

**Blue Ridge 80th Division
The Service Magazine**
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BLUE RIDGE

The Service Magazine
Volume 79, Number 319

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80th Division Veterans Association, Inc.



A. E. F.

Artois-Picardy
St. Mihiel
Meuse-Argonne

E. T. O.

Northern France
Ardennes
Rhineland
Central Europe

Featured in this issue:

Commander's Report.....	Page 3
Secretary's Report	3
Post Convention News	4
WW II Memorial	4
Flag Protection Amendment	5
Bill Zwick B-905 Appointment	5
Life Plus Club	6
Overlooked Reunion Attendees	6
Welcome New Members	6
Out of the Past.....	7
Mail Bag	8
McBride Scholarship Fund	8
Taps	9
Outreach Program	9
80th Annual Convention-1999	10
Unveiling of Plaque in Weimar, Germany	11
Reunion Photos	12-13
Post News	14-21

Deadline for the next issue is March 1, 1999

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, changes of address, dues remittances and death notices should be addressed to the Secretary/Editor.

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2 Year; Robert N. Nathason (L-317)

3 Year; Robert W. Smith (K-317)

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3 Years

George V. West (G-318)

Louis Cayer (80th SIC)

Joe H. Hege, Jr. (80th RCN)

Commander's Corner

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

Someone reminded me I failed to report in the Post-Reunion issue, the winners of the mail of the awards of the mail of the mail-in lottery that helps on reunion expenses. Thanks to all who remitted their support by returning their lottery entries. Payments were made to Frank Bayruns, Jr. (\$300.00), Ed Pushnik (\$300), Albert Boverio (\$100), Bill Costley (\$100) and Wilbur E. Harshbarger (\$100).



hesitate to respond with your pre-registration.

Attendance will diminish at future reunions and now is the time to think of those who would attend if better health permitted. Holiday cards are expensive and postage

has gone up, but you can still afford whatever it costs for renewing and continuing contact with every comrade on your mailing list. Add a short note and I'm sure you will receive one in response.

My personal cards will be mailed soon but to all Association members who read this article, I send to you Holiday Greetings and best wishes for the New Year.

Don't forget your next reunion chairman, Max Schmidt is working now to organize everything for Greensboro, NC August 25th/29th, 1999. Any comments or suggestions you may have are welcomed by him now. When you receive the reunion letter in Mid-March don't

Commander Sick

Secretary's REPORT

Your National Secretary wishes to send Greetings to all of you, may you have a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Due to the Roll Call and Patron listing being published in the last issue and the lengthy reports sent in from each of the Post for

the Post Reunion issue, and the arrival of a couple reports arriving too late to make the issue, copy was left out of that issue and will be found in this issue.

NEXT YEAR REPORTS WILL BE LIMITED. Sorry.

Post Convention News from 3d Vice Cmd Schmidt

*This letter was too late to publish in
the last issue*

I am sure that everyone who had attended the 79th reunion in Harrisburg, PA September 2d thru 5th had an enjoyable stay, and renewed some old acquaintances; and many familiar faces you enjoy sharing friendship and comradeship. I personally, met one of my buddies in the 317th Infantry after 54 years i.e. Harold Cookson (First Timer) and his lovely wife Gerry. It was a great and memorable occasion. My Congratulations to our Chairman Russell Sick for a job well done. It is not easy to chair a convention and assume the duties of the Commander at the same time.

I was deeply honored to have been selected to accept the plaque and Past Commanders Medal and Ribbon on behalf of Commander Henry Wurst who is still hospitalized. Thanks again to Angelo Barone and MC who made the presentation to me at the banquet Dinner, despite my emotional thanks and gratitude I might mention also, that it was wonderful to see Chaplain Col. John Woods in full dress uniform, after the misfortune of losing his luggage at the previous reunion. Thanks to his son, for his gracious consideration.

My wife Alice, PNP and I left the hotel on Sunday morning Sept 6 and drove to Greensboro, NC (approximately 390 miles). On Monday Sept 7th (Labor Day) we had called Hank Wurst wife,

WW II Memorial

World War II American Battle Monuments Commission has acknowledged our donation of \$1000.00 to the Memorial to be built sometime in the future. Hopefully it will be in time for us to see it.

Perhaps you would like to make a donation. The address is; American Battle Monuments Commission, P.O. Box 96766, Washington, DC 20090-6766.

Camille, to learn of how Hank was doing and inform her of the Convention activities and the recognition given Hank. It was suggested, that I express mail the package, which I did the morning of the 8th and it was received on the 10th in perfect condition. We later called Camille after her daily trip to the hospital, and she said Hank was very pleased to receive same, and asked her to place the plaque and medal on the wall at home, which she did. However, we had spoken to Sid and Marcella Haley, that upon their recent visit to hank, he now has them on display in his hospital room, so he can show it to all his visitors. He is truly proud.

Hank and Camille was truly missed by all, and we ask that each of you remember them in your prayers.

Congratulations to our Commander Russell Sick and to President of the Auxiliary Margaret Shock for a successful year of leadership in 1998-99,

*Respectfully, Max R. Schmidt, Sr
Vice Commander.*

Flag Protection Amendment

(S. J. Res 40)

As I had given a brief report at the National Business Meeting in Harrisburg, PA., I felt it would be in the best interest of all our members to give a brief synopsis for those who were not in attendance;

Nine years ago, by a vote of 371 vs 43 in the House of representatives and 91 vs 9 in the Senate, Congress passed "The Flag Protection Act of 1989." Later that year the Supreme Court decision (Texas vs Johnson) ruled and struck down federal and state flag protection laws in 1989. The Supreme Court followed suit the following year and ruled the Flag Protection Act of 1989 was also unconstitutional. In no uncertain terms the flag from desecration violated the First Amendment guarantee of freedom of speech. Further, the court strongly implied that no statute could be crafted to coexist with the First Amendment, because desecrating the flag represented a ligament point of view that deserved constitutional protection.

Last year the House of representatives passed a bill prohibiting desecration of the flag by an overwhelming vote of 310 vs 114.

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Max Cleveland (D-Georgia) introduced Senate Joint Resolution 40 on February 4, this year that would grant Congress the "power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the "United States". If the resolution passes the Senate with at least a two-thirds majority, it would then be

sent to the various state legislatures for ratification. A similar amendment failed to pass in 1995 by three (3) votes 64 vs 36. Senate will need 67 votes in favor to pass. PLEASE, contact your Senators by phone, or mail to express your voice for a "YES" vote.

If passed by the Senate - it would then be sent to the various state legislatures for ratification. These fourths, or 38, of the States must then approve the amendment for it to become law.

The above was taken from various articles in the various veterans magazines. In July 1998 issue of the American Legion magazine there was a breakdown of those Senators who support, and some who have not made a commitment.

Gentlemen, YOU fought for that flag and many gave their lives for it, let your voice be heard. Thank you for the time to read this. Max R. Schmidt, Sr Vice Commander

Bill Zwick B-905 FA Battalion

Word reaches the desk of the Editor that Bill Zwick had been appointed as National Deputy of Staff of the National DAV. This is in addition to his many other titles: Pa. State Dept Deputy Inspector General and Deputy Hospital Chairman at the Northeastern Veterans Center, Scranton, PA. Bill has devoted the past 18 years to volunteer work or a total of 5600 hours. Bill doesn't stop here he also is the representative for the Battle of The Bulge at the Wilkes Barre VA Medical Center.

We take our Hats off to you Bill, Congratulations on your new appointment.

Life Plus Club 1997-8

Life Members who contribute over and above the Life Membership. As of Dec. 1, 1998, I may have omitted a name. I assure you it was not intentional. Please write me if I omitted your name, it will be corrected in the next issue of the Blue Ridge. I wish to thank each and everyone of you who contribute, by donating you are helping to promote the 80th Division and help one who may be less fortunate than you or I.

Overlooked Harrisburg Reunion Attendees

Those overlooked who were registered or didn't have their name recorded as Patrons — It must be remembered that try as we might, names will fall between the cracks and be omitted from the original listing of those who attended the Harrisburg Reunion. It is also to be remembered none of us are perfect, and mistakes will be made no matter how hard we try to prevent them. Perhaps they who complain bitterly should be on the committee to help prevent these mistakes from happening. We apologize for our oversight.

We overlooked Leoma and Patrick R. Stewart E-318 from Inkster MI and Nils and Anne Erickson, H-318 both having attended and a listing as Patrons. Harry W. Colvin, Jr Sv-318, Davis, CA, -William Wilkinson Hq 314 FA Biglerville, PA, Mis-spelled name, Joseph P. Slifer, Jr At 317, Breinigsville, PA-Fred T. Garnett, 80th Sig, Coatsville, PA., Walter Smokie Williams E-319, Cordova, MD.

Gentlemen: While some of you have been faithful in sending in extra for the Life Plus Club, due to the shrinking membership (just follow the "Taps" column) and close to 60% having taken Life Dues, I am asking those of you who haven't been a part of the Club in the pass to consider making a donation over and above your Life membership. Thank You!

Edwards L. Daniel	80th Sig
NY Post 43 in memory of	
Hagan, William "Ted"	A-318
Haubner, Robert K.	A-318
Garnett, Fred T.	80th Sig
Peterson, James A. MD	C-318
Tagmeyer, Nathan L.	B-319

Welcome New Members

Blanda, Sam	E-317
40156 Corte Peralta Murrieta, CA 92562-3550	
Hirschler, Ruldolph	M-317
40-01 Little Neck Pwk # 19A Little Neck, NY 11363-1746 Omitted from the last issue	
Hollingsworth, Owen B.	80th Rcn
2308 Lee Street Waco, TX 76711-1941	
Longbrake, Donald C.	80th Rcn
1762 Wonderlick Road Lima, OH 45805-4509 (419) 991-2407	
Pretzer, Ted	E-317
365 grey Ghost Ave San Jose, CA 95111-2825	

Out of the Past...

CONTINUED:

How optimism and hope for a new break through by the American army could be sustained despite such sacrifices to the autumn's hardships is partially explained by the subsequent performance of Wood's division. Even without Wood, even after the long weeks of fighting in the vanguard that had left its men and machines as much in need of rest as its old leader, the 4th Armored persisted. When December came, most of the General Eddy's XII Corps paused to take a breath-but the 4th Armored did not relent in its exploitation of the defeat of the Panzer Lehr counterattack, seeking to drive into and beyond Sarre-Union, across the ground over which Bayerlein's panzers had advanced. Together with the 101st Regiment of the 26th Division on its left, CCB fought its way into Sarre-Union on 1 December. It drove back the 25th Panzer Grenadier Division despite a stiffening of tanks from both Panzer Lehr and the 11th Panzer Division. Through the battle for the industrial town seesawed for a while-the Germans rolled in again on 2 December and the 104th Infantry had committed to the battle-as soon as the place was secure, on 4 December General Gaffey sent CCA thrusting northward again. His next objective was Rohrbach-les-Bitche, a road junction behind the German positions farther west facing the bulk of the XXII Corps, and also astride the line of retreat of the Germans facing southward against the XV Corps of the Seventh Army.

At the village of Binning, on the main road from Sarre-Union to Rohrbach, the Germans proved to

have massed more than enough artillery to discourage assault. The ground as usual, was too soft for tanks to move cross country, so Abe Abrams, again commanding the advance, shifted to a secondary road a little to the west, approaching Rohrbach through the village of Singling and thereby outflanking Bining. Gaffey directed CCB toward Singling as well. When Abrams opened the attack against the latter village, on the morning of 6 December, he soon found himself stymied yet again, by a combination of the Bitche complex of the Maginot Line and German artillery on hills to the north, plus tanks and assault guns-fixed and mobile defenses formidably coordinated. At nightfall American tanks and armored infantry fought into the village, but enemy guns made their position intolerable. Most leaders and formations would have subsided before this parade of frustrations; Abrams and the 4th Armored were different. Amidst a noisy furor of battle at Singling, a company of light tanks with an attached segment of the Yankee Division's 328th Infantry sidled off to Bining and captured it by indirection after all. The 4th Armored therefore departed for rest and refitting, but it had opened a path for its replacement, Roderick Allen's new 12th Armored, to drive into Rohrbach on 10 December.

The effect was to hasten a general enemy withdrawal before a renewed XII Corps offensive began on 4 December, and thus to strengthen the American impres-

THE PAST: Continued on page 11

Mail Bag

Robert L. Wratschko K-318, 21429 Martin Street, Carson, CA 90745-1726, would like for you fellows from K-318 to drop him a line, he doesn't drive any more and time is heavy on his hands, sure would like to correspond...Charley Super, 80th Band wants to know why no one writes in about the Band. Can't write it I don't get. He is now 82, spent 40 years with the Penna RR. Kay Dover 5111 Agner Dr, Salisbury NC, Telephone 704-637-1276, daughter of John Clayton Dixon (deceased) formerly of "A" 317 who was a prisoner of war, would like to know if any of you "A" 317 men remember him. Also the date of his capture and what prison camp he was in. She and her brother wish to visit the camp he was in. Please help her. (The Editor would like to obtain a list of all prison camps, anyone have such a

McBride Scholarship Fund

A \$500.00 award is given to a student of Madison, WI High-school each year, in the name of our Commander, General McBride who attended this high-school. The fund is very low and only four or five years remain. At the Reunion in Harrisburg, those in attendance were given a chance to keep this award alive. The Sect was asked to insert an article in the Newslet-

list?)...Mrs Nancy Molin, was in the 780 Ordnance, would like to see an article from the 780th Ordnance... Bob Haubner A-318 writes all is well with him and hope all is well with others...Give that Buddy a Christmas gift, call him... Orville Sword sends along the word his wife passed away on 4 November 1998, we send along our Sympathy to the Sword family... Congratulations to PNC Felix Cistolo who recently was elected President of the Ohio Valley Chapter of VBOB for a two year term...K-317 1st Lt. Lowry (Lowery). Does anyone know this Officer? Could be E/317. Joined the 80th on 13 September 1944 and was WIA on 22 September. We find no record of his returning to the 80th after his being WIA. His daughter Shannon is attempting to find more about her father. He didn't answer her questions while still living. Help her if you can. 4106 Devon Court, Grand Praire, TX 75052...

ter for those of you who didn't know of the fund that perhaps you may wish to make a donation to keep this award alive. Perhaps my notes from the reunion omitted you if so please write so your name may be published in the next newsletter. A letter from the recipient must write as to how and where this award will be used. If a letter is not received, the award must be returned.

Barag, Richard D-317 Assoc
in memory of S/Sgt Irvin M. Barag

National Association in Honor of
Past National Commander
Sam McAllester Capt B-318

"TAPS"

Amos, Chester 5107 Weston Circle Centerville, OH 45429 Rptd by wife Joann	80th Rcn 10/15/98	McCarty, Eugene F. No Address unknown Rptd by Postal Notice	?-317 Date
Ball, Raymond H. 2174 Lake Road Akron, OH 44312-3839 Rptd by J. Ryan and Bill Engstrom	80th Sig 10/4/98	Morgan, David C. 425 W B Street #200 San Diego, CA 92101-3572 Rptd by Sid Haley	1st Bn Hq 317 S-3 7/7/98
Boronyak, Emil c/o 1507 Broadway McKees Rock, PA 15136 Rptd by Sister-in-law Helen	Hq-905 FA 9/28/98	Nicholas, David F. 843 Hillaire Road Lancaster, PA 17601-2260 Rptd by J. Phillips	Hq-315 FA 9/17/98
Bradley, Charles E. 4536 Manorview Road Baltimore, MD 21229-2833 Rptd by Daughter	K-319 6/98	Reay, James B P.O. Box 98 Dubois, PA 15801-0098 Rptd at NY Post meeting	A-905 FA 6/98
Christian, George L. 1225 McCracken Rd Cleveland, OH 44125-2929 Rptd by Fannie Wollenzier	B-319/80th Qm 7/7/98	Rightmer, Hulan W. Huston TX Rptd by Daughter Nita Schiro	B-317 9/17/98
Eastman, George Brevard County, KY Not a Member Rptd by O. Sword	F-319 10/13/98	Robling, Robert J. C/O 6107 Mikco Lane Indianapolis, IN 46250 Rptd by daughter Susan	C-317 9/2/98
Hagan, William "Ted" 23-5th Ave Northport, NY 11768-2805 Rptd by Wife, Mary	A-318 9/23/98	Saxton, Warren L. No address not a member Rptd by Caleb Hurst	80th Qm 12/14/97
Jennings, William 744 McArthur Street Greensburg, PA 15601 Rptd by Jim Phillips	Hq 313 FA 9/27/98	Thomas, Bruno Barberton, OH Rptd by wife Anna	80th Qm 10/95
Kosobucki, Anthony "Tony" Not a member Rosholt, WI Rptd by J. Trestik News Obit	? 317 10/20/98	Timpone, Edward "Tim" W. 963 Westglen Drive St. Louis, MO 63126-1119 Rptd by wife Martha	A-318 11/16/98
Marth William 1337 Allen Street Allentown, PA Rptd by E. Schappell	M-317 9/30/98	Waters, William F. No address not a member Rptd by Caleb Hurst	80th Qm 8/6/92
Sam McAllester, PNC 3506 Woodmont Blvd Nashville, TN 37215-1433 Rptd by wife Carrie	B-318 11/26/98	Wulk, Michael "Maxie" No Address not a member Rptd By Frannie Wollenzier	80th Qm 4/98

OUTREACH PROGRAM

The information for this has been misplaced. If you have it, please forward a copy to me. Thanks. For more information now, please call your VA.

Celebrate with the 80th Division Veterans Association 80th Annual Convention & Reunion

Where? Holiday Inn
Joseph S. Koury Convention Center
in Greensboro, NC.

When? August 25-29, 1999.



Mark your 1999 calendars now and reserve the dates for your reservations. This facility was voted the number one meeting and convention center in the Holiday Inn chain with 1014 Guest Rooms including 78 Executive Suites. Four restaurants, four bars and a host of services all located under one roof. Indoor and outdoor swimming pools. Complimentary parking for all types vehicles, and free transportation services from the

Greensboro Piedmont Triad International Airport, approximately 15-20 minutes to the hotel. More information will be forthcoming in future issue of the "Blue Ridge", relative to room rates, points of interest for your visitation and optional tours during your stay.

Let Greensboro show you Southern Hospitality at its finest. Max R. Schmidt, Sr. Vice Cmd, 1999 Reunion Chairman.

Unveiling of Plaque in Weimar, Germany

WEIMAR Germany is planning a celebration of the 80th Division liberating their town. I quote from an E mail sent me.

"Dear Veterans of the 80th Division! You and your comrades were responsible for the peaceful surrounding of the German town of Weimar. People of Weimar would like to contact you and to meet you. If you have any interest please contact: Brend Schmidt, Kurt-Nehrling Str. 62, 99423 Weimar Germany."

Gentlemen: I have the date 12 April for the unveiling of a Plaque to the 80th Infantry Division. Sid Haley, H-317, Max Schmidt, G-317 and Bob Burrows, Hq 317 are thinking of making the trip. We have no details as of this date to tell you what to expect, however, it is believed there is to be guided tours and a Museum to see and be a part in the dedication, also Buchenwald is but a few kilometers away. Worth seeing. If you are interested in joining these men, I suggest you write me and we will try to get all the info to you as soon as we learn. Start making your plans to go now as time is short and the next issue of the newsletter (1 March is the deadline) will be too late to plan a trip to Germany.

Bob Murrell Editor

Out of the Past... continued

sion that strain and casualties of the past two month might be about to pay dividends. Baade's 35th Division in the corps center had led off without artillery preparation, followed by Grow's 6th Armored and McBride's 80th Infantry farther west with a preparatory blasting by the guns. The immediate aim was to cross the Sarre River and, in the process, to capture the industrial city of Sarreguemines, which straddles the river. Surprise in the center and artillery preparation on the left were equally effective, no doubt because the opposition, the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division, had been drained since Normandy beyond even the capacity of German leadership to rehabilitate it without prolonged rest and retraining. While McBride's 80th Infantry captured high ground around Farebersviller on the corps flank, both Grow's 6th Armored and Baade's 35th closed up to the Sarre by the end of 6 December. Predictably, house-to-house fighting in Sarreguemines presented the most difficult problems of the attack; but it was less to clear the western portion of the city than to allow Paul's 26th Division to disentangle itself from Sarre-Union and close up on Baade's right that the advance paused at the river.

The 35th and 26th attacked in tandem before sunrise on 8 December, the 35th readily crossing the Saar, General Paul's division pressing into a sector of the Maginot Line. The standard, almost immediately counterattack against the 35th, conducted by tanks and armored infantry of the 11th Panzer Division, took so harsh

THE PAST: Continued on page 15

*Harrisburg, 1998 Reunion...
a time to remember, reminisce,
and re-establish friendships.*

PNCs at dinner...



Another dinner...
more PNCs



L-319th: Front row: Louis Blatz, Fred Eckelmann, Jim Young, Ray Greene, Dave Kirshbaum. Back row: Walter Cooper, Rudy Berman, Bill Krehbiel, Lemoin Vaughn, Bill Cople

Bob Murrell making presentation of stained glass to Jim Young, L-319, Lemoin Vaughn, standing, left.



Jim Young, L-319 with gift of 319 crest on stained glass. Lemoin Vaughn, standing, left, company member, seated.

Lane Hall Post #42

313 F.A. Bn

If you read your last Blue Ridge, you know that Lou Shirey is your commander again for 1999. Both Lou and myself wish all the members and friends of Post # 42 a Happy and Healthy New Year.

We are planning for another mini reunion in May 1999. I received a nice package about Mansfield Ohio, from Audrey Blocker for May 14-16. Fran Poletti informed me she is receiving a lot of good information from Scranton, PA., also from Hershey and Gettysburg. If you have any ideas about our mini reunion, write or call. More information will be coming your way after the holidays.

As reported many times, most all my news is bad. Dom Abbruzzese recently had a heart attack. Best of luck Dom. These golden years are beginning to get a little tarnished.

I just finished reading the book entitled, "Citizen Soldiers" by Stephen E. Ambrose. It is about the U.S. Army from Normandy Beaches (June 7, 1944) to the Bulge to the surrender of Germany (May 7 1945). If anyone wishes to read this, I will loan you the book. After a long struggle with myself, I did see the movie "Saving Private Ryan." It brought back some memories. If you think your heart can take it, try to see this picture.

Do you know that about 1500 WWII Veterans are passing away every day? (Editor Note. The 80th is losing them very fast.)

Got to close. Bob Murrell is waiting. Send news.

Jim Phillips, Sect/Treas.

305th Engineers

Post #40

Thank to Everett and Ruth Hanson for sending in the article for the last issue. There was too little time for me to be with the group except our dinner on Friday evening that I'll remember as the best in quite a few years.

After election to council, reunion chairman and on to Association Commander, I sincerely appreciate that our comradeship has no unit restriction. All Blue Ridgers have a close and warm family attitude to each other. All Post affairs bring as many smiling veterans together as you'll ever find in a unit hospitality room at an Association reunion.

Al Sacco sent word to me he can't travel to our gatherings because some age has developed a "bad" back and he has some difficulty walking. Jennie Woynaroski wrote a note to me and all is well. Dom Firmani didn't get to attend Harrisburg but says he was thinking of us and sent support for the hospitality room. Leonard Wolfe joined us briefly for the Dug-Out Party but had to return home to care for his wife. Our strong buddy influence can be felt even beyond Texas~Dick and Faye Cleary joined us from Albuquerque, NM. Sadly, many missed, but all those attending had a good time.

My past years of communicating with all veterans of the 305th Engineers Battalion generally peaks about now when I review the Post 40 mailing list and prepare a Holiday letter. Recent years I've mailed to all a special greeting including a special article of interest. Folks, I have nothing for you this year. In fact, except for a few

Out of the Past... continued

a battering with the help of artillery from the Saar's west bank that in Army Group G, the enemy henceforth felt obliged to modify a nearly sacrosanct article of his doctrine. General Balck ordered that hereafter, counterattacks should be launch only at twilight, during the night, in fog or bad weather, or from the concealment of woods. American artillery should be afforded no opportunity to break up the counterattacks before they were fairly formed.

In spite of snow and sleet, for four days the 35th Division struggled onward from the Saar River to the Blies. During the same days the Yankee Division penetrated and passed the Maginot Line, assisted by the scouring of Rohrbach by the 12th Armored. Though the 26th Division had not been in the line as long as the 35th, the autumn campaign in Lorraine had imposed on it a hard initiation into the war, and army and corps headquarters believed that Paul's troops ought to join the 4th Armored in refitting. After most of the division had gone back to Metz, the 328th Infantry remained in the battle long enough to inscribe the crossing of the German frontier into the division journal on the night of 12-13 December.

The Blies River proved a tougher barrier against Baade's 35th Division than the Saar, partly because its relatively high east

personal cards~this will be your Holiday greeting with best wishes for your New Year~Good Health. Write to me your news and I'll respond.

*Russell Sick,
Commander Post #40.*

bank offered the Germans a good artillery platform, partly because the 11th Panzer Division lay entrenched in a portion of the crossing area. The vanguard of the Sante Fe Cross Division nevertheless won a bridgehead on the east shore on 12 December, but then it had to fight a battle for the town of Habkirchen so severe that the contest cost the 134th Infantry more than half its combat strength. Soldiers of the 35th Division soon came to believe, furthermore, that not only the presence of Wietersheim's Ghost Division but also the reaching of the international frontier and the challenge of defending Germany's home soil accounted for the harder going beyond the Blies. Still, by 16 December the 35th Division and Major General Frank L. Culin, Jr's new 87th had carried the XII Corps to the outworks of the West Wall, and the opposing German lines betrayed evidence of a promising thinness.

Patton's other corps, Walker's XX, was by then well established in the outer works of the West Wall. From the corp's first small encroachment into the West Wall, when General Twaddle's 95th Division captured the two bunkers facing the Saarlautern bridge, the 95th had gone on to serious grappling with numerous bunkers and pillboxes that crowed the northern suburbs of Saarlautern.

At the morning briefing at third Army headquarters on 17 December, Patton invited Colonel Maddox to speak his mind freely about the proper course of action. Maddox proposed not a Third Army turn northward but an accelerated push eastward, into the rear of the German's in the Ardennes. Then,

THE PAST: Continued on page 16

Out of the Past... continued

he believed, Patton could break into the enemy's lines of communication and trap Rundstedt's main forces west of the Rhine. Patton agreed, but he said the plan would be too daring for the higher command. "My guess is that our offensive will be called off and we will have to go up there and save their hides."

It was 1030 the next morning 18 December that Bradley telephoned Patton and ask him to come to Eagle Tac with his G-2, G-3 and G-4 as soon as possible. Within ten minutes, Patton, Koch, Maddox, and Walter J. Muller were driving out of Nancy. At Eagle Tac in the Luxembourg state railway building, Bradley's G-2 staff displayed its situation map estimating as many as seven panzer divisions might already be charging into the Ardennes. Deferentially, with evident expectation of an explosion from his headstrong subordinate, Bradley suggested that much of the Third Army would have to follow the 10th Armored Division northward to deal with such an enemy force. To Bradley's relief, Patton by now had prepared himself for this design and reconciled himself to it. He would preferred to go on his own offensive, he said, "But what the hell, we'll still be killing Krauts."

Patton announced he would halt the 4th Armored immediately and concentrate it near Longwy starting at midnight. The 80th Infantry Division could set out for Luxembourg in the morning of 19 December. The 26th Division could be alerted to move in twenty-four hours. In fact, as soon as he left the conference, Patton telephoned Gay to stop the 4th Armored Division and the 80th in their tracks

and ready them for the northward turn. Gay should also brief Major General John Millikin of the newly arrived III Corps to prepare him to Command the movement.

On Tuesday morning at seven Patton and his staff met Millikin, Eddy of the XII Corps, and the VII Corps artillery chief to outline his plans for using the 4th Armored, 80th Infantry, and the 26th under III Corps headquarters, along with the VIII Corps which he assumed would be assigned to him, in an attack to rupture the southern flank of the German counteroffensive. He intended to drive, he said, along two of three possible axes—from the vicinity of Diekirch due north, from the vicinity of Arlon north to Bastogne, from the vicinity of Neufchateau north against the western nose of the German salient. He wanted to meet with Eisenhower at Eagle Main, Patton left a code name for each axis with Gay. The commanders were ready to move according to whichever code or codes he telephoned back from Verdun.

Continued in next issue

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Brett Post #3

This report arrived too late for publication in the last issue.

Our annual picnic and meeting was held at the Natrona Height VFW picnic grounds Sunday August 2, 1998. We had thirty people in attendance. PNC Barone, Cistolo, Lutusek, Murrell and Petrollini were present along with our Senior Vice Commander Russell P. Sick.

We would like to thank Helen and Mel Beers for the food they prepared. They always do a fabulous job. All we missed was the Honey Brown Beer.

Thanks to the ladies for all the goodies, I know I speak for the group when I say they were excellent as usual.

Our Lunch Club has been put on hold for awhile due to Essie and Tom Simpson being unable to handle it. They would like to thank all those who sent them cards and best wished.

I haven't heard anything new on Urb Weinheimer since he had his stroke. Helen Ferens looked very good following recent surgery. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery are with both of them.

It is with deep regret and sadness to inform you of the death of Emil Boronyak Hq -905 FA who went to his reward on September 28, 1998. We extend our condo-

Rcn. Post #37

Rcn Post #37
No Report

Post #44 Company M 318th Inf.

Letter from Sandy Best, states his wife had a stroke last March, has some effects, but is doing well. He also says he is okay but for his age and arthritis in both knees. Both had cataracts removed and can see much better.

lences to his family and especially to Ann, his wife.

Our current Officers are: Jack Barr, Commander, Mike Evanovich, Vice President, Al Latusek Sect/Treas., Bob Mc McDonald, Trustee.

At our last meeting it was voted to eliminate the dues and make all those presently members, Life Members, however, donations are appreciated. We are planning our Christmas party and a lunch meeting. Notices will be mailed when details are solidified.

Congratulations to Commander Sick for a great Reunion and to PNC Angelo Barone for a beautiful Memorial Service.

Al Latusek, Sect/Treas.

Co F 318 Post 46

Co F 318 Post #46
No Report

Reading Post #32

Greater Reading Post #32
No Report

Post #33 Co. H 319 Inf.

Goodbye Nineteen Ninety-Eight, welcome Nineteen Nineteen Ninety-Nine. We take this opportunity to wish everyone a bountiful Thanksgiving, a Happy Chanukah and a Merry Christmas.

In this coming New Year, we wish you all good health, good fortune. Lets all meet at the coming reunion in Greensboro, NC!!

We were saddened to hear of the passing of our good friend Luther Smith, 3d Platoon and a PNC of the Association 1956-57. He will be missed.

I was going to start "remembering when", but I'll wait till the new century. Maybe I'll get more and better news. I leave you now with these words...

Irv Robinson, Sect

317th, 318th & 319th Histories

The new 317 History is now ready for mailing, informative on a day to day basis. If you would like one, send a check for \$15 plus \$1.25 P&H to:

Robert T. Murrell
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Also copies of the "Operational History" are available. \$25.00 plus 2.00 P&H. *DO NOT make check to the 80th Association. Please allow six weeks for delivery.*

MY SECRET

"This secret of how to stay young at heart
Is something I gladly will impart.
Three things each day
I invariably do-
And I'll recommend them
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Each night turn your back
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Believing misfortune
will pass you by.
And when to a crossroad
you arrive,
Choose always the road
that will make you strive,
The upward,
the adventurous way,
And you will grow younger,
every day."

Neal D. Ireland

NEW ITEM 3' X 5' OUTDOOR 80TH FLAG

This Flag is priced at \$30.00, plus \$3.00 Postage. Orders are now being taken with six to eight weeks delivery, depending on the number of orders and the length of time I must hold your order before I have enough to have the flags made up. If you wish this outdoor flag make a check to Robert T. Murrell and mark it FLAG. (These flags will be made up from your order.) We also have Bolos \$10.00 plus 2.00, various pins at \$4.00 plus 1.00 P&H.

DV and DV Hqs Co. Post #39

This report arrived too late to make the Post Reunion edition.

We had seventeen people in attendance at the Harrisburg Reunion and all said they enjoyed it very much. Attendees included, Maxine and Bill Elzeer, Anti and Lyell Stevens, Joyce and Ralph Murnahan, Dee and Ivan Downs, Mr and Mrs James Christie (former Hq Co Clerk and first time attendee) Jim Sell, Bob Hanson, Bill Stephen, Stan Slack, and Jean Trone Walker.

We had a few last minute cancellations, including Essie and Tom Simpson, Essie was hospitalized with severe back pain. Tony Manganiello too, had to cancel because of bad back pains and is still under treatment. The Rudy Havliks didn't show, but I'm sure they had a good reason. Bob Lee had to beg off, as he just didn't feel up to it. I too didn't show because Marie refused to go to a Personal Care Home for a few days, it would have been too difficult for a non-professional to take care of her. We will try again next year.

Rudolph Murnahan was elected Post Commander at the reunion. Rudolph Havlik won the 50.00 Raffle prize and Jean Walker won the door prize-a Pen and Pencil set donated by Jim Sell. Jim was the host of the hospitality room and I understand he did a fantastic job with a lot of help from the Post ladies. Jim always had way with the girls.

Remember Greensboro, NC
in 1999!
Fred Buscarini

Current Report of this issue DV and DV Hqs Co. Post #39

Post 39 Vacationers include Bill and Maxine Elzeer who are spending Thanking week in Myrtle Beach, SC., and the Colonels Walt and Sally Burk who are also spending the Turkey week in Myrtle Beach. In mid-November our CIC Buddy, Tom McMillen left on a trip to Asia, visiting Hong Kong, Bangkok and Indonesia. Tom says that you've got to get close to the action to know what's going on.

Recent hospital visitors were Walter Burket who had Gall Bladder surgery in August. Jim Sell who had a hernia repaired in September after the reunion. Tony Manganiello who had surgery in October and is now under going therapy. All three are doing well. Essie Simpson spent the 3d week of November in the hospital, when her heart rhythm went awry. It took the entire week for it to stabilize. Essie says she would be on cloud nine if they got rid of the intense pain she has in her hip, and could throw away her wheelchair. Hang in there Essie!

Happy Holidays to all you Blue Ridgers!

Fred Buscarini

Company L 319

Company L 319 Infantry
No Report

Florida Post #47

Evelyn and I missed everyone who attended the Post meeting in November 1998 in Ocala, FL. We were unable to attend as Evelyn was in the hospital recovering from surgery. Evelyn is home now and on her way to recovery which will be a long slow ordeal, it takes us younger people longer to recover.

Virgil Myers called to let Evelyn know that she was in everyone's prayers and they wish her a speedy recovery. Evelyn sends her love and thanks to everyone for their cards and phone calls.

Virgil also informed me that there were about 29 persons attending in November. The hospitality room was a little tight but everyone had a great time over the weekend. This goes to show that Florida Post is not run by two or three individuals, it is run by the members which reflect what a great group we have. This does not only mean the men of the 80th but especially the ladies of the 80th.

Walter and Christine Cooper were on a cruise at the time of the meeting, can't remember where they said they were going but I bet they had a ball. We will hear all about their trip in March if not sooner.

Our March 1999 meeting will be at the Holiday Inn Melbourne Beachfront (same place as last year), 2605 North Ala, Indiatlantic, FL 32903. Phone (407) 777-4100/1-800-Holiday. Dates March 11-13, 1999. Room rates \$79.00 plus

Post #36 3d Bn., 317 Inf.

In the last issue of the Blue ridge, I inadvertently omitted the names of Betty Hook and Harry and Fran Nutting who also attended the New York Post meeting in September. I apologize.

We learn that in October Bob Smith went on a group tour to Greece visiting that country and its neighboring islands. The tour must have been a relearning experience historically and biblically.

Our traveling 80th Division ambassadors, the Barones, were at the Reading Post meeting in November and plan to attend its Christmas party in December. They will visit their son in Florida in late February and plan to be at the Florida meeting in Melbourne in early March. And, yours truly with wife Rose will spend January, February and March in St. Petersburg, FL.

We wish everyone a merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Bob Nathason, Sect.

tax. Reservations must be made by phone NOT LATER THAN 10 February 1999. Be sure to inform them you are with Florida Post #47. Wally Ponder, Sect

Cincinnati Post #34

Cincinnati Post #34
No Report

New York Post # 43

We had our usual fall gathering with 37 attending. This was at the Holiday Inn at Seneca Falls, NY. Attending were the following couples: Barones, Bedient, Bredbenner, Coward, Gaffney, Gehman, McCormick, Miday, Murrell, Norry, Nutting, Rajnicek, Watson, Wilson, Marsh and Palmietto, also Margaret Donigan, Betty Hook and Bob Smith. First timer was Ann and Charles Coward, Oswego, NY, I-318. We visited winery's and malls. Had a nice lunch at Wagners Winery overlooking Seneca Lake. Had to visit their beer and wine production and check out samples and all passed our taste tests. Some attended a football game in Ithaca and the home team lost. We did stock up on wine and apples for the long cold winter. We had a very nice Sunday noon buffet enjoyed by all. Francis Rajnicek won 50/50, Vivian Wilson won big basket of goodies from the Barones and Warren Gehman won the nice 80th Division clock made by Jack Wilson. We thank all for the nice White Elephant gifts for our drawings. We approved a full page ad for the 1999 reunion and cards were signed for sick members. Communications from Russell Sick (unable to attend) Bill Petrollini, Bob McDonald and Col. Guy Lentz, The Luxembourg Army's new Commander, and a good friend of the 80th.

We received news of the passing of Ted Hagan, one of our more active members. We sent a me-

morial gift in his name to Life Plus Memorial Fund of the 80th. It was nice to see Mayor Harry Nutting join us since he had to cancel out for the Harrisburg reunion.

Fall meeting closed in good harmony as the group moved home around the northeast.

Note future meetings: May 27031, 1999, for our annual meeting and election at Turf Inn, Albany, NY. Always meet at convention. Check the bulletin board for time and place. Fall gathering back in Ithaca at Bredbenners and Best Western Inn where we have excellent rates. This will be weekend of September 22-27, 1999, the last meeting for Post in this century. Time moves on, you had better join in with us. All Welcome, just need to know numbers for planning. A reminder to please fill out the data on the Post meeting forms in full, need this data in planning.

Some of you remember when we held our last fall meeting in Ithaca that we had guests a couple from Luxembourg, Nadia and Ralph Kohn, son of Camille Kohn, President of CEBA, Luxembourg. They had a son born on 22d of August, my birthday. They named him Kevin Edgar, after my name. Quite an honor for me. Ralph was named after Erika and Camille visited the U.S. Cemetery in Luxembourg, Hamm Cemetery, and noted the name Ralph on the greatest number of crosses. Very unusual, but shows what the U.S. means to these Luxembourgers and they still appreciate what we did to free them from the Germans.

Edgar E. Bredbenner, Jr Sect.

All of the past National & Honorary Commanders are looking forward to seeing you in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania at our
79th Annual Reunion.

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