

French Legion of Honor

BY: MG WILLIAM GERRATY

THE FOLLOWING IS THE email I received from the POC, I spoke with, at the French Embassy. I did clarify that all Officers, Warrants, and Enlisted Soldiers are eligible- as long as they served in France, during WWII. Also, while posthumous awards are not granted, if the Soldier passes after application is made, the family will be asked to accept the award:

Following your phone call, please find hereunder the information concerning the French Legion of Honor application for WWII veterans. The applicant should mail the following documents:

- A copy of his Enlisted Record and Report of separation.
- A copy of his Honorable Discharge.
- The completed application form.*

TO

Embassy of France
Defense Mission
4101 Reservoir Road NW
Washington, D.C. 20007



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The Defense Mission will then forward the application for processing, review and consideration to the Consulate General of France that has jurisdiction over the State where the applicant currently resides. Subsequently, it will be sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris for final decision. The whole process takes between 6 and 12 months, given the large number of applications we keep receiving from US WWII Veterans

Sincerely,
Evelyn DeBernardo
(Communication) Defense Mission
Embassy of France in Washington
Coopcom.mmf@ambafrance-us.org

**Please visit the 80th Division website to download a PDF of the Application Form, or use the form on pages 13-14 included in this newsletter.*



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Editor's Notes

BY DORIS WOLLETT

BELIEVE WE CAN say that winter is about over and spring is just around the corner. The weather is beginning to be nice and warm and things outside are turning green and blooming in all colors. Birds have started to come back home to our local areas. What does all this mean to us? God is an awesome God that gives us so much variety in life to enjoy.

Regardless if you do the work yourself or have someone to assist you, it is time to think about our yards, bird feeders, and opening our windows for fresh air. It also means that we all can get outside more and move around. If you are able, take a few minutes each day to take a little walk around your area and enjoy all the beauty we have to gaze upon.

I really appreciate all the input that is provided for the *80th Blue Ridge Service Magazine*. I will try to get everyone's article published. I prefer you submit your articles using email if you use it or if you do not then mail if fine. Send me your noteworthy comments to share with all our members.

I would ask that you send all correspondence to me including membership renewals, articles you would like published in the *Blue Ridge Service Magazine*, notification of Change of Address, notification of TAPS for a Comrade that has passed, any donation that you would like to make to the organization, etc. Please make all checks payable to the 80th Division Veterans Association. This includes donations to the McBride Scholarship Fund as I have to deposit it into the 80th Division Bank Account and then write a check to the Bank that handles the Scholarship.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Brown, June (80th Family)
Foushee, 1SG(R) Sheila (HQ, 80th TC)
Goodwillie, COL James 'Skip' (HQ, 80th TC G3/HQ 94th Div)
Phillips, COL Virgil (1st Bde, 94th Div)
Westerwelle, LTC Mary (HQ, 102nd Div)

NEW MEMBERS

Adams, MSG Larry (HQ 80th TC G4)
Brewer, SGM Sonja (HQ 80th TC G5)
Everett, MSG Iris (4th Bde, 94th Div)
Fields, MAJ Alexia (HQ, 80th TC)
Hightower, SGM Robert (HQ, 80th TC IG)
Roane, MSG Rochelle (HQ, 80th TC G3)
Wills, CSM James (HQ 80th TC Cmd)

DONATIONS

Litchfield, Greg (In Memory of Father Russell Litchfield)
Merritt, Nancy (In Memory of Husband Kerry Merritt)

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

AS WE ARE ENJOYING a relatively mild winter and looking forward to Spring, we have been blessed by the fact that prayers have been answered for some of our loved ones. We shall all continue to be concerned about those who are sick and infirm.

We had the pleasure of attending the Commander's Conference recently, which was most pleasant and enjoyable. It was wonderful to see the recognition of the young warriors as given by the 80th Division and Post 50/Blue Ridge. It is nice to see these pleasant interactions among the generations. I was very happy to see the retirement ceremony which was so richly deserved for PNC/CSM Don Stewart.

Last week, I had the privilege of giving a lecture at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA. The subject, of course, was "The History of the 80th Division in World Wars I & II". The people in attendance (probably to 100-200) were History students, faculty, and ROTC personnel. Pertinent questions were entertained and answered; the most enthusiasm was centered on the "show and tell" artifacts. I look forward to continued interaction with this great University in the future. As the 150th anniversary of the Civil War approaches, there will be more interest in VA history.

We note the continuing great plans of Col. Porter for the Baltimore area reunion of the 80th Division Veterans Association in August of this year. He has been working assiduously on this project. I am sure that there will be interaction with the U.S. Navy as well.

We are all looking forward to a wonderful visit in Luxembourg this June. Virgil Myers, as always, will be shepherding the American contingent. We are anxious to see the dedication of the 80th memorial in Mertzig during the Luxembourg Friends week. I remind you that many states and many of you have donated flags or funds for flags which are to be flown at the memorial. We wish to recognize the outstanding efforts of our good friend Jean Muller who has amassed names, units, and affiliations of our KIA. Jean has worked on this project for a long time; I look forward to this dedication, and to further battlefield archeology in Luxembourg.

Thank you all for the spirit of camaraderie and fellowship which we share.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Dr. Lee S. Anthony, F-317



Dr Anthony at Liberty University

Upcoming Visit of Buchenwald Concentration Camp Survivor

BY: BARBARA BROCKMAN

SOL LURIE, A BUCHENWALD Concentration Camp Survivor and his wife Raja, will be guest of the Hillel Jewish Group at Washington and Jefferson College. They will arrive in Pittsburgh, April the 11th, Mr. Lurie's 82nd Birthday, and fly back to Monroe Township, NJ on April 15th.

As the camp began to liberate in early April 1945, the SS Troops fleeing from the camp, Sol was 14 years old and would turn 15th on April 11, 1945. On the same day, Dad (Clarence H. Brockman), Harry Billman, Harry Eckerl and Pete Ciaveralla came across some escaped inmates from the camp and drove them back. Dad never met Sol at that time but we met him and his daughter, April 2010 when we

all went back to Weimar, Germany for the 65th Anniversary of the Liberation of Buchenwald Concentration Camp.

The day we were at the Anniversary at the camp, it was on April 11, Sol's 80th birthday. It also will be my parents 65th wedding anniversary on April 11, 2012, so it will be a double celebration. Sol and Raja will be staying at the Springhill Suites, Washington, PA. Anyone who was on the 2010 trip and met Sol, please come and join us, anyone that was in Weimar or at Buchenwald, April 1945, also, please come and join us.

There will be a birthday celebration in the Media Room at the College the evening of the 11th. An open invitation to the public for the evening of the 12th. The 13th, they will travel to a local school and speak, then meet the County Commissioners before heading to Beth Israel Synagogue. Saturday, they will be given a tour of Pittsburgh then an open dinner that evening overlooking the city.

Please join this wonderful event, Sol is such a caring speaker and a wonderful person.

DOG Company 317th

BY: MILTON TEN HAVE

OUR SECTION OF "DOG" CO., 317th was part of a group which went through the pillboxes of the Siegfried Line. There were a couple of Tank Destroyers & some riflemen (I think "Charley" Co.). After we ran across some open fields under artillery fire, we were able to hide out in the pine forest as Hitler's reinforcements made their way toward the front. Then, we followed their route toward the front.

All German roads went through walled towns—our TD's looked enough like "Tiger" tanks to fool the few Germans

garrisoned there, so we took the town & then captured the next group of reinforcements. Come morning, our 30 cal. machine gun was on the ridge by the cemetery.

When a "tiger" came down the ridge to take care of us, the TD's knocked him off. Then, we shot at anything that moved, including horse-drawn artillery pieces. We referred to it as the time we shot the horses (being midwestern farm boys, we felt bad about that). By afternoon, the armored division (probably 4th or 6th Armored) came through after artillery had knocked out the fortifications, but we had a part in it.

I've never seen any account of our sneaking through. From that time, we were moving "forward" across Germany & Austria.



Tony Blair at Oklahoma State University

BY: MG(R) DOUG DOLLAR

TONY BLAIR RECENTLY SPOKE at the OSU campus in Stillwater. In the photo below you can see that I presented him with an 80th Blue Ridge Coin. He recognized our division and told me he had thought of joining the 80th Training Command as a drilling reservist, but the prime minister job came up before he could and he decided being a reservist would take up too much of his time. I assured him we could work something out, in case he ever changed his mind now that he is retired.

I did suggest he could still be an honorary member of the Blue Ridge Association, if he passed muster when we review his records. I hope this sets a positive example for the rest of you and that you will always be promoting our fine organization.

MG(R) Dollar presents Coin to Former Prime Minister Tony Blair

Only Moving Forward: The 80th As Liberators

BY: WALTER BARTHOLD

HISTORY GIVES THE 80TH Infantry Division its due credit for participating in the liberation of France. Strictly speaking, however, that worthwhile achievement was a by-product of our true mission, the destruction of Nazi Germany. France just happened to be on our route to that destination. Even so, freeing the country stands out for many of us as a high point in our ETO experience. There follow the reminiscences of one such man.

It has always seemed to me that in preparing for the landings in Normandy, the Army did not really know what to expect from the French people. We each received a guide book giving us a few French phrases and setting forth some details of the people's life and customs. Yet there appeared to be ignorance as to just how the civilian population would react to the arrival of American soldiers. After all, troops of the puppet Vichy government had initially resisted the landings of the Allies in North Africa in 1942.

Thus I recall our receiving a lecture in England from an officer, whose name I omit; warning us to expect indifference, perhaps even hostility from the French. He told us not to let them interfere with the carrying out of our duties and to deal roughly with them when necessary. He said (and where he got this idea I do not know) that the French had a long history of friendship with the Germans and so could not be counted on as our friends.

He could not have been more wrong. From the moment of the Division's landing on Utah Beach (on August 2 in my case) we were greeted with heartwarming gratitude and friendliness. Having studied French in high school and for a time in college, I had attained a degree of fluency and so may have appreciated this attitude more than others, but there could be no mistaking the sincerity and the genuineness of our reception.

As a radio operator in the Signal Company, I had been assigned in England to a four-man team responsible for communication between division HQ and one of the regiments. Upon our arrival in Normandy, I was transferred, without explanation, out of the radio section to the Signal Company CP and put to work on, to put it politely, odd jobs. This left me with a certain amount of free time. At each of our encampments in Normandy, word spread around the area that a French-speaking American was nearby. Day after day, therefore, I had a small group of civilians gathered around my pup tent for conversation on a variety of topics.

Once the Third Army broke out of Normandy, late in August if I remember correctly, the war became, for

most of us, not much more than a truck ride. Encountering no real resistance, the 80th swung around to the south of Paris through several cities, including Orléons, Chalons-sur-Marne, Sens and Verdun, and countless small towns and villages. Everywhere we were greeted by enthusiastic, cheering crowds. Traffic conditions made numerous stops necessary, and on such occasions the truck in which I was traveling was promptly surrounded by civilians welcoming us and recounting, in French of course, the hardships and oppression they had endured during four years of occupation.

That easy war came to an abrupt end when, sometime in September, the Third Army literally ran out of gasoline. This gave the Germans time to pull themselves together and organize resistance. The 80th found itself at that point approaching the Moselle, and I believe that crossing that river represented the division's toughest battle of the European campaign. That fall I returned to duty as a radio operator, which left me with less time for fraternizing with the French, but I continued to serve as the Signal Company's interpreter in its dealings with civilians.

At various points along the way, I made friendships, all of them necessarily short-lived, with different segments of the population, including farmers, housewives, policemen, storekeepers and many children. I recall as one example a school teacher whom I met at Dieulouard, where the Signal Company was billeted for some time in the schoolhouse, then closed for the summer, where she worked. She had got her job years before as the result of a civil-service preference granted because her husband had been killed in World War I. I do not recall what she and I talked about, but I do remember looking forward to our daily meetings, and I suspect that she did likewise. I recall for one thing her agreeing with me that an empty classroom had an air of sadness to it.

My eighteen months in the ETO left me with a bountiful collection of memories. None of them impresses me more deeply than my encounters with the French population. Their own army had let these people down in 1940, and it must have been painful to acknowledge that they had to depend on foreign troops to rescue them from the harsh consequences of that defeat. Yet I never detected a trace of bitterness in that regard. I have been to France a number of times since 1945, and time and again I have received expressions of gratitude for having played a part in Hitler's defeat. That part, I grant, was small, perhaps insignificant, but it still brings me pride.

Walter Barthold

80th Signal Company

2012 Commanders' Leadership Conference in Virginia Beach

BY: SGT. 1ST CLASS ANNE WALTERS

THE 80TH TRAINING COMMAND (TASS) gathered leaders from across the country to Virginia Beach for its annual Commander's Conference. The mission of the conference was to facilitate communication of the Commanding General Maj. Gen. Bill Gerety's vision, priorities, policies and other guidance to subordinate unit command teams. The commanding general's intent was to synchronize the systems and efforts between the 80th and its subordinate units. The end result of the conference was that all unit command staff would be trained and knowledgeable on the internal systems and functions of the 80th Training Command.

At past commander's conferences, workshops took up a significant portion of time, which resulted in several days added to the event. This year's conference, however, Gerety, as the new 80th commander, removed the workshops and streamlined the event to three days.

Each day's agenda was filled with a wide variety of classes and presentations. The topics included medical actions, supervisor development training, suicide intervention, personnel security, government travel card management controls, and public affairs guidance for election year activities.

Representatives from the 80th Training Command's Family Program, Blue Ridge Association, Military Officers Association of America, Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve, and the Reserve Officers Association provided colorful displays and information to conference attendees.

Some of the conference highlights included a Saturday evening awards dinner where medals, trophies, certifi-

cates, swords, and plaques were presented to the 80th's "best of the best," and a Sunday morning prayer breakfast with guest speaker Chaplain Col. Kenneth W. Stice, Command Chaplain for the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

At the Saturday evening awards banquet, Retired Navy Capt. Lee Anthony served as the guest speaker. In his speech to more than 130 attendees, Anthony gave a presentation of the 80th's history, beginning with World War II. In his historical presentation, he pointed out that "knowing our past helps us learn what works, what doesn't work, and to plan more intelligently for our future." A five-piece brass ensemble from the 380th Army Reserve Band entertained banquet guests with patriotic music, including "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "The Army Song." The Saturday evening awards banquet was the ideal opportunity to recognize and award those who have excelled throughout the past year.

The 80th Training Command Soldier of the Year Award was presented to **Spec. Emmanuel Estremera-Perez**, of the 100th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 94th Division. **Sgt. 1st Class Martin Rodriguez**, of the 104th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 102nd Division, received the 80th's NCO of the Year Award. Both Estremera-Perez and Rodriguez competed in and won the command's Best Warrior Competition in 2011, earning them these coveted awards. **Master Sgt. Jeffrey D. Kennedy**, of the 95th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 100th Division, received the 80th's Instructor of the Year Award. **Master Sgt. Walter M. Detrinidad**, of the 319th Battalion, 800th Logistics Support Brigade, earned the 80th's Active Guard Reserve of the Year Award. **Mrs. Karen L. Copeland**, of

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MG Gerraty congratulates MSG Kennedy as Instructor of the Year



CSM Blanco hands over duties to CSM Willis at Change of Responsibility Ceremony



From the Historian's Corner...

BY: BRUCE SMITH

Over the past dozen or so years, inquiries have been received from nearly six-hundred families; all were looking for information about an ancestor who served with the 80th Division. Just like we experienced at the beginning of our research, many of these folks had no idea where to begin looking for data—some didn't even know if their Veteran had been with the 80th. Initially, my focus was on the WW I era, but after assuming the duties of Historian, it was necessary to delve into the activities of the 1940s. This has been an interesting learning process.

The previous Historians had amassed a large amount of documentation and boxes of it were delivered to Andy Adkins who then digitized a good bit, making it available to the public on the Internet. His efforts have saved countless hours of personal research for all of us. Last year, when Andy announced his resignation as Secretary/Editor, he provided most of the original documentation and equipment to me. With a lack of storage space, as well as a good safeguard for the materials, the Veterans granted permission for removal of the artifacts to the Army Heritage and Education Center at Carlisle. That facility already houses more 80th materials than they have archived for other Army Divisions, and it was the logical repository for these additional items. The Descendants organization, too, had acquired many artifacts and documents from the Veterans, with the promise that those items would also be archived safely. The Carlisle facility had previously been selected to receive them.

Changes in policy and personnel at USAHEC have delayed the transfer of the materials, however, we are anxiously anticipating effecting the safe disposition within a short time. One of their requisites has been a complete indexing of the documents, which we have been able to accomplish. We have numerous banker's boxes filled with documents, uniforms, photos, Veterans' memoirs and other artifacts, that we plan to transport to the new museum facility.

I thought it might be interesting to highlight a couple of the things I have learned in this process of inventorying the contents of the many boxes of information.

Over thirty years ago, concern was raised about the longevity of the 80th Division Veterans Association. The Judge Advocate at that time was asked to investigate the requirements for dissolving the organization. Fortunately, the membership didn't follow through, and the Veterans have enjoyed additional comradeship and fellowship at numerous reunions since that time.

Another indication of the concern for the declining membership occurred in the 1990s, when it was suggested that sons of the Veterans should be invited to join as associates. There was also some discussion about inviting Soldiers currently serving in the 80th Training Command to become members. That it took another 20 years for that to happen attests to the strong convictions of members to maintain the Association as they knew it.

One of the most significant pieces of history, however, is found in a large black box. It contains microfiche copies of the Morning Reports of the 80th Division. These are some of the same reports that Andy digitized for the Internet. However, not all of the records in that box are for the "organic" 80th—typically, the Headquarters, Infantry, Field Artilleries, Ordnance, Engineer, Medical Battalions. There are also records for the units that served in support of the 80th Division, or for whom the 80th provided support. These included Tank Battalions, Evac Groups, Hospitals, Anti-Aircraft Units, Signal Battalions, etc.,—more than 125 other organizations. Information on these films has already helped us locate data for a couple of the inquiries received recently.

COL Charles Lindburgh was an honorary member of the Association, per Service Magazine 1929.

LEADERSHIP CONVEENCE: FROM PAGE 6

the 6th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 94th Division, earned the 80th's Junior Military Technician of the Year Award. **Mrs. Rosie Pinkerton**, of the Headquarters, 80th Training Command, received the 80th's Senior Military Technician of the Year Award.

In addition, several Blue Ridge Association Awards were presented. In honor of her late husband, **Command Sgt. Maj. Morris Salley, Jr.**, an 80th Soldier, Donica Salley helped present the 2011 Award of Excellence to **Command Sgt. Maj. Alfredo M. Montes**.

Change of Responsibility ceremonies are not usually held during the command's annual conference. However,

with three command sergeants major leaving simultaneously, it was a good opportunity to say good bye to those leaving and welcome to those coming in. In a single Change of Responsibility ceremony held on Saturday, the 80th Training Command, 102nd Division and 100th Division transferred responsibility from their outgoing to incoming command sergeants major with the passing of three NCO swords.

The 80th's outgoing Command **Sgt. Maj. Luis Blanco** passed the NCO sword to incoming Command **Sgt. Maj. James P. Wills**. The 102nd Division's outgoing Command **Sgt. Maj. Stephen Norris** handed the NCO sword to his replacement Command **Sgt. Maj. David A. Dyer**.

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Dear Blue Ridge Post 50 Members

Greetings to everyone and thank you to all who contributed to this newsletter!

This has been a very busy winter for us in Post 50 as well as the 80th Training Command. In this issue is a report on the 80th Training Command's annual Commanders Conference and Awards Banquet held in Virginia Beach. It also gives me great pleasure to pass on stories from MG Doug Dollar and other members about exciting activities that they have shared. As the Vice Commander for the 80th Division Veterans Association, I am finalizing plans for our 93rd reunion to be held in Baltimore at the BWI Marriott Hotel from 22 to 26 August 2012, (see accompanying article). The Blue Ridge Association is also finalizing plans for its annual meeting. We hope to have details out soon.

The 80th Training Command Annual

Awards Dinner was held January 28 at the Virginia Beach Resort and Conference Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Several awards were presented by 80th Division Veterans Association Commander, Dr Lee Anthony and 80th Blue Ridge Post #50 Vice President CSM (R) Doris Wollett. Awardees were each presented a check for \$250. The 80th Division Veterans Association supported this year's program with its first annual contribution of \$500.

The Association presented the following awards:

AGR of the Year: MSG Walter M. Detrinidad, 800th LSB, Lancaster, PA; Junior Military Technician of the Year: Karen L. Copeland, 4th Bn, 104th Regt, 94th Div, Camp Parks, CA; Senior Military Technician of the Year: Rosie Pinkerton, HQ, 80th Training Command, Richmond, VA; Instructor of the Year: MSG Jeffrey Kennedy, 6/95th, 100th Div, San Antonio, TX; NCO of the Year: SFC Martin Rodriguez, 1/104th, 102nd Div, Aurora, CO; Soldier of the Year: SPC Emmanuel Estremmerzperez, 6/100th, 94th Div, Ft Sheridan, IL.

Two of our members received the Legion of Merit Award for outstanding Service to the 80th Training Command. Lifetime Member BG James T. Williams, Acting Commander of the 94th Division at Fort Lee, VA and Member COL Richard J. Torres, ADC at the 80th Training Command, Richmond, VA were presented the Legion of Merit by MG William H. Gerety, Commander of the 80th Training Command. The Legion of Merit was awarded to both Officers for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of their duties.

A special change of responsibility ceremony was also held at the Commander's Conference on January 28th. The ceremony was to recognize the Change of Responsibility at the 80th Training Command from outgoing CSM Luis A. Blanco to the new CSM James P. Wills. Both CSMs are members of the 80th Blue Ridge Army

Reserve Association, Post Number 50. The Change of Responsibility ceremony is steeped in military traditions and serves the dual function of rendering honors to the Departing CSM and providing official recognition of the transfer of authority as Senior NCO of the 80th to the incoming CSM.

CSM Blanco has over 34 years of military service and served as 80th CSM from 2003-2006 and again from 2010 until Dec 2012. Incoming CSM Wills has over 27 years of service and his most recent assignment was at the 81st RSC from 2010 until Dec 2011.

Dr. Lee Anthony was the featured speaker during the 80th Training Command Awards Dinner. MG Gerety is shown presenting Dr Anthony with a plaque thanking him for his work with the 80th.

We recently received news from former 80th Division commander, MG Doug Dollar who announced that former Prime Minister of Great Britain, Tony Blair had recently spoke at the Oklahoma State University campus in Stillwater. In the photo below you can see that MG Dollar presented the former Prime Minister with an 80th Blue Ridge Coin. MG dollar stated "He recognized our Division and told me he had thought of joining the 80th Training Command as a drilling reservist, but the prime minister job came up before he could and he decided being a reservist would take up too much of his time. I assured him we could work something out, in case he ever changed his mind now that he is retired."

MG Dollar went on to suggest that "he could still be an honorary member of the Blue Ridge Association, if he passed muster when we review his records." Always a recruiter, MG dollar stated, "I hope this sets a positive example for the rest of you and that you will always be promoting our fine organization."

We were also happy to receive a story about work done by Blue Ridge member LTC Cynthia Norwood in support of the annual Wall of Honor ceremony held at the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond on 21 February, 2012. During this year's event, the Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA) was honored with a Patriot Award for being an outstanding employer of National Guard members and Reserve forces.

The award is given by Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense (DoD) organization established to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve members and their civilian employers.

"The Richmond Ambulance Authority has shown its outstanding patriotism by going the extra mile to help its employees who are Guard and Reserve performs their military duty for our country. In so doing, the Richmond Ambulance Authority is a contributor to our national defense," said LTC Cindy Norwood, Ombudsman Direc-

tor for the Virginia Committee of the Department of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and Lieutenant Colonel with the 80th Training Command; and a Senior Assistant Attorney General for the Virginia Office of the Attorney General. “The Richmond Ambulance Authority has also shown its exceptional patriotism by providing assistance for the Commonwealth’s annual Wall of Honor Ceremony, paying tribute to the Heroes of the Global War on Terrorism who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Words cannot adequately express how much we all appreciate everything this great organization has done for our men and women in the armed forces.”

Additional Note from the Vice President:

Congratulations to our President, Grant Porter, on his promotion to Colonel. COL Porter will remain at his current assignment as the G1. Two photos showing his promotion which and the renewing of the Oath of Office administered by MG Wendel and his family attaching his “Eagles” to his uniform are included.



Above: MG Wendel congratulates COL Porter on Promotion



Left: Sons and Wife attaching New Rank to COL Porter’s uniform

Below Left: CSM(R) Wollett presents a check to Mrs Rosie Pinkerton, Outstanding Military Technician

Below Right: MG(R) Evans congratulates CSM(R) Stewart on retirement



The 2012 80th Division Veterans Association's 93rd Reunion

ALL, PLEASE MARK YOUR calendars for 22-26 August 2012 as plans are well under way for the 80th Division's 93rd Annual Veterans Reunion. The event will take place in Baltimore; which fits well into the celebration of our nations history as this year marks the Bicentennial anniversary of the War of 1812. We are planning to have a dinner cruise in Baltimore Harbor where Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner 200 years ago during the battle that saved the nation. Those wishing to visit the city in advance may want to attend the celebratory festivities that are taking place this June. The director of the festivities noted that "Before the Battle of Baltimore, the British had sacked Washington leaving Baltimore as the last point of resistance against the enemy forces. Many thought all was lost for the new democracy, but the city of Baltimore met the attack and saved the nation. This country has an immense debt to the residents of this great city." However, that is not to say that the reunion will be overly expensive this year. The rates are comparable to past reunion events.

The Baltimore Washington International (BWI) Airport Marriott Hotel has been selected as the location for this year's event. Marriott provides a lovely full service facility there that will have just completed an extensive renovation. The hotel features two fine reasonably priced

restaurants, an indoor pool with a whirlpool, an exercise room, internet access, and a free shuttle to and from the airport as well as free parking for those traveling by car. The nightly room rate for lodging is \$100.00. The address of the hotel is 1743 West Nursery Road, Baltimore MD 21240. Reservations must be made prior to Friday, July 27th to receive the group rate. The reservation number for the hotel is 1-800-228-9290. The rate for our block of rooms can be obtained by referencing the "80th Division Veterans Association Reunion."

Plan on attending all of the usual events and consider taking in some local sightseeing. The Orioles will be in town and history buffs may want to visit the birthplace Museum of Babe Ruth, Fort McHenry, the Annapolis Naval Academy or perhaps the National Aquarium located on the inner harbor. For more information about things to do in Baltimore, check the website: <http://starspangled200.org/>

Keep an eye on your mailbox in April and look for a "Call to the Reunion" invitation and registration form that will outline all of the events. On behalf of our National Commander, Dr. Lee Anthony, we look forward to seeing you in Baltimore this August.

Senior Vice Commander
Colonel Grant Porter

LEADERSHIP CONVEENCE: FROM PAGE 7

The 100th Division's outgoing Command **Sgt. Maj. Allan A. Anastasiades** relinquished his duties to his replacement Command **Sgt. Maj. Bruce W. Clark**.

Resiliency was the theme of Chaplain Col. Stice's speech at Sunday's Prayer Breakfast. He spoke of the survival of two American women, Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry, who were captured by the Taliban in August 2001. He shared his story about how he was part of the team who rescued the women in November 2001, and what he had learned from these women.

"I was so impressed with Heather and Dayna," Stice said. "I discovered six things these women did that made them resilient. They stayed prepared. They sang, worshipping God. They served others, to the best of their limited ability. They prayed continually and kept a journal. And they told their story, resulting in their book 'Prisoners of Hope: The Story of Our Captivity and Freedom in Afghanistan.'"

Unfortunately, the breakfast ended on a sad note. 80th Training Command Chaplain Lt. Col. Bill Manning announced that one of the 80th's Headquarters AGR Soldiers, Master Sgt. Frank Nolan, passed away the

night before, in a motorcycle accident. Preparations were immediately initiated to care for Nolan's family.

Overall, though, the conference seemed to be beneficial for many who attended. "I've enjoyed meeting people in our units," said Sgt. 1st Class Kasey Zehnder, 100th Division. "There was a variety of classes and presentations where we learned some good, practical knowledge."

"I thought the subjects that were covered in the classes were very helpful," said Lt. Col. Lewis Kent, 80th Training Command Headquarters. "This was well worth the time I took to come here. I look forward to next year's conference."

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313th Field Artillery Battalion

I am writing this rather early, since I have not been able to get in touch with some of you. So I will try again before I have completed my write up and see who I may be able to get in touch with. I hope that all of you are doing well. I have been keeping busy. I am in the process of selling my home here in Rowayton, CT. Since it has become too much of a burden for me. It is 7 rooms and living alone in 7 rooms is not much fun, so that is that.

I did hear from someone that Elmer Thygne had passed away. I did not hear of the cause or anything but I thought you would want to send a note to his family there. Also talked with John Ingles and he told me that his wife, Audrey, had passed away. I sent him a mass card and my condolences. I tried to call Paul Burgio often since he does not live too far from me and check on him. So far he is doing ok. He does use a walker but gets around pretty well and it is always so good talking with him. I heard from someone that Earl King is on dialysis. He is diabetic. Paul would like to hear from some of his friends, if you can.... Please give him a call. He would love it.

Audrey Blocker had two operations and I was able to get in touch with her and she seems to be doing well. It was a tough time to be going through but Audrey is a fighter and when I talked with her, she was just like her old self. Mary Brinker wrote me a great email. She wrote about how they are and said that Jim is doing fine.

I hear from Felix Cistolo quite often and he is back in his home and seems to be doing pretty well. He keeps busy with his friends and keeps in touch. In fact on a call on Dec 7 when I talked with him he told me that Bob Murrell had had a stroke. I called him this evening, Feb 11, and he told me Bob seems to be doing ok. That was good news, keep it up Bob!

I also spoke to Manny Gonzalez and his wife from Texas and they both talked to me. I was happy to be able to reach them and wish them well. Spoke with Ed Hargraves and he sounded like his old self, and it was so good talking with him. He was happy I called and I will keep in touch.

I called Angelo Barone, left a message and he was nice enough to return my call. He and his wife are both doing well. We spoke about our ages, 90! It was great and thank goodness all is well. He keeps busy speaking at various local groups affairs.

When I get settled, I will write up another address listings for every one of our group. If there are any changes please contact me so that I can send out an up to date listing. I will have my new address on it so please, don't hesitate to call me at my phone here to update me. I will be here until probably the end of February.

Thanks for all the input and please keep in touch. I know that I am repeating myself, but it is important to do that.

Best to All of You, Fran Poletti

Florida Post #47

For the members that could not join us for our spring meeting, the weather was warm and the breezes balmy and our days were busy going over old times.

Hugh and Tonya Gibbons invited the group to their home for Saturday lunch. We all enjoyed a delicious meal and a very pleasant afternoon with them. While there, the group toasted Francis and I on our 62nd wedding anniversary. The Post wants to thank Hugh and Tonya again for their wonderful hospitality.

This was our last meeting to be held at the Crown Plaza in Melbourne. The hotel staff who we have worked with over the past 20 or more years wished us well and invited us to come back again in the future.

We will continue to hold our Fall meeting in Ocala as long as we have members interested and able to attend. I will give the dates of our fall meeting in the next issue of the Blue Ridge Magazine.

Kay Rajnicek, Secretary

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Bob, Dr Richard Co 317 Med Det
No Forwarding Address
DOD: Unknown
Rptd by: Archer Futch

Burns, William HQ 2/317
3242A 67th Terrace South
St Petersburg, FL 33712
DOD: Dec 21, 2011
Rptd by: Wife Ann

Fleihan, Harry J. Co I 317
9969 New Paris Hillsboro Rd
New Paris, OH 45347-8211
DOD: Unknown
Rptd by: Wife Ruth

Foertmeyer, Charles Co D 305
Med Bn
DOD: 10/28/11
Rptd by: Estate Management

McMillion, H E
DOD: Unknown
Rptd by: Returned Newsletter

Merritt, Kerry Co F 319
5302 Western Hills Dr
Austin, TX 78731-4822
DOD: Apr 23, 2011
Rptd by: Wife Nancy

Patton, Clay Co L 317
708 Whittmore Lane
Knoxville, TN 37918-9302
DOD: Jan 9, 2012
Rptd by: Bob Burrows

Patterson, Ray Co A 317
387 Willett Ave
Riverside, RI 02915-2512
DOD: Jan 25, 2012
Rptd by: Abe Barone

Spalding, Phil Co A 317
DOD: Unknown
Rptd by: Ray Patterson

Sullivan, Clarence Lee Co A 315
851 W. Third St
Madison, IN 47150-3163
DOD: 1/27/12
Rptd by: Son, Ernie

Thompson, Lester 80th Sig Co
1006 E. Birchwood Dr
Nashville, NC 27856
DOD: 1/15/11
Rptd by: Son Keith

Tillery, Royce
No Forwarding Address
DOD: Unknown
Rptd by: Returned Newsletter

Verbeek, Stanley J. Co I 318
770 Welsh Rd Apt 819
Huntingdon VY, PA 19006
DOD: 11/20/11
Rptd by: Wife Mary

Westra, Richard Co A 317
190 Campbell Blvd
Getzville, NY 14068
DOD: Jul 13, 2011
Rptd by: Wife Betty

Note of Appreciation

BY: JEAN LAU

MY FATHER, STAFF SERGEANT Raymond (Pat) Patterson passed away on January 25, 2012. He was a very proud member of the 80th Division, A Co., 317th Infantry. Over the years he kept in touch with many of the men he served with. He attended many of the 80th Reunions, and was an active member of the New York Post and Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, and was even a Trench Rat. His experiences in the Army helped to shape my Dad into the man he was to become. As he said, he was "fiercely proud" of his service. In fact, last summer he had said he wanted to sit down with the youngest family members to tell them about the war. We videotaped his stories, and now we have something we can show his descendants for years to come. I encourage all veterans to do the same.

On behalf of his 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, and 1 great great granddaughter; I wanted you to know what being a part of this wonderful organization meant to him.

With great appreciation for all that our veterans have done for us.

His daughter, Jean Lau

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Documents enclosed with application form (at the convenience of the applicant) (NB: The Honorable Discharge papers and the Military records are necessary to process the file) _____

Chronological progress of your professional career (before retirement): _____

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Activities in Veterans' Associations or in the social/community field: _____

Works and publications: _____

Family structure: Name of spouse and children / grand-children _____

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- www.thetroubleshooters.com
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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
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