

**Blue Ridge 80th Division  
The Service Magazine**  
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OAKMONT, PA 15139-1574

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# BLUE RIDGE

The Service Magazine  
Volume 79, Number 323

Winter — 1999  
Issue 4



Official Publication of the  
80th Division Veterans Association, Inc.

## A. E. F.

Artois-Picardy  
St. Mihiel  
Meuse-Argonne

## E. T. O.

Northern France  
Ardennes  
Rhineland  
Central Europe

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*Deadline for the next issue is March 1, 2000*

# 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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Service Officer .....	Felix J. Cistolo (G-317)
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Sergeant-at-Arms .....	Don Davis (K-319)
Public Affairs Officer .....	George V. West (C-318)

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

3 Year; Felix Cistolo (G-317)

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George V. West (G-318)

Louis Cayer (80th SIG)

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

##### 3 Years

Melvin C. Beers (C-319)

Walton W. Spangler (A-319)

Robert I. Simpson (I-317)

## Commander's Corner

### *Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Healthy New Year*



As I am composing this greeting, I am aware of the many Comrades and their loved ones who are in ill health and convalescing. Our Secretary and Editor Robert Murrell PNC is now recuperating at home after Gall Bladder surgery. As a result, it is questionable if this issue will reach the members before the Holidays. I ask everyone to keep all of them in our prayers

As your newly elected Commander, I have been active participating in Veterans affairs through the 80th Division and that of other Veterans Organizations that I am a member of. My wife Alice PNP, and I attended Florida Post #47 in Madeira Beach, FL. October 29th thru 31st and had a delightful time, as usual. I had participated in the Veterans Day Parade held in High Point, N.C. on November 7th. I helped prepare Gift packages and proceeded to entertain the Veterans at the VA Hospital in Salisbury, N.C. with a Bingo party on November 10th. On Friday November 12th I was distributing "Poppies" with the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I have received many complimentary remarks and messages from those who attended the Reunion, and I appreciate you taking the time to respond. Once again, let me thank all of you who participated and

contributed their time to make this Reunion a memorable one. I might add the Convention was a financial success. If deemed necessary, copies of the report can be submitted to all parties eligible to receive same, after it has been approved by the Trustees. We do not have an Executive Committee meeting scheduled at this time, by virtue of a motion passed at the Convention meeting.

Alice & I wish each and everyone a Joyous, Happy & Prosperous Season as we close the 20th Century and look forward to the new Millennium and our 81st Reunion in Louisville, KY.

The 80th Only Moves Forward  
God Bless All of You  
Max R. Schmidt  
National Commander



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## Secretary's REPORT

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Your Sect has recently spent twenty-five days in the hospital, five of which were intensive care on life support. Coming home after a diseased Gall Bladder burst.

After being home five days, was back in the hospital with infection another seven days. I am now home building up strength.

I wish all to know, Martha Wasik has worked with me for over five years to six years on the publication of our newsletter, and this issue you're are reading is hers completely.

On 2 November, when I e-mailed the National Commander that the National Headquarters was now completely shut down,

she and her husband Jim came to my home and opened headquarters and has kept it open throughout my illness. Two greater people you will never meet. I'd like you to send me your comments.

I am now home on a long road to recovery, and to those of you who sent letters that only I can answer, I'll get back to you when I can.

To all of you who called my home only to get my wife or daughter, I wish to thank you for those calls. To those of you who have sent cards, many many thanks and above all those who put me in you prayers, they were answered.

*Bob Murrell, National Secretary*

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## McBride Scholarship Fund

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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. It 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 Newsletter 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. The recipient must write a letter as to how and where this award will be used. If a letter is not received, the award must be returned.

### *As of 1 December 1999*

80th Association in memory of  
Claude E. "Ed" Schappell, PNC  
M-319 PNC Club in memory of  
Claude E. "Ed" Schappell, PNC  
Murray I. Kaufman, F-317  
In memory of Ed Schappell PNC  
E.D. McDonald. F-318  
In memory of Ed Schappell PNC  
Max R. Schmidt, National Cmd. G-317  
In Memory of Ed Schappell PNC

---

## — PNC Schappell —

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The time was 1973, I was standing outside the hotel in Columbus, Ohio, with my foot up on the wall of the hotel. With my arms folded, looking both directions, along comes a man whom I did not know, asking me, looking for a buddy? Yes, I replied, come with me, and taking me by the arm, he escorted me to his hospitality room. He introduced me to everyone in the room, needless to say, I don't remember everyone in that room but one man and he is now deceased, Joe Walker.

That man ("ED" Schappell) was instrumental in my being where I am today with the Association. Each year after that as I looked for that buddy that didn't show, Ed was always there to help me meet new people. He made it a point to do for others as he had done for me. Over the years, a strong friendship was developed, with my wife (Doris) and I making all the outings he had at his home. There was always a large crowd, and good times that brought you back time and again. The long open brick fire pit where all the steaks or chicken was put between two fence wire on long pipes and set on the top on the hugh fire that had gone to glowing embers where they were always cooked to perfection. Corn on the cobb, goodies made by the women and yes, the Poker game where a lot's of good kidding went on and always some one standing behind

you ready to take your place, should you drop out.

Ed Shappell later became Third Vice Commander and reunion chairman, taking the reunion to Louisville, KY (my former home). He put on a great one, having a large crowd. Ed later became our National Commander 1989-90 and made a great one.

He owned a Car Dealership in Ridge Lawn and later Perry Township from 1949 to 1978, selling AMC/Jeep. Ed passed away at his home after a long illness at 0925, 10/9/99.

Bob Murrell, PNC

### NOTICE

**If you are receiving the Blue Ridge Newsletter with it being forwarded to you, PLEASE send me your new address as I am receiving FOE (Forwarding Order Expired) at a cost of \$ 1.36 per copy. When I receive this notice, I have no address to mail your Newsletter. If you don't heed, don't blame me when you no longer get the newsletter. Editor**



## Life Plus Club 1998-9

Life Members who contribute over and above the Life Membership. There is no set amount, it's free will. As of 1 December 1999, 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.

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 75% having taken Life Dues, I am asking those of you who haven't been a part of the Club in the past to consider making a donation over and above your Life membership. Thank You!

Annon	I-318
Annon	I-318
Annon	E-319
Annon	
Blume, Bernard R.	A/B-319
Colvin, Harry W	Service 318
Dodd, Richard P.	Hq 317/318
James S. Drylir	A-318
Erickson, Audrey H. Mrs.	317
in memory of her husband Clarence	
Goode, Irving H.	K-317
Hovey, Richard V.	E-318
Jarr, Arthur W.	B-905 FA Bn
Moeberg, John Dr.	1st Bn Hq 319
Myers, Gerald V.	G-317
Parks, Robert E.	L-317
In memory of Emil Boronyak	
	Hq-905 FA Bn
and PNC "E" Schappell	M-319
Mrs Julia A. Patesel in memory of	
her husband Edwin Patesel A-319	
Peterson, Carroll E.	H-319
Pfledderer, Robert	CN-319
Rybarczyk, Alice Mrs	C-305 Eng
Smith, Robert W. PNC	K-317
Turner, Zane L.	H-317
Correction to spelling of name	
Cistolo, not Costolo, sorry	

## Welcome New Members

Anderson Kenneth		Thomas L. Stanley	Hq Co 319
27 Gleneagle Drive		31965 Corte Soledad	
Schereville, IN 46375		Temecula, CA 92592-6462	
Ballin, Joseph M.	Hq 3d Bn 317	Satterfield, Rhodney V.	F-318
1448 Janice Lane		7261 County Roas 52	
Munster, IN 46321		Dawson, AL 35973-3550	
Feingersh, Robert L.	?-318	256-623-2256	
29 Tidy Island		Sturtz, Richard W.	633rd AAA AW Bn
Bradenton, FL 34210		409 Stauffer Road	
Hagans, Neil A.	B-319	Stoystown, PA 15563	
12155 Franchester Rd		814-893-6258	
West Salem, OH 44287-9515			

## Mail Bag

Frank Soloninka, L 319 sends word, his wife had breast surgery the week of the Greensboro reunion. She is doing well and they are sorry they missed it. They will try to join their friends in Louisville. Frank states he is still having trouble with his feet... I stand corrected on the men who attended the reunion in Greensboro, NC. Robert W. Bugg lives in Pilot, VA, not Ellwood City, PA, Felix Cistolo lives in Ellwood City, PA., also Benjamin Alvarado is G-317. Sorry fellows I made this error... Bill Kuhl, Jr - A-318, writes Hope things are going well with you. Considering my age (80) Feb 5, 2000, I thank the Good Lord that I can take care of myself and our home by myself... **CORRECTION:** In the last issue in the Company L 319 Newsletter Anthony F. Muszysski's wife Helen, was entered under the list of Widows that attended the reunion, "Tony" wished everyone to know he is very much alive... HELP!... Mrs. Donna Cleland, 2107 N. 400 West, Rochester, IN 46975 wants to locate anyone from Hq Company ans A Company who remember her husband who was KIA on 12/25/44 . You may remember him as a cook, or as Acting Mess Sgt during basic training at Camp Forrest, Phillips, or Yuma, also Camp Kilmer. She is curious as to what happened to his buddy's, and mentions some names as Ray, no 1st name from GA, Lester Kerns (Baker in A Company) and James Chambers. Help her if you can.... It was a sad note I received telling me of

## Letters

### REFERENCE TO 2ND EDITION, 80TH HISTORY

In response to Ct Verheye's articles in the new 80th Division book concerning the events up to and after Buchenwald, I've a feeling that something is "just not right".

His discrediting of so many accounts and reports of the G.I.'s and his statement that "eye witness accounts" can seldom be considered as being reliable--are a bit difficult for me to accept.

I would like to know how Mr. Verheye after being arrested by the Nazis in February 1942, spending 3 years, 3 months in 17 different prison camps and still survive rather amazes me. Not only his being alert and cognizant of what went on in camp during its last hours but also for quite some time before the Americans arrived. To me, this is very bizarre!!

Just a month after the liberation of the camp, Mr. Verheye was well enough to be processed and flown to his home in Belgium.

Captain Robert Walker was the 317th's S-2 officer at the time. His account of Buchenwald, which I consider honest and accurate, is absent in Verheye's articles.

*Maurice Bill Costley  
Company C 319th Infantry, 80th  
Division*

the passing of Florence Young, wife of Jim of Company L, 319th, on 10/22/99. My symphathy to Jim. Jim and his wife were very visible at our reunions...



## “TAPS”

Amos, Chester Centerville, OH Rptd by E. Schoenly	80th Rcn 1997
Croley, Steve 12550 Lake Ave Suite 1201 Lakewood, OH 44107-1569 Rptd by Ralph L. Streng	L-318 10/15/99
Earl, Ira 763 Locust Ct North Wales, PA 19454-1175 Rptd by Fred Buscarini	Dv Hq AG 11/8/99
Fleck, Anthony Rptd by Rita Kutch	Unit unknown, 11/11/99
King, James A. 134 N Mercer St. Apt 106 New Castle, PA 18101-3715 Rptd by Louise Davis	C-314 FA Bn 5/20/99
Legrange, Paul R. 3419 16th St. Court East Bradenton, FL 34208 Rept by Caleb Hurst	80th QM Co. 10/21/99
Mohnacky Parma, OH Rptd by E. Schoenly	80th Rcn Date unknown
Mohr, Edward G. 170 Worth St. Iselin, NJ 08830 Rptd by son	K-319 8/11/99
Nelson, Vernon A. 2960 Oakmont Dr. San Bruno, CA Rptd by Milton Koffs	Dv Hq 10/16/99
Nussey, James S. Address Unknown Rptd by son	Hq 2nd Bn 317 10/17/99
Ramsey, C.J. Winston Salem, NC Rptd By H. Skerlong	K-317 9/26/99

## 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 \$16.25 P&H for EACH book ordered to:

**Robert T. Murrell**  
**630 Pennsylvania Ave.**  
**Oakmont, PA 15139-1574**

Also copies of the "Operational History" are available. \$27.00 P&H included. *(Over 5000 have been sold in the USA and Europe!)* **Make check payable to: Robert T. Murrell. DO NOT make check to the 80th Assoc. Please allow six weeks for delivery.**

Satterlee, Arthur H. 860 W 67th st Hialeah, FL 33012-6465 Rptd by Wife	Hq 2Bn 317 10/15/98
Schappell, Claude E. "Ed" PNC 371 Club Road Bethel, PA 19507-9682 Rptd by A. Barone	M-319 10/9/99
Walker, Woodrow W. 2877 Twin Arch Drive Danville, VA 24540 Rptd by Caleb Hurst	80th QM Co. 5/8/99
Westbrook, Eldon R. 252 N. Elmira St Trlr 41 Sayre, PA 18840-9677 Postal Return	E-319 Unknown

## Donald P. Schoo HONORED

### 633rd AAA AW Battalion

As the sun set on 30 August 1999, local officials and residents of DeKalb, IL, raised an American Flag to honor a Dekalb veteran and Holocaust educator.

About 100 people attended the flag dedication in Memorial Park-part of a surprise ceremony for Donald P. Shoo, a city resident and veteran of World War II.

The flag, a gift from the U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert, once flew over the White House, said Mayor Bessie Chronopolous.

State Representative David Wirsing, spoke at the dedication discussing the virtues of freedom.

To honor Schoo, a plaque was placed at the foot of the flag pole he helped bring to the park. It features a quote from John F. Kennedy: "A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but by the men it honors, the men it remembers."

Mayor Chronopolous proclaimed 30 August 1999 Donald P. Schoo Day in De Kalb.

"He is honored for his dedicated service to his country and community," Chronopolous said.

Schoo was recommended for the ceremony by Bobbie Kallenbach, president of the Congregation Beth Shalom, the Northern Illinois Jewish Community Center.

Kallembach said she has personal reasons for honoring the local veteran. Her parents were both sole

## WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

*"America's National Memorial to those who helped win World War II"*

If you care to donate to help raise the \$100 million needed to have this memorial, send your contribution of \$35 or more to American Battle Monuments Commission. Be sure to mark your check for the memorial and 80th Division. P.O. Box 96766, Washington, DC 20090-6766. Contributions are tax deductible. Anyone who worked in a defense plant or had anything to do in supplying our troops is eligible. Any gift above \$35 will receive a certificate with their name on it. It's later than we think.

survivors of their families during the Holocaust, and if not for men like Schoo, who helped to liberate concentration camps during the war, "I wouldn't be here", she said.

Before Schoo approached the podium, Chronopolous joked with him about the surprise nature of the ceremony.

"Everyone knew what was going on but you," she said.

"I'm overwhelmed", Schoo said of the honor. He told onlookers this is the greatest thing that ever happened to me. "I used to think that the day General Patton gave us a speech and said we were going home (was great), he said. "This is greater than that."

Congratulations Don.



## Target Practice

There was a time when I was just target shooting the way I had on my high school's rifle team. But, it turned out, I was no longer target shooting. One night, as our unit was going forward, it began to grow dark and we decided to stop for the night in a little town that had been evacuated buildings. In the morning, just as it started to get light, I went outside and saw, stacked against the wall of the house where I had slept, all kinds of German munitions, guns, rifles and grenades. It was obvious that someone had left there in a hurry.

Since I was a gun buff, I decided to shoot one of the guns. Besides, there was plenty of ammunition. I loaded the gun and put a couple of clips in my pocket; then, from the bottom of the hill behind the house, I aimed at a flat rock, about 300 yards behind the house. I got into a prone position and fired six rounds at the rock. When I began to look for another clip, I noticed activity all along the edge of the woods, and here came these German soldiers at me.

I was asked if they were firing back at me, and I replied, oh, no, they had their arms up and were carrying their rifles. Apparently we had scared them out of the houses when we had come in. They had gone into the woods and had spent the night there. When I started firing, they thought they had been spotted and were being shot at, so they all came out of the woods in a line. I stood up and yelled to them

to drop their guns, and they did. Then I yelled to my sergeant to come and help.

I was asked how many are there? I replied I have counted 13, and wondered if there were more of them. Most were young guys, maybe 18 years old. They were really kids, and I felt sorry for them, however they were glad to surrender after the night in the woods.

Our division went next into Austria, chasing the last German SS division. They had run out of gasoline, had abandoned most of their vehicles and were picking up the best horses on their way until they had become almost a mounted division. We finally subdued them and ended up with a bunch of nice horses that we quartered at a castle we had taken; and we did a lot of riding.

Two things stand out in my mind. First, before the fighting had ended. I delivered a woman's baby by lantern light in the basement of a farm house. And then, we took Ebensee, located south of a beautiful lake. Otherwise, it was anything but beautiful. Two miles away we found a concentration camp. Our combat unit had liberated the camp, which was filled with both prisoners of war and political prisoners. We found a furnace there, filled with bones, and when we emptied a swimming pool, we found bodies all over the bottom.

The war was coming to an end shortly after we entered Austria, the war officially came to an end,

## Weimar Plaque Presentation

A plaque was fully funded by the 15 veterans of the 80th that traveled last April to Weimar at the invitation of the Lord Mayor. It commemorates the peaceful and honorable surrender of the City on April 12, 1945, to the 80th Infantry Division.

Details have not been finalized by the Lord Mayor as to the location for the plaque and the actual date for ceremonies. If interested in receiving details when they become available and at your own expense, going to Weimar for presentation of the plaque to the City of Weimar, probably on April 12, 2000, send your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address if you have one to: Albert Haley 5707 Asphodel Court Spring, TX 77379 Ph: 281-370-3912 E-mail: AHaleyjr@aol.com

and our unit subsequently went back to Germany. Austria, by treaty, was reserved for the Soviets. In retrospect, the war could have ended many weeks earlier. After Kassel fell, our division and combat team sped to the east through Erfurt, Weimar, Jena and finally to Limbach, near Chemnitz. Berlin to the north was only a couple of days away. Our combat team could have taken Berlin easily then. But, again, it was reserved by Roosevelt for Josef Stalin and company. (Unknown)

Letters... continued

## From the National Auxiliary President:

I wish to congratulate Max Schmidt on becoming National Commander. Have a wonderful year. Also thanks Max for a fine Reunion in Greensboro N.C.

I wish to say it is an honor to become National President second time around. I have a fine group of ladies as my officers. They do a great job.

Brock & I hope to attend Past Meetings as we can. Of course we'll be in Florida for their March Meeting.

I know Bob Borrows is working very hard to make Louisville Reunion at the Galt House a fine time for everyone. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Louisville in August.

I just wish that more ladies would attend our only meeting on Friday. We have a very fine auxiliary and we do give some help to the V.A. Hospital Service. That is what our Raffle table helps take care of. We do get wonderful gifts and I thank everyone who donates for this table.

I wish to thank all who sent cards or phone called when I was in the hospital. I had my right knee replacement on Sept. 3rd. I am doing fine, I have returned to work.

I send everyone a Happy Holiday Season and an enjoyable New Year.

Naomi R. Brockman  
National Auxiliary President





*Captain Charles F. Schneider (standing, seventh from left), troops and medical personnel of 905th Field Artillery and their French tour guide (at right) pose in front of the Arc de Triomphe during a week's leave in Paris following the German surrender on May 8, 1945.*



ETO

*Men of 305 Engr Bn, 80 Div. use a German rock crusher to make road fill near Crutchen, Germany. February 20, 1945*

*Editors Note: The following account comes from Harry B. Long, from whom I had requested information on his internment.*

## *"It was not the Holiday Inn, but I survived it."*

I was captured 15 Sept. '44 at Atton while attempting to take 4 litter wounded and 4 or 5 walking wounded back to the bridgehead at Dieulouard and get medical supplies for our Bn Aid Sta on Mousson Hill, as well as re-start ambulance evacuation of wounded which had ceased by late afternoon of 14 Sept. The Germans cut us off and directed our 2 jeeps to their Bn Aid Sta. The story of Mousson Hill (p.15, 21, 22 of Blue Ridge) tells how the entire 3rd Bn, 318 was isolated for several days thereafter.

... I was sent back through the German Med. Evac system as far as a hospital in St. Anold, where our wounded were treated along with German wounded. They asked me to be present as a morale thing for GI's in their operating room. However, on 16 Sept., p.m. the hospital got orders to evacuate "because Patton was coming" and I was turned over to "Brown Shirt" military types and placed in a cell in a barracks-style brick compound down a hill from the hospital. There I met a 2nd Lt. from 4th Armd and a Capt. from 35th Inf. Div. There were enlisted POW's being held there in separate quarters from the officers. A couple of days later, the entire POW group was marched from St. Anold to Forback and entrained

(box cars) for the trip to Limburg. Rations were distributed unevenly (a can of corned willy for 'x' men and a loaf of course bread for 'y' men) which we had to do the dividing. At Limburg, we were "processed" and sent to separate barracks for officers and enlisted men. It was there that I found 318th XO Lt. Co. Herte, S-1 Capt. Pickering, Chaplain (Capt.) Glennon and L Co. 2nd Lt. Frye—all captured the night of 12 Sept. (approx.) when the Germans attacked our new bridgehead from Dieulouard. At Limburg for a week or so (during which B-17's bombed the rail yards) we were entrained (box cars) for the trip to Oflag 64 at Szubin, Poland. ("Oflag" being officer lager) This took several days as POW transport was not high priority on the German railways. Rations were about as previously mentioned. One night we were stopped at a station (where?) and the German sergeant-in-charge asked a local man if the Rotten Croix (Red Cross) could provide anything for us to eat/drink. The reply was "Nein—hier das Rotten Croix ist ein shisig kleine dingus." (My pidgen German) Meaning "a shitty little thing."

*Continued on page 14:*



At Oflag 64, we were again processed and I was issued dog tag KGF88856. (Kriegsgefangener = POW) and assigned to a barracks with other Lts—including a couple of paratroopers; one from 101st AB and one from 82nd AB. I had no further contact with the other 318th officers at Oflag 64. Rations were sparse, but were issued in bulk and prepared by American enlisted POW's whom the Germans assigned to that duty at Oflag 64. We ate at "family-style" tables with our 6 "cubicle" mates from each barracks. We took turns dividing the portions with the POW doing the dividing getting last turn at taking his plate. **Very Evenly Divided.** The "weekly" supplemental food parcels which the Germans had agreed to pass on to us from the American Red Cross did not reach us until about 1 to 7 weeks. The German answer was that "your comrades of the air have bombed the railways again." But somehow a boxcar of YMCA materials for stage-sets and costumes arrived for us to produce "morale-building theatricals"—the bombs missed that one! On 15 Jan. 45 (approx) we were evacuated from Oflag 64 because of the Russian advance from Warsaw and we made about 350 miles on foot to Parchim, northwest of Berlin. Starting with some 900+ POW's sleeping in haylofts along the way through snow across Pomerania and westward, about 425 of us were entrained (box cars again) to Hammelburg where we met up with several [hundred] POW's captured in the Battle of the Bulge. Gen. Patton's son-in-

law, Lt. Col. John Waters, was one of us and whether or not that had anything to do with events, a rescue attempt was launched from Acheffenburg by the 4th Armd. They got us out, but Lt. Col. Waters was wounded and had to be left in the Hammelburg Med. facility. However, the whole rescue failed the next morning and we POW's and the "rescuers" were all captured and transported by rail to Nuremberg. A week or so later, we were transported from there to Stalag VIIA at Moosburg, which was terribly overcrowded with POW's from camps all over German territory. However, we were able to obtain a "dispensary" of sorts for POW's which had meager medical supplies and I was able to staff with the help of an ex-med. school fellow POW until we were liberated on 29 April 45 by Patton's forces. In a day or two thereafter, I managed to get a ride out of there and caught up with 80th Div. HQ and then with my old 3rd Bn 318 Med Section en route to Austria. About a week after that, 80th HQ sent word to me to return to Moosburg and be evacuated. I had to hitch-hike back to Moosburg Stalag VIIA and caught a flight to Rheims, France, (via C-47) and then to Camp Lucky Strike, ship to USA, Fort Dix and 60 days R&R before being assigned to 27 HQ, 2nd Army at Fort Bragg, NC. (Later released from active duty and discharged 1 Apr 13 from USAR).

This turned out to be a lengthy recital of events, beyond what I had intended to answer your request for "a brief outline of the camp

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## *New York Post # 43*

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We hope to attend the Reading Post Christmas party in Dec. Tomorrow, Vets Day, I go to local memorial for 11:00 A.M. in park. In afternoon two of us go to local nursing home to talk to some of the patients there. We hand out certificates to those who served in the service, mostly men and mostly WW II. Always a nice gathering for them as they need some different entertainment to keep them occupied.

We had a fun, long weekend here in Ithaca with 31 attending. We had a full schedule and most were here for five nights. We were at the Tower Club at Ithaca College high above the area and overlooking Cayuga Lake Valley, at a special Vets night at local Elks, at Kidders Point for lunch on shores of Cayuga Lake, at Elks Friday night for fish fry, at Wagners winery on Lake Seneca, another Finger Lake, for buffet on Saturday noon, at local Legion for party and buffet Saturday night, at Antlers restaurant Sunday noon for more food and White Elephant raffle, at our home Sunday night for more food and drink and left town Monday morn. Every night most stopped by our home for talks and

where I was interned and how I was treated." My usual answer to people who ask me is "It was not the Holiday Inn, but I survived it." Take your pick.

*With best regards, Harry B. Long  
BSM(V), OLC, POW MED  
ETO (3), Am C, V med.*

snacks. They all had plenty of good food and much fun and nobody got lost. Award winners: Saturday at Legion was Kay Barone for 50/50 and very nicely gave most back to post. Sunday noon 50/50 won by Alda Watson, 80th clock, made by Jack Wilson, went to Kay Barone and big basket of goodies, from Barones, went to Dick Gibbons. Going to mention last names attending: Barone, Bredbenner, Donigan & Gibbons, Midey, Norry, Nutting, Murrell, McCormick, Rajnicek, Palmietto, Smith, Stepneski, Watson, Wilkinson & Wilson. Plus: Joel & Mindy Wilson, son of Jack & Vivan. You can pick out the National Officers. Sent cards to sick members. Many brought dips and foods and we thank them all. Drawings were at all events and all won something.

We return to Albany for year 2000, May 25-29, for annual meeting and election. All welcome. We return in fall to Seneca Falls Holiday Inn, Oct. 5-8, 2000. Remember, we also meet at the annual convention—check bulletin board for info. As we move into the next century we wish all the best, good health an happiness. Mark your calendars, now for dates.

*Ed Bredbenner, Secy.*





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## Post #36 3d Bn., 317 Inf.

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I received letters from John Daniel and John Firestone, both from Company I.

In one of John Daniel's letters, he is somewhat disturbed in finding a major error in the second edition of the 80th Historical Book. One of his men in his mortar squad was killed on Mt. St. Jean and in the Historical Book he is listed in two cemeteries as a casualty of the 319th. Just another snafu by the army. And what happened to the proofreading? The man's name was Joseph L. Wagner. In John's last letter he mentions a James H. Johnson who was clerk of I Company. Does anyone in Co. I have his address?

John Firestone writes he joined the 80th Co. I on December 18th as a replacement and assigned to a machine gun squad. Co. I at that time was in the area of Sarre-Union. He was wounded twice and after being in a hospital near Paris rejoined his outfit staying throughout the war. Does anyone remember John? He is retired now and lives in Titusville, Florida.

We understand Bob Smith attended Legion of Valor Veterans' Day festivities in Washington DC. Rose and I expect to be "snowbirds" in Florida for January, February, and March.

We send our prayers and good wishes to all who are ill and wish them a speedy recovery.

Just a footnote: Join us at the

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## Post #33 Co. H 319 Inf.

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Not much to report at this time, no letters, no cards. Spoke to Jean Poppen who reported that her family is in good shape at this time. Jean will have some minor surgery in a couple of weeks, no major stuff.

I take this time to wish one and all a happy Channukah and a very merry Christmas. In the coming new century, I wish one and all a healthy, happy, prosperous New Year. May the year 2000 be all you want it to be.

I trust that this August, when we meet again in Louisville, there will be more of us getting together. Hilda spoke to Jim and Ida Romo, he was an officer in Co. A and lives nearby. They send their regards to all.

Well, the pounding outside has begun. The workmen are here, so I'll close up my machine and go on my way. The association began to work on our home in June, we believe they will be finished by January. Again, wish you all a most happy Holiday Season.

*Irv Robinson, Secretary.*

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Hospitality Room on Friday night. Besides the refreshments, it's always good to mingle with others from the 3d Bn. and just chat away. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

*Bob Nathason, Secretary*

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## Co F 318 Post 46

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A note from Commander Warman advises that there has been a change in plans for RE-UNION 2001. Paul Fate and Bill Curtis graciously agreed to host the next reunion in Tampa, FL. However, Paul and Dorothy are moving to Pawley's Island, South Carolina, and Bill feels that his health problems would not let him assume the responsibility alone. Clayton has contacted Tom Pappas in Springfield, Mass., who has agreed to host our next reunion there. The original committee has offered to help in any way they can. We are grateful to Tom for "coming to the rescue", and feel New England will be great in 2001.

I had a nice visit with Harry Dunivan in Walnut Creek, CA., last week. He's still doing well, and is considering moving to a senior care facility. He's finally admitting that he's a senior citizen.

John Vonada sent information on a re-enactment of the Battle of the Bulge, to be held at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA., on January 26-30, 2000. If you like, you can re-live a part of WWII, with uni-

forms, barracks, chow, gear, and probably snow. If you're interested, call 301-384-6533. John advises he and Martha are well, with only normal aches and pains.

Benjamin Terry wrote to report the loss of his wife, Doris, last June, after 54 years of marriage. Our sympathy and thoughts are with him. He'd love to hear from fellow F-ers.

In January, Commander Warman and his wife will move from Cincinnati to Maryland. I'll publish his new address in the next issue.

I received a very impressive Certificate of Appreciation for our contribution to the World War II Memorial Fund.

Yours truly spent two wonderful weeks on a river boat cruise from Amsterdam to Vienna. Passed thru many of the cities we saw in WWII—visited Germans I met in 1945.

Mondell Tramel was recovering fine until he developed a cryptococcus infection (I'll let you rush to the dictionary.) He's weak but improving.

I am planning a mailer to all members in January, of all addresses, phones, and E-mail addresses that I have. Let's keep in touch with each other.

*Bob Fasnacht, Secretary*

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## 81st Reunion, Louisville, Kentucky Galt House West, August 23 - 26, 2000

For more information write to:

**Bob Burrows, Reunion Chairman**  
P.O. Box 453  
Broomfield, CO 80038  
Phone: 303-466-5818



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## Lane Hall Post #42

### 313 F.A. Bn

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The Millennium is now upon us. In 1944-45 who thought we would see 2000. I want to wish everyone a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

Our Post is ending 1999 with a bang. Thanks to all of you, we made contributions to the following: \$100.00 to the WWII Veterans' Memorial. \$50 to the Bell Carillon system for the Lorraine American cemetery in St. Avold, France. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recently made a two million dollar donation to the WWII Memorial.

At the '99 Greensboro, NC, Reunion, it was agreed by all present that our post will be administered by a 3-man board of directors, one being the Secretary/Treasurer, the other two for the year 2000 are Don Abbruzzese and Lee Hatcher. No commanders or vice commanders.

About the mini-reunion. As of this date, we have one offer, Winchester, VA. I am hoping for a few more. If you have any ideas or information, please forward them to me. More about the Mini later.

A note from Dom Abbruzzese. Both he and Jeanette are doing O.K. They recently entertained a couple from Corny, France, Elizabeth and Allen Gozzo. They have a museum "Thanks G.I.'s" located north of Pont A Mosson near Metz. They are very interested in articles from WWII. Dom has already donated some items. If you have any-

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## Rcn. Post #37

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*This report was received much too late for the last issue.*

The company held its annual get-together Sept. 17-19 in Sandusky, OH. Members and their wives had a good dinner Friday night at a local restaurant and returned to a very enjoyable hospitality room for the evening.

The following morning they had a guided tour of Sandusky. They closed their trip with a delicious meal at the Sandusky American Legion Post # 83, the largest American legion in Ohio.

There were members from IN, WI, MO, OH and PA. They are planning a get-together for next year at Sandusky.

*Reported by Louise and Ray Fritz.*

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thing that you would like to donate, get in touch with Don.

P.N.C. Eddie Schappell passed away October 9, 1999. I attended his funeral. P.N.C. Angelo Barone did an outstanding job with the 80th part of the services. Thanks Angelo.

A new address for Joel J. Dilworth: Canterbury Woods H 116  
651 Sinex Avenue  
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

The best of luck to all who are ill. Keep in touch.

*Jim Phillips - Sec/Treas*

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## Company L 319

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Regretfully I must report that Jim Young lost his beloved Florence on Friday, Oct. 22, 1999. I know that all of you join with me in extending our heartfelt sympathy to Jim and his family.

Per the family's request, in lieu of flowers, a donation was sent to the McLeod Medical Center Foundation in the company's name and the following letter was received from Jim.

*Members of Co. L  
319th Inf. 80th Div.*

*Dear Comrades:*

*Thank you very much for the memorial that you made to the McLeod Medical Center Foundation in memory of my wife Florence. It was very thoughtful and my family and I appreciate it.*

*Thank you again for your kindness and we appreciate your thoughts during our bereavement.*

*Cordially  
J. Givens Young*

*P.S. It was very gratifying to receive so much support from y Co. L friends.*

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Please make the following changes to your Co. L address book.

Max and Eleanor Coleman  
1292 Patricia Lane  
Heath OH 43056-6120

Lemoine Vaughn  
2601 Oakdale Rd. Suite C.  
Modesto CA 95355-

In conversation with Frank Soloninka, he told me that he and Helene will make a 110% effort to join us at the year 2000 reunion. It will be great to have Frank and Helene back after a few years absence. Betts and John are still living it up. He told me they would be spending a week at Palm Springs in early November.

Talked to Christine Cooper and Bill Krehbiel and am happy to report that all is well in their households.

My sincere apologies to Anthony and Barbara Muszynski and to Harold and Evelyn Ramsey. In my last report I listed Barbara and Evelyn as widows. I am happy to report that Anthony and Harold are alive and well. In the future I will check my sources before making such statements.

Please keep me posted as to what is going on in your part of the world and I will use it in this column. To reach me on line, my e-mail address is Hmeinolf@aol.com. (Hank and Maria) and my fax number is 410-792-4895. Would love to hear from you so that you could be included in this column.

*Hank Einolf*



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## **Post #44 Company M 318th Inf.**

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To all present and past members of Post 44: In response to the Sept. 20, 1999 letter from Bob Murrell and me, we received nice letters and checks from Steve Popolis, Gus Johnson, (new member) James Morrison, Bill Ritchie, and Garland Goodwin. Also a critical letter and check from Mrs. Jane Crowell, daughter of James Reville.

As a result of this very poor response I have no desire to resume the onerous task as Secretary/Treasurer. I am sure that Bob M., who is in very poor health has been deeply hurt by this lack of interest. Letters returned, marked "no forwarding address" from Bouressa, Best, and Keller.

I shall take pleasure in personally keeping contact with Popolis, Johnson, Morrison, Ritchie and

Goodwin, who cared enough to reply. In the meantime, Post 44 treasury has been paying for the \$80 ad in the 80th Division Reunion Program each year and will continue to do so as long as funds last. This is an ad dedicated to all M Co. men who have died.

I am returning all checks mailed to me since Sept. 20, 1999 expressing my thanks, at my expense and will return to Bob M. which he mailed to me, a check of the Post 44 balance.

*Regretfully, John C. Stumcke*

P.S. I believe the members of the Rifle Squad, under Sgt. Fife, which patrol I led into Kassel with the platoon of tanks the night of April 1, 1945, without losing a man, would have responded to me. Squad was from I Co. I volunteered for that patrol and was ordered to return to M Co. against my wishes after completing the mission.

*John C. Stumcke*

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## **Brett Post #3**

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## **305th Engineers Post #40**

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## **DV and DV Hqs Co. Post #39**

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## **Cincinnati Post #34**

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Secretary's Report  
NEW-"E" MAIL ADDRESS  
Divinf80@AOL.Com

Once again a reminder your copy must be in the hands of the editor by the deadline date to be entered in the current issue of the Newsletter. I go to press the following day, after the deadline.

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## **Greater Reading Post #32**

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It pains me greatly to announce the passing of one of our charter members, PNC Claude "Ed" Schappell, who contributed so much to our Post. He also hosted a National reunion in Louisville 1989. It is still the talk of the Association as he had the largest attendance in all the years up to that time.

At his viewing and Military Funeral, which was well attended, PNC Angelo S. Barone read this poem, with his permission, I'm including it in our Post news:

*Today we lost  
a Friend and Buddy  
We know not the reason why  
God surely must have  
wanted him  
Or he would not have let  
him die*

Most of our other members have their health problems, including myself, who had a carpal tunnel operation on my writing hand. The feeling isn't all there but my Doctor tells me to be patient.

Not too many made their way to Greensboro but from all reports, Commander Schmidt put on a good show even without my assistance (Ha! Ha!)

On the 18th of December we are having our annual Christmas dinner at the Crystal Springs Restaurant at 4 p.m. We would be honored to have our National Commander and wife as our guest.

As you probably know, our editor is having some new health problems, so I will make this short and wish him a speedy recovery. And to

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## **Florida Post #47**

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Due to personal reasons, Wally Ponder has retired as secretary of Post #47. As our original secretary, he always did an outstanding performance of duties. I cannot emulate him but I will do my best.

Our fall meeting at Madeira Beach was another success. Mother nature cooperated with good weather and dolphins playing daily in the surf. There is interest in returning here in the future.

We missed Evelyn Ponder who is in the hospital. Our prayers are with her.

Among the 37 attendees were Max Schmidt, National Commander and his wife, Eric Reilinger, Third Vice Commander and his wife, and Kay Rajnicek, Secretary of the womens' Auxiliary.

The Spring meeting will be March 9 thru 11, 2000, at the Holiday Inn Ocean Front, 2605 North A1A, Indiatlantic, FL, 32903 (same place as the last few years). Phone 407-777-4100. Room rates \$85 plus tax. Reservations must be made by phone no later than February 8, 2000.

*Francis Rajnicek, Secretary*

**Ed. Note:** *The wife of Wally Ponder, Evelyn, passed away on 12/2/99 after a long illness.*

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all my friends here in Reading who are ailing, I also wish them better health ahead.  
PNC Lou Shirey  
Secretary-Treasurer



All of the past National & Honorary Commanders are looking forward to seeing you at the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Reunion August 23 to 26, 2000 in Louisville, Kentucky

*Frank Terrizzi, President*  
*William Petrollini, Vice President*  
*Felix Cistolo, Secretary / Treasurer*

**Brett Post No. 3  
Pittsburgh**

**Mike Evanovich, Commander**  
371 Shady Ave.  
Wilmerding PA 15148-1345

**Melvin Beers,**  
Secretary/Treasurer

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

Robert W. Smith  
Commander

Robert N. Nathason  
Secretary / Treasurer

**Greater Reading Post No. 32**

Warren Gehman, Commander  
PNC Lou Shirey, Sec't/Treas.  
1415 Lorraine Road  
Reading, PA 19604-1861  
Phone: 610-478-9034

*Breakfast Meetings 9 a.m.*  
*Crystal springs Restaurant*  
*3rd Saturday of March, June & Sept.*

**LANE-HALL  
POST #42**

Director: Dominick Abbruzzese  
Director: Lee R. Hatcher  
Jim Phillips, Secretary / Treasurer

420 South Hanover St.  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022-2518  
(717) 367-5094

**CINCINNATI  
POST #34**

Floyd Warner  
Commander  
Art Rehling, Treasurer  
4656 McNeil Ave., Cincinnati OH 45212-2541  
(513) 631-0031

**David C. Orr, Post Rep.**  
831 Phillips St. Grayville, IL 62844-1711

**305th  
Engineer Battalion  
Post No. 40**

Russell P. Sick, Commander  
3131 Pleasant Avenue  
Hamilton, OH 45015-1740  
Byron Dovenbarger, Secretary  
3755 Meadowbrook Drive  
Zanesville, OH 43701-1121

**2000 DUES NOW PAYABLE  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**



**80th Division Veterans Association**  
630 Pennsylvania Ave., Oakmont, PA 15139-1574

New Member       Renewal

*Desiring to maintain liaison and comradeship with the men of the Blue Ridge Division... and to receive the quarterly Blue Ridge Service Magazine, I desire to enroll as a member. Enclosed \$10.00 dues for one year.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_

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

CITY / STATE / ZIP + FOUR: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Make Remittance Payable to: 80th Division Veterans Association.*

**NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY**

**1999 - 2000**

**Naomi Brockman, President**

Cara Lee Davis, 1st Vice President  
Charmaine Laing, 2nd Vice President  
Kay Rajnicek, Secretary — Helen Beers, Treasurer  
Betty Hook, Chaplain — Rita Kutsch, Historian  
Doris Murrell, Sgt. at Arms — Helen West, Sgt. at Arms

**Co. "H" 319th Inf  
POST #33**

ORAN LEDBETTER  
Commander

IRV ROBINSON  
Secretary

**FLORIDA  
POST #47**

George M. Bell Sr. (F-319)  
Commander  
Wallace G. Ponder (B-305 Eng)  
Secretary  
4010 Leila Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33616-1117  
(813) 839-0648