

# BLUE RIDGE



THE SERVICE MAGAZINE

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## A Tale by An 80th Division Veteran

by: BURT MARSH

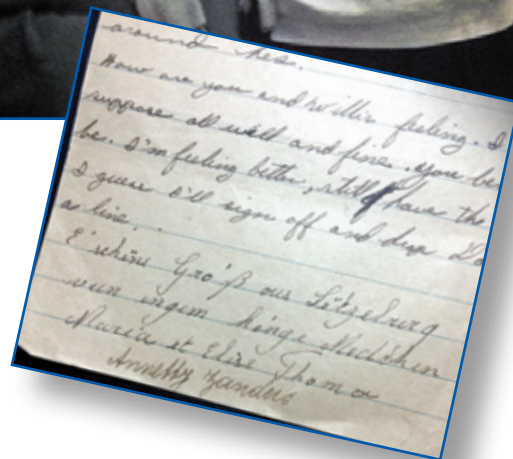
ON JANUARY 29, 1945 the 80th Division was pulled off the front line for a much deserved rest at the end of their battles in "The Battle of the Bulge." We were trucked about thirty miles to the rear which was just outside of Luxembourg City, we were all placed in private homes in villages surrounding the city. Company M, 319th regiment was placed in the Village of Steinsel, Luxembourg, four men to a home. We arrived late morning of the 29th and were assigned to the home of the Thoma Family. I was welcomed with open arms, a friendly family with 13 year old twin daughters, Maria and Elise. They showed us our sleeping room with two tiered bunk beds. I got the lower bunk and after getting cleaned up (much needed) and getting settled, I spent the afternoon lounging in their comfortable living room. The twin girls were present and appeared excited that we were there. Maria could speak some English, so I talked a little bit with her mostly about her school.

I decided I better catch up on my letter writing before heading off to the front line on February 6, 1945, so I dashed off a letter to my sister in which I asked Maria if she would like to say hello to my sister by writing in my letter. (See insert of writing) She didn't hesitate. From her message in that letter that enable me to reunite with the Thoma twins 60 years later.

One day as I visited my sister in 1992, she told me that she kept all of my WWII letters and that she would like to give them to my daughter, Tammi, I said no let me have them. I put them in a large note book (there are many because I wrote quite often) and one day, I got the notebook out and scanned the letters coming upon the letter dated 1-29-45 with Maria's message. Not thinking too much about it, I put the notebook back into my bookcase.

Fast forward during one of the 80th Division Reunions, I learned that the late Virgil Myers, the 80th Division "go to" representative to an organized group "The U.S. Veterans Friend of Luxembourg" that holds a week long festivities every year in the month of June inviting all vets that fought in liberating Luxembourg from the Nazi during WWII. He has had his contacts in the organization locate families or individuals that U.S. GI's stayed with or made friends with during the war.

In June 2004, son-in-law Jeff had a business conference in Vienna, Austria, taking daughter Tina, with him, he wanted to tour Europe after his meetings. I suggested visiting Luxembourg and the U.S. Veterans Friends of Luxembourg Festival. I gave them the address of the Euro Hotel, the Festival Headquarters. The group gave them a warm welcome and was asked to join them, after Tina and Jeff explained why they were there one of the guides, shaking her finger at Tina said, "you tell your dad to come over here and visit Luxembourg".



A Tale... continued on page 5

OK, WHAT IS UP with this weather?! I thought spring was right around the corner but today it feels like winter is trying to hang around a little longer. The March winds are showing off also. It's hard to know how to dress when you go out such as coat or no coat, shoes or flip flops. Also how do you run the heat – up or down? Wow, just too many decisions just to be comfortable.

Let's all think and plan on spring and warmer weather. Flowers are beginning to break through the ground and trees are budding. Some of you may be thinking of getting your gardens in so you can enjoy fresh vegetables or at least know of someone you can get them from. Fresh is always better than store bought. Summer squash and butter beans are my favorites. I think as a child I shelled enough butter beans to sink a ship! But—when winter arrived and mom took some out of the freezer and cooked them I was the first to say how good they were.

I haven't seen my friends the snakes yet but I'm sure they will be slithering around soon. Let's all be careful where we put our feet as we walk outside and also be careful when cleaning your flower beds. Some of the bugs are not very friendly when they bite us.

Information for our 98th Reunion/100th Celebration of the 80th will be mailed out shortly from our Reunion Chairman,

Paul Stutts. Paul has been working hard to put a reunion together that will never be forgotten. Thanks Paul for all your hard work on the reunion and the coordination that you have made with Fort Lee for the 100th Celebration. I have included Reunion Information in this edition of the magazine just so you can begin planning and spreading the word so that those that are not members of our Association may want to attend and hopefully join the 80th Division Veterans Association.

I ask that you always remember our Soldiers as you say your daily prayers especially those that are away from their families. Without such dedicated men and women we would not be able to enjoy all the privileges that we have grown accustomed to. Pray for our country and the leaders that make life changing decisions for this great Nation.

Please keep me updated on those comrades that have passed away. We want to remember them in our TAPS section of the magazine as well as during our annual Memorial Service which is part of the reunion.

I need your stories and photos both old and current happenings. I also need you to keep me updated when you have any changes such as address, phone number, or email address. If in doubt of whether I have the correct information send it to me and I will double check the roster.

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

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## Historian's Report

Lee S. Anthony, PNC & Historian

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HISTORY IS NOW coming alive! Plans for the 80th Division Veterans' Association Reunion at Fort Lee/Midlothian in September are coming along well, due to Paul Stutts' capable work with the hotel and with our friends at Fort Lee, including Luther Hansen and Richard Killblane. This should be one of our best reunions, full of the history of the formation of the Division. I had the pleasure of being with Paul and Mrs. Stutts recently at the hotel in Midlothian, and at Fort Lee. We were shown the actual trenches which were dug for training purposes in the fall of 1917. I have located a foundry which is producing tall barbed wire fence posts of the WW I design; these posts would be great for re-enactors and for localities which would like to build their own memorial trenches.

I have made two lengthy recent video interviews of veterans. More will be following.

Of course, we are still answering questions from family regarding the service of their ancestors. I am working the WW I questions, and Andy is handling (admirably) the WW II questions.

Commander Bill Black and PNC MG McLaren have done a great job of placing memorial “pavers” at appropriate locations, here in the States, and overseas.

More interest in the Meuse-Argonne has generated new books on this action. Major Schreckengost's books and now, writings of Maarten Ott are available. Maarten and his wife Didi are the B & B owners in Nantillois, where the 80th went

“Over the Top” on 4 October, 1918. After visiting this area for many years, and meeting the people who live there, the area seems almost like a second home.

I plan to contact the florists in St. Quentin to order flowers for the grave of Corp. Henry Sentell's grave in the American Military Cemetery of the Somme at Bony, France for Memorial Day.

We have been requested to prepare and to place a WW I display in the museum at Bedford, Va. We have also had an inquiry from Wytheville regarding placing artifacts there.

Of possible interest to re-enactors, I have had duplicates of both French and German WW I sniper shields fabricated.

We are still pursuing the acquisition of the Red Cross Chapel from the former Walter Reed Hospital grounds. A release and donation from the Department of State is urgently needed so that the chapel (which was built with funds obtained by the “Gray Ladies” Red Cross nurses) can be disassembled, shipped, and re-assembled for rededication on 11 November, 2018. It is estimated that this project would normally require two years; if anyone has any great “pull” with the new administration, now is the time to act!

As I have previously indicated, our efforts on the behalf of our veterans and their history have expanded to include many more veterans as well.

We all are looking forward to a great Reunion in September; God willing, and the Creek don't rise!



## **BILL BLACK** **National Commander**

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY to the 80th Division! The 80th was activated in 1917 in preparation for WWI in the National Army with

headquarters at Camp Lee (now known as Fort Lee), Virginia. What a storied and remarkable history the division has written over these hundred years.

I hope everyone is having a wonderful spring season. Time is definitely flying by this year. We are only six months away from the 98th Annual Reunion of the 80th Division Veterans Association in Richmond, Virginia. I want to thank Reunion Chairman, Paul Stutts, and his lovely wife Jane, for all the work they are putting into making this reunion one to remember. Don't forget to mark your calendars for September 13-17, 2017 and plan to join us in Richmond.

A special shout out to all of our Global War On Terror veterans – we really hope you will join us this year in Richmond. We have had great contributions and attendance from many of your fellow veterans, but the present and future of the 80th Veterans Association belongs to you. Plan to join us in Richmond, attend the meetings and volunteer to serve in leadership.

# Commander's Message

If you're into social media, there are several Facebook sites dedicated to the 80th Division. Click on your Facebook search box and look for these pages, then be sure to "join" the group:

- 80th Division Blue Ridge Veterans Association
- 319th Regiment – Patton's 80th Infantry Division
- 318th Regiment – 80th Blue Ridge Infantry Division
- One Hell of a War: Patton's 317th Infantry Regiment in WWII
- Blue Ridge Boys
- 80th Training Command (TASS)

Some of these pages are more active than others, but I've always found the information to be very interesting and relevant. Many descendants of veterans stumble upon these pages and ask questions and post pictures on their fathers, grandfathers, brothers and uncles from WWII. The 80th Training Command page features current military personnel and recent 80th veterans.

Finally, being the descendant of an 80th veteran, I often think about the experiences my great uncle had in WWI (38th Division), my father in WWII (80th, 319, Co. G), my two brothers during the Vietnam era, and the 80th veterans that have most recently participated in the Global War On Terror. I never take for granted the sacrifices these men and women have made to insure we live under the umbrella of freedom. Indeed, may the 80th only move forward! See you in Richmond!

## Dear 80th Division veterans, family members & friends:



IT IS MY pleasure to invite each of you to the 98th Annual Reunion of the 80th Division Veterans Association, September 13 – 17, 2017 in Richmond, Virginia. This is a special year, the 100th anniversary of the 80th Division. The Double Tree by Hilton in Midlothian, will be our host hotel for the reunion. We invite all veterans and friends and descendants of veterans to join us for this year's reunion.

We are planning a great reunion. The schedule will be a little different from last year. Ft. Lee personnel have lined up a special visit for us on Saturday.

Thursday will allow you time to visit local attractions around Richmond. Friday we will have some special guests. The "Blue Ridge Boys" are a living history group who work with the Purple Hearts Reunited Inc. and have chosen to help perpetuate the WWII history of 80th Division. They will provide a display, interview any of our willing veterans, and make a special presentation at dinner. Friday afternoon will be set aside for our memorial service. Saturday morning we will headed to Ft. Lee to visit part of the WWI trench warfare training area where reenactors we will be present for historical education. Afterwards we will move to the Quarter Master museum for lunch and viewing of new and different displays from what some of you may have seen years ago. The Women's museum will also be open. We will finish each evening with interesting guest speakers including Alexander F. Barnes, author of "To Hell

with the Kaiser, America Prepares for War 1916-1918". Ft. Lee event planning personnel have something special in mind for us on Saturday night also.

Our prize table will be open again at registration, so feel free to be generous. Artist Britt Taylor Collins has finished four new prints. A WWI, new WWII, Modern Era and a 100th Anniversary print. These are great pieces available soon on his website.

OK, what do you need to know?

1. Make your plans to attend and complete the registration form printed in this issue of the Blue Ridge magazine, and send payment to the address on the form.

2. Reserve your room at the hotel. You can do this by calling the hotel at 804-379-3800 and tell them you're attending the 80th Division Veterans reunion. The reunion rate for this year is \$99 plus tax. That rate does not include breakfast. Each room has a microwave and refrigerator. Parking is free. You must secure your hotel reservation before August 25, 2017 to insure you can use the Group rate.

3. For those of you flying to the reunion, the hotel is 22 miles and 30 minutes from the Richmond Airport.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Paul Stutts, Reunion Chairman, at 805-507-5599 (call or text); or via email at paulstutts@bellsouth.net.

See you this September in Richmond!

**Paul Stutts, Reunion Chairman**  
**80th Division Veterans Association**  
**P.O. Box 522, Montmorenci, SC 29839**

# Military Life of Jack Barrett: Excerpts From His Manuscript



I WAS INDUCTED INTO the Army April 6, 1943 and did my basic training at Fort Riley, Kansas. It lasted thirteen weeks. We had Infantry training under Cavalry non-coms. They were a hard and tough lot. They would tell us that they had to teach us the Infantry way but the Cavalry was best. We heard this almost every day. Sounded like a broken record.

Several things happened while I was in basic that I would like to mention. Let me say that I was nineteen years old and was in prime, top-notch condition physically. I hunted and fished, was expert with the rifle and shotgun and was a part-time lifeguard at the swimming pool near my home and I walked and ran every day. When I went in basic training I weighed one hundred-nine pounds and when the thirteen weeks were up I weighed one hundred eighty-one pounds so this alone tells what shape I was in. I had ROTC in high school and at the University of Georgia and was very familiar with the M-1 or Garand rifle.

When we were issued our Garands we had to clean them and the boy next to me had never had a gun in his hands before. I kinda took him under my wing. His name was Deeter and he was from Detroit. I showed and explained everything to him about the rifle. He sat there the whole time with his mouth open and when I got finished he said that he figured that I was the smartest fellow he had ever run into.

I carried some fishing line and hooks with me all through my Army career. We camped overnight during part of our training. Put up our tents and slept on the ground. There was a little stream nearby and I went down and found a hole that looked pretty good and rigged up my line and hook on a little pole I cut. I don't remember what I used for bait but I caught seven small catfish and went and got the cook to fry them for me. He fried them in butter and I do believe they were the best fish I have ever eaten.

While in basic training I made a ten-mile march with full field pack barefooted. What happened was that the heel came off my boot when we had just got started. My Lt Black who was one fine person told me to wait right there and a jeep would pick me up and take me back to camp. (My outfit was made up of about ninety percent Yankees and five percent Southerners and five percent Mexicans and Indians and the Yankees stayed on us Southerners all the time about one thing or another. They even made fun about the way I talked.) I overheard one of them tell his buddy that I had probably pulled the heel off so I wouldn't have to make the march. This got my dander up and I told Lt Black I could make the march barefooted. He said no that I would ruin my feet. I assured him it would not hurt my feet and to please let me do it and he finally gave in. It was a piece of cake. I had been going barefooted back home and my feet were conditioned. When we got back to camp I struck a match on the bottom of my foot and those Yankees almost messed up their pants. It was written up in the post paper and nobody made fun of me after that.

## BEFORE COMBAT

After we crossed the pond on the Queen Mary, we were docked and waiting to unload at Greenock Scotland. Duwayne Burton and I were standing up on deck looking around. There were dozens of sea gulls flying around. I decided to shoot at one with my sling shot which I had made back at Fort Dix. Well, the second shot I hit one, in the head, and down he went. All of a sudden, I felt a tap on my shoulder. There was a British sailor standing there about 6'4". He informed me that if I shot another gull, he would throw me overboard. It seems it was bad luck to do that. I apologized and put my sling shot in my pocket.

continued on page 5

## TAKING THE MAGINOT LINE

The flame thrower was forced on me. I didn't want to carry it. I had to leave my M-1 with the kitchen personnel. Incidentally, I never saw it again. Well I got stuck down in the tank trap. Max Coleman, Jim Cumming and Elba Lephew got me out. The flame thrower weighed a little under a hundred pounds. As we started across a large field toward the Line, walking in mud, I was having a hard time. A sniper started shooting at me. He was a poor shot. One bullet went by my face, another splattered mud up on me. I really think one went between my legs. He had picked me out because of the large flame thrower on my back and also because I was walking real slow. Elber was close by and I hollered to him that a sniper was shooting at me. Elber opened up with his Browning Automatic. The sniper stopped shooting. I have always believed that Elba kept me from getting killed. We got to the pill box we were to take. It was unoccupied except for two Germans who surrendered without a fight. I took the flame thrower off and ran back out in the field where Sgt Doyle lay dead and got his M-1.

## TAKING DAHL

In Dahl we were attacked every night just about. General Patton's Third Army was spearheading the Pincer Movement to cut off the enemy that had broke through out lines during the Battle of the Bulge. We must have been the point of this spearhead because they really wanted to stop us and they did

for about a week. They attacked different hours every time, always at night. One of if not the last attack came just before dawn and this proved to be a terrible mistake for them. Daylight caught them with their pants down. Our side of town killed some but around to our right there was a ravine coming up pretty close to town. When the enemy came out of that ravine and started across a field our machine guns hit them with a crossfire that broke their back. Later that day I went and looked. There was no way to count the dead. It was the worst slaughter I witnessed during my career as a combat soldier.

## TAKING NOCHER

We jumped off about daylight the morning we took Nocher. My squad went around the right side of town. It was foggy. A German officer came running to us. He had a Burp gun. He was shouting. He thought we were some of his men slipping out of town. He ran right up in our lap before he realized what was what. The most startled look came on his face. He turned and started running back but he never made it.

When we got bedded down in a building on the edge of town we got to looking around and found a young cow that had been killed during the shelling of the town prior to our taking it. One of our squad had worked in a butcher shop. He hulled out a good portion of the loin. We had steak three times a day.

*(Continued in the next edition of the 80th Blue Ridge Service Magazine.)*

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## A Tale... contined from page 1

Upon their return home, they told me of their experience in Luxembourg, Tina said, "Dad, you have to go to Luxembourg."

At our 80th Division Reunion in 2004, I sat down with the late Virgil to discuss the U.S. Veterans Friends of Luxembourg Festival. He convinced me to attend the festival in June of 2005. It was also the 65th Anniversary of the end of The Battle of the Bulge. During our discussion, I asked if he could have his people in Luxembourg try and find the twins, Maria and Elise Thoma, in Steinsel, Luxembourg. It wasn't 2 weeks later, Virgil called me, Burt I got good news, your twins have been located in Steinsel, Elise still single and Maria married with family in the name of Kohl. Now I am convinced to venture off to Luxembourg to the festival and reunite with the twins.

In June of 2005, my late wife Barbara, daughter Tina and husband Jeff and I went to Luxembourg. Unknown to me, until we got there, that the festival organization incorporated a stop in Steinsel as part of their tour and to meet the twin girls. Our tour bus pulls up at the village square at 3:00 P.M. The square was mobbed with residents, the Mayor and village council and Maria with family and Elise. The festival president located the twins and brought them closer to the bus and when I and family stepped off the bus, we were hugged by the twins. There was a lot of talking by everybody in the crowd as Maria introduced us to her family. We retreated to the Mayor's office where a reception was observed with speeches. I was so overwhelmed, I couldn't make my presentation, we now left the reception and entered a restaurant for a delicious dinner in the village of Steinsel.

The tour bus as leaving at 8:00 P.M. to return to our hotel when Maria ask me to stay and she would show me the house I stayed in back in 1945, they would take us back to the hotel. I told the President what our plans were and he agreed.

Off we went to Maria's homestead to show me the house I stayed in back in 1945. I remembered the bedroom and the living room. Elise still lives there, Maria lives up the street about a half block away. Both homes looked very comfortable, after a lot of talking, with some wine, about the war, families, the country of Luxembourg, photo albums, and life in general, they drove us back to our hotel at midnight. What a wonderful reuniting with my Luxembourg family as a result of a short note by Maria in one of my letter home during WWII.

In June 2010, Jeff, his son Eric, Walton Spangler and I attended the June festival of U.S. Veteran Friends of Luxembourg in celebrating the 65th Anniversary of their liberation. Again, we reunited with the Kohl (Maria) family. We had an enjoyable afternoon and evening, including a wonderful Luxembourg dinner with plenty of wine, together with a lot of talking and viewing photos.

In January 2015, my daughter Tammi and I went to Luxembourg for the dedication of a 80th Division monument in the village of Nocher in honor of the 70th Anniversary of their liberation from Nazism, by the 319th Infantry Regiment of the 80th Division the invite came from the Mayor of Nocher via Commander Bill Black. Bill's father was wounded in the Battle of Nocher. It was another great visit to Luxembourg, and again spending a full day with Maria and family.

Of course, I contacted Maria and arranged to spend a whole day with the Kohl family. It was so enjoyable and fun to reminiscence with the Kohl family. They even joined me at the dedication ceremonies of the 80th monument in Nocher. To this day, we remain in contact via Facebook with Maria's daughter, Sonny exchanging of Christmas cards, letters and Maria telephones twice a year. These visits to the Luxembourg festival and reuniting with the Kohl family has giving me more appreciation of having been a GI.



# Eightieth Division Veterans Association 98th Annual Reunion

**RICHMOND, VA • SEPTEMBER 13 – 17, 2017**

**1021 Kroger Center Boulevard/Richmond, Virginia 23235/804-379-3800**

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY ALL INFORMATION AND RETURN BY JULY 14, 2017**

First Reunion:  Yes  No

Name of Veteran or Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse or Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address if available: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee:	_____ x \$40 per person	\$ _____
Prize Tickets (\$2 each or all 12 for \$20):	_____ x \$2 per ticket	\$ _____
Wednesday Night Commander's Reception (Sept. 13):	_____ x \$25 per person	\$ _____
Thursday Night Dugout Party (Sept. 14):	_____ x \$35 per person	\$ _____
Friday Night Buffet:	_____ x \$35 per person	\$ _____
Saturday Ft. Lee Visit (Sept. 16) Light Lunch included:	_____ x \$45 per person	\$ _____
Saturday Night Dinner: (indicate choice for each person)	_____ x \$33 per person	\$ _____
Number of meals: Prime Rib (_____) Tuscan Chicken (_____)		
Program Listing: (PRINT NAMES CLEARLY)	_____ x \$5 per name	\$ _____

Ad rates are based on single-column width (3.625" wide) at \$15. Double-width ads (7.5" wide) are \$25 per inch with a 2" minimum height; half-page ads are \$85; full page ads are \$130. Please provide the copy for your ad as you wish to have it appear on a separate sheet. Any artwork or photographs to be included should be submitted as 300 dpi scans for best results in production. Any original photos submitted will be returned to the owner after printing at the reunion registration or my mail if you are unable to attend. If the ad consists of simple text message, it will be appropriately fitted to the ad size selected.

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1"H x 3.5"W: \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2"H x 3.5"W: \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4"H x 3.5"W: \$50               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2"H x 7.5"W: \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4"H x 7.5"W: \$85 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10"H x 7.5"W: \$130 (full page) |

Program Ads: Ad size: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Program Book (mailed to address above): \_\_\_\_\_ x \$7.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: ALL MEAL PRICES INCLUDE TAXES & GRATUITIES.**

**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Mail Form and Check payable to 80th Division Veterans Association to:**

**80TH DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION  
c/o Paul Stutts, Senior Vice Commander  
P.O. Box 522  
Montmorenci, SC 29839**

## 92 Year Old Preacher:

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me. The only thing that would comfort was this verse.

"Jesus loves me this I know,

For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong,  
We are weak but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me.  
The Bible tells me so."

The old pastor stated, "I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' (for the children of course) during a hymn sing, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best."

"Here for you now is a Senior version of Jesus Loves Me":

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
Though my hair is white as snow  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me trust in Him.  
(CHORUS)

Though my steps are oh, so slow,  
With my hand in His I'll go  
On through life, let come what may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.  
(CHORUS)

When the nights are dark and long,  
In my heart He puts a song...  
Telling me in words so clear,  
"Have no fear, for I am near."  
(CHORUS)

When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won.  
He will take me home above,  
Then I'll understand His love..  
(CHORUS)

I love Jesus, does He know?  
Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say,  
That I love Him every day.  
(CHORUS)

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## This story is in Elmer Bendiner's book, "The Fall of Fortresses"

Submitted by: Vic Muller

ELMER BENDINER WAS A navigator in a B-17 during WW II. He tells this story of a World War II bombing run over Kassel, Germany, and the unexpected result of a direct hit on their gas tanks. "Our B-17, the Tondelayo, was barraged by flak from Nazi antiaircraft guns. That was not unusual, but on this particular occasion our gas tanks were hit."

"Later, as I reflected on the miracle of a 20 millimeter shell piercing the fuel tank without touching off an explosion, our pilot, Bohn Fawkes, told me it was not quite that simple." On the morning following the raid, Bohn had gone down to ask our crew chief for that shell as a souvenir of unbelievable luck. The crew chief told Bohn that not just one but 11 shells had been found in the gas tanks. 11 unexploded shells where only one was sufficient to blast us out of the sky. It was as if the sea had been parted for us. A near-miracle, I thought.

Even after 35 years, so awesome an event leaves me shaken, especially after I heard the rest of the story from Bohn. He was told that the shells had been sent to the armorers to be defused. The armorers told him that Intelligence had picked them up. They could not say why at the time, but Bohn eventually sought out the answer. "Apparently when the armorers opened each of those shells, they found no explosive charge. They were as clean as a whistle and just as harmless."

Empty? Not all of them! One contained a carefully rolled piece of paper. On it was a scrawl in Czech. The Intelligence people scoured our base for a man who could read Czech. Eventually they found one to decipher the note. Translated, the note read: "This is all we can do for you now."

Jewish slave labor purposely sabotaged the shells leaving out the explosive charge.

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## TAPS

Beckman, Charles C-318  
2688 S Oscar Ct  
Morgantown, IN 46160  
DOD: Feb 19, 2017  
Rptd by: Elizabeth Beckman, Wife

Charity, SP4(R) Reginald HQ 80th Div PAO  
Richmond, VA  
DOD: Jan 12, 2017  
Rptd by: COL(R) David Gallagher

Cook, SFC(R) Lemmie 80th Div Log Grp  
Richmond, VA  
DOD: Nov 18, 2016  
Rptd by: Richmond Times Dispatch

Hamm, COL(R) Dennis HQ 80th Div Chaplain  
Johnson City, TN  
DOD: Feb 21, 2017  
Rptd by: Don Boggs

Hartsook, SFC(R) Charles 80th Div G3  
Mechanicsville, VA  
DOD: Nov 27, 2016  
Rptd by: Wesley Walden, Nephew

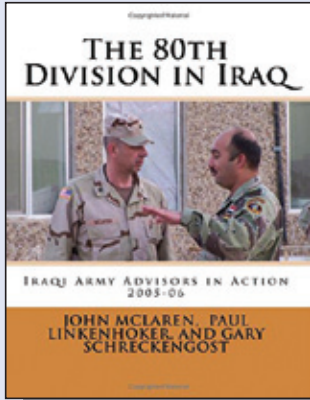
Morgan, Ronald 80th Div MTC  
Chesterfield, VA  
DOD: Feb 2, 2017  
Rptd by: COL(R) David Gallagher

Schein, Paul David 319  
Columbus, OH  
DOD: Jan 12, 2017  
Rptd by: Burt Marsh

Schneider (Nash), John 317 Cannon Co  
Devils Lake, ND  
DOD: Mar 2 2016  
Rptd by: Craig Schneider, Grandson

Spellman, Jerry 3-317  
727 W Brentwood Ave  
Orange, CA 92865  
DOD: Mar 7, 2017  
Rptd by: Ted Ellis, Son-in-Law



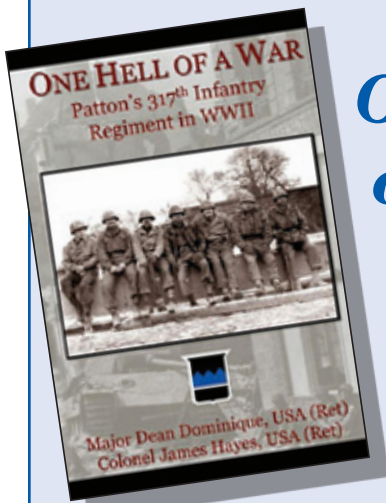


## 80th Division in Iraq:

### Iraqi Army Advisors in Action, 2005-06

by Gary Schreckengost and John McLaren  
ISBN-10: 1523733640

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The last date I have entered a name is March 31, 2017

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Bruce Smith, Annual to Life  
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Sandston, VA 23150-5406

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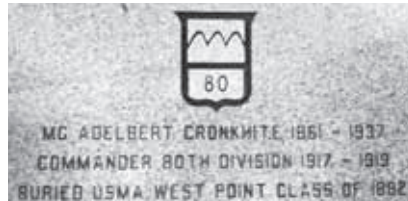
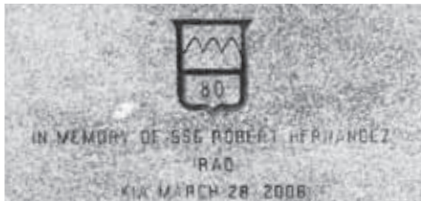
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# 80<sup>TH</sup> DIVISION MEMORIAL BRICKS

HONOR OUR VETERANS AND HELP THE ASSOCIATION RAISE NEEDED FUNDS!



## 80th Division Veterans Association Memorial Brick Paver Program

The purpose of the brick program is to help the overall financial status of our organization and help it to remain viable for the future. It is a fantastic way to honor our veterans. The bricks (also called "pavers") are approximately 5" tall x 11" wide x 4" thick. The bricks will be placed at the 80th Training Command Headquarters in Richmond, Virginia, adjacent to our 80th Division monument.

There are two types of bricks to choose from:

1. Standard Granite      \$195 Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Virginia "Hokie" Stone      \$295 Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ (Hokie Stone has metal colored 80th Patch)

Prices include brick cutting, surface smoothing, three lines of inscription, shipping and installation.

You may inscribe whatever you wish as it can fit on the three lines. If you're interested, please fill in the following information:

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Three lines of inscription: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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*Only Moves Forward*

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Doris M. Wollett  
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Sandston, VA 23150-5406

*Desiring to maintain liaison and comradeship with  
Veterans and soldiers of the 80th Division, and receive  
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DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SERVICE PERIOD:     WWII                       POST WWII                       CURRENT ACTIVE

PLEASE SPECIFY BATTLE / CAMPAIGN: \_\_\_\_\_

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

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP + 4: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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

CURRENT MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING (Dues paid to date)

**80TH DIVISION WWII VETERAN**

- NEW/ANNUAL DUES: \$20/YEAR
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**80TH DIVISION FAMILY / FRIEND / ASSOCIATE**

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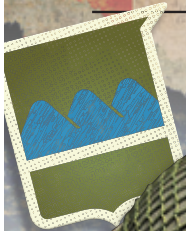


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THE \_\_\_\_\_  
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