

1919 80th Division Veterans  
Association Banner

Andrew Z. Adkins III



# BLUE RIDGE

THE SERVICE MAGAZINE

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## The History of the 80th Division Veterans Association

by Dempsey Prappas & Bruce Smith

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, Dempsey Prappas (AT-317; 80th DVA Judge Advocate), wrote and asked about the history of the 80th Division Veterans Association. He posed a simple list of questions which Bruce Smith (80th DVA Historian) answers:

When was the 80th Division Veterans Association established? The actual date of the first meeting was April 9, 1919, held in Ecommy, France. The purpose of the meeting was to appoint a committee of eight (four officers and four enlisted men) representatives of units of the 80th Division to draft matters pertaining to forming an organization to "perpetuate the 80th Division" after demobilization.

The group heading up this meeting included Col W. H. Waldron, chairman; Sgt Maj Miles C Stahlman, temporary Secretary; Capt Williams, 318th Inf; Capt Hickman, 319th Inf; Capt Vandewater, 160th Brigade; Sgt Maj Edwin Fairley, 319th Inf.; and Lt Hazelgrove, HQ Troop.

The Temporary Committee named included Capt Frederick Hickman, 319th Inf, chairman; Sgt Alvin C Hagerman, 320th Inf; Capt Richard P Williams, 318th Inf; Sgt Maj Richard A Ammons, 317th Inf; Capt Robert T Barton, 313th F. A. Regt.; Sgt Maj Robert A Lampton, 315th F.A. Regt; Capt David S Bingham, 305th Ammunition Trains; Sgt J R Thomas, 314th Machine Gun BN.

Bruce Smith, 80th Historian, has a copy of the original Constitution & By-Laws as presented/published for all on May 1, 1919, per memorandum #6 from the April 29, 1919 meeting of the Executive Council. If approved, temporary officers would hold office until annual meetings in 1920 and 1921. Also, this document established the headquarters of the 80th Division Veterans Association to be in Pittsburgh.

Who was involved in the formation of the association? The original members involved in formation of the organization would have been those outlined above. At the meeting in Richmond, designated as the 1st Annual Reunion, all 80th Members in attendance voted to accept/reject/modify the proposed Constitution and By-Laws. Several references in the early Service Magazines detail the fact that Richmond was the first official annual reunion.

The 80th Division Veterans Association is the second oldest continuously active Veterans Association in the US. The 3rd Division officially organized only a few weeks prior to the April 1919 date. Incidentally, the 3rd Division in WW I was made up of 8,000 - 9,000 soldiers who were transferred from the 80th to the 3rd, so that the 3rd Division was at full strength to go overseas.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



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).*

**Secretary/Editor:** Andrew Z. Adkins III (H-317, Family)  
2121 N.W. 54th Terrace Gainesville, FL 32605-3392  
352-538-5346 email: adkins@80thdivision.com

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

### NATIONAL OFFICERS 2010-2011

#### National Commander

PNC Max R. Schmidt (G-317)  
1716 Noble Place  
Greensboro, NC 27408-2614 / 336-288-0983

#### Senior Vice Commander

Dr. Lee S. Anthony (F-317 WWI, Family)  
3779 Carvins Cove Road  
Salem, VA 24153 / 540-563-0165

#### 2nd Vice Commander

LTC Grant R. Porter (80th Training Command)  
6730 Manor Gate Drive  
Midlothian, VA 23112 / 804-377-6358

#### 3rd Vice Commander

MG John P. McLaren (80th Training Command)  
1233 Hartford Drive  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464 / 757-495-3611

National Secretary	Andrew Z. Adkins III (H-317, Family)
Chaplain	PNC Angelo J. Barone (L-317)
Judge Advocate	Dempsey J. Prappas (AT-317)
Historian	Bruce Smith (WW I, Family)
Service Officer	LTC Kelly J. Niernberger (80th Training Command)
Flag Sergeant	Roger Nelson (WW I Eng Reg, Family)
Color Sergeant	Travis Edwards (80th Training Command)
Sergeant-at-Arms	Burt R. Marsh (M-319)
Public Affairs Officer	Travis Edwards (80th Training Command)
Division Photographer	Travis Edwards (80th Training Command)

### TRUSTEES

1 Year: Laverne J. Schock (F-317)  
2 Year: Paul J. Pietsch (AT-318)  
3 Year: PNC Walter W. Spangler (A-319)

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1 Year	Paul J. Pietsch (AT-318) PNC Russell Sick (305 Eng Bn) PNC Robert Burrows (Hq-317)
2 Year	Gerald V. Myers (G-317) Laverne Schock (F-317) Jeff Wignall (Family, A-318)
3 Year	Robert J. McDonald (C-319) Robert G. Moorhead (L-317) Wilcie J. Skaggs (E-319)

## Editor's Notes

By Andy Adkins

**O**K, SO I GOOFED. My bad! In the last issue of the Blue Ridge, the front page article, "The 80th Only Moves Forward," stated that the 80th Division landed on Utah Beach shortly after noon on August 2, 1944, D-Day + 5. It was a typo. It should have read D-Day + 57. Sorry about the confusion, but thank goodness only a few of you let me know of my mathematical/typographical error :-))

We've got several great articles in this month's Blue Ridge. First, I'd like to thank Sebastiaan Vonk, our new young Dutch friend for all he is doing overseas to preserve the heritage of the 80th Division. Sebastiaan not only takes care of several 80th Division soldiers' grave sites in the Netherlands, but this year, he was able to represent the 80th Division Veterans Association on Memorial Day in laying wreathes. Thank you for all you do, Sebastiaan. You will go a long way in this world.

I know many of you are aware that Paul Wiedorfer (G-318), the last living of four men in the 80th Division awarded the Medal of Honor for actions during World War II, passed away May 25, 2011. What is not said in this issue's article is that the day of that particular "event" during the Battle of the Bulge was Paul's first day in battle—Wow! Talk about baptism under fire.

Over his lifetime, Paul stated many times, "I don't know why I was awarded the Medal of Honor." He just did what he thought was right. I've talked with many veterans in the 80th Division who were awarded medals for various "actions." Most have said they just did their job—mainly to keep themselves and their buddies alive. Most are very proud of the medals they were awarded, but many have also confided in me that while they may be called heroes, "the real heroes are the ones still over there." Amen.

Bernd Schmidt, our German friend who is always there during the US Veterans Friends tour in Luxembourg, has contributed a wonderful article about Col Norman-do Costello, who orchestrated the peaceful surrender of Weimar, Germany which I think you will also enjoy.

I know that all of you are aware of this year's Annual Meeting to be held in Richmond, Virginia August 24-27. There is more information in this Blue Ridge. But I also know that many of you will not be able to attend for various reasons. We're all getting older (including me) and traveling is not as easy as it used to be. But for those of you who cannot make it, know that you will be in our thoughts and prayers and we wish only good blessings for you all. Always remember, **the 80th Only Moves Forward!**



## A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

**A**S I AM COMPOSING this message, it has occurred to me that being Commander for this year 2010-2011 will soon be coming to an end. I was grateful that I had the opportunity to serve a second term.

When we received notice that MOH Paul J. Wiedorfer died on May 25, 2011, the family had decided to conduct his deserved arrangements & services on June 5th - 7th at Baltimore, MD. On the morning of Monday June 6th Alice & I and our son Richard drove to the Holiday Inn in Timonium, MD and met with Cecelia and Bruce Smith at the hotel. We then arrived at Leonard J. Ruck Funeral Home in Baltimore, MD at 6:00 P.M. to be greeted by family members. Also, in attendance were Roger & Martha Nelson and James O'C Gentry (Co F-317th), MG John P. McLaren, LTC Grant Porter, TASS group and Color Guard who conducted a Military service, in which I participated. On Tuesday, a Religious Mass was held at St. Thomas More Church, followed with burial held at Moreland Memorial Cemetery, and a reception followed at the American Legion Post 183 near the Cemetery. We thanked the family for their invitation and departed at 2:30 P.M.

Due to several personal issues during this past year, I was not able to travel to visit various Post meetings and activities I had anticipated to attend. Also, we had expected to attend the trip this year to Luxembourg, but had to cancel.

In conclusion, let us not forget our Reunion (See below)

*THE 80th ONLY MOVES FORWARD*

**Max R. Schmidt - PNC, National Commander**

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## 92nd Annual Reunion - SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**A**S YOU KNOW, the 80th Division Veterans Association will hold its Annual Meeting and Reunion August 24-28 at the Sheraton Park South Hotel in Richmond Virginia. Here's the 411 (please note times and activities may change; this is a tentative schedule of events):

### **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24**

- 10:00 - 5:00 Registration
- 4:00 - 6:00 National Executive Council Meeting
- 4:00 - 6:00 National Ladies Auxiliary Executive Council Meeting
- 6:30 - 11:00 Commander's Reception

### **THURSDAY, AUGUST 25**

- 10:00 - 5:00 Registration
- 9:00 - 4:00 Ladies Auxiliary Hospital Tables
- 9:00 - 12:00 National Association Business Meeting
- 1:00 - 5:00 Bus trip to Petersburg & Fort Lee, VA
- 6:30 - 10:00 Dug Out Party (1940s theme)

### **FRIDAY, AUGUST 26**

- 9:00 - 5:00 Registration
- 9:00 - 4:00 Ladies Auxiliary Hospital Tables
- 9:00 - 11:30 National Association Business Meeting
- 9:30 - 12:00 Ladies Auxiliary Memorial / Business Meeting
- 1:00 - 4:00 Afternoon Displays, Reenactments, Visits
- 6:00 - 8:00 Past National Commanders' Private Dinner
- 6:00 - 8:00 Past National Presidents' Private Dinner
- 6:30 - 10:00 Friday Night Family Buffet

### **SATURDAY, AUGUST 27**

- 10:00 - 11:30 Annual Memorial Service
- 12:30 - 3:00 National Ladies Luncheon
- 7:00 - 11:00 Annual Dinner Banquet (Cash Bar)

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#### **HOTEL INFORMATION**

Sheraton Park South Hotel      804-521-2210  
9901 Midlothian Road      Richmond, VA 23235  
Rates: \$87 + tax per night (1-4 persons per room)

# Memorial Day 2011 Overseas Wreaths Report

by Sebastiaan Vonk

**T**HIS PAST MEMORIAL DAY weekend has been very impressive and special to me. Thank you again for letting me represent the 80th Division Veterans Association at the Netherlands Cemetery. It was a huge honor for me to do that.

Walking up to the ceremony area guided by an US Army Officer and then to present the 80th Division floral arrangement was very special. I would be honored to represent the Association again next year. Perhaps we might also work out a similar arrangement with the Henri-Chapelle Cemetery as well.

A friend of mine has taken lots of photos of me presenting the 80th Division floral arrangement. A few more photos can be found at: [www.flickr.com/photos/sebastiaancollectie](http://www.flickr.com/photos/sebastiaancollectie) and click on "Memorial Day 2011."

I know the 80th Division had asked via the ABMC that the floral arrangements would be put at a particular 80th Division soldier's grave after Memorial Day.

Since I came home on Monday, I am not sure if the floral arrangements have been put on these graves by the cemeteries. You may notice these floral arrangements look quite small next to other wreaths. I don't know what the costs are for the overseas wreathes, but you might want to consider a larger wreath for next year.



## Captain John W. Bier Swears in Grandson, Nathan Bier

**C**APTAIN JOHN W. BIER, 80th Division, 318th HQ, 3rd Battalion, swore in his grandson, Nathan Bier, into the Army on May 13, 2011 at Virginia Tech.

Nathan had asked his commander who would swear them in. He replied that he usually did, but anyone in active duty or honorably discharged that was two ranks above 2d LT could do it.

Nathan requested that his Grandad do it, and he did!

# A FOOTNOTE TO HISTORY: The 80th in Czechoslovakia

by Walter Barthold, 80th Signal Company

**H**OW MANY 80TH VETERANS are left who remember the six weeks or so that the division spent in the fall of 1945 in a country that no longer exists? We were bit players in a drama with tragic aspects.

We were told that the provisional government of Czechoslovakia, a country newly liberated after six years of German occupation, had invited the United States and the Soviet Union to station troops in separate zones while the civilian authorities in Prague gradually restored order.

In late September or early October 1945, the 80th moved from Garmisch-Partenkirchen in southern Germany to Mariánské Lázně, a Czech resort city near the German border renowned for its reputedly curative waters. Quartered comfortably in resort hotels, we soldiers called the city by its German name, Marienbad.

The city and the area in which it was located had a substantial German population. The Germans called that area the Sudetenland. In October 1938, in Munich, Great Britain and France had appeased Hitler by handing him the Sudetenland. In March 1939, the Germans expanded their occupation to include the entire country. The occupation lasted until the German surrender on May 8, 1945.

So the city into which the 80th moved that fall had a population of three nationalities: Czechs, Germans and Americans. We soldiers, having spent months in Austria and Germany, had picked up a smattering of German. We found it easier to establish relations with the Germans than with the Czechs. (The latter often resented efforts by some of us to speak to them in German.) Many of us took up with German girlfriends.

It soon came to our attention that Czechoslovakia had embarked on a program of expelling Germans from the country. The Germans in the Sudetenland had welcomed Hitler in 1938. The years of occupation that followed had been harsh, sometimes brutal, and even murderous. The Czechs understandably ached for revenge.

At the Potsdam Conference in July-August 1945, the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union had approved the removal of Germans from Poland and Czechoslovakia. They stipulated that removal take place "in an orderly and humane manner."

The Czechs systematically ignored that stipulation. With exceptions few and far between, they treated the Germans with a harshness that sometimes

approached what they, the Czechs, had suffered during the wartime years. Germans were required to wear identifying armbands and carry special passports. They were subjected to a curfew.

From time to time the occupants of a German neighborhood would be called out from their homes, sometimes in the dead of night, to do menial work such as street sweeping. Groups of them, including children and the aged, would be assembled and herded much like cattle across the German border. Fatalities occurred.

Most of us had forgotten or had never known of the events of 1938-39. (I consider myself an exception in that respect.) In contact more with Germans than with Czechs, we got a version of recent history that left out German behavior during the occupation and emphasized, very likely exaggerated, Czech oppression of the local German population. By no means had all Germans participated in the abuses of the occupation.

Rightly or wrongly, it followed that many U. S. soldiers sympathized with the Germans. Some of us helped our German girlfriends evade the Czechs' curfew. The Army hired Germans who had difficulty finding or keeping jobs elsewhere as kitchen and household help. It went so far as to include occasional efforts by Americans to prevent the passage of groups across the border to Germany.

The expulsion of Germans continued and intensified after the American-Soviet presence in Czechoslovakia ended in December 1945. By that time, I and many others had been transferred out of the 80th in what the Army called redeployment. It involved shipment first to France by "40 and 8" freight cars and then back to the States for discharge.

In February 1948, the Communists seized power in Czechoslovakia. Their dictatorship endured until 1989. Effective January 1, 1993, the country split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The postwar expulsion of Germans remained a sore point between the Czechs and the Germans for decades. Czech President Václav Havel in 1991 apologized for certain of the wrongs inflicted in the expulsion. A joint Czech-German historical commission issued a broader apology in 1997.

To the events of late 1945, we men of the 80th Division were essentially spectators. Those events nevertheless represented a brush with history that, for more reasons than I have set forth, I find impossible to forget.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Old Blue Ridge Magazines

Shirley Shafer, wife of the late Robert Shafer (E-317), wrote to let me know that she has copies of the Blue Ridge Magazine back as far as 1988 and would like to donate these to anyone in need of old copies.

She also stated that "while Robert was not an active member of the 80th Division Veterans Association, I know he was truly proud to be a part of the Blue Ridge 80th Division." If you are interested, please contact:

Shirley Shafer  
733 Samantha Street  
Lansing, MI 48910-5676

## Looking for info: Edwin Heim (I-319)

My wife, Sue Ellen (Heim) Henninger is looking for help from anyone that might have served with her father (Edwin Butch Heim) from Danville, Pennsylvania.

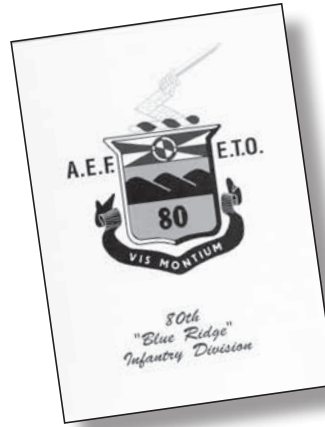
On December 16, 1944, he was assigned to the 319 Infantry Regt., 3rd Battalion, Co. I of the 80th Division as a rifleman (MOS 745). On Feb 20, 1945, Company I's Morning Report (Huttingen, Germany) had him listed as relieved from duty to the (305th MED CLRG STA) for combat exhaustion in Ammeldingen, Germany. Next time I found anything about him is on Mar 19, 1945 on Co I's Morning Report, listed as Fr. Ab. Sk. (305th MED CLRG STA.) to lost to Hospital (101st EVAC) as of Feb 25, 1945 in Niederweldingen, Germany.

After that March 19th Morning Report, there is no record of him. I have looked for information on the (101st EVAC) but have had no luck. My wife did find an article in the local newspaper that he was in a hospital somewhere in England. There is no name for the hospital, but it says that the Red Cross did have some entertainment for the troops on his ward which was listed as Ward #69.

I would also report that he was discharged on Feb 24, 1946 from Unit B Separation Center #45 at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation in Pennsylvania. He was discharged from O.M.G. (Office of Military Government) as a clerk (MOS 055).

*Any information would be greatly appreciated.*

Butch & Sue Henninger  
610 State Route 61  
Sunbury, PA 17801  
steamfitter@evenlink.com



## The 80th Blue Ridge Infantry Division

2ND EDITION

### TURNER BOOK reprint status

As you've read in previous issues of the Blue Ridge, I've been in contact with Turner Publishers regarding "The 80th Blue Ridge Infantry Division, 2d Edition." So far, I've only received requests for 25 books. Unfortunately, that is not enough (at least at this time) for us to reprint—the cost would be extremely high (in the range of \$80 - \$100 each). If you are interested in owning a copy of this book, please let me know ASAP and I'll put you down on the request list. I hope to have enough requests by the time of the Annual Meeting in August. Andy Adkins; 352-538-5346; adkins@80thdivison.com.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

The last date I have entered a name is June 1, 2011

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

DeMuro, Donn, (Family, L-318)  
Moorhead, Robert G., (L-317)  
MAJ Venable, Bryant O. (80th HQ)

### NEW MEMBERS

DeMuro, Donn, (Family, L-318)  
COL (R) Deverell, Carolyn A. (80th HQ)  
COL (R) Deverell III, Persse K. (80th HQ)  
Donahey, Charles W., (Family, WWI)  
COL (R) Gavins III, John J. (80th HQ)  
LTC Licorish Jr., Samuel E. (80th HQ)  
MAJ Porter, Franklin B. (80th HQ)  
Russell, Alex R. (Family, E-317)  
Shea, Michael W. (Family, A-318)  
Zakel, Stephen (Family, L-317)

## Florida Post #47

by Kay Rajnicek

We are sad to report that Gerald Norry (AT-319) passed away very suddenly on April 9, 2011. We send our condolences to his wife Vera and family. He was an active member of Post #47 and will be missed by all.

I imagine our snowbirds are dodging rain and trying to get yard work done when the sun shines. Good Luck!

We are looking forward to seeing a lot of familiar faces at the National Reunion in Richmond, Virginia in August. We should have a great time for I am sure that Lee Anthony has a wonderful time planned for all.

Our next meeting will again be in Ocala at the Hampton Inn. They are very friendly and hospitable to our group. The dates are October 27, 28, and 29, 2011. Room rate is \$79 per night plus tax. Be sure to mention you are with Florida Post #47. Reservations can be made by calling the Hampton Inn, 3434 College Road, Ocala, FL 34474 at 352-854-3200. Looking forward to seeing you all.

## Ladies National Auxiliary

by Judy Luthman, President

This year has been flying by. Summer is here and the Reunion deadline is fast approaching. The dinner reservations are due by July 15, 2011 and we will not be able to sell luncheon reservations at the reunion. If you have not received an invitation or know of someone who would like an invitation, please contact:

Judy Luthman  
Ladies Auxiliary President  
419-305-4474.

As in the past we will have a Ladies Coffee Get-Together on Thursday morning. We hope you will attend and bring with you other ladies who are not currently members. The Ladies meeting will be on Friday morning and our Luncheon will be Saturday after the Memorial services. Also as in the past we will hold our Hospital Raffle and will gladly accept any donations for that.

We hope to see you at the 92nd Annual Reunion in Richmond, VA on August 24th to 28th 2011.

## 313th Field Artillery Battalion

by Frances Poletti

After going through the winter we had, and of course the spring wasn't our usual spring, it is so welcoming to have the nicer weather and being out in it is such a pleasure.

I hope all of you were able to get through it o.k. When I saw some of the places that were flooded, I felt so sorry for those people, because I remember when I lived in Coraopolis, PA. Several times we had to vacate our place because of the flood waters. We finally moved up higher in the town so that we did not have to go through that again.

I don't know whether any of you knew that Audrey Blocker had been in the hospital as I started to write this at the beginning of March. I called her and she was staying with her daughter, Claudia. She sounded very good and seemed to be doing well. Audrey had cracked her pelvis and will be resting at her daughter's until it heals.

Talked with Paul Burgio sometime in March and he sounded very good. Paul told me he uses a walker to get around and it helps him quite a lot. He is still at his old address in case anyone would like to call him. He would love to hear from some of his old friends. Call me, I have his phone number.

I try to call Sophie Ellengerger as much as I can, and she sounded great. She would also like to hear from any of her old friends now and then.

I have a habit of trying to keep in touch with people, call and make sure they are doing well. I sometimes wonder if I am bothering them, but once we start talking it passes and we have a great visit. That will also happen to you; if you are wondering how someone is doing, call them—you will be surprised how happy they are to hear your voice and to know that you thought about them.

I receive many e-mails from Felix Cistolo and enjoy receiving them. He always has a few that make me laugh and sometimes I wonder what anyone would think, if they heard me here by myself, at the computer and laughing my head off. We sometimes use Skype and talk with each other and it is fun seeing the person you are speaking to on the computer.

Received an e-mail today, March 31st from Felix, and he tells me he was in the hospital for five days, had a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## Post News... continued from page 7

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cardiac pacemaker put in, and had almost passed out at home and had to be rushed to the hospital. He said he is doing better but is slowed down a bit. I know we can't imagine Felix slowing down, but I guess it can happen and we all wish Felix the best and a speedy recovery and back to his joking around and being a great friend.

Grace Viviano called and it was so nice talking with her. She thought maybe she had been overlooked in my sending the address listing, but I had sent them out the day she called, so then we had a very nice conversation. We will continue to keep in touch.

Called Manual Gonzalez and spoke to his wife. She said they are doing well and want to say hi to the rest of our group. The weather there was great and of course very warm, and they will soon get going on the yard work.

Spoke to John and Audrey Ingles. They both sounded well, and are enjoying being where they are. They do have some family close by and the rest of them that do not live close by, visit frequently. They send their best wishes to all.

Betty and Ray Myers are doing well. She told me that they had 9 children of their own, and from those 9 children, they now have 25 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren. That must be great when they all get together. It was so nice talking with her and she said they are both doing very well.

It was so nice talking with Lou Shirey. He is a busy young man. He will be 90 years old on June 11 and will be celebrating it with many of his good friends. Happy birthday, Lou and may there be many more.

Bob Sproull sounded great when I called him. He has such a great way of expressing himself. His wife, Peg, had a stroke a ways back and is being treated for several things as a result and Bob says she is coming along very well. We wish Peg much hope and good health.

Tried to get in touch with Max Wheelright, but the phone number I have for him was out of service.

I tried to call Audrey Blocker at her daughter's house and also at her home and there was no answer at either place. I hope things are doing well for her since her time in the hospital.

Well, I have not sold my home as yet. My sons had me take it off the market temporarily. While they do some cosmetic work on it and then it will go back on. I will not make it to the reunion this year. I had planned to, but things have come up and I will not be going. For those of you that will be attending, I hope you enjoy yourselves and give my best to all.

## Post #50: 80th Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association

by LTC Grant Porter, President

Greetings all. Summer has certainly arrived and with the 90+ weather here in Virginia, a heat wave of activity has kept us all moving forward at a very fast pace.

We are now well into the PCS season and will have a few retirements pending as well, so faces are changing behind the busy desks of the 80th Training Command on Strathmore Road. I personally have moved on to a new job and am leaving behind my Inspector General duties at the 80th. I will go on to serve as the G-1 for First Army Division East at Fort Meade, Maryland. I have thoroughly enjoyed my second tour of duty at the 80th and look forward to continuing to serve with the Blue Ridge Association.

Just to highlight a few items below, Blue Ridge Vice President CSM Doris Wollett is edging closer to her final days as both a Command Sergeant Major and as the Resource Management Director in the G-8 Section. We wish Doris a happy retirement this month and look forward to the retirement party her daughter Margie is hosting in July, (see "future events" below). Meanwhile, we have continued to be blessed with the presence of MG John McLaren as his command has been extended into August, with a change of command and retirement dinner rescheduled to September, (also featured in the "future events" below). We still are guessing as to who will become the next Commanding General but we will let you all know as soon as we find out. Stay tuned for future updates!

Please be sure to check our website for the latest feature which includes the "Meeting Minutes" of our Quarterly conference calls with our Board of Directors for more details about decisions being made in support of the organization. ([www.80thblueridge.com](http://www.80thblueridge.com))

### **FUNERAL SERVICE FOR 80TH MEDAL OF HONOR AWARDEE, MSG PAUL J. WIEDORFER**

It is with deep sympathy that we mourn the loss of one of the 80th Division's greatest heroes, MSG Paul Wiedorfer who died on 25 May 2011. An obituary can be found at [www.ruckfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ruckfuneralhomes.com) website. MG McLaren prepared remarks that he delivered at the funeral.

### **WALL OF HONOR CEREMONY**

The Wall of Honor Ceremony took place on 26 May at 10:00 at the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond. Blue Ridge members MG John McLaren, LTC Anthony Taylor, LTC Terence Singleton and LTC Cynthia Norwood all supported the event.



## **BLUE RIDGE LUNCHEONS**

The 1st Quarterly Blue Ridge Luncheon took place on 23 March at Pino's Pizza Italian Family Restaurant. This was the first in a series of informal luncheons that is intended to bring together current local members on a more frequent basis and attract new members to the organization. All are welcome to attend. We are not planning to have any formal guest speakers, just fun and camaraderie.

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **BLUE RIDGE QUARTERLY LUNCHEON**

The next Blue Ridge Association quarterly luncheon will be held on 29 June at Uno's on Jeff Davis. The event is open to all members and potential members. While only locals would be expected to come, everyone is welcome to attend. If interested, please RSVP by 22 June 2011 to either MSG(R) Pete Herbert at [edmond.herbert@usar.army.mil](mailto:edmond.herbert@usar.army.mil) or CSM Doris Wollett at [doris.wollett@usar.army.mil](mailto:doris.wollett@usar.army.mil).

### **CSM DORIS WOLLETT RETIREMENT PARTY**

On 9 July at 1800, Blue Ridgers and friends will celebrate the retirement and honor the 34 years of faithful service CSM Doris Wollett has given to the US Army. Please join Doris's daughter, Margie Harrison and fellow Blue Ridgers at VFW Post 9808 Battlefield Post, 7168 Flag Lane in Mechanicsville, VA 23111 to wish her the best as she commences into a new beginning. Margie asks that you RSVP to her by 14 June 2011 at 804-690-9990.

### **80TH DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION'S 92ND ANNUAL REUNION**

Come join us 24-28 August 2011 at the Sheraton West Hotel on Midlothian Turnpike in Richmond. Registration forms have been sent out to all members in the last Blue Ridge Service magazine. If you need another registration form, please contact Pete Herbert, or visit our website at [www.80thblueridge.com](http://www.80thblueridge.com).

A special provision has been made to encourage participation at the Reunion dinner by waiving the conference registration fee for those who are only able to attend the Saturday dinner only, the main event of the five-day period. For those attending the Saturday dinner only, they are also required to pay in advance, register and write "waived" for the registration fee.

**"STRENGTH OF THE MOUNTAINS"**

## **80TH BLUE RIDGE ARMY RESERVE ASSOCIATION BREAKFAST AND ANNUAL MEETING**

Make a special highlight on your calendars for Sunday, 28 August 2011 at 0830 as the Blue Ridge Association will host its 10th annual Breakfast and Business Meeting at the Sheraton Hotel at 0800 at the Sheraton West Hotel following the 80th Division Veterans events. It is our hope that we have a maximum turnout for the combined dinner Saturday night and the Breakfast and Business Meeting on Sunday morning. Though we fully encourage participation at all the events, we understand that many of our members are working Monday thru Friday and may not be able to attend all of the events.

### **80TH TRAINING COMMAND CHANGE OF COMMAND**

The 80th Training Command (TASS) change of command ceremony originally scheduled for May has been postponed until 24 September 2011 and will take place at 1000 hours at William Stadium at Fort Lee, VA. MG McLaren's Farewell/Retirement Dinner has also been rescheduled and will take place Friday, 23 September 2011 at 1830 at the Sheraton Park South Hotel, 9901 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond, VA 23235.

MG John McLaren will pass the Command of the 80th to his successor, (TBD). We salute MG McLaren for his many years of great service to the 80th and are grateful for his continued service to the Blue Ridge Association and 80th Division Veterans Association. The point of contact for this event is LTC Anthony Taylor, at 804-271-5807 or [anthony.taylor@usar.army.mil](mailto:anthony.taylor@usar.army.mil).

Thanks again to everyone who contributed. Please let me know if you had any significant events that I can share with other Blue Ridge members for input in the next edition.

Please review the association's website to keep yourself abreast of future activities at:

[www.80thblueridge.com](http://www.80thblueridge.com)

We are also featured on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/BlueRidgeAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/BlueRidgeAssociation)

And on the Flickr:

[www.flickr.com/photos/BlueRidgeAssociation](http://www.flickr.com/photos/BlueRidgeAssociation).

For those of you who tweet, you can find us at:

[www.twitter.com/80thBlueRidge](http://www.twitter.com/80thBlueRidge)

Thanks to Andy Adkins for maintaining our website! We will be making an effort to keep it updated with information about members and highlights of the organization. Please send suggestions for website updates or newsletter articles to:

[edmond.herbert@us.army.mil](mailto:edmond.herbert@us.army.mil)

## TAPS: Pvt Paul J. Wiedorfer, MOH, G-318

**WORKING IN THE WAR INDUSTRIES** gave Paul Wiedorfer an automatic deferment until 1943 when he was drafted. The following year, he was in Europe with the 80th Infantry. After fighting through France and into Belgium, his battalion was taken out of combat and put on “Corps reserve.” When the Battle of the Bulge began, his unit was loaded onto trucks and sent to the front. They were on the way to relieve the garrison at Bastogne when American troops, mistaking them for Germans, opened fire on them. Wiedorfer’s commanding officer had to drape their vehicles with white sheets to convince the Americans to cease firing.

At around noon on Christmas Day 1944, Wiedorfer’s company was near Chaumont, Belgium, clearing a wooded area of enemy snipers. The day was cloudless and very cold; the three-inch snowfall from the previous night had turned to ice. One of the platoons was crossing an open area when two German machine guns, flanked by riflemen, opened fire from dug-in positions. The Americans scabbled for cover behind a small ridge.

Afraid that his immobilized buddies would be cut to pieces, Private Wiedorfer stood up and charged the enemy. Slipping repeatedly on the frozen ground until he got to within a few yards of the first machine-gun nest, he tossed a grenade in, then shot the three enemy soldiers manning it. He continued to fight his way through the snow, crouching as he ran toward the second position, all the while sensing and hearing the shells from the small-arms fire the Germans were concentrating on him. He counted it a miracle that he wasn’t hit. When the grenade he threw at the second enemy position killed one soldier, six others stood up and surrendered to him. By this point, the pinned-down American platoon was able to get up and advance with the rest of the company. He was given a battlefield promotion that afternoon to sergeant. Wiedorfer’s platoon leader had been killed several days earlier. When his sergeant was also killed in this action, Wiedorfer took over and led the unit for the next several weeks.

In early February 1945, fighting on German soil, he was hit during a mortar attack. Although the body of a GI, killed instantly near him, stopped some of the shrapnel, Wiedorfer was struck by fragments in the stomach and both legs. His left leg was broken and his right hand was shot through. He was evacuated to England, where he was treated for two months. One morning, a sergeant in the bed next to him was reading the GI newspaper, *Stars and Stripes*, and said, “Hey, Paul, what’s your last name?” Wiedorfer spelled it for him. The sergeant looked up. “Hell, you got the Medal of Honor, Man!”



photos by Chien-Chi Chang, courtesy *Baltimore Sun* / December 22, 1994

Wiedorfer thought someone would just come by his hospital bed to hand the medal to him. But by the time Brigadier General E. F. Koenig, the commanding officer of the hospital arrived to make the presentation on May 29, 1945, he was surrounded by hundreds of people—officers, nurses, and a full military band.

“That was the first I heard of it. When I found out I was getting it, I didn’t even know what the hell it was,” said Wiedorfer, in an interview from his Parkville, MD home a couple of years ago. “Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the Medal of Honor didn’t exist, because there were no wars and we could all live in peace? And that the only way to spell war was love? Wouldn’t that be wonderful?” he continued.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

# Remembering Pvt Paul J. Wiedorfer

## FROM CECILIA SMITH

The events of the last two days have been bittersweet. Although we did not know Mr. Wiedorfer personally, we had spoken to him by phone several times over the last few years, and having written the article for last year's Reunion Book, felt like he was an 80th friend, just as all of you have become.

Sr. Vice Commander Dr. Lee Anthony had a new banner created for the upcoming 92nd Reunion for the Veterans Association and the first time it was used was for the funeral of one of the Veterans. The funeral director was most accommodating in helping us display it—it rests on a seven foot pole—so it was suspended between two floral easels and used as a backdrop for photos and included with the displays of Paul's memorabilia.

Max & Alice Schmidt and their son, Richard, met us in Timonium and we went to the evening viewing. Roger and Martha Nelson had been there Sunday evening, yesterday afternoon, and returned shortly after we arrived. Roger had displayed the 80th Association flag and for today's service at the Church, both the 80th and American flags belonging to the Association were used.

Last evening, MG John P. McLaren, Chaplain Combee, CSM Luis Blanco, LTC Grant Porter, SFC Anne Walters, and six other 80th Training Command personnel carried out the 80th Association Funeral Rite. Commander Max Schmidt was invited to read a poem prior to MG McLaren recognizing Paul's service. Chaplain Combee utilized a portion of the prayer, but also included personal comments. It was a very moving service and family and friends were quite impressed. A bugler played TAPS, which had most family members in tears.

This morning, we met at the Church for 10 AM Mass. Prior to that, the Maryland National Guard members and family conducted a service in the lobby and then escorted the casket into the sanctuary. Following Mass, Dennis Fay, a family friend who helped coordinate all of the services, delivered an excellent eulogy and then MG McLaren spoke of his personal respect for all WW II Veterans and 80th men, in particular. He then read the citation for Paul's Medal of Honor.

This morning, Jim Gentry (F-317), introduced himself to LTC Porter, who then brought him to us. Jim Gentry, who has long corresponded with Virgil and Bob Murrell, lives just a couple of miles from the Church. He also attended Paul's service.

Following the nearly two-hour service at the Church, the procession made its way to the local cemetery where Mrs. Wiedorfer is buried. There, the Maryland National Guard had set up a full military honor salute, and probably 50 motorcycle riders from Rolling Thunder, all displaying American flags, lined the route and

helped the local police conduct traffic control. The members of the 80th contingent were also in parade formation and MG McLaren ushered Paul's surviving daughter to the gravesite. When the flag was folded, it was presented to MG McLaren, who in turn, presented it to Paul's daughter. I don't know how many went to the cemetery, but there were cars in front and back of us as far as we could see. They had to open a field for parking. The traditional three-volley salute and TAPS followed graveside prayers.

Everyone was invited to the local VFW for a luncheon. At that time, a representative of Baltimore's Mayor presented a proclamation to the family on behalf of the Mayor and City.

The young man who coordinated most of the funeral services for the family is a Marine and worked closely with LTC Porter; they are both to be commended. We've been to military funerals in the past, but none with the precision and dignity that this one showed. Dennis has put together a video program of personal memorabilia, interviews and "stories" that Paul shared over the years. He told us that he and Paul's grandson are interested in attending the Richmond reunion, and will share the video and photo collages.

## FROM LTC GRANT PORTER

Below are the personnel who attended the funeral in addition to Bruce & Cecilia Smith, Max & Alice Schmidt, and Roger & Martha Nelson.

I have separated the group into those who participated in the Funeral Rite and those who only attended the funeral. I then put an asterisk by those who are members of Post 50 from the 80th Training Command. Also provided further below is the list provided by Jari Villanueva, Director, Maryland National Guard Honor Guard, who provides links to videos of the funeral.

### FUNERAL RITE:

MG John P. McLaren \*  
Chaplain (COL) Todd Combee  
LTC Grant Porter \*  
1LT Travis Harris  
1LT Chul Lee  
CSM Luis Blanco \*  
CSM Nicky Jungandreas  
MSG (R) John Brooks

\* Post 50 Members

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Chandler Jr., CW3 Walter L.,  
80th Log Group  
DOD: 4/2/2011  
Rptd by CSM Doris Wollett

Coccionitti, Nicholas L., E-317  
163 Glendale Drive  
Tonawanda, NY 14150-4635  
DOD: 6/24/2007  
Rptd with returned Blue Ridge

DeMuro, Jerry A., L-318  
333 Longcommon Road  
Riverside, IL 60546  
DOD: 10/10/2008  
Rptd by his son, Donn

DePalantino, Peter, F-319  
5620 Travelers Way  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34982  
DOD: 3/9/2011  
Rptd by his companion, Mary Ann

Heath, Rev. George D., 80th  
Reserves  
Norfolk, VA  
DOD: 03/3/2011  
Rptd on the Internet

Hege Jr., Joe H., 80th Rcn  
1579 Greensboro St Ext  
Lexington, NC 29295  
DOD: 2/14/2011  
Rptd by PNC Max Schmidt

Hughes, Robert, C-318  
Shongo, NY  
DOD: 03/15/2011  
Rptd on the Internet

PNP Kutsch, Rita  
DOD: 5/3/2011  
Rptd by Barbara Brockman

Martineze, Mike, I-318  
2455 Kensington  
Salt Lake City, UT 84108  
DOD: April 2010  
Rptd by: Richard A. Hiller

Norry, Gerald, AT-319  
1957 Lakeville Rd  
Avon, NY 14414  
DOD: 4/09/2011  
Rptd by Tina Barton

Novoshielski, John, C-318  
Wallingford, PA  
DOD: 3/21/2010  
Rptd on the Internet

Reyer, Raymond J., Unknown  
Unit  
New Orleans, LA  
DOD: 12/31/2010  
Rptd on the Internet

Rooke, Robert, Unknown Unit  
Jackson, TN  
DOD: 02/11/2011  
Rptd on the Internet

Ruffa, Thomas, I-319  
125 Moffat Avenue  
Washington, PA 15301  
DOD: 2004  
Rptd by his daughter, Evelyn

Russell, Alex E., E-317  
PO Box 217  
Melstone, MT 59054  
DOD: 5/14/2011  
Rptd by his family

Slanina, Conrad, 305 Engr  
Ben Avon, PA  
DOD: 03/18/2011  
Rptd on the Internet

Smith, Oscar, 80th TASS  
Roanoke, VA  
DOD: 03/02/2011  
Rptd on the Internet

Thurman, Obie V., B-317  
6541 SE 111th Place  
Belleview, FL 34420  
DOD: 3/13/2011  
Rptd by his wife, Theresa

Victor R. Trumper, C-318  
37275 Jordan Street  
Clinton Township, MI 48036  
DOD: 2/16/2011  
Rptd on the Internet

Vancourt, James F., H-317  
Albuquerque, NM  
DOD: 01/19/2011  
Rptd on the Internet

Weekley, Harold, 305 Engr  
Marietta, GA  
DOD: 09/22/2010  
Rptd on the Internet

Wiedorfer, Paul J. (MOH),  
G-318  
3210 Chelsey Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21234  
DOD: 05/25/2011  
Rptd by his family

Wilson, Norris, Unknown Unit  
Tioga, ND  
DOD: 03/23/2011  
Rptd on the Internet

## Weidorfer... continued from page 10

After two months in English hospitals, he was flown home where he spent the next two and a half years at Walter Reed Hospital. On June 11, 1945, there was a ticker tape parade in his honor in downtown Baltimore. On a reviewing stand before a crowd of 35,000 at City Hall Plaza, General George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, grasped the young soldier's hand and said, "I am proud to take you by the hand."

After the War and his discharge from hospitals, he returned to his beloved "Ballmer," where he worked for years for Baltimore Gas & Electric. Political pressure wanted him to run for Congress against incumbent Thomas D'Alesandro, but, Wiedorfer turned them down flat saying he couldn't let the Medal of Honor be a part of any "Political Barter" and stated that for him to run for office merely because he was a "Medal of Honor man" was obnoxious to him. He met four US Presidents and broke ground on the VA Hospital on

Loch Raven Blvd & The Alameda where he spent his final days. Sgt Wiedorfer was on the Mayor's hand-appointed War Memorial Commission and, along with a few other vets, worked long and hard to have the new stadium for the Colts and Orioles named in honor of the soldiers. They were successful when the stadium was christened "Memorial Stadium" in 1954.

A graduate of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, a plaque honoring him was placed in Poly's Memorial Hall in 2008. In 2002, he was commissioned the first Honorary Regimental Colonel of the 318th Infantry by then Commander of the 80th Institutional Training Division, MG Douglas O. Dollar. He was further honored in September 2009 when an information board was erected near the Beech Tree at Chaumont, by Ivan Steenkiste, featuring a photo and a copy of his citation.

Mr. Wiedorfer and his wife of more than sixty years, Alice, were parents of two sons and two daughters. Mrs. Wiedorfer passed away in 2008. Maryland's #1 Hero, as the press called him, passed away on May 25, 2011 at the age of 90.

# 80th Infantry Division Takes Weimar; Germans Fail to Resist Yanks Col. Costello Arranges for Surrender

by Bernd Schmidt and US Veterans Friends-Germany

**T**HE ELDERLY CITIZENS of the German town Weimar remember very well the story of the honorable and peaceful surrender of our town on 12 April 1945.

It was a bloodless conquest, negotiated by a German bicycle courier. Negotiations for the surrender began in the village of Troistedt, 3 miles south of the historic German city of Weimar. The surrender ultimatum was drawn up from the Commander of the 319th Infantry Regiment and handed to the Mayor of Troistedt. The Mayor then pedalled a bicycle into Weimar and delivered the surrender demand.

The Mayor of Troistedt returned, riding his bicycle again and was followed ten minutes later by the Lord Mayor of Weimar, who said his city was ready to surrender. The American troops then marched into Weimar. This amazing story was published in many newspapers like the *New York Times* of April 12, 1945, The Blue Ridge of July 15, 1945, and others:

***New York Times, Weimar, April 12:*** This city, site of the Weimar Republic which came after Kaiser Wilhelm II had abdicated and revolution had broken out throughout Germany, was captured today without a single shot fired. There were 2,000 Germans in the main square when the Americans arrived. They mobbed our jeeps and tanks in a scene reminiscent of the Normandy days. No one is naive enough to think that the Germans are happy to see us conquerors, but they are all glad that the war is over for them and that from now on the bombings will cease. The only sour note within the city was sounded by the older folks who turned their backs deliberately when the Americans came through.

The capture was accomplished by negotiation but not until American soldiers gave their lives in an ambush. It was after negotiations had been completed and our forces were moving into the city that SS units that had been cut off in the woods on the outskirts of Weimar opened fire with small arms, burp guns, and mortars. They had not heard of the armistice yet and to them, enemy troops were enemy troops and that was all there was to it.

The negotiations, which seemed like something out of a novel, were started at 0500 by Col. N.O. Costello (CT-319) of the 80th Infantry Division. He was sitting four miles SW of Weimar and though it would be a good idea to give the town a chance to surrender before he gave it the works. He had artillery on a hill overlooking the city ready to fire and tanks in position to take the town. But instead, he decided on negotiations if possible.



**COL COSTELLO (LEFT) AND GENERAL PATTON**

(Photo courtesy of Toni Costello)

He got in touch with the Burgermeister of Troistedt and gave him an ultimatum to deliver to the Mayor of Weimar. The Burgermeister, who was roused from bed for the mission, was scared to death but he went through with it. The note he delivered to the Commander of Troops, District Weimar, Germany Army read: "The Third American Army advances once more triumphantly. We propose to pass through this district and through historic Weimar. In as much as our superiority is now overwhelming and your leaders are requiring you to fight needlessly. The honorable but unconditional surrender of Weimar and of the troops in its vicinity is demanded forthwith. Therefore, in order to save your city Weimar from unnecessary destruction and to prevent further shedding of blood, you will accept this offer at once. Send an emissary at once to the place directed by the bearer. The rules of the Geneva Convention will be strictly adhered to in all matters. An affirmative answer must be received at the time and the place directed by the bearer or the city of WEIMAR will be shelled." Signed, "American Commander of troops."

The Burgermeister started off with fear. The city was virtually surrounded by American troops but there were numerous die-hard German soldiers, including SS troops, in the vicinity who might object to peacemakers. He made his way through the city and went

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

## 80th Takes Weimar... continued from page 13

directly to the Lord Mayor Otto Koch, who was one of few city officials with enough courage to remain after the German troops had moved out. Koch thought the smart thing was to surrender and he went into an executive session with the police chief and his staff concurred. After all, the main part of the city was already destroyed and why ruin the rest of it when they had nothing with which to defend it.

The Burgermeister was sent back at 0900 with the acceptance of the surrender terms. With him was an interpreter who could speak English a little better than most Americans. She was a doctor of philosophy, Dr. Erica Fisher, daughter of the late German General Hermann Schitmer. She accompanied the Burgermeister back to see Col Costello and the deal was completed. Col. Costello was a little doubtful about moving right in because some of his men had been ambushed near the town. Nevertheless, he went in himself with four jeeps and when they arrived at 1000 in the town square, there were 2,000 people there to greet them.

Some citizens of our town Weimar were looking for the men of the American unit who liberated our town and our area in 1945. We found Bill Haley and a group of the veterans of the 80th Infantry Division visited our town in 1999 after 54 years. It was an emotional meeting and many came to speak. One year later, in 2000, the group came back to present a very nice plaque in the City Hall of Weimar with the inscription, "In commemoration of the honorable and peaceful surrender of Weimar April 12, 1945." A great ceremony followed. From enemies, we found friends.

But who was the hero who was responsible to take the city without bloodshed?

It was Col Normando A. Costello, Commander of 319th Infantry Regiment, 80th Infantry Division, who came with his troops a short time earlier from a battle near Weimar. Col Costello was a very well educated man. He knew the Culture City of Weimar and his history very well. He wanted to save the lives of his men and the enemy's, who were mostly simple citizens. So everyone was thankful. Peace came to our town again.

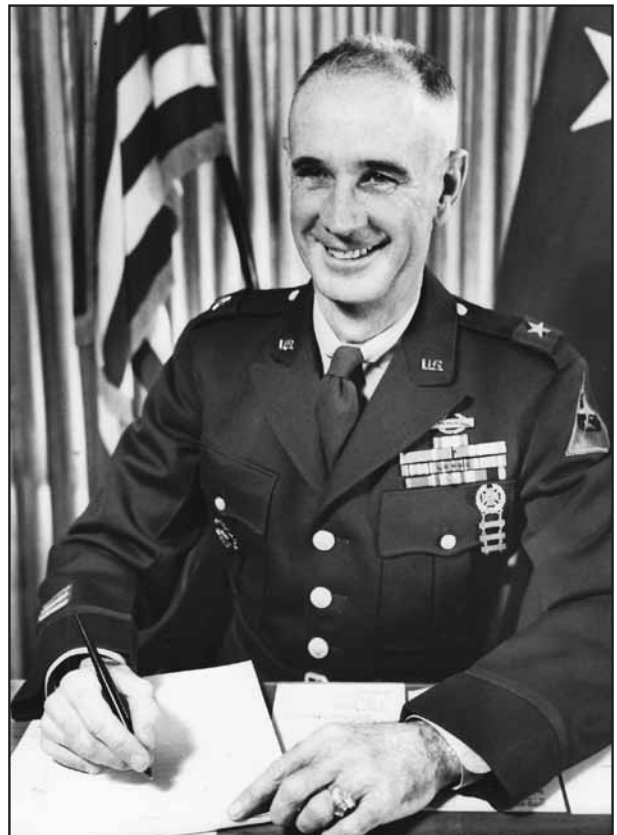
In researching for this article, I discovered a little more information about this extraordinary man, Col Costello. For many years, we contacted veterans and institutions to look for Col Costello, but with no success. Only recently, I found a reference to his daughter Toni on the Internet.

Toni wrote us: "My father never talked about the war at all until we were living in Italy and I was 17 yrs old. He did talk a lot about Gen Patton. What I remember about his story about Weimar was how impressed he was with the German citizens, their sense of honor,

pride and high standards. The civilians were very courteous, respectful and kind to him and his soldiers. My father felt horrible about the destruction on the city and told his soldiers to be respectful of the Germans and their personal possessions. He said it was a blessing from God that Dr. Fisher was there to help translate the negotiation and surrender. She was very intelligent and wise. The mayor and other Germans with her respected her and listened to her. He felt lucky that the Mayor or whoever was in charge of accepting the surrender were so agreeable to talk to and to agreed to surrender without force. He said to me and in letters that he did not approve of our soldiers hurting civilians and their homes."

Toni sent us some information about his life which we like to share with you:

June 19, 1905	Born in Franklin, Massachusetts
1929	U.S.M.A. Graduation
1942-1944	Service with War Staff; Fought with Patton in Africa and Italy
1944-1945	Cmdg Colonel, 346th Infantry & later 319th Infantry Assistant Division Commander 80th Infantry Division



**BG NORMANDO A. COSTELLO**

(Photo courtesy of National Archives)

1946-1949 Service in Panama Canal Zone  
 1952-1955 Service in Panama Canal Zone  
 1949 National War College  
 1955-1956 Assistant Division Commander, Fort Knox Training Center  
 1956-1958 Commanding General, Fort Jackson Training Center  
 1958-1960 Commanding General 7th Infantry Div, Korea  
 1960-1961 G3 South East Asia Command, Fort Shafter, Hawaii  
 1961-1963 Chief of MAAG (Military Advisory) to Italian Army

1963-1964 Fort Hayes, Ohio, 2nd Army Commander  
 1964 June Retired  
 Nov 22, 1985 Died, killed in an auto accident in Columbia, SC  
 Married, 3 daughters, one son  
 Son killed in Viet Nam Dec 1965  
 Youngest teenage daughter killed auto accident 1966  
 We are sorry that it wasn't possible to meet Gen Costello in living times in Germany again. But, if we citizens of Weimar pass the City Hall of our town with the plaque of surrender, we will have a special remembrance for the hero who was finally responsible for the honorable and peaceful surrender which saved many lives. He will be in our hearts forever.

## FLAGS FOR LUXEMBOURG

During last year's annual reunion, members of the Association were informed that several cities in Luxembourg were working together and planning to erect a special memorial in honor of the American units who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. The plans and erection of the monument are well underway, with an anticipated dedication this summer.

A request from that monument committee was made that unit flags, as well as state flags, representing each of the 48 United States from which American Soldiers were sent into WW II, be made available for display at the site of the new monument.

Dr. Lee Anthony has assumed responsibility for the flag project. A new 80th Division flag was commissioned and has been delivered. Initially, letters were sent to the Governors of each State requesting a State Flag that could be utilized for the display. Many of the State offices responded with regrets, due to budget constraints. However, flags were received from the following:

Florida	Governor Scott (also included an American Flag)
Maryland	Governor O'Malley
Vermont	Governor Shumlin
Illinois	Governor Quinn
Delaware	Governor Markell
Mississippi	Governor Barbour
Massachusetts	Governor Patrick
Wisconsin	Governor Walker

Members of the 80th Division Veterans Association, who were former members of the Descendants organization and current residents of the various states, were then contacted and asked to support the project with a monetary contribution so that additional flags

could be purchased to represent those remaining states. The response from these family members has been deeply appreciated, and Dr. Anthony wishes to acknowledge the following contributions:

Vic Muller, 5 flags in memory of  
 PFC Joseph Muller, KIA - A-317

Roger Nelson, 3 flags in memory of  
 Mus 3 Hilding Nelson, 305th, WW I  
 SGT John C. McCullough, 305th, WW I  
 MOH Paul J. Wiedorfer, G-318

Paul Stutz, 2 flags in memory of  
 James A. Stutz, HQ, 1st BN, 317

Mike Williams in memory of  
 John Vonada, F-318

Elbert Williams in memory of  
 SGT Clarence E. Williams, WW I

Bruce Smith in memory of all 80th Veterans

Judy Beznak in memory of  
 PVT Tony Ruzich, Jr., KIA - L-317

Frank Bayruns in memory of  
 PVT Theodore Bayruns, KIA - I-318

Jeff Wignall in memory of  
 William H. Wignall, KIA - A-318

Kenneth Nutting in memory of  
 Harry F. Nutting, 1-317

Lee S. Anthony in memory of  
 PVT Lee Hill Anthony, F-317, WW I

If anyone would like to add to this flag fund, your donations would be welcome. Forward a check to 80th Division Veterans Association and note "Flag memorial" to: Lee S. Anthony, Ph. D., 5346 Peters Creek Road, Roanoke, VA 24019. A special thanks to all who have assisted with this project.

## History of the 80th... continued from page 1

Who were the original members? Some 16,000 men out of the 27,000 serving with the 80th at the end of WW I paid two dollars before they left France to belong to the organization.

When & where was the first meeting? Original issues of the Service Magazine provided some details of meetings, but not official minutes. From the Oct 1919 issue, Vol 1, No 1, p. 22: "The decision was made that the reunion and picnic would be an annual affair based on the fact that the first one, held on July 22, 1919, at Westview Park, Pittsburgh, had been a success."

The Feb 1920 issue of the Service Magazine reported that the Reunion Committee members were to meet in April 1920. On p. 5 of the May 1920 issue, Vol 1, No 8 reported that at a Division reception held at Motor Square Garden, Pittsburgh, PA in April 1920, the reunion committee selected Richmond, VA for the annual reunion and picnic and it was to become known as the First Annual Reunion of the 80th Division Veterans Association. Dates selected were September 4 - 6, 1920.

Do we have a list of members who attended the first meeting? Unfortunately, there are two 1920 Service Magazines missing from the files. They are for October and November, and would likely have contained information about that meeting. Other than the Sept 4 and 6 minutes, there is a program listing events, but no names.

Do we know how many members joined the first year? In 1920, as a part of one of the Service Magazines, there was a published yearbook. It gave a brief history of the Division and also contained a Roster of the members. Since Russell Stultz was editing and publishing the Service Magazine, he prefaced the list with the notation that some names may have been omitted, misspelled or otherwise incorrect, and advised the men to make corrections. It contained the name, rank, organization and present address of the members who joined the Association and paid their annual dues for 1920.

There are references that some 20,000 of the 27,000 serving with the 80th at the end of the War actually paid the two dollar dues to become members. The 1920 roster has somewhere around 16,000 names. The Stultz manuscript references 20,000 were anticipated after a membership drive in 1920.

French Liaison Officers and other personnel from Ft. Lee who supported the 80th Troops (medics, YMCA, news reporters, canteen personnel, etc.) were also eligible for membership.

Do we know the highlights or changes to the organization over the years? As mentioned previously, the Service Magazines reported extensively on business mat-

ters in the early years. There were multiple changes to the By-Laws and Constitution from 1920 through 1927. We have several of those years' magazines in bound volumes. I personally do not have copies of the Blue Ridge or Service Magazine after 1942, and probably reading through minutes would be the only other way to determine what and when changes were made.

The majority of changes that occurred in early years, as recorded in the Service Magazines, dealt with modifications to membership eligibility. The current documents, amended in 2009, which allow for membership in the organization by anyone who served under the Blue Ridge Patch, their family members, or anyone with an interest in preserving the history of the 80th Division, are very similar to several proposed changes that were discussed in the 1930s.

At the 1920 meeting in Richmond, the classifications of membership were established as active, inactive and honorary. That was also when any officer, enlisted man, or any honorably discharged person who had served with the 80th at any time, or, welfare workers, accredited news correspondents, or base hospital workers from Camp Lee, were determined eligible for membership.

At the August 1924 meeting, the 159th Field Artillery of the 82nd Division applied for membership. The request was granted after much discussion. The 159th had been attached to the 80th for some time.

The August/September Service Magazine detailed that General Churchill Mehard from the 82nd had made the request. The 319th and 320th Artillery Regiments also became potential members.

As for the WW II Veterans—the Association voted on June 8, 1942 to amend the Constitution, Article II, Section 2, and made Soldiers serving with the 80th eligible for Associate Membership. In August 1945, the WW II Veterans were voted into full membership. This information was provided by PNC Bob Burrows when we were doing some other research also verified by Service Magazines, as noted above.

Thanks Dempsey for the questions—thanks Bruce for the answers.

### Check Your Address Label

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

**PAID 2010**

*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.





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

# Because Their Memory Still Serves

**T**he 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
	\$39.00 framed
11" X 14"	\$44.00 unframed
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**BRITT TAYLOR COLLINS**  
*The Veterans' Artist*

## Weidorfer... continued from page 11

SFC Anne Walters \*

SFC Gerrol St. John

### FUNERAL ATTENDEE:

COL Erik Imajo \*

James O'C. Gentry, Company F, 317th Regt.

### MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD HONOR GUARD PERSONNEL LIST:

Casket Team:

SFC Melvin Spruill, NCOIC

SFC Kelvin Rankin

SGT Venice Richards

SGT Daniel White

SGT Robert Frederick

SPC Nicholas Reisetze

PV2 Brandon Boyd

\* Post 50 Members

Firing Party:

TSgt. Kandyce O'Meally

TSgt. Joseph Langrehr

SGT Richard Blevins

SGT Jeremy Briggs

SPC Trevor Nichols

SPC Nigel Pierre

A1c. Kevin Grant

PERSONAL COLORS (MOH FLAG)

SGT Johnathan McGlone

BUGLER

SSG (ret) John Blount

BUGLER (service at funeral home)

SGT Keith DeFontes

Facebook link for videos:

[www.facebook.com/MDNGHonorGuard](http://www.facebook.com/MDNGHonorGuard)

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Gainesville, FL 32605-3392



# 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

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:**

ACTIVE MEMBER

LIFE MEMBER

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

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

*Robert Moorhead*  
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# Blue Ridge 80th Division The Service Magazine

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



## Website Updates

- [www.thetroubleshooters.com](http://www.thetroubleshooters.com)
- [www.80thdescendants.com](http://www.80thdescendants.com)
- [www.80thdivision.com](http://www.80thdivision.com)
- [www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov)

### What you will find at [www.80thdivision.com](http://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