

BLUE RIDGE



THE SERVICE MAGAZINE

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Staff Sergeant Robert Hernandez

By MG(R) John McLaren

I WAS EXCEPTIONALLY proud to be asked to honor Staff Sergeant Robert Hernandez in the dedication of a recently completed training facility at Camp Parks on 17 August 2012. He was killed in action on 28 March 2006 in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was an outstanding Soldier. Not a day goes by that I don't think of him and the sacrifice he and his family have made for our Nation.

The dedication ceremony was a proud moment for all of us who have served in the 80th Division and that continue to serve in the 80th Training Command. We were thrilled, of course, to have a new building. It is exactly the kind of facility trainers need to do their jobs more effectively—to protect our Nation, to fight terrorism, to support our partners around the world. The Staff Sergeant Robert Hernandez training facility will help our Soldiers as they continue the fight against tyranny, and to handle the other responsibilities that are vital to our Army's mission. The Army Corps of Engineers, the Contractor, the training staff from the 80th, and the installation staff at Camp Parks all made the new training venue a reality. They have taken the facilities used by the 80th Training Command at Camp Parks from a building that was scheduled for demolition to a quality facility for the training of today's Soldiers. In touring the facility they did a magnificent job.

While the building is magnificent, my message was to ensure that we don't forget the man for whom we honored in naming the building - Staff Sergeant Robert Hernandez. He was my Soldier! He was selected to deploy with the 80th Division to Iraq, from the 1st Brigade's, 3rd Battalion, 318th Regiment located at Fort Meade, Maryland. We trained together for three long months at Camp Atterbury, IN in the summer of 2005 to accomplish a mission unlike any before, in our experience. We were to build upon the base established by the 98th Division, build Iraq Army units, deploy those units, and fight alongside the New Iraqi Army.

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Editor's Notes BY CSM(R) Doris Wollett

Spring is just around the corner, although I don't think I could have convinced you of that a few days ago as the east coast battled a severe winter storm bringing lots of snow and down pours of rain.

As I look outside I can see flowers breaking the surface of the ground. A few flowers have already started blooming!! I hope that this past winter storm does not freeze them to the extent that we will not see them when it warms up a little. The birds have started coming back to the feeders and they are so beautiful. I'm not a bird expert but I can tell you that some really pretty ones come by my house daily.

I've noticed some of the wild life out my way has started moving around a little more. Hardly a day goes by that I don't see some deer, rabbits, squirrels, and an occasional skunk. Everything has its place on this beautiful earth.

As the weather warms and we all start getting out cleaning up our yards make sure you don't overdo it. There is a lot to be done from picking up sticks, getting

up leaves, trimming bushes, and oh yes, mowing the lawn. Pace yourself and know that it's not going anywhere. So if it takes more than a day, don't worry about it. It is best to be careful and slow than do too much and end up in the hospital.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 94th Reunion. It will be held in VA Beach 4-8 Sep 2013!! There will be more information to follow but mark your calendars and start making your plans to be with us. You should be getting your registration letters very soon.

I've received a good number of membership renewals. Thanks to everyone who has paid their dues. There was a little hiccup with the mailing list last publication. This edition will use the most current so please check to make sure that you are up to date with your dues.

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"!!



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COMMANDERS MESSAGE



**COL GRANT R. PORTER,
COMMANDER**

Dear veterans, families and friends of the 80th, lend me your ears.

While it is rare that you will ever hear me discussing religion or politics in my newsletter; these are strange days indeed. I am no soothsayer, but whoever said, “Beware the Ides of March” may have been on to something. As I write this letter, we seem to be entering in to a void. For the first time in 600 years the Pope has resigned and, though not so unusual, our federal government seems to have found itself way off base as we have just entered into a period of sequestration.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will have seen a puff of white smoke rise out of the Sistine Chapel and, though it seems doubtful, perhaps our congressional leaders will have come to their senses and reached a compromise. While the world seems to be full of uncertainty, one thing, as always, is clear, the 80th “Only Moves Forward!”

On that positive note, Springtime is finally here and we have many things to look forward to in 2013. You should all have received, or will soon receive, the registration form for our 94th annual reunion in Virginia Beach scheduled for 4-8 September 2013. Senior Vice commander, MG (R) John McLaren has been hard at work finalizing activities and working with the printer to get the registration forms mailed out to you and has planned a wonderful reunion this year. I hope to see everyone there this year.

Thanks to everyone who has provided updates on members. Best wishes to Bruce Smith, Naomi Brockman, and Virgil Myers as they recover from their medical procedures. Please continue to keep us informed on the events affecting our members so we can share the information with others.

All the best to everyone and may GOD BLESS AMERICA!

COL Grant R. Porter
National Commander

From the Historian's Corner

By: Dr Lee Anthony

AS EXPECTED, the task of Historian is really interesting and challenging. I doubt that anyone can “fill the shoes” of Bruce & Cecelia Smith, whose expertise in this area is phenomenal.

Persons seeking historic information should collect as much information as possible from family sources, and from the 80th Division website. For WWII veterans, their DD214 is most helpful.

Frequently, the request is for details of the ancestor's locations, duties, battles, etc. Unfortunately, unit histories from WWII were not generated to the same extent as they were after WWI. However, the broadest histories of WWII 80th Division units have been assembled by Mr. Bob Murrell, who has these for sale in book form.

Requests for historic information should be sent to the Historian. Recently, as many as seven of our group have been communicating regarding one veteran's history. This leads to many emails back and forth, forwarding, copies to, etc.

A reminder to survivors/descendants of WWI veterans: If your ancestor fought with the 80th Division throughout the May/June 1918 to November 1918 conclusion, he would have been eligible for:

- WWI Victory Medal
- Battle of the Somme Medal
- St. Mihiel Medal
- Verdun Medal

These medals may be procured, for various prices, and various levels of difficulty. Please contact me for further information.

We do need a greater presence in activities honoring the deeds and sacrifices of those who have blazed the trail before us. This includes Memorial Day services, both here and overseas, participation in the Luxembourg Friends Week (contact Virgil Myers), and the establishment of “The 80th Division Museum”, as the 29th Division has recently done.

Eightieth Division Veterans Association

A.E.F. (1917-1919)
ARTOIS-PICARDY SECTOR
ST. MIHIEL OFFENSIVE
MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE
FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD PHASES

Only Moves Forward
GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SINCE 09-11-2001
KUWAIT • AFGHANISTAN • IRAQ

E.T.O. (1942-1946)
FALAISE GAP • LORRAINE • ST. AVOLD
MAGINOT LINE • LUXEMBOURG • BASTOGNE
SIEGFRIED LINE • RHINE RIVER • WIESBADEN
KASSEL • ERFURT • JENA • AUSTRIA

A message from the 2nd vice Commander:

At the last Annual Meeting, in Baltimore, I was requested by Commander Lee Anthony to form a committee to conduct a thorough review of our Constitution and By-Laws. In compliance with this request, I formed a committee of nine members, and over a period of several weeks we produced a revised document that corrected some errors that were becoming problematic, and restructured the handling of cash receipts. This was seen as necessary to provide easier access by the Secretary/Treasurer to available funds in order to conduct the business of the Association.

A Special Meeting of the Executive Council has now been called to obtain the approval of the Council to present the revised document for a vote at the Annual Meeting at Virginia Beach in September. A period of 90 days is provided for this, and the effective date of the Special Meeting has been set as April 30, 2013 to meet that requirement. However, nearly all of the Council members have already responded in the affirmative at this time, and I thought it might be helpful to provide advance notice that the entire text of the revision will appear in the Summer Issue of the Blue Ridge to provide the required advance notification to the entire membership prior to presenting it for acceptance at the Annual Meeting.

I encourage everyone to read it carefully when it is received. Any questions or concerns that might arise can be brought up at the Annual Meeting, however, I will be happy to respond personally to any questions anyone might care to address prior to the meeting. The committee, and certainly I, feel that everything is in order, but wish to insure that this is a completely open process and that any opposing views will be given full consideration.

Respectfully,

Jeff Wignall, 2nd Vice Commander
email (preferred): member9219@aol.com
phone: 978-532-0741
mail: 27 Martinack Avenue
Peabody, MA 01960

Only Moving Forward: A War Story

by Walter Barthold, 80th Signal Company

THIS STORY CALLS for a telling. I learned it from several independent, informed sources, so I can vouch for its authenticity. I have, of course, had to reconstruct the few conversations involved.

It happened in the spring of 1945, during the 80th's final drive through Germany and Austria. It concerned the 80th Signal Company, of which I was a member.

We had responsibility for communications at the division level. The company was divided into several components, each of which had to do with a different means of communication. I, for example, a radio operator, belonged to the radio section.

The Signal Company's largest unit was its construction platoon. Its members laid and maintained telephone lines from division headquarters to the three infantry regiments and the division's other subordinate organizations. This was hard, dangerous work. A 2½-ton truck seen laying wire made a prime target for artillery and mortar fire.

Lieutenant W., a southerner, headed the construction platoon. He had been, it was reported, a football player in college. He was, everyone knew, of a toughness suitable to handling the kind of enlisted men who served under him.

As Allied forces approached Germany's borders, the authorities there recruited what they called werewolves, boys whom they trained to perform acts of petty sabotage such as slashing tires and putting sugar in gasoline tanks. We were told, correctly or otherwise, that an enemy civilian caught committing a hostile act could, according to the laws of war, be treated as a soldier, in other words shot.

The division was spending a few days, perhaps waiting for its supply trains to catch up, in a town whose name I have forgotten. It was reported to Lieutenant W. that a child had been sneaking out at night and cutting the phone line that ran along the town's main street to division headquarters. The perpetrator, he was told, escaped capture by running away between the buildings on the street.

When Lieutenant W. asked the platoon sergeant, a tall Texan whose name I have likewise forgotten, why the culprit had not been shot, the latter replied, "Aw, sir, nobody wants to shoot a kid."

"All right," said Lieutenant W., "I'll shoot the little bastard myself."

True to his word, Lieutenant W. equipped himself with an M-1 rifle and stationed himself at the second-floor window of a building on the street where the phone line in question lay. Sure enough, late that night or early the next morning a small figure emerged from the shadows onto the street and picked up a section of the phone line, obviously intending to sever it. Lieutenant W. took aim and fired. The child fell to the ground dead.

I heard no more of the incident for a long time. It came up decades later at an 80th Division reunion. Bob C., who had been company commander at the time, recalled the episode. He told how Lieutenant W., in reporting the shooting the next morning, had tears in his eyes.

"What are you crying for?" Captain C. asked. "The kid was committing a hostile act. You just did your duty. It's nothing to cry about."

To which Lieutenant W., still in tears, replied, "It was a girl."

Hernandez... continued from page 1



Once we arrived in Iraq, the 80th Division contingent was divided between, staff and support, for Multi National Security and Transition Command—Iraq (MNSTC-I) and the operational advisors with the Iraq Assistance Group (IAG) at Multi National Corps-Iraq. That seemed to be the norm for Reserve units, to divide us up and to parcel us out; but all of the 80th Division

Soldiers managed to stay connected. MNSTC-I built the Iraqi Army units. Once they were "ready," they became a part of Multi-National Corps Iraq, and their advisors were assigned to IAG to begin fighting Al Qaeda in Iraq.

Sergeant Hernandez was assigned to one of the most dangerous missions at the MNSTC-I—the Rough Riders convoy team. He excelled at his job there. He won praise and adulation for his performance in protection of his high value passengers. He was a combat Soldier who was promoted to Staff Sergeant during his tour of duty.

Sergeant Hernandez and the Rough Riders transported members of MNSTC-I across the length and breadth of Iraq. They logged thousands of miles in the performance of those duties – but that is only the beginning of the story. It was a dangerous time in Iraq in 2005 and 2006. Al Qaeda in Iraq was on the prowl and the Improvised Explosive Device was their weapon of choice; this was the time in Iraq that precipitated the decision to send the "surge." It was dedicated Soldiers like Staff Sergeant Hernandez that stood between his many passengers and great bodily harm.

[continued on page 6](#)

Story of “God Bless America” and Kate Smith

Email forwarded from Virgil Myers:

For you young folks, it is educational, and for us old agers, it is.... well... you will understand.

Go to YouTube and type in “Kate Smith introduces God Bless America.” But before you watch, you should also know the story of the song:

THE TIME WAS 1940. America was still in a terrible economic depression. Hitler was taking over Europe and Americans were afraid we'd have to go to war. It was a time of hardship and worry for most Americans.

This was the era just before TV, when radio shows were HUGE, and American families sat around their radios in the evenings, listening to their favorite entertainers, and no entertainer of that era was bigger than Kate Smith. Kate was also large in size, and the popular phrase still used today is in deference to her, “Ain't over till the fat lady sings”. Kate Smith might not have made it big in the age of TV, but with her voice coming over the radio, she was the biggest star of her time.

Kate was also very patriotic. It hurt her to see Americans so depressed and afraid of what the next day would bring. She had hope for America, and faith in her fellow Americans. She wanted to do something to cheer them up, so she went to the famous American songwriter, Irving Berlin (also wrote “White Christmas”) and asked him to write a song that would make Americans feel good again about their country.

When she described what she was looking for, he said he had just the song for her. He went to his files and found a song that he had written, but never published,

22 years before - way back in 1917. He gave it to Kate Smith and she worked on it with her studio orchestra. She and Irving Berlin were not sure how the song would be received by the public, but both agreed they would not take any profits from God Bless America. Any profits would go to the Boy Scouts of America. Over the years, the Boy Scouts have received millions of dollars in royalties from this song.

This video starts out with Kate Smith coming into the radio studio with the orchestra and an audience. She introduces the new song for the very first time, and starts singing. After the first couple verses, with her voice in the background still singing, scenes are shown from the 1940 movie, “You're In The Army Now.” At the 4:20 mark of the video you see a young actor in the movie, sitting in an office, reading a paper; it's Ronald Reagan.

Frank Sinatra considered Kate Smith the best singer of her time, and said when he and a million other guys first heard her sing “God Bless America” on the radio, they all pretended to have dust in their eyes as they wiped away a tear or two.

To this day, God Bless America stirs our patriotic feelings and pride in our country. Back in 1940, when Kate Smith went looking for a song to raise the spirits of her fellow Americans, I doubt she realized just how successful the results would be for her fellow Americans during those years of hardship and worry, and for many generations of Americans to follow. Now that you know the story of the song, I hope you will enjoy it and treasure it even more.

Hernandez... continued from page 5

He was the embodiment of the American Soldier! He lived the warrior ethos and never wavered during times of adversity. He led from the front - accomplishing all his mission tasks. He was totally dedicated to unit, mission, and his fellow Soldiers. A credit to the NCO Corps!

I remember very clearly the day that Staff Sergeant Hernandez was lost. I was in Bagdad at Camp Victory at the time, and was deeply shocked that such a thing had happen to one of our 80th Division Soldiers. He died in the explosion of a buried Improvised Explosive Device. His death made me sad and angry, but also proud that we have such brave men putting their lives on the line every day to protect our precious freedom.

The current Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, GEN Martin Dempsey, then the Commander of MNSTC-I, thought so highly of Staff Sergeant Hernandez that he named a mess hall for him at Camp Phoenix, Iraq less than a month after his passing. He was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Badge at the Camp Phoenix dedication ceremony. I attended that dedication and it was a moving and mean-

ingful ceremony for every 80th Division Soldier in Iraq.

Little did I know then, I would be at Camp Parks over six years later, paying tribute to Sergeant Hernandez and feeling his loss as much as ever. He was an outstanding Soldier. He was smart, talented, and hardworking. He did exceptional work across a wide range of violent situations. On that day, over six years ago, when he came face to face with danger, he was as strong and courageous as they come. He made the ultimate sacrifice to protect his partners in the Rough Riders and his passengers.

In both life and death, he epitomized values that the Army stands for -- Courage, Honor, and Commitment. He is a credit to our Army and to our Nation. We are grateful that a facility, focused on training Soldiers to be mission ready now bears his name, an enduring monument to his legacy of service and sacrifice - an inspiration to us all.

God bless the family of Sergeant Hernandez, but most importantly, God bless a true hero - Staff Sergeant Robert Hernandez, United States Army Reserve.

Promotion of Chief Warrant (CW2) Officer Angela Robey to CW3

Left to right: Kevin Starcher (Angela's brother), Rob Nichols, Angela Robey, Danny Starcher, Phyllis Starcher (Angela's father and mother), and brother, Eric Starcher. (Promotion effective 4 February 2013)



LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The last date I have entered a name is March 5, 2013

COL Mike Bland, HQ, 80th TC
 LTC Hattie Bouyer, HQ, 80th TC G6
 MSG(R) Gene Brown, 6-80th PS BN
 COL(R) James "Bart" Campbell, HQ 80th Division G1
 John Diaconis, Son of Sam 3191th
 MSG Stacey Everett, HQ 80th TC G7
 Simon Petitot, France (Friend of David Gibson)
 COL(R) Thomas Stephen, HQ 80th Div G4
 SGM(R) James "Al" Usher, HQ 80th TC IR

NEW MEMBERS

Henry Rosenthal, B-318
 Raymond White, F-318

DONATIONS

William Devine – Operating Fund
 James Forster – Operating Fund
 COL(R) John L. Brown – Operating Fund

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

80th Division History Books For Sale

I am closing out all histories:

10 – 317 Regimental Histories
 \$20.00 each plus S&H \$3.00

6 – 318 Regimental Histories
 \$20.00 each plus S&H \$3.00

0 – 319 Regimental Histories
 SOLD OUT

5 – Stories of the Men of the 80th Division
 \$20.00 each plus S&H \$3.00

4 – The Blue Ride Answers the Call in WWII
 \$20.00 plus S&H \$3.00

5 – Revised Operational Histories
 \$30.00 plus S&H \$3.00

All books have been reduced \$5.00.

I will not print any more Histories, so if you care for one, order now as it is on a first come basis. Please make checks payable to: Bob Murrell. If you order and I don't have the book you requested I will mail your check back.

MAIL TO: Robert T. Murrell
16 Cambridge Lane
Lewistown, PA 17044-9315

Post #50 News

Dear Blue Ridge Post 50 Members,

We now have 127 Active Members to include 82 Lifetime Members and 45 Annual Members. Our latest Lifetime Members include: former 80th Division (IT) Command Sergeant Major(R) Mike Phoenix; from the 2nd Brigade in Harrisburg, PA, SFC Ines Montalvo; our Deputy Chief of Staff, G6 LTC Hattie Bouyer; SGM(R) Al Usher who headed our Internal Review section for years; MSG (R) Gene Brown who was with the 6th Personnel Services Bn, 80th Regiment, COL(R) Thomas Stephen, G4, COL(R) Bart Campbell, G1, MSG Tracey Everett, G7, and last but not least, the Command Executive Officer, (CXO) of the 80th Training Command, Mr. Michael Bland. Special thanks to all of you for making a lifetime membership contribution! It is not too late to join for those of you who have still not paid your 2013 dues. Thank you all for your support.

Post #50 held their Quarterly Luncheon on Wednesday, February 27, 2013. We had 22 members and guests attending at the Holiday Inn on Belles Road. Those attending included: MG(R) H.L. Ginn, CSM(R) Doris Wollett and her Husband Ard, SGM(R) Vernon King and his wife Louise, LTC(R) Charlie Elam and his wife Sandy, LTC(R) Carroll Shepherd, COL(R) Bill Robertson, COL(R) Bart Campbell, June Brown, 1LT Angie Ison, LTC(R) Bill Wray, LTC Colleen Watson, CPT(R) US Navy Lee Anthony, LTC Hattie Bouyer, MSG Stacey Everett, MSG(R) George Croughwell, MAJ Bryant Venable, COL Skip Goodwillie, COL Terry Singleton and MSG(R) Pete Herbert. We welcomes out newest lifetime members of the Association who were in attendance; COL(R) Bart Campbell and MSG Tracey Everett.

The Luncheon commenced as Bart Campbell offered an opening prayer and a special blessing for Chaplain Manning's daughter Rachel who is recovering from surgery. Doris Wollett gave an update on the upcoming Annual Meeting. George Croughwell, Scholarship Chairman, reminded members that we are awarding two \$500 scholarships this year and that information can be found on our website at: www.80thblueridge.us. Pete Herbert announced that he had hundred's of black and white photos from the 50's, 60's, and 70's of various 80th Division Soldiers and Vernon King volunteered to look them over and identify as many individuals as possible. Finally, we held a raffle of great Merchandise, (Sweatshirts, Coffee Mugs, Stadiums blankets, etc.) and raised \$120.00 for our awards program and scholarship fund.

Edmond "Pete" Herbert, Secretary

MORE POST #50 NEWS...

Greetings to all and I hope everyone is well. As you can see from the Secretary's report, Post 50 continues to thrive with many activities. The quarterly luncheons are going very well by bringing members together from the local area, as well as those who travel from far and wide to attend. Thank you to all who are able to attend and support these events.

Since our last report of "Post News" we held our annual Christmas/Holiday Party on December 15th 2012 at the Holiday Inn on Belles Road. The event was a great success with delicious food, great camaraderie and a lot of fun. We had 43 members and friends attending. Each year we support a special cause. During this event, we collected dozens of pairs of shoes for Body and Soul Ministry. As we discussed in the last newsletter, CSM(R) J.R. White and his wife Carnell will be taking the shoes to Belize on their next missionary trip. We wish them great success in their missionary work. We also held our annual Holiday Raffle and raised \$320.00 for our awards program.

On February 22nd, 2013, we held our quarterly conference call. Thanks to Vice President Doris Wollett, Secretary Pete Herbert, Treasurer Ed Polonitza, and Board Members: Lee Anthony, Jim Brown, Carolyn Deverell, Skip Goodwillie, Charlie Elam, Paul Hoppes, Erik Imago, Terry Singleton and Coretta Lankford for calling in. During the call, Vice President Doris Wollett reported on several activities. She discussed the Holiday Party and the Luncheons and encouraged everyone to attend and, if able, to bring a friend as they are a great way to catch up on 80th happenings and promote the organization. Doris reported that the 2013 Post #50 Annual meeting will be held Sunday, September 8th, 2013 at the VA Beach Resort and Conference Center in VA Beach in conjunction with the 94th Annual 80th Division Veterans Reunion; which runs Wednesday September 4th through the 8th at the Conference Center. MG(R) McLaren, Senior Vice Commander and Reunion Chairman is planning a great event. There will be a trips to the MacArthur Memorial, the the Hampton Roads Naval Museum Nauticus, an optional trip aboard the USS Wisconsin and a Golf Tournament and more. Registration forms for the event will be mailed out in March.

Our longtime Treasurer, Ed Polonitza, reported that we now have \$10,562.48 in our Money Market account and \$5,208.15 in our checking for a total of \$15,770.63. Since January 1st, 2013, income from dues has totaled \$1330; while expenses, (payment to 80th Div Vets Assn) have totaled \$2115.00. Our end of year 2012 Balance was \$16,555.63. Our end of year balance for 2011 was \$16,697.08 for a net change of -\$141.45, so we are about breaking even.

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For New Business, Board member Jim Brown suggested we could purchase some pins that we could use for giveaways or could sell. The pin design would combine "Only Moves Forward" and the 80th DVA logos. Jim will work on the design and send it to Pete who will get a quote for prices to discuss at the next teleconference.

Secretary Pete Herbert gave an update on the tentative 80th "Dining-Out" event that is planned to be held in Richmond on Saturday, May 4th 2013 in the Richmond area. This would be our opportunity to present our annual awards (Soldier of the Year, NCO of the Year, etc) and to recruit new members. More information will be provided when it becomes available.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS...

One of the most important things we like to do is to recognize those Blue Ridge members who have reached milestones in their lives and to share the news with our members. Belated congratulations are in order to recognize two Blue Ridge members for achieving such milestones in their lives just as our notes were going to print in our last newsletter. 80th Training Command CXO Michael Bland and Deputy Chief of Staff, G1, Terence Singleton were among those selected for promotion to COLONEL on the last Army Promotion List that was released in late December 2012. Warm and hearty congratulations to the two of them as they enter into the ranks of the senior leadership of the United States Army.

Please send in updates so we can continue to share stories about our members!

Good luck to all in 2013!

Colonel Grant Porter, President

Post 50, Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association

Post #50 Supports Body and Soul Ministries of Belize

Mr. Herbert, Secretary

Post 50, Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association

Thank you so much for collecting shoes for our students in Belize. I understand from Jim White that you all have already collected over 45 pairs and are still collecting! Your generosity is much appreciated. So many of our sponsored children do not have shoes that they can wear to school.

Will you please share this note of appreciation with the rest of the retirees of the U.S. Army 80th Division Association. And, please, extend my thanks to all the military retirees not only for the generous donation to the children of Belize but also for serving our Country. God's blessings on you all.

Blessings, Teresa Hayden

Sponsorship/Financial Director



Body & Soul Ministries

P. O. Box 2339

Church Hill, TN 37642

Follow us on Facebook:

Body.and.Soul.Ministries.Belize or at:

<http://bodyandsoulministry.jimdo.com>

Looking for Information About the 80th Division at Falaise Gap

May I introduce myself:

My name is Tristan Rondeau, I am 19 years old, from Argentan, Normandy, France. I am currently studying History at Paris.

The purpose of this message is the following : for two years, I have been doing researches about the involvement of the 80th Inf. Division in the Liberation of my hometown, Argentan, on late August 1944. Of course, while doing this, I run across and read several books, reports, After Action Reports, Morning Reports, etc. from both 80th Div. and US Army archives. I also went through the former battlefield to talk with elderly people from each little village and hamlet near Argentan to record their memories about the Liberation. These researches also gave me the opportunity to get in touch and exchange with several people linked to the 80th, such as Andy Adkins, Grant Porter or Robert Murrell.

I am looking for information regarding the involvement of the 80th Division in the Falaise Gap and in the Battle of Argentan, on late August 1944. I have already collected documents, photos and accounts from French civilian witnesses of the Battle.

I would like to discover new stories and narratives from the 'American side' and clarify some points about the 80th Division action in the Falaise Gap. If you remember the period from August 17th to 22nd, 1944, and if towns such as Argentan, Aunou-le-Faucon, Juvigny, Urou-et-Crennes, Sai, Bordeaux or Sévigny remind you of something, please, do not hesitate to contact me.

My coordinates :
Tristan Rondeau
1, venelle de l'Orne
61200 ARGENTAN
France
e-mail : rondeau.tristan@gmail.com

Looking for Information About the 80th Division in Luxembourg

On 01/22/13, Patrick wrote:

Hello,

I am Patrick from Luxembourg and very interested in WWII history and I have contacted Mr. Porter to get in contact with some Veterans of the 80th Div.

I met already Virgil Myers and Jerry Spellman from the 80th Div which was a great honor to me and I wanted to get to know other stories from Vets of the Blue Ridger and Mr. Port said to write you to post a text in the newsletter.

Best wishes

Did You Know My Father, Emil Nikodym?

My father, Emil Nikodym from Bedford, Ohio, was part of the Medical Detachment of the 80th Infantry Division. On October 8, 1944 he was wounded in or near Lixières, France. He was awarded the Silver Star.

He returned home but died in 1954 as a result of the injuries he sustained. I was only 2 years old and have no memory of him and only a few photos.

Thanks to the Internet and Google I was able to find information about his service record. I also looked up the 80th Infantry Division and saw the photo of your 2012 reunion. I know this is a long shot but I wonder if you or any of the surviving members of your division knew my dad.

Sincerely,

Kathy Nikodym LaRue
KathOH@aol.com

Dedication of 80th Division Monument in Mertzig, Luxembourg, June 22, 2012

From Virgil Myers



Eightieth Division Veterans Association

A.E.F. (1917-1919)
ARTOIS-PICARDY SECTOR
ST. MIHIEL OFFENSIVE
MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE
FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD PHASES

Only Moves Forward
GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SINCE 09-11-2001
KUWAIT • AFGHANISTAN • IRAQ

E.T.O. (1942-1946)
FALAISE GAP • LORRAINE • ST. AVOLD
MAGINOT LINE • LUXEMBOURG • BASTOGNE
SIEGFRIED LINE • RHINE RIVER • WIESBADEN
KASSEL • ERFURT • JENA • AUSTRIA

A Call to the Reunion

Dear 80th Division Comrades, Friends, and Families,

You are cordially invited to attend the 94th Annual Reunion of the 80th Division Veterans Association. This year's event will be held at The Virginia Beach Resort Hotel & Conference Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia from September 4 to 7, 2013. Please complete the enclosed registration form and return it to me no later than July 15th, 2013.

The Virginia Beach Resort Hotel & Conference Center is located at 2800 Shore Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 telephone numbers are 757.481.9000 and 1.800.468.2722. Their email is: info@virginiabeachresort.com. The nightly room rate for lodging is \$89.00 for a single, \$89.00 double, \$99.00 triple and 109.00 quads plus tax. Hotel reservations must be made by August 15th to receive the group rates. These special rates for our block of rooms can be obtained by referencing the "80th Division Veterans Association Reunion."

Virginia Beach Resort Hotel & Conference Center is a full-service facility that features a fine and reasonably priced restaurant, an indoor and outdoor pool, a beach on the Chesapeake Bay, an exercise room, tennis courts, and a shuttle at reasonable rates to and from the airport, as well as free parking for those traveling by car.

In addition to all of the regularly scheduled events and business meetings, this year's highlight includes a trip to the General of the Army Douglas MacArthur Memorial and the opportunity to view the Hampton Roads Naval Museum and, at your option, to view Nauticus and the battleship USS Wisconsin at a nominal charge. Additionally, Post 50 will sponsor a Golf Tournament at Eagles Nest Golf Course on Joint Base Little Creek / Fort Story.

For those interested in taking in additional local sightseeing the Hampton Roads area offers many fun and educational opportunities. Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown, and Fort Monroe, the oldest fort in the United States, are all with one hours travel. For more information about things to do in Virginia Beach, I urge you to visit the website www.visitvirginiabeach.com.

Sincerely,

John P. McLaren, Jr.
Reunion Chairman

94th Annual Reunion: Virginia Beach Resort & Conference Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 4 - 7 September 2013
Please print all information clearly on Registration Form and return by 15 July 2013

Veteran/Attendee Name: _____ Unit of affiliation: _____ Period: _____

Spouse Name: _____ Auxiliary Member: Yes No First Reunion: Yes No

Additional Guests: _____

Address: _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email (primary contact) _____

Registration Fee: \$40 per person # of tickets _____ \$ _____

Wednesday Dinner: \$35 per person # of tickets _____ \$ _____

Thursday Afternoon USS Wisconsin / MacArthur Memorial Tour (transportation is on handicap-accessible bus)
 There is no charge, but please reserve your seat(s): # of seats _____ (no charge)

Thursday Dinner: \$35 per person # of tickets _____ \$ _____

Friday Afternoon Golf Outing: \$45 per person # of tickets _____ \$ _____

Friday Night Dinner: \$35 per person # of tickets _____ \$ _____

Saturday Night Dinner Banquet: \$35 per person # of tickets _____ \$ _____

Sunday Post 50 Meeting & Breakfast: \$20 per person # of tickets _____ \$ _____

Prize Tickets (up to 10 per person): \$ 2 each ticket # of tickets _____ \$ _____

Patron Listing in Program*: \$ 5 per name # of names _____ \$ _____

Patron Name to be Listed in Program Book: _____

Make Checks Payable to:
 The 80th Division Veterans Association

Mail Registration/check to:
 John P. McLaren
 1233 Hartford Drive
 Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Program ad sizes:

1" x 4" - \$10 2" x 4" - \$20 4" x 4" - \$40 4" x 8" - \$80 \$ _____

Deadline for ads – 15 July 2013. Please include your ad on a separate sheet.

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Hotel Reservations: EACH INDIVIDUAL GUEST MUST MAKE HIS/HER OWN RESERVATION BY CALLING TEL: 757.481.9000 and 1.800.468.2722 NLT, August 15, 2013. They must identify themselves as members of the Group "The 80th Division Veterans Association." All reservations must be guaranteed and accompanied by a first-night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card. Guestroom cancellation must occur by 4:00 PM three days prior to arrival. If guest does not check-in OR has not cancelled the reservation by 4:00 PM three days prior to arrival, one (1) nights room and tax will be charged to the guests credit card.

CASH PRIZE RAFFLE: \$2.00 donation per ticket. Four \$250 Prizes to be awarded. Need not be present to win.
 Affix mailing labels or print CLEARLY below. Photocopy accepted. Limit: 10 tickets per name.

<p>\$250 Prize! Ticket Price: \$2.00</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p>	<p>\$250 Prize! Ticket Price: \$2.00</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p>
<p>\$250 Prize! Ticket Price: \$2.00</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p>	<p>\$250 Prize! Ticket Price: \$2.00</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p>
<p>\$250 Prize! Ticket Price: \$2.00</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p>	<p>\$250 Prize! Ticket Price: \$2.00</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p>



80th Reunion. John Shea, center, standing.

Passing of PFC John “Jack/Red” Shea

IT'S WITH A heavy heart that I regret to inform you that my Grandfather, PFC John Edward Shea, passed away on the morning of January 14, 2013 at the age of 92 years old.

John, known by most as “Jack” or “Red” was a machine gunner in Company M of the 319th during World War II. He served from 1944 to 1946 in three campaigns that include The Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge) Central Europe and Rhineland. In recognition of his service to our country, he received a Bronze star for Bravery, European Theater of Operations Service Medal, WW II Victory Medal, The Army of Occupation Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal and in 1980 he received the NY State Conspicuous Service Cross.

My grandparents were regular attendees at most of your Reunions up until the mid 1990's when traveling became too difficult. I've included a photo I found of a reunion picture where my Grandfather is standing in the back row 2nd from the left. My grandmother is seated on the far left. I have no idea where the picture was taken but I noticed a date on the back of it, August of 1985.

It's sheer coincidence that I found your contact information today. I have never seen one of your publications before but for some reasons one was waiting for me today at my house when I came home. I thought that

was a sign for me to let anyone who may have been left from his unit that John had passed away. I've been helping my mother (his daughter) with preparing for his upcoming funeral and I've spent countless hours pouring through photographs and scrapbooks. I've included some pictures of newspaper clippings. One is where he was inducted. He is standing in the front row to the far right. Feel free to use these in any way you see fit.

We will bury my grandfather on Jan 23rd 2013 at Fort Indiantown Gap National Military Cemetery. He will receive Military Honors as we have secured an honor guard and two active duty soldiers to present the colors to my mother. I will pin his bronze star on his suit coat, the 319th infantry pin and perhaps the most symbolic of all, a pin that reads “only moves forward”.

I wish you all the best of luck and thank you for sending the publication when you did.

Sincerely,
Kevin Daly (Grandson)
913 Blue Jay Road
Harrisburg PA 17111

PFC John Shea, Co M 319th (WWII)
Born 9/28/20 • Deceased 1/14/13

Anderson, Dale E-317
6231 W. Berridge Lane
Glendale, AZ 85301
Rptd by: Wife Elva

Garcia, Sylvia CSM(R) 1st Bde
San Antonio, TX
DOD: Jan 12, 2013
Rptd by: Nancy Simmons & Tom Lach

Noel, Arthur L-317
DOD: Sep 1, 2010
Rptd by: Grandson SFC John Noel

Thompson, Ivan L-318
1535 S. College Ave
Tulsa, OK 74104
DOD: Dec 27, 2010
Rptd by: Son David

Anzaldo, Anthony K-318
117 Freedom Blvd
Coatesville, PA 19320
DOD: Dec 19, 2012
Rptd by: Attorney, Alex Giacobetti

Harshbarger, Wilbur E-318
RR1 Box 341
Mifflintown, PA 17059
DOD: Oct 28, 2012
Rptd by: Son Sheldon

Roth, John Lee E-318
DOD: Jan 11, 2013
Rptd by: Son John

Troutman, Henry 3-317
258 E 5th St
Bernville, PA 19506
DOD: Dec 22, 2012
Rptd by: Son Stephen

Bradford, John G. 319th
Baltimore, MD
DOD: Jan 3, 2013
Rptd by: Jim Gentry

Lowenstein, Donald C-310
12932 Waldorf Forest Rd
Waldorf, MD 20601
DOD: Jan 26, 2013
Rptd by: Daughter, Betty Ann Watkins

Shea, John 319
913 Blue Jay Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111
DOD: Jan 14, 2013
Rptd by: Grandson Kevin Daly

Woodford, Boyd 80th Sig
15216 Galehouse Rd
Doylestown, OH 44230
DOD: Oct 27, 2010
Rptd by: James

Briggs, Kathleen Widow of Veteran and Donor
144 Everett St
Middleboro, MA 02346
DOD: Nov 16, 2012
Rptd by: Daughter Nancy Legan

Makar, Vladimir "Walter" E-319
DOD: Nov 2004
Rptd by: Granddaughter Sheena Lov-
eridge

Snyder, Willard F-319
23 Hialeah Dr
Albany, NY 12205
DOD: Jan 28, 2013
Rptd by: Son Jim & Max Schmidt

Zepp, Mary H-317
7844 E Hill Rd
Mount Airy, MD 21771
DOD: Aug 3, 2011
Rptd by: Bell

Compton, CSM(R) Milton 3-317
Culpepper, VA
DOD: Dec 16, 2012
Rptd by: David Gallagher

McDonald, Robert C-319
221 Vernon Rd
Breenville, PA 16125
DOD: Jan 2013
Rptd by: Abe Barone & Cecelia Smith

Sommer, Arthur H-318
1000 West Glendale Ave
Appleton, WI 54914
DOD: 12/20/2012
Rptd by: Wife Laverne

RETURNED MAGAZINE NO FORWARDING ADDRESS

DO YOU KNOW WHERE I AM?

Acree, James	Life
Bishop, George	Life
Cotton, CJ	Life
Crimi, John J.	Life
Brown, William	Life
Jester, Mrs William	2012
Linck, Homer	Life
Parks, Louis	Life
Neighly, Francis	Life
Robinson, Curtis	2011
Thompson, Ivan	Life
Wadley, RB	Life

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Doris M. Wollett
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Desiring to maintain liaison and comradeship with Veterans and soldiers of the 80th Division, and receive the Blue Ridge Service Magazine.

DATE: _____

SERVICE PERIOD: WWII POST WWII CURRENT ACTIVE

PLEASE SPECIFY BATTLE / CAMPAIGN: _____

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

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP + 4: _____

PHONE(s): _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

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

CURRENT MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING (Dues paid to date)

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

80th Div. Veterans, Family Members

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

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

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- Secretary - Tonyia Gibbons

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

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Secretary

FLORIDA POST #47

Gerald V. Myers, Commander
Kay Rajnicek, Secretary
320 E. Palm Drive • Lakeland, FL 33803

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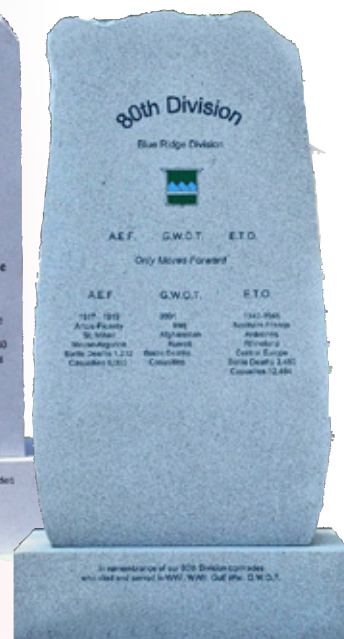
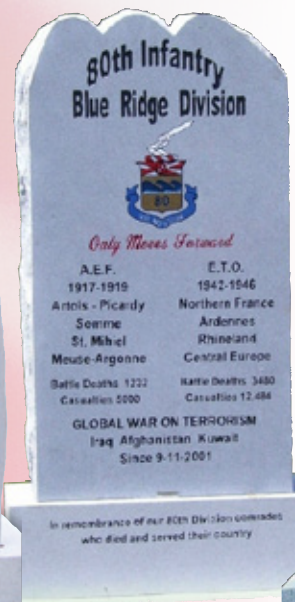
CITY: _____

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

