

BLUE RIDGE



THE SERVICE MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2013

Volume 94 • Number 378 • Issue 2



FRONT ROW, L TO R: MG(R) Henderson, CSM(R) Riley, SGM(R) King,
BACK ROW, L TO R: SGM(R) Horton, CSM(R) Wollett

Road Trip to Visit CSM(R) Bob Riley

By: CSM(R) Doris Wollett

On 1 April 13 I met SGM(R) Vernon King (former G2 SGM) at the home of MG(R) John Henderson (former 80th Division Commander) in the west end of Richmond very early in the morning. We then drove to Staunton, VA to meet and pick up MG Henderson. Back on the road we drove south on Interstate 81. We made our usual stop at Cracker Barrel in Abingdon, VA for lunch and then headed further south to Johnson City, TN to visit CSM(R) Bob Riley (former 80th Division CSM). We arrived at the hotel in Johnson City, checked in and then headed over to CSM's home. When we got to the house, CSM wasn't there!! He had gone to do some banking but returned shortly. His daughter, Jane greeted us and took over the duties that CSM normally performs, providing the hungry travelers with snacks and beverages. This trip was different from previous trips. After we visited a short while with CSM, the four of us went on a road trip to visit SGM(R) Ron Horton (former 80th Division CXO and G1 SGM). We had been talking about taking the CSM with us to see Ron's home for the past couple of visits.

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Summer is here or at least the weather indicates it is. Seems we did not have much spring weather and went directly to summer. I know many parts of the country have had a lot of rain and even tornados. I certainly hope that you did not have any damage but if you did that it was minimal and that you all are ok.

Things around here are looking so nice. Summer is my favorite season of the year and I love to see things growing, even the grass. Here in Virginia it is very humid so the temperature does not have to be too high to feel hot!!

Watch out for those creepy crawling things that hide in leaves and wood piles. Try to keep things cleaned up and picked up. If you cannot do it yourself try to get some help. My husband is finally able to help me again with the yard. As you may recall, he fell and broke his hip last Oct and that really set him back for a while. He is doing much better and the weed wacker fits his hands perfectly.

As you are working outside, make sure you keep a bottle of water nearby and take a sip frequently. I don't want any of

you getting dehydrated and end up in the hospital. You know that dehydration is a problem as we get older and causes all sorts of problems.

We have lost two PNCs and a HNC in the last couple of months. We will certainly miss them. Rest in Peace PNC Louis Kasperik and PNC Russell Sick as well as HNC Virgil Myers. We were certainly blessed to have you as part of this Association. Your service to this great country will never be forgotten.

You should have received your Reunion Letters by now and if you didn't, look in the last edition of this magazine as I had all the information in it. Get your registrations in and make your hotel reservations. There is a lot of great activities planned and I know everyone will have fun and love to see each other.

Don't forget to let me know if you move. I want everyone to get their magazines.

GOD bless each of you and remember the 80th "Only Moves Forward"!!



Eightieth Division Veterans Association BLUE RIDGE The Service Magazine. The official quarterly publication by the 80th Division Veterans Association. Incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in the State of Pennsylvania.

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COMMANDERS MESSAGE



**COL GRANT R. PORTER,
COMMANDER**

Dear Veterans, Families, and Friends of the 80th

I hope you are all doing well and are enjoying the summer weather. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our upcoming reunion in Virginia Beach this September. For 94 years, the reunions have provided a great opportunity for us to bond and meet with each other's families and friends, learn more about each others lives, and pay respect to those who have come and gone before us.

There is always a gap between the time we provide input to the magazine and the time of its publication, so I apologize in advance if I have missed anyone or posted anything that is untimely. In last month's message, I sent out well wishes to Virgil Myers with the hope for a successful recovery from his medical procedures. As most of you have since learned, Virgil passed away in the time in between and it is with belated and sad regret that I report that we have lost such a dear friend to so many of in our Association.

I am also sad to report that other key leaders have passed away since the last newsletter to include Past National Commander (PNC) Louis Kasperek and more recently, PNC Russell Sick. We mourn the loss of Margaret Schock, former President of the Ladies Auxiliary and wife of Trustee Laverne Schock as well. Our thoughts and prayers go to each of their loved ones.

All known members who have passed away since the last publication of the Blue Ridge Service magazine are listed in taps and all are dear to us; however, I want to make special recognition of these leaders because they each served with distinction as Past or Honorary National Commanders, and a Past National President - all top officers of the Association who have given a great deal of time, dedication, love and support to our Association. I have asked the editor to include any special tributes that may have been submitted and to include their locally published obituaries if space allows, or to at least provide links to the articles to honor them and learn more about their lives.

I should also note that it is difficult to account for everyone who may have passed away as there are less and less letters coming in to provide updates. With fewer active chapters in our Association, we rely on updates to come from anyone who can provide them. Please keep your email messages and letters coming and let us know of any news about our members. Thank you all for your continued support of the association and I wish you good health and happiness throughout the year.

Sincerely,
Grant Porter, National Commander

Links to the published obituaries of Past National Commanders, Louis Kasperik and Russell Sick, Honorary National Commander, Virgil Myers, and former President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Margaret Schock:

www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?pid=163937577
www.legacy.com/obituaries/theledger/obituary.aspx?pid=163617698
www.websterfuneralhomes.com (Scroll to Russell Sick)
<http://karrersimpson.com/obituaries/schock-margaret-2442/>

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The last date I have entered a name is June 1, 2013
LIFE MEMBERSHIP
CSM(R) Otha Allen, 3rd Bde, 108th, 80th TASS
COL Shelley Balderson, 80th TC G6
Clair Carver, 80th QM
COL Brydon Jackson, 1st Bde (QM) 94th Div
Robert Jones, B-318th
Leroy Jonsson, G-318th (Annual to Life)
Diane McLaren, (Wife of MG(R) McLaren)

NEW MEMBERS

ANNUAL MEMBERS
Gid Adkisson, (Son of Gid Adkisson A-317th)
COL Rick Giles, 800th LSB

DONATIONS

Florida Post #47
In Memory of Virgil Myers – McBride Scholarship Fund

Once again, I have the honor and privilege of representing the 80th Division Veterans' Association (D.V.A.) overseas. It is very important to keep alive the memory of those who gave their lives in the service of our country. The 80th Division has so many graves in so many countries, from both World Wars.

It is remarkable how many people gather at our cemeteries each Memorial Day. These are people of all ages, ranging from those who were liberated by American troops, to young students who sing and/or give short talks regarding the significance of this event. There are many troops; American and other allied nations. The "principle speaker", regional officials, and chaplains typically make up the program. Weather permitting, there is normally an over flight of four fighter jets which execute the "missing man" formation. This Day is one of honor and respect; not of store "sales". We in the U.S. need to redefine our priorities.

We were joined by our fellow member, Mr. Sebastiaan Vonk of the Netherlands, who is the president of a group whose members "adopt" American graves, bringing flowers and looking up history for the families of the deceased. Together, we participated in the ceremonies as appropriate, representing the 80th D.V.A.

The ABMC (American Battle Monuments Commission) in cooperation with their local employees, keep the American Military Cemeteries in immaculate condition. In many cases, local assistants have served well for decades.

This year, Mr. Vonk and I participated in Memorial Day services at three American Military Cemeteries (AMC).

1. The Ardennes, located near Liege, Belgium,
2. Henri-Chapelle in Belgium, and
3. Margraten in the Netherlands. (at which the new 80th DVA scholarship was awarded to Mr. Vonk)

I also visited the Meuse-Argonne AMC which looks great, and has plans for greater interpretive presentations.

The 80th Division Veterans' Association provides for flowers wherever our fallen comrades from WWI and WWII are buried in ABMC American Military Cemeteries everywhere.

A short visit to St. Petersburg, Russia, was followed by a visit to "The Bridge at Remagen". Some of you have met CSM (ret) Carl Wells during the "Luxembourg Friends' Week"; he was a Sherman tank gunner at age 16 and tank commander at age 19. His tank was one of the first U.S. tanks to cross this damaged, strategic bridge across the Rhine.

While enjoying the friendship and hospitality of a number of friends, I was able to see American battlefields of both World Wars. This included 80th Div. sites, plus a visit with Eric Durieux to Holtzwihr to the memorial erected to commemorate the location and action which earned Audie Murphy the Congressional Medal of Honor. Note that a memorial to Audie Murphy exists near the crash site where he died, near Roanoke, VA

It was also good to see BG Paul M. Benenati at Kaiserlautern/Ramstein.

The scene will be shifting to Luxembourg on 11 June, for a week of battlefield archaeology, as Jean Muller and I have done for two years. ("The 80th Division Military Archeology Section") Battle sites are searched for artifacts which can be traced to units and individuals in order to obtain further details of the actions, and to return personal effect artifacts to the families of the KIAs. Over the past year, we have returned 3 artifacts to the families, after much searching.

"The Good Lord willing and the creek don't rise", the last week will be the Luxembourg Friends Week, shepherded by Gary Myers and Daniel Reiling. This is a week of reunion between the residents of Luxembourg, who were liberated from Nazi tyranny, and the B.I. liberators. It is wonderful to see such friendship between these two groups (and their friends and families). Vis Montium!

Road Trip... continued from page 1

It was a beautiful ride through the mountains to Newland, NC. Ron met us in town and we followed him to his home. Ron has a beautiful home in the mountains which is beside the National Forest. Ron's wife Sandy was waiting for us and the two of them showed us around their home and property. They have a beautiful view of the mountains. Ron said on a clear day you can actually see downtown Charlotte, NC. We sat around and talked about the way things were in the "old days" and tried to remember all sorts of former Soldiers. We shared laughs and had a great time. As the sun was beginning to go down we decided to head out for dinner. It was a lovely drive through more mountains. Sandy said if we had come a couple weeks later that the rhododendron would be in full bloom. They grow wild out there. We drove a few miles to Famous Louise's Rock House Restaurant located in

Linville Falls, NC. This restaurant is located at the intersection of four counties. The food is cooked in Avery County but the waitresses pick it up in Burke County. Dining is in either Avery or McDowell County. We all enjoyed delicious meals of home cooked foods topped off with dessert!! The evening was getting late so after some more great conversation we decided it was time to get the CSM back home and said good night.

The next morning after checking out of the hotel, we met CSM Riley at Shoney's, our usual breakfast spot. We all had plenty to eat and shared in more camaraderie. After breakfast we said our good byes and headed home. As we were leaving the parking lot, CSM stood in front of his van and rendered a salute to MG(R) Henderson. That brought tears to our eyes but made us all feel the pride that CSM was feeling.

Florida Post #47

I am sad to report that our Post Commander Gerald V. Myers died in March. He will be missed by all. He was a very active member of the 80th Division Veterans Association and also President of VBOB Chapter 32 in Lakeland, Florida. He made many friends here and in Luxembourg.

I also received news from Barbara Brockman that her mother Naomi Brockman had a stroke. We wish her well and a speedy recovery.

We will be having our Fall meeting October 31st thru November 3rd 2013. It will be held at the Quality Inn (formally the Hampton Inn) at 3434 College Rd, Ocala, FL 34473. Phone Number (352) 854-3200. Room rate is \$75.00 per night plus tax. Hope to see you there.

Have a great summer.

Kay Rajnicek, Secretary

Post 50

Dear Blue Ridge Post 50 members,

I hope you are all enjoying the Summer and doing well. Since the last newsletter we have had some significant activity. On 23 April we held our quarterly conference call and discussed plans for the upcoming Reunion and particularly the Post 50 Annual Business Meeting being held on 8 September 2013 at the Virginia Beach Resort and Conference Center. We hope you can attend and will help join in on all the festivities. During the Business Meeting we will hold an important elections to include electing a new president, Vice President, a new secretary, and five board members. Please contact me at gpmailtime@yahoo.com if you are interested in a position or in nominating someone.

Reunion and Annual Meeting Planning

We will be joining the 80th Division Veterans Association for the 94th Reunion, 4-7 September at Virginia Beach. One of the Blue Ridge Post 50 highlights will include the annual golf tournament on Friday, 6 September at Eagles Nest golf course at Little Creek. You should have received an updated registration form from Pete through email. We are requesting registration forms be returned by 15 July To MG(R) John McLaren. If you have not received a registration form yet, please contact Pete Herbert or go online at 80thblueridge.com to find the registration form. Please note, there was a mistake made on the dates in the letter; however, the registration form correctly identifies the Post 50 Annual meeting on Sunday, 8 September, running in conjunction with the 80th Division Veterans Association Reunion 4-7 September. See the 80thdivision.com website for additional details of all the events.

Scholarship Recipients:

Special thanks to George Croughwell and his team for handling the scholarships for 2013. The committee announced that Leslie Stewart Stephen And Jordan Ray Everett each received \$500 to further their education. Jordan will be attending George Mason University this fall and Leslie

will be attending Christopher Newport University. Congratulations to both of them!

Member highlights:

COL Skip Goodwillie announced he would be retiring in June after 30 years of service. Skip is currently the Assistant Division Commander for Support at the 94th Training Division at Fort Lee. We thank him for his years of service and wish him well in retirement.

MSG (R) George Croughwell has accepted a Department of the Army civilian position with AR-MEDCOM, at Camp Parks, California. George will continue on as an active member of the association and we thank him once again for his great work as the Scholarship Committee Chairman for the past two years and for running the Golf Tournament last year. Good luck to George and Becky!

Our latest lifetime members include COL Shelly Balderston, formerly in the 80th G6, (welcome back Shelley!), COL Brydon Jackson, acting commander of the 2nd Brigade in Charleston WV, and Diane McLaren, Spouse or former division commander, MG are John McLaren. Thank you all for your support as life members!

Other New Business:

Thanks to Jim Brown and Pete Herbert for their work in developing the artwork and in approving the purchase of 500 buttons for promotional purposes. The board also approved the purchase of 1000 more Blue Ridge ink pens and agreed to provide funding for the 80th Training Command Organization Day and placing an ad in the 94th Reunion booklet.

Rick Littleton sent out an invitation to attend a Blue Ridge Reunion/ Luncheon that took place on June 1, 2013 at the Dublin VA Lions Center. It's great to see some of the "older Soldiers" as Rick says, getting together for a reunion in their region.

Post 50 Luncheon Update:

Thanks to VP Doris Wollett for continuing her lead in the quarterly luncheons. The last luncheon was held 15 May 2013 at the Holiday Inn on Belles Road in Richmond. We had sixteen members and guests attend including: Bart Campbell, Tom Stephens, Charlie Elam, Skip Goodwillie,

Colleen Watson, Will Robertson, Anthony Taylor, George Croughwell, J.R. White and his wife Carnell, Vernon King and his wife Louise, Dave Gallaher, Doris Wollett and her husband Ard and Pete Herbert. Bart Campbell offered the blessing and gave us an update on Chaplain Manning daughter (Rachael). We discussed the upcoming reunion and 80th Annual Meeting. We had some great food and closed with a raffle to support our awards program. The luncheons continue to be a great way to catch up on 80th happenings. Please try to attend and bring a friend if possible. The next luncheon will take place in August just prior to the reunion and annual meeting.

Please send updates so we can continue to share stories about our members. See you at the Reunion!

COL Grant Porter, President, Post 50
Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association

Tributes to Gerald Virgil Myers 1918 - 2013



In recent years, the ravages of time and illness have claimed more and more of the men from this organization. Remembering them during the Annual Memorial Service is a momentary show of respect. It is customary to especially note the passing of Past National Commanders, and although Virgil Myers declined the office of Commander, his Comrades all agreed that he was deserving of the title of Honorary National Commander. Few were able to pay respects in person when he passed away in March; therefore, an opportunity to offer tributes was extended and these have been submitted to the Blue Ridge, in honor of Virgil.

Below are comments from several PNCs and other Members:

An instant impression of his gentle kindness was the truly lasting memory created the first time we met this 80th Division Veteran as we were enjoying the hospitality of the Florida Post in Hampton, VA.

Two women sat in a corner of that small room, with tears running down their faces as they listened intently to the man talking about their hero father. In 2001, more than 57 years after the deadly attack that took their father's life, Virgil Myers was recounting for the ladies, in minute detail, the way their dad had served alongside him in Company G, 317th Infantry.

The compassion Virgil displayed for those two daughters was so apparent, and the way he described the actions so compelling, that we were immediately drawn to his personality and strength. We encouraged him to record and share other memories, as he had such vivid recall and a masterful way of delivering them. On more than one occasion, he commanded that kind of rapt attention of his audiences.

Virgil became a staunch supporter of the Descendants' group, serving on its Board of Directors. He graciously allowed us to share in activities he supported abroad, and with his Battle of the Bulge associates. What a privilege it was to call him our very good friend. We will miss him personally, and recognize that 80th Division Veterans have lost a truly fine, gentle man, an exceptionally generous advocate for the Association and for all Members and their families. May he rest in Peace with his beloved wife, Bobbie.

Cecelia and Bruce

Gerald V Myers a man who served God and his country-men honorably. A proved faithful, dependable comrade in war and peace! Virgil is greatly missed.

Bob Burrows

Virgil Meyers was a Soldier and a true patriot. He is best remembered for his good works, humanitarian efforts and the aid he provided to others in the European Theater of Operations in World War II and beyond. These good works usually go unacknowledged. Virgil was known to many across the United States as a representative of our Nation - a man who loved his country and who was proud of his service. That service was key in providing the many Freedoms his generation made possible for each us in America today.

I am proud to have known Virgil Meyers. He was a true gentleman and distinguished ambassador for the 80th Division Veterans Association and for the citizens of the United States. He will be long remembered by the citizens of Luxembourg, Belgium and France for his efforts to foster brotherhood, fraternity, and harmony. He was a great friend and I will miss him very much.

John McLaren

I join with you all in mourning the passing of Virgil. Truly, he was a Christian, a "gentleman and a scholar", and a friend. I was looking forward to being with him and the "Luxembourg Friends" in June. I am sure that all the participants will be thinking of him as well as many others who have departed. We certainly miss Virgil and note that our prayers and concerns are with all his family and his many friends at this time.

Dr Lee Anthony

Our sincere 'Thankyou' to Barbara Brockman's & family for their E-Mail of March 11th and Cecelia Smith's E-Mail of April 15th recording the death of our Honorary National Commander Gerald "Virgil" Myers on March 10th, 2013. Yes, I appreciate the opportunity to convey my personal remembrance of our friendship as follows:

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Virgil was not only a deserved and credible decorated individual, but a man who was eager to assist any one he could serve. Not only was our personal memories of our friendship, he was a dedicated “Buddy” to have in the 80th Division Veteran’s Association. Over the years we all enjoyed the National Convention’s wherever they were held. It was an opportunity to attend with their wives and family members. In addition, he was very active in the Florida Post #47 Annual Reunions in Melbourne & Ocala, Fl. It gave the attendance a more personal opportunity to socialize. We will not forget his wife Emma ‘Bobbie’ hospitality and greeting. When you consider the years of time and effort he donated to coordinate the trips to Luxembourg, and the number of people that responded, it is exemplifying. Our 3 Son’s still talk about our trip in 2008. We will always remember “Virgil”. God Bless him and his family.

Max Schmidt

This tribute is to Virgil – I decided to do a poem.
MY FRIEND – VIRGIL

I lost my friend the other day,
I know not the reason why,
God surely must have wanted him,
Or he wouldn’t have let him die.
I lost my friend the other day,
And a tear rolled from my eye,
I didn’t even get the chance,
To wish my friend goodbye.
But someday when I’m called like him,
And my journey here must end,
I know he will be waiting there,
To say “Hello my friend”.

Anelo (Abe)

“Few members of Company G of the 317th Regiment contributed so much and survived as many continuous days of combat with G Company as Virgil Myers. We both had vivid memories of the night we crossed the Rhine at Mainz. As Lt. Frank’s runner, I got into his boat, but there were too many men so the Lieutenant told me to get in the first boat and to stay on the beach until he arrived. My boat landed upstream of all the other boats. I stayed on the beach all night, but Lt. Frank’s boat never arrived. When daylight came, I came under fire. With the shells coming closer and alone on the beach, I tried unsuccessfully to swim the Rhine. I was swept down the river and eventually landed on an island.

I never knew what happened to Lt. Frank until Virgil told me the rest of the story sixty years later. Lt. Frank’s boat had been hit with anti-aircraft fire seriously wounding Lt. Frank and others. The navy sailor in charge of Lt. Frank’s boat said his orders were to unload everyone on the boat. Virgil remembers Lt. Frank drawing his pistol and ordered the sailor to take him back for medical treatment. Hours later, Virgil Myers remembers the Lieutenant’s boat drifting in the river. Lt. Frank was listed as KIA at Mainz on 3/28/1945.”

*Archer Futch
G company, 317th Inf. Regiment*

We are stunned about Virgil’s passing. On a personal hand and in the name of the US Veterans Friends Luxembourg I would like to express our condolences to his family and friends in the US.

I must say that I am thankful that I had the privilege to know such a Great Man. Even though Virgil was one of the oldest veterans who took part in our Friendship Week he always seemed to me as one of the youngest because of his tireless ambition to keep the memory for his fallen comrades and fellow veterans alive.

For the immense work he did over the many years to help our association organize our annual event, I would like to thank him. May he rest in peace.

Daniel Reiland, Luxembourg

The first time I met Virgil Myers was the first time I had met many of the 80th Division veterans. It was at the Roanoke reunion. I had just finished writing my book about my dad’s WWII experiences and I was about to meet several of the men that my dad talked about and wrote about. I didn’t know anybody, but that wasn’t going to last very long.

About an hour after I signed up, I heard someone call my name. Turning around, Virgil Myers introduced himself. He had seen my name on the board and was looking for the tall guy. I knew the name immediately. I spent quite a bit of time with Virgil and he always had a kind word to say.

Like many of us baby boomers who’s fathers have passed on, Virgil helped me reconnect with my dad by telling me several stories about my dad during the war. And it never ended-Virgil kept up the correspondence with letters, emails, and phone calls. I know he did this with everyone. We made two trips overseas for the US Veterans Friends Luxembourg tours and enjoyed his and other 80th vets company.

He was unselfish and gave so much of himself in so many ways. I will greatly miss my friend, Virgil, but I know he is in a much better place.

God Bless America and God Bless Virgil and Bobbie.

Andy Adkins, HNC, Family, Co H, 317th

I got to know Virgil during Friendship Weeks 2009 and 2010. What a fine man, with encyclopedic knowledge of WWII battles in Luxembourg. He was engaging and patient with me as I asked endless questions.

In 2010 the Moselle River sponsors at first told me I was not a war orphan and therefore not eligible for the free hotel room. Virgil assured them that I was and there was no problem. He was like that. Always willing to get involved and be helpful.

One of my favorite memories is the day several of us went with Virgil and Jean Muller to search for artifacts. Virgil found an M-1 in the same area he fought in during The Battle of the Bulge. I took a photo of Virgil holding it.

He was a great guy. An American original. May he rest in peace forever in the arms of our loving God.

Roger Connor

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Friends Who Are Gone

GERALD VIRGIL MYERS

Honorary Past National Commander:

LAKELAND, FL - Gerald Virgil Myers, 94, made his journey to Heaven March 10, 2013, due to natural causes, to live in the light of the Heavenly Father and enjoy a reunion with the love of his life, his late wife of 70 years, Emma "Bobbie" Tracy Myers. Gerald Virgil was born on July 6, 1918 near Forrest City, MO, to William Edgar Myers and Sylvia Gertrude "Adkins" Myers. He grew up in Andrew County then went to Lafayette High School for 2 years when the family moved to St. Joseph. He finished the last 2 years of High school at Oak Grove, where he set school records as a basketball star and set a county record in The High Hurdles. He married Emma "Bobbie" Tracy, April 14, 1939 in the St. Patricks Church, St. Joseph, MO. He joined the Army in May, 1944. After 14 weeks of basic infantry training at Ft. Hood, TX, he was then shipped overseas to the European Theater, landing at Omaha Beach. He was then assigned to the 80th Infantry Division. In the next 45 days, due to heavy casualties, he was selected to become Squad header of a Mortar Section and promoted to the rank of sergeant fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. He was 1 of 3 American G.I.s that found the Buchenwald Concentration camp by entering the west gate of the camp; 26,000 inmates were in the camp when it was located. He returned home in Jan. of 1946 as 1st Sergeant of the Co. he was assigned to the entire time he was in combat overseas. Medals and citations received by Sgt. Myers for his services in WWII and the years following included: The Silver Star medal, The Bronze Star medal with Valor, the Purple Heart medal, the Infantry Combat Badge medal, the Good Conduct medal, the Victory Medal WWII, received the Medal of Honor from Luxenbourg Gov't, the Legion of Honor Medal Designated Chivaler for the Medal, the Mairie Medal by French Gov't, was declared an Honorary Citizen of Luxenbourg in 2004, and an Honorary Citizen of France in 2005. He is still being honored by the city of Lakeland with both his picture in 1944 and now was placed on the sides of a city bus honoring WWII Veterans in Polk County. In May, 2002, he received a certificate and plaque from the Commanding General of the 80th Inf. Reserve, declaring him an honorary Colonel in the 80th Inf. Div. After his discharge from the Army, he returned to work at Quaker Oats Co., St. Joseph. He attended night school and graduated from the Johnson Business College. He was a salesman in the feed division of Quaker Oats with a district in Central Kansas. He spent his last 23 years as the General Regional Sales Manager at the St. Louis sales office. When he retired, he and Bobbie moved to Lakeland, FL. He served for over 15 years as President of Central Florida Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and as Commander of Florida Chapter of 80th Division Veterans Association, Life Purple Heart member, and a member of the Polk Co. Veterans Association. He loved being with family and friends. He and his wife, Bobbie, both loved golf and extensive international travel. They traveled to every European country. He will

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It is with great sadness that I offer my condolences for the passing of Virgil Myers. When I first started working at the Luxembourg American Cemetery under the guidance of Lee Atkinson, Virgil was one of the people who went out of his way to make me and my family feel comfortable and accepted in the Luxembourg community.

Rest in Peace Virgil, God bless you.

Keith Stadler

Dear Doris: These are very sad news. I will remember Virgil as a fantastic person which was always so nice and kind to me and the others. I present you and Virgil's family my deepest and sincerest condolences for this terrible loss. I'm sure you will find the necessary energy to go through those difficult time within your friends and families.

Kindest regards,

Greetings from Luxembourg

Big Dan Jordao

Doris, appreciate your shaing this news - sad as it is.

I enjoyed meeting Virgil on our trip together and seeing him afterward at the 80ths reunion in Alexandria a few years back.

A fantastic gentleman who was symbolic of the Greatest Generation. What a joy talking with him at the memorial dedication for a river crossing that was hard to imagine if only for talking to someone who survived it.

In a way Virgil has crossed another river and may he rest under the shade of the trees, certainly well deserved for the gifts of freedom he provided others. A gift that has continued to give.

Virgil personafied the very idea of "Only Moves Forward".

Strength of the Mountains.

John Aulbach

Dear Doris and Judy

I am on the road but this news you must know pierces me deeply. I will write more but please rest assured that our angel Virgil has gotten his wings and will be far more accessible to us all than ever was before and I for one will be calling on him who was the heart of the friendship association. My sympathy for your personal loss, for the loss of your father and now your proxy. Arms around you.

Helen Patton

It seems I have known Virgil forever. When I met him and Bobbie at the Reunion and later in Luxembourg I immediately became their daughter. Gary and I were now siblings and I loved being part of that family. Virgil reminded me of my own father who passed away in 1986 and Bobbie was just as sweet as my own mother. I will miss my frequent emails and phone calls from Virgil, not only the jokes and beautiful pictures of where he and Bobbie had traveled, but also the mentoring and guidance that he gave to me. I'm so sure he is sharing his many memories of his military service with all the other angels in heaven. Rest in Peace my dear friend. You will always have a special place in my heart.

Doris Wollett

Friends Who Are Gone



LOUIS V. KASPERIK
Past National Commander,
(1949-1950):

Family, Community, Sports, and Serviceman, Louis V. Kasperik, 93, formerly of Derry and Latrobe, died on March 26, 2013 at Ligonier Gardens. He was born Dec. 18, 1919 in Smithton, PA, a son of the late Joseph J. and Victoria (Dudzik) Kasperik. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Liberty (Libby) Deluca Kasperik; and his siblings: Sophia Kasperik, Joseph Kasperik, and Elizabeth (Kasperik) Himic. Lou was a graduate of the former Derry Township High School (1937), and the Duquesne University School of Pharmacy (1941). He was a retired pharmacist, having owned and operated Kasperik Pharmacy in Derry from 1953 until 1982. Lou was active in business, community affairs, and sports throughout his lifetime. He was the last living member of the famous Duquesne University Basketball "Iron Dukes" (1937-1941), a team that played mostly five players for the entire games. Their varsity record for three years was 81 and 10, making them one of the top teams in the nation. They were the first team to go to the NIT and NCAA tournaments in the same season, losing in the finals of each tourney. Lou graduated with top honors from the School of Pharmacy in which he ranked #1. He received the outstanding scholar-athlete award upon graduation and was a charter member of the RHO Chi National Honor Society. After graduation, he played professional basketball with the Detroit Eagles during the 1941-1942 seasons in which they reigned as World Champs and made several pro all-star teams of the era. Lou also signed with Knoxville of the Southern Association (Pittsburgh Pirates minor league) to play professional baseball. At this time in his life, Lou joined the military service and served in the 80th Infantry Division of the Army in World War II from 1942-1945. He received the bronze star for meritorious service and the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal with four bronze stars and held the rank of staff sergeant upon discharge. Community, church, and professional associations were always an important part of Lou's life. His many memberships and achievements included: Past National Commander of the 80th Division Veteran's Assoc.; Board of Governors of Duquesne University; Distinguished Pharmacy Alumnus Award; past president of the Pharmacy Alumni Assoc.; one of the top 13 graduates of Duquesne University; member of Duquesne University Sports Hall of

Fame; past director of Fidelity Deposit Bank of Derry and Southwest National Bank of Greensburg; Advisory Director of Southwest Bank and First Commonwealth Bank; member and past president of the Armstrong-Westmoreland County Pharmaceutical Assoc.; PA Pharmaceutical Assoc. (PPA), National Assoc. of Retail Druggists (NARD), and American Pharmaceutical Assoc. (APHA); Derry American Legion Post #324, Derry VFW Post #444, Latrobe B.P.O.E. #907, Westmoreland County Comprehensive Health Pharmacy Advisory Council; past president of Derry Area Development Corp.; past president of Derry Business and Professional Assoc.; Derry Area Historical Society; director and past president of Westmoreland County Sports Hall of Fame; charter member of Westmoreland Athletic Club (WAC); Honorary Alumnus of St. Vincent College in Latrobe, PA; member of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Derry where he served as an usher and lector and was a member of the Holy Name Society; distinguished alumnus of Derry Area High School (2004); member and former chairman of the board of directors of Latrobe Area Hospital where he was named as a Director Emeritus in 2004 with 47 years of service; inducted into the Westmoreland County Sports Hall of Fame and the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame; and was the 2012 recipient of the Latrobe Area Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award. Lou is survived by his loving family: his son, Robert "Bob" and wife Rosalie; his daughter, Vickie McCarthy and husband Thomas; his wonderful grandchildren: Kathy Kasperik, Jim Kasperik and wife Casey (Peluso), Michael McCarthy and wife Amanda (Cackowski) and Libby McCarthy; and one great-granddaughter, Sophia McCarthy. At Lou's request, there will be no public visitation or services. Memorial contributions can be made to the Latrobe Area Hospital Charitable Foundation, One Mellon Way, Latrobe, PA 15650, or to St. Rose Church, 4969 Route 982, Latrobe, PA 15650. THE HARTMAN - GRAZIANO FUNERAL HOME, INC. in Latrobe has been entrusted with the arrangements. Online condolences can be made and additional information can be obtained at: hartman-grazianofuneralhome.com
Send condolences at post-gazette.com/gb

MYERS... continued from page 8

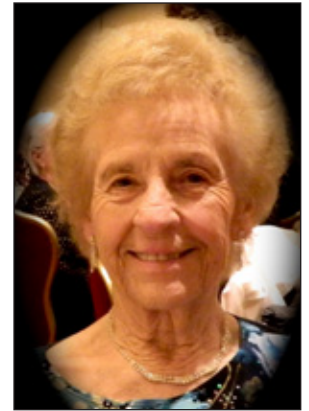
be remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandpa, and a great friend to many. He is survived by his two children, Ronna Jean Myers Hayward and husband, Robert, Gary Lee Myers and wife, Sheryl, 6 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, and 20 great great grandchildren. The family will receive friends on Wednesday March 13, 2013 from 5-7 pm at Heath Funeral Chapel and funeral services will be held on Thursday March 14, 2013 at 11:00 am at the Church of the Resurrection. Interment will follow at Lakeland Memorial Gardens. Memorials may be made to Honor Flight of West Central Florida, P.O. Box 55661. St. Petersburg, Florida 33732. Condolences: www.heathfuneralchapel.com

Friends Who Are Gone



RUSSELL P. SICK
Past National Commander,
(1998-1999):

Col. Russell P. Sick peacefully departed this earthly life June 6, 2013, surrounded by his family. Russell was born October 19, 1919 to Christopher and Carrie Sick in Hamilton, Ohio. The only son of a German immigrant, he was a life-long resident of Hamilton. He graduated from Hamilton High School in 1937. He entered the U.S. Army on July 4, 1942 as a radio code operator and saw action overseas during WWII, including support of the combat troops during the invasion of Normandy (D-Day). He returned to Hamilton after the war, and married the girl next door, Marcella Mae Duke, who would be his companion through the next 38 years of life until her death in 1987. He attended Zion Lutheran Church all of his life where he was baptized, confirmed, and married. Russell was an avid traveler and made several trips across the country. In 1990, at the age of 71 he made a solo driving trip around the country of 12,000 miles in two months. As a big Cincinnati Reds fan, many of his stops were planned so that he could watch his team play at stadiums around the country. He worked for several years as a machinist and installation supervisor at Herring-Hall-Marvin, leaving that traveling position upon the birth of his first son. He began work with the Postal Service and retired from that position in 1982. After retirement, Russell was elected President of Chapter 569 of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, leading that group to an increase in membership from 35 to over 200 during the 15 years he held that position. Russ was a lifetime member of the VFW, Post 1069. He was active with the 80th Army Division reunion group, and became National Commander of that group in 1999. As part of the 80th Army Division, he received an invitation from the mayor of Weimar, Germany to spend a week as the guest of the city as they unveiled a new memorial to the American soldiers who rescued their city. Once again, he toured Europe as part of a military group, this time at the age of 80, from Cincinnati to Frankfurt, Weimar, and Paris. In honor of his service to his country and his activities in veteran's organizations, Russell was made an honorary colonel of the U.S. Army, an honor of which he was extremely proud. He was preceded in death by his parents, Christopher and Carrie Sick, sister Romilda (Kenny) Huntelman, and wife Marcella M. Sick. He leaves behind four children; Michael (Sandee) Sick, Robert Sick, Marilyn Sick, and Judith (Tony) Pochard.



MARGARET M. SCHOCK
Past National President,
(1998-1999):

Margaret Marie Schock, 90, of Port Huron Township, MI, died Monday, June 3, 2013 in Mercy Hospital. She was born May 23, 1923 in Bad Axe. She married Laverne J. Schock on September 5, 1945 in St. Peter and Paul Church in Ruth, MI. Margaret owned and operated a beauty shop for many years and was a receptionist for Dr. Gholz. Margaret and Laverne traveled to Europe, took cruises and wintered in Florida for 30 years. She enjoyed sewing, cooking, gardening, and loved the time spent with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She is survived by her husband, Laverne J.; a daughter, Ginny (Marty) Zimmer of St. Clair, sons, Ron (Ellen) Schock of Clyde, Jerry (Marianne) Schock of Port Huron, a son, Dale (Kathleen) Norton-Schock of Bloomfield Hills, and a son, John (Sherry) Schock of Raleigh, NC; 9 grandchildren; 8 great grandchildren; 4 sisters, Doreen (Greg) Corby of Sterling Heights, Mary Ann (Don) Gentner of Harbor Beach, Judy (Dick) Peterson, Bad Axe,

Marilyn (Bob) Auberle of Clawson; and 2 sisters-in-law, Clara Essenmacher, Ruth, MI and Margie Schock of Port Huron. She was preceded in death in 1962 by her daughter, JoAnn. Her brother John also preceded her in death. A Funeral Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, June 6, 2013 in Holy Trinity Parish - St. Stephen Catholic Church. The Reverend Brian K. Cokonougher will officiate.

Burial was at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or the American Heart Association. Information or guestbook: karrersimpson.com.

SICK... continued

Also surviving are his grandchildren; M. Richard (Coleen) Sick, Alicia Fulford, Sara (Gary) Langford, Katrina (Billy) Bruns, Kimberly Pochard, and five great-grandchildren. Visitation at THE WEBSTER FUNERAL HOME 3080 Homeward Way at Rt. 4, Fairfield on Wednesday June 12, 2013 from 10:00 AM until the time of the funeral service at 11:00 AM, with Rev. David Miller, Pastor of the Zion Lutheran Church, officiating. Burial with full military honors will be in the family plot alongside his wife and parents in Greenwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Zion Lutheran Church Radio Ministry, 212 S. Front St., Hamilton, Ohio 45011. www.websterfuneralhomes.com



(ABOVE) Mr and Mrs Mejia-Rosario



(ABOVE RIGHT) PFC James Brendlinger with Great Grandparents Burrows



(RIGHT) 80th Monuments new location at Fort Benning, GA

RETURNED MAGAZINE: NO FORWARDING ADDRESS — *Do you know where I am?*

If you know where any of these people are, please contact Blue Ridge Secretary CSM (R) Doris M. Wollett at: 804-737-4422 or csmwollett@verizon.net

Barr, Jack / Life
 Bell, John / Life
 Blais, Eddie / Life
 Boley, John / Life
 Brooks, Thomas / Life
 Cameron, Robert /
 Campbell, Fred / 2010
 Calabrese, Dan / Life
 Challenger, Ernestine / Donor
 Coleman, Robert / Life
 Colvin, Harry / Life
 Conner, Robert / 2010
 Cook, Gene / Life
 Cournoyer, Raymond / Life
 Cruvey, Lindsey / 2010
 Destaffany, Sandra / 2011
 Dowdy, David / 2010
 Edwards, Jack / 2011

Elvin, Jan / 2013
 Erwin, Mrs Edward / Life
 Fleming, Daniel / Life
 Gaffney, Mrs Norma / Donor
 Garnett, Fred / Life
 Hacker, Carl / Life
 Harmon, Charles / Life
 Hart, Edward / Life
 Haviland, Joseph / Life
 Hickman, Frank / Life
 Hotz, Roger / Life
 Hreha, Dorothy / 2010
 Hubbard, Grady / Life
 Jobe, Frank / Life
 Kitner, Florence / 2012
 Kowalski, Walter / Life
 Lantz, Warren / Life

Magolan, Emil / Life
 Mahoney, Michael / Life
 Marshall, Mary / Life
 Mascuch, John / Life
 Mayer, Bonna / Life
 McHale, O E / Life
 Morgan, Richard / Life
 Morris, Shirley / Life
 Nicoll, William / Life
 Oliver, Teri / 2011
 Olson, Orville / Life
 Pappas, Tom / Life
 Parker, Milt / Life
 Reber, Sydney / Life
 Reif, Lawrence / Life
 Richards, Donald / Life
 Rigg, Charles / Life

Schaub, Eleanor / 2010
 Shirey, PNC LlewellynLife
 Shively, Wayne / Life
 Simpson, Elaine / Life
 Smith, Robert / 2011
 Spittler, Pastor Larry / 2012
 Stanley, Thomas / Life
 Stewart, Patrick / 2010
 Sweda, Michael / Life
 Tagmeyer, Nathan / Life
 Taliento, Ralph / Life
 Taylor, LTC Anthony / Life
 Van Cleemput, Al / Life
 Van Court, James / Life
 Vayda, Terry / 2010
 Wegman, William / Life
 White, Raymond / 2013

Only Moving Forward: Optimism Fulfilled

The episode that I propose to relate had nothing to do with the prosecution or the outcome of World War II. Yet it was important to me, and it remains alive in my memory nearly seven decades later.

I joined the 80th on May 29, 1944, at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Along with eight or ten other enlisted men, I had been transferred by troop train from the 66th ("Panther") Infantry Division, stationed at Camp (now Fort) Rucker, deep in the woods of southeastern Alabama. All of us in the group were radio operators, and all had been members of the 566th Signal Company.

Upon arrival at Fort Dix, we were split up. Because I had an MOS (military occupational specialty) of 766 (radio operator, high speed), I, along with three others, went to the Division Signal Company. The rest of the group were sent to infantry or artillery units. How many of them, I have often wondered, survived the war?

We soon learned that the 80th was preparing to go overseas. We knew that Army Chief of Staff George C. Marshall had ruled that every man sent overseas should first have an extra seven days' furlough. The Division, we found out, had imposed a requirement that overseas furloughs be completed by May 31. That left the four of us in a spot. We decided to ask the company commander to grant us an exception to the deadline.

First Sergeant S., whose permission was required to see the company commander, threw cold water on our plea. The deadline, he pointed out, was absolute. It did not provide for exceptions. Using the standard Army abbreviation for "tough luck," he said, "It's just T. S. for you guys."

In reply, we resorted to the formula, "Request permission to speak to the company commander." We knew that such a request, unless patently frivolous, had to be granted.

Lieutenant S., then in command of the 80th Signal Company, dealt less harshly with our application. He listened patiently as we complained of the unfairness of holding us to a deadline with which we could not possibly have complied. "I can't do anything for you," he concluded, "but I'll take it up with Division. Leave your names with the 1st sergeant."

Hope faded as day after day went by and nothing came of it. We joined in preparations for the trip overseas. I was assigned to teach a course in the M209 converter, a portable cryptographic device, to radio men in various other parts of the division. I got the job, I have no doubt, because no one else wanted it.

Evenings I spent in Philadelphia. The labor unions of the city had set up a huge outdoor dance floor for servicemen. I made the acquaintance of an attractive young lady whose name, I am sorry to say, I have long since forgotten. She showed up regularly, chatted with me and put up with my heavy-footed dancing. She insisted on obeying a regulation that forbade her divulging her surname or telephone number. Her appearance, however, evening after evening at our agreed-upon meeting time and place convinced me that she did not find my company all that unpleasant.

It was in the Philadelphia bus station late at night on June 5, by then morning in France, that I learned, over a portable radio in the waiting room, that Allied troops had begun landing on the beaches of Normandy. D Day, so long and so anxiously awaited, had arrived.

By the time we assembled for reveille the next morning, news of the landings had of course spread. George S., who became my closest friend in the Signal Company, was standing next to me. As though impelled by a sudden inspiration, he turned to me and said, "You know what, Walter? D Day is going to be F Day for us. This is the day we get our furloughs."

Ever the pessimist, I said nothing but just lowered my eyes and shook my head in denial and disbelief.

Yet he said again, more than once and always with enthusiasm, "Just wait. You'll see. D Day is going to be F Day for us."

Sure enough, just before dismissing the formation, the 1st sergeant announced, "The following men will report to the orderly room immediately after chow." Yes, it was the four of us. Hope had come back to life.

As I entered the orderly room, the first sergeant looked up, tossed a sheaf of papers across his desk at me and growled, "Get the hell out of here, Barthold. You're on your own time."

I obeyed. Grabbing the furlough papers, I headed for the barracks, where I put together my toilet articles and a few items of clothing. I took the next bus to the Trenton train station, where I bought a ticket to Chicago, in one of whose suburbs my family resided. On the station platform, I asked the conductor of the first train that came along if he went to Chicago. Upon his affirmative reply, I got on board.

That was a mistake. I had neglected to ask whether the train was an express or local. It was the latter and made literally dozens of stops before reaching my destination. I had, however, a young woman as a seating companion, and her company helped pass the time.

Happily, my journey ended in time to enable me to celebrate my twentieth birthday with my family. I had no girlfriend, and most of my male contemporaries were away in the service. One of my closest boyhood friends, however, was 4-F with diabetes and had a car. He and I spent a number of pleasant hours together. I remember doing him the favor of accompanying him to the service station when he needed gas. By virtue of a prevailing perversion of patriotism, my presence in the car enabled him to buy fuel without ration coupons.

So much for my overseas furlough. Since those days I have tried often but rarely if ever with success to muster the optimism that my beloved buddy George displayed by the dawn's early light on June 6, 1944. D Day was indeed F Day for us.

Walter Barthold, 80th Signal Company
May 31, 2013

An Account of the 319th Infantry

As told by 1st Lt. Hobson of the 319th Infantry

One sunny September morning, September 4th, 1944 to be exact, the time was 1130; the leading battalion of the 319th Infantry Regiment, under command of Lt. Colonel Cheston found itself just north of Toul, France with the Moselle River to its front. Enemy resistance near Toul had been successfully bypassed. C Company of the 305th Engineers was in support of the regiment clearing all obstacles as the Infantry advanced. A quick decision was made; the river was to be crossed that day, and the enemy to be taken by surprise.

Plans were made quickly, but thoroughly. Captain Wrenn and 1st Lt. Hobson, one of his platoon leaders, made a personal reconnaissance of the assault crossing Site, while 6 large rubber floats and their air compressor were brought up to the railroad embankment, at a point where a small creek flowed into the Moselle

River. This creek flowed under the railroad, then under the canal which paralleled the Moselle River, and thence into the river itself. Both the railroad and highway bridges across the river had been completely demolished by the Germans. At 1345 all preparations were finished and the actual crossing started. The inflated boats were floated down the creek. The Infantry, assembled behind high banks of the canal, loaded into the boats. One entire company in the first wave, rowed under the canal, straight out into the river and across. All this in a period of less than 10 minutes and the enemy never knew we were coming, till we hit the other side.

Before the boats had even gotten back, a footbridge had been put in over the canal, due largely to the work of Sgt. Coppenetti of C Company, who swam the canal to accomplish this mission. The Second and Third Infantry Rifle Companies crossed the footbridge, got into the boats and crossed. All the fighting Elements of the battalion were over in 30 minutes from the time the first boat of the first wave had started out.

All this while artillery fire, both friendly and enemy was falling on and near the crossing site. Enemy small arms fire was coming at us too, but the fast and daring crossing took most of the punch out of the enemy's fire. To further tax our Engineer's skill and courage, the Moselle River was flowing with a 10-15 MPH current at the crossing site, and had numerous whirlpools in its center. Immediately after the assault crossing was completed, all boats were taken upstream and were used in building rafts to ferry litter jeeps, ambulances, ammunition and rations. These ferries had to be built under small arm fire. Supporting Engineer units constructed two power-driven ferries, and commenced building a 464-foot Treadway bridge near the old bridge site in Toul. The remainder of the equipment used to ferries and the debris at the old bridge, with ladders set up by C Company, to cross the river. By the next day the entire regiment was across and firmly established the first 80th Division bridgehead across the Moselle River.

Submitted by Bob Murrell

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL BLUE RIDGE MEMBERS

Constitution Revision

As announced in the previous issue of the Blue Ridge, the following revision of the Association's Constitution and By-Laws is hereby submitted to the membership at large having received the approval of the Executive Council (30 members voting, all affirmative) effective April 30, 2013.

This document (pages 14-17 of this Newsletter) will be submitted for a final vote to the members present at the annual meeting at Virginia Beach on Friday, September 6, 2013.

Please note that the material is being shown here in a reduced format for space reasons, but is complete in all respects. Printed copies to become available following final acceptance will be in the former size and will include the cover, also temporarily omitted.

I will mention again that I will be happy to respond to any questions or concerns by members prior to the meeting, by email at member9219@aol.com (preferred), phone at 978-532-0741, or mail, 27 Martinack Avenue, Peabody, MA 01960.

Respectfully,

Jeff Wignall, 2nd Vice-Commander

Constitution of the Eightieth Division Veterans Association

(As revised 30 April 2013)

(Charter granted, Pennsylvania, October 23, 1939, CP Allegheny, January Term, 1940-C, No. 2356. West Virginia, December 1, 1925)

We, honorably discharged Soldiers who have served with the Eightieth Division at any time as Soldier, welfare worker, or accredited news correspondent, do unite to establish a permanent organization known as the EIGHTIETH DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION.

Article I Objectives

The objectives of the Association are: Patriotic, Historical, and Fraternal; to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America, to foster and perpetuate true Americanism, to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members, to assist worthy comrades and preserve the memories and incidents of our Association in the World Wars of April 6, 1917 against Germany and the Central Powers, and December 7, 1941, against Germany and the Axis Powers, and from the time of reactivation in 1950 forward when any 80th Division Soldier has served.

Article II Membership

1. The Association shall consist of the following classes of membership:
 - (A) Active
 - (B) Life
 - (C) Honorary
2. Active or Life Membership shall be open to the following persons:
 - (A) Any Honorably Discharged person, or present officer or enlisted Soldier, welfare worker or accredited news correspondent who has served with the 80th Division between August 27, 1917 and June 26, 1919, or between July 15, 1942 and May 8, 1945, or at any time following reactivation of the 80th Division in 1950.
 - (B) Officers and enlisted personnel of the Base Hospital, Camp Lee, Virginia, provided that their service was during the time the 80th Division was in training.
 - (C) Individuals outside of the 80th Division who were temporarily and individually assigned or attached to units of the 80th Division, provided their service with such units was for a period of not less than one month, unless such service was terminated as a casualty of battle, in which case the limitation shall not apply and they shall be eligible for membership.
 - (D) Any person whose service with the 80th Division was in an attached unit or detachment as distinguished from one forming a component part of the Division, provided they served with such unit or detachment for a period of not less than one month, unless such service was terminated as a casualty of battle, in which case the limitation shall not apply and they shall be eligible for membership, provided that the Executive Council, by an affirmative vote of $\frac{3}{4}$ of its members shall have declared the members of such unit or detachment eligible for membership.
 - (E) Any person who is a relative of an 80th Division Veteran qualified for membership under the foregoing provisions shall be eligible for full membership in the Association. This shall include: husbands, wives, sons, daughters, nephews, nieces, grandchildren, parents, uncles, and aunts, or any other relative with an interest in preserving the objectives of the Association. Eligibility shall also be extended to persons serving in or honorably discharged from other active military units.
3. Conditions applicable to membership.
 - (A) Any person eligible for membership under the foregoing provisions may become an Active or Life Member with full voting rights, and will receive all official communications of the Association upon payment of such initiation fees and annual or life member dues as may be established in the By-Laws.
 - (B) Persons who may have conferred a lasting benefit upon the Association who are ineligible for membership due to the above limitations may be elected Honorary Life Members of the Association by a majority vote of the members present at the annual meeting, provided such persons have been approved by a $\frac{3}{4}$ affirmative vote of the Executive Council. Honorary Members shall not have voting rights, but shall receive all official communications.
 - (C) All Veteran members shall be credited to the unit in which they served, and family members shall be credited to the unit of their Veteran connection. A member having service in more than one unit shall be privileged to select the unit to which the membership is to be credited.

Article III Organization

1. The bodies of this Association shall consist of:
 - (A) The National Association
 - (B) Local Posts
 - (C) Unit Posts
 - (D) Such National or Local Ladies Auxiliary Units as may be formed.
2. The National Association shall be the governing body, and all Local or Unit Posts shall conform to the Constitution and By-Laws thereof.
3. The Business Headquarters of the Association shall, upon the affirmative vote of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Executive Council, be established as the home or otherwise designated address of the serving National Secretary, and shall be operated under the supervision of the National Commander and the Executive Council. A roster of the members, to include their addresses and units shall be maintained at that location. Other duties will be as required by the By-Laws, or as the Executive Council shall direct.
4. Upon the application of ten or more Active or Life Members, charters shall be granted for the formation of Local Posts in any town or community, to carry on the ideals of the Association in that locality. One or more Local Posts may be chartered in any city, county, or district upon compliance with the provisions of the Constitution. No Posts shall have identical names.
5. Upon the application of ten or more Active or Life Members, charters shall be granted to Unit Posts upon compliance with the provisions of the Constitution, which shall maintain the identity and traditions of such units.

6. Local and Unit Posts may establish such dues, regulations, and By-Laws as may be suitable for their governance, provided there is no conflict with any provision of the Constitution or By-Laws of the National Association, and provided further that no Local or Unit Post be officially chartered as a corporation of the state in which it is located without the specific approval of the Executive Council of the National Association. The Treasurer or Finance Officer of each Local or Unit Post shall be responsible for the collection and payment to the National Association of the Annual Dues of its members in the National Association.
7. Applications for charters for Local or Unit Posts shall be made in writing to the National Secretary. The Executive Council may provide forms for such application, and determine the information to be provided. The Executive Council shall grant charters upon receipt of applications in compliance with this section. A refusal to grant a charter may be appealed at the Annual Meeting.
8. No Local or Unit Post shall be named for a living person, but shall bear the name of the community or unit followed by a number indicating the order in which the charter is granted. There shall be no more than one Unit Post for any unit. The names of Unit Posts may incorporate the name of their locality. A Local or Unit Post may adopt a distinctive name not in conflict with this section, to be used in conjunction with the official numbered designation.
9. The charter of any Local or Unit Post that does not maintain a membership of ten or more members shall be considered lapsed, but may be reinstated upon notice of the required membership being secured within three years. Thereafter, a new application must be made, and the new charter, if granted, shall be numbered as provided in Section 8 of this Article.
10. The National Association and Local and Unit Posts will recognize the formation of a Ladies Auxiliary on the basis of the following:
 - (A) Membership in an Auxiliary shall be restricted to female relatives or descendants of any person living or deceased entitled to membership as provided in Article II.
 - (B) A minimum membership of ten shall be required for the formation of a National, Local or Unit Auxiliary.
 - (C) Auxiliaries may make such rules for their governance befitting the circumstances of each group, providing they are not in conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.
 - (D) The working relationship between the National, Local, and Unit auxiliaries shall be as they may determine.

Article IV Officers

1. The Officers of the National Association shall be: A National Commander, three (enumerated) Vice- Commanders, a National Secretary, a Historian, a Judge Advocate, a Chaplain, a Color Sergeant, and a Sergeant-at-arms. The order of seniority among the Vice-Commanders will be based upon the numerical position to which they have been nominated and elected annually. Should any Commander become unable to fulfill the duties of his position, the duties will be assumed by the next in numerical succession, and all others to advance one position until the next annual meeting, at which time the new seniority may be affirmed or alternative arrangements made at the discretion of the members.
2. There shall be an Executive Council consisting of the National Officers, nine members At Large, three to be elected annually to serve for three years, and all Past National Commanders ex officio. Additionally, each chartered Post shall appoint a representative, who need not be a member of the Post he is representing.
3. Elected Officers and members of the Executive Council, with the exception of the National Secretary, shall serve without compensation, and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting to hold office until the next succeeding Annual Meeting, or until their respective successors shall be duly elected and sworn.
4. The National Secretary shall be elected by the majority of members present at the Annual Meeting, and shall receive such compensation as the Executive Council shall establish.
5. All members of the Executive Council shall be, and have been for two consecutive years including the year of election, Active or Life Members in good standing of the Association and shall be eligible for re- election. Nothing in this section shall apply to the election of Post Representatives to the Executive Council, or to appointive offices or membership on committees appointed by the National Commander or Executive Council.
6. There may be an Honorary National Commander elected at the Annual Meeting. Such election will be for life, and shall not be a disqualification for holding any other office in the Association.
7. There shall be a Board of Trustees consisting of three Active or Life Members to serve for terms of three years. Election shall be in accordance with Section V hereof, provided that in 1956 one Trustee shall be elected for a term of one year, another for a term of two years, and a third for a term of three years. Thereafter one trustee is to be elected at each Annual Meeting for a term of three years. Election to any other office in the Association will not disqualify a Trustee.
8. Such other posts as deemed necessary for conducting the business of the Association may be added or removed at the will of the Executive Council, and will be enumerated in the By-Laws of the Association.

Article V Elections and Voting

1. All Elective Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting by a majority vote of the Active and Life Members present.
2. Voting shall be by ballot unless waived by a majority of the voters present, or unless the Secretary be directed to cast one ballot where there is only one candidate for an office. If no candidate among several has secured a majority after two ballots are taken, the one with the fewest votes shall be eliminated, and on each ballot thereafter the lowest candidate shall be dropped until a majority is secured. In the event of a tie, up to two additional ballots shall be taken and if the tie persists the respective candidates shall draw lots for the position.
3. No member may vote who is not an Active or Life Member in good standing.

Article VI Amendments

1. The Constitution shall be amended only by a $\frac{3}{4}$ affirmative vote of the Active and Life Members present at the Annual Meeting following approval of the proposed amendment by the Executive Council, provided that at least 30 days notice of the amendment under consideration shall be given to members prior to the Annual Meeting.

2. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the members of the Executive Council 30 days prior to an Annual Executive Council Meeting or 60 days prior to a Special Meeting.
3. Special Meetings of the Executive Council may be called on the written request of 50 or more Active or Life Members, or by committees of the Executive Council, provided that all current members of the Council shall be notified of such meetings. Proxy voting will be allowed. A $\frac{3}{4}$ affirmative vote will be required for approval to forward any amendment or proposal to the membership for consideration at the next scheduled Annual Meeting for which 30 days prior notice may be provided .
4. Any costs associated with a petition for Special Meeting shall be borne by the petitioner(s) provided that the Executive Council may approve reimbursement, if warranted, by a $\frac{3}{4}$ affirmative vote of the members present.
5. Publication in the Association magazine, the "Blue Ridge," of any amendments or proposals at the appropriate time shall constitute advance written notice to either the Executive Council and/or the Membership in compliance with the above sections. Action in a given year will require submission of copy prior to June 1 of that year for inclusion in the pre-reunion issue to comply with the 30 day requirement of notice prior to the Annual Meeting.

BY-Laws of the Eightieth Division Veterans Association

Article I - Duties of Officers

1. The National Commander shall attend generally to the Executive Business of the Association and shall be ex-officio a member of all committees, shall preside at all meetings of the Association and Executive Council, and be entitled to a vote thereon. He or she shall have custody of the seal of the Association and shall perform such other duties as the By-Laws may require, or as may be incident to his office.
2. The National Vice-Commanders shall preside in the absence of the National Commander in the order of their seniority, and shall in the case of the inability of the National Commander perform the duties of the office occupy the office in such order of seniority. They shall assist the National Commander in such other ways as he may require, specifically:
 - (A) The Senior Vice-Commander shall be in charge of the next annual reunion.
 - (B) The Second Vice-Commander shall be involved in the process of organizing the reunion for the second year following.
 - (C) The Third Vice-Commander shall commence his planning for the reunion for the third year following, and will be responsible for any special projects assigned by the National Commander.
3. The National Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Association and Executive Council, have charge of the National Headquarters and all records. He or she will collect all dues and other monies due to the Association, keep account of the same, and make such disbursements as the Executive Council may authorize. He or she shall have charge of the publication and business management of the Association's official magazine, the "Blue Ridge," and the publication therein of notices required by these By-Laws or the Constitution, and shall perform such other duties as the Executive Council may direct. He or she will post a bond in an amount to be fixed by the Executive Council for the faithful performance of the duties of the position, the premium of which will be paid by the Association. The accounts of the National Secretary shall be audited annually by the Board of Trustees or a qualified auditor selected or approved by them.
4. The Historian shall keep a record of the activities of the Association, and have charge of the records and other materials relating to the history of the Eightieth Division, subject to the direction of the Executive Council.
5. The Judge Advocate shall render such legal assistance as the National Commander, National Association, or Executive Council may require.
6. The Chaplain shall perform such duties of a religious nature as the National Commander, National Association, or Executive Council may require.
7. The Color Sergeant shall have custody of and be charged with the safekeeping of the colors and standards of the Association, shall provide for the transportation of the colors and standards to official functions of the Association, and for the presentation or display of the colors at stated meetings of the Association.
8. The Board of Trustees, subject to oversight of the Executive Council, will select or otherwise approve a qualified auditor to conduct the annual review of the records of the National Secretary, and submit a report for presentation at the Annual Meeting. Such auditor may be a member of the Board of Trustees if that member is professionally qualified. The Board of Trustees will select and appoint the Judge Advocate, or in the absence of an individual qualified to serve will select or approve outside legal counsel, should the need for such counsel be required. The Board of Trustees will also select or appoint members qualified to serve in the posts of Public Affairs Officer and National Service Officer.
9. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall perform such duties as are pertinent to that office and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Council.
10. The Public Affairs Officer will to the best of his ability publicize and otherwise promote the interests of the Association, will provide assistance with Veteran's claims, and will make a report of his efforts annually to the Executive Council.
11. The National Service Officer will coordinate with the Battle Monuments Commission to arrange for the Memorial Day floral tributes at ETO cemeteries where 80th Division dead are interred, and will make a report of his efforts annually to the Executive Council.

Article II Duties of the Executive Council

1. The Executive Council shall be vested with the general powers of administration of the Association and in general to do and perform any and all things necessary for the due and proper expedition of the business of the Association, including the power to act therein by subcommittee.
2. The Executive Council shall meet at least once annually immediately preceding the Annual Meeting of the Association, and shall hold special meetings at the call of the National Commander on receipt of 10 days written notice. Members of the Executive Council may be represented by proxies at any meeting.

3. The Executive Council may appoint such other persons as may be necessary to the administration of the National Headquarters, fix the compensation of such persons and provide for posting bonds for faithful performance of their duties when the Council shall deem such bonds advisable.
4. The Executive Council, through the agency of the Board of Trustees, shall authorize all expenditures to be made by the National Secretary beyond the sum of \$250.00, with the exception of such expenses as are acknowledged as customary or re-occurring.
5. All investments of surplus funds of the Association shall be made by the National Secretary subject to direction of the Executive Council, provided that such investments shall be such that insure no loss of invested principle.
6. All applications for charters by Local or Unit Posts shall be approved by a $\frac{3}{4}$ affirmative vote of the Executive Council. Voting for this purpose may be by mail or email provided that each member receive a copy of the application at least 10 days prior to the time of voting. Charters, when granted, shall be signed by the National Commander and attested by the National Secretary, and have the seal of the Association affixed.
7. Any officer of the Association may be removed with cause and without prejudice by a $\frac{3}{4}$ affirmative vote of the Executive Council. The election or appointment of an officer for a given term, or the general provisions in the Constitution or By-Laws with respect to the term of that officer shall not be deemed to create contractual rights.
8. The Executive Council may fill any vacancy in any office occurring for any reason.
9. The Executive Council shall create a standing committee to have oversight of any charitable matters or projects undertaken by the Association, and appoint a chairperson of said committee who will enlist committee members as required. Said chairperson will present a report of the activities of the committee annually at the meeting of the Executive Board, and will be seated as a member of the Executive Council.

Article III Dues and Fiscal

1. The Annual Dues of the National Association shall be fixed by a vote of the members at the Annual Meeting, to be applicable to the following year and thence forward. Absent any discussion or motions, dues shall continue at the then current rate. Any reduction in the current amount will require the a $\frac{2}{3}$ affirmative vote of the members present and voting in person, or by proxy.
2. The fee for Life Membership for veterans of WWII (ETO) will be \$50.00, for all other members, \$150.00.

Article IV Order of Business

1. The order of business at the Annual Meeting shall be as follows:
 - (A) opening of meeting
 - (B) reading of minutes of previous meetings
 - (C) reports of executive committees
 - (D) appointment of new committees
 - (E) communications
 - (F) unfinished business
 - (G) new business
 - (H) reports of committees
 - (I) nomination of officers
 - (J) election and installation of officers
 - (K) adjournment
2. The order of business at Special Meetings shall be the same as the Annual Meeting in so far as applicable.
3. The order of business at meetings of the Executive Council shall be as follows:
 - (A) opening of meeting
 - (B) reading of minutes
 - (C) report of officers
 - (D) communications
 - (E) unfinished business
 - (F) new business
4. In case of dispute as to the conduct of business at any meeting, this Association shall be governed by the provisions of Robert's Rules of Order.

Article V Amendments

1. These By-Laws may be amended at any Annual Meeting by a majority vote of those Active or Life Members present, provided that the proposed amendment is presented in writing.

Article VI Dissolution

The Association may be dissolved at any time by recommendation of the Executive Council, approved by a $\frac{3}{4}$ affirmative vote of the members in good standing. In the event of the dissolution of the Association, whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the assets of the Association shall be distributed to any member, but after payment of all lawful debts of the Association, its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization or organizations of the kind described in Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. To the extent permitted by law and the Internal Revenue Code, the organization or organizations to receive property or assets of the Association shall be selected by the Executive Council.

TAPS

Anderson, Lawrence
Ebensburg, PA
DOD: May, 6, 2013
Rptd by: Cecelia Smith

Brown, Glen, D-318
P O Box 5
Aberdeen, KY 42201
DOD: Apr 17, 2013
Rptd by: Step Daughter,
Linda Jenkins

Coughlin, Robert
Enfield, CT
DOD: March 21, 2013
Rptd by: Cecelia Smith

Elster, Marvin, D-317
702 Fairmont Dr
Salinas, CA 93901
DOD: Apr 4, 2013
Rptd by: Cecelia Smith

Falkowski, John
Rothsgild, WI
DOD: May 9, 2013
Rptd by: Cecelia Smith

Fenton, Patrick, B-315 FA
2108 W 5000 S
Spanish Fork, UT 84660
DOD: Unknown

Ferens, Andrew, M-317
512 N Lewis Run Rd Apt 137
West Mifflin, PA 15122
DOD: Apr 14, 2013
Rptd by: Daughter, Gerry Smith
and Marlene Dickson

Hill, Thomas
Comanche, OK
DOD: May 17, 2013
Rptd by: Cecelia Smith

Johnson, Ray, B-313
2406 Bamberg Lane
Napoleon, MO 64074
DOD: Dec 22, 2012
Rptd by: Daughter, Cindy Bonar

Johnson, R. Gates
P O Box 9
Perry, ME 04667-0009
DOD: Feb 3, 2013
Rptd by: Wife

Joyner, Edwin, 80th TC
Burdette, VA
DOD: Feb 26, 2013
Rptd by: Cecelia Smith

Kasperik, PNC Louis,
D-318 & 305 Med
1453 Spring Crest Circle
Latrobe, PA 15650
DOD: Mar 26, 2013
Rptd by: Dave Robb

King, Earl, B-313
2185 Coteau Road
Nouma, LA 70364
DOD: Feb 13, 2013
Rptd by: Wife, Eunice

King, Francis, 318
Eldorado Springs, MO
DOD: Dec 5, 2012
Rptd by: Cecelia Smith

Knecht, Richard, 780 Ord
1546 W 24th St
Erie, PA 16502
DOD: May 27, 2013
Rptd by: Cecelia Smith

Konyk, Michael, C-318
Canonsburg, PA
DOD: May 16, 2013

Maskariniec, Michael, 317
Youngstown, OH
DOD: Oct 2013
Rptd by: Cecelia Smith

Myers, G. Virgil, G-317
320 E. Palm Dr
Lakeland, FL 33803
DOD: March 10, 2013
Rptd by: Son, Gary

Nehl, George, 319
Union Mills, IN
DOD: Jan 3, 2013
Rptd by: Cecelia, Smith

Nutini, Edward, 317
El Paso, TX
DOD: May 19, 2013
Rptd by: Gayalyn Wojtowics

Sick, PNC Russell, 305 En BN
305 Sanders Dr
Hamilton, OH 45013
DOD: Jun 6, 2013
Rptd by: Abe Barone

Schock, Margaret, Ladies Aux
Wife of Laverne Schock
2489 Sharon Lane
Port Huron Township, MI 48060
DOD: Jun 3, 2013
Rptd by: Kathlee, Daughter-in-Law

Vinson, Clinton
Waycross, GA
DOD: Dec 23, 2012
Rptd by: Cecelia Smith

Washenko, Sam, 780 Ord
23 Patton Ave
Seymour, CT 06483
DOD: Feb 13, 2013
Rptd by: Niece, Elizabeth Kravchick

Wilkinson, Donald, HQ, 80th Div
347 THE PKWY
Ithaca, NY 14850
Rptd by: Abe Barone &
Cecelia Smith

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80th Division Veterans Association
 Doris M. Wollett
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 Sandston, VA 23150-5406

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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: _____

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80th Division WWII Veterans

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

80th Div. Veterans, Family Members

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- 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

3rd BN., 317th INF. POST #36
Robert Moorhead
Secretary

FLORIDA POST #47

George Bell, Commander
 Kay Rajnicsek, Secretary
 630 Georgia Ave, Melbourne, FL 32901

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Doris M. Wollett
5101 Hurop Road
Sandston, VA 23150-5406

PAID 2013

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Doris M. Wollett
5101 Hurop Road
Sandston, VA 23150-5406



NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____

OLD ADDRESS: _____

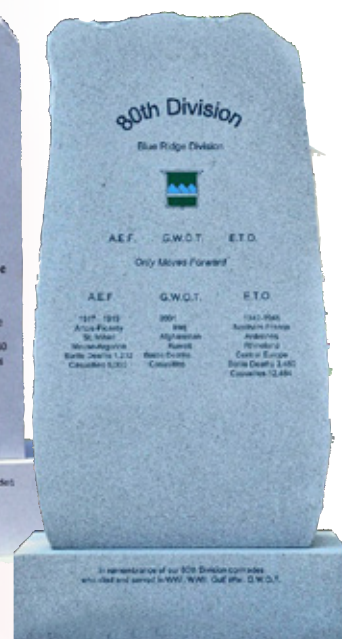
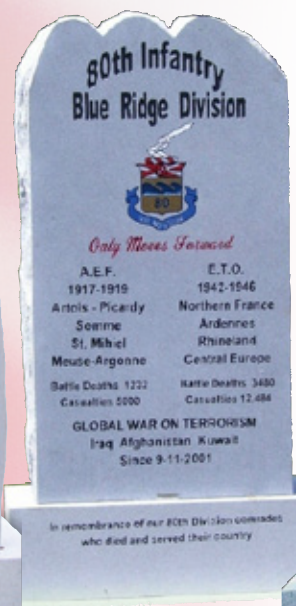
CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

NEW ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____



80TH DIVISION MONUMENTS:
Infantry Museum, Fort Benning, Georgia (left),
Heritage Trail at the Army Heritage and Education
Center, Carlisle, Pennsylvania (center) and HQ 80th
Training Command, Richmond, VA (right).

Website Updates

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

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

