



# BLUE RIDGE

THE SERVICE MAGAZINE

FALL 2010

Volume 91 • Number 367 • Issue 3



MAX R. SCHMIDT

## 91st Annual 80th Division Veterans Association Reunion Recap

By Cecelia Smith  
and Andy Adkins

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA and the Sheraton National Hotel were home for five days to the 80th Division Veterans Association. Some families came as tourists prior to the 91st Annual Reunion, which was held from August 11th to 15th. Several members arrived earlier to complete preparations for all of the events, and others remained

after the conclusion of the reunion, for business or pleasure. Reunion Chairman, PNC Max Schmidt, had arranged a full schedule of activities, meetings, great meals and comradeship for the Veterans and their families. There were 37 WW II Veterans in attendance, but overall, more than 200 people were present for various functions. It was good to see second and third generations of some families accompany their fathers and grandfathers this year.

In addition to the families, members of the 80th Training Command were also attending their Commanders' Conference at the hotel, so interface between current 80th Division military personnel and the Veterans was accomplished from Thursday through Saturday night.

Karen Nutini, daughter of a WW II Veteran who was unable to attend the Reunion, was present for nearly all functions, and took photos of individuals and groups throughout the four days. Karen has uploaded photos to a Flickr website. A real debt of gratitude is owed to Karen for her expertise and willingness to share memories of the activities in Arlington. SFC Anne Lewis from the 80th Training Command was also busy photographing the many events during the Reunion, also available on Flickr (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/80thtrainingcommand>). Both Flickr websites of 2010 reunion photos can be accessed via the 80th Division website: [www.80thdivison.com](http://www.80thdivison.com).

The Executive Council of the Association met in session on Wednesday afternoon, as did the Executive Board of the National Ladies Auxiliary. Routine business matters to come before those governing bodies were discussed and the meetings were followed by the evening's Commander's Reception where more than 100 people enjoyed a buffet dinner. Congressman Tim Murphy (PA -18th District) sent his representative Kaitlyn Kelley to present commendations on his behalf. The first was in recognition for the service of all 80th Division Veterans and was accepted by Association Commander CSM (R) Donald Stewart. A second award was presented to PNC Clarence Brockman, a constituent in Congressman Murphy's district. Brock's daughter Barbara had accompanied her father to Germany during the 65th Anniversary celebration for the Liberation of Buchenwald and has seen to it that her father and other 80th Veterans are recognized whenever possible. An opportunity for their district representative to further honor these men was encouraged by Barbara.

PHOTO BY KAREN NUTINI

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



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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3 Year

## Editor's Notes

By Andy Adkins

AFTER ATTENDING THE 91st Annual Meeting of the 80th Division Veterans Association, all I can say is WOW! I truly enjoyed seeing everyone there and the camaraderie between the WWII veterans, their families and the active and retired members of the 80th Division Training Command was totally awesome.

I enjoyed the trip to the WWII memorial – I hadn't been there before and I learned of the many stories behind the scenes of the memorial. While we were there, I also walked over to the Vietnam Memorial – a place I'd been to before. Vietnam was "my generation's war," so to speak and while my service in the Navy was at the end of the war, I had several friends who fought in Vietnam. When I visit these memorials, I always come away with a feeling of inspiration and hope. These men fought and died for our freedoms and as MG John McLaren often says, "Freedom isn't free."

This month's Blue Ridge magazine turned out larger than we've typically seen, but I wanted to make sure I was able to cover the events over the past few months. Becky & I happened to be on the Moselle River – Luxembourg tour this past June with Judy Bezjak and I am truly grateful for Judy writing this tour up. I think each of us that attended the tour came away with a different story. I can't say enough about our new friend, Jean Muller, a Luxembourgier who has taken several people, including me, to the places where their dad's and uncles fought. Truly an emotional trip.

We wanted to include some additional photos from the Reunion, so don't miss out on those. Thanks to Ms. Karen Nutini and SFC Anne Lewis for taking photos. If you'd like to see more photos of the reunion, there is a link from our website: [www.80thdivision.com](http://www.80thdivision.com) on the front page.

## MOVING? *Don't make us guess your new address!*

Complete this form and mail to:  
**Andrew Z. Adkins III**  
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## A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

The 91st Annual Reunion held in Arlington, VA is now history. I am privileged and honored to serve as National Commander of the 80th Division Veterans Association for the second time.

Many thanks to all who had given of their time and dedicated effort in traveling from distant places to attend the Reunion. It was wonderful to have the privilege of sharing our friendship and comradeship with each other after many years. We are fortunate to have a growing membership with the new groups to a progressive outcome for the future. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all that had offered their service in conducting this Reunion. Their expertise and cooperation made it possible to accomplish our goals.

I pledge myself to fulfill the responsibility and continuous recognition of our slogan "The 80th Only Moves Forward" as we have achieved in service to our Country.

**Max R. Schmidt, National Commander**

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## Moselle River 2010 / U.S. Veterans Friends of Luxembourg Tours

**By Judy Bezjak**

THIS PAST JUNE I TRAVELED to the Moselle region of France to attend the Moselle River 2010 tour sponsored by a group based in Thionville, France. For the second time in two years I also attended Friendship Week in Luxembourg which is hosted by the U.S. Veterans Friends of Luxembourg. Although this year marked 65 years since the end of WWII in Europe, I had another very special reason for my return to Luxembourg.

The first week of the tour in France included ceremonies to commemorate the battles in the Moselle area of eastern France including the crossing of the Moselle River. In attendance were a contingent of veterans and their families representing the 80th and 90th Infantry Divisions as well veterans from various other units.

As our group boarded the cruise boat *Lion Rouge* and cruised down the Moselle River from Remich, Luxembourg and back to Thionville, France, the banks of the river and the bridges were lined with French citizens, including children, who, in honor of the veterans on board, were waving and displaying American flags.

A 90-year-old veteran on board who was awarded the DSC for his actions on November 5, 1944 with the 90th Division at Berg du Moselle, recognized the church high up on the bluff above the river bank. He recalled losing six of his men in the action there. As he sat across the dining table and spoke, a tear slowly made its way down his cheek.

At ceremonies in Terrville, France, little school children greeted each WWII veteran with a rose and together they approached a war monument at which they laid the rose. Then the child led the veteran back to his seat. In Metzervisse after attending Sunday mass at the church of St. Maximillian Kolbe where children made their First Communion, a ceremony followed outside where children sang an original song in English while holding up hand-lettered banners which stated "you came" and "we will never forget." There were many other ceremonies and receptions during our time in France. At Yutz, France, "Camp Col. Albert Cardamon" was recreated complete with WWII vehicles and re-enactors.

Many participants in the tour then chose to go on to Luxembourg to attend the "Friendship Week" activities organized by the U.S. Veterans Friends of Luxembourg. As a preface to my description of the remainder of the tour, part of my reason for attending these commemorations with the returning WWII veterans is due to the fact that during WWII my mother's family was devastated by the loss of two of her three brothers who were killed in action in Luxembourg and Austria.

When my mother's 25-year-old brother, Tony Ruzich, arrived in Europe in November 1944, he became a member of the 317th Infantry Regiment of the 80th Division. A month later, right before Christmas, newspaper headlines told of a large-scale attack by German forces through Belgium and Luxembourg. My uncle and those who fought and died with him were ill prepared for the surprise, concentrated attack by the units of the German army which poured through the thinly-held American lines in Belgium and Luxembourg on December 16, 1944. This large-scale winter attack in deep snow, extreme cold and fog came to be known as "The Battle of the Bulge." The American soldiers did not have winter-issue clothing or footwear but had to fight in the coldest winter in 50 years with temperatures reaching 20 degrees below zero on ground that was as hard as concrete and covered in snow that was 15 inches in depth.

It was during this time that my mother's family received a telegram in early 1945 stating that Tony was missing in action. They were in anguish each day awaiting further news from the War Department when in the middle of January 1945, another telegram arrived confirming that Tony had been killed in action on Christmas Day 1944.

Meanwhile, at the end of 1944, Rudy, my mother's 19-year-old brother who had just graduated from high school a few months earlier, was on a troop transport on his way to Europe. Rudy had been denied a deferment which was requested by the family because two sons were already in military service and Rudy was needed on the family farm. After arriving in France, Rudy wrote the family asking for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

# Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association Post #50 News

By LTC Grant Porter

THE BLUE RIDGE Army Reserve Association (Blue Ridge Association) enjoyed its first official function since transforming into a Post within the 80th Division Veterans Association this August as it joined forces in Arlington for the Veteran's 91st Reunion. Combining with the 80th Division Veterans and having a function alongside the 80th Training Command brought all the organizations together like never before and was truly a milestone event. Many thanks go out to Don Stewart, Max Schmidt, COL (R) Paul Hoppes, and MG John McLaren for their support over the past year to bring this to fruition. We look forward to developing our relationships further within the Veterans Association and supporting the same causes for many more years to come.

During the reunion, the Blue Ridge Association held its 9th annual meeting and I would like to share some of those highlights as well as provide a brief history of the 80th Division since World War II so our readers may become better acquainted with the Soldiers and the missions of the 80th as it transformed over the years.

First a bit about the Blue Ridge Association and the results of our last annual meeting. The Blue Ridge Association consists of 80+ members to include a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 16 members who serve on the Board of Directors. The Association was formed on 5 January 2002 by former Commanding General, MG Retired (R) James Browder who served as the Association's first President. MG (R) Browder was succeeded by CW4 (R) James McGuire from 2004-06 and Colonel (R) Paul Hoppes, 2007-09.

During the August meeting several new officers and board members were elected to include myself as President, CSM Doris Wollett as Vice President, MSG (R) Pete Herbert as Secretary and nine new Board Members to include the outgoing President, Vice President, and Secretary, COL (R) Paul Hoppes, COL (R) Rick Littleton and LTC (R) Keith Brisson respectively, as well as the current Commanding General, MG John McLaren and two past Commanders, MG (R) Douglas Dollar and MG (R) John Henderson, among others. Another name everyone may recognize is Dr. Lee Anthony, who was also elected to our Board of Directors.

Through our membership funding we pay dues on behalf of our members to the 80th Division Veterans Association and raise funds to support many causes. Recently, the association has funded the construction of a new monument, similar to the ones at Fort Benning and Carlisle Barracks, made a \$1,500 contribution to the new USO at the Richmond International Airport, and provided cash awards that go to five recipients annually in the 80th Training Command for being the best in their field, (i.e. Soldier of the Year, Civilian of the year, etc.).

The Blue Ridge Association will continue its purpose of promoting awareness and support for the 80th and pro-

mote relationships between past, present and future 80th Soldiers and their families. For additional information please follow us on our website: [www.80thblueridge.us](http://www.80thblueridge.us). We also have a Facebook site: [www.facebook.com/BlueRidgeAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/BlueRidgeAssociation) and have many photos that have been posted on Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/BlueRidgeAssociation](http://www.flickr.com/photos/BlueRidgeAssociation). All are welcome to join us.

## A History of the 80th Division since World War II

Secretary Andy Adkins pointed out to me that "most of our membership comprises WWII veterans and family members. We have a dozen or so members whose connections are WWI and several more Post-WWII veterans, family members, and active duty Soldiers." During this past reunion, he noticed that "many of you have expressed a keen interest in the 'new members,' knowing that this new generation of 80th Division Soldiers will carry the association for many years." So we thought it might be a good idea to let you know what the 80th Division has been doing since WWII. The following is based on an excerpt from the book that many of you received at the reunion.

## Post WWII (1946-1990)

After World War II, the 80th Division returned to the States to its current home in Richmond, VA and was placed on inactive status on 5 January 1946. The division was reactivated as the 80th Airborne Division (Reserve) on 23 December 1946 and became one of 24 organized Reserve Corps Divisions. Since that time it has reorganized four additional times.

In 1952, it was reorganized as the 80th Infantry Division. It was again reorganized in March 1959 as the 80th Division (Training). The Division's primary focus at that time was centered on providing Initial Entry Training (IET) to trainees at Fort Bragg, NC and Fort Jackson, SC. Initial Entry Training was the primary mission of the 80th through 2001 and included committee groups that provided specific combat instruction in support of ROTC Basic and Advanced camp missions as well as Basic Combat Training support to the Active component.

In 1988, and again in 1990, the Division trained on its then-wartime mobilization mission by conducting 10-week long exercises that were referred to as "Old Dominion Forward" at Fort Bragg. With its Drill Sergeants rotating on 17-day cycles, the 80th set up a Mobilization Army Training Center and trained nearly 700 new Soldiers.

## Operation Desert Shield/Storm (1990-1991)

During Desert Shield/Desert Storm, two 80th Division units were called to active duty in support of the war in Southwest Asia. The 424th Transportation Company of Galax, VA was activated on 17 November 1990. After training and equipping at Fort Eustis, VA, the 424th deployed to Saudi Arabia on 5 January 1991.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

MY NAME IS DEMPSEY PRAPPAS and I was a member of the 317th Anti-Tank Company until I was wounded on September 13, 1944. I joined the 80th Infantry Division at Camp Phillips, Kansas in November 1943. I am writing a book about my personal WWII experiences and need some information on the following items. I would appreciate anyone who can help please contact me directly at the address below:

- Did you know 1st Lt Lee Bequwith or Capt William L. Koob?
- Did you ever see the 317th AT Company in action including destroying a German Tiger Tank?
- Do you know who the medic was for the 317th AT Company?
- Do you know if any member of the 317th AT Company was killed during WWII?
- Did you know Pvt Melvin M. Beckwith who was killed on August 14, 1944?
- Did you know 2d Lt Lou Perkins who was killed on September 14, 1944?
- Did you know any of the members of the other anti-tank companies of the 80th Infantry Division?
- Do you know if any of the officers of the 317th AT Company ever joined the 80th Division Veterans Association?
- Do you know if any member of the 80th Division was killed by "Friendly Fire?"

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## A NOTE OF THANKS!

Compared to my last article in the Summer 2010 Blue Ridge, this Note of Thanks will be short and to the point!

Since my article came out about the trip to Weimar and Buchenwald that Dad and I took in April, I have received many cards, notes, letters, emails and phone calls along with several remarks about how great a piece it was. Many said the same thing: "it was like I was there with you." Well, I wish you all could have been there with us. It certainly was a trip that will stay in my heart for a very long time.

So thanks to all of you for your wonderful comments and I am so glad I was able to take you along, even if it was only through my words.

Barbara B. Brockman



FROM SEBASTIAAN VONK, our new Dutch friend who takes care of 80th Division Veterans' graves in Europe and was our featured speaker at the Friday night dinner:

"If any veteran or family member wants to receive a photo of the grave of an 80th Division soldier who has been buried in the American War-Cemetery Ardennes, the Henri-Chapelle Cemetery, or the Netherlands, I would be happy to take the photo and send it. It would be an honor for me to send."

Contact Sebastiaan Vonk directly via email:

Sebastiaan\_vonk\_8989@hotmail.com



I RECEIVED A NOTE from Ray Dumrauf's daughter, Marlene Dickson. She said her dad was a patient at the VA Aspinwall in Pittsburgh. He recently turned 90 in July this year and said he missed attending this year's reunion in Arlington. He wanted to say "Hello." If you'd like to drop Ray a line, his address is: Ray Dumrauf, 2509 Mount Troy Rd, Pittsburgh PA 15212.



MY NAME IS KLAUS-PETER SCHAMBACH and I live in Crawinkel, Germany - 5 minutes away from Ohrdruf. A prisoner concentration camp was located in Crawinkel during WWII.

I would like to write a book about the prison camps and construction projects where the prisoners worked. I was with American veterans and employees from Buchenwald in the area of the former Northcamp Ohrdruf during the recent Celebration of Liberation, 13 April 2010.

I am asking if any veterans remember the place where the Ohrdruf prisoners worked. This valley is called Jonastal and is on the edge of the troop training area. Pictures can be found on the Internet foto archive from the Buchenwald memorial, <http://www.buchenwald.de/fotoarchive/buchenwald/> (search for Jonastal).

- Do any of the 80th Division veterans have any pictures of those tunnels or does anyone remember the tunnels?
- Is it possible that British Special Forces arrived in Ohrdruf at the same time as the first American units?
- Was it normal that such British units were operating in the area of the American front units?
- Supposedly, a unit with the designation 30AU may have reached Ohrdruf first.

If so, please contact me directly via email: tkps10@aol.de



CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

## National Ladies Auxiliary

The National Ladies Auxiliary of the 80th Division Veterans Association met during the recent 91st Annual Reunion of the Association and new officers were elected for 2010-2011. With this election, a renewed sense of urgency to continue the Auxiliary's activities was established. Efforts to recruit new members, particularly second and third generation wives, daughters and granddaughters, will be ongoing.

In 2009, the Veterans changed their By-Laws to allow any Soldier who ever wore the patch of the Blue Ridge to become a full member. At the same time, family members were also encouraged to join the Association. The Ladies likewise have an open membership and the female family members will be contacted to become affiliated with the Auxiliary. Of particular importance, the wives of current 80th Division Soldiers will be invited to join the Auxiliary.

The projects to assist VA Hospitals have declined in recent years. However, there is a need to support the men's Association, and to offer assistance to the families of Soldiers deployed in the Global War on Terror. 80th Division Soldiers are currently deployed in many areas around the World.

Elected President and Vice President respectively are Judy Luthman and Phyllis Hanna, daughters of PNC Elmer Dorsten, Company A, 318th. Both Judy and Phyllis bring a special enthusiasm to the organization after having assisted Elmer with the 2007 reunion in Dayton. They have been attending reunions for several years and this year brought along third generation members of their families. Naomi Brockman will continue in the office of Treasurer, Margaret Schock remains as Chaplain and Kay Barone will continue to carry out the duties of Sergeant-at-Arms. Judy appointed Cecelia Smith as Secretary. This team has plans to augment Auxiliary membership and, just as the 80th Division has done for nine decades, "Only move forward!"

## 313th Field Artillery Battalion

Hi everyone. I am starting to write this the end of May and hope that when I get finished, I have had a trip to the reunion under my belt and have seen a few of you there.

I have been busy getting rid of a few things in my home that are no longer needed and give most of it to the local veterans' organization for the ones who have come home from the war in need. If you have anything that is in good use and you no longer need you should really consider doing that. They do need so much, and many of them cannot afford to buy these things themselves.

Spoke to Paul Burgio and he is doing better, walking with a walker and has put his name in for senior housing nearby where he lives and hopes to move there soon. I wish him all the luck in the world. And it was so good talking with him.

Called Manuel Gonzales and he told me they were both doctoring and have not been feeling too well. He mentioned he and Elda had doctor's appointments the week I called. I wished them well.

Spoke to Jim Phillips and he and Ruth are doing fine. He is still active with the Post where he lives and he has been putting flowers on the veterans' graves for the Post he belongs to. I think that is great.

Talked with Lou Shirey and he will be at the reunion. His nephew and wife are driving him there and it will be great seeing him.

Was able to get in touch with Max Wheelright and he has had quite a bit of trouble with his health. He had not been feeling well and was in the hospital and all told he had 19 pints of blood transfusions as a result. He had not known that he had a bleeding ulcer which caused all the problems. He sounded good when I spoke to him and is doing much better. He also gave me his new address: 533 12th Street, Apt 115, Perry IA 50220 in case anyone would like to get in touch with him.

Had called Sophie Ellenberger and left a message; she was nice to return my call. She is doing well and sounded great. She keeps herself busy, and has friends she meets with and is enjoying herself. She has ailments like most of us, but she keeps going. Good for you Sophie.

This morning I received some replies from my messages yesterday, May 23, and Ed Hargraves called. Ed is doing well. It was so nice hearing from him.

Felix Cistola also called and it was so nice talking to him. He is doing well even though he has some problems. I guess as long as we can be in touch and check on each other, that isn't too bad for our age.

I am so glad that I left messages a few days ago when I decided to call everyone on our listing. Thanks to all of you that returned my calls. John Ingles was one of them. He said that they had some problems during the winter, but both are o.k. now. It was great talking with him and I am happy I was able to get in touch with him.

I don't think I mentioned to anyone that I have put my home up for sale. It will be difficult for me, but I think it is the best thing to do at this time of my life. Ed and I purchased this home in 1971 and he had done quite a few repairs. I know I will miss it, knowing all the work he put into it. But it is difficult trying to live in this area, which is very high priced with high taxes. So we shall see what turns out. Wish me luck!

There really is not much more to write about, I will be attending the reunion in August and will add on after I get there with any other news.

Those attending the reunion in Arlington: Patty & Jock Fleming and Hilda Latusch, Lou Shirey, Felix Cistola, Jerry & Sue Tristan, Audrey Blocker and her daughter Claudia, Anne Hatcher, Alice Noxon and daughter Pat Bultye, Dom Abbruzzese with his son Joseph and wife Donna and two granddaughters Story and Gina. Everyone who attended enjoyed themselves very much. Great Reunion!

Frances E. Poletti

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

On Thursday morning, the Veterans held their first business meeting. The minutes of the 2009 meeting were read and approved, as were the financial report and report of the Historian. Among the items for discussion were the pending move of the 80th Division Monument at Fort Benning. Originally dedicated in 2006, it was known at that time that the monument would eventually be relocated to a site near the new museum. The monument was also updated and engraved to include the service of the 80th Division Soldiers who served in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan in the Global War on Terror. It is anticipated that the monument will be in its new location within a few months.

It was recommended that another attempt be made to obtain Purple Heart medals for twenty-one Veterans who never received them and who are buried in foreign ABMC Cemeteries. Such an attempt was made in 2003, but was not successful and no further action had been taken.

There was also discussion regarding a proposed monument to 80th Division Soldiers who served in WW II. A group in Luxembourg would like to erect a tribute to all 80th men, and a list compiled by Ashley Cordi will be utilized for that purpose. Ashley's uncle was KIA, and as a tribute to him, she has diligently searched the names of all 80th Soldiers who served, were wounded, imprisoned or killed during the war. During the 2010 Luxembourg events, several of the attendees met with Luxembourg personnel to discuss the possibility of this new monument and correspondence continues in that regard. The group from Luxembourg will be totally responsible for the funding, design and erection of the monument, and only asked for names of 80th Soldiers who helped liberate their Country.

After lunch on Thursday, three buses were loaded for the short trip to the WW II Memorial, where all visitors spent time observing that specific tribute to the service of all of the Soldiers of the various locales of the 1940's conflicts. From there, they traveled to the Holocaust Museum for an abbreviated tour of that facility. Most of the participants lamented the lack of time to view all of the displays and some returned on their own on Friday or Saturday. The weather in the DC area was extremely hot, but showers held off while the outside tours were conducted.

On Thursday evening, Reunion Chairman Max Schmidt hosted the annual Dug Out Party where attendees enjoyed another delicious buffet dinner. Following dinner, the audience was entertained by the Barber Shop Cliché, a fine quartet from the Arlington area whose musical selections were warmly received. Winners of the prize drawings of \$250 each were: Hilda Latusek and Judy Shoemaker.

On Friday morning, the second business meeting was held and election of officers for 2010-2011 was accomplished. MG John P. McLaren, currently commanding the 80th Training Command, was elected to the office of Third Vice Commander, and the following were elected to other vacant offices: Virgil Myers, Laverne Schock, Jeff Wignall were elected as 3-Year Executive Council members; PNC Walt Spangler was elected as 3-Year Trustee.

PNC Max Schmidt assumed command of the Association from outgoing Commander, CSM (R) Donald Stewart. Moving into the Senior Vice Commander's office is Lee S. Anthony, Ph.D., son of a WW I Veteran, and former Commander of the Descendants organization. Advancing to Second Vice Commander is LTC Grant Porter, Inspector General with the 80th Training Command.

National Secretary Andy Adkins was elected Honorary National Commander in recognition of his numerous contributions to the Association over the past several years.

During this same time frame, the National Ladies Auxiliary held their annual Memorial Service for deceased members, and elected officers for the coming two-year period. Judy Luthman and Phyllis Hanna, daughters of PNC Elmer Dorsten, were elected President and Vice President, respectively. Naomi Brockman continues as Treasurer, Margaret Schock agreed to continue as Chaplain and Kay Barone remains Sergeant-at-Arms. Judy appointed Cecelia Smith as Secretary.

Friday evening's agenda included the first annual Family Friday Night. In past years, Friday night was typically a free period during the Reunion; Past National Commanders and Past National Presidents held their private dinner meetings while other attendees were on their own. For several years, Descendants hosted a Friday buffet, and this year, it became Family Night. A seafood buffet was served, followed by a presentation by our guest Sebastiaan Vonk, a teenager from The Netherlands. Sebastiaan has tended graves of American Soldiers in his homeland for several years, including several 80th Division men. A year ago, he was honored in ceremonies at Ft. Knox, and when it was learned he would return to the USA for vacation this year, he was invited to participate in the Reunion activities. He presented a remarkable PowerPoint display and delivered a very inspiring and knowledgeable message about the men whose graves he honors. Also attending the event were Mr. and Mrs. Michael Shea. Mr. Shea's uncle, Lawrence Shea, is buried in Margraten Cemetery in The Netherlands, and his is one of the graves tended by Sebastiaan. Sebastiaan's PowerPoint presentation is available on the 80th Division website: [www.80thdivision.com](http://www.80thdivision.com).

Several of the Past National Auxiliary Presidents were also in attendance, while Past National Commanders met in a private dining room to conduct their annual social meeting and camaraderie.

On Saturday morning, another poignant and memorable Memorial Service was planned and conducted by PNC and Chaplain Angelo Barone with assistance from his wife, Kay. The service was dedicated to the memory of PNC Robert Parks, who passed away on June 12, 2010. PNCs and PNPs, and current officers of the Association, proceeded to their seats to the accompaniment of recorded musical selections. Seated on the dais were PNC Max Schmidt, Rev. Father John Cregan, Pastor of Blessed Sacrament RC Church in Arlington, Chaplain Barone, Commander Stewart, and readers, PNC Bob Burrows, HNC Virgil Myers and Historian Bruce Smith. Members of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## REUNION RECAP... continued from page 7

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the 80th Training Command Color Guard were on hand to post and retire the Colors. Vocal soloist was Linda Wells of Arlington and Bugler was student and music major, Alex Lytle. Father Cregan pronounced the Invocation, Benediction and gave a very inspirational "Memorial Enlightenment."

During the roll call of the units, some 80 names were read, and an additional mention was made after it was learned that Howard Shoemaker, Company I-317th had passed away only days earlier; Howard and his family had made reservations to attend the Reunion prior to a fall and his hospitalization. The Memorial Wreath was carried to the front by Sergeant-at-Arms Burt Marsh, ushered by PNC Felix Cistolo and Trustee Laverne Schock, and then placed at the podium by outgoing Commander Stewart and PNP Kay Rajnicek, outgoing President of the Ladies Auxiliary. Following the retiring of the Colors, a recessional of the officers took place.

The 80th Training Command furnished copies of their recently published history and made them available to the Veterans and families following the Memorial Service.

Following the Memorial Service, the Ladies Auxiliary held their annual Luncheon and installation of Officers for the coming year. Guests were outgoing Commander Don Stewart and his wife, Cheryl. PNC Angelo Barone conducted the installation ceremony for the Ladies who will serve the 2010 - 2011 term.

On Saturday evening, the Reunion attendees were treated to a panoramic view of the Washington, DC area as they dined on the 16th floor of the hotel during the Annual Dinner Banquet. A plated dinner was served to more than 200 people. PNC Abe Barone acted as Master of Ceremonies and recognized those at the head table: Incoming Commander PNC Max Schmidt and his wife, PNP Alice Schmidt; incoming Ladies Auxiliary President Judy Luthman and her husband, John; outgoing Commander Don Stewart and his wife, Cheryl; Mrs. Kay Barone; outgoing Ladies Auxiliary President PNP Kay Rajnicek and her husband, PNC Francis Rajnicek; keynote speaker MG John McLaren, Commander of 80th Training Command, and his wife Mrs. Diane McLaren.

The Training Command personnel ran a PowerPoint display of photos taken in Luxembourg throughout the dinner, and the screens were utilized for MG McLaren's keynote

address when he discussed the mission going forward for the Training Command and US Troops. MG McLaren noted that there is a long fight ahead to assure a peaceful conclusion to the World problems and among his slide presentations, indicated the spread of the enemy forces around the globe. MG McLaren's PowerPoint presentation is available on the 80th Division website: [www.80thdivision.com](http://www.80thdivision.com).

Of special interest, and as a surprise tribute to WW II Veterans, the Color Guard was attired in WW II uniforms as they performed their duties of posting and retiring the Colors. Many of the attendees wanted photos taken with the Color Guard: SSG George Newnam G-7, SSG Grant Dodge PMO, SGT Mike Early PMO, SGT Brian Roberts SJA, SGT Lydia Mattingly G-6, and MSG John Eskandary, in charge.

During the program, outgoing Commander Don Stewart presented the overseas cap to incoming Commander PNC Max Schmidt. He also presented a similar cap to HNC Virgil Myers, who was elected to that honorary post last year. The Past National Commander's Pin and a plaque were then presented to Don Stewart. Also recognized was Mrs. Ivy O'Neil, widow of 2008-2009 Commander Eugene O'Neil, who passed away just weeks prior to last year's reunion. Mrs. O'Neil received Gene's PNC pin and plaque noting his service to the Association. She responded by thanking the Association for the recognition and lamenting the fact that Gene was not present to receive the tribute himself.

PNC Elmer Dorsten then presented a jewelry box with the 80th emblem to visitor Sebastiaan Vonk. The box had been designed by Elmer's granddaughter and made by his daughter. When Sebastiaan was honored in 2009 at Fort Knox, PNC Dorsten and PNC Russell Sick had traveled to Kentucky to take part in those ceremonies, and presenting the jewelry box was a personal memento from PNC Dorsten and his family to Sebastiaan.

The final drawing for cash prizes of \$250 each took place, with the winners being Edmond Herbert and Captain Henry E. Marx, USMM.

Further acknowledgements were made to the committee who assisted PNC Schmidt with this year's reunion, and following retiring of the Colors and Benediction, attendees remained in the ballroom to socialize for some time before they bid Comrades farewell. Most of the attendees departed for their homes on Sunday, having enjoyed one more Reunion with friends and comrades. Next year's reunion will be held in Richmond, VA in mid-August. More details will follow in the next issue of the Blue Ridge. ■

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## POST NEWS, continued from page 6

### Florida Post #47

Well, summer is just about over and I for one am looking forward to fall and cooler weather. I know regardless where you live this summer has been a very warm one.

It is now time to make your plans to attend our fall meeting which again will be held at the Hampton Inn, 3434 College Road, Ocala FL 34474, (352) 854-3200. Our room rate is

\$79 per night plus tax, single or double. This special rate is available three days prior and after the dates. When making your reservations be sure to mention you are with Post 47. Our dates are October 28 thru October 30, 2010. The hotel must have your reservation by October 15, 2010.

The 80th Division reunion is now a thing of the past. Everyone there I am sure had a great time. We want to congratulate our new Commander Max Schmidt for a job well done.

Kay Rajnicek, Secretary ■



Tony's mailing address, but the family did not want him to know of his brother's death. Rudy eventually learned that his beloved brother, who had bought him a car so he could attend high school, had been killed in action. Then in one of the last battles of WWII on May 2, 1945, at Fern Pass, Austria, Rudy's unit, the 71st Infantry Regiment of the 44th Division, was pitted against fanatical SS men in the "Last Redoubt" high up in a snow-covered mountain pass. During the all-night battle, Rudy's best buddy was taken prisoner. That act caused Rudy to snap. He was killed storming a German garrison trying to rescue his best friend.

The telegram informing the family of Rudy's death did not arrive until three days after the end of the war in Europe had been declared. In anticipation of what they thought would be Rudy's imminent return home, my mother and grandmother were busy spring cleaning the house. With the delivery of the telegram, my grandfather's worst fear had been realized. As a result of the shocking, tragic news, my grandfather died the same day the telegram was delivered, May 11, 1945.

My grandmother and mother were left with two hundred acres of wheat in the fields on their farm in southern Illinois, a large apple and peach orchard, and livestock to care for including a herd of dairy cows that had to be milked and the milk delivered to a dairy. This situation prompted my mother to write to President Harry S. Truman to request the release from military service of her brother, Louis, who was serving with OSS Detachment 101 in the jungles of Burma. At that time, Louis had not been heard from for many months. The army then began the search for Cpl. Louis Ruzich at President Truman's request. This situation mirrored the story of the Niland brothers of Tonawanda, NY on which the movie, Saving Private Ryan, is based.

The grief, sadness, and sense of loss experienced by my grandmother and mother, along with my hearing stories of my father's experiences during his WWII service, including his participation in the liberation of the Nordhausen slave labor camp, exerted an influence on me during my childhood. My mother who is now 92 has mourned for her brothers for 65 years and the mere mention of their names can still evoke tears. Those emotions from the end of WWII remain just beneath the surface like a raw nerve.

Now, 65 years later, the story progresses with some amazing developments: Shortly before Easter this year I was contacted by Terry Janes, the historian and the webmaster of the Troubleshooter's website, [www.thetroubleshooters.com](http://www.thetroubleshooters.com). Terry requested that I contact Jean Muller, an archaeologist and the national historian of Luxembourg, who is searching the battlefields including Shirdschen Hill near Kehmen, Luxembourg where my uncle, Pvt. Tony Ruzich, Jr., was killed. Because of the terrible toll in human lives taken on that hill, it is known by the veterans of the 80th Infantry Division as "Bloody Knob."

When I called Jean Muller on Good Friday this year, he asked that I email him my uncle's army serial number. Jean stated that he had recovered many WWII artifacts which he has inventoried with either whole or partial army serial

numbers. A few days later, on Easter, my mother and I received an e-mail stating that the handle from Tony's canteen cup had been recovered and identified by his army serial number. In addition, other items were found in the same location including a belt buckle, a remnant of the chain from his dog tags, a button from his uniform, a clip of ammunition and spent cartridges from his M-1 Garand. Because his rifle had a flattened firing pin, it left a distinctive mark on each cartridge discharged so even 65 years later, my uncle's path could be tracked for more than 400 yards from a stream he had crossed to the place of his death. We were in utter shock to learn that after 65 years all of these revelations have come to light and we now know the exact location and the way in which Tony died.

About a week after receiving the startling news on Easter, further probing of the same location by Jean Muller produced a small coin from the Austro-Hungarian Empire dated 1858. Because this coin is not native to Luxembourg, I was contacted again and asked whether my uncle could have had this coin in his possession. I responded by stating that my grandparents had emigrated to the United States from Croatia in 1908 at which time, before WWI, Croatia was a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. We have concluded that my grandfather must have given that coin to his son before he left to go overseas into battle — perhaps as a good-luck token. Digging a little deeper in the same location produced 2,000-year-old Roman coins, some of which bear the image of the Emperor Nero. The hill where my uncle died is on an old Roman road and army outpost.

In checking the morning reports of the 317th Infantry Regiment, Terry Janes found that two other men also died on Christmas Day 1944. They were Cpl. William E. Dodd of Indiana and PFC Ernest Kearns of California. This new information prompted Jean Muller to closely examine the area near where he recovered my uncle's artifacts. He found buried in the earth, a leather glove with the initials "W.E.D." still visible and, some distance away, an army-issued black comb with broken teeth bearing the name E. Kearns.

Then, near where the glove was found, Cpl. Dodd's rifle was recovered with a jammed shell clearly visible. The tip of his bayonet was broken off from his trying to dislodge the jammed shell. There was evidence that he then picked up a rifle which had belonged to a German soldier. Jean also found evidence that the three men had successfully attacked a German machine gun nest when a German mortar blast took their lives. The foot-deep hole from the mortar is still visible. The army induction records available in the National Archives for both Cpl. Dodd and PFC Kearns show that they were in their early 20's and married. But even with our best efforts, we were unsuccessful in locating the next-of-kin of these soldiers.

We attempted to locate next-of-kin of the two soldiers because on June 22, after our tour in France had ended and our group traveled to Luxembourg, we held a ceremony in the woods on Shirdschen Hill, or "Bloody Knob," near Kehmen to dedicate a plaque in memory of Cpl. Dodd, PFC Kearns and my Uncle Tony who died there on Christ-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Photos from the 2010 - 80th Division Veterans Association Reunion  
 August 11 - 15, 2010 • Arlington, Virginia



CSM (R) Donald Stewart



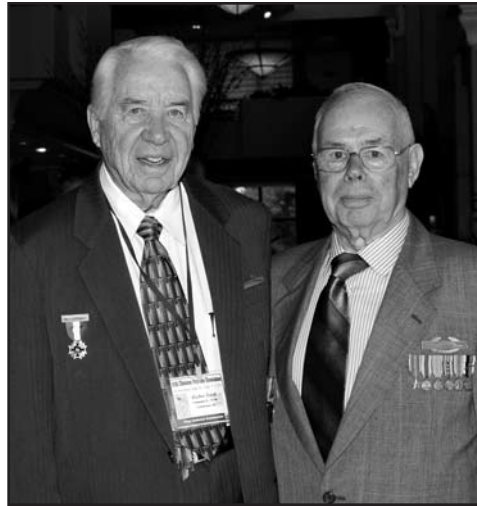
MG John P. McLaren



Laverne Schock, PNC Burt Marsh, PNC Felix Cistolo



SSGT Newman, Virgil Myers



PNC Archer Futch, PNC Bob Burrows



Gene Hopkins



80th Training Command Color Guard



SSGT George Newman, SSGT Grant Dodge, PNC Clarence Brockman



George Anderson, Jan Elvin



PNC Russell Sick, Sebastiaan Vonk



Irwin Wojciechowski, Paul Fate



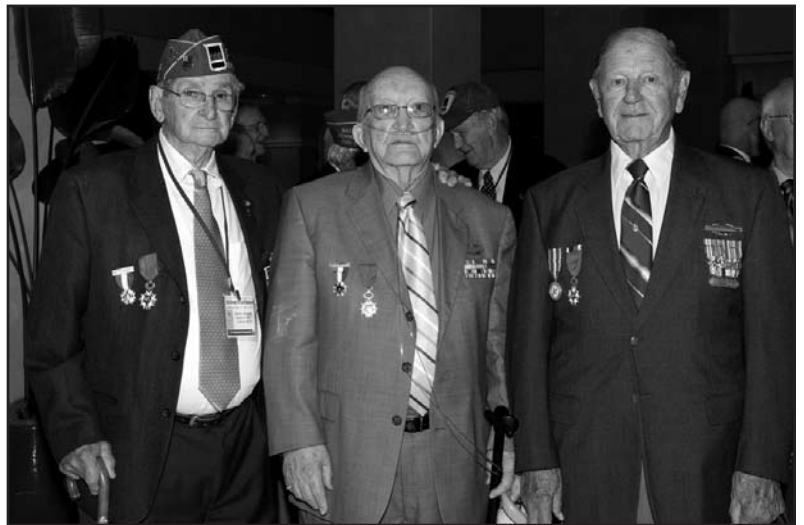
Alexander Russell, Vic Muller



PNP Kay Rajnicek, PNP Alice Schmidt, PNP Margaret Schock, Helen Pietsch



Virgil Myers, Lee Anthony



PNC Bob Murrell, PNC Felix Cistolo, Virgil Myers



PNC Frances Rajnicek, SFC Anne Lewis, PNC Clarence Brockman  
(Photo provided by SFC Anne Lewis)

All photos taken by Karen Nutini unless otherwise noted.

mas morning so many years ago. Jean Muller had crafted a memorial using recovered battlefield artifacts to form the base for the plaque. Near the monument, the places where each of the three men fell in battle were marked with an American flag, a rose, and a helmet atop a recovered M-1 rifle which was staked in the ground.

Twenty or so WWII veterans and family members were in attendance at the ceremony including Dr. Tonyia Gibbons and her husband, Hugh. Tonyia's father was KIA on the other side of Shirdschen Hill on Christmas Eve 1944, as a member of Headquarters Company of the 317th. Also present was David White whose father, a member of Company L of the 317th, was wounded on Christmas Day 1944, near a building on the outskirts of Kehmen. David had arrived in Luxembourg a few days before our group and had joined Jean Muller in battlefield searches in the area. It was an honor to have Major General McLaren and Lt. Col. Bland of the 80th Training Command present at the ceremony.

After a short dedication ceremony which included a bugler playing patriotic selections followed by "Taps," I was asked to say a few words which were followed by those of General McLaren who wears the insignia of the 317th Regiment and who had served in Iraq. Some of the sentiments expressed at the ceremony were that "Freedom is not free." It was also stated that the sense of loss experienced by the families of the men who died on that hill is surely felt six and a half decades later and that the resulting emotions borne of sacrifice and loss are being experienced in the present day by the families of those now serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The following day, June 23, is a national holiday in Luxembourg. That is the day on which the official birthday of the Grand Duke is celebrated. On that day the returning veterans and their family members are invited to attend Te Deum in honor of the Grand Duke in the national cathedral of Luxembourg in Luxembourg City. Later that afternoon, our group traveled to Ettelbruck, Luxembourg and visited the General Patton Museum where Helen Patton-Plusczyk, the granddaughter of General George S. Patton, greeted us.

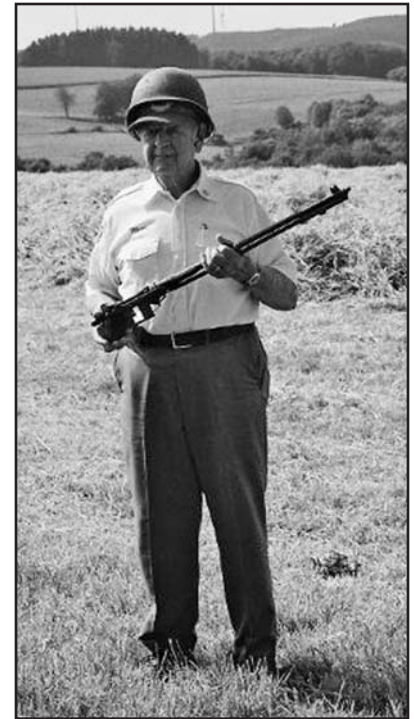
There was also a ceremony at the monument in Ettelbruck which was erected in memory of General Patton. As the ceremony ended, a lady who is a resident of Ettelbruck timidly approached me. She asked if I was related to a veteran of WWII. I explained that I had one uncle at the Lorraine Cemetery in St. Avold, France and another uncle at the Luxembourg Cemetery at Hamm. Tears filled her eyes as she told me how during WWII the citizens of Luxembourg had prayed that the Americans would come as they had in WWI. The lady beckoned her husband to come to the spot where we were standing and told him that my mother's family had lost two sons in WWII. A little later as I was sitting alone near the monument, the man came to sit next to me and asked the name of my uncle who is at rest in the Luxembourg Cemetery. As I took the pictures of my uncles from my purse and showed them to the man, he studied the name of my uncle Tony and said he would be sure to visit his grave at the Luxembourg Cemetery.

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### Virgil Myers with recovered M1 and helmet

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*photo courtesy of  
Judy Bezjak*



On June 24, 80th Division veteran Virgil Myers, his son, Gary, a few other tour participants, and I were taken by Jean Muller to the forested battlefields on the hills around Kehmen and Welscheid. I had a very uneasy feeling in one area of forest near Welscheid pock-marked by numerous fox holes. Intuitively I knew that this spot surely must have been "hell on earth" for the soldiers in those fox holes. Virgil Myers confirmed that heavy shelling with tree bursts occurred in that location.

Jean then led us in a metal-detecting expedition where several WWII artifacts were unearthed. Virgil, who was the recipient of the Silver Star during the war, was incredulous as he unearthed artifacts on the same ground where he had fought 65 years earlier. When alerted by his metal detector, Jean would instruct Virgil to dig at that spot with a WWII entrenching tool. Virgil unearthed multiple artifacts including the rusted metal skeletons of a Hungarian bolt-action rifle, a hand gun, and an M-1 Garand. Each time an artifact was unearthed, Virgil would exclaim in disbelief, "I'll be damned!" Virgil posed for a picture holding a recovered M-1 and wearing a helmet, both covered with rust. Virgil was "back on the line" after 65 years! Later when we returned to Jean's house for a lunch of lasagna prepared by his wife, Vero, Jean gave Virgil a large fragment of a mortar shell that was found within the German lines and was most likely sent there by Virgil 65 years ago.

That afternoon Jean Muller also took us to a location in Bourscheid where the entire expanse of the area of conflict during the "Bulge" is visible from a viewing platform. It is Jean's desire to erect a monument at this location in memory of all the 80th Division soldiers who perished during the Battle of the Bulge. Several towns surrounding Bourscheid have expressed an interest in helping to bring

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

For its service in the war, the 424th was awarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation. It was cited for operating "... under adverse conditions in a combat zone, logging over 850,000 accident-free road miles in the countries of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq." By the end of the war, elements of the 424th had advanced as far as the Euphrates River in support of coalition assault units. The 424th returned to home station by 3 July 1991.

Soldiers of the 3d Battalion, 318th Regiment, 4th Brigade at Fort Story, VA were activated 23 January 1991 and reported to Fort Eustis to train reservists recalled to active duty. Because of the short duration of the ground war in Iraq and Kuwait, additional Individual Ready Reserve troops were not called up and the 3d Battalion was released from active duty and returned to home station 17 March 1991.

### 1992-2007

The Division moved into a new training mode in 1992 with a Training Base Expansion mission at Fort Benning, GA. The following year this mission was replaced with what was known as Professional Roundout Train-

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### MOSELLE RIVER, continued from page 12

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to fruition Jean Muller's vision of honoring those 80th Division soldiers who gave "the last full measure of devotion."

Back on the first full day of our tour activities, June 16th, we had visited the Luxembourg Cemetery where my Uncle Tony and Cpl. Dodd are at rest with over five thousand other heroes including General George S. Patton. I was met there by Jean Muller who presented me with a small shadow box he had made containing my uncle's recovered battlefield artifacts including the tiny silver coin from the Austro-Hungarian Empire. When I returned home and reassembled the shadow box, my mother was tentative about looking too closely at those items. I suppose it was painful for her to look at them. The shadow box is now in a "memorial room" in our home next to pictures of my uncles and pictures of their graves at the Luxembourg and Lorraine cemeteries.

I cannot help but be struck by the 65-year sojourn of the small coin from the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It traveled from Illinois across the Atlantic Ocean by troop ship to Europe in late 1944; it remained buried in the earth through the changing seasons for 65 years. And now, after traveling back across the ocean by air 4,000 miles, it is again in the possession of our family in our home in Illinois. In addition, my uncle and Cpl. Dodd and PFC Kearns died on Christmas 1944, but their exact place and manner of death were revealed to us on Easter Sunday 2010. There seems to be a message somewhere in all of these revelations signified by the two religious holidays 65 years apart which leads me to believe that these recent amazing occurrences must be the work of a Higher Power... ■

ing (PROTRAIN) missions at Fort Jackson, SC where the 80th teamed up with the 108th Division to support Active Component Initial Entry Basic Combat Training (BCT). The PROTRAIN mission required not only drill sergeants but staff as well, as they supplemented a brigade with a full battalion staff and worked side-by-side with active component Drill Sergeants in training new Soldiers. In 1997, the PROTRAIN mission gave way to the Echo Company mission concept which lasted until 2001. The Echo Company mission integrated active and reserve component drill sergeants and company level personnel to form platoons and companies that rotated through the BCT training cycles at Fort Jackson. The mission was at the same time expanded to include requirements for drill sergeants with Military Police and Chemical specialties to support training at Fort McClellan and Fort Leonard Wood.

Meanwhile, on 1 October 1994, the Division reorganized again as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 80th Division (Institutional Training). While the Division maintained its IET mission, it expanded to provide The Army School System (TASS) mission, focusing on training Soldiers in multiple military occupational specialties. As one of seven Institutional Training Divisions located in seven regions throughout the U.S., the 80th Division was responsible for providing instruction in the Region B area, which included Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. As an Institutional Training Division, in October 1995, the 80th took command and control of ten Army Reserve Forces Schools.

In September of 1996 the Division reorganized into seven brigades. Four were chartered to give formal classroom and "hands on" training in Combat Support, Combat Services Support, Professional Development and Medical Services and two additional Brigades continued to train Initial Entry Soldiers, Initial Entry Military Police Soldiers and Chemical Soldiers. A seventh Brigade provided training support to all the others, and an eighth Brigade was later formed to provide ROTC support to several universities in the region.

Following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the commencement of the Global War on Terror, the 80th Division received a Warning Order late in 2004 stating that they would likely be selected to provide a brigade-sized element to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and the training of the Iraqi Armed Forces. By the end of 2004, the 80th Division Emergency Operations Center was established and initial planning for this mission had begun. About 725 80th Division Soldiers were then mobilized to Camp Atterbury, IN to prepare for a year long deployment to Iraq.

The 80th Division distinguished itself in its missions of manning, training, equipping and mentoring the Iraqi Army and Civil Security Forces. The Soldiers of the 80th played a significant role in the preparation of thousands of Iraqi security forces in the undertakings required to ensure a secure and democratic Iraq.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

# McBride Scholarship Fund

By Andy Adkins

MANY OF YOU HAVE HEARD of the McBride Scholarship Fund, but may not know the details of this wonderful scholarship. Let me briefly enlighten you.

The McBride Scholarship Fund was first established in 1970 with multiple donations from members of the 80th Division Veterans Association. The initial scholarships provided an annual \$100 award to a graduating senior from Madison High School, located in Madison, Nebraska. This is the high school attended by General Horace McBride.

In 2002, the total amount of donations into the scholarship fund reached more than \$10,000 and the association voted to place this into an endowment, currently located at Lincoln Community Foundation, Inc. (Lincoln, NE). Since the scholarship fund is an endowment, the amount varies year to year depending upon the economy and the total market investments, but is usually around \$350 - \$500. Each year, the graduating Valedictorian from Madison High School receives a scholarship and sends a letter of thanks to the Foundation.

Since 1970, forty (40) high school students have received monetary awards from the McBride Scholarship Fund,

helping further advance their education. If you would like to make an additional donation to this worthwhile fund, send check or money order to the National Secretary and note in the memo field this donation should go to the McBride Scholarship Fund.

*The 80th Division Only Moves Forward!*

## **From the 2010 McBride Scholarship Fund Recipient:**

*I am writing to thank you for your generosity in providing scholarships to students. I recently received the 80th Division Veterans Association - General Horace McBride Scholarship.*

*The scholarship you have provided me will help me continue my education immensely. I will be attending Wayne State College. I plan to major in Accounting and one day become a Certified Public Accountant. Thanks to you, the financial burden of attending college has been lightened for me.*

*Once again, I want to sincerely thank you for providing scholarships and for all your other contributions to the community.*

*Sincerely, Crystal Albus*

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ARMY RESERVE.. continued from page 13

## **2008 to the Present**

In 2008, the seven Institutional Training Divisions restructured once again into three major Training Commands. The 80th Division (IT) transformed into the 80th Training Command (TASS) and greatly expanded its capabilities as well as its responsibilities were greatly expanded with three subordinate Divisions and several direct reporting units. As a nation-wide command with three subordinate Divisions responsible for all MOS reclassification training throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Pacific Islands, the 80th took control of all of The Army School System's (TASS) Battalions throughout the entire Army Reserve. The 80th established a Logistical Support Brigade and fourteen Training Centers to facilitate specialized instruction throughout the United States. All of the nation's TASS Battalions were divided into thirteen Brigades that were assigned to the three subordinate Divisions.

The 94th Training Division (Force Sustainment) at Fort Lee, VA has five of the Brigades that provide training in Personnel Services, Transportation, Quartermaster, Ordinance and also a Multi-functional Training Brigade in Puerto Rico. The 100th Division (Operations Support) in Louisville, KY has four Brigades which provide training in Military Intelligence, Signal, Civil Affairs/Psychological Operations, and Medical Services. The 102nd Training Division (Maneuver Support) in Fort Leonard Wood, MO has four Brigades that provide instruction in Military Police, Chemical, Engineer with a multi-functional Brigade located at Fort Shafter Flats in Honolulu, HI.

Soon, in October 2010, the 80th Training Command will receive an additional Brigade with three Battalions to provide Professional Development Training courses across the United States.

## **The 80th Only Moves Forward**

Since its establishment in 1917, the Soldiers and families of the 80th Division have chosen to make the sacrifices necessary to preserve the freedoms and founding principles established by our forefathers when our Nation was conceived. It is a special person who knowingly and willfully places themselves in jeopardy to preserve the way of life for someone whom they have never met. That is what our Soldiers have always done.

As a result, the Army is transforming to meet the tactics of our new 21st Century enemy and the 80th Division's transformation to the 80th Training Command is one such example. What began in 1917 as a Division primarily comprised of men from just three states, the 80th has now transformed into a Command of men and women from each of our Nation's fifty states and Puerto Rico. The new 80th Training Command is responsible for the Military Occupational Specialty training of all Army Reserve and Army National Guard units. The goal will always be the peaceful co-existence of all nations. But just in case, the Citizen-Soldiers of the 80th will always stand ready to be called at a moments notice to defeat those who wish to do us harm.

I don't know about you, but I feel very proud to know this new generation of 80th Division Soldiers will continue to carry the torch of freedom and to continue the traditions and camaraderie we know as the 80th Division Veterans Association. "The 80th Only Moves Forward!" ■

**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@80thdivision.com  
 352-538-5346



TURNER  
 PUBLISHING  
 COMPANY,  
 2d Edition

**The 80th Blue Ridge Infantry Division**

IN 1999, TURNER PUBLISHING COMPANY published the 2d Edition of the "80th Blue Ridge Infantry Division." This outstanding and comprehensive history takes you from Argentan 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. I've spoken with several dozen veterans and families over the past year that have expressed an interest in buying this book. If you would like a copy of this book, please let me know via email (adkins@80thdivision.com), via phone (352-538-5346) or by postal mail: Andy Adkins, 2121 NW 54th Terrace, Gainesville FL 32605. The publisher is drafting a proposal for us, but the cost of the book is expected to be between \$50 and \$65. I need to know how many people are interested (and how many books they want) before I can determine if we want to order a reprint.

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# Reunion Roll Call

If your name does not appear below, my apologies. We tried our best to record each one present, but realize that we may have inadvertently missed a few. If so, please let me know via snail mail or email and they will appear in the next issue of the Blue Ridge.

## 317th Infantry

Adkins, Andy  
Anthony, Lee  
Barone, Angelo & Kay  
Brockman, Clarence & Naomi  
Burrows, Robert & Mabel & Family  
(Robert Burrows, Jr, Nancy Lawson,  
Susan Sparks, Angela & Jacob  
Sparks, Timothy Miller)  
Christen, James & Andrew  
Cistolo, Felix  
Cordi, Ashley  
Flick, Doug  
Futch, Archer & Sybil  
Gibbons, Dr Tonyia & Hugh  
Joyce, Edward & Steve Cruise  
Muller, Victor  
Myers, G. Virgil  
Palombaro, Dominic  
Prappas, Dempsey  
Rajnicek, Francis & Kay  
Russell, Alexander & Family (Katie  
Keeney, Sandra DeStaffany,  
Rebecca, Eric, Dillon, Hanna  
Troedsson)  
Howey, JoElyn  
Wacker, Gwen and Fred & Cody  
Schmidt, Max & Alice & Family  
(Meredith Schmidt & Chris Paulus,  
Logan Schmidt, Lauren & Jonathan  
Brown)  
Schmidt, Richard & Bonnie  
Schmidt, Ron & Debbie & Erin  
Schmidt, Russel & Pam, Max & Rocco  
Schock, Laverne & Margaret  
Spellman, Jerry  
Stutts, Paul & Jane

## 318th Infantry

Anderson, George  
Borin, Leonard & Jeanette, Janet  
Morelli, Gina Morelli  
Dorsten, Elmer  
Dorsten, Fred & Linda  
Luthman, Judy & John  
Hanna, Phyllis & Paul & Chris;  
Catherine Yaney & Jim & Family  
Eckrich, John  
Elvin, Jan  
Fate, Paul & Kathryn, Robert & Gail  
Puccio  
Hopkins, Gene & Anna Lee & Family  
(David & Jennifer Hopkins, Kathy  
Steinmann, Jack & Anna Hartmann,  
Michael & Addy Steinmann)

Jones, Lloyd & Marilyn  
Kana, Florian & Carol Strobel  
Kelly, William & Jo-Ann & Chuff  
Marsh, Burt & Jeff Barton  
Murrell, Robert & Doris  
Pietsch, Paul & Helen  
Ritchie, William & Family (William  
Ritchie, Jr, Karen Grant, Nancy  
Smith, Jame O'Connor, Kenneth  
Grimes)  
Rupp, Ben  
Warman, Clayton & Anna  
Wignall, Jeff & Mary  
Wilkinson, Robert  
Williams, Michael & Karen  
Wojciechowski, Irvin & Gertrude &  
Family (Michael & Linda Swift, Jake  
& Lindsay Swift)

## 319th Infantry

Coscia, Joseph & Joanna  
Faulconer, Charles & Louise  
McDonald, Robert & Helen  
O'Neil, Ivy  
O'Neil, Tim & Diane  
Skaggs, Wilcie & Vivian & Family (Jerry,  
Mary, A.J., Trish, Kayleigh & Madison  
Skaggs)  
Smith, Bruce & Cecelia  
Spangler, Walt & Annabel & Kelly

## 305th Engineers

Nelson, Roger & Martha  
Sick, Russell

## 313th Field Artillery

Abbruzzese, Dom  
Blocker, Audrey & Cynthia Bonham  
Hatcher, Ann & Sylvia Sullivan  
Latusek, Hilda, Jack & Pat Flemming  
Noxon, Alice & Patricia Bultje  
Poletti, Frances  
Shirey, Lou

## 314th Field Artillery

Lindsey Cruy & Rachel and Nancy  
& Roy Wolfe and Lynne & Skip  
Jorgensen

## 315th Field Artillery

Marx, Capt Henry & Patrick  
Fleishmann

## 80th Training Command

Aulbach, John  
Barnes, Richard & Charlotte  
Benenati, BG Paul  
Blanco, Luis

Bland, Michael & Monica  
Brown, James & June  
Hausser, Wayne  
Herbert, Edmund & Donna  
Kelleher, Edward  
Imajo, Erik  
Ledoux, Karen  
Legra, Joseph  
Lewis, Anne & Bob Breckenkamp  
Linkenhoker, Paul & Brenda  
McLaren, MG John & Diane  
Nagle, Deborah & Don Brady  
Niernberger, Kelly & Marie  
Porter, Grant & Avila  
Stewart, Donald & Cheryl  
Williams, BG J Tim

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## Contributions

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

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Boley, John J. (80th QM)  
Jenkins, George E. (K-318)  
Mashburn, Ross T. (Family, B-318)  
Parker, Milton (Associate)  
Phillips, COL Virgil C. (80th Training  
Command)  
Workman, Gayle S. (Family, WWI)

### MCBRIDE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Rajnicek, PNC Francis (H-317) imo  
PNC Robert Parks

### DONATIONS

Cistolo, Felix, (G-317)  
Smith, Jean K. (imo father, William C.  
Kuhl, Jr., A-318)

### NEW MEMBERS

Baca, Justin  
Brennan, Richard J. (Family, C-318)  
Cruise, Steve (Family)  
Doss, Greg (Family, D-317)  
Diaconis, John (Family, 3d Bn-319)  
Dorsten, Fred (Family, A-318)  
Faulconer, Charles O. (A-319)  
Jenkins, George E. (K-318)  
Joyce, Edward L. (A-317)  
Muller, Jean (Associate)  
Parker, Milton (Associate)  
Phillips, COL Virgil C. (80th Training  
Command)  
Robbins Sr., Richard R. (I-318)





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.

8" X 10"	\$24.00 unframed
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11" X 14"	\$44.00 unframed
	\$69.00 framed
16" X 20"	\$64.00 unframed
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**BRITT TAYLOR COLLINS**  
*The Veterans' Artist*

Abrell, Marvin, 80th  
Leesburg, IN  
DOD: 7/10/2010  
Rptd by Cecelia Smith

Apkarian, John, Hq Co-317  
Methuen, MA  
DOD: 7/11/2010  
Rptd by his son-in-law, Robert Barry

Falzone, Joseph J., 2d Bn Hq-318  
444 Dennison Street  
Wyoming, PA 18644  
DOD: 5/24/2010  
Rptd by Cecelia Smith

Frank, Leonard, E-318  
330 N. Leisure World Blvd., #724  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
DOD: 4/24/2010  
Rptd by his wife, Audrey

Gibbons, Francis L., 305 Eng Bn  
126 Fifth Avenue  
Stratford, CT 06615  
DOD: 8/23/2010  
Rptd by his son, Francis



Goode, Austin C., 2d Bn Hq-318  
931 Ashland Ave.  
Bedford, VA 24523-1301  
DOD: 5/9/2010  
Rptd by Cecelia Smith

Heath, R. Vance, E-318  
205 Vine Street  
Beaufort, NC 28516  
DOD: 5/25/2010  
Rptd by his wife, Margaret

Heintzelman, Charles A., 80th Hq Sp Trs  
1454 Granite Station Rd.  
Gettysburg, PA 17325  
DOD: 4/28/2010  
Rptd by his wife, Arlene

Herber, Lloyd W., F-317  
51 South 4th St, Apt 1A  
Hamburg, PA 19526  
DOD: 8/23/2010  
Rptd by Abe Barone

Irlbacher Jr., Edward J., Hq-317  
Zelienople, PA  
DOD: 6/23/2010  
Rptd by Ray Dumrauf

Kuhl Jr., William C., A-318  
464 S. 5th Street  
Sebewaing, MI 48759  
DOD: 6/6/2010  
Rptd by his daughter, Jean K. Smith

Milone, Carl J., L-317  
3041 S. 80th Street  
Omaha, NE 68124  
DOD: 2006  
Rptd by his daughter, Catherine

Minatra, James D., 80th QM  
Jefferson City, TN  
DOD: 10/9/2009  
Rptd by Cecelia Smith

Parks, Robert E., PNC, L-317  
115 Medical Center Blvd Apt 111  
Fayetteville, TN 37334  
DOD: 6/12/2010  
Rptd by Lee Anthony

Passarella, Frank J., 3d Bn Hq-318  
279 Sutton Ave  
Hackensack, NJ 07601  
DOD: Nov 2009  
Rptd by Elmer Dorsten

Shilts, Guy W., 318  
Janesville, WI  
DOD: 8/1/2010  
Rptd by Cecelia Smith

Shoemaker, Howard C., I-317  
6609 Verona Rd  
Verona, PA 15141  
DOD: 8/12/2010  
Rptd by his daughter, Judy

Tijerina, Manuel G., F-318  
DOD: 6/15/2010  
Rptd by his daughter, Roseanne

## Behind the Scenes - Martha Wasik Graphic Arts Inc

WE PRINT ABOUT 1100 *Blue Ridge Service Magazines* every quarter and mail them out to the 80th Division Veterans Association membership as well as a few other friends overseas. I'd love to take credit for all this, but like Bob Murrell (my predecessor), we have had the privilege of working with a wonderful person for many years who does a lot of the work in the background.

I'd like you to meet Martha Wasik and her company Graphic Arts, Inc., located in Pittsburgh. Bob Murrell tells me that Martha has been working with the Association and helping with the *Blue Ridge Service Magazine* since the early 1990s. At first, she worked primarily on the layout, that is, while Bob pulled together and wrote many of the articles, Martha laid out the magazine, formatting and editing as needed.

Several years later, Martha took on a bigger role, not only laying out the magazine, but also working with the printer, the mailing house, and the post office to get the magazine out to our members.

It's one thing to write an article or two, keep track of those members who have passed on and the contributions we receive. It's another thing to ask people to contribute and write articles for us. That's the easy part. Taking those articles in plain text and laying it out in a beautiful style and format — well that's the tough part, but Martha does such a wonderful job I know that all the members of the 80th Division Veterans Association all want to say a big "Thank You, Martha!"



# 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,  
and receive the Blue Ridge Service Magazine.*

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SERVICE PERIOD:       WWII                       POST WWII                       CURRENT ACTIVE

PLEASE SPECIFY BATTLE / CAMPAIGN: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_  
IF FAMILY MEMBER, PLEASE ALSO PROVIDE THE NAME AND UNIT OF VETERAN

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP + 4: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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

CURRENT MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING (Dues paid to date)

### 80th Division WWII Veterans

- Renewal: \$10/Year
- Life Membership: \$50

### 80th Div. Veterans, Family Members

- Renewal: \$10/Year
- Life Membership: \$150

### New Members (80th Div. Veterans, Family Members)

- New Membership: \$20/Year
- Life Membership: \$150

### New Members—Associates Friends of 80th Division, Non-Voting

- New Membership: \$20/Year
- Life Membership: \$150

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ACTIVE MEMBER

LIFE MEMBER

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

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President - Judy Luthman • 1st Vice President - Phyllis Hanna  
Treasurer - Naomi Brockman • Chaplain - Margaret Schock  
Historian - open • Sergeant-at-Arms - Kay Barone  
Secretary - Cecelia Smith

### Check Your Address Label

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

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*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.

### Brett Post No. 3 Pittsburgh

*Bruno Inselmini, Commander*

322 Carolyn Avenue  
Latrobe, PA 15650-1012

### 305th Engineer Battalion Post No. 40

*Russell P. Sick, Commander*

3131 Pleasant Avenue  
Hamilton, OH 45015-1740

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

*Robert Moorhead  
Secretary*

### CINCINNATI POST #34

*Jack Wettig, COMMANDER*

*Art Rehling, TREASURER*  
4656 McNeil Ave.,  
Cincinnati OH 45212-2541  
(513) 631-0031

### Company "H" 319th Inf. POST #33

*Gerald G. Ohlman, Commander*

*Irv Robinson,  
Secretary*

### FLORIDA POST #47

*George Bell, COMMANDER*

*Francis Rajnicek  
SECRETARY*  
215 Bill Allen Circle, W  
Sebastian, FL 32958



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Web Site Updates

Have you visited the 80th Division website lately? The Internet address is: [www.80thdivision.com](http://www.80thdivision.com). As many of you know, I created and maintain the website for many years at no charge to the Association. In addition, I also created the 80th Division Digital Archives pages, which include (I lost count some time ago) about 50,000 pages of Morning Reports, Unit Histories, and After Action Reports.

Most recently, I spent a few days at the National Archives in College Park, MD after this past reunion. My mission was to try to gather all of the General Orders issued during WWII. I am pleased to announce that mission was completed. On the website, you can now access all of the General Orders issued by the 80th Infantry Division from August 1944 through October 1945. There are a few missing, but I couldn't find them at the Archives. These documents are in PDF format and may take a few minutes to download — some are a page or two, others up to 16 pages.

The General Orders include the citations for Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Air Medal, and Purple Hearts. They are listed by General Order number by year. In other words, General Orders started over with #1 in January 1945.

Unfortunately, I don't have a searchable index for those Soldiers listed in the General Orders. It's on my todo list, but it will be some time before I can get around to it. Any volunteers?



On another note, Terry Janes, webmaster for "The Troubleshooters" website: [www.thetroubleshooters.com/80th](http://www.thetroubleshooters.com/80th), has been online for nine years. If you haven't visited Terry's website, it is also chock full of 80th Division history: nearly 5,000 pages of the 80th Division and its attached units in WW2 as well as WW1.

I recently received a note from Terry that he's added 24 pages of updates to the story called "Bloody Knob." Terry Janes' five-volume book, "Patton's Troubleshooters" is the history of the 80th Division and its attached units.