: my sincere appreciation for your time and effort in making it a memorable Reunion.

Now that it is history, it gives me the opportunity and privilege to personally extend my “Thanks” to everyone who attended and participated in our meetings and activities. Without their cooperation and dedication this would not have been possible. If I was to try to mention by name who volunteered their service to accomplish our agenda it would be an obvious mistake on my part. As you know, there is a tremendous amount of time spent by several, in negotiations, etc., to conduct a Reunion.

I do believe I would be remiss if grateful recognition was not given to Cecelia and Bruce Smith for their many hours of preparation for Registration Forms, Correspondence, Telephone, Mailings, Reunion Program Edition, Memorial Program necessities, Table and Social Hour necessities, etc. which they had coordinated with me throughout the program.

Also, we cannot forget our faithful Chaplain, PNC Angelo Barone who has for many years conducted the Memorial Service, and offered to be M.C. at our Banquet Dinner. He had always been assisted by his dedicated wife—Kay.

Special recognition to Donald Stewart PNC and present members and officers of the 80th Division Veterans and our Ladies Auxiliary members and Officers for their continued faithfulness. To our new members, 80th Division Military, TASS and Color Guard, Descendants, Blue Ridge Reserve, and especially MG John McLaren and LTC Grant Porter for their cooperation and assistance when needed.

I have received many photos and DVD's from various people which I cherish. I know my family and friends will review them on many future occasions.

As we approach the Holiday season to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day and the start of a New Year, let us not forget the sacrifice that our Veterans have made and what the present Military personnel are enduring in many parts of the world. Please keep them and their family in your Prayers.

Wishing all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a Happy & Healthy New Year.

THE 80th ONLY MOVES FORWARD

Max R. Schmidt - PNC, National Commander

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life in Parnassus was also local, and Meek attended the long-time Shearer family church, Parnassus Presbyterian Church, served as a volunteer fireman, and marched in the local parades. But his social life also had some distinctly modern aspects in that Meek and his brothers loved racing—horse racing—sometimes at a nearby racetrack and sometimes, as young men are wont, on the streets of Parnassus.

But street (horse) racing gave way to more serious business when Meek's brother, Frank, was to be inducted into the Army. Frank was the youngest Shearer brother and, at twenty-four in 1918, of draft age. Meek, born in 1888, was twenty-nine, above the typical draft age, and unmarried. But he volunteered to take Frank's place because Frank had recently married and begun a plumbing business.

So Meek was inducted into the United States National Army on September 18, 1917, becoming Private Shearer, Number 1,829,945. He reported to Camp Lee in

Petersburg, Virginia, for infantry training and was rapidly promoted to Sergeant because of his experience, leadership skills, and knowledge—as compared to the younger and less experienced recruits of the National Army. And, while at Camp Lee, Meek was organized into the units that would dictate the remainder of his life: First Army, 80th Infantry Division, 320th Infantry Regiment, 160th Brigade, 2nd Battalion, Company “F.”

Camp Lee, like basic training for many recruits then and now, provided Meek with many firsts: His first trip to the south; his first significant rapport with Catholics (most notably through the service organization, Knights of Columbus); his first true interaction with African-Americans; and his first time in training to learn the art-of-war. Meek was, after all, a small-town boy. He was more knowledgeable about the mountains of the Alleghenies than the salients of the Western Front; more comfortable with the Presbyterian catechism than the Catholic faith; more accustomed to a white, German-Scots-Irish-English community than an integrated (or

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A Visit to Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial

by Dempsey J. Prappas

ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2010, my wife and I visited the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial at Cambridge, England. We traveled by train from London to Cambridge, England which is situated three miles west of the City of Cambridge. The train ride was about 1-1/2 hours from London's King's Cross Station at a cost of 39 pounds and took a taxicab to the cemetery and back to the train station for a cost of 30 pounds.

We were greeted by Leslie Turner, the grounds superintendent, who escorted us to the burial plots of the six members of the 80th Infantry Division buried at this cemetery. I took a photo of each burial plot.

The cemetery sits on 30.5 acres on land donated by the University of Cambridge. It is the only permanent American World War II military cemetery in the British Isles and was dedicated on July 16, 1956. About 42% of those temporarily interred in England and Northern Ireland during the war were reinterred in the Cambridge American Cemetery. There are 3,812 American servicemen and women buried at this cemetery. Mr. Turner did not know why the six members of the 80th Infantry Division were buried at this cemetery.

The cemetery is situated on the north slope of a hill from which Ely Cathedral, 14 miles away, can be seen on a clear day. The cemetery is framed by woodlands on the west and south. The architects for the cemetery were Perry, Shaw, Hepburn and Dead of Boston, Massachusetts.

On the porch wall of the Visitors' Building is a bronze tablet from the grateful people of the English communities of Cheshunt and Waltham Cross which honors the members of the American bomber crew who sacrificed themselves in order to avoid abandoning their disabled aircraft over these communities.

Next to the Visitor's building is a 72-foot flagpole which its base is inscribed with the following quotation from John McCrae's poem, In Flanders Fields: "To you from falling hands we throw the torch—be yours to hold it high."

One of the highlights at the cemetery is the Tablets of the Missing (472 feet in length) which sets forth the names and particulars of 5,126 Missing in Action, including Glenn Miller and President John Kennedy's brother, men lost or buried at sea, or those 'Unknown' whose remains could not be positively identified prior to interment. This Tablets of the Missing includes four statues with carvings of a soldier, a sailor, an airman and a Coast Guardsman.

The 3,811 headstones in the fan-shaped graves area are arranged in seven curved grave plots, A-G. The headstones within the plots are aligned in seven rows of concentric arcs whose wide sweep across the green lawns. The headstones are also aligned like the spokes of a wheel. Each grave plot is enclosed by a boxwood hedge with tulip trees, catalpa, beech, oak and liquid amber (sweetgum) also present.

Visiting this American Cemetery was a memorable and emotional experience. I have requested Mr. Turner to provide us with a computer print out of the names of the six members of the 80th Infantry Division buried at the Cambridge Cemetery and the location of their grave plot, which I will provide to the Association for its permanent records.



Photo from the American Battle Monuments Commission website: www.abmc.gov

Established by the Congress in 1923, the ABMC is an agency of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government.

The Commission—guardian of America's overseas commemorative cemeteries and memorials—honors the service, achievements and sacrifice of United States Armed Forces.

The Commission's commemorative mission includes:

Designing, constructing, operating and maintaining permanent American cemeteries in foreign countries.

Establishing and maintaining U.S. military memorials, monuments and markers where American armed forces have served overseas since April 6, 1917, and within the U.S. when directed by public law.

Controlling the design and construction of permanent U.S. military monuments and markers by other U.S. citizens and organizations, both public and private, and encouraging their maintenance.

Out of the Past: Letters Home

SUNDAY, 24 DECEMBER, 1944

Dearest Folks:

I can never hope to explain just how much I wished to stop that telegram which must have reached you long before this. There's something so heartless about a mere sheet of paper stamped with naked black words. It doesn't bother to explain or to be kind and consoling. I can't tell you much about it, folks, I wouldn't want to if I were permitted.

My Christmas day won't be spent in a foxhole, however. You may be thankful for that! Dearest folks, I'm actually tired. I would write more, but, it would be senseless and taxing. Oh, gosh: don't worry, folks. You said yourself, Mom, that I was a rugged guy. Now live up to that thought and you will know that everything will be alright soon. Good night, dear folks. My love to you both.

Bob Dinsmore, A Company, 318th

Wounded during the drive up the Arlon Road toward Bastogne, Belgium. Two Purple Hearts, Bronze Star, Permanent pension awarded.

[Contributed by Bob Harmon, AT-319]

TUESDAY, 26 DECEMBER, 1944

LUXEMBOURG

Dearest Mom & Dad,

Thought about you yesterday & was in hopes that Hazel & Lois were able to spend Christmas with you. My Christmas was very enjoyable under the circumstances.

My men and I spent our time indoors in a nice big Chateau where we had fires. We had turkey with all the trimmings for dinner. Our kitchen fixed it for us. My men got lots of packages & letters. Am enclosing a few clippings you can put them away for me.

The scenery here is beautiful. Very hilly & the ground covered with snow. I'm taking some pictures. The people are very friendly and do all they can do to help us.

I'm feeling swell & am happy.

Devotedly, Andy [Adkins], H Company, 317th

[Contributed by Andy Adkins, III]

ANNOUNCEMENTS



From G. Virgil Myers...

Here are some pictures of Virgil Myers that were put on a Lakeland city bus in honor of the veterans this year. Virgil was selected by the Citrus Connection Transportation Department as the veteran to represent the WWII Veterans and others. The bus was in the City-sponsored Veterans Parade full of Vets and is supposed to be in the Xmas Parade full of Kids. This bus is running on different routes all over Lakeland and Winter Haven for one year they said.

Fort Benning 80th Memorial Move...

THE WALK OF HONOR site at the new Infantry Museum is ready. Columbia Monument (the group that will pour the concrete and move the 80th Monument) reports that the concrete crew will start pouring in mid December. They have six unit pads to pour plus allow two to three weeks curing time for the concrete. After that all six monuments (the 80th Monument as well as five other units) will be moved and placed at the same time. Finish date is expected to be mid January to early February.

From Bob Murrell ...

WHEN I RETURNED HOME from the August reunion, I was just checking my camera pouch and remembered I had found a SanDisk for a camera that someone had dropped in the hotel and for some reason it ended up in my pouch. I have not checked it out so don't know what may be on it. If you will insert an article to that effect in the next Blue Ridge, I will gladly mail it to the person who lost it.

If you lost a memory card (SanDisk) from your camera at the reunion, contact Bob Murrell in PA directly at 717-242-3942 or divinf801@verizon.net.

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even segregated) community; and more adept with a horse bridle than a gun. The Army exposed Meek to ideas, issues, and social situations to which he had not previously given thought.

Training continued at Camp Lee until May 18, 1918, when Meek and the 320th Infantry Regiment departed Lambert's Point (Newport News) aboard the DUCCI DEGLA D'ABRUZZI as part of nine-ship convoy for France. The ocean crossing was no pleasure cruise and on May 25, 1918, a German submarine was spotted and a brief engagement ensued. Walter stepped foot on foreign soil—St. Nazaire, France—for the first time in his life on May 31, 1918, and shortly thereafter began training in Calias and Samer. Training continued through the summer and early fall and consisted of instruction in trench warfare.

Meek first put his training into practice during the St. Mihiel drive of September 12-14, 1918, during which his 320th Infantry Regiment was attached to a brigade of the IInd French Colonial Corps. The 320th's mission was to hold and occupy the high ground on the north bank of the Creue River between Lavigneville and Chailion. The 320th and other Allied units were successful in obtaining their mission objectives, thereby breaking through the three-year old salient and driving a German retreat.

This victory also set the stage for the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the orders for which came on September 24, 1918, calling for an allied attack along the Meuse-Argonne salient in the Bethincourt region. The jumping-off line was just northeast of le Mort Homme (i.e., between Hill 304 on the right and le Mort Homme on the left). Meek's engagement in the Offensive began on September 26, 1918, at 0530 with the artillery barrage in the Bethincourt sector. The barrage cleared the town at 0615 and Meek was in assault. The Corps Objective at the Bois de Septarges was not achieved until 1600, after ten hours of intense fighting, including a rear-guard defense involving three German infantry divisions, two divisions more than the one division of "inferior troops" American intelligence predicted.

The assault continued the next day at 0630 with Meeks and his 320th Regiment still engaged in the Bethincourt region. The Regiment's Medical Officer reported that casualties were heavy that day and that medical officers, supplies, stretcher-bearers, and ambulances were in short supply. Meek and his comrades nonetheless achieved the Army objective at the Meuse River, forcing the Germans—after eleven hours of intense battle—to retreat substantially. Meek's Regiment resumed the assault on September 28, 1918, which was to be his third and last day in battle. In that day's assault, the

320th Regiment drove the Germans back nine kilometers, and captured numerous prisoners, several artillery pieces, and forty machine guns.

But by that time Meek was dead. An eyewitness statement declared that "Sergeant Shearer was killed by a Machine Gun bullet as he was rising from the ground to gain a creeping position to move to another location." He was interred three days later, October 1, 1918, in a temporary American Cemetery in the immediate vicinity of the battle, and, though dignified, it was field expedient. Meek was buried in a pine box, clothed in his battle uniform, and with a bottle containing his description and an identification tag. His grave was marked with cross and name peg. Meek was disinterred on June 3, 1919, and re-interred that day, again in a pine box wearing his battle uniform, in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in Montfaucon.

Edwin and Anna Shearer were notified of Meek's death shortly after it occurred, but they had to wait a year to learn his cause of death and three years to bring him home and bury him. This delay may seem like a long time. But it is remarkable that the Army maintained the identity of this Soldier, recorded the location of his field interment, and ascertained and complied with the wishes of his parents—all with 1918 technology. It is, in all, a great symbol of respect that the Army and this Nation paid—and continue to pay—to our Soldiers.

Walter Meek Shearer began his belated trip home on August 18, 1921—two years after his mates had returned home to flag-waving crowds. The Army throughout maintained the highest standard of respect for his service and sacrifice, observing a tradition, which continues to this day, that no Soldier killed in action will ever be without a military escort from the moment repatriation begins to the moment of final interment. Private Samuel Ciabrone, Quarter Masters Corps, provided that important military courtesy to Meek until his final interment on October 16, 1921, at his family church, Parnassus Presbyterian Church. Meek was finally home.

Meek's service and sacrifice has had a lasting and immeasurable impact on our family. Frank, the younger brother whom Meek replaced, and his wife, Mary, welcomed a son on May 7, 1918, whom they named Walter Meek Shearer in honor of Meek. Parnassus honored Meek and the Great War dead with a war memorial in the center of town. It is, ironically perhaps, located on the very spot where Meek and his father had their livery stable. The second Walter's daughter, Linda Suzanne Shearer Nelson, and I represented Meek and the 320th Regiment at the dedication of the 80th Infantry Division Memorial in Fort Benning, Georgia, and our families have prominently displayed Meek's photograph in our

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REUNION 2011, RICHMOND, VA

August 24-28, 2011

The Sheraton Park South Hotel

9901 Midlothian Turnpike (US Route 60)

Richmond, Virginia

PLANS FOR THE 92ND Annual Reunion of the 80th Division Veterans Association are coming together and we are pleased to be able to provide some details at this time. It is anticipated that a formal Call to the Reunion letter will be mailed by March first, and it will provide complete information.

The Virginia location for the Reunion was chosen for several reasons. The Richmond-Petersburg area was the site of the first training and origin of the 80th Division in 1917. Camp Lee is now Fort Lee and remains an active Army facility. With the current Soldiers of the 80th Training Command headquartered in Richmond and the Post 50 members residing nearby, it was felt that Richmond was the most viable site for the next meeting.

For those attending with families, Richmond's history is a storied one. From Civil War sites to opera, museums, parks, the State Capitol, and the river-front, there are plenty of interesting places to visit. In addition, King's Dominion Park is about 30 miles north on I-95, and Colonial Williamsburg / Jamestown is 60 miles east on I-64. The Reunion Committee is also planning activities for your optional participation.

The staff at the Sheraton Park South has been most accommodating, and assures that the veterans, soldiers and families will be made to feel right at home. The facility was a family-owned hotel for a number of years before a group affiliated with the Sheraton chain purchased the well-established business. The hotel is situated just off the highway, and is shielded by mature

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homes for almost one hundred years. And today a new generation carries on Meek's name with my daughter, Hanna Catherine Meek Shearer, being named after him.

LTC King's recollection of his uncle and Meek's comrade and contemporary—John Abbey, also helps to keep alive the memory and spirit of our honored war dead. Indeed, it was through the service of Veteran Abbey and his comrades of the 37th ID that Meek could be laid to rest, even if temporarily, in Montfaucon and that other war dead find a place of honored repose. Personal connections in great historic events, such as this one, make the accomplishment of—and sacrifice in—they all the more concrete and are, perhaps, the best monuments of all.

trees and lovely landscaping. Two man-made lakes are a part of the property, and there are walking trails, playground areas and other outdoor amenities to be enjoyed. There are both indoor and outdoor pools; a spa and exercise equipment are also available. Elevators are adjacent to the lobby, which also includes a newly renovated lounge and restaurant. Meeting rooms are just off the corridor, so that walking can be kept to a minimum. All rooms and facilities are handicap-accessible and the hotel is non-smoking. The Hotel also provides complimentary Internet service and Starbucks coffee in each guest room.

Meal costs and menus have been adjusted to fit within the Veterans' budgets, and promise to be satisfactory to all. A breakfast buffet is available and the Hotel will provide discount coupons for the reunion attendees. An ad hoc committee of members of Post 50 is working with us to arrange for appropriate activities. One plan is in place for the **Dug Out Party**, the theme of which will be "A Return to the 40s". Period food and décor have been arranged, and 40s costumes will be encouraged.

Unfortunately, there is no shuttle service from the airport, which is about 20 miles from the hotel. Private transportation with several companies has been investigated and **Mimi Transportation** has offered \$50 per trip flat rate (normally, \$45 per person). If you know you are going to be taking air flights into Richmond, please let us know so that we can try to coordinate ground transportation through Mimi.

The Sheraton Park South *does* provide a shuttle service within five miles of the Hotel to several shopping malls, attractions, hospital & doctors' offices. The Hotel also has Enterprise Rentals available in the lobby.

The Sheraton is part of the Starwood Group. As a Starwood Preferred Guest, you can receive points for your stay at this hotel. If you are not a member, you can check online at www.StarwoodPreferredGuest.com or call 888-625-4988. We suggest you take advantage of this service, and present your membership card at check-in, or while making reservations.

The Sheraton Park South is making available a personalized website for the 80th Division Veterans. The room rate has been set at \$87, plus tax (local \$6.96 and State \$4.35) from August 21-29, 2011. This rate only applies if reservations are booked prior to August 2. Rooms have king beds or two doubles, and can accommodate up to four persons at this rate. You may make reservations at 804-521-2210, however, use of the website is preferable. **CLICK ON THE 'REUNION' LINK ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.80THDIVISION.COM**

We look forward to seeing everyone in Richmond in August!

Welcome Post #50 80th Division Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association

Dear Blue Ridge Members,

I am very proud to have been elected as President of the Blue Ridge Association this past August. On behalf of all of our newly elected Officers, to include CSM Doris Wollett as Vice-President, and MSG (R) Pete Herbert as Secretary, I would like to extend our appreciation to outgoing President COL (R) Paul Hoppes, Vice-President COL (R) Rick Littleton, and Secretary LTC (R) Keith Brisson, for their fine work as officers and for their willingness to continue to serve on the Board of Directors. They have led us through many changes and strengthened the association through their leadership. Special thanks also go to COL (R) Ed Polonitza, who has served as Treasurer for the Association since its inception!

Since our last newsletter last August, we have merged under the 80th Division Veteran's Association, held our 9th annual meeting, elected several new officers and board members, sponsored a Golf Tournament and are getting ready to hold our first annual Holiday Party on the night of December 18th.

We have had quite a few new members join our ranks this year and are hoping to see a lot more new members come into the organization. 2010 has been a great year for both the association and the 80th Training Command, and also a very big year for many of our members. One of our goals this year is to reach out to everyone and spread awareness by highlighting the accomplishments of the Blue Ridge Association, the 80th Training Command and our members. We appreciate feedback from all of our members and welcome contributions to future newsletters. Best wishes to all as we end 2010 and begin a new year in 2011.

LTC Grant Porter, President

2010 Post Highlights

- The Blue Ridge Association became "Post 50" under the 80th Division Veterans Association, the 2nd oldest Army Veterans Association in the history of the U.S. Army.
- The Blue Ridge Association participated in the 91st Annual Reunion of the 80th Division Veterans Associations, (DVA), in Arlington last August. This was the first ever combined conference that brought together both organizations for their annual events. The Blue Ridge Association held its 9th Annual Meeting and MG McLaren hosted a Commander's Conference at the same time bringing together the three organizations for the first time.
- During the 9th Annual meeting, the voting body elected several new members. In addition to the three officer positions filled, the following members were

elected to serve for the next two years on the Board of Directors: Dr. Lee Anthony, LTC (R) Keith Brisson, COL (R) Jim Brown, MSG George Croughwell, MG (R) Douglas Dollar, MG (R) John Henderson, COL (R) Paul Hoppes, COL (R) Rick Littleton and MG John McLaren. COL (R) Carolyn Deverell, LTC (R) Charles Elam, and COL (R) Paul Linkenhoker, were each re-elected. All other remaining Board member positions, currently held by MSG (R) Michael Atkins, LTC (R) Erik Imajo, LTC Terence Singleton and LTC Colleen Watson will be up for nomination/re-election in 2011.

- The 80th Training Command paid a special tribute to recognize the retirement of Command Executive Officer and former Blue Ridge Association President, CW4 James "Mac" McGuire who contributed immensely to the 80th over the past three decades of his career. A special ceremony and dinner that evening at the Omni Hotel in Richmond paid a fitting tribute to an outstanding Citizen-Soldier for his years of service. We wish Mac a happy retirement! We also give our best support to Michael Bland as the new CXO for the 80th Training Command.
- The Association continued to support the 80th Training Command Awards program by giving a total of \$1,000 to award recipients in 2010.
- The Association donated \$1,500 to buy a refrigerator for the new USO that opened at the Richmond Airport.
- The Association helped to fund a monument dedicated to our fallen comrades at the 80th U.S. Army Reserve Center using membership funds and individual contributions from some of our members.
- The 2nd Annual Blue Ridge Golf Tournament took place 9 OCT 2010 at the Crossings Golf Club in Glen Allen. We had 14 golfers participate and raised \$185. The money raised by the golf tournament will be used to support monetary awards for the 80th Training Command Award program to include the Soldier of the Year and other related competitions.
- Special recognition to the winners of this year's events is given to George Croughwell, who was victorious for the second year in a row in the Monster Putt competition, MAJ Thomas Kochenauer, who came through with the Longest Drive, Mr. Rod Calhoun who had the Closest to the Pin shot and the team of SGM Mike Buddin, MG John McLaren, his son, John McLaren Jr., and Mr. Rod Calhoun, who led the pack with the Best Team score at Five under par. Additional participants included LTC Grant Porter, LTC Sam Gerson, LTC Glen Hence, CPT Corey Howard, MSG Wesley Garrett, SFC William Rhodd, Mr. Johnnie Wilson and Mr. Al, (a friend of Glen's).

2010 Member Highlights

- **MSG (R) Michael Atkins** retired and was selected for a civilian position as Operations Director for Federal Contracts at the Richmond ARC.
- **LTC (P) Glen Hence** and **LTC (P) Erik Imajo** were both selected for promotion to Colonel.
- **Mr. Erik Imajo** was selected to become the CXO for the 94th Division training at Fort Lee.
- **SFC Coretta Lankford** graduated from Columbia Southern University on 15 OCT 10 and received a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice.
- **COL (R) Rick Littleton** announced that he has been involved in support of the Roanoke Veterans Day Parade coming up soon on 6 November. He expects several 80th people to attend to include a convoy of HMMWVs from the Motor Pool that will be supporting the event. Rick said the contractor ITT has provided them with \$20K and other businesses have contributed an additional \$6,000 for the event.

- **MG John McLaren** was elected to serve as the 3rd Vice Commander for the 80th Division Veterans Association. As such, MG McLaren will lead the 94th Reunion in 2013 and serve as the National Commander in 2014.
- **LTC Grant Porter** graduated from the U.S. Army War College. He now has a little more time to do other things, such as serve as a Blue Ridge Officer. LTC Porter also serves as 2nd Vice Commander for the 80th Division Veterans Association and will lead the 94th Reunion in 2012 and serve as the National Commander in 2013.
- **LTC Terry Singleton** was selected for Battalion Command of the 8-98th, and was hired on at the 80th as a Program Analyst for the G-7 shop.
- One of our newest Life Members, **MAJ Anthony Taylor**, returned to the 80th following assignments in Hawaii and Korea. MAJ Taylor was assigned to the 80th in the early 90s and was recently selected for promotion to LTC.
- **LTC Colleen Watson** was selected as SOTO in the G-3 section.

POST NEWS

New York Post 43

Kudos for Max and Alice Schmidt for a wonderful reunion at Arlington VA. Everything was so convenient, the meeting rooms, the dinners were only steps away from the elevators. If you wanted to take a tour all you had to do is jump on the shuttle, which ran every half hour, and it would take you to the metro terminal, from there you could go to any of your destinations.

The NY Post 43 Reunion is May 16 thru 19, 2011 at our favorite spot, Ramada Lake Front, Geneva, NY. All members of the 80th Division Veterans Association are invited. We have our wine tasting tour on Tuesday and a planned trip to the Corning Glass museum on Wednesday if we have enough interest. I inquired about a bus and found it expensive: \$900. We will rely on designated drivers. It is approximately 60 miles, one way.

I haven't received any news from our members, so I feel that all is well. I had a lot of conversations with Post 43 members who attended the reunion in Arlington, VA. They were Helen and Robert McDonald, Kay and Fran Rajnicek, Kay and Angelo Barone, Elmer Dorsten and family, Russell Sick, Naomi and Clarence Brockman, Walton and AnnaBel Spangler and daughter Karen, also my son-in-law Jeff Barton.

Wasn't it a beautiful fall, if only we could carry it into the winter months. Trust everybody enjoyed Thanksgiving,

Christmas and the New Year. I know it's a busy time of the year. Aren't most of us depending on our children to display their talent in serving the turkey and/or ham? After all, isn't it a chip off the ole block, right mom? Hope you all enjoyed the holidays. Looking forward to seeing everybody sometime in 2011.

So long for now and see you all in Geneva.

Post 43 Commander, Burt R. Marsh

Post #40 - 305th Combat Engineers

Post 40 has a great history of comradeship and real partying ... but no more ... too many are gone. The past three reunions I've not had any registered engineers but myself ... no hospitality room.

Our post will contribute the remaining \$300 of our treasury to the association general fund at the next executive board meeting. The post is inactive so closing our bank account ends my responsibility for it.

I will retain office of commander, but that's no big deal. I have a post membership roster but how many of the 27 addresses are current, I do not know. I did send Christmas cards to all and did you receive yours?

Happy New Year "Kernal" Russ Sick, PNC

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Florida Post #47

Our October meeting in Ocala was a great success. We enjoyed having new members at our get together. Paul and Kathy Fate were at the National Reunion and were first timers. I found out that they live in Spring Hill, Florida, so I told them about our Post meeting. They came and I hope had a great time with us. Hugh and Tonya Gibbons, who attended our spring meeting in Melbourne, were also present.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 19 thru Saturday, February 21, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza in Indiatlantic, Florida. The room rate will be the same as last year, \$119 per night. Reservations must be in by January 15, 2011. The phone number for reservations is (321) 777-4100. The Post will be picking up the cost of dinner on Saturday night. So, snowbirds, hope you don't get snow bound this winter.

The holidays are fast approaching. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Joyful New Year.

Kay Rajnicek, Secretary

313th Field Artillery

Hi, everyone. I did not write anything about the reunion in my last report to all of you, and thought I would add something this time. It was a very good one, and we had more people there than last time. It was held in Arlington, VA. And the hotel was very pretty; they gave us a very nice meeting room where we congregated, and of course, many of our group brought lots of goodies for us to pick on, and it was just great sitting and talking to everyone. It was good being able to find out what everyone is doing at home and just sitting and talking about every day things. We have a great group and hope next year when we have the reunion in Richmond, VA. There will be more of us that can attend.

Since I have been home, I have tried to contact as many of our group that either were at the reunion or were not able to attend. Spoke to Mary Brinker and she sounded very good. Jim was out cutting the grass and Mary said they are both doing fine. Mary asked about Hilda's granddaughter, Reagan, and I told her I had met her at the reunion and she looks great and is doing fine.

Since then, I spoke to Mary again; Jim was in the hospital twice, they had thought he had had a stroke. Thank goodness, it turned out to be too much of his medications which caused it. He is fine, thank goodness.

It was great meeting Hilda's family at the reunion, and of course, especially happy to hear that Reagan was

doing fine and actually getting to meet all of them. My sons are always so happy for me to attend the reunions knowing how much I look forward to them and getting to meet some of the people I hear about from some of the families I have been connected with since World War II.

It was also nice meeting Dom Abbruzzese's family that also attended and it was so nice having them there. Dom has a great family. Happy they were able to attend.

Spoke to John and Audrey Ingles, who were happy to hear from me, and they are doing very well. They both sounded great and it was so nice talking with them. They asked about everyone and were happy to hear about the reunion.

Left a message by phone at Jim Phillips, and Ruth called me back, and later Jim also called, asked about the reunion and Jim was on his way to a veterans meeting. Jim is really an inspiration to all of us, attending the VA meetings and being a part of the group that defended our country during the war. I think most of our men are pretty active in the activities of the World War II groups.

I would like to hear from more of you because sometimes I do hear from someone and they would like to know if I have heard from any of you and would like to tell them I have, so please call me anytime at all. I love hearing from you.

Today, September 21, I received an e-mail from Bruce and Cecelia Smith. It was so good hearing from them. They sent me an e-mail with pictures of the reunion, and they were great. I want to thank them for sending them along. They included Lt Col. Mietz's farewell, and also some of the group dancing when Sebastiaan Vonk was honored for his overseas work. He is a Netherlands citizen, who began studying WWII, became very intrigued with the war and took care of many of the WWII veterans' graves in Netherlands and Belgium.

I need updates on everyone's address or phone numbers that have been changed. Please get them to me, I would like to make up a new address listing so that we could all know of the changes that have been made.

October 5. Called and talked with Audrey Blocker today and she told me she attended Mary Brinker's birthday party and surprised her. Mary was so happy to see Audrey, since not too many of us live close by to visit. Audrey attended with her wonderful daughter, Claudia, who is so nice to accompany her mom to the reunions.

Spoke to Sophie Ellenberger today, also, and she is doing fine, she is still going on her trips, and is thinking of getting a fancy walker to help out sometimes when she does her daily walks. She really does not need it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

as yet but think it may help in the future. She was doing volunteer work at a soup and sandwich for seniors, but was disappointed when the cook no longer attended so they had to cancel the monthly meetings.

Spoke also to Elda Gonzalez and she sounded great, she had just returned from visiting with her sister, which is 400 miles from where they live, and said she was tired and resting from the trip. She and her husband Manuel are doing fine and say hi to everyone.

Called Herman Newsome and there was no answer. I hope all is well with him, and will try again, later on.

Ed Hargraves was nice to call today, October 20. We had a nice talk and he inquired about our budget, and I told him, we were lucky not to have had to pay for our reunion room at the last convention, which saved us some money, and of course with all the food the members brought, we did not have to buy any. We are very lucky with the members we have, our budget is quite low at this time, and if you would like to contribute towards it, please send any contribution you would like to Audrey Blocker who is our treasurer.

Checked on Paul Burgio, and Warren Burkhart, and they both sounded very good and are doing well. It is nice keeping in touch, and I do hope to hear from some of you who I haven't been able to get in touch with, so that I can report back to our group how you are doing. We have a good group of members, and some days, I wonder how certain people are doing. Since I put my home up for sale, I get a little depressed. So if I hear from people, I sort of get out of that, so please call or write, would love to hear from you.

On November 20th, Dom Abbruzzese informed me of the passing of Arthur Skinner of the 80th Division, who died October 28, 2010. Our sympathies are sent to his family. Arthur kept in touch with many of his friends in the 80th and will be remembered by many.

Frances E. Poletti

CONTRIBUTIONS

*The last date I have entered a name is
December 1, 2010*

Life Membership

Buddin, SGM Michael D., 80th Training Command
MG Eder, Mari K., 80th Training Command
Mackay Jr., Albert, L-318
CSM Stavely, James R., 80th Training Command
Stell, Cleston E., G-317
Wilson Sr., Robert D., L-318

Donations

PNC Burrows, Robert, Hq Co-317

New Members

MSG Brown, Gene A., 80th Training Command
Buddin, SGM Michael D., 80th Training Command
Cameron, Robert, Family, Hq-317
Coleman, MSG (R) Virgil L., 80th Training Command
Cooper, COL Michelle A., 80th Training Command
DeStaffany, Sandra, Family, E-317
Devine, William G., Family, WWI
MG Eder, Mari K., 80th Training Command
Gallagher, COL David R., 80th Training Command
Ginn III, MG (R) Louis H., 80th Training Command
LTC (R) Hughes, Clyde L., 80th Training Command
Jackson, CPT Zovera A., 80th Training Command
Johnson, MSG Anncarol, 80th Training Command
CSM (R) Phoenix, Michael S., 80th Training Command
Popchock, Jeffrey J., Family, WWI
Puccio, Robert & Gail, Family, F-318
LTC (R) Shepherd, Edward C., 80th Training Command
CSM Stavely, James R., 80th Training Command
Stephen, COL (R) Thomas M., 80th Training Command

In the library...

Bob MacDonald called me and suggested I let the association know that **Bill Costley** (C-319) has four of his books now in the Library of Congress collection:

- *80th Blue Ridge Infantry Division, Third U.S. Army (1990)*
- *5th Parachute Division (Fallschirmjäger) (1995)*
- *6.SS-Gebirgs Division Nord (1989)*
- *Jäger Battalion Light Infantry Division (1993)*

80th Division Maps

SEVERAL PEOPLE HAVE CONTACTED me over the past few months looking for maps of the 80th Division path during WWII. I found a copy of the original 80th Division path, drawn by the G-3 Section of Hq 80th INF DIV, 22 May 1945 and I have several copies (30" x 22") available if anyone wants a copy. Cost is \$40 which includes shipping in the US.

However, I know there were several regimental maps that were designed, one each for the 317th, the 318th, and the 319th but I don't have those. Does anyone have one of the originals? If so, please contact me. I'd like to get several copies made for people that ask as well as having a copy for the Archives.

Andy Adkins, National Secretary
2121 N.W. 54th Terrace
Gainesville, FL 32605-3392
adkins@80thdivison.com / 352-538-5346



The 80th Blue Ridge Infantry Division 2ND EDITION

Turner Publishing Company

IN 1999, TURNER PUBLISHING Company published the Second Edition of the "80th Blue Ridge Infantry Division." This outstanding and comprehensive history takes you from Argentin to the Rhine River. The photographs and maps alone tell the story of the Blue Ridge Division, and includes more than 600 biographies plus overseas cemeteries lists and the men interred in them.

This book is currently out of print, but I recently spoke with the publisher and they MAY do a reprint if there is enough interest. If you would like a copy of this book, please let me know. The publisher is drafting a proposal for us, but the cost of the book is expected to be between \$50 and \$65. I've received requests for 25 books; if I can receive another 25 requests, I'll take the proposal to the Executive Council to seek approval for getting the books reprinted. Let me know as soon as you can.

Andy Adkins, National Secretary
2121 N.W. 54th Terrace
Gainesville, FL 32605-3392
adkins@80thdivison.com / 352-538-5346

TAPS

Carr, Walter P., E-318
6631 Harvey Street
Orlando, FL 32809
DOD: 10/6/2010
Rptd by his daughter, Nell

Hill, Marshall O., L-319
6690 E. 1000th Rd.
Martinsville, IL 62442
DOD: 11/20/2010
Rptd by his daughter, Mary

Pierce, Leroy K., L-317
200 S. Church Street
Morning Sun, IA 52640
DOD: 9/10/2010
Rptd by his family

Roccella, Serafino, C-319
6395 W. Baker Circle
Cocoa, FL 32927-3141
DOD: 9/6/2010
Rptd by his wife, Bertha

Shafer, Robert B., E-317
733 Samantha Street
Lansing, MI 48910
DOD: 9/14/2010
Rptd by his wife, Shirley

Simpson, Robert I., I-317
174 Bittersweet Drive
Paulding, OH 45879-1548
DOD: 12/5/2010
Rptd by Felix Cistolo

Skinner Jr., Arthur R., 313th FA Bn
7949 Wheatland Ave.
Sun Valley, CA 91352-4104
DOD: 10/28/2010
Rptd by Dom Abbruzzese

SGM Snell, Billie Joe, 80th Training
Command
Mechanicsville, VA
DOD: 10/9/2010
Rptd by Doris Wollett

Stouder, Virgil Vincent, 317th
Chambersburg, PA
DOD: 12/8/2010
Rptd by Cecelia Smith

Zakel Jr., Paul C., L-317
85 Reed Road
Oakdale, CA 95361-0802
DOD: 5/1/2010
Rptd by his son, Stephen



80TH INFANTRY DIVISION **BLUE RIDGE** BY BRITT TAYLOR COLLINS

Because Their Memory Still Serves

The men of the 80th Infantry Division have not forgotten their battles through the campaign of Normandy, through the bitter winter at Luxembourg, and into the heartland of Nazi Germany. The world is better because of them, their sacrifice and deeds deserve our best remembrances and honor.

Equally at home with paintbrush or camera, internationally recognized artist, Britt Taylor Collins creates an enduring image of WW2's beloved "Blue Ridge".

This summer, Britt's painting "Taking Fire to Koenigsmacker" was used to mark the opening of a new military memorial at Ft. Koenigsmacker where the 90th Inf.

Division crossed the Moselle. Soldiers of the 80th, and their families took part in this occasion. Inspired by this event, and encouraged by the faithful urging of a certain general officer, Britt Taylor Collins has issued this customized full-color giclee print as part of his unit specific "Second War Image Collection".

Composed using WW2 artifacts, and an extremely rare 1942 M1 Garand, brought back intact from Europe, this giclee print is signed by the artist, and is individually reproduced using archival 100% rag paper and pigmented inks.

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Lee Archer and Bill Auerbach produce a series of photo reference books covering military vehicles of World War 2, called "Panzerwrecks."

If you have private photos of wrecked Allied or German tanks that you would like to see preserved in print, along with your memories, please contact:

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or

Bill Auerbach

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Monroe, NY 10949-2332

www.panzerwrecks.com

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National Secretary
2121 NW 54th Terrace
Gainesville, FL 32605-3392



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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUE JANUARY 31, 2011

Membership dues for the 80th Division Veterans Association are paid in JANUARY of each year, unless you are a "Life" member, which is a one-time payment. Look on the address label on this newsletter. Next to your name there should be a "PAID xxxx." The "xxx" is the year you are paid up to. In the example below, Andy Adkins is paid through December 2009, meaning he needs to pay membership dues by January 31, 2011 for two years (one to catch up to 2010, and one for the current year—2011).

Also, please check your ADDRESS. If there is an error, notify the National Secretary, Andrew Z. Adkins III. His contact information is on the second page of the magazine. If you've moved or are moving, please use the "Moving?" label (left). This will help us keep up-to-date on members as well as save postage due fees.

Check Your Address Label

Andrew Z. Adkins III
2121 NW 54TH TERR
GAINESVILLE, FL 32605-3392

PAID 2009

Membership
Expiration Date

You have paid
through Dec of the
indicated year

Check your name and address (Apt., Bldg., Lot No.).
Notify the Secretary if you find an error.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



80th Division Veterans Association
 ATTN: Andrew Z. Adkins III
 2121 NW 54th Terrace
 Gainesville, FL 32605-3392

*Desiring to maintain liaison and comradeship
 with Veterans and soldiers of the 80th Division,
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 IF FAMILY MEMBER, PLEASE ALSO PROVIDE THE NAME AND UNIT OF VETERAN

ADDRESS: _____

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Please make checks payable to the 80th Division Veterans Association. PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX:

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 Engineer Battalion
 Post No. 40**

Russell P. Sick, Commander
 3131 Pleasant Avenue
 Hamilton, OH 45015-1740

**3rd BN., 317th INF.
 POST #36**

*Robert Moorhead
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**Company "H"
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80TH DIVISION MONUMENTS: Sacrifice Field, Fort Benning, Georgia (left) and Heritage Trail at the Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.



Website Updates

- www.thetroubleshooters.com
- www.80thdescendants.com
- www.80thdivision.com
- www.abmc.gov

What you will find at www.80thdivision.com:

- General Orders (August 13, 1944 thru October 31, 1945) containing awards for Silver Stars, Bronze Stars, Air Medals, Distinguished Service Cross, Purple Hearts
- Morning Reports for almost all units August 1944 thru May 1945, including rifle regiments, field artillery units, medical battalion, 80th Division headquarters units
- Many After Action Reports and Unit Histories for 80th Division, 317, 318, 319 Infantry Regiments
- Many other Miscellaneous Reports