

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

The Service Magazine
Volume 80, Number 325

Summer — 2000
Issue 2



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 September 14, 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.

2000-2001

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Flag Sergeant Andrew B. Ferens (M-317)
Color Sergeant Albert J. Cresson (C-315 FA)
Sergeant-at-Arms Don Davis (K-319)
Public Affairs Officer George V. West (C-318)

TRUSTEES

1 Year; Robert N. Nathason (L-317)
2 Year; Robert W. Smith (K-317)
3 Year; Felix Cistolo (G-317)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1 Year

Gerald V. Myers (G-317)
Albert S. Haley (H-317)
Laverne J. Schock (F-317)

2 Years

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)

TUM PAPPAS

Commander's Corner

My term of office as your National Commander for the year 1999-2000 will soon end. As I compose this message, I will have three months remaining to serve you, before I turn the Gavel over to the new Commander in Louisville, KY. It is incredible, how quickly one year passes by.



tional President Naomi Brockman PNP. As Commander, it is gratifying to know we have such a fine and dedicated Auxiliary. I am confident their programs will continue in a progressive and productive manner.

My regrets that the Flag Protection Amendment S.J.

Res.#14 failed in the U.S. Senate on March 29th by a vote of 63 Yea and 37 Nay—4 short of a 2/3 Majority. It is now a dead issue. If you had not written you Representative and/or Senator, and wish to know how they cast their vote, I will have this information available for you at our Convention in Louisville, KY.

By now, you have received your Registration envelope for the 81st Annual Convention from Sr. V.C. Robert Burrows. Please return same on a timely basis. Last minute response can create additional hardship on your Chairman. Please cooperate. I am looking forward to seeing you in Louisville, KY. Safe arrival.

My wife Alice PNP, and I have fond memories that we shared with so many during the year.

Thank you all!

God Bless All of You
Max R. Schmidt
National Commander

As I look back over my term of office, which began in Greensboro, N.C.. I will reminisce about visitation to the Florida Post #47 in Maderia Beach and Melbourne. Also, N.Y.Post #43 in Albany. In addition, I attended with several other members the 318th Regiment Dinner at Ft. Meade, MD. I want to thank everyone whom I have been in contact with for their cooperation and hospitality extended to me, and my wife Alice PNP.

A special 'Thank You' to all my Officers and Committee personnel who served with me during my year as Commander and as Chairman of the 80th Convention. Without your gracious support and cooperation, my term could have been arduous.

As the Past National Commander 's had the support of the Ladies Auxiliary, I too have had the offer of assistance from Na-

HEADQUARTERS
80TH DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
1200 Hours, 31 May 2000

ATTENTION: ALL PERSONNEL

Report to the Galt House Hotel, Fourth at River Road, Louisville, KY
WHEN: 23 thru 26 August 2000 For R&R, 81st Annual Reunion
Room Rates \$72.00
Hotel Phone Number: 800-843-4258

This year we will be in the Hotel Tower. (Less walking for us older and becoming more in firmed each year!) Closer to the meeting rooms and Restaurants.

COMMANDERS RECEPTION

Bing Group for Entertainment

DUGOUT PARTY

Huber Winery, Starlite, Indiana
Ribs and Chicken Bar B Que, Jazz Trio

MEMORIAL SERVICE

All Personnel to wear 1st Class Clothing,
Authorized Ribbons and Badges

LADIES LUNCHEON

Naomi Brockman, Ladies Auxiliary President

DINNER/DANCE

Pendulum Orchestra for Entertainment

Please Note: Miniature Ribbons and Badges can be purchased from the following: (I am sure there are others) Vet's Supply Line, 10650 City Rd 81, #131, Maple Grove, MN 55369 Toll Free Telephone: 1 800 864 5062. Medals Of America, 1929 Fairview Road, Fountain Inn, SC 29644 Telephone 864 862 6425 Fax 864 862 7495

Registration Forms have been mailed, if you did not receive one contact your Reunion Chairman.

Bob Burrows, Reunion Chairman
Box 453
Broomfield, CO 80038-0453
Telephone 303 466 5818

Life Plus Club 1999-2000

Life Members who contribute over and above the Life Membership. There is no set amount, it's free will as of 1 June 2000, 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
Anon	I-318
Anon	I-318
De'Muro, Jerry A.	L-318
Dolan, John J.	C-319
Edleman, Richard G.	AT 317
Fyre, Fran	Sig Corp
Kachuar, Mike	Hq 318
Merritt, Kerry G.	F-319
Patterson, Raymond W.	A-317
Pfledderer, Robert H.	Cn-319
Sushereba, John A.	C-318

Weimar Plaque Presentation

Saturday, October 7, 2000

Expected to be a major event. Efforts are being made to arrange for a US General officer and a 40 piece US Military band to participate in the ceremonies. We meet at the Frankfurt airport on October 5 for transportation to Weimar and return to Frankfurt on October 11 for flights home. Cost of our bus fare to Weimar and return is \$100.00 per person. Intercity Hotel (near RR Station) \$65.00/day for double room with breakfast. Bus transportation available to all parts of the city. Dorint Hotel (near center of Weimar) \$110.00/day for double room. Buffet breakfast about \$12.00 day extra. (The prices shown in \$ is figuring the DM at .48 cents US)

We should all stay at the same hotel. I would appreciate anyone who is remotely interested in going on the Weimar trip, advising me which hotel they would prefer and arrangements will be made at the hotel selected by the majority replying.

There are now 17 names on the trip list. If interested in attending at your own expense and receiving additional information when it becomes available, send, as soon as possible, your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address to:

Albert Haley
5707 Asphodel Court
Spring, TX 77379

Ph: 281-370-3912
E-mail AHaleyjr@aol.com

Welcome New Members

Albertson, Jack 2684 NC 50 S Rose Hill, NC 28458 919-289-2575	319
Beckman, Charles 134 Hillside Lane Whiteland, IN 46184	C-318
Byrum, Murray 102 Cypress Drive Edenton, NC 27932-1606	A-318
Opheim, Victor RR 1 BOX 649 Lubbock, TX 79401-9658	Hq-319
Richards, Don 2220 DeSousa Court Topeka, KS 66611-1621	317th
Van Buren, Charles R. HC 1 Bob 600 Skanee, MI 49962-9701	G-317
David, David G. 909 East Dubail South Bend, IN. 46613	E-319 Assoc
Richards, Donald P. 2220 De Sousa Ct Topeka, KS 66611	317th
Stouder, Phillip J. 1665 Wesleyan Dr # 620 Macon, GA 31210	E-319 Assoc
Stouder, Randy P. 909 East Dubail South Bend, IN 46613	E-319 Assoc

McBride Scholarship Fund

A challenge has come from Carl Henry. He has made a donation, and if four others will donate \$500.00 by July 1, 2000, then he will up his donation to \$500.00. With what is in the Fund now, and the above if donated, along with interest will be self supporting for thirteen plus years.

TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE.

Becher, William E.	Hq Div Arty
Mercer, Paul L.	B-318
Patesel, Mrs Julia A.	A-319
in memory of her Hudband Ed.	
Vaughn, Lemoin	L-319
Williams, George J.	E-317

— WANTED —

Doctor Dan Stuart of the 305th Medical Battalion is in need of either the Turner Vol. I or II, 80th Division History Book.

Perhaps someone of you who having read the History, is willing to part with it, or a widow, who has the book and is willing to sell it, please contact the editor. I am receiving requests by a number of people who are willing to purchase your book

Odds & Ends

The human brain is insensitive to pain. Headaches results from nerves and muscles lining it. There are no nerves in the brain.

Mail Bag

A note from the wife of Bernard Wolf 80th Rcn, writes he is having a birthday on 4 April, 2000 and will be 90 years old, however he is a bed patient, being cared for at home. He is on a G. Tube with continuous feeding, but still alert. You guys and gals, drop the boy a line. RR1, Box 397, Flemington, WV. 26347-9313... Mrs. Gaylord David writes her husband passed away on 11/22/99 after a long illness fighting back after each surgery. He suffered two strokes. He was hospitalized since April and thought he would make this time but didn't make it. She wishes to thank Bob Parks for the reporting of his death. She wishes to continue the Blue Ridge and sent in a donation.... Those of you with a computer and on the net, check out www.luxembourg.co.uk/NMMH/.... Word comes from Elmer Dorsten, A-318 had open heart surgery, and had the Aortic Valve replaced with a Calf Valve and Pacemaker. Out of the Hospital in 6 days and 30 days later released. Expects to see his friends in Louisville...Had word that Ray Dumrauf has had a stroke and still in the hospital at the time of going to press. Unable to speak or swallow. Being fed by a tube... John Daniels, I-317th write he fell asleep in his easy chair after dinner, got up too fast and had a black out. He fell and hurt himself very badly, and could not sit at his typewriter. But on 20 April the pain left him. Got to spend some time with the Nathason's in Florida. Would welcome visits from his buddies. 6800-18th St N., St Petersburg, FL 33702-6548. Tele: 727-526-9616

HELP!

Roy Denman, 11236-18th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98146, is asking our help in finding the three 80th Division men who found him wounded and helped get him to Nancy and medical help. Roy was wounded on the 9th late in the evening and was found on the 10th of October 1944.

He has sent the editor, Action against enemy reports, from 8 October through 10 October 1944 of the 6th Armored Division. I quote: "I saw action on 8 October near Ajoncourt, Arroye-et-Han, Chenicourt, Jeandelincourt. 9 October I saw action around Leyr and made contact with the 319 Inf on the left and the 317th on the right at 1700. On the 9th saw action around Du Trappes Woods and the high ground beyond. I was wounded in this action while being relieved by foot infantry troops."

From reading this report I gathered he was in the area west of Leticourt. The report states when evacuation parties went back for the wounded, fire came down again. Every time anyone came near that point fire came down again, each time he was left in that area. He was picked up on the 10th at about 2230 by men of the 80th Division. Were you one of the group?

Odds & Ends

"Jawdaws love my big sphinx of quartz" is the shortest sentence created to use all letters of the alphabet.

"TAPS"

		Falat J. C/o 1229 W. Penn Blvd Uniontown, PA Rptd by Brother	Unknown 8/1/99	Marchi, Carl 14 Sunset Dr. Cromwell, CT 06416-1318 Rptd by Reunion Chairman	H-317 Unknown	Walker, Ivan W. Unknown 2291 Jamaica St, Aurora, CO ? Rptd bt Reunion Chairman	Unknown
Austin, Forrest A. Casey County Dunnville, KY 42528 Rptd by Son	80th QM 3/8/99	Gallagher, Edward D. 5889 Chestnut Hills Dr Parma, OH 44129-3539 Rptd by Postal Return to Reunion Chairman	F-318 3/14/00	Mason, Darrell 11405 Fowlex Ave Omha, NE 68164-2222 Rptd by son	80th Sig 10/2/99	Walker, Loren H. 2109 Mason Rd Burling, IA 52601-3132 Rptd by LeRoy Pierce	80th MP 3/12/00
Bader, Henry M. 212 Rose Bud Ave E Rosebud, MO 63091 Postal Return marked Deceased Rptd by Reunion Chairman	L-317 Unknown	Gowden, William, Jr. 412-5th street Dunmore, PA 18512-2757 Rptd by Poatal Return to Reunion Chairman	A-315th FA Bn 3/20/00	Mc CartyTheodore M. 2517 E. 126th Way Thornton, Co 80241-2761 Rptd by Daughter	Hq-905FA Bn 3/00	Weeks, Wilmot L. 356 River Isle Bradenton, FL 34208-9048 Rptd by Family	B-318 2/16/99
Brown, Courtney HC 70, BOX 665 Sandy Hook, KY 41171 Rptd by Caleb Hurst	80th QM 10/15/96	Groves, Charles H. 16 Main Street Felton, PA 17322-9019 Rptd by E. Steger	Hq 305 Med 1/1/00	O'Brien, Charles M. 1640 Boulevard PEEKSKILL, NY 10566-4817 Rptd by Thomas F. Murphy	C-305 Eng Date unknown	Webster, Darwin R. 8352 State Road North Royalton, OH 44133-2045 Rptd by Adm of Estate	Hq-314 FA Bn 4/15/2000
Cheeks, Robert C. 12476 Steubenville Pike Liston, OH 44432 Rptd by A.J. Ceirno	C-305 Eng 11/11/99	Harrison, James H. 3736 Atlantic Hwy Athens, GA 30606-3134 Rptd by Postal Return to Reunion Chairman	80th Sig 7/25/99	Pape, Carl W. 4026 NE Hasssalo Street Portland OR 97232 Rptd by Wife	Sv-318 4/14/00	West, Daniel E. Major 1989 Heather Cove Memphis, TN 38119 Rptd by Caleb Hurst	80th QM 6/30/99
Clayton, Donald A. 3915 Maple Leaf Lane Ellenton, FL 34222 Rptd by Wife Grace	K-318 8/10/99	Hammond, Harry 8416 Paddle Creek Catlettsburg, KY 41129 Rptd by Tim Rice	L-317 5/1/00	Saks, Harold 100 West Ave F-27 Beaver Hill South Jenkintown, PA 19046 Rptd Postal Return to Reunion Chairman	D-317 4/7/00		
Cleaton, John G. 8568 Granby Street Norfolk, VA 23503-4816 Postal Notice	E-318 Unknown	Herzog, La Verne 840 Santa Ana St #160 Alamo, TX 78516-0160 Rptd by wife	B-317 2/4/00	Sikora, Joseph 27 N Wtight St Griffith, IN 46319-2655 Rptd by daughter	80th Sig 3/17/00		
Croley, Stephen 127 Public Sq. F1 18th FL Cleveland, OH 44114 Rptd by C. Buss (Home)	L-318 10/15/99	Hicks, Robert A. 727 South Pantiano Pkwy Tucson, AZ 85710 Rptd by Fred Buscarini	Dv Hq Mess Sgt 4/27/00	Stewart, Herbert Not a member and no address given Rptd By Ralph Rocco	H-319 3/13/00		
D'Aguanno, Joseph 7824-73rd Place Glendale, NY 11385 Rptd by Niece	Sv 318 1/6/00	Kozlowsky, Edward RR1, Box 87K Uniondale, PA 18470 Rptd by Wayne Jacobs	M-317 2/17/00	Taylor, Mack Jr. 3703 Oakridge Blvd Killeen, TX 765488642 Rptd by Jim Huey	Hq-318 10/16/99		
Fabian, John T. 5770 Pontiac Lake Rd Waterford, MI 48327 Rptd Postal Return to Reunion Chairman	D-317 3/14/00	Lambert, Charles E 4890 Neff Road Grove City, OH Rptd by son	A-315th FA Bn 4/29/00	Trestik, James 836 County Road N Hilladore, WI 54454-9500 Rptd by Postal Notice	Hq-314 FA Bn 3/00		

SUBMITTED BY
LLOYD BOWLES, A.C. SERVICE 319TH

Prayer General Patton had the Division Chaplin compose:

*Almighty and most merciful Father,
we humbly beseech Thee of Thy
great goodness to restrain these
immoderate rains with which we
have had to contend. Grant us fair
weather for Battle. Graciously
hearken to us as soldiers who call
upon Thee that armed with Thy
power, we may advance from
victory to victory, and crush the
oppression and wickedness of our
enemies and establish Thy justice
among men and nations.*

Amen

Grandmother's Day

By Ora Clark of
Tukwila, Washington

Grandmother on a winter's day
Milked the cows and fed them hay
Slopped the hogs, saddled the mule
Got the children off to school.

Did the washing, mopped the floors
Washed the windows
and did the chores
Cooked a dish of home-dried fruit
And pressed her husband's
Sunday suit.

Sweep the parlor, made the bed
Baked a dozen loaves of bread
Split some firewood and lugged it in
Enough to fill the kitchen bin.

Cleaned the lamps and put in oil
Stewed some apples
she though would spoil
Churned the butter, bake a cake
Then exclaimed, "For mercy's sake!
The cows got out of their pen!"
Went out and chased them in again.

Gathered the eggs,
locked the stable
Back to the house and set the table
Cooked a supper that was delicious
And afterward washed all
the dishes.

Fed the cat, sprinkled the clothes
Mended a basket full of hose
Then opened the organ
and began to play
"When you come to the end
of a perfect day."

Secretary's REPORT

E-Mail: Divinf80@aol.com

Gentlemen: I wish to incorporate stories or facts into the newsletter and perhaps a new book on stories of the men of the 80th. I know many of us, myself included wished not to speak or talk on what happened or what we did in the war. I have been reminded by my daughter, Gayle, I was one of the group that when ask, told her I don't want to talk about it. But, then I began to see that people was interested in what part I played in the war, and that part of history would go with me to my grave. I believe it is now time to open up, tell it as you remember it. Please consider, you have information that needs to be told, good, bad or indifferent, so send me your side of the war.... To All Widows.. I am asking all of you to drop me a line, telling me you wish to continue receiving the Blue Ridge Newsletter. I have no way of knowing if you are still alive, some may have passed away and the family has not notified me. If I do not receive a letter, your name will be removed from the roster. Those of you who are sending in donations need not to reply.

Odds & Ends

Pollen never deteriorates. It is one of the few naturally secreted substances that lasts an indefinite period of time.

From out of the past...

The XII Corps Attacks The Southern Shoulder (Ardennes)

The End of the Defensive Battle, 22 December 1944

Intercepted radio messages, a most fruitful source for German intelligence, had clearly indicated by 19 December that the Americans were moving reinforcements in large numbers toward the Bulge. The OB West staff reasoned that the bulk of these new divisions would be committed in the west defense of the Meuse River or along the north side of the salient. Thus far there was no cause to be concerned about the southern flank. The weak Seventh Army had made progress, although not so much as Hitler wished, and there were no signs of change in the defensive attitude shown by the Americans in this sector. Late in the evening of the 19th, Army Group G reported that the U.S. Third Army was giving ground on the Saar front, but the Americans move was interpreted as a readjustment which could not bring Third Army reinforcements to the Ardennes before 22 December. The German intelligence staffs again agreed that there was no immediate threat to the Seventh Army, and that the westward advance by the Fifth Panzer Army would necessarily force the Americans to strengthen the battle line there and prohibit any thrust into the deep southern flank.

Although the Seventh Army was in the process of going over to the defensive, it had pushed its right wing forward, according to plan, and

on 20 December re-established contact with its northern neighbor, the Fifth Panzer Army. In effect the right wing of the Seventh Army had wheeled to face south, while at the same time elongating the shoulder of the Fifth. This extension had widened the gap between the LXXXV Corps, in the Ettelbruck sector, and the LXXX Corps, west of Echternach, but as yet the higher German headquarter were unconcerned about thinning the line.

The division and corps commanders of the Seventh Army were less sanguine. By intuition, or through the natural apprehension inducted by heavy losses, they flinched mentally from the retaliatory blow. Concerned with their own weakness, rather than the strength and successes of the panzer armies, it seemed logical to them that the Americans would seek to exploit such weakness. Across the lines, as it happened, plans were in process for a counterattack against the German southern flank, but General Patton, charged with operation would not have his troops in readiness before 22 December and feared that in the interim the enemy would launch a spoiling attack against the Echternach area.

With the main weight of the Seventh Army echeloned forward on its right (western) wing, pressure to regain contact and to grapple with the 109th Infantry was stepped up during the night of 20 December. The 352d Volks Grenadier Division pushed through Ettelbruck and probed cautiously in the dark,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14...



Co. B 317th Infantry, 80 Division / Regensburg, Germany, April 1945



*John T. Wettig, first row, lower left
Elmer F. Mueller, second row, extreme right*



*The New York
Post #43 Meeting,
Albany, May 28, 2000*

*Front row, l to r:
PNC's Cistolo, Barone,
Murrell and Smith.
Back row, l to r: PNC
Bredbenner, Commander
Schmidt, PNC Rajnicek
and PNC Petrollini.*



*The WINNERS!!
l to r: Alice Schmidt (seated),
Kay Barone, and Vi Wilson*



*ABOVE: l to r: Rose Palmietto, Rose Cistolo,
Kay Rajnicek, and Alice Smith*



*Youngstown, Ohio, May 20, 2000: Bill Petrollini
(Calvary Cemetery)*

searching to the west and south for the outlines of the 109th's new position. This advance onto the ridge rising in the triangle formed by the Wark Creek and Alzette River had a limited object. Luxembourg, an appetizing target, lay only fifteen miles south of Ettelbruck and on a good road, but orders received by the 352d aimed solely at the quick acquisition of a good blocking riposte from the south. The objective of the 352d, therefore, was a line based on the villages of Bettborn and Bissen that would cut the main roads running north and northeast from Luxembourg and Arlon respectively. Parts of two regiments. The 914th and 916th, went up against the 109th Infantry on 21 December, gaining ground on both of the open flanks. For the Americans the fight was one to gain time (they permitted no serious penetration of the position overlooking the Wark valley) until, on the morning of 22 December, troops of the incoming 80th Infantry Division headed north through their positions.

To the south and East the 276th Volks Grenadier Division, now some distance from the 352d, re-formed its two leading regiments on a common front and worked feverishly to bring artillery ammunition and supplies forward from bridges which at long last were in operation. It appears that the new division commander of the 276th had ordered a limited attack for 21 December, intended to carry from Waldbillig to Christnach and the more readily defended creek line there. Late on the previous day a few assault guns, probably no more than five or six, had arrived west of the river. These weapons, it was hoped, would lend

the tired Germans the necessary punch.

In the 9th Armored Division (-) sector plans were under way to re-take Waldbillig, using Task Force Chamberlain of the 10th Armored Division, which had reorganized with strength of thirteen medium tanks and two much under strength armored infantry companies (total: 130 Men). Before the German attack got under way on 21 December Task Force Chamberlain attacked toward Waldbillig. The Shermans, protected by tank destroyers over-watching on the flanks negotiated the dangerous skyline crossing on the ridge between Chirstnach and Waldbillig and by noon were in Waldbillig.

Reports that the enemy had withdrawn proved erroneous the moment that the supporting infantry started to move up with the tanks. Mortar and rifle fire burst from the village, while Werfers in the neighboring woods joined in. Although the infantry support had a bad time, the tanks were little concerned by this enemy action. Their presence inside the village had some effect: a hundred prisoners were taken from the 988th. About midnight the American artillery laid on a brief, sharp concentration and the few tanks still in Waldbillig made a rapid withdrawal. Then Americans and Germans both shelled the village, by now a kind of no man's land.

To the east, opposite the weakest portion of the 4th Division line, the 212th Volks Grenadier Division made still another effort to reach its original objective-the good defensive terrain and blocking position in the Consdorf-Scheidgen-Michelshof area. In the afternoon of 21 December the 212th Fusilier Battalion

moved along the main Echternach-Luxembourg road through Lauterborn, which the Americans earlier had abandoned. Just ahead lay Hill 313, overlooking the road south. Here a part of Company C, 159th Engineer Combat Battalion, was stationed, with Company B occupying a smaller hill just to the west. There was no protection for the engineer flanks. About 1300 the Germans started a 30-minute shelling, covering their advance through the draws fringing the American-held heights.

Company B caught the full force of the first assault, the grenadiers erupting from the draws in broken English, "Kill the sons of bitches." Two platoons fell back from Company B onto Company C which in turn came under attack by Germans who had worked around Hill 313 and threatened to cut the road back to Scheidgen. The engineers had no working radios and did not know that reinforcements in the shape of a hundred or so men from division headquarters company were on the way. Actually this relief party had to fight its way forward as the engineers struggled to clear a path back, and darkness was coming when the two bodies made contact. Almost out of ammunition, the engineers fell back to Scheidgen, but the Germans made no move to follow.

While the fusilier battalion was gaining ground in its drive toward Scheidgen, other troops of the 212th Volks Grenadier Division were trying, albeit with less success, to make headway to the east and west. Assembling in the woods near Rodenhof, the 320th Grenadier Regiment launched an attack to take Osweiler, but ran into two compa-

nies of the 2d Battalion, 22d Infantry, en route to clean out the woods. Neither side was able to advance and the Americans dug in for the night a few hundred yards south of Rodenhof. On the left flank of the 12th Infantry sector a sharp fight flared up in the middle of the afternoon when two companies of the 423d Grenadier Regiment tried to take Consdorf. The American tanks and infantry held their fire until the enemy assault formation had cleared its assembly area in the woods and was fully deployed on the bare slope before the town. Then they cut loose. Some sixty Germans were killed and the rest withdrew.

The 212th Volks Grenadier Division made a last attempt to expand the gains achieved in the Scheiden sector on 22 December, the date on which the American counterattack finally began. A stealthy advance through the draws between Americans occupying the villages of Scheiden and Michelshof during the early afternoon was perceived and handily checked by shellfire. At dusk the Germans tried again, debouching from the central ravine in a wedge formation. This effort was suicidal. Tanks, tank destroyers, artillery, engineers, and infantry were in position and watching the draw like hungry cats in front of a mouse hole. The German point was only a hundred yards from the American foxholes when the first American fired. When the fusillade ended, 142 dead and dying Germans were left on the snow, still in their wedge formation. One lone grenadier, with five bullet holes in him, came forward with his hands held shakily over his head.

Greater Reading Post #32

What news can I relay to the Blue Ridge Magazine when no one sends me any?

We lost a faithful member, Vera Eckelman (Fred's wife) and we will miss her as she was always eager to attend our breakfast meetings. Some good news, McMullen's wife Jeri is now off of oxygen, and he is recovering from his throat surgery. It wasn't his heart as I had mentioned before.

Today I took our Post wreath to the cemetery where we have our plaque on the monument at Forrest Hill Cemetery for Memorial Day. This we do each year in memory of all 80th Men who have left our company. Gone but not forgotten!

Our breakfast business meeting was held 1 June, 0900 hours at Crystal Springs Restaurant, Sinking Springs, PA.

Most of us are coping with our aches and pains and I for one am planning on seeing all my friends in Louisville. Keep healthy and I'll see you there!

Lou Shirey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15...

This bootless enemy effort on 22 December was no more than a counterattack to cover general withdrawal which the 212th had began the night before corps orders. The defensive period for Americans in the Sauer sector in fact had closed with darkness on 21 December. This six-day battle had given adequate

Co. M 318th Inf. Post #44

Sandy Best writes...Just finished reading the Blue Ridge, it seems the "Taps" list gets longer every time. Guess we all are getting older. I am 93. I have to use a walker but, still get around. Was in the hospital last June and it seems I spent the remaining months of the year either in the hospital or in a convalescent home. My wife still gets along and fix some food to eat but, we have trouble getting to the grocery.... Jack Stumcke writes, he has recovered from a bout of Double pneumoma, and is going all out to make the Reunion in Louisville. Wouldn't it be nice if one more time we could get the gang together. Let's all make an effort for Louisville. The Ranks of the 80th are growing thinner very rapidly. Put a big smile on my face, JUST ONE MORE TIME. Also the Post has also entered our Advertisement in the Reunion Booklet to our Departed Comrades.

proof of General Barton's dictum, "The best way to handle these Heinies is to fight 'em." It was a battle fought off the cuff in a situation which mimeographed periodic reports would call "fluid" but which, for the most, could better be described as "obscure" seen from either side of the hill.

Continued Next Issue

DV and DV Hqs Co. Post #39

Our old Mess Sgt. Robert A. Hicks passed away on 27 April at the age of 89, after a long fight against a variety of ailments. He was a good friend to me. He enjoyed all the Reunions he attended. He called the Reunions "Old Home Week." All our love to his beloved Libby.

Due to problems with his health, Col. Walt Burk was unable to attend the reunion in Baton Rouge, LA of the Battalion he commanded prior to joining the 80th. Sadly, he will also miss the 80th Get-to-gather. He will be missed. Sarah Troxell writes that Joel, one of our Supply Sgt.'s was admitted to a nursing home after suffering with Parkinson Disease for six years. He is unable to walk and his vision is impaired. She is pleased with the care he is given, and he is comfortable there.

To all who are ailing, you are always in our thoughts and prayers.

I reserved a Hospitality Suite for our Post for the Reunion, now all we have to raise the funds to stock it with the "Goodies" and pay the rent. I'll be waiting for the mailman. Ciao.

Fred Buscarini

— NO POST NEWS —

Co. F. 318th Post 46
305th Engineers Post 40
Cincinnati Post 34
Brett Post #3

New York Post #43

Not much to report to date. No changes in membership of post. We expect a fine turn out for our Albany gathering Memorial Day weekend. By the time this is received this will be over, but will report in next issue. We will hold a short post meeting at the Louisville convention. Check the bulletin board for time, date and location.

Remember our fall gathering in Seneca Falls, NY, October 5-8, 2000, at the Holiday Inn. Mailings will go out in the summer. If other than post members are interested just contact me. We do need to know the numbers.

See you all at the convention in Louisville

Ed. Bredbenner, Secretary

Rcn. Post #37

All Rcn men and their ladies are urged to be at the Galt house in August. Not much to report and even those letters I received were full of health woes.

We have lost another friend, Miriam Smith, wife of Capt. P.L. Smith in January, 2000. 3342 N Chatham Route 1, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

A card and check have been sent, but your notes will be appreciated.

Let me hear from each of you. Newsletter will be out soon. Plan now for August. Send in your Registration, Patron listing, donations and etc., show your support.

Eleanor Schoenly Sect/Treas

Lane Hall Post #42

313 F.A. Bn

Sorry not much news for this edition.

Our Post will have a hospitality room in Louisville, KY. 3 nights, Thursday Aug. 24, Friday Aug. 25, and Saturday Aug. 26. God willing, I will be there. I am sure we will have a good turnout and the usual good time. For those of you who wish something stronger than Ice Tea, bring your own bottle.

As usual, our Post will have a one-half page ad in the Reunion Program Book. Help the Reunion Chairman (Bob Burrows). Send in your patron names.

My brother Charles and I took a trip to Waterbury, CT. Had a nice visit with Paul and Mary Burgio. They both look very good. Fran Poletti joined us one evening for a good Italian dinner. She is planning a trip to Europe with her granddaughter and expects to be at the Reunion.

Lou Shirey calls frequently. He is having some problems with his teeth. Root Canal I think. Good luck Lou. He is also planning on being at the Reunion. If his plans materialize, he will visit with Donald Brand on the way to Kentucky.

As I mentioned before, not much news. However, no news is good news. I suppose everyone is O.K. Keep taking those pills.

The sun is shining here today. This is my kind of weather. Must stop this B.S. and get to my second love, the lawn and garden.

God Bless all. Keep in touch.

Jim Phillips,
Secretary/Treasurer

Florida Post #47

The weather was perfect for the March meeting in Melbourne, FL. As the tourist brochure says it should be. With over 60 in attendance. I do not know of anyone who got sunburned. Lucky Bob Smith won the 50/50 drawing. We are going to meet here again next March.

Our Public Relations Officer George West had some minor surgery and after a short stay in the hospital is now at home. Virgil Myers had back surgery is also at home both are recuperating and looking forward to attending the reunion.

Looking forward to seeing a good turnout of members at the reunion in Louisville, KY. In August 2000 at the Galt house West.

Our next meeting will be November 3rd and 4th, 2000 at Hampton Inn, 3434 SW College Road, Ocala, FL. 34474. Phone number (352) 854-3200. The room rate is \$61.00 single or double accommodations. The rate is good for 3 days prior and 3 days after the meeting. Reservations must be made by phone no later than October 15, 2000.

Francis Rajnicek, Secretary

317th / 318th / 319th

HISTORIES

\$16.25 EA

Operational History — \$27.00 EA.

Robert T. Murrell

**630 Pennsylvania Ave.
Oakmont, PA 15139-1574**

Post #36 3d Bn., 317 Inf.

We understand the following will attend the NY meeting in Albany the weekend of May 25-29, Angelo and Kay Barone, Bill Petrollini and Bob Smith. We haven't heard whether Fran and Harry Nutting will be there.

The Barones after attending the FL Post meeting in March drove down to St. Petersburg and visited with us a few days. It was nice of them to come down. Rose and I spent the winter in St. Petersburg. Incidentally, we relocated and our new address is: Newton Towers, Apt 204B, 3400 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square, PA 19073. While in St. Petersburg we had lunch with John Daniel and his wife. After lunch they took us on a tour of the VA complex. John is undergoing tests there.

We also had lunch with Jim Steen's daughters Beth and Linda and their two aunts. Beth is visiting from Switzerland. It was good seeing Beth after a period of six years.

We hope everyone has given it thought to attending the reunion in Louisville. We understand we will be in the first building which will require no extended walking.

We send our prayers to those who are ill and wish them a speedy recovery.

Please mail me a few notes of your activities and health. We all want to know how are you are.

Bob Nathason, Secretary

Post #33 Co. H, Inf.

Time moves on, August 1950 reunion Harrisonburg, VA. The 31st for the Association, but the first for Lou Feinburg and me. We went first class, by bus. Started Friday morning arrived Saturday morning. We were late to get a room in the Headquarters Hotel, but they had a room across the street. Two big double beds and the price was right, Five Dollars a night! Well we made it to the meetings and dinner that evening. Then it was party time all night. Never made it back to the room. Slept on the sofa in the hotel lobby. Somewhere in between we had our pictures taken, visited a Civil War Museum, and a cave used during the War between the States. I drove Luther Smith and Lou back to York, PA. And then Lou and I caught a bus to Philadelphia.

It's fifty years since my first reunion, and about fifty-two years since I joined Post #2 in Philadelphia and the 80th Veterans Association. It has been great. We've had some good times. So lets celebrate. I'll bring the cake, and you all come. See you in Louisville in August.

Irv Robinson, Secretary

Odds & Ends

The first plastic ever invented was celluloid, which is still used to make billiard balls. It was discovered in 1868, when cellulose nitrate was combined with camphor in a laboratory. At that time it was considered not much more than a curiosity.

Co. L 319th Inf.

When I was young, my Mother once told me that I was always making up stories and tales and would write them down in a copybook and pretend that I was the main character in the story.

I mention this because I am no longer young and have lost my ability to make up stories for use in this column for CO. L.

I need your help CO. L members. If this column is to continue to exist and follow in the tradition of our dear Bob Grady, you must keep me posted as to what is going on in your life or the life of other members of our unit.

My only current contacts through the E-mail network are Jim Young, John Flynn and just recently Rudy Berman. I have a E-mail address for Walter Cooper but have not been able to get a response to messages I sent him.

If you have a E-mail address, please let me have it either by E-mail or by regular mail. My E-mail address is Hmeinolf@aol.com. It would be most appreciated.

Hopefully all of the old standbys are making plans to go to Louisville. Frank Soloninka should be joining us after too long an absence and

Marshall Hill told me at Christmas time that maybe he could talk his daughter into bringing him to Louisville. Lou Blatz indicated on a Christmas card that he is busting at the seams awaiting Louisville.

Jim Young has contracted for a Hospitality room for the Company and as usual it will be kept well stocked with food and beverages. All we need is you.

In the past we have enjoyed home made cookies, home grown tomatoes, cake, fruit and other goodies that you have taken the time to prepare and share with the group. You are encouraged to continue this practice, Rest assured it will be appreciated by all.

If you have not yet made a decision to go to Louisville, please do so now and say yes. The years are slipping by and none of us know what the year 2001 will bring. Make your decision now and send in your registration. You'll be glad you did.

Late breaking news...Jim Young advised me that Dave Kirschbaum has just completed successful surgery. Dave's wife Helme is going to visit her family in Bavaria in August and Dave will come alone if he comes. Dave is currently serving as Park Ranger at Fort Mott State Park in New Jersey.

Hank Einolf, Jr

Odds & Ends

George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were avid collectors and players of marbles. They were once called "small bowls" and were popular with adults as well as children.

The oldest known books in the world were made from clay. These "books" were used by the Babylonians for recording land deeds and business transactions 5,000 years before the invention of moveable type.

Ladies Auxiliary

Winter and spring has passed and summer is here. The flowers and trees are all in bloom, grandchildren are out of school and everyone is planning vacations. We hope that many 80th members are planning on coming to Louisville in August.

Bob Burrows and his committee has worked very hard so everyone will have a fine time. I met with Bob and Jim Allen in May to sign the contracts for the Ladies functions.

The coffee break on Thursday morning is a great time to meet new ladies and renew old friendships. Good food also. The Installation Luncheon is held on Saturday at noon. Mrs Carolee Davis will become President. These affairs are well attended. I just wish we could get more ladies to come to the Friday meeting. That would be great.

Brock and I along with Helen and George West attended the Florida Post meeting in March. It was good to see everyone. Also the National Ladies Auxiliary had a good turn out. Attending were: Natl Pres. Naomi Brockman, 1st Vice Pres. Carolee Davis, Natl Sect. PNP Kay Rajnicek, Natl Historian Rita Kutch, Sgt-at-Arms Helen West. Also attending were: PNP's - Alice Schmidt, Eleanor Allen, Lorene Myers, Kay Rajnicek, Rose Palmietto, Margaret Schock, Marcella Haley, Naomi Brockman.

It has been an honor to serve as President for the second time. Again, thanks for all calls and cards when I was down with double pneumonia. I am doing fine and looking to see everyone in Louisville.

*Naomi Brockman
National President*

Information for "Gold Star Mothers"

Word has reached the editors desk by Jeff Wignall, the Gov't has set up a program (1998) for Gold Star Mothers and wives who had at one time received pension benefits that stopped if they remarried can re-apply if they have since been widowed again. I know it to be on the level as I applied for my mother and she is now receiving close to \$900 per month. Also the state of Massachusetts has an annuity they are entitled to. Don't know if other states have this.

Odds & Ends

Some Chinese typewriters have 5700 characters. The keyboard is almost three feet wide on some models. The fastest an individual can type on these machines is 11 words per minute.

The A&P was the first chain-store business to be established. It started in 1842.

The Egyptian pyramids were once faced completely with marble. The Parthenon was also painted at one time as well.

Ben Franklin was America's first political cartoonist. His drawing of a snake divided into 8 parts was published in Philadelphia in the year 1754.

82nd
All of the past National & Honorary Commanders are looking forward to seeing you at the ~~82~~ 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**

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Byron Dovenbarger, Secretary
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~~1999 - 2000~~

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

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IRV ROBINSON
Secretary

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POST #47**

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Commander

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