

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

The Service Magazine  
Volume 80, Number 327

Winter — 2000  
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 2001*



# 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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Color Sergeant ..... Albert J. Cresson (C-315 FA)  
Sergeant-at-Arms ..... Don Davis (K-319)  
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2 Year; Felix Cistolo (G-317)  
3 Year; Robert N. Nathason (L-317)

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Louis Cayer (80th SIG)  
Joe H. Hege, Jr. (80th RCN)

##### 2 Years

Melvin C. Beers (C-319)  
Walton W. Spangler (A-319)  
Robert I. Simpson (I-317)

##### 3 Years

Gerald V. Myers (G-317)  
Laverne J. Schock (F-317)  
Tom Pappas (F-318)

## Commander's Corner

81st Annual reunion over and hopefully everyone who attended had a great time! 319 registered a few complaints, a few accolades. Balance's out. Most of all the camaraderie remains. (Why not, after all your sacrifices and do not forget the adventures).

Hope all had a great Holiday season. We have much to be thankful. Looking forward to the coming year!

Not too early to be considering Hampton in August and to support Brock at our 82nd Reunion!

Let us continue to look for guidance and Wisdom from Above as did our founding Fathers (In my book you fellows are cast from the same Mold) 225 years ago!

Bob Burrows, Commander

## Secretary's REPORT

When your Newsletter doesn't arrive and you have moved and did not send in your change of address, I get an FOE, (Forwarding order expired). I then have no address to send your Newsletter. In addition, this FOE cost the Association \$1.36. (The entire book comes back.) PLEASE SEND IN YOUR NEW ADDRESS. LOOK AT YOUR ADDRESS IS IT CORRECT? I'd like to continue your Newsletter. Also when you move and I get that change of address, this also costs the Association FIFTY CENTS. I BEG YOU SEND ME YOUR NEW ADDRESS.

No need to remind you of the month of December 1944, as most of you who were there remember that over night 150 mile ride in zero and snowy weather on 19 December and going into the lines in Luxembourg the next morning. Most of us were half frozen on arrival. As

I sit here at the computer this morning and reflect back on that ride, it brings back memories of a lot of my Buddy's who didn't come back. Gone but not forgotten. These were the Hero's in my mind, and will never be forgotten.

Apologies to Alice Schmidt she was listed under the picture in the last issue as a PNC, should read PNP,... HELP... Lewis Murray the son of Russell E. Murray (Age 26) who was Commander of the 2nd Battalion 317 going to England, until late September 1944 would like to hear from anyone of the 317th that remembers his father... This is your last chance to get your story in of where and how you fought in WWII. I have over 100 pages of stories of the men who have sent in their story. I'm holding to have a few more stories. Do you want your story in the book? Send it in, Please.



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## Mail Bag

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Last Sunday (10/08/2000) I heard the sweetest words that I have ever heard. My doctor came to my room in the hospital and said "we won." He was delighted and I was in seventh heaven. Doctor Ducker found a hidden bone spur in my vertebrae and was able to remove it. This has taken the pressure off of my nerve and removed the pain from my left leg. I am still in some pain due to the incision and stitches but everything is looking up. I can get in and out of bed with little trouble and am beginning to walk more erect. Another few days and I should be out of the woods. Many thanks to you for your prayers and your concern. Doctors have said that prayers go a long way in helping people recover from sickness and surgery. I know they helped in my case. I'm keeping my fingers crossed to assure that my last hospital visit was my last hospital visit. Hank Einolf L-319... Frank L. Stewart B-313th FA Bn. His wife writes he has Parkinson's very bad and is legally blind, she says he feels bad when he see one of his buddies are ill, or has passed away. Write him a line. 208 Rice Street, Yelm, WA 98597-7625, Telephone 360-458-5519... George Pfeiffer writes his Anti Tank 319 Company was broke up when the other two 317 and 319 were not. He was assigned to Company L 319 along with four others, and found later their names were not carried on Company L roster. He wonders why his Anti Tank company was broken up and not the other two, also why their names were never entered on the L

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## McBride Scholarship Fund

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One again, since there was no takers of the offer Bill Henry made of those four others who would make a donation of \$500, he would match it, he has come forward again to renew offer. If nine (9) other will donate \$200, he will still donate \$500 to the McBride Fund. His new offer expires 1/1/02.

Martelli, Dan From Reunion C-319  
Noel, Arthur W. From Reunion L-317  
Spencer, Marvin From Reunion Hq 3d Bn 317

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company roster...  
Jack E. Wilson Hq 318th writes: The picture in the Spring Issue #1 2000, the men are from Hqs Company 318 and ID as follows: Back Row Left to right-Eddie Baxter Detroit MI., Carl Widmar Crestline OH (Deceased and listed in this issue), Benny Zabicki formerly from Brooklyn, NY now living at 1550 Thousand Oaks Dr. San Antonio, TX 78232-2351 and Carman ? Upstate, NY. Front Row on the right Jim Salata, Johnstown, PA. Balance unknown to me. (Editor Note--You fellows who live in the area of the names above, check your telephone directories and see if we can locate them. Thank You!)... Also, Ray Green 320 N. 2nd Street Sandpoint, ID 83864, Company L 319th Inf., wants to know if any of you remember 1st Lt. James S. Moore who was transferred out to K Company in November 1944, and would you have an address or Phone number for him...

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## Life Plus Club 1999-2000

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Life Members who contribute over and above the Life Membership. There is no set amount, it's free will as of 1 December 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  
Annon from Reunion I-318  
Annon I-318  
Bardinelli, Rufus L. C-305 Med  
Bell, Alvin From Reunion 80th Sig  
Beaudry, Stepan From Reunion 305th Med  
Clark, Alferd J. Hq 2nd Bn 318  
DiFonzo, Panfilo A-314 FA Bn  
Ferguson, Angus 2nd Bn Hq 319  
Goodspeed, H.L. (Peter) K-317  
Koczur, Edward J. C-318  
Martelli, Dan From Reunion C-319  
Patesel, Mrs Julia A.  
In memory of her Husband Ed. A-319  
Pfeiffer, George AT-319  
Pfleiderer, Robert CN-319  
Swisher, Jeanette Mrs

in Memory of her Husband Ed 80th Sig  
Litwinski, Rudolph 318 Med  
Vaughn, Lemoine E. L-319  
Williams, George J. E-317  
Young, Mrs Mildred in memory  
of her Husband William 80th Rcn

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## Welcome New Members

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Aiezza, Sal ?- 318  
55 Ten Eyck Ave  
Albany, NY 12209

Bryan, Lynn ?-317  
6003 233rd Place SW  
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

Crain, Larry I-317 Assoc  
1217 James Street  
Deer Park, MI 77536-3237

Fine, William G-318  
6983 Grassy Knoll Street  
Las Vegas, NV 89147

Kullowatz, Vernon F. 319- Chaplain  
131 Lupine Drive  
Sequim, WA 98382-9650

Martinovich, Pete ?-318  
496 Leroy Street  
Johnston, PA 15906-1461

Roussel, Clifton F-318  
6083 Highway 18  
Vacherie, LA 70090-5209



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## Report on the 82nd Reunion & Convention

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Once again the 80th Division will meet for their Annual Reunion and Convention starting on 22 August through 25 August 2001.

We will gather for those four days at the Holiday Inn, 1815 West Mercury Blvd., Hampton, VA. The "Reunion Room" rate of \$79.00 plus tax of 10% (\$86.90 Total) will start on Sunday 19 August and end Saturday 25 August. Plan to come early and see the sights around the beautiful Virginia Countryside before the Festivities begin. For easy access, The Registration Desk and all Parties will be on the 1st Floor.

Mr. Robert Carsey and his experienced Hotel Staff will do their best to make sure we all have a happy and memorable time at this reunion and at the Holiday Inn.

The main restaurant in the Hotel is the Tivoli Gardens. It is open for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner with a delightful Menu for each meal. If you want to eat outside of the Hotel, there are several fine restaurants in the area.

For those of you who wish to start your day with a vigorous swim, the Hotel has both an Outdoor and Indoor swimming pool.

For those of you flying to the reunion, you will fly into the Newport News/Williamsburg Airport. US Airways and United service this Airport. Upon arrival call the Hotel's 800 number (This number will be on the Hotel Card in the "Call to the Reunion letter") and a van will be

sent to pick you up. For sight seeing and shopping in the Hampton Area you can get a local "Trolley" to take you around.

By 21 April 2001, you should receive the "Call to the Reunion Letter". Please return your Pre Registration form and check to me as soon as possible, so I may have a general idea how many to plan for. The sooner the better, it makes the job go smoother. In your letter will be the Hotel registration and the 800 phone number. Please call the Hotel directly for your room reservations. Please call for your rooms also as soon as possible, it makes it much easier for the Hotel Staff to do their jobs properly. Also with your letter will be information and Registration Forms for a Bus trip for Friday, 24 August from 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. This trip is being planned for us by Ann Phillips Tours. On this trip you will visit the US Navy Shipyard at Norfolk, and have lunch at the Officer's Club, then travel to the "Mariners Museum" and end the trip at the "Glass enclosed Carousel" in beautiful downtown Hampton. This is a fun day that you won't want to miss... believe me... I've been to all these places and have enjoyed all of them.

Here is a brief description for each day at the Reunion. On Wednesday evening something exciting will take place, for one hour before the Commander's Reception, the Holiday Inn will be throwing a "Special Happy Hour". I'm sure we will all



*PNC Clarence Brockman at Memorial Service.*

## In Memory of All 80th Infantry Veterans

This picture was taken on November 12, in the Trinity Presbyterian Church of McDonald, PA. The flowers were donated by the Brockman family in memory of all 80th Infantry Veterans of both WWI and WWII.

Also along with ceremonies held in various Churches around Pennsylvania, Bob Murrell had a newly set 24' Flag Pole along with the American Flag donated by his wife Doris, dedicated in his Honor for his service to his Country, at his church Rolling Hills Baptist of Penns Hills, Pennsylvania.

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look forward to this. Thursday will start off with a "Coffee Break" for Ladies attending from the Ladies National Auxiliary, later that evening the annual "Dugout Party" will have a "Picnic" flavor, and I know all will enjoy a Picnic without the ants! For entertainment, The Sawyer Sisters will bring back fond memories for all of us to relive. This is a repeat performance for them. They entertained us in '88 at the Norfolk Reunion. On Friday both the Association and Auxiliary will hold their annual meets. Then off that afternoon on the Ann Phillips Tour. Later that evening the PNC and PNP will meet for their annual Dinners, then Unit and Post Parties into the night. Saturday morn-

ing starts off the moving and beautiful Memorial Service followed by the Installation Luncheon for the Ladies Auxiliary. As the sun starts to set we will all gather for the Reunion Dinner and Dance in the Grand Ballroom and after a good nights rest, off for home.

When your "Call to the Reunion Letter" arrives, please read it carefully and return all the various Registration forms to all correct persons and please do it as soon as possible.

Hope to see everyone in Hampton this coming August.

Clarence H. Brockman,  
PNC, Convention Chairperson



## “TAPS”

Biggs, Jack 4608 SW Atom Ave. Lawton, OK 73505 Rptd by Wife	80th Sig 6/17/00	Murray, Russell E. Lt. Col. 2nd Battalion Cmd 317 c/o Lewis Murray 1905 Mountain Creek Drive Stone Mountain, GA 30087 1 Rptd by son	0/29/00
Burk, Walter J. Colonel 4301SQ Street Fort Smith, AR 72903 Rptd by Daughter Jean	Dv Hq G-4 9/17/00	Pudelek, Paul S. 8498 Grayfield Street Dearborn, MI 48127-1540 Rprd by Murray Kaufman	F-317 10/4/00
Cline, John G. 1721 Jolynn Street NE Massillion, OH 44646 Rptd by son Al	B-305 Med 9/17/00	Racine, William F. P.O. Box 95 Lima, PA 19037-0095 Rptd by Bob Nathason	L-317 10/24/00
Dragan, Pete 608 Southern Blvd NMW Warren, OH 44485-2550 Rptd by Wayne Jacobs	M-317 11/30/00	Reger, William H. 30 Meadow Lakes Dr. 04 Hightstown, NJ 08520-3330 Rptd by Daughter-in-law	E-318 10/99
Forbus, Dallas G. 100 Church Street Kellyton, AL 23089 Rptd by family	K-317 10/3/00	Swiderski, Juilan Not A Member Rptd by Nephew Mike Hughs	305 Eng 3/11/96
Foster, K.V. Park City, KY Rptd by Dave Orr	F-319 11/5/00	Widman, Carl 1525 Hopley Ave Bucyrus, OH 44820-3517 Rptd by Wife Marie	Hq-318 No date given
Hughs, Harlan Douglas Not a member Rptd by son Mike	305 Eng 12/10/72		
LeMaire, Herman H. c/o 1105 Clover Hill Drive West Chester, PA 19382-2000 Rptd by Son William	B-317 10/29/00		
McCurdy, Glenn B. West Salem, IL Rptd by Dave Orr	Hq-318 9/14/00		
Maloney, Ralph 812 Lincoln Lake Ave Lowell, MI Rptd by Ralph Rocco	80th MP 9/3/00		



## Courtesy of the 80th Infantry Division WWII FOLDING OUR FLAG

Did you know that there is a special significance to each movement when our flag is folded?

- The first fold of the flag is a symbol of life.
- The second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life.
- Fold to the left in the shape of a triangle, where our hearts lie. With our hearts we pledge allegiance to the flag.
- Fold to the right as a tribute to our armed forces. Our armed forces protect our country and flag from all enemies, foreign or domestic.
- Fold again to the right as a tribute to our country. In the words of Stephen Decatur: "Our country, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."
- Fold to the left as tribute to those who entered the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.
- Fold again to the left as a tribute to womanhood, for it is their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that have molded the characters of the men and women who served our great country.
- Fold to the right as a tribute to father for he has given his son or daughter to the defense of our country since she was born.
- Fold from the stripes toward the stars, for whereas the stripes represent the 13 original colonies that founded our republic, they are now embodied in the fifty sovereign states represented by the stars.



- Fold to the left in a shape of a triangle, for in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, this represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in their eyes the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.
- Fold again to the left in the shape of a triangle, for in the eyes of the Christian citizen, this represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies in their eyes, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

When our flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, which reminds of our national motto: "In God We Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a three-cornered hat reminding us of the soldiers who served under General Washington and sailors and Marines who served under John Paul Jones, followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States who have preserved for us the rights, privileges and freedom which we experience today.



# Tribute to a Fallen Comrade



L to R: Fred Lam, son of Sandy Lam and nephew of Yeu Louie; Bob Harmon; Mr. Pak Lam, husband to Sandy; Sandy Lam; Nick Grossi

World War II 80th Infantry Division members usually came from the east Coast and the area from Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains to the Mississippi Valley. Westerners from beyond the Valley tended to be thin on the ground and westerners from Puget Sound and Seattle were rare. Rare, indeed, were 80th soldiers from Seattle and of Chinese ancestry. But, there was one.

Nick Grossi and I along with my wife (Gina Harmon), found the grave of Private Yeu Louie, of Seattle and of the 317th Infantry Regiment of the 80th Infantry Division, in Lake View Cemetery this year. We contacted the Wing Luke Museum and the American Legion Post #186 ("Cathay Post") and through them contacted a surviving sister of Pvt. Louie,

Mrs Pak Lam, of Seattle. Nick and I and all the others involved set up a Commemorative Ceremony for 22 September 2000, the 56th anniversary of Pvt. Louie's death in action in Lorraine, France with the Third Army.

Private Yeu Louie, born September 28, 1923, was Killed In Action with the 317th Infantry in the Moselle Valley of eastern France on September 22nd, 1944. He is buried in Seattle, WA. as local members of the 80th Association recently discovered.

Seattleites Nick Grossi and Bob Harmon - both of the 319th Infantry graduated together from Seattle University with the class of 1950. Together with a local American Legion group. Cathay Post 186, and several Alumni of Seattle University. A lovely bouquet of flowers from the



Lakeview Cemetery, Seattle, Washington. September 22nd, 2000. Grave of Pvt. Yeu Louie, 317th Inf. Born, Sept. 28, 1922. KIA with the 80th Division, in eastern France, Sept. 22nd, 1944

below: Memorial Ceremony.



Seattle University Campus was laid on the grave. Lt. Colonel Kerry Abington, Department Head, R.O.T.C., attended in uniform and marched with the Color Guard to the grave site. Also in attendance Neil Harmon and Judge Walter Webster (USAF Colonel Rtd) and Cal Fung a member of Cathay Post. Gregory Barlow MED, & Patrick Brady (Medal of Honor) Two R.O.T.C. Major Generals sent their condolences to the family. Also involved was the ground crews at Seattle University, and Seattle Alumni.

Commemorative ceremonies were held at Pvt. Louie's grave on September 22nd, the 56th anniversary of his death. Present were Mrs. "Sandy" Lam, a surviving sister of Pvt. Louie and her husband and son.

Cathay Post 186 sent their Color Guard and arranged for TAPS. Mrs. Lam was presented with a folder carrying the correspondence and arrangements for the ceremonies, plus some nice 80th Division mementoes thoughtfully provided by Association Secretary Bob Murrell. Cathay Post laid a wreath on the Grave and a bouquet of flowers from the Seattle University campus was offered. Cathay Post 186 has always honored Pvt. Yeu Louie on Memorial Day and, from now on (for a few years yet will join with local 80th Division veterans in commemoration on September 22nd.

Copy provided by Nick Grossi & Bob Harmon, 319th Infantry and Raymond Lew, ex-Sgt, U.S. Army, WWII member, and Cathay Post 186.



# RETURN TO WEIMAR, GERMANY

BY ERIC REILINGER



Above: Gravesite of 19 German soldiers. Sid Haley and Dick Bobb presenting flowers. Right: Dick Bobb, Med 2nd BN, 317th; Sid Haley, Co. H, 317th; Jerry Spellman, Med 3rd BN, 317th; Archer Futch, Co G, 317th; Pete Mayer, 305 Engr's; Eric Reilinger, HDQ Co, 3 BN, 317th, and Bill Laing, Co G, 319th.

In April 1945, as the 80th Division advanced toward the city of Weimar, in the Thuringia Region of Germany, one of the American Regimental Commander, Col. Costello issued an ultimatum to turn over the city or face total destruction. Although Hitler's orders were to fight to the last man, the town fathers courageously and wisely accepted the American offer and surrendered their historically significant city. In 1999 Weimar was voted the Culture City of Europe by the European Union. To help celebrate, veterans of The 80th Division were invited back to attend a Memorial ceremony at the former Buckenwald Concentration Camp, near Weimar. During that return trip, two German Weimar

citizens, Hans Stadelman and Bernd Schmidt, together with the visiting Veterans agreed that the 1945 turn over of Weimar deserved a permanent memorial. We all kicked in some money and a long process of approving the wording and the location of the memorial started.

Credit must be given to Sid Haley, who coordinated for the 80th Division Veterans and Bernd Schmidt, who did the leg work in Weimar. It was a difficult and arduous effort, but the results are most gratifying. The following is a short travelogue including the unveiling of the 80th Division Memorial Plaque in the Rathaus (City Hall) of Weimar. On Thursday, October 5th seven Veterans, four wives one son and

one grandson met at Frankfurt Airport for the 4 1/2 hour bus ride to Weimar. We arrived at our hotel at 5:30 P.M. and were immediately told that the Lord Mayor of Weimar arranged a formal reception for 6:00 P.M.. We quickly cleaned up, met with the mayor, and a mayor from the nearby village of Troistadt. After some speeches and pleasantries we had our first German meal.

Friday, October 6th involved a tour of the Buchenwald Concentration Camp for some of our group and a guided city tour for the others. That evening we were invited to a local



club where a diverse group of citizens made us feel at home by performing line dancing complete with western wear.

Saturday, October 7th was a cold rainy day. Our bus took us to the city hall. The marketplace in front of the city hall had a covered stage set-up and there was a huge tent with seating capacity for 200. A large group of locals was assembled to listen to the 40 piece U. S. Army-Europe Band, who were there be-

cause of Sid Haley's efforts. There were the inevitable long speeches by the mayor, the American Consul General from Leipzig, and an American Brigadier General. (Deputy Chief of Staff, HQ US Army Europe). Sid Haley, Dr. Richard Bobb and Eric Reilinger spoke for the veterans. The last speaker was the local historian who gave a long detailed account of the happenings in April, 1945, when the 80th took over Weimar. This was primarily for the German audience. Then came the actual unveiling of the plaque, which is located in a most conspicuous spot in the main entrance hall of the City Hall. There was much picture taking, local TV coverage and coverage by the LTS Army Europe news people, interspersed by good musical entertainment by the army band. We were proud to be the guests of honor and savored the attention given to us.

Sunday, October 8th. We went by bus to the tiny, picturesque

village of Troistadt, a suburb of Weimar. The entire village, of two hundred eleven inhabitants, was there to welcome us. After coffee, juice, beer and cakes we attended a very nice church service, in the 750 year old church. The village mayor is also the pastor of the church. After the service another plaque was unveiled at the house where the surrender negotiations for Weimar were held. This was in memory of the 1945 mayor of Troistadt who delivered the





*Above Left: Eric Reilinger, Charmaine Laing, and Bill Laing, with Memory Stone Plaques presented by Volker Stiefel. Above Right: Tim Rice, Grandson of Harry Hammond (deceased) Co. L, 317th. Left: Millie Waters, Public Affairs Specialist, HQ USAREUR; Bernd Schmidt, Weimar Coordinator; Albert "Sid" Haley, Trip coordinator for veterans.*



*Above Left: Plaque presented to City of Weimar by Veterans. Above Right: Hans Stadelman and Bernd Schmidt receiving plaques. Left: Group picture in front of Molsdorf Castle which was HQ for Maj. Gen. Horace L. McBride.*

American ultimatum, which saved the Culture City Weimar. A courageous act, considering the mood at the time. In the afternoon we were treated to a sumptuous meal prepared by the local women. After lunch the entire town proceeded to a remote cemetery in the woods where 19 local German soldiers are buried. These men died in the last days of the war. The 80th Veterans laid a wreath by the graves and Dick Bobb gave a brief address, stressing German/American friendship. Later in the afternoon we were entertained by a Philharmonic Choir, with classical music. The outpouring of friendship by an entire village was genuine and heart warming.

Monday, October 9th, we were the guests of the German/American Club of Erfurt, the medieval University City. Our contingent was broken up into small groups assigned to knowledgeable English speaking guides to tour the city. After lunch, at a typical American restaurant, we were escorted to the Thuringia State Chancellery. This is an impressive, medieval castle in the center of the city. We met in the same room where Napoleon was introduced to the famous German poet, Goethe. Here, we were addressed by the Assistant Minister President of Thuringia, and his staff. They assured us of continuing American/German friendship. From there our bus took us to

Molsdorf Castle. This was MG McBride's headquarters in April 1945. After an interesting guided tour, we went to Wachsenburg Castle, near the village of Molsdorf for coffee and cake, before returning to our hotel, tired after another busy day.

Tuesday, October 10th. We checked out of our hotel early, to make our way back to Frankfurt. We made a stop in Eisenach, for a tour of the 11th century Wartburg Castle, high on a hill overlooking Eisenach and vicinity. This is the place where Martin Luther interpreted the New Testament from Hebrew, Greek and Latin, into German. We toured Eisenach (home of Johann Sebastian Bach), had lunch, and then on to our hotel near Frankfurt Airport, for the flight

back to the US, on October 11th, by most of the group, (some stayed on in Europe).

All in all, it was an exciting educational trip for all of us. The group represented the United States of America and the 80th Division well. We hope that this visit contributed, in a small way to further improve the good relations between the people of the two nations, who were engaged in a bitter life or death struggle, a mere 55 years ago.

The following is a list of the of the veterans and their families, on the trip: Dick Bobb, Archer Futch, Sid & Marcella Haley, Bill & Charmaine Laing, Pete & Bonnie Mayer, Eric and Ida Reilinger, Tim Rice (grandson of an 80th Division deceased veteran), and Jerry Spellman & son Tim.



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## Co F 318 Post 46

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I'll try to catch up on news from those who didn't return their cards in time for the last newsletter.

From ED McDONALD comes a copy of an autobiography of Emile Sinkovec, the Frenchman who aided our company in France. As soon as I have the paragraphs translated, I'll send it around.

From ROD COVEY.... "Don't feel too bad, and wouldn't know to whom to complain. Just had the wonderful experience of the birth of our first great-grand-daughter, Chloe Jean. Plan to do a little traveling.

NICK SHEVCHUCK is "holding his own... some days better than others." Nick (80) and Marge (76) just celebrated their birthdays and 52nd anniversary. No long-range plans, just sharing their days and watching their grandson become a teenager... hoping he makes all the right decisions!

From CLARENCE & MILDRED NICHOLSON..." We're doing fine... I pulled a hamstring a few weeks ago. Leg was black & blue from groin to toes. It's cleared up and I'm feeling better. Mildred had two fractures of her left tibia, but is coming along fine.

LENCARYL says he'll be in Springfield in 2001, assuming "that the money hold out".

ABOUT THE 2001 REUNION... ED McDONALD went to West Springfield, Mass., to see the Best Western Hotel that has been chosen for the reunion... it seems to be an excellent choice; shuttle from the airport, nice rooms and a very friendly and coop-

erative staff. Sight-seeing and other activities are under consideration... Springfield Armory, Air Force Museum, "Olde Colonial Village... are among them. We'll be flooding you with information after the first of the year.

YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED in where Company F was 56 years ago... here's a few entries from the daily log.

24 Dec 44--Company attacked northward and took defensive position NE of Chaumont, Belgium.

27 Dec 44--Left position at Chaumont and went into attack NE toward the town of Bastogne, Belgium.

28 Dec 44--Left position at Grandrue and went into attack on town of Assenois. Contacted 101st Airborne Div. at 1000. Took up defensive position on edge of Assenoise.

29 Dec 44--Left Bastogne and marched to Assenoise, entrucked and joined the Division. Bring back some great memories? Have a great holiday!

Bob Fasnacht, Secretary.

317<sup>th</sup> / 318<sup>th</sup> / 319<sup>th</sup>

**HISTORIES**

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**Robert T. Murrell**

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

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## New York Post #43

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Another successful, wonderful gathering in Seneca Falls, NY. October, 2000, leaves were colorful, grapes ripe and the wine flowed like wine. Visited the farmers market to stock up on apples and other fruits. Lunch at a winery off Seneca Lake, hit the malls and ate most of the of the food. The Holiday Inn gave us a big suite of rooms and we had a great buffet Sunday noon. Thursday evening we had multitude of desserts at the home of Rita and Dean Midley as well as some of their foods at the hospitality room. Had raffles after dinner and the following were winners. 50/50 won by Pat Patterson, beautiful 80th Division Clock, made by Jack Wilson, won by Bob Smith, big fruit and wine basket from the Norries won by won by Kay Rajnicek, and the basket of goodies from the Barones won by Leslie Patterson Ulrick, and tip game won by Rita Midey. We had many fine gifts won on our white elephant raffles. We have designated Abe Barone our Captain of fund raising?

We signed cards for the ailing. Thanks to those who brought goodies for hospitality room. We have a new member, Charles J. Coward and wife Ann, Co I-318 from Oswego, NY. Bud and Ann able to attend on Sunday. Weather was gloomy, but we lightened it up by our presence and all had a great time. Most stayed four nights and as usual we closed in good harmony. As we scattered about the East and home. The following attended and you can pick out the

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## Co. M 318th Inf.

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Had a letter from Ellen and P.V. Watkins. Ellen had a back operation, and is doing very well, the same year P.V. had a Pace Maker put in and is doing very well with it. In April P.V. had cataract surgery, and not to be out done, Ellen in August had her eyes done also. Glad to hear from these two and that they are doing well. We wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas, a happy Hanukkah, and a Very Healthy New Year!

National Officers: Barone, Bredbenner, Coward, Margaret Donigan and friend Dick Gibbons, Marsh, McCormick, Midey, Murrell, Norry, nutting, Palmietto, Patterson with daughter, Leslie, Rajineck, Bob Smith and Watson.

Future gatherings: next May, Memorial Day weekend, Turf Inn, Albany, NY, May 24-28, 2001, Annual meeting and election and a big 20th year celebration for the post. All are welcome, we just need to know numbers. Contact Secretary if interested. Next fall, 2001, we plan to gather in Finger Lakes area, the beautiful, colorful playground of Central New York. A beautiful new motel overlooking Seneca lake. Located a few miles above Watkins Glen, NY. This is on the grounds of one of the larger wineries, Glenora Wine Cellars. This is on route 14 and called THE INN AT GLENORA WINE CELLARS. I am sure all will enjoy this location the beautiful facilities, October 8-12, 2001.

Ed Bredbenner, Secretary



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

Not much in news for this issue. I keep asking to send me news, whatever it may be, but none or little has been received.

We learned that Bob Smith and Angelo and Kay Barone attended the New York meeting in October in Seneca Falls.

To those in Company L, I regret to report the passing of William F. Racine on 12 October 2000. Bill was a patient in a nursing home. He was employed in Chester, PA as a machinist for 46 years retiring in 1986. While Bill seldom attended the reunions, he was always eager to know and learn of any news of members in Company L and the 3rd battalion. He is survived by three sons, a brother and three grandchildren.

We wish all who are burdened with physical problems a quick recovery and back to good health real soon.

Bob Nathason, Sect

### DID YOU KNOW?

1910 Domestic fridge available using ice blocks to cool contents inside.  
Invention of zipper.  
Electric self-starters for automobile.

1919 80th Division Veterans Association formed.

1920 The high-speed telegraph ticker increases speed of communications.

1930 Ballpoint pen.  
Vitamin pills on the market.  
Electric guitar invented.  
CAT Brain Scanner used.  
Igor Sikorsky constructs first helicopter  
Pharmaceutical firms develop sulfa drugs.

1940 Vinyl phonograph recordings at three speeds: 33 1/3, 45, and 78 r.p.m.'s.

1950 Transistor radio.

## Florida Post #47

Advertised in the travel brochures the weather again cooperated. It was clear, sunny and comfortable during our gathering.

The Hospitality Room was well frequented and supplied with ample food, beverages, snacks and camaraderie. We also enjoyed the hotel's copious and various supply of complementary cookies.

We were sorry to hear from Jean Rogowski that Harry had a stroke and is recovering slowly. We all wish him well and hope to see him in March.

Our March meeting will be March 8th thru 11th, at the Holiday Inn Beach resort, 2605 N. A1A, Melbourne, FL 32903, Phone 321-777-4100, Room rate \$85.00, Reservations must be in by February 7, 2001.

We welcome a new member to our Post, Francis Maher and his wife.

Francis Rajnicek, Sect.

## Greater Reading Post #32

Not much news to report, but our members are alive but slowing down each and every day.. As my mom would say, "No news is good news". It's difficult writing a column and nothing to report.

Paul (Jack) Clouser did report to me that he was in the hospital for nine days with some heart problems but is now home and back to the way he was.

I'm busy getting the members to attend our Christmas dinner which we are having at the Crystal Springs Restaurant Sunday December 17 at 4 P.M. It is free to all members of Post #32. We have a choice of beef or chicken, fish and my favorite ham. Members may bring a gift, to be chanced off, after the dinner. Sorry, no Santa Claus this year.

Robert Reeser and wife Sally are now in a Self Care Home. Both are well, but can't get around too good.

Maybe by the time you read this we may have a NEW PRESIDENT. Don't hold your breath!

Lou Shirey Sect/Treas.

1950 Transatlantic Phone System. Stereo records introduced.  
Transatlantic cable telephone service begins  
Ultrasound is used for examination of the fetus during pregnancy

1960 A bank installs the first automatic teller machine.

1970 Floppy disc invented by IBM

## DV and DV Hqs Co. Post #39

In the new membership roster that Mary Ann Brumfield put together for us, and was mailed to you recently, I made two boo boo's. One, I omitted Harry Reece's address and neglected to add a new address for Robert Hanson. I apologize to these fine men. Bob's new address: 111 Locust St. Harrisburg, PA 17101-1426. If you need Harry Reese's address refer to the old roster.

Bob Walker (G-2) wrote a nice letter explaining that he and Kayo were escorting a new 80th member and his wife to all the various activities at the reunion and on the last night, he finally brought them to our Hospitality Suite, but unfortunately, Ralph Murnahan was closing for the night. Bob promised that in Hampton, VA., he will make sure they get to meet all the Hqs gang. Bob sent along a healthy contribution. Thanks Kayo and Bob.

I have no other news except to wish all Blue Ridgers a Healthy 2001. Ciao  
Fred Buscarini Sect/Treas.

1970 Home video recorder marketed to consumers

1980 Introduction of the first practical pocket language translator device.

1990 Channel tunnel connecting Great Britain and France opens.  
First successful cloning of sheep.

2000 80th Division Veterans Association 81 years old.



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## *Company L 319*

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How quickly the years go by! It seems that only yesterday everyone was worrying about the Y2K crisis.

We've had Valentine's Day, Income Tax Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Income Tax Day, Easter, D-Day, VE-Day, Summer Vacations, 80th Reunion, Labor Day, Halloween and Thanksgiving and here we are getting ready to close out the year 2000. Time flies.

I hope everyone has recovered from the Thanksgiving Holiday and will be well rested for the Christmas season and its usual last minute rush. Probably some of the smarter members of our group have finished their Christmas shopping and can now relax and enjoy the weeks ahead. Most of us can't.

Early in September, I paid a visit to Lorraine Sciese and she gave me a copy of a newspaper article about George. The article was well written and included vivid descriptions of some of the actions of L Company. Now everyone in Hancock, Md. knows there was an 80th Division and a Company L thanks to George.

Jim Young E-mailed me that Dave Kirschbaum has successfully undergone Prostate surgery and is back to work at New Jersey's Fort Mott State Park.

My sincere thanks to all of you who so kindly sent me get well cards, Mass Cards and called me regarding my back operation on October 7th. operation went well and some of my problems were corrected. I am now in Physical Therapy and the Doctors

hope that this help alleviate some of the problems I still have.

I've talked by phone a number of times with John Flynn and with Bill Krehbiel. Both are well and seem to be living life to the fullest. Jim Young, Rudy Berman and Walt Cooper thru Chris keep in touch with me through E-mail. Certainly there are others in our group who could pass along information to put in this column. How about it Lou Blaatz, Frank Soloninka, Ray Greene, Bill Siebert, Pat Brassil, John Balas, Don Chism, Max Coleman, Marshall Hill, John Birong, Dave Kirschbaum and Lemoin Vaughn--I need your input!

I hope all of you have a very Merry Christmas and that the New Year will bring all of us Peace, Health and Happiness and that come next August we can all be together again.

Hank Einolf.

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### **NO REPORT:**

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### *Brett Post #3*

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### *Cincinnati Post #34*

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### *305th Engineers Post #40*

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### *Rcn. Post #37*

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## *Lane Hall Post #42 313 F.A. Bn*

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First, before I forget, Ruth and I want to wish all Post #42 members and friends a happy, healthy and prosperous NEW YEAR 2001.

Some news from the members:

Fran Polletti - She is doing O.K. Gets a little depressed. Does volunteer work. Keeps in touch with the Blockers, Hatches, and others by way of E-mail.

Mary Blinker states - Well we made it. The 81st Reunion. It was difficult at times, but it was worth every minute. Everyone was so helpful. What a great group of friends! They are the best.

The Hatches - Both doing O.K. Working hard on the memorial Bell Carillon Project for the Lorraine Cemetery. I enjoyed all the enclosures and other information they forwarded. Also the book "Comrades" (Brothers, Fathers, Heroes, Sons and Pals) by Stephen E. Ambrose. Thanks very much. If anyone is interested in reading this book, I will be pleased to loan it to you.

Walter Stec Called - He was very interested in who attended the Reunion. He is doing O.K. Still going dancing. Will try to make the next gathering.

No information about the mini—reunion for 2001. Bear Creek Farms closed from December to March. Will have some news after March 2001.

Sorry, no new mailing list. Fran did her part. Now it is up to me and my secretary Ruth.

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## *Post #33 Co. H, Inf.*

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I haven't received any communications from any one east of the Mississippi. Received a call from Jean Poppen on Veterans day, that's Armistice Day in case you forgot. This year she's getting a new driveway. She called because she saw an ad on TV, "call a Veteran", so she called. Her other news was that Ollie had sold his house and moved near his daughter.

Everyone at our house is in good shape. Hilda and I wish all of you at this time, we hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving, a Happy Hanukkah, a very Merry Christmas and a happy and joyous New Year. That about covers all the holidays at this part of the year. ENJOY, HAVE FUN, It's later than you think.

Irv. Robinson, Secretary.

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I attended the ground breaking ceremonies for the WW II War memorial on 11 November 11, 2000. Everything was well planned. There were thousands of people from all over the U.S. Not all WW II Vets. I did not recognize any 80th Division insignias. Was beginning to wonder if I was the only one. While waiting for the shuttle bus (when the program was over) I recognized P.N.C. Felix Cistolo. Was glad to see him.

It is not too early to start planning for the 82nd, 80th Reunion in Hampton, VA. Let's try to make this the biggest ever.

Have a good Christmas. Send news. Looking forward to you soon.

Jim Phillips Secretary/Treasurer



## From out of the past...

### The XII Corps Moves to Luxembourg

Three days before the beginning of the German thrust into the Ardennes, General Patton and Major General Hoyt S. Vandenberg met to discuss plans for a combined air and ground attack to smash through the German West Wall—target date, 19 December. After three or four days of intense bombing by the Ninth Air Force and the Royal Air Force, Major General Manton S. Eddy's XII Corps would attack from the SAAR RIVER to penetrate the West Wall and start the Third Army, stymied by mud, reinforced concrete, and the wasting effort of the past battles of attrition, once again on the way to the RHINE. Patton was jubilant at the prospect of the biggest blitz (so he fondly referred to the planned air assault) in the Third Army's history. General Eisenhower, however, did not conceive the attack in the Saar sector as the major Allied effort and had decided "regardless of (the) results," to transfer divisions from this sector, once the attack had been made, to the north for the major assault against the Rhine and Germany itself.

Meanwhile the XII Corps had the task of cleaning out the German positions in the small forests and wood lots between the Saar and the West Wall so that no entanglement in these outworks would dull the full shock of the hard blow which was being readied. For this mission General Eddy employed two infantry

division, the new 87th and the veteran 35th, their attack to begin on 16 December.

The fighting was extremely bitter, and the enemy made the Americans pay dearly for each yard gained toward the west Wall. The superiority of the attacker in men and material. However, as usual was clearing the field, a fact of battlefield life that was all too evident to the German defenders. On the night of 16 December the commander of the XC Corps, facing Eddy's divisions, warned his superiors that the German line was so thin and ragged that if any Americans decided on an all out attack neither the existing battle line nor the West Wall could be held. But in this instance the calculated risk assumed by Hitler in stripping the Army Group G sector to feed troops and weapons into Army Group B paid off. It turned out that the battered and weakened German divisions in front of the XX Corps had done their job, and held long enough.

To take the pressure off the XII Corps infantry Patton was preparing to bolster the attack with the Six Armored Division when General Bradley informed the Third Army commander of the day's happenings on the VIII Corps front. The army's group commander ordered that the 10th Armored be dispatched to Middleton forthwith, this move from the Third Army to begin on the 17th. General Morris started his division

north, and Patton canceled the 6th Armored attack which had been poised in front of FORBACH—one of the few occasions on which the Third Army commander called off an attack that he personally had ordered. So far as the Third Army staff knew at this stage, however, the German blow in the Ardennes presented no dire threat and the attack on the 19th would go as scheduled.

But on 18 December Bradley called Patton to his Luxembourg headquarters, and there Patton learned for the first time the grave situation faced by the First Army. When asked what help he could give, the Third Army commander replied that he could intervene in the battle with three divisions "very shortly". He telephoned the Third Army chief of staff to stop the XII Corps attack forming for the following day and to prepare the 4th Armored and 80th Infantry Divisions for immediate transfer to Luxembourg. The 87th Division halted its slow advance as did the 35th. On the move out of the rest area for assembly in preparation for the XII Corps attack, the 4th Armored and the 80th likewise stopped.

When it became apparent by nightfall of the 18th that the situation on the First Army front had deteriorated beyond expectation, General Bradley decided upon immediate use of the Third Army's resources. Patton had returned to his command post at Nancy when, a couple of hours before midnight, called with word that conditions on the VII Corps front were much worse, that the troops promised by the Third Army had to move at once, and that Patton was to attend a meeting with the

Supreme Commander the following morning at Verdun. By midnight one combat command of the 4th Armored Division was on its way north to Longwy: at dawn on the 19th the 80th Division had started for Luxembourg City. And through the night before the Verdun meeting the Third Army staff worked feverishly to draft plans for the intervention of all or any part of Patton's forces in the battle raging in the north, for Bradley had intimated that Patton was to take command of the VIII Corps and other forces moving to its assistance.

Bradley already had directed that the III Corps headquarters would be moved from Metz to take command of an attack to be mounted somewhere north of Luxembourg City. Patton's general staff, therefore, prepared three plans for a counter-attack: on the axes Neufchateau-St. Hubert; Arlon-Bastogne; and Luxembourg-Diekirch-St. Vith. The final attack selected would, as Patton then saw it, to be delivered by the VIII and III Corps. When Patton arrived at Verdun on the morning of the 19th, Eisenhower asked how soon the III Corps could launch its counter-attack. Patton replied that he could start a piecemeal attack in three days, a coordinated attack in six. The Supreme Commander, who seems to have felt that Patton was a bit too confident subsequently informed Field Marshal Montgomery that the counterattack from the south would be made on the 23rd or 24th.

The master plan outlined by Eisenhower in the Verdun meeting of the 19th turned on a major effort to plug the holes developing in the north and the launching of a co-



ordinated attack from the south. To free the force needed for this initial counterattack, Eisenhower ordered all offensive operations south of the Moselle to be halted forthwith and turned over the entire Third Army sector (except for that occupied by Major General Walton H. Walker's XX Corps on the border of the Saar) to General Devers' 6th Army Group. This northward extension of Devers' command would spread the American forces in Alsace and Lorraine rather thin, but Devers (who was present at the Verdun meeting on the 19th) was promised some of the Third Army divisions and artillery.

It was now clear that Patton would be responsible for a major effort to knife into the German southern flank, that he would have at least two of the three Third Army corps, six of its division, and the bulk of the troops for the task. (On 20 December, however, after a visit to Middleton's command post, Patton found that the VIII Corps was in such shape that it could not be used offensively and that the two Third Army corps would have to carry the ball.) A telephone call from Verdun, using a simple code that had been arranged before Patton left Nancy, informed the Third Army chief of staff (General Hobart R. Gay) that the XII Corps was to disengage at once, that the command post of Eddy's corps and an advance command post of the Third Army were to transfer to Luxembourg City, that the 26th Infantry Division was to start north on the following morning, and that the 35th Infantry Division—which had been in line for 160 consecutive days—was to be relieved as quickly as possible and

be sent to Metz for much needed rehabilitation en route to the Ardennes battle. At midnight of the 20th the XII Corps front was taken over by Major General Wade H. Haislip's XV Corps. The 4th Armored and the 80th Infantry Divisions had that day passed to the command of the III Corps in the Arlon sector of Bastogne.

The next morning General Eddy and his immediate staff departed for Luxembourg with a new mission: to assume command of American troops north and east of Luxembourg City who had held so tenaciously along the southern shoulder of the original German penetration. General Eddy's new command, aside from corps troops, consisted of those units already in the area and the 5th Infantry Division, which had been added to the roster of the Third Army formations rolling northward. It moved in piecemeal as it was relieved from the XX Corps' bridgehead at Saarlautern. The troops in the line when Eddy took over were the 4th Infantry Division, the 10th Armored Division (less CCB, CCA of the 9th Armored Division, the 109th Infantry and smaller units of the 28th Infantry Division.)

When the XII Corps took control of its new zone on the 21st, the German thrust into eastern Luxembourg had been pretty well checked. The three German divisions which the Seventh Army had thrown into the initial attack were drastically depleted by then and apprehensive that the Americans might undertake a counterattack in such force as to penetrate this part of the Seventh Army's blocking position on the south-

ern flank of the German salient. The Americans likewise were concerned lest the enemy make a last major try for a breakthrough before the promised reinforcement arrived from the Third Army.

There was, however, a fairly continuous—although jagged—line of defense confronting the enemy. The new corps' front, facing east and north, reached from Dickweiler, near the west bank of the Sauer River, to Schieren, on the Alzette River, due north of Luxembourg City. The eastern wing was defended by the 4th Infantry Division and task forces from the 10th Armored Division. The north wing was held by the 109th Infantry and CCA, 9th Armored Division, backed by detachments from the 10th Armored. This wing, at its western tip, had been wide open. But the 80th Infantry Division of the III Corps was moving in to establish an extension of the American line beyond the Alzette and on the 22nd deployed to envelope the enemy bridgehead west of Ettelbruck.

General Patton intended to give General Eddy two infantry division from the old Third Army front, the 5th and 35th. The latter had been seen very rough fighting; it would need some refitting and for this reason had been ordered to Metz to reorganize before rejoining the XII Corps. Major General S. LeRoy Irwin's 5th Infantry Division was in good condition. Introduced into Walker's XX Corps bridgehead at Saarlautern to relieve the 95th Division, two of Irwin's regiments had attacked on the 18 and 19 December to widen the breach made earlier in the main bunker lines of the

forward West Wall position. General Irwin, however, had some inkling that his division might soon leave the bridgehead for on the night of the 19th the corps commander warned that an attack was to be help up, that the situation in the north was very much confused and that the 5th Division might be moved in that direction. The 10th Infantry division reserve was put on one-hour alert to move "in any direction."

General Walker arrived at Irwin's command post toward noon of the following day. He told Irwin that one regiment of the 95th would relieve the 5th Division in the bridgehead and that the XX Corps was pulling back across the Saar except in one small bridgehead. As to the future employment of the 5th Division he had no word. More precise directions shortly came from the corps headquarters moving the 10th Infantry, the 818th Tank Destroyer Battalion, and the 735th Tank Battalion toward Thionville on the Luxembourg road. The next order bade Irwin bring his 11th Infantry out of the bridgehead during the night.

The withdrawal of the tank and tank destroyer battalions, each of which had two companies west of the river, went forward by ferry in full daylight; by 1700 these battalions were on the road to Luxembourg. The relief of the 11th Infantry, by an extension of the 2nd Infantry sector, began as soon as darkness settled. It went well also, only two casualties being incurred. By 1000 the next morning the entire regiment was in trucks en route to Thionville. The enemy was neither in strength nor frame of mind able to interfere with



the American withdrawal, although the 2nd Infantry attempt to hide the reduction of the line by increased fire fooled the Germans one whit. Relieved on the night of 21 December by troops of the 95th Division, the 2nd Infantry was already rolling to join its sister regiments when the morning fog blew away.

### **The XII Corp's Counterattack**

That same morning the 10th Infantry initiated the 5th Division fight on a new battleground. Despite confusion, Fragmentary orders, and a general sense that leading columns of the division were moving toward an unknown destination and enemy, the 10th Infantry (Col. P. Bell) transfer to Luxembourg had been accomplished in good time. Two officers of Iwrin's staff reached the Third Army headquarters in Luxembourg at 1730 on 20 December and there received an assembly area for the regiment and some maps. Hurrying back down the Thionville road the staff officers met the column, blacked out but moving at a good clip. In the early evening the column rolled through the streets of Luxembourg City, and an hour or so after midnight the first trucks drove into the assembly near Rammeldange. Then the column closed, the infantry shivering out the rest of the night in the trucks.

The mission of the 5th Infantry Division had not yet been defined, but it was clear that it had moved from one battle to another. A series of meetings in Luxembourg during the morning of the 21st resulted in the decision to place the 5th Division north of the city in the sector briefly occupied by the 80th Infantry Division. Further, the XII Corps com-

mander told General Iwrin to be prepared to attack north or northeast, or to counterattack in the southeast. Later General Eddy warned that the 10th Infantry might have to go into the line that very afternoon to help the 12th Infantry restore the American positions south of Echternach. The 10th did move forward to Ernzen, but no counterattack order was forthcoming.

In the meantime the 11th Infantry arrived in Luxembourg City, its mission to take over the 80th Infantry Division positions north of the city between Ernzen and Reuland and cover the deployment of the XII Corps—a rather large order for a regimental commander, Col. Paul J. Black, was forced to halt his column when the 80th Infantry Division commander gave him a direct order to keep off the road net then being used by the 80th for a shift west into the III Corps' sector. The regimental S-3 later reported that the 80th Division had used the roads only intermittently during the afternoon and that the 11th Infantry could have moved north without difficulty. But on the other hand Maj. General Horace L. McBride had orders to attack the next morning, and the Third Army commander, as he very well knew, would brook no delay. In any case the halt of the 11th Infantry on the north edge of the city did create a mammoth road jam.

During the evening General Eddy met his commanders at the 4th Division command post. Reports coming in from the 12th Infantry, holding the weakest section of the 4th Division front, were discouraging, for that afternoon the 212th Volks Grenadier

Division had made substantial progress in an attack along the main road leading from Echternach toward Luxembourg City. Although the 12th Infantry line had hardened and now held near Scheiden, General Barton expected that the enemy would try another punch down the road. But, even while the American commanders were meeting, the German LXXX Corps staff was drafting orders for a piecemeal withdrawal by the 212th Volks Grenadier Division to begin that night.

The enemy gains on 21 December marked the high tide of the advance over the Sauer River begun six days before, a fact that could not yet be appreciated by the little group of commanders gathered in the 4th Division command post. General Iwrin probably summed up what all were thinking: "Situation on the whole front from east of us to north varies from fluid to no front at all. Information is very scanty and the situation changes hourly." Under these circumstances General Eddy decided that the 10th Infantry should be placed under tactical control of the 4th Infantry Division and attack around noon the following day to restore the situation on the 12th Infantry front.

Admittedly this was the kind of partial solution frowned upon by the field service regulations. General Iwrin noted, "I anticipate too much piecemeal action for a while to get tangible results." But the 4th division had undergone six days of heavy fighting, its last reserves had been used up, and the events of the day just ended seemed to presage a hardening of the enemy's resolve.

The critical section of the main line of resistance was marked by the village of Scheidgen, Michelshof, and Osweiler. Here the line was defended by elements of the 1st and 3rd Battalions, 12th Infantry, the regimental antitank company and part of the 159th Engineer Battalion. During the afternoon of the 21st the 212th Volks Grenadier Division had used one rifle regiment and the fusilier battalion (both at low strength) in an attempt to take the three villages and the commanding ground on which they stood, ground that represented the final objective of the 212th. General Barton, therefore, planned to meet the German threat by sending the 10th Infantry into attack astride the road from Michelshof to Echternach, the two attack battalions jumping off at noon from the crossroad Scheidgen-Michelshof. This line of departure was occupied by two rifle companies, four tanks, and five platoons of engineers.

Through the morning of the 22nd enemy batteries busily shelled the area just behind the American positions. The attack by the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 10th Infantry never really got going. The 2nd Battalion on the left of the road deployed some three hundred yards behind the assigned line of departure and started forward just as the Germans began an assault against the small force dug in on the line. German guns supporting the grenadiers made any movement in formation impossible. As it was, the bulk of the two fresh companies reached the line about the same time that the German assault waves struck. The troops on the line were able to beat the enemy back,



but not before the 2nd Battalion troops had been deflected to the right and left by the enemy onrush. Considerably disorganized the two companies hurriedly dug in just to the south of the original American covering force.

On the right of the road the 1st battalion was faced with thick woods and very rough ground. During the morning reconnaissance parties had come forward to look over the route of advance but had been foiled by a thick ground fog and alert enemy gunners. When the battalion deployed for the advance to the line of departure it ran into trouble, for the company next to the road came under the artillery concentration laid down in support of the German assault just described and suffered a number of casualties. Control in woods and ravines was difficult and the company drifted across the road behind the 2nd Battalion. It was growing dark when the 1st Battalion finally reorganized and dug in, still short of the line of departure. The intense artillery and Werfer fire by enemy gunners throughout the day, together with the infantry assault of the afternoon, had been designed to cover the 212th Volks Grenadier Division while it withdrew from the exposed position in the Scheidgen salient. Fresh American reinforcements had been held in check: the German withdrawal had been successful.

General Eddy telephoned General Irwin during the evening to say that he planned to use the 5th Division as part of a corps to drive the Germans back over the Sauer in the angle formed by the Sauer and

Moselle Rivers. Irwin's whole division was in Luxembourg but somewhat dispersed. The 11th Infantry had taken over the reserve battle positions north of Luxembourg City formerly occupied by the 80th Infantry Division. The 2nd Infantry, having left the XX Corps' bridgehead with only minor incident, was assembled around Junglinster, ready with trucks and attached tank destroyers for use as the corps' mobile reserve. Given time to assemble, the fresh 5th Division could take over from Barton's battle weary 4th. That night Irwin and his staff pored over maps and march orders for the attack to clear the enemy from the near side of the Sauer, an attack scheduled for the morning of 24 December.

In the interim the two battalions of the 10th Infantry began their second day of action, a clear day but bitter cold with snow underfoot. On the right the 1st Battalion made some progress, but one company lost its way in the heavy woods and a gap opened between the battalions. The main difficulty encountered by both battalions was that of negotiating the heavy belt of timber which lay to the front and in which a relatively small number of the enemy could put up a fight out of all relation to their actual strength. Further, the American advance followed by a series of parallel ridge lines; screened by the woods the Germans could and did filter along the draws separating the American companies and take them on individually.

The 2nd Battalion had a particularly rough time. Company F, which entered the forest northeast of Michelsdorf, at first killed or captured a

## Memories Fade With Younger Generation

Argentan, France

COPIED

Allied forces that sweep over Normandy beaches 56 years ago in a hellfire that freed France from Nazi German occupation face one last enemy: Each year more French people forget it ever happened.

"In Normandy today you can still find a bomb," Sebastien Jacqueline, 23, of Argentan, said "But for most kids. It's something you learn from a book... We learned about it, kind of stupidly, to pass tests."

Most adults concede that the 50th commemoration of D-day on 6 June will be the last great hurrah.

"In 100 years it will be history with a big H," Monique Beguin, director of Quest France newspaper's office in Argentan 40 miles from the Normandy coast, said. "The young today, don't care."

Argentan, liberated on 26 Au-

gust 1944, was one of the most devastated towns in Normandy. More than 1,300 buildings were leveled or badly damaged. Only 21 homes remained intact. But none of the youngsters at the local cafe knew that.

"Young people here don't care about their roots," Turkish immigrant Tuncay Toket 24 said. "Today, all they're talking about is (race driver) Ayrton Senn'a death."

School classes visit Normandy's military cemeteries and the invasion beaches, but no national program exists to bolster the collective memory. Some schools are ignoring the commemoration.

In today's Normandy, it is the future that counts. Billboards advertise a golf course at a key location of the D-day invasion, Omaha Beach.

number of Germans in snow-covered foxholes just inside the woods. Then German shells began to burst through the trees. The company broke into little groups, turning this way and that to avoid the fire-many were scooped up by Germans who had been waiting in their foxholes. When the company withdrew it numbered forty-six men, but later a large number of stragglers appeared at Michelsdorf. On the left Company E advanced until it came under fire from a cross-grained ridge just ahead. As the company deployed for the assault a large force of Germany infantry erupted from the draw on its flank, preceded, as it moved, by a

curtain of bursting shells. There was plenty of American artillery on call for such an emergency-six battalions were supporting the 10th Infantry attack-and the Germans were dispersed. A few tough enemy riflemen dug in the best they could on the frozen ground and held their place, forcing Company E to "infiltrate" back to its takeoff position. This day, then, had been only moderately successful for the 10th infantry, in part because it was working without the support of its own 5th Division artillery, but the reserve battalion had not been committed and the division stood waiting to expand to attack.

Continued next issue



All of the past National & Honorary Commanders are looking forward to seeing you at the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Reunion August 19 to 25, 2001 in Hampton, Virginia

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