

BLUE RIDGE



THE SERVICE MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2014

Volume 95 • Number 382 • Issue 2



PNC Abe Barone Receives the French Legion of Honor

Angelo (Abe) Barone, 317th Regiment, 80th Infantry Division, received a letter from the French Government that I was recognized as a, "Chevalier" (Knight) and to receive the French Legion of Honor Medal, France's highest honor, at a ceremony at the French Embassy, Washington, D.C, on May 8, 2014, VE Day in Europe 1944, along with fourteen other World War II Veterans.

The Ceremony began with Oliver Sergpt Almaras Consul General extending greetings to the Veterans and their families. The Consul General then presented a Certificate and pinned the Medal of Honor on each individual veteran as their name was read. This was followed by a Champagne Reception.

The Legion of Honor was created in 1802, by Napoleon Bonaparte when he was first Consul of France and is awarded to military personal and civilians in the liberation of France in World War II, who participated in one of the four major campaigns to free France from the Nazi Occupation, including Normandy, Southern France, Northern France and the Ardennes.

I served in the Army from July 1942 to February 1946. I was wounded at Pont-A-Mosson on the Mossel River September 5, 1944 and taken Prisoner next day September 6, 1944. Was Prisoner of War for 8 months. I am a proud free American, God Bless America.

Served as Past National Commander of the 80th Division Veterans Association 1991-1992 and Nationals Chaplain for approximately 25 years.

Article from the Republican Herald may be read at:
<http://m.republicanherald.com/news/france-pottsville-lions-honor-wwii-vet-1.1688753>

WARMER WEATHER IS finally here and along with it are the thunderstorms and sometimes extreme heat. I'll take warm weather over the cold any day. Everything has turned green and flowers are in bloom.

You can see God's creation all around you and it is beautiful. It is our responsibility to take care of this earth. Do your best to keep your yards looking groomed. Cutting grass and trimming bushes may not be in your capacity to do now but you can still supervise the choir. Stay safe outside and keep hydrated. You don't realize you are thirsty until it is too late so keep a bottle of water nearby all the time. Watch out for critters. We have already seen a few snakes. There are some that are fairly large down at the pond. Ard keeps reminding me that they are non-poisonous and they are Northern Brown Water Snakes. My opinion is kill everything except black snakes!

I had the pleasure of visiting with Cecelia and Bruce Smith on June 5th as we were on our way up to PA to attend Ard's High School Class Reunion. We had an awesome visit and did a lot of catching up. They were so gracious as to have lunch prepared for us when we arrived and I must say that Cecelia outdid herself. Bruce shared some of the 80th history with Ard and I must admit he is a walking history book.

Where Ard is from is not far from where Bob Murrell lives so the next day, June 6th, we drove down to visit with Bob.

He seems to be doing well and we also had a great time with him. He directed me to a pizza place that he likes and we had a tasty lunch with him. The pizza was so large that we took some back so that Bob and his son could have it the next day. Talking with Bob about the 80th is always so interesting and to top that he takes us to his office and shows us some of his collectables. Bob plans on attending the reunion and I believe he was one of the first to send his registration in.

Don't forget the upcoming 95th Reunion to be held August 13-16, 2014 in Hagerstown, MD. I hope that you will be able to join us. Get your registrations in right away. Our Reunion Chairperson, Jeff Wignall, can be reached at 1-978-532-0741 or by email at member9219@aol.com.

Thanks for sending me updated address and phone number information. I don't want anyone to not get their magazine.

Please look at your mailing information on the back of the magazine. If it does not show LIFE or 2014, you are very close to being behind in your dues. The Constitution states that members will be dropped from the mailing if they become three years in arrears with their dues.

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

From the Historian's Corner

by Lee S. Anthony, PhD, PNC & Historian

WE CONTINUE TO receive information and requests for information regarding the Division, its history, and its personnel. Each contact is a unique situation; in many cases we can "fill in the blanks" for the family or friends of our veterans.

I would encourage every veteran to write a memoir, which would be so meaningful to all, particularly their family. If you do so, I would very much appreciate a copy.

I am happy to report that the "memorial brick" project is alive and well. National Commander McLaren and 3rd Vice Commander Bill Black will be reporting on the project, and will have recommendations regarding same. Bill has already placed a Brick Memorial in the village of Nocher, where his father was wounded in WW II.

We now have for the first time, an 80th Division community-located historic display, located in the Bedford Va. museum. Unfortunately, this is not a permanent display, so I would encourage everyone who can visit the display, to do so in the near future. The display is entitled "Bedford Boys in the 80th Division", referring to the fact that in WW I, many of the soldiers from Bedford (and Western Virginia) were

placed in the 317th Infantry Regiment. The display has pictures, maps, small arms, a collection of Victory Medals, and many artifacts.

I have recently been invited to participate in two military parades in the Roanoke area, riding in a Navy Jeep. The logo of the 29th Division is to be seen widely on these occasions. Perhaps we could adopt a distinctive "overseas cap", similar to, but different from, those worn by the National Commander and PNCs.

We are receiving more inquiries from overseas friends and historians regarding WW II operations, and we are most appreciative of their interests.

We need to receive more historic information from both the "Cold Warriors" and those of the Middle East, GWOT era.

I have had 100 copies of the Russell Stultz History of the 80th Division in WW I reprinted. Distribution of these will begin soon. The book contains 731 pages, and sells for \$95.00 + s&h.

Again, thank you all for your assistance in keeping memories alive. "Keep those cards and letters coming".

COMMANDERS MESSAGE



*MG(R) John McLaren,
Commander*

VETERANS, SOLDIERS, FAMILIES and friends of the 80th Division Veterans Association, our 95th Reunion is around the corner at Hagerstown Maryland. I am looking forward to the renewal of old friendships and making of new acquaintances. This past year has been one of transition for our organization. We, together, have developed a pair of new initiatives to bring about financial stability. The paver program will kick off and we have implemented a voluntary giving program. I encourage each of you to reflect on other ways that we might bring financial stability to our organization and bring them forward for discussion at the reunion. In February, Dr. Anthony and I visited an outstanding team of Soldiers from the 80th Training Command getting ready to deploy to Afghanistan. I can report their moral is high and the team arrived in Afghanistan, starting their first combat missions, at the beginning of May. They will be deployed for a year and will help to mold and build cohesiveness into the Afghan Army unit they are mentoring. We must always remember our newest veterans in this fight for both right and freedom which will last for many more years. Finally, it has been my privilege to serve as your National Commander for the last year. You are a magnificent organization, dedicated to remembering the service and sacrifice of our past and present Soldiers. We must never lose sight of our National commitments and stand for right, against evil, in the world. We are the reason that our current and past members can say, the 80th Division –Only Moves Forward!



*See You In
Hagerstown!*

This letter falls into a blind spot regarding the Reunion. I write it before all the registrations have come in, and you read it after they've arrived.

So, I can no longer exhort, wheedle, and cajole you to "come on down," as I have for the past several months. That said, everything possible will be done to accommodate any last minute entries. As I have mentioned, this is a significant anniversary year for the ETO Veterans and 80th history—the 70th year since arriving in France (the second time)—and we're hoping to "do it up right."

In this, then, I will fast forward a bit to what I see as our biggest challenge in the coming year: Membership. It's no secret that membership in the Association has declined. What is possibly less well know is how quickly, and how extensive the decline has been, particularly by the majority of our members who are unable to attend the annual reunions and observe it first hand.

Our membership is derived from three sources: the Veterans of WWII, those men and women who have served (or are now serving) in the 80th in its various incarnations from the end of the war to the present, and the family members of those Veterans, including of course those related to anyone who served in the WWI, AEF 80th. All of these are entitled to become full, active members of the Association as of the revised membership rules instituted a few years ago, and recently updated in the Constitution.



Sadly, the most significant loss is among the ETO Veterans. There is regrettably little we can do about something that rests in the hands of a higher power, but I do wonder if there might be any "out there" who might never have known of the organization who might be located. Until recently, hardly a year passed that didn't bring a handful of first-timers to the reunion, many of whom had only recently learned that the Association existed. Since my initial draft of this letter two such men have made inquiries based on magazine notices we put in place with the help of PNC Max Schmidt, so it pays to advertise! I would expect that anyone knowing someone thought to be unaware would have long since approached them, but if anyone has any suggestions or knowledge of methods to reach out—and I would have to say, inexpensively, please feel free to get in touch with us—me—with any ideas you have. If you suggest it, you do not have to own it (unless you wish to)—Rule #1.

This same appeal applies to the family members and post-war Veterans. I'm thinking the magic of "Social Media," but know next to nothing about it. Hopefully some among our younger members are knowledgeable about the possibilities and might have something to propose.

My use of the word "inexpensively" above alludes to the state of our finances: not real good. We are taking steps to address that issue, but if membership continues to decline those measures will only help for the short term.

One final point I would like to make is that there seems to be a greater interest among the third generation (and beyond) than the second in ancestral history. That's a subject unto itself, but the message is: Talk to you grandkids!

Jeff Wignall

80th Division Veteran Clarence Brockman is Honored for His Service

by Barbara Brockman

ON APRIL 12TH, Clarence Brockman, along with WWII Veteran John Kozlosky, 28th Infantry Division were honored by the Pittsburgh Penguins. Before the game they were introduced to former General Manager, Ray Shero, Assistant Coach Tony Granato and former Head Coach Dan Bylsma. Coach Bylsma presented each man with their own personalized jerseys and thanked them both for their service to our Nation. Coach Bylsma then hugged me for bringing Dad to the game and then said "Thank you for bringing him to today's game, I just got to shake the hand of a National Treasure."

With those words tears filled my eyes.

Along the way to our seats that were donated by player Paul Martin, we met ICEBURG the Pens mascot, Jeff Jimereson, their soloist and the daughter of Mario Lemieux. About 6 minutes into the 1st period the announcer came on and the scoreboard started to show the video that was made earlier. Then Dad and John's rank and name was displayed, from there lived feed of them in their seats as the crowd went crazy! At that point, Dad stood up & waved, the noise became deafening in the CONSOL ENERGY Center.



Guys offering to get Dad a beer or food, young women coming over to hug and kiss him...one young man did that too but the one that got to me was a little girl around 8, she said, "Mister Soldier, would you like one of my Easter Peeps?" Of course Dad did eat one!

Then Pens lost that game to the Flyers in overtime but Dad had a great day! I was glad that I could share this even with him.

But wait...it don't stop there!

June 10th was Military Appreciation Night at the Pirates baseball game. Between the Pirates and GovX.com, 9000 free tickets were given to active duty, retired military and veterans along with their families. Dad was chosen to be "Fan of the Game" so once we got to PNC Park, we were escorted to the Pirate Dugout then onto the field. Once there, the Pirate Parrott decided he was going to eat Dad's Jolly Roger Flag but when that didn't work, he tried to eat Dad's head.

Soon Dad was escorted to the spot on the field where a video was shown on the scoreboard as he was announced as "Fan of the Game."

Just like at the Pens game, the crowd went crazy, seemed like the entire city had come out just to see him. When that was over, we were escorted to the Pirate Dugout where Dad met Manager Clint Hurdle.

Upon reaching our seats behind the Pirate Dugout, my cell phone starts going crazy, people had seen Dad on TV during the Post Game & had sent me photos. Within 30 minutes it goes off again, more photos but this time of him and I in our seats.

He said he wanted to stay long enough to sing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" so when that was over, Jim, Lynn, Dad & I left.

As we started towards the elevator a young man, Garrett Sawyer stopped to thank Dad, many had been doing that all night. Garrett works in the sales department of the Pirates but what is even more interesting is Garrett had 2 family members in Buchenwald Concentration Camp, one of two camps that Dad was part of their liberation.



Grandfather Inspires Book about 317th in WWII

by Dean Dominique

THE GRANDSON of a 317th veteran has turned his search for information about his grandfather's role into World War II into a novel which has been nominated for both the Pulitzer Prize and the Library of Virginia Literary Award.

One Hell of a War: Patton's 317th Infantry Regiment in WWII follows the 317th from its initial activation in 1942 through some of the most difficult combat in Europe to the end of the war in 1945. It's a captivating blend of strategic planning by senior leaders, such as Patton, Eisenhower and Bradley, and firsthand accounts at the foxhole level of the soldiers fighting the battles. Most fascinating is the first-hand accounts of numerous 317th veterans and the late Colonel James Hayes as he accounts his rise through the ranks from second lieutenant assigned to the 317th at its activation to Lieutenant Colonel by the end of the war.

"My grandfather passed away before I was born and I always wondered what combat was like for him in World War II," author Dean Dominique said. Dean joined the Army as a private in 1988 and rose through the ranks to retire as a Major in 2009 after serving for 20 years and two tours of combat.

His grandfather, Herman Robichaux Sr., was assigned to the 317th sometime in late 1944 and went on to earn two bronze star medals and the combat infantryman's badge. Due to a fire at the National Archives almost all of his records were lost—except his Bronze Star Certificate and discharge papers. Dominique was able to use the certificate to determine that Robichaux was in K Company, 317th Infantry Regiment.

While stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana, Dominique began taking master's degree classes in Military History with

Louisiana State University and used the thesis as an excuse to write about the 317th. According to Dominique, "The story I wanted to write about was the soldiers, what they went through and how their leadership had an effect on the battles they fought. My only hope is that other family and friends read this and realize what the World War II soldiers went through and what it was like, from their own experiences and their own words."

Luckily, Dean was able to get a hold of a manuscript that had been written by Colonel James Hayes. The late Colonel James Hayes was assigned to the 317th after graduating from West Point in 1942. Hayes fought in some of the bloodiest battles in the European Theater and by war's end he had risen through the ranks from Second Lieutenant to Battalion Commander. He received a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and a Purple Heart.

In 2003, Dominique deployed to Afghanistan and began to add Hayes's first-hand accounts to his thesis, but, due to the demands of military life, he put the project away. "I thought it would only be for awhile," Dominique recalled. "I ended up putting it aside until well after I retired from the Army in 2009." Finally after several years of working on the project off and on, the book has finally been published. But most importantly to Dean, he has done his best to make sure that the story of the 317th is told.

Members of the 80th Division Association can receive a 20% discount by purchasing One Hell of a War: Patton's 317th Infantry Regiment in WWII from www.createspace.com/4789517 with discount code ND7UTSEA.

Clarence Brockman Honored... continued

We got home just in time to watch the 9th inning on tv and of course just like the Pens, the Pirates lost!

It is nice to know that our WWII...National Treasures are being honored. That so many appreciate what they did in order for all of us to attend a sporting event.

It was a very long and difficult winter losing Mom but to be able to see the joy and happiness on Dad's face meant the world to me.

Thanks to Penguins and Pirate organizations who are doing a wonderful thing by showing their appreciation through these programs to honor those brave men and women.

Page 4: Clarence Brockman at PNC Park at the Pittsburgh Pirates game.

Right: Clarence Brockman at Consol Energy Center at the Pittsburgh Penguins game.



Same Message / Different Day

THE SUBJECTS OF declining membership, financial shortfalls and physical participation by active members of the 80th Division Veterans Association have long been lamented in the pages of the Blue Ridge Magazine (formerly called the Service Magazine.) That these issues are particularly critical ones to be stressed during the 95th Reunion, prompts repeating excerpts from an article that first appeared in 1937, when the organization was only 18 years old! The longevity of the Association is a tribute to those who have continuously recognized the benefits of comradeship and the proud heritage of the Division in which they served.

From the July-August 1937 issue (author unknown), this is A Glance Into the Past and Moving Forward to the Future with our Divisional Organization.

"The Veterans of the 80th Division A.E.F, before sailing for home in the spring of 1919, organized the 80th Division Veterans Association, 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 to preserve the memories and incidents of association in the World War. Those who had a part in laying the foundation of the Association while the division was marking time in France in March 1919, may well be proud of their work. Those who have supported the organization from its start should feel equally proud. The Eightieth Association, like the division and men it represents, has established a record that stands in first place among A.E.F. outfits.

"Old Timers told the founders of the Association that it could not last five years. They quoted the experience of veterans of previous wars; they questioned its usefulness; they pointed out that national veteran organizations of general scope had more to offer; and they yanked the chain and deluged all individuals who had an overdeveloped sense of pride in their old division with extremely cold water. Failing to quench the fire, they tried to smother it. Old Timers may have known their stuff, but didn't know the 80th!

"...The first year following the war was a period of optimism, not only in veteran circles, but in general business. Prices were high and inflation brought about by war continued. All WW I veteran organizations were new and experimental; falling into the same error in believing a second year would witness a realization of the value of the organizations and considerable increase in active participation would occur. The 80th Association Headquarters was established in Pittsburgh, affording service to active and inactive service members. The 80th Veteran did not find himself entirely "out of luck" as sometimes did the man whose outfit vanished upon demobilization. Requests for obtaining Postmaster positions to selling pigs were received and some even felt that there was Government funding available, and sought all sorts of assistance from the Association.

When time came for next annual dues payments from the original 15,000 or so who were charter members, it looked

like the Old Timers' predictions might hold true as only about 4,000 remained in the active class, with the remainder becoming inactive. Veterans were busy buying a Ford, marrying a wife, hunting a job and the dollar membership fee was not a priority. The officers elected to direct the affairs of the Association realized that it would have to curtail expenses and activities to stay within its income which was, and is, an unknown quantity. Depending upon members paying dues was like waiting to meet a lady friend. Thereafter the buck was passed to various Resident Secretaries.

"...All manner of legitimate means to keep the Association functioning have been attempted. Some expert mathematicians have a habit of tying themselves in knots of concentration and suspicion in questioning what happens to all of the income. The first rule of a successful soldier is to be on hand when a free issue is available, and A.W.O.L. when the Sergeant is hunting a detail. A lot of 80th Vets are still good soldiers, per financial reports, but not what could be called active members, even though they attend reunions.

(In anticipation of the 18th Reunion) "...Not one of these reunions would have been possible without the Eightieth Division Veterans Association, and it is also true that the annual reunions are a stimulus in maintaining the organization. Will the Eightieth organization have the experience of the United Spanish War Veterans – a reawakening of interest, and increase in active members and substantial growth, or will it wither and die sometime in the next ten years as most of the divisional organizations did in the first two years? "

As we all know, another War was just months away from the writing of this article, and the 80th Division was reactivated, serving honorably during that conflict in Europe. The camaraderie of the men who served at that time, as well as all who have worn the emblem of the 80th Division in the 77 years since the article was printed, have contributed immensely to the continuation of the Association. It is the second oldest Veterans' organization in continuous operation, and the conditions that prevailed in 1937 are again threatening its very existence.

RETURNED MAGAZINE

DO YOU KNOW WHERE I AM?

Arnold, Marvin		Morris, Shirley	2nd Time
Barr, Jack		Munoz, Moses	
Bell, John		Nicoll, William	2nd Time
Claussen, Ruth		Parker, Miit	
Coleman, Max	3rd Time	Posey, Mrs Stewart	
Colvin, Harry		Rigg, Charles	
Garnett, Fred		Scopa, Joseph	2nd Time
Gentry, James		Shively, Wayne	2nd Time
Gorse, Thomas		Stanley, Thomas	
Hubbard, Grady	2nd Time	Tagmeyer, Nathan	
Jobe, Frank		Winter, Paul	3rd Time
Kowalski, Walter			

Only Moving Forward: Extracurricular Adventures

by Walter Barthold 80th Signal Company

HAVING STUDIED the language in high school and college, I soon gained a standing as the best French speaker in my outfit, the 80th Signal Company. This led to a number of memorable experiences, of which I shall recount a couple here.

For the first several weeks of our stay in Normandy, we were allowed to buy fresh produce from local farmers. This provided a welcome supplement to our rations. The privilege did not last. The Army soon put a stop to the practice on the understandable ground that after the deprivations of the four-year occupation, the French themselves needed everything their fields could grow and then some.

For a while, however, our mess sergeant and a helper would go out in a three-quarter ton truck and see what they could pick up from nearby growers. I went along as interpreter. One such expedition stands out in my memory.

We stopped beside a field of vegetables of one sort or another. The farmer expressed a willingness to help us out. Typically of the French at that, the honeymoon phase of our stay, he declined to accept payment. We knew from experience, however, that he would accept American cigarettes, of which we had brought along several cartons.

While the mess sergeant's helper and the farmer were loading the truck, I passed the time by chatting with the farmer's sister, an attractive young lady of about, I would say, twenty. In the course of our conversation, she asked how long I had been in France and where I had been. Censorship regulations allowed us to name to civilians only those places that we had left at least two weeks earlier. I, therefore, mentioned Argentan. She remembered reading or hearing of the fighting there and asked if many men had been killed. When I answered in the affirmative, she turned her head away,

placed her hands over her eyes and uttered a brief sob. That spontaneous expression of sympathy struck and still strikes me as characteristic of the reception that the Army received from the French population.

Another episode that I recall happened much later, during the summer of 1945, when, with the war in Europe ended, the 80th was stationed in Kaufbeuren, Bavaria. We were training for our expected deployment to the Pacific. Our construction platoon, which had responsibility for laying telephone lines, was engaged in, among other things, collecting wire from various of our previous locations. No longer in use, it could still be employed in the future.

Some of this wire lay in what had become the French zone of occupation, not far from our location. Before picking that wire up, the Army wished, out of courtesy to an ally, to make certain that the French Army had no use for it. Lieutenant W., head of the construction platoon, was assigned to make this inquiry of the proper French authority. With me along as his interpreter, he paid a visit by jeep to the communications officer of, as I recall, the Second French Moroccan Infantry Division.

Our visit was a brief, cordial one. The officer in question, a Frenchman of course, listened patiently to my translated explanation of our need for the wire about which we were asking. He then said that he had no need for it, whereupon I, again translating for Lieutenant W., replied that, with his permission, we would proceed to collect it. That concluded the visit.

I cite this second episode only as a demonstration of my pride in the recognition of my limited linguistic talent and in my ability to put it to constructive use. The passage of seven decades has not erased it from my memory.



Denise Thill Passes Away

Denise Thill, a dear friend of American veterans, AWON members and US cemetery staff, passed away in her hotel room in Normandy last Friday night June 6th after attending the D-Day festivities. Her partner Marco Eifes was with her when she died suddenly of a heart attack.

I found out about it from our acting superintendent Joy DesRosier, who received the information by phone from my former boss Lee Atkinson in Normandy. Marco also called our friend Nico Schroeder, who told me he was completely devastated.

At this time Marco is still in Normandy taking care of paperwork and other matters necessary for the repatriation to Luxembourg. We have no information as yet on where and when her funeral will take place once she returns.

Denise and Marco had been together for several years and I understand they were planning to get married in the near future.

Best wishes to all of you, Erwin Franzen, Cemetery Associate
American Battle Monuments Commission | Luxembourg American Cemetery
Luxembourg@abmc.gov • email: MEIFES@PT.LU

Bob Slaughter bust is memorial to 1 in memory of many

By Luanne Rife | The Roanoke Times | Posted: Monday, May 26, 2014 1:53 pm

BEDFORD — The crowd that gathered at the National D-Day Memorial on Monday to remember the men and women who sacrificed their lives in service to our country were also there to remember Bob Slaughter, the retired Roanoke printer who worked tirelessly to ensure that no one would forget his brothers in arms who died on the beaches of Normandy, France.

His lifelong friend John Kessler sat on a folding chair beneath a tent waiting in the shade with the other speakers at the Memorial Day ceremony. Eight days shy of his 93rd birthday and a dozen days before he'll be called upon to observe the 70th anniversary of the pivotal battle that turned the tide of World War II to the Allies' favor, Kessler reflected on his lifelong friendship with Slaughter.

"This is a joyous day, but also a sad day for me remembering things that happened years ago," Kessler said. He wiped away a tear as he remembered his friendship with Slaughter and with Hubert Hobbs, who died earlier this year, and then prepared himself for the speech he was about to deliver.

"Bob Slaughter was one of the greatest generation, and he was also a humble man," Kessler told the crowd. At 19, Slaughter led his infantry squad onto Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944.

Fifty years later, Slaughter returned to Normandy, walking the beach with then-President Bill Clinton during D-Day anniversary ceremonies.

"He realized the legacy of D-Day itself was disappearing and most likely would be lost with the passing of the last veteran," Kessler said. "He was determined to do something about it. So he turned his attention to creating a place where the events of June the 6th would be remembered, and the action of brothers and soldiers commemorated and their sacrifices honored."

Slaughter was the force behind the creation of the National D-Day Memorial and lived to see his dream come true before dying on May 29, 2012. Since then, the memorial has worked to raise funds to commission a sculpture of Slaughter.

"We always wanted to do something to honor Bob's role in creating the memorial," said April Cheek-Messier, president of the National D-Day Memorial Foundation. "We thought an actual bronze portrait bust greeting visitors as they go into the memorial would be the best way to know of his legacy, how the memorial came to be and why it's important."

The memorial is continuing to raise funds for the sculpture.

Over and over, those who knew Slaughter used the same word to describe him: humble. They said he would have been very humbled and embarrassed by the ceremony and sculpture.

"He didn't do any of this for notoriety," said his son Bob Slaughter Jr. "He wanted to make sure the people who died had recognition. That people would not forget them."

He said his father didn't talk about the war while he was growing up.



"I guess it was the late '80s when the idea first came out for the memorial," his son said. "When he wrote his book, I think it was therapy for him. It tore him up. It had a devastating effect on those guys when they came back. They were just thrown back into civilization. They were great men, tough men."

He said the family is grateful that Slaughter lived to see his dream become reality.

"This is Bob Slaughter's memorial in every sense of the word. It was one man's vision," Kessler said.

Kessler spoke of their longtime friendship, forged during the 30 years they worked together as printers at The Roanoke Times and of how their paths crossed at Fort Meade, Maryland. While Slaughter was shipped off with the infantry, Kessler was directed into Officer Candidate School. Both were called into battle on D-Day and lost many friends and comrades.

"Heroism is humanity at its very best," Cheek-Messier told the crowd. "In this place of all places, on this day most especially, we pay homage to our heroes: Men and women who have given us a glimpse of what we are capable of on our very best days. They have shown us fear, oppression and injustice have no place in our world."

"We understand every blessing we enjoy rests on the freedom purchased and protected by the sacrifice of our very best citizens."

Slaughter wanted a D-Day Memorial to remember the soldiers.

His bust will be the first one visitors encounter as they embark on the storied path that tells of the events leading up to the D-Day invasion. Sculptor Richard Pumphrey depicted Slaughter not as a soldier who at 15 persuaded his parents to let him join the service, but as the crusader of his later years.

"The bust represents the period of his involvement with the memorial. He was a coat-and-tie kind of guy," said Pumphrey. He tucked a sweater beneath Slaughter's jacket to soften the corporate look and portray how Slaughter appeared when with his family.

"People feel the power of the bust," he said.

Cadet Cindy Litton Receives the 80th Infantry Division Veterans Association Award



By: Chief Bruce Catlett

The 80th Infantry Division Veterans Association Award was presented to Cadet/SSG Cindy Litton on May 8, 2014. Cadet Litton attends Alvin C. York Institute which is located in Jamestown, TN. This is the school that SGT Alvin C. York founded when he came back from WWI.

She is a member of the Battalion Drill Team which finished 10th in the Nation this year. She maintains an A/B in all of her classes and holds down a full time job to help the family out.

Cadet Litton can always be counted on to be there if there is a mission to be carried out.

Presenting the Award and Medal is SSG Judson R. Rilenburg, the local Army Recruiter. Cadet Litton received the award for her work and dedication to the battalion and her education.



By: Samantha Kleinfield

D-Day: Normandy 1944: a giant screen 3D film shows how during 100 days the battle of Normandy changed the world. This film honors the millions of men and women, soldiers and civilians, who gave their lives for Freedom. Being released on large-format screens worldwide in honor of the 70th anniversary of D-Day, this 40-minute documentary will inspire audiences for years to come and serve as a timeless educational resource for viewers of all ages.

And, last but not least, I wanted to also take this opportunity to share with you a great review recently written in World War II magazine. The film has been receiving all-around very positive reactions and the review is a testimony to this. This issue (July/August 14) just hit stands (sale date was officially May 27th). Attached is a sneak preview PDF of the article. The review does a great job of recapping and highlighting the best aspects of the film, such as the state-of-the-art cinematic techniques, Tom Brokaw's narrative, as well as the attractive educational aspect for kids and adults alike (including an accompanying educational package built around the film).

The New York Times has also described the film "D-Day: Normandy 1944" as "engagingly informative", as a "tribute that inspires and, in an unstuffy way, also instructs". The New York Times also accurately notes that the film is an "ambitious undertaking that helps fill a gap in an education system that has moved away from survey courses to niche seminars, and, perhaps rightly, to more immediate concerns further afield".

Secondly, I wanted to send you some updates on the film as we've been getting very positive reactions to the film and are hoping this will interest you all the more in going to see the film and in helping us in any capacity with awareness support! Below are some useful links to the film's new website, facebook and twitter pages as well as the trailer. Further, as the list of locations for where the film is being shown is constantly evolving, a regularly updated list of locations can be found directly on the website www.DDay-Normandy1944.com.

<http://en.dday-normandy1944.com/D-Day-normandy-1944-the-film/home-2.html>

Remembering Felix Cistolo

Jim Christen (son of Sgt. Leo W. Christen, G-317)

ONE DAY I found myself looking at the now sepia colored photographs that had been secreted away in the crudely constructed gray box that my mother had given me. It had been six years since my father had passed. These photographs were the chronicle of his WWII military experience. Like many veterans he did not like to talk about his war time service. Since the pictures had little identifying information, I suddenly feared that their significance would be lost forever.

I reached out to the 80th Division Veterans Association and they graciously printed a request for information from anyone who might have known my father. It was Felix Cistolo who kindly responded. That was the beginning of our thirteen year friendship. He had known my father as both had served with 317 Company G from its beginning in July of 1942 until the end of the war and occupation of Germany. Felix had a remarkable talent for remembering names and faces and after a while he had identified a great many of the soldiers in my photographs. He also provided a photograph of the "original" G Company men of 1942 Camp Forrest that was taken at Pfronten, Germany after the war. Amazingly only 27 of those originals, including Felix and my father, were present out of the 164 that were photographed at Fort Dix shortly before boarding the Queen Mary.

Felix also wrote about his military experience. He told me of that frightful morning of September 13, 1944 at St. Genevieve when Company G was overrun. He spoke of the the shrapnel wound he received in his right thigh and how he passed out in a ditch and wasn't found until that evening by men of the 318th after that position had been recaptured. They thought he was a German soldier and "damn near killed" him. He recovered enough as he said "to continue dancing and raising hell" and returned to his Company just in time to participate in the Battle of the Bulge.

He was again hospitalized with a severe case of frostbitten feet. I learned later that Felix's father, Carmine had also been a veteran. An Italian immigrant, he fought in WWI, partici-

pating in the Battle of Saint-Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

Felix cared about his fellow soldiers and tried to keep in touch with them. He shared his collection of addresses which he had compiled over the years. I found out later that he had been sending a Christmas card to my dad for years and continued sending one to my mother after my father had died.

When I learned that the 80th was planning a reunion near my home I attended with the hope of finally meeting Felix in person. However, it was not until three years later at Washington D.C. that we finally met. I know that the bond forged by soldiers in combat is incredible and lasts forever; Felix always made me feel as though that bond had been extended to me through my father.

JOIN US IN LUXEMBOURG

January 13 - 18, 2015

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge

**Monument Dedication Ceremony planned in
Nocher, Luxembourg on Sunday, January 18, 2015
for the 319th Infantry Regiment**

**Visit additional 80th Division monuments
and battle sites in Luxembourg.**

**If interested, please contact Bill Black for details
Phone: 404-493-6601
Email: williamrblack@gmail.com**



The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor

Notice: To all Veterans who may have received the award of the Purple Heart during their service (or friends or family members of such Veterans):

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is seeking to enroll as many recipients of the award as possible in order to include them on their Roll of Honor, and have asked that we make this known to our members. To date something over 184,000 recipients have registered, of an estimated 1.8 million who have received the award since 1932.

Confirmation of the award is required, and they request (optional) a photograph—preferably in uniform—and a brief note about the circumstances for the award for their permanent archive. There is no charge for registering.

This is a New York State facility administered by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, and located in Vails Gate NY (PO Box 207) 12584-0207. Information and the registration form can be viewed on their web site: www.thepurpleheart.com



Invitation to Moselle River Commemoration

SEVENTY YEARS AGO saw the beginning of the greatest story of the 20th century. It is a story that would lead to the liberation of France and a large part of Europe, which would finally escape Nazi dictatorship.

As it did in 2004 and 2010, the Association "Moselle River 1944" has decided again in 2014 to pay homage to the greatest generation, those who crossed the Atlantic to free the homeland of Lafayette.

We will welcome our liberators from Saturday, November 8 to Sunday, November 16, 2014, in order to commemorate with them the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the region of Thionville and the crossing of the Moselle River.

Our commemoration project is supported by the French government and has obtained the support of the largest cities of the region as well as that of the President of the General Council of the Moselle, which is sponsoring the Day of Remembrance in Moselle on Saturday, November 15, 2014.

The Moselle River Association has committed to paying for the cost of the stay for each American World War II veteran, or for the widows of these soldiers, as well as a companion, with double room accommodation. However, it was decided that we will ask for financial participation by other

family members who wish to attend as well as companions who would like to have single-room accommodations.

The opening ceremony will take place on Saturday, November 8. Commemoration events will take place from Sunday, November 9 until Sunday, November 16. Participants who wish to return directly home following the events can plan their return trip starting Monday, November 17. Transfer to Metz will also be organized for those who will be attending the ceremonies organized by that city.

So that we can best organize your stay here and plan for the various events, we need to know as soon as possible which families are interested in this last homage.

Veterans and their families may register through their veterans' association, through our representatives in the US, or directly with the Association, by filling out an on-line form on our website: www.moselleriver1944.org

We hope that we will be able to welcome you here next November so that we may thank you for the magnificent gift of liberty that you gave us in November 1944.

With deepest gratitude, Pascal Moretti, President Association "Moselle River 1944"

YES! I am interested in taking part in the 70th Anniversary Commemoration in November 2014 organized by Moselle River 1944. I understand that filling in the form does not place me under any obligation.

NAME (FIRST / LAST) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ COUNTRY _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

I will be accompanied by (state relationship; i.e., husband, wife, son, etc. Include full names):

If veteran, state unit (or unit of father): _____

Any special dietary needs? (please specify) _____

Any special medical needs or restrictions on mobility? (please specify) _____

Any special place you would like to visit? _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please complete form and send to:

Moselle River 1944
BP 12 - 4 rue de la Mairie
57940 Metzervisse
FRANCE

e-mail: info@moselleriver1944.org
web: www.moselleriver1944.org

Passing of Rudy Tomasik

Submitted by: **Barbara Belt**

Rudolph "Rudy" Tomasik 89, of Route 169, S. Woodstock, died Monday, July 29, 2013 in UMass Memorial Hospital in Worcester. Born in Pawtucket, RI, he was the only son of Polish immigrant weavers, the late John and Mary (Grzyb) Tomasik.

Rudy owned and operated Woodstock Airport for 60 years. His love of aviation began in grade school, when he won many first place prizes in model airplane contests. At 14 he was the gopher (go for) at the seaplane base in New Bedford, MA the year it was destroyed by the 1938 hurricane. He soloed at age 18, and logged over 5100 flight hours without an accident in his lifetime. Throughout his career as fixed base operator, Rudy trained hundreds of pilots, licensed many at his part 141 school, maintained and inspected airplanes as an A&P and FAA IA, ran a "jumpers" club for years, ran the Woodstock RC Flyers radio control club, and offered local citizens the chance to see the annual Woodstock "Fair from the Air" initially "for just a penny a pound." In his early years at the airport, Rudy worked multiple shifts as a weaver and maintained machinery in local mills throughout the area. Rudy cared for his mother, Mary, throughout her life, and Mary ran the 1950's style "snack bar" until she passed away in 1987 at the age of 91.

Rudy was a World War II veteran and the only surviving member of his army unit. He held a war service appointment with the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) at Langley Field, Virginia, where his work included tests on Howard Hughes' Spruce Goose model. Later, Rudy hoped to

join the Army Air Corp, but he was drafted and deployed during the Battle of the Bulge with Headquarters Company, 319th Infantry Regiment, 80th Division of Patton's Third Army. As an Intelligence and Reconnaissance (I&R) scout, Rudy was commended two Silver Stars and one Bronze Star, and he assisted in liberation of the Buchenwald Nazi

Concentration Camp at war's end.

Rudy also joined the Civil Air Patrol during WW II and took part in many CAP squadrons in Virginia and his local area, including as squadron commander of the CAP at his airport during the 1955 hurricane. Rudy received the Charles Taylor Award from FAA for 50 years as an A&P (airframe and power plant) mechanic in 2004, and the Wright Brothers Award for 50 years as a Master Pilot in 2006. He was a member of American Legion in Woodstock, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in Putnam.

Rudy will be remembered for his passion for recreational aviation and radio control flying, his love of dancing, and DJ-ing at the VFW. He inspired all he met through his strong, visible qualities of his vintage authenticity, generosity, honesty, integrity, exuberance and his self-deprecating sense of humor.

Rudy is survived by his daughter, Holly Markham and her husband David; grandchildren Kayla and Landon; and many friends from his Woodstock Airport family. Relatives, friends and the general public are invited to a graveside service with Military Honors for Rudy at 12:30 pm on Saturday August 3, 2013 in Elmvalle Cemetery, Roseland Park Rd. (near Senexet Road), Woodstock, CT, followed by a gathering at the VFW, 207 Providence St., Putnam, CT. For the memorial guest-book visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Remember this lady?

By: **Judy Bezak**

IRENA SENDLER

February 15, 1910 — May 12, 2008

Warsaw, Poland

DURING WWII, Irena got permission to work in the Warsaw ghetto, as plumbing and sewer specialist. She had an ulterior motive.

Irena smuggled Jewish infants out in the bottom of the tool box she carried. She also carried a burlap sack in the back of her truck for larger kids. Irena kept a dog in the back that she trained to bark when the Nazi soldiers let her in and out of the ghetto.

The soldiers, of course, wanted nothing to do with the dog and the barking which covered the kids/infants noises. During her time of doing this, she managed to smuggle out and save 2500 children.

Ultimately she was caught, however, and the Nazi's broke both of her legs and arms and beat her severely.



Irena kept a record of the names of all the children she had smuggled out. After the war, she tried to locate any parents that may have survived and tried to reunite the family. Most had been gassed. The children she helped got placed into foster family homes or adopted.

In 2007 Irena was up for the Nobel Peace Prize.

She was not selected.

Barker, John E-319
3206 Poinciana Rd
Middletown, OH 45042
DOD: Apr 19, 2014
Rptd by: Neighbor, Duane Riley

Bishop, COL(R) Virgil M G-317
9506 Elkatchee Rd
Alexander City, AL 35010
DOD: Jan 26, 2014
Rptd by: Wife, Dorothy

Brewer, Clarence (Jiggs) 3-319
Gilbert, TN
DOD: Oct 2, 2013
Rptd by: Internet

Brockman, Naomi Ladies Auxillary
334 Fannie St
McDonald, PA 15057
DOD: Mar 24, 2014
Rptd by: Daughter, Barbara

Brown, Johnny 315 FA
VA Beach, VA
DOD: Mar 2, 2014
Rptd by: Internet

Brown, Wayne T. 905th FA
328 Chapel Dr
Caldwell, OH 43724
DOD: Feb 23, 2014
Rptd by: Caregiver, Doris McKee

Carter, Weldon
Cushing, OK
DOD: Feb 18, 2014
Rptd by: Internet

Chapman, Calder W. C-319
22600 W Railroad Ave
Seligan, AZ 86337
DOD: Jun 25, 2013
Rptd by: Nephew

Coleman, Robert C-318
401 Centre Ave
Nyack, NY 10960
DOD: Jun 11, 2012
Rptd by: Rtn Magazine & Internet

Crane, Donald
Cameron, MO
DOD: Apr 4, 2013
Rptd by: Internet

DeLisle, John
Sylvania, OH
DOD: Jan 31, 2014
Rptd by: Internet

Douglas, Hansen 305 EN
Long Prairie, MN
DOD: Jan 12, 2014
Rptd by: Internet

Grover, Charles M-317
9201 Wooddale Ave S
St Louis Park, MN 55416
DOD: May 19, 2014
Rptd by: Internet

Heffer, Charles
Williamsburg, MI
DOD: Jun 9, 2013
Rptd by: Internet

Holbert, Donald
Rushville, IN
DOD: Jan 7, 2014
Rptd by: Internet

Jenne, COL(R) Kurt 2nd Bde
Chapel Hill, NC
DOD: Mar 24, 2012
Rptd by: David Gallagher

Jones, William 2nd Bde
Lynchburg, VA
DOD: May 19, 2014
Rptd by: Internet

Kelley, Emmett 80th Tng Cmd
Richmond, VA
DOD: Mar 31, 2014
Rptd by: Internet

Klibert, Norman
Sugarland, TX
DOD: Apr 8, 2014
Rptd by: Internet

Matthews, Frank F-317
Anderson, IN
DOD: Mar 13, 2014
Rptd by: Internet

McKenna, Peter 1-318
Bloomington, MN
DOD: Apr 3, 2013
Rptd by: Internet

Murphy, Kenneth 305 EN
Tulsa, OK
DOD: Feb 21, 2014
Rptd by: Internet

Pacini, Carl
Elko, UT
DOD: Jan 16, 2014
Rptd by: Internet

Phillips, Ruth Ladies Auxillary
3211 James Buchanan Dr
Elizabethtown, PA 17022
DOD: Apr 14, 2014
Rptd by: Husband, James

Piatt, Warren 314 FA
1090 McElree Rd
Washington, PA 1501
DOD: Sep 7, 2013
Rptd by: Internet

Reeser, Robert 305th Medic
4005 Windcroft Ct
Reading, PA 19606
DOD: Jun 9, 2014
Rptd by: Wife, Sara

Scarborough, Julian
Lawrenceville, VA
DOD: Feb 11, 2014
Rptd by: Internet

Scott, SFC(R) Melvin 2-319
Danville, VA
DOD: Mar 22, 2014
Rptd by: COL Brydon Jackson

Shankle, Jr Ford HQ 80th FA
E Franklin Twp, PA
DOD: Sep 6, 2013
Rptd by: Internet

Shirey, PNC Llewellyn B-313 FA BN
21 Fairlane Rd
Reading, PA 19606
DOD: Apr 3, 2014
Rptd by: Barbara Brockman

Sevart, Harold
Parsons, KS
DOD: May 10, 2014
Rptd by: Internet

Street, Robert
Littleton, CO
DOD: Mar 11, 2014
Rptd by: Internet

Tackett, Dearn
Artigo, WI
DOD: Apr 15, 2014
Rptd by: Internet

Tierney, William G-319
1048 Sugar Maple Dr
Davidsonville, MD 21035
DOD: Apr 15, 2014
Rptd by: Daughter, Victoria Davis

Vier, Thomas
Jupiter, FL
DOD: Feb 2, 2014
Rptd by: Internet

Winter, Richard 305th Eng
Tomah, WI
DOD: Feb 10, 2014
Rptd by: Internet

Wolfe, Leonard B/HQ 305 Eng Bn
635 State Route 66
Leechburg, PA 15656
DOD: Dec 20, 2013
Rptd by: Wife Leota

Ruth J. (Kaufman) Phillips

Ruth J. (Kaufman) Phillips, 89, of Elizabethtown, passed away on Monday, April 14, 2014 at Masonic Village, Elizabethtown. Born in Tower City, she was the daughter of the late Edward H. and Rose (Messner) Kaufman. She was the wife of James W. Phillips of Elizabethtown. They were married for 65 years in August 2013.



Ruth was retired from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania where she was employed as an administrative assistant with the Department of Revenue for 34 years.

She was a member of Christ Church United Church of Christ in Elizabethtown. Ruth enjoyed reading, cooking and crossword puzzles. She especially loved her nieces and nephews whom she treated like grandchildren.

Ruth was preceded in death by a brother, Edward P. Kaufman.

A Graveside Service will be held on Thursday, April 17, 2014 at Mount Tunnel Cemetery, Elizabethtown at 10:00 AM. There will be no viewing.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Masonic Village Hospice, One Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

Arrangements entrusted to Miller-Sekely Funeral Home & Crematory, Elizabethtown. www.millerfuneralhome.com

www.millerfuneralhome.com

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James Morrison, M-318 Annual to Life

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Internet Links of Interest:

INFANTRY LIEUTENANT

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJcuuF23V7A&list=UUM9tLH0tel9WwmmAKH-xzsw&feature=em-share_video_in_list_user

MEMORIAL DAY 2014 IN HAMM, LUXEMBOURG

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/66537995@N03/sets/72157644846193216/>

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

Robert Moorhead
Secretary

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

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 Virginia Beach, VA 23464

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER
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 27 Martinack Avenue
 Peabody, MA 01960

2ND VICE COMMANDER
 Douglas Knorr (Family, A-317)
 1609 Dracka Road
 Traverse City, MI 49685

3RD VICE COMMANDER
 Bill Black (Family, G-319)
 1031 Overlook Park Lane
 Lawrenceville, GA 30043

NATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER
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 5101 Hurop Road
 Sandston, VA 23150

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN
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 1609 Dracka Road
 Traverse City, MI 49685

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER
 COL Kelly Niernberger
 (80th Training Command)
 2812 Cameron Mills Road
 Alexandria, VA 22302

HISTORIAN
 PNC Lee S. Anthony
 (Family, F-317, WWI)
 3769 Carvins Cove Road
 Salem, VA 24153

JUDGE ADVOCATE
 Dempsey M. Prappas (AT-317)
 613 Larch Lane
 Iowa City, IA 52245

FLAG/COLOR SERGEANT
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 2385 Covington Dr Apt 201
 Akron, OH 44313

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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).

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