



BLUE RIDGE

THE SERVICE MAGAZINE

SPRING 2010

Volume 92 • Number 369 • Issue 1

The 80th Only Moves Forward

by Andy Adkins, National Secretary

THE 80TH DIVISION HAS ENJOYED a rich history for more than ninety years since it was first organized August 5, 1917 and headquartered at Camp Lee (now known as Fort Lee), Virginia. We will have the opportunity to visit Fort Lee during this year's Annual Reunion in August (see the Reunion Update later in this issue).

In World War I, the 80th Division reached full strength with 23,000 soldiers and sailed to France, landing on June 8, 1918. The 80th Division trained with the British Third Army and joined forces on the front lines near the Artois sector with heavy action in the Somme Offensive of 1918 and in the Meuse-Argonne. The 80th returned to the States in May 1919 and was inactivated at Camp Lee on June 26, 1919.

Twenty three years later, on July 15, 1942, the 80th Division was again ordered into active service. Soldiers initially reported to Camp Forrest, Tennessee. The Division later moved for training at Camp Phillips near Salina, Kansas and in the California-Arizona Desert Training Center. The 80th set sail aboard the RMS Queen Mary on July 4, 1944, landing a few days later on July 7 at Greenock, Firth of Clyde, Scotland. The Division crossed the English Channel landing in Normandy on Utah Beach shortly after noon on August 2, 1944, D-Day + 5. By the end of the war, May 7, 1945, the 80th Division had seen 277 days of combat. The 80th Division returned to the United States in January 1946 and was placed on inactive status on January 5, 1946.

The division was again reactivated as the 80th Airborne Division (Reserve) on December 23, 1946 and became one of 24 organized Reserve Corps Divisions. Since that time it has reorganized four additional times. The Army continues to transform to meet the tactics of our new 21st Century enemy. In 2008, the 80th Division transformed into the 80th Training Command (TASS – The Army School System). What began in 1917 as a Division primarily comprised of men from three states, the 80th has now transformed into a command of men and women from each of the fifty states and Puerto Rico. The new 80th Training Command is responsible for the MOS training of all Army Reserve and Army National Guard units.

Following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the commencement of the Global War on Terrorism, the 80th Division was selected to provide a brigade-sized element to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and the training of the Iraqi Armed Forces. More than 700 80th Division soldiers were mobilized in the summer of 2005 for a one year overseas deployment with a mission of manning, training, equipping, and mentoring the Iraqi Army and Civilian Security Forces. These soldiers returned home to the U.S. in the summer of 2006. Since that time, the 80th Division continues to deploy soldiers for training and support for multiple missions and commands around the world.

I had the opportunity to talk with two 80th Division soldiers who recently returned from an overseas deployment. SGM Giovanni Mejia (North Port, FL) spent a year in Afghanistan and SFC Richard A. McKenna (Richmond, VA) spent ten months in Iraq. Both men have devoted a large majority of their lives to the military, including initial long stints in the U.S. Army.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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

SPRING HAS SPRUNG, at least down here in Florida. We're having an early Spring with flowers blooming and warm weather. That, of course, brings pollen and allergies to some and that yellow stuff all over cars, sidewalks, and houses. I know the weather has been weird all over the country for the past couple of years, but as my dad used to say, "grin and bear it; that's why we live in Florida."

This quarter's Blue Ridge magazine brings us a couple of great articles. My friend and fellow author Jan Elvin sent in a wonderful article about the 80th Infantry's events during April 1945. Jan wrote "The Box from Braunau, In Search of My Father's War;" her father was Lt. William Elvin who served in Co E-318. She's a wonderful writer and I know you'll enjoy her contribution.

I had the privilege and honor to talk with SGM Giovanni Mejia and SFC Richard McKenna, both current 80th Division soldiers with the 80th Training Command, who recently completed tour in Afghanistan and Iraq, respectively. These soldiers provided some great insights and stories about their overseas deployment and the daily challenges of work and culture. I think you'll enjoy their story and some of you might even compare your WWII deployment to theirs and the things you missed while away from home.

We've got two WWII veterans who contributed to "Out of the Past." I'd like to thank Walter Barthold, 80th Signal Company, for his contribution about the time he and many other 80th Division soldiers deployed overseas in July 1944. Back then, soldiers were not flown over, but boarded ships for the long overseas trip. A little longer and a little harder, but nonetheless, I can't help but think the pride he felt at that time is the same pride all of us veterans feel when we see soldiers in uniform. To me, it doesn't matter if you're Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard. We all served our country with pride and that sense of pride stays with us throughout our lives.

Also, thanks to Dempsey Prappas for a report on his recent trip back in time to the California-Arizona Maneuver Area, near Yuma, Arizona. It's not the same, as you'll read, but brought back a lot of memories of training for the war of a lifetime.



A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

IN THE WINTER ISSUE of the 2010 Blue Ridge Service Magazine, I wrote about the 92nd Annual Reunion would be held at the Sheraton Park South Hotel in Richmond, VA on August 24th - 28th, 2011. The complete details and activities will be made available in the Call to Reunion letter which should be arriving in the next few weeks.

Senior Vice Commander **Dr. Lee Anthony** and his staff have spent countless time and effort to provide an enjoyable and memorable Reunion. Now it is up to our members to participate to make this a reality. Each year the WWII Veterans and their families make every effort to attend, despite their age, health reasons, and travel. But, rest assured, they will make every effort. It is great to see the comradery each year.

As Commander, I have continued to respond to inquiries received and resolve matters that had to be taken care of prior to our meeting in August. I trust everyone had pleasant holidays, and wish you a pleasing Spring and Summer. I am looking forward to greeting you in Richmond.

THE 80th ONLY MOVES FORWARD

Max R. Schmidt - PNC, National Commander

92nd Annual Reunion - 2011, Richmond, Virginia

BY THE TIME THIS ARTICLE IS PRINTED, most everyone will have received the Call to the Reunion letters. Every effort has been made to keep costs reasonable and activities were scheduled to accommodate those who may have difficulty moving about.

As reported in the earlier Blue Ridge, the Sheraton Park South Hotel is a beautiful campus and the staff has assured us that all 80th Veterans and their families will be made to feel at home.

Once again, we remind you of the rich history of the Richmond area: many Civil War sites and museums are within easy access, as are King's Dominion, Busch Gardens, Jamestown, etc.

The Friday afternoon schedule was purposely left open so that families might take advantage of the several hours to visit places of personal interest. There will be activities at the hotel for anyone who wishes to participate. The personnel of the 80th Training Command, some of whom were deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, have been invited to join the Veterans of WW II for individual conversations. We also anticipate that re-enactors and militaria collectors will be on-hand for demonstrations. Or, you can take advantage of the hotel pools and spa to relax for a few hours.

A bus trip has been scheduled for Thursday afternoon to take attendees to Petersburg, the town that was a home away from home for the WW I 80th Soldiers. A Doughboy Statue is one point of interest and a church with all Tiffany windows is another favorite tourist attraction. There will be a stop at the Quartermaster Museum and the adjacent Women's Military Museum at Fort Lee, both of which will welcome 80th Division visitors. If you plan to participate in the tour, and require special handicapped or wheelchair access, please be sure to indicate that on your reservation form.

Transportation from the Richmond International Airport has been arranged at a reduced cost. If you desire this service, make sure you complete the information at the bottom of the registration. Again, we urge all who plan to attend the Richmond Reunion, to make hotel reservations as soon as possible. A reminder that a Starwood Membership will ease the reservation process and earn points for your stay. To make your reservations online, go to www.80thdivision.com and then click on "Reunions," and follow the simple directions to complete the Starwood reservation form.

You may also telephone the hotel at 804-521-2210, although online reservations are preferred. The deadline for both hotel and reunion activity reservations is July 15, 2011.

Another reminder, the Dug Out Party on Thursday night will have a 1940's theme. We encourage vintage dress, so find those fancy duds you wore and come to have a great evening reminiscing with your Comrades.

Have a safe trip to Richmond and we'll see you there in August.



SGM Mejia joined the U.S. Army straight out of high school for five years, including two tours in Germany. He joined the Army Reserve about a year after being discharged and now has a total of 31 years in service, the last four with the 80th. Prior to being transferred to the 80th Training Command, SGM Mejia spent twelve of those years as a drill sergeant. "It's been a challenging and rewarding career. I've made a lot of soldiers and trainees throughout my career; it's been pretty exciting," said SGM Mejia. SGM Mejia's civilian job is as a long-haul semi-truck driver and his work has led him to travel all over the country and Canada. SGM Mejia's primary MOS is 88M-Transportation; his secondary MOS is 11B-Infantry.



SGM Giovanni Mejia



SFC Richard McKenna

SFC Richard McKenna spent six and a half years in the Army as an infantryman then joined the Reserve and now has a total of 15 years with the military, the last seven with the 80th. SFC McKenna is a self-employed general contractor in his civilian life. His primary MOS is 11B-Infantry; his secondary MOS is 92Y-Unit Supply Specialist.

Overseas, these two 80th Division soldiers were deployed on separate assignments. SGM Mejia arrived in Kuwait on November 25, 2009 and moved to Masar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan, attached to the Army Material Command. His main duties included overseeing and coordinating transportation equipment at two FOBs (Forward Observation Bases), one American (Camp Mike Spann) and one German (Camp Marmal). Giant C-5 aircraft landed and delivered armored transportation equipment to the FOBs, including Humvees, MRAPs (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected), and the new M-ATV – "like a Charger on steroids." SGM Mejia's team of soldiers and contractors inspected all vehicles for service, installed communications and gear, and basically got them ready for combat duty. "About two months before I left, they started bringing in helicopters, like the Chinooks and the Apaches. We had to inspect and get them ready for combat, too."

SFC McKenna spent a total of ten months overseas in Iraq, arriving in January 2010 and leaving in October 2010. He was assigned as a senior enlisted advisor to the Iraqi Army Administrative and Supply & Logistics School located at Camp Taji attached to the United States Forces – Iraq (USF-I). He worked hand-in-hand with the school Command Sergeant Major Falah and the school commander, BG Kareem – both were Iraqi military. "At the point when I arrived, our job was to review, assess, and advise them on their training programs and instruction," said SFC McKenna.

"We met with Iraqi students and instructors every day, assessing their skill levels and how they were trained," stated SFC McKenna. "During April and May of 2010, there were many Iraqi 'rejoiners,' former soldiers under Saddam Hussein who were let back into the military. We had about

700 students come through the school when I was there. Classes ranged from 25 to 130 students, depending on the number of students and instructors available and lasted about thirty days."

"The best thing about being over there," says SGM Mejia, "was the camaraderie of working with different soldiers (Americans, Germans, French, British, Italians, and Croats) from around the world. Those guys were great and it was like being assigned to an Army unit over here – everybody was trying to get you up to speed and welcomed you into their ranks. There were more than 3,000 soldiers there from all over the world. We're all there for one purpose and everybody is pretty tight-knit. It made them a part of your military family."

SFC McKenna agrees, "The best thing was being able to work with coalition forces, people and cultures from all over the world. We were invited over to the Iraqi Army side to attend a funeral for an Iraqi general. It was very interesting, though the funeral lasted several days."

We all know serving in the military does have its hardships, too. "What did I miss most?" SGM Mejia explained, "I missed not being able to just get in my car and go for a drive after a hard day's work." There was too much enemy activity in the area to go for a leisure Sunday afternoon drive. "But, it's a good thing I didn't go out on my own. Every now and then, the enemy would be spotted nearby, and the artillery or the air would come in and beat them back."

SFC McKenna, married with a son, missed his family the most. "We had Internet access and e-mailed a lot to keep in touch with each other. Every now and then I'd get a picture or two and I'd send one back."

Living conditions varied, but both soldiers were quartered in Army CHUs (Containerized Housing Units), similar to a trailer, that were split into two or three rooms with a shared bathroom and common area. Unlike many other bases

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“The Eagle Has Landed”

PNC DON STEWART reports that the 80th Division Monument at Fort Benning, GA has been moved from Sacrifice Field to its new home at the Infantry Museum. “It’s been a long time coming, but the monument has been moved to our selected location,” reports Don. “We are grateful for all who helped make this possible, including PNC Archer Futch, Dick Hagen at Fort Benning, and the Columbus Monument Company.” See the attached photo of the monument in its new location.



Blue Ridge Veterans:

I would appreciate anyone who served with my Dad, **PFC JACK MELVIN BUCHANAN**, getting in contact with me. He was a member of I Company, 317th between Mar-May 1945. As a memory jogger, he was a Browning Automatic Rifleman and he was cross-eyed in his right eye. According to his military discharge paperwork, following VE Day he was reassigned and remained in Germany until August 1946, as part of the occupational forces. Thank you very much. My contact information is as follows:

LtCol John R. (Rod) Buchanan, USMC (Ret)
5212 Dundee Lane • Virginia Beach, VA 23464
Evenings: 757-479-5614 • Day: 757-836-1619
artybuck@cox.net

Legion of Honor

RAYMOND H. LEONARD (C-319) recently received the French Legion of Honor Medal – Chevalier, awarded November 10, 2010 at the French Embassy in Washington DC. Ray was part of a cadre who trained the 80th Division at Camp Forrest, TN. He was the leader of 3d platoon, C-319. Ray lives in Ephrata, PA.

The National Order of the Legion of Honor, founded by Napoleon Bonaparte, recognizes eminent service to the Republic of France. The Order has five ranks: Chevalier, Officier, Commandeur, Grand Officier, and Grand Croix. Recipients of this honor are named by decree signed by the President of the Republic. The insignia, first called a “star” or “eagle,” then in 1814 a “cross”, this medal was instituted by the decree of 22 Messidor, Year XII. After 150 years,

the general aspect of the medal has not changed: a white enameled star of five rays on a wreath of leaves with a gold medallion in the center, ringed by blue enamel.

US veterans who helped in the liberation of France during WWII could be eligible to receive the French Legion of Honor Medal, previously issued only to WWI Vets. The French Government has asked the Secretary of VA for assistance in identifying qualified US veterans for medal consideration, to be reviewed and approved by the Legion of Honor Committee in Paris, France. French consulates in the US will distribute approximately 100 medals each year. Members of the Army Air Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard who participated in one of the four major campaigns in the liberation of France (Normandy, Southern France, Northern France and the Ardennes) are eligible.

Those applying must have written documentation (normally a copy of military separation order, DD-214, and other official orders which verify military history during combat).

Any previous military awards such as the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, etc., would indicate meritorious actions during combat operations. Copies of these documents should be forwarded with the request for consideration for the French Legion of Honor to the Defense Attaché, Embassy of France, 4101 Reservoir Road, NW, Washington, DC 20007 (for more info: 202-944-6502 or FAX 202-944-6538).

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (VBOB) Annual Meeting

Each year the “Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge” organization hosts a reunion to honor WWII veterans who fought or died in that historic battle. In the past, we have advertised our reunions through a network of family members and friends and to units that fought in the battle. This year, we hope to attract even more participants, like members of the 80th Division Veterans Association, who know firsthand the importance that the “Bulge” played in world history. Thanks for passing the word to your members.

Robert G. Rhodes, VBOB Trustee

2011 Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (VBOB) Reunion, Columbus, GA, September 20 – 25, 2011

Contact: Ralph Bozorth

608 Treaty Road • Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

484-351-8844 • Ralph@veteransofthebattleofthebulge.org

BROCK & NAOMI BROCKMAN wanted to pass along their heartfelt thanks for all of the letters, get-well cards, phone calls, and e-mails they received over the past few months. Their daughter, Barbara, has kept many of us up-to-date on their progress. Both Brock & Naomi are doing well and on the mend and hope to see everyone at the 2011 Reunion in August in Richmond.

NY Post #43

Spring has sprung and goodbye to another LONG cold winter that most all of us have had to put up with. It's still February as I write, but we have had two days in a row above 60 degrees which makes me feel Spring is near. In fact, it was so nice here in Columbus that I pruned my bushes around the house of their dead and overcrowded growth. Since I've been house-bound all winter, it gave me a worthwhile thing to get out of the house.

Thanks to all that sent me Christmas cards, I enjoyed them as did my Barbara. I have had phone conversations with Gerry and Vera Norry, Jane McCormick, Angelo Barone, Bob McDonald and Ray Patterson. They are all doing reasonably well, but tired of the cold weather. The Norry's are putting up with their aches and pains. Gerry's back flared up again requiring treatment. May our prayers be with Kay Barone who lost her sister last Fall. Ray Patterson inadvertently booked an exotic trip the week of our May meeting, so he will be missed. He apologized for not remembering the meeting date – you are forgiven, Ray.

For a reminder, our Post 43 meeting is May 16 – 19th at Lake Front Ramada on beautiful Seneca Lake Geneva, NY. All 80th Division Veterans Association members are invited. Tuesday, we have our wine trip and with enough interest, I've planned a trip to the Corning Glass Museum in Corning, NY on Wednesday. It's about a 60 mile trip.

Keep me posted on any news you may have so I can share with our members. So long for now and see you all in Geneva.

Post 43 Commander, Burt R. Marsh

Florida Post #47

Our February meeting was a pleasant one, though few in numbers; we all had a great time. The weather was very enjoyable with lots of sun and nice warm breezes. We missed those who could not make it this year for one reason or another.

Francis and I celebrated our 61st wedding anniversary with the Post members present. Francis and I wish to thank everyone who was there for the best wishes they extended to us.

We received word about Naomi Brockman and Russ Sick being in the hospital for surgery. We all send them our best wishes for a speedy recovery. We also learned that Gerald Norry will be having surgery in March. We hope everything goes well and he also has a speedy recovery.

We will be returning to the Crowne Plaza again next February and the hotel staff is looking forward to seeing us. They are one of the most cordial, helpful, and friendly group from Pam at the front desk to Scott and John the bellhops.

Kay Rajnicek, Secretary

National Ladies Auxiliary Report

The National Ladies Auxiliary of the 80th Division Veterans Association and Judy Luthman, President, encourage all ladies who plan to attend the 92nd Annual Reunion in Richmond to join the Auxiliary for the scheduled activities.

The regular membership meeting and Memorial Service for departed Auxiliary Members is an event that all members should attend. This is a time to conduct the normal business of the Auxiliary and to pay tribute to the Ladies who have honored the 80th Division Veterans in the past. Traditionally, this meeting is held on Friday morning at the same time that the men hold their business meeting elsewhere in the hotel.

The Reunion programs will list the times and locations for all events and daily schedules will be posted at the Registration Desk.

In addition to the business meeting, an informal continental coffee break will take place in The Ivy Lounge, just off the Hotel lobby on Thursday morning. The tour of Petersburg will depart the hotel just after lunch, so all ladies would have ample time to enjoy coffee and conversation and still be ready to ride the bus.

Following participation in the Annual Memorial Service in the morning, Saturday's event for the Auxiliary is the Annual Luncheon and Installation of Officers. Tickets for the luncheon will be available in the letter that will be forwarded to all members and prospective members; there will be no tickets sold at the reunion for this luncheon. It will be necessary for us to report a final count for the luncheon in advance, so we will be unable to accommodate requests for tickets at the door. Please follow the instructions in the packet to return all funds, raffle tickets and luncheon requests.

We welcome new members and will be delighted to greet the regulars who accompany the 80th Division Veterans. Safe journeys and we'll be looking for you in Richmond.

313th Field Artillery Battalion

Hi everyone. I do hope you all had a nice holiday with your families and friends. I know I did. It was almost like an old fashioned Xmas, with two of my sons and their families gathering around a large table and having their favorite foods and desserts. Yes, this was a great one for me.

I heard from so many of our good friends during the holidays and it was nice hearing from them. John Ingles wrote that last year was not a good year for him and Audrey and I do hope this year will be better for them. I received a wonderful picture from the Sproull's of their family. They look great and wish them many more years of happiness, and received a group picture from Hilda Latusek's daughter, Patty, which was nice. She also informed me that Reagan is in full remission from her cancer. Isn't that wonderful! I also received a picture also from Hilda's son, Michael and family.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

So many of our friends from the 80th keep in touch with me and I really look forward to that. This year I heard from a few that have made the age of 90. Bless them, since I am 89. I know how they feel, and I think it is wonderful that we have stayed in touch all these years.

I received a call from Dom Abbruzzese to tell me that Walter Stec had passed away. Eugene Burkhart called me this morning to inform me that his dad, Warren Burkhart, passed away January 6 at the hospital. I know that many of you were friends with Warren and since he was unable to attend the reunions in the past few years will acknowledge his passing and keep in touch with his son. He will be greatly missed! I sent a mass card from the division to Gene.

I apologize to Lou Shirey for not mentioning him and his guests that attended the reunion. Lou was there and it was great seeing him and his niece and nephew. They may be with him again this year.

I received a call from Alice Noxon. She sounded great and is doing well. She mentioned Mary Bettencourt, who she keeps in touch with and they talk at least once a week. I also got a call from Jim Phillips today, and he told me about Veteran's Day where he is—it was held at the PA Dept. of Corrections training academy, and he talked about their experiences in WWII. He said it was the first time he spoke to an audience about WWII. Jim lives at the Masonic Village and says there are many veterans that also live there.

I don't know whether I had mentioned in the last newsletter about Herman Newsome passing away March 7, 2010. So I am writing it again. He and Carl Hendley were mentioned in that magazine.

Lou Shirey also called about Stuart Posey's wife Lillian, who had also passed away. She was the secretary of Reading Post 32.

I received a surprising call from Manny Gonzalez of Galveston, Texas this morning. Manny was calling about the picture and information sent to him by Lou Shirey about Warren Burkhart. Manny was overcome with the news since he had been very close to Warren in the war and was very grateful for Lou to have sent him the picture. I guess when you were so close during the war, you don't forget.

I received a letter from Pauline Parks, telling me that Bob had passed away on June 12th of last year. She said she misses Bob very much and has been very busy and was sorry she had not let me know sooner. She has been having her sister- and brother-in-law get things straightened out and of course misses Bob very much. They were married for 44½ years. I sent her a card to let her know our prayers are with her.

I received a call from Audrey Blocker. She is in a nursing home and will have to be there for about 4-5 weeks. Audrey fell and has a broken pelvis, and is undergoing physical therapy. Her phone number there is 614-946-1031. It is in Ashland, Ohio, 44805. If I have the address correctly, it is

Kingston of Ashland, 20 Amber Wood Arbors, Ashland, Ohio 44805. If she is not there, she will be at her daughter's.

Since it has been over a week since I have heard from anyone in our group I will close for now and hope to hear from many of you for the next Blue Ridge.

Fran Poletti

80th Blue Ridge Army Reserve - Post 50

Greetings all and thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter! This has been a very busy quarter for Post 50 and the 80th Training Command here in Richmond, VA. Since January 1st we have had an increase of 26 new members who have joined our Post and we have forwarded their dues to Andy Adkins so they are now proud members of the 80th Division Veterans Association as well. A special thanks to Andy Adkins and Pete Herbert for their diligent work updating our membership rolls as Secretaries for the organizations.

LTC Grant Porter



PETE HERBERT WITH NEW POST 50 DISPLAY



LTC PORTER (LEFT), CSM DORIS WOLLETT (RIGHT) PRESENT MSG DENISE CHAVIS WITH AWARD

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Recent Blue Ridge/80th Training Command Events

COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE

The Blue Ridge Association participated in the 80th Training Command's Commander's Conference and Awards dinner held in Virginia Beach from 27-30 January 2011. We had 22 new members join during this conference. Secretary Pete Herbert and LTC Terry Singleton set up a great new display that we purchased to showcase the Blue Ridge Association's achievements and members. During the Awards dinner, Blue Ridge Vice President CSM Doris Wollett and I had the honor of presenting \$200 cash awards from the Blue Ridge Association to each of four recipients of the 80th Training Command Awards program. The 2010 award recipients included junior MILTECH of the Year Award recipient, Mr. Geoffrey McClendon of the 800th Logistics Support Brigade; Senior MILTECH of the Year, Mrs. Mary Danner of the 102nd Division; AGR of the Year, MSG Denise Chavis of the 80th Training Command; and Instructor of the Year recipient, SSG Charles Andrews of the 12-100th (CA), 3rd Bde, 100th Division. Two additional awards will be presented later this summer to the Soldier of the Year and the NCO of the Year. Along with the presentation of awards, we also took time to speak to the audience about many of the Blue Ridge achievements and to recognize all the Blue Ridge members in attendance that night. The Blue Ridge Association also presented a Polo Shirt and coffee mug to the Guest Speaker, LTG Sterling, Chief of Staff and Deputy Commanding General of TRADOC.

THE BLUE RIDGE ASSOCIATION HOLIDAY PARTY

Blue Ridge members celebrated the holidays together with a nice dinner party on 18 December with 36 participants at the Iron Bridge Sports Park in Chester, VA. Attendees brought over 50 toys that were donated to the "Henrico Christmas Mother" group who helped over 6,000 families in need this year with clothing, food, and toys. Special thanks to VP Doris Wollett and Donna Herbert for their help in setting up the event!

Future Blue Ridge/80th Training Command Events:

MG MCLAREN'S RETIREMENT AND CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

Please join us as we honor MG John McLaren at his retirement and change of command ceremony on 14 May 2011. MG McLaren would like to extend an invitation to all 80th Division veterans to attend the ceremonies held at William Stadium at Fort Lee at 1 PM as well as a farewell dinner reception that evening at 6 PM at the Omni Hotel in downtown Richmond. The cost of the dinner is \$40.00 and will include a selection of a vegetarian, chicken or beef entrées. If you are interested in coming to the dinner, and/or the retirement and change of command ceremonies, please contact Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association Secretary Pete Herbert at 804-271-5839 and he will send you an invitation with directions and a registration form for the dinner. Checks and registration forms for the dinner will be due

back to Mr. Herbert by 25 April 2011. There is no charge for the events held at Fort Lee.

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 & 80th Division Veterans Association.

Member Highlights:

Congratulations to **COL James J. Braxton** who was recently honored as a Black Engineer of Year Award (BEYA) recipient during the 25th Annual BEYA-STEM Global Competitive Conference held in Washington D.C. from 17-19 February 2011. The national black-tie awards Gala honors the nation's top Black Engineers as well as other leaders in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). COL Braxton received the "Diversity Leadership in Government" award for his achievements as the Chief of the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The weekend events included a Stars & Stripes Dinner on Friday night that was attended by the Chairman and all of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and many other military leaders to include General Kip Ward, Commander, U.S. AFRICOM. COL Braxton has served with the 80th for a large part of his 40-year career in the military to include being Commander of the 4-318th, Deputy Chief of Staff for Resource Management, and now in his current position as the Command Inspector General for the 80th Training Command.

Congratulations to **SGM Michael Buddin** who retired after 36 years of service on 19 February. SGM Buddin spent most of his years with the 108th Division before coming to the 80th in 2007. He has contributed greatly to the TASS world, and to the Army as a whole. He was mobilized in 1991 for Operation Desert Storm, then for two more years at Fort McClellan from 2004 to 2006, and then again for a year at the US Army Reserve Command prior to coming on board with the 80th in 2007. Mike says he will be back to visit at the Change of Command ceremony in May and to participate in the annual 80th Retirement Ceremony in July. We look forward to his continued service with the Blue Ridge Association.

MSG Virgil Coleman and his family took a ten-day trip to Oahu, Hawaii this past December. This was an eventful trip for the Coleman's family, which consisted of Virgil, Mercedes, and their 20 year-old college son, Quintin. The Coleman family visited Pearl Harbor and saw the USS Bowfin Submarine, the USS Missouri, and the Pacific Aviation Museum as well as the Doyle Pineapple Plantation, the Polynesian Cultural Center, Schofield Army Barracks, Hickam Air Force Base and the North Shore part of Oahu.

New member, **COL Michelle Cooper**, is working with veteran actor Mr. John Amos to spearhead the production and provide support for his one-man performance of Halley's Comet at the Constitution Hall in Washington, DC on April 24, 2011.

Blue Ridge Secretary **Pete Herbert** and his wife Donna welcomed their first grandchild (a boy), named Parker Michael Herbert, born Friday, February 18th. Pete's son,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Mike and his wife Mandy, also of Midlothian VA, are the proud parents. Welcome to the World Parker!

New member **CPT Zovera Jackson** opened a new dance-fitness and wellness studio this January. Congratulation and good luck to her as an entrepreneur! Photos from the opening of CPT Jackson's studio can be seen now on the 80th Training Command's flickr page found at www.flickr.com/photos/80thtrainingcommand.

A hearty Post 50 welcome back home is in order for **SGM Giovanni Mejia** to acknowledge his return from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan. (See *The 80th Only Moves Forward*, page 1). We are proud of his service to the country!

Member **LTC Cynthia Norwood** is the point of contact for the Wall of Honor Ceremony, scheduled for 26 May at 10:00 at the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond. She is looking for volunteers to work at this event. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact her at cnorwood@oag.state.va.us or 804-539-4872. She prefers email, as she is able to reply more promptly that way. The following speakers are confirmed: Marine Lieutenant General "Willie" Williams, Major General Long (Adjutant General of Virginia), Charles Cowheard (twin of a fallen Hero), the Governor of Virginia, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Attorney General. LTC Norwood has also led an effort to purchase Apple iPads for our Wounded Warriors staying at the Richmond VA Polytrauma Center. Those wishing to contribute to the purchase of iPads for our recovering veterans are encouraged to contact her for that as well.

80th Training Command Gumbo and Chili Cookoff – Blue Ridge members **LTC Terence Singleton** and **SFC Scott Kallio** led the way in participating in the annual Gumbo and Chili cook-off on 23 Feb 2011. Terence's gumbo and Scott's chili were to die for in this fight to the finish gastronomical event. Thanks to Terence for making this contest come to fruition again this year.

Finally, congratulations are in order for several members on recent promotions and selection for various positions within the 80th Training Command. **Anthony Taylor** was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, (LTC) effective 30 August 2010. **LTC Glenwood HENCE** was recently selected to become the new Deputy Chief of Staff, G3, (Operations). **LTC Eric Imajo** was selected to become the next Chief of Internal Review for the 80th Training Command. Incidentally, both LTC HENCE and LTC Imajo are soon to be promoted to Colonel as they assume these positions. Additionally, Mr. Glen HENCE was recently selected for a full-time civilian position as the Staff Operations and Training Officer for the 80th G-7 office. Glen recently came off a mobilization tour along with member **SGM Sharon Campbell** who was recently selected for a civilian position at Camp Parks, in Dublin, CA. Congratulations to all!

Thanks again to everyone who contributed. Please let me know if I missed any significant events for Blue Ridge members and I will include your input in the next edition.

Please follow us at: <http://80thblueridge.us>

April 1945:

A Snapshot of the 80th Infantry Division

by Jan Elvin

THOSE SOLDIERS OF THE 80TH Infantry Division who had survived the Battle of the Bulge and the brutal crossing of the frigid Sauer River were glad to see signs of early spring. Some of the days were wet and bitter cold, yet the alpine flowers had begun to poke through the ground, and the air was warming. Home seemed as far away as ever, but renewed optimism wafted through the front lines like a gentle breeze.

Some GIs may have heard from wives or sweethearts back home that the number one song for the month of April of '45 was "My Dreams Are Getting Better All the Time," by Les Brown and His Band of Renown.

Unit reports stated that morale was good among 80th Infantry troops, but meanwhile many of the German soldiers who had been captured reported feeling hopeless about the prospects for a Nazi victory. One German POW had said during the Battle of the Bulge that he felt "the clock" was at five to twelve for the Germans. Thus, for the Germans in April of 1945, the hands of the clock had moved perilously close to midnight. The persistence and courage of the Allied troops was overpowering the enemy.

According to the 80th's previous historian, Bob Murrell (318-M), "During the month of April 1945, the 80th Infantry Division played a major role in the dividing and conquering of Germany. The beginning of the month found the 80th following the 6th Armored Division to the outskirts of Kassel."

In addition, the German Army in Italy surrendered to the Allies, the Soviets began their attack on Berlin, and the Americans entered Nuremberg.

As the 80th moved through Germany, they occasionally stopped for training, to set up roadblocks, to establish a bridgehead, or repair a bridge. On the way to Kassel, they met heavy resistance from the enemy. But after bitter house-to-house fighting, Kassel fell

to American hands. In his autobiography, "War As I Knew It," General George S. Patton said, "[T]he 80th Division of XX Corps resumed the attack on Kassel and had a rather rough time of it, but whenever we turned the 80th Division on anything, we always knew that the objective would be attained." The Division succeeded in seizing the Nazis' largest military medical supply depot, more than \$100,000 worth of surgical and pharmaceutical supplies.

According to unit histories, April of '45 brought an end to the "sock exchange" program, discontinued due to "lack of

Happening Stateside in April of 1945:

Carousel made its Broadway debut.

Citation was born April 9, the future Triple Crown winner.

Gasoline was 15 cents a gallon.

The average U.S. salary was \$2,400 a year.

Jackie Robinson tried out for the Boston Red Sox, but wasn't signed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Return to Yuma, Arizona

By Dempsey J. Prappas, 317th AT Co

IN DECEMBER 2010, my wife and I went to Phoenix to attend the bowl game between Missouri and Iowa on December 28, 2010. I discovered that Yuma was 193 miles from Phoenix. The next day, I rented a car and drove to Yuma where the 80th Infantry Division was on maneuvers from 1943 through May 1945. I thought it would be interesting to visit Yuma and see how it changed since 1945.

First of all, the roads to Yuma were excellent paved roads with two lanes going both ways. During the war, the roads into Yuma were old dirt unpaved roads. There was very little development between Phoenix and Yuma.

Unlike WWII, we discovered a large metropolitan city with a permanent population over 100,000 which increases during the winter months with 150,000 snow birds from the north. We noticed countless RV parks with hundreds of RVs. Yuma is spread out and occupies about fifty square miles.

We visited the new Yuma public library and the Arizona Historical Society. Yuma was founded by various native people of the river – Quechan, Cocopah, and Mohave. The Quechan tribe started building the city in 1821. Anglos began coming to Yuma at the beginning of the 20th Century. The stage coach started service to Yuma in 1858. The U.S. Army established Fort Yuma in 1852. Yuma was initially incorporated in 1854 as Colorado City and in 1858 was changed to Arizona City. In 1875, the name was changed to Yuma, after the Yuma Indians and soon acquired a hellish reputation as the “hottest place that ever existed.” With time, the city grew to what was once desert and farmland.

During WWII, the post where desert maneuvers were conducted was about 25 miles north of Yuma. Yuma was founded by early pioneers who lived in tough times and were truly a breed of their own.

Even though there is still a camp outside of Yuma to conduct desert maneuvers, there are no vestiges that the 80th Infantry Division conducted maneuvers during 1943-44. There are no monuments in Yuma that the division was there more than 65 years ago. None of the local residents that I spoke with knew anything about the 80th Infantry Division. Yet, I couldn't help but think of how many 80th Division soldiers trained in this very area, getting ready to fight in World War II.

A Moment of Pride Remembered

By Walter Barthold, 80th Signal Company

THOSE 80TH VETERANS who crossed the Atlantic with the Division on HMS Queen Mary in July 1944 may recall happenings similar to the one that I am about to recount. It has remained alive in my memory throughout the almost 67 years that have gone by since.

The ship was docked in the Hudson River. To reach it, we were transported first from Camp Kilmer, New Jersey to Hoboken. From there we took the ferry to the dock across the river. This occurred late in the afternoon of a weekday near the end of June 1944.

The ferry terminal at that hour was crowded with commuters, strictly women and middle-aged men in that war-time epoch, returning from work in Manhattan. The police had set up an aisle of saw horses for us to pass through. It was obvious that we were headed overseas, as we were wearing steel helmets and leggings and carrying barracks bags (duffle bags were yet to be issued) and full field packs (musette bags in the case of my outfit) and other equipment.

As we made our way through the station, the commuters stood aside to watch us. They applauded steadily, knowing that before long we would be in Normandy, where the situation was still touch and go. Loaded down and on the march, we could not respond to the applause, but it caused my young heart to swell with pride. I have no doubt that it had the same effect on others. I have never, I repeat, never, forgotten that feeling – a high point in my life.

How fortunate we were to have taken part in a war that had the wholehearted support of the civilian population. I often think of the contrast between the public's attitude then and the view that prevailed in later conflicts. During the Viet Nam War, for example, soldiers were often jeered, cursed and sometimes spat upon as blame for a war not of their doing but in which they were required to risk their lives.

Three years as a soldier put me through a broad variety of experiences, some pleasant, some not. The one that I have set forth above, I say for a third time, stands out in my memory and always will.

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

DONATIONS

Brautigam, Carol, Family

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

MSG Croughwell, George E., 80th Training Command

DiCarlo, Victor J., 2nd Bn Hq-319

MG Eder, Mari K., 80th Training Command

COL Niernberger, Kelly J., 80th Training Command

Shuford, John A., 2d Bn Hq-318

CSM Stavely, James R., 80th Training Command

Webster, Debra Hindlemann, Family

throughout the world, these soldiers were not allowed outside the base for recreation. "Once you left the base, you were in convoy and there were several checkpoints," said SGM Mejia. "We basically went from Point A to Point B, and we were tracked along the way." Basically, the men were stuck on the base, except for a short R&R break.

SFC McKenna mentioned that the mission had changed when he arrived. "The outpost patrols were cut back to a third of what they were doing before, meaning we were very limited in what we could do. We were confined to the post." Camp Taji had a coalition side and an Iraqi side; SFC McKenna lived on the coalition side of the base, but had to drive over to the Iraqi side everyday for duty. There were about 10,000 – 15,000 people at Camp Taji, a large training base that was spread out.

"Dust storms were the worst," stated SGM Mejia. "They call it the '100 Days of Dust' season. It doesn't always last a hundred days straight, but there's always a lot of dust. Their seasons are similar to ours in the states, but some days in the summer, it got up to 139 degrees. The coldest it got when I was there was -2 degrees. And they called that a light winter."

Interaction with the locals was minimal, but periodically SGM Mejia ran into Afghani contractors that would haul out the equipment. "We had a security team go and first check out their vehicles to make sure they're not bringing in any bombs. Once they passed that, they came in and we helped them load equipment onto their trucks. They were pretty friendly and I remember they always asked for water and food. They really wanted us there, because we were providing them with a livelihood, giving them work and helping them to survive, and protecting them from the Taliban."

SFC McKenna also mentioned that while some Iraqi soldiers complained, they were few and far between. The overall interaction between American and Iraqi soldiers was good. "Saddam Hussein ruled with an iron fist; if you weren't doing your job, he'd whip you and throw you in jail, even if you were civilian. When we took Saddam out of control, the Iraqi people experienced a freedom they'd never known. If they missed a day of work, they wouldn't go to jail. Yea, they were glad we were there."

I asked about the food overseas, knowing it would be different from what they were used to. "Because I was on the German FOB, food was mostly German made – it was 'different.' They love their pork and their wiener schnitzels. It was really heavy food," SGM Mejia said. "It took a while to get used to it. Just before I left, we started getting more American food and the Germans loved it. It was contracted out, so it wasn't American cooking. But, for the most part, it was pretty good."

"We loved it when we got care packages from home," said SGM Mejia. "The AFEES stores on base would run out of certain foods that everyone wanted, so it was good to get these care packages. We'd ask our families to not only send toothpaste and shaving cream, but also baked goods." Sol-

NEW MEMBERS

LTC Bland, Michael L., 80th Training Command
LTC Bouyer, Hattie, 80th Training Command
COL Braxton Sr., James J., 80th Training Command
MSG Brown, Gene A., 80th Training Command
COL (R) Bynum III, William E., 80th Training Command
SFC Calauan-Turpin, Geraldine, 80th Training Command
CSM Campbell, Sharon R., 80th Training Command
MSG Chavis, Elnora D., 80th Training Command
CW2 Chen, PinYoo, 80th Training Command
COL (R) Current, Thomas W., 80th Training Command
MG Eder, Mari K., 80th Training Command
COL Falcone, Joseph P., 80th Training Command
CW2 Fink, Daniel W., 80th Training Command
SGM (R) Gay, James R., 80th Training Command
MSG Gonzalez, Rolando, 80th Training Command
CPT Howard, Corey N., 80th Training Command
LTC (R) Hughes, Clyde L., 80th Training Command
SGM (R) King, Vernon E., 80th Training Command
CPT Knapp, Kathryn, 80th Training Command
LTC Lamberth, Ricky J., 80th Training Command
2LT Lewis, Floyd B., 80th Training Command
SGT Martinez, Melissa J., 80th Training Command
SFC Montalvo, Ines M., 80th Training Command
LTC Muldrow, Curtis L., 80th Training Command
SSG Newman, George H., 80th Training Command
MSG Oliver, Teri L., 80th Training Command
CIV Partin, Jon T., 80th Training Command
COL (R) Peacock, Thomas A., 80th Training Command
CSM (R) Phoenix, Michael S., 80th Training Command
CW3 (R) Robinson, William N., 80th Training Command
MAJ Roscoe, Todd A., 80th Training Command
LTC (R) Shepherd, Edward C., 80th Training Command
CSM Stavely, James R., 80th Training Command
COL Torres, Richard J., 80th Training Command
Usher, James A., 80th Training Command
Whited, Robert D., Family
CSM Yungandreas, Nickolette L., 80th Training Command

diers not only got packages from home, but also from many church groups, and that continues today.

The equipment has changed, the mission has changed, but the spirit of the 80th Division to help keep this world free remains as strong as ever. God bless America. God bless our troops and God bless the men and women of the 80th Division.

Contact SGM Giovanni Mejia (Giovanni.mejia1@usar.army.mil) or SFC Richard McKenna (richard.mckenna@usar.army.mil) directly by e-mail for more information.

adequate laundry facilities.” The troops were disappointed, as the daily exchange had been well-liked. Meanwhile, stateside, the National Football League decreed in April that it was mandatory for football players to wear socks in all league games.

Patton also wrote in his autobiography, “We developed a system known as the ‘Third Army War Memorial Project’ by which we always fired a few salvos into every town we approached, before even asking for surrender. The object of this was to let the inhabitants have something to show to future generations of Germans by way of proof that the Third Army had passed that way.”

During this period, sniper fire and isolated bands of enemy opposition were encountered. None of the troops expected to see what awaited them at Ohrdruf, a subcamp of Buchenwald that had been liberated on April 3 by soldiers of the 89th Infantry, to be followed by elements of the 80th. General Patton wrote in his diary that it was the “most appalling sight imaginable.”

On April 12th, Weimar surrendered and Buchenwald, the first major German concentration camp to come into Allied hands with its full complement of prisoners, was taken over by the 80th. Journalist and broadcaster Edward R. Murrow arrived the following day and made his famous radio broadcast that brought the horrors of the concentration camps into American homes and firesides for the first time.

The news of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s sudden death on April 12th pitched the nation into mourning. He was succeeded by Harry S. Truman who was not well-known to most of the GIs, especially those overseas. Hymns were played on the radio and the country turned out to pay respects as the train bearing Roosevelt’s body traveled slowly from Warm Springs, Georgia to Washington, D.C. and eventually to Hyde Park, New York. But the American soldiers, despite the uncertainty brought on by this event, simply continued to move forward, their eyes and their focus concentrated on defeating the enemy.

On April 18th, the war correspondent Ernie Pyle was killed by a sniper in the Pacific Theater after writing many columns

about the daily lives, the victories, and fears of the World War II fighting man. Pyle was probably one of the first “embedded” journalists, working and living alongside the troops.

After he was killed, an unfinished column about the surrender of the German army in Italy was found in his pocket. Referring to his time in Europe with the Infantry he wrote, “But my heart is still in Europe, and that’s why I’m writing this column. It is to the boys who were my friends for so long. My one regret of the war is that I was not with them when it ended. For the companionship of two and a half years of death and misery is a spouse that tolerates no divorce. Such companionship becomes a part of one’s soul, and it cannot be obliterated.”

April 20th brought Adolf Hitler’s 56th birthday. To mark the occasion, he made one last public appearance to speak to the boy-soldiers who were forced to “volunteer” to join the SS and die to defend Berlin. Those who did not want to join were hanged.

In mid-April the Soviets continued their assault on Berlin, encircling the city and shelling the city center. The city was theirs by the end of April.

On April 21st, the 80th was ordered into Nuremberg for guard duty and to relieve the 3rd Infantry Division. In an icy wind they patrolled the city, rounding up displaced persons who’d been liberated from either concentration camps or slave labor camps, maintaining order, and capturing prisoners of war.

April 27th, Mussolini was captured and executed, along with other Fascists.

The 80th departed Nuremberg on the 28th of April, heading for Hofling, and prepared to follow the 13th Armored across the Austrian border.

On the final day of April 1945, Hitler committed suicide in the fuhrerbunker along with Eva Braun, just hours after their marriage.

Most of the division had reached or was near the Isar River, moving in to take the cities of Mamming and Dingolfing, having blown up the bridges over the river behind them.

Yes, April of 1945 was a major turning point for the courageous men of the 80th Infantry Division.

TAPS

Amorelli, Frank, 305 Med Bn
7 Charles Street
Westborough, MA 01581
DOD: 3/5/2006
Rptd by his companion,
Sally Smith

Burkhart, Warren E.,
313th FA Bn
3201C Garfield Ave
Reading, PA 19605
DOD: 1/6/2011
Rptd by his son, Eugene

Brautigam, Sol, H-318
12289 E. Vassar Drive
Aurora, CO 80014
DOD: June 2006
Rptd by his daughter, Carol

Cirino, Sal J., K-317
6814 Bridgetown Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45248
DOD: 5/4/2010
Rptd by his wife, Monica

Maledy, Ralph G., D-317
1901 E. Highway 163
Columbia, MO 65201
DOD: 2/2/2011
Rptd by his son, Steve

Martin, Samuel I., C-319
Elmcroft, PA
DOD: 1/7/2011
Rptd by Cecelia Smith

Mercer, Paul L., B-318
8985 Normandy Blvd., #115
Jacksonville, FL 32221
DOD: 1/2/2011
Rptd by his daughter, Jan

Palombaro, Dominic F.,
Hq Co-317
604 Sherrie Rd.
Philadelphia, PA 19115
DOD: 2/11/11
Rptd by his son, Frank

Ritchie, William R., M-318
9508 E. Riggs Rd, Unit D303
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248
DOD: 2/5/2011
Rptd by Bob Murrell

Rouby, Jason P., 80th Recon
Little Rock, AR
DOD: 1/15/2011
Rptd by Irv Robinson



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
	\$39.00 framed
11" X 14"	\$44.00 unframed
	\$69.00 framed
16" X 20"	\$64.00 unframed
	\$99.00 framed
32" X 40"	\$250.00 unframed

*All prices are veterans' discounts.
Shipping & tax additional*

All Major Cards Accepted
For orders call 678-475-1549
or email info@atlantaalm.com
Watch for the upcoming website:
www.veteransuperstore.com

BRITT TAYLOR COLLINS
The Veterans' Artist

Combat Reels

ARCHIVAL COMBAT FILMS OF THE 80TH INFANTRY DIVISION IN WWII

ARGENTAN - MOESSELLE RIVER - ST AVOLD & MORE

SERIES II: LIBERATION OF WESTERN EUROPE
51 MINUTES (S2V20) AUG. - NOV. 1944



	PRICE	QTY	TOTALS
S2V20	\$24.99	___	_____

TX RESIDENTS PLS ADD 8.125%
FOR STATE SALES TAX _____

SHIPPING: \$6.00 FOR 1ST DVD _____
ADD \$2.00 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL _____

INTERNATIONAL ORDERS
ADD \$2.00 FOR EACH DVD _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

MAIL CHECK TO:
COMBATREELS
P.O. Box 471792
FT WORTH, TX 76147

ORDER ONLINE: WWW.COMBATREELS.COM

WARTIME PHOTOS?

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

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

lee@panzerwrecks.com

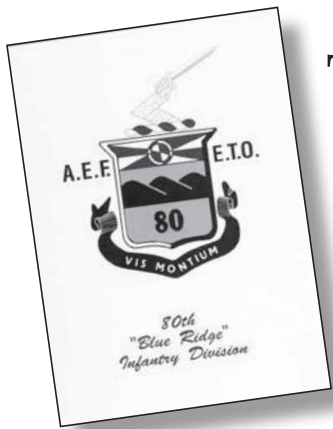
or

Bill Auerbach

P.O. Box 2332;

Monroe, NY 10949-2332

www.panzerwrecks.com



The 80th Blue Ridge Infantry Division 2ND EDITION

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

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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUE JANUARY 31, 2011

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

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

Check Your Address Label

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

PAID 2009

Membership
Expiration Date

You have paid
through Dec of the
indicated year

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



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

*Desiring to maintain liaison and comradeship
with Veterans and soldiers of the 80th Division,
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

NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY 2010-2011

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

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

Robert Moorhead
Secretary

FLORIDA POST #47

George Bell, COMMANDER
Francis Rajnicek SECRETARY
215 Bill Allen Circle, W • Sebastian, FL 32958

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

Complete this form & mail to:
Andrew Z. Adkins III
National Secretary
2121 NW 54th Terrace
Gainesville, FL 32605-3392



NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____

OLD ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

NEW ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Blue Ridge 80th Division The Service Magazine

Andrew Z. Adkins III
2121 NW 54th Terrace
Gainesville, FL 32605-3392

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH PA
PERMIT NO 3125



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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

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