

Blue Ridge 80th Division
The Service Magazine
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BLUE RIDGE

The Service Magazine
Volume 81, Number 328

Spring — 2001
Issue 1

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 June 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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Flag Sergeant Andrew B. Ferens (M-317)
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. Nathanson (L-317)

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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



Heideiberg, Germany. Bernd should be commended for his unselfish efforts. Do not forget that just ten years ago he lived under Russian domination. The 80th will not overlook his friendship to the Association. The best to Gerlinde his supporting Wife.

The best of health and may the Lord bless each of us!

Bob Burrows

National Commander

Spring has not sprung, but wish it would! We are looking forward to visiting the Florida Post March 10th with special emphasis on the good fellowship and sunshine!

Have been in contact with the Brockman's and they seem to have a heads up on Hampton. (Brock has been thru the wringer previously, piece of cake!) I did not have much time to socialize last year but, will try to rectify same at Hampton.

Bernd Schmidt, (Our guest at Greensboro) Weimar, Germany will be awarded the highest civilian award issued by the US ARMY, EUROPE for his dedication of ensuring Historical accuracy of the WW II action in the Weimar area and promoting good will between our nations the first of March at

McBride Scholarship Fund

One again, since there was no takers of the offer Carl Henry, Hq 305 Engineer Battalion, made, if four others would make a donation of \$500, he would match it, he has come forward again to renew the offer. If nine (9) other will donate \$200, he will still donate \$500 to the McBride Fund. His new offer expires 1/1/02.

Mercer, Paul L.	B-318
Muller, Victor S.	A-317
	Associate
Spencer, Marvin	Hq 317

Secretary's REPORT

"E" MAIL: Divinf80@AOL.com

I wish to thank all of you who sent me Christmas and New Year cards. I hope you understand I cannot begin to send cards to all of you. It was so thoughtful of you to do so. May I take this opportunity to wish all of you a Very Healthful New Year...

Once again, I must remind you of SENDING IN YOUR NEW ADDRESS when you move. With the postal rate up, it now is costing the Association extra money when the Post Office send it back. Then too, you are taking a chance of your Newsletter not arriving due to Forwarding Order Expired... While on the subject of reminding you of your address, I must ask you to look at the last time you paid your dues on the front of the envelope. Some of you

are 3 or more years behind in your dues. The Executive Council voted to remove anyone's name from the roster if they are three or more years in arrears. I must have something from you to keep that from happening. If it is a hardship case, write me and Life Plus will help you. Thank you!... Correction to last issue... Benny Zabicki would like you to know he formerly lived in Manhasset Long Island, and not Brooklyn NY. as reported in the last issue... ATTENTION ALL POSTS—If you wish to continue your Ad please forward your check to the Sect. The year 2001 is now due... Also to any individual who may wish to place an Ad, contact your Sect for the price. We are now taking all Ads...

Welcome New Members

Campbell, Charles F. Father-James Leo 30 Grand Street New City, NY 10956-2436	B-318 Assoc
Ciszek, Henry J. 24551 San Marino Apt 202 Flat Rock, MI 48134-9516	A-314 FA Bn
D'Andrea, Henry c/o 32 Stella Drive Bridge Water, NJ 08807	Sv-318
Galley, Walter 303 Dresden Ave Akron, OH 44301	80th Sig
Gioffredi, Alvino C. 3926 Layman Ave Pico Rivera, CA 90660	F-318

Hall, Archie 2812 Northaven Ave Denton, TX 76210 (Anyone knowing the Company or Battery, let the Editor know)	Unknown 80th
Kelly, William P. son of Lt. Kelly, KIA 11/26/44 83 Hamilton Drive Suite 102 Novato, CA (415) 883-5388	F-318 Assoc
Ten Haven, Milton J. 4705 Dove Drive Zephyrhills, FL 33541-7180	D-317
Wagschal, Petter son of Rolf 7453 Bruner Dr. Glenhaven, CA 95443-8404	317- Associate
Webster, Ward, Dr. of Jesse Ward Deceased 2103 Chapel Hill Road Decater, AL 35603	Friend, CN 319

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 March 2001, I may have omitted a name. I assure you it was not intentional. Please write me if I omitted your name, it will be corrected in the next issue of the Blue Ridge. I wish to thank each and everyone of you who contribute, by donating you are helping to promote the 80th Division and help one who may be less fortunate than you or I.

Gentlemen: While some of you have been faithful in sending in extra for the Life Plus Club, due to the shrinking membership (just follow the "Taps" column) and close to 75% having taken Life Dues, I am asking those of you who haven't been a part of the Club in the past to consider making a donation over and above your Life membership.

Thank You!



Annon	I-318
Annon	I-318
Anon	I-318
Anzaldo, Anothy	K-318
Bayruns, Frank	Friend
Becker, Myron	C-318
Bell, Wade E.	B-319
Boronyak, Anne in memory of her husband Emil	905 FA BN
Bowman, Betty in memory of her husband, Henry	80th QM
Cayer, Louis F.	80th Signal
Grace Clayton in memory of her husband Donald	K-318
Cotten, C. J.	L-318
Cross, George F.	L-317
Fleming, Daniel	K-317
Jarr, Arthur W.	B-905 FA BN
Kibbe, Rex	L-317
Kostenbader, Allen	A-305 Eng
Martelli, Irene Mrs. In Memory of her Husband Martelli, Daniel E.	C-319
Pappas, George	L-317
In memory of his wife Emily Patesel, Mrs. Julia in memory of her husband Edward	A-319
Pfledderer, Robert	CN-319
Hyman, Jean, in memory of her husband Joseph,	A-Battery 314th FA Bn
Richie, William R.	M-318
Shifflette, William E.	C-319
Smith, Robert W.	K-317
Tagmeyer, Nathan L.	B-318
Turner, Zane L.	H-317
Woods, W.T.	Hq-314 FA Bn
In memory of Robert Olsen	Hq 314 FA Bn
also in memory of my wife's uncle, Frank Dachtler	SV-319

Mail Bag

I have been asked to print the E-mail address of our members, if you don't find your name in this list, and you have an E-mail address and wish it listed, please E-mail that address to me. PLEASE SAVE THIS LIST and add to it as I update the list. Bob Murrell, Editor.

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Young, J. Givens L-319 —
Sales@youngpecan.com

Daniel Edwards 3308 Boxwood Drive, Fairborn, OH 45324 80th Signal Corps, reports he suffered a stroke and had surgery due to a massive blood clot. He was again hospitalized 19 days in January 2000

with CELLULITIS for an additional 18 days in May. Write him a card. Dan also received a DIPLOME from the Republque Francaise Ministere De La Defense, Secretariat a La Defense, Charge Des Anciens Combattants, Conseil Regional De Basse-Normandie. De reconnaissance de la France envers les armees allies, engages dans les combats debarquement en Normandie et de la Liberation 1944-1945. (its all French to me)... Dan also sent along the 2nd Edition of 80th Blue Ridge Book, published by Turner Publishing Co. If some one would like to have it make me a bid and the highest bidder will receive it. You pay the postage... Larry Scheidel, 414 - 135th Ave. Wayland; MI 49348, would like to know if any of you remember the battle for SCHEIDEL. Please write direct to him. Thank you... Had word from James Smith D-319 spoke of his sight and wishes to say Hello to all his friends... Also had word from Kenny Gruetzmacher K-318, asking when we changed to four battalions, Kenny, that is the modern 80th out of Richmond, VA... He also spoke of several of his buddies who were KIA, namely S/S Fekete and Bob Kerr. He states he is now 75 years old. Wishes he could get to a reunion, but feels that is impossible. He worked as a Chemist for 36 years. He lost his check book and had to cancel all the checks. Also stated he came to the 80th from Company K 397 Infantry of the 100 Division into K-318. He had a stroke in 1990 effecting the left leg and arm...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13...

"TAPS"

Courtney, Marion L. c/o Bro. William 730 N. Maple Street Ephrata, PA 17522-2127 Rptd by Brother William Courtney	M-318 1/20/01	(Correction from last Edition) Maloney, Roman, (not Ralph) 812 Lincoln Lake Road Lowell, MI Rptd by Ralph Rocco	80th MP 9/3/00
Bright, Luther J. Rte 1 Box 36 Marlinton, WV 24954 Rptd by Allen Kostenbader	A-305 Eng 10/5/00	Martelli, Daniel E. 198 Lindsay Dell Glen Burnie, MD 21061-6226 Rptd by Son	C-319 2/2/01
Brockmeir, Robert T. 606 Tafel Street Cincinnati, OH Rptd by brother Thurman McMullen	Cn-319 Date unknown	Payne, Otha E. 420 W. Main Street McMinnville, TN 37110 Rptd by wife Faye	AT/L-317 8/31/00
Brown, Robert G. 3320 Rosedale Ave Reading, PA 19605-2612 Rptd by Lou Shirey	A-315 FA Bn 1/01	Richey, Walter A. P.O. Box 62 Roxbury, PA 17251-0062 Rptd by Newspaper Obit	CN-317 1/18/01
Damkowitz, Mike 1521 Coolidge Ave. Modesto, CA. 95335-3154 Rptd by Archer Futch	G-317 CO 1/9/01	Salvator, Angelo 1223 Latona Street S. Philadelphia, PA 19147 Rptd by Ralph Rocco	3d Bn 319 1/3/01
Frye, Francis P. 965 Clearview Ave Galion, OH 44833-1522 Rptd by wife Phyllis	80th Signal 7/18/00	Scott, Walter W. Newburg, PA 17240 Rptd by Jack Paul	D-317 12/00
Grooms, Floyd 185 Logan Lane West Union, OH 45693-1085 Rptd by Felix Cistolo	G-317 12/4/00	Simmons, Joe C. Columbia City, IN 46725-9743 Rptd by Felix Cistolo	G-317 2/9/01
Haynes, Frederick J. 5607 Oakland Road Baltimore, MD 21227-3919 Rptd by Wife Doris	M-319 10/25/00	Specia, Domenic 1910 S. 29th Street Philadelphia, PA 19145-2402 Rptd By Ralph Rocco	AT-319 1/14/01
Hyman, Joseph 409 Southern Ave. Stonewood, WV 26301-4762 Rptd by wife Jean	A-314th FA Bn 12/4/00	Sturtz, Wilbert B. c/o 409 Stauffer Road Stoystown, PA 15563 Rptd by son	A-633AAA AW 11/11/00
Magnusom, Jack A. 1111 Albers Street SW Wyoming, MI 49509-1386 Rptd by Brockman	Hq-317 2/15/1	Super, Charles G. Jr. 30 Woodsbluff Run North Wales, PA 19454-1101 Rptd by wife Betty	Div. Band 2/11/01

In Loving Memory

DANIELE MARTELLI

March 9, 1926 — January 2, 2001



TAPS continued...

Swisher, Edward RR 2 Box 106 Mill Hall, PA 17751-9624 Rptd by wife Jeanette	80th Sig 3/7/00
Wakeland, Jean A. 1260 Jarrah Road Bremen, IN 46506 Rptd by wife Pauline	Cn-317 1/4/01

THANK YOU AMERICA

Later this year the French Gov't. Will begin presenting "Thank You America" Certificates to LIVING WW II Veterans for Participation in the liberation of France. To be eligible, a veteran must have served on/in French Territory; Territorial waters; of french Airspace between June 6, 1944 and 8 May 1945. Certificates will not be issued post-humously.

The application forms will be made available from Veterans service organizations and on special Internet Site maintained by the French Gov't.: www.inf-france-usa.org/news/statmnts/ww2/index.htm.

The 10 Consuls of France in the USA will work with the Veterans Organizations to identify eligible people and to organize certificate presentation ceremonies.

Signed by WILFORD (WILL) HAMM Dated 2/19/01 Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Once again we must think ahead, Lou Shira is Chairman of the nominating committee for our up coming Reunion, in Hampton, VA. If any of you wish to run for 3rd Vice Commander, or the Executive Committee, please drop him a line at 1415 Lorraine Road, Reading, PA 19604-1861, so his work for a search of someone seeking an office will not consume all his time at the reunion.

Memories from Tennessee

The year was 1940. Glen Miller's big band sound drifted out of the dance halls across the nation. The latest fashion craze was the zoot suit. And things were heating up in Europe.

Tullahoma TN, a town of about 4,500 people, located in the Cumberland Highland the middle of the state, had no idea what an impact the upcoming years would have on their destiny. The federal government designated the old Camp Peay National Guard camp to become Camp Forrest, an army training center. And nothing has been quite the same since.

Camp Forrest has played such an important role in the development of Tullahoma. Tullahoma residents feel the presence of Camp Forrest during the 1940's has been instrumental in shaping the Tullahoma they are proud of today.

American involvement in the war seemed inevitable. In August of 1940, the National Guard was ordered into federal service. In September, the Selective Service Act was passed. And in October construction of Camp Forrest began, named in honor of Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, a prominent Civil War cavalryman from Tennessee. Camp Forrest was to become the army's largest cantonment.

From all around, people flocked to Tullahoma seeking employment on the project. Many Tullahoma

families took in boarders. Churches opened their doors, allowing people to sleep on the floors. Still, many people were forced to seek shelter in hay lofts, parks cars and culverts.

On March 3, 1941 the first troops moved into the camp, followed by the first contingent of 30,000 soldiers on March 6. Camp Forrest trained soldiers infantry, artillery, engineering and signal units. Famous units arising from Camp Forrest included the 2nd Ranger Battalion, which later was noted for scaling 90 foot bluffs and overtaking the enemy on Omaha Beach in the Normandy landings, and the 80th Infantry Division who fought under General George Patton's 3rd Army.

In mid 1941, the area around Camp Forrest was selected as a maneuver area. Among those who came to train in the war games were the famed Gen. George Patton and his 2nd Armored Division. The camp served as the bivouac area for participants in the maneuvers.

The impact of this military center on Tullahoma was enormous. In less than a year, Tullahoma had grown from a tiny dot on the map, just southeast of Nashville, to one of the largest little towns in the nation. It was said that Tullahoma's streets were so crowded that every day looked like New year's Eve on Times Square. At times, as

many as 145,000 troops were stationed in the area. Tullahoma's population reached an all-time high of 75,000.

And as her population increased, so did her problems. Shortages of housing, school facilities, and utilities developed, as did the problems with sanitation, and health. Civilians were faced with blocked roads, driving at night with no lights and inconsistent mail delivery. Restaurant patrons waited in line for as long as an hour, only to find that many items from the menu already had sold out.

Despite the problems, many Tullahoma citizens prospered during the Camp Forrest days. Merchants did as much business in one day as they had previously done in a month. And while the military maneuvers frightened the cows so much that they stopped giving milk, and the chickens so much that they stopped laying eggs, the price for a dozen Southern-fried chickens soared to \$35 and \$45. Folks with running water prospered by selling baths, complete with soap and towel, for \$1 each.

On May 12, about a year after the training center had opened, it was converted into a Prisoner of War camp. The first POWs received were German soldiers captured in North Africa, while under the command of Rommel. Later, Italian and Japanese soldiers were also prisoners at the camp. During the war Camp Forrest received more than 22,000 POWs, although

some were transferred to branch establishments.

The prisoners worked in the camp hospital, bakery, kitchen and automotive shop, as well as on farms in surrounding communities. Recreation programs, plays and religious ceremonies were available to them.

Repatriation began in 1944, then was stepped up in 1945. The last POW left Camp Forrest on April, 1946. And with this the Camp Forrest era came to a close.

In 1947, your editor made a trip back to Camp Forrest only to find only the roads, chimneys and foundations as a reminder of Camp Forrest. When one of the old log bridges broke under the weight of my car, I thought it may be time to get out of the old camp of which I have many memories. I know this will generate your memories also. Town Pump, where we were grouped three and four deep to be waited on, and would buy four or five beers at a time so we wouldn't have to wait so long for the next one, as did, so many others.

A lot of our buddies who trained there with us there are now gone not only by the war, but also by age and sickness. So Mote it be!

HELP!

From Jim Christen, 8605 Coran Drive Cincinnati, OH 45255 (E-mail Jchristi@meyer.com) would like to know if any of you G-317 men remembers his father, S/Sgt Leo William Christen II.

Also from Mary Weuve whose father Samuel Reseigne was a Capt. In the 318th Anti-Tank Company, would like to know if any of you fellows remember her father. He was wounded in Luxembourg on 12/23/44. Some of his friends were Francis Redar, John Weaver, and "Doc" Glasser. Her address: 8342 Suffield Street, La Palma, CA 90623.

Susie Honsnger, daughter of Adam Haiser Co. G 317 2965 Winegar Road, Bancrof, MI 48414 (E-mail her nodayoff@shianet.org)

Pete Wagschal 7453 Bruner Dr. Glenhaven, CA 95443 E-mail address: pkwagschal@hotmail.com wants to know if anyone of D, or

305 Med Bn remembers his father, Rolf Wagschal.

Larry Scheidel, 414 - 135th Ave. Wayland, MI 49348, would like to know if any of you remember the battle for SCHEIDEL. Please write direct to him. Thank you.

Had word from James Smith D-319 spoke of his sight and wishes to say Hello to all his friends... Also had word from Kenny Gruetzmacher K-318, asking when we changed to four battalions, Kenny, that is the modern 80th out of Richmond, VA.. He also spoke of several of his buddies who were KIA, namely S/S Fekete and Bob Kerr. He states he is now 75 years old. Wishes he could get to a reunion, but feels that is impossible. He worked as a Chemist for 36 years. He lost his check book and had to cancel all the checks. Also stated he came to the 80th from Company K 397 Infantry of the 100 Division into K-318. He had a stroke in 1990 effecting the left leg and arm...



Donald Schou (holding sweatshirt) 633rd AAA AwBn, at a school presentation on WWII

MAIL BAG—

continued from page 7

The Editor had a very nice letter from Julia Patesel telling me how much she wished the days to get longer, and the snow to melt so she so she could drive to the store and do her own shopping instead of waiting for her son to either drive her or pick up some bread and milk. Says she has been living off her frozen reserves. Say's she has fallen and hurt her chest and the doctors told her, not much they could do for her and to take Tylenol. Told me she is going to surprise me some day with a telephone call. She says she misses her husband Ed, and sent in a donation in memory of him. Julia, I am looking forward to that call.



"WE ONLY MOVE FORWARD!"

82nd Reunion & Convention
Brock and Namoi welcome all 80th Division men, their wives and family and guests to our 82nd Reunion.

When: August 22-25, 2001

Where: Holiday Inn,
Hampton, VA

Come, see and greet your friends and maybe make new friends. See, you!

—PAID ADVERTISEMENT—

LAST 100 DAYS, E.T.O.

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—PLATOON SERGEANT—

**80TH BLUE RIDGE
INFANTRY DIVISION
THIRD U.S. ARMY**



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In Memory of Lt Col Michael Damkowitch

The nation has lost a brave soldier and courageous leader with the death of Michael Damkowitch on 6 January 2001. At the end of WWII, Captain Michael Damkowitch was the most decorated officer in the 80th Infantry Division. His decorations included the Silver Star, Silver Star Cluster, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, and the four Bronze Battle Stars.

Second Lieutenant Damkowitch and about 100 replacements, myself included, was assigned to G Company, 317th Infantry, the latter part of September 1944. G Company had taken a beating on the Moselle crossing and we were the fortunate replacements!

At Sivry our first taste of Combat led by Lt. Damkowitch, with me as his runner. We entered Sivry under a heavy rolling Artillery barrage. Mike noticed that some of his men had fallen behind and I was sent back to relay his message to "close the gap"! During the ensuing Battle I became separated from Mike and was wounded. I crawled down a drainage ditch toward a barn and ran into Mike who was rallying his few remaining men. Long hard days ahead! Those at Sivry, especially the men of "G" Company, will never forget the heavy losses and Mike's inspirational leadership.

On the 24th of December 1944, Captain Damkowitch was awarded the Silver Star for volunteering to

infiltrate enemy lines under intense fire to rescue and guide two companies to safety that had been cut off by the enemy. He accomplished his mission without the loss of a single man under extremely hazardous conditions over icy snow-covered hills and under constant fire of the enemy. In April 1945, Mike was awarded the Silver Star Cluster for leading his company across the Rhine River in assault boats and establishing a beachhead. Although wounded during the action, he remained with his troops to encourage them during the fighting that continued throughout the following day.

Mike remained Mike remained in the Service and fought in Korea. 1961 promoted to Lt Colonel. After his retirement he became ill with Parkinson disease. Mike is survived by his wife Dorothy and six children.

We have lost a legend and another Brave Soldier from our ranks! Taps sounds again once again.

Archer Futch,
3rd Vice Commander

317th / 318th / 319th

HISTORIES

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— POSTAGE PAID —

Robert T. Murrell

630 Pennsylvania Ave.

Oakmont, PA 15139-1574

John E. Thayer L-317 Tells of His Memories of Mousson Hill

In the Post Reunion Newsletter 1999 Issue #2 the story of an officer of Company I 318th Infantry Regiment appeared. Here is what I remember.

I joined the 3d Army at the Argentan-Falaise Gap, I was assigned to Company L 317th Regiment of the 80th Division., and shortly afterward we moved toward the Moselle River. I was in the point Company of the 317th and we received three rounds of enemy artillery as we approached a group of buildings to our left about 30 yards away. While in this location a Brig. General came walking fast toward the head of the column. He stated "what's the hold up Captain"? He was told we had just received a few rounds of artillery and he had sent a patrol out to investigate the buildings. He told the Captain there is nothing in

those buildings and started to walk ahead of us when he was told we were the lead company and there was nothing ahead of us, only for him to say, there soon will be one as he took off and was soon out of sight.

The men that was sent to investigate the building returned about the time we reached the high ground on the west side of Mousson Hill. We were told the General had hitched a ride in a jeep heading toward Mousson. The 317th attacked across the Moselle River and two days later took the ground at the base of the Mousson hill. When we started up the hill, how the General got up on the east side of the hill, I don't know, for the hill was crawling with Germans. Later we heard that General Searby had been killed on the hill.



Mousson Hill

From out of the past...

Continue from last Issue —

The final field order issued by the XII Corps called for an attack at 1100 hours on the 24th to seize and hold the line of the Sauer and Moselle Rivers with such enemy crossings as might remain intact. The main effort was to be delegated to the 5th Division, the latter having extracted much of its strength from the line on the left of the 4th Division to form a counterattack reserve. The 4th Infantry Division was to hold in place as the 5th passed through, supporting the 5th's attack by fire wherever possible. Finally, the 2nd Cavalry Group (reinforced), which was just moving into the new XII Corps area from the old, would take over the extended Moselle flank on the right of the corps. This had been a constant concern to general Barton during the 4th Division battles and had absorbed battalions of the 22nd Infantry badly needed on the fighting line. The artillery support planned for the attack included fifteen battalions of corps artillery plus the organic battalions in the divisions. The mechanized units available represented considerable strength: two combat commands of the 10th Armored Division with CCA of the 9th Armored Division attached; two separate tank battalions; five tank destroyer battalions, of which three were self-propelled; and two cavalry squadrons.

The German LXXX Corps faced the XII Corps with two divisions in the line anchored on the Sauer and no corps reserve. The deep valley of the Schwarz Erntz remained the

boundary between these divisions, constituting as it had in earlier fighting an ever present physical obstacle to a homogeneous corps front and co-ordinated maneuver. On the right the 276th Volks Grenadier Division was engaged in small-scale attacks near Savelborn and Christnach. The extreme left or eastern wing of this division was not solidly anchored, and all attempts to break out of the Schwarz Erntz gorge and bring the left forward in conformity with the advance of the neighboring division had been thwarted. The result was that the 212th Volks Grenadier Division, on the right, occupied a south-facing line stepped forward of the 276th and precariously open at its western end. To cover this gap the 423rd Regiment had spread thin, so thin that its main line of resistance was little more than a series of smallish strong points. As a result the LXXX Corps' order shortening the 212th line by withdrawal on the night of 21 December was issued with the intention of contracting the 423rd to give more body to absorb the American punches when they came.

The Echternach bridgehead, expanded toward Michelshof, was defended by the 320th Infantry and the division fusilier battalion. The far left wing of the division and corps was led to the Sauer by the 999th Penal Battalion. On paper, General Senfuss' 212th Volks Grenadier Division had a third regiment, the 316th, but although this unit had helped establish the bridgehead it was the Seventh Army reserve and not even the corps commander



(L) Forrest Parker (R) Elmer Murer; Co. F, 317th Inf. 80th Div., photo taken February 1945—published world-wide.

could use it freely. The field replacement battalion belong to the LXXX Corps were almost completely drained by the heavy losses incurred in the infantry regiments. The rifle companies of the two line division numbered about forty men apiece. Each division had only one light and one medium field artillery battalion in direct support; the corps had perhaps five battalions, plus one Werfer brigade. Probably the bulk of this firepower directly behind the divisions. The infantry companies had fought during the first days without the aid of assault guns, but a few of these and two companies of antitank guns reached the LXXX Corps just before the American attack on the 24th.

The Seventh Army, and more

particularly Beyer's corps, began the Ardennes battle as the kitchen maid in the scullery and would end it in the same status. Replacements, armor, artillery, and supplies by this stage of the German counteroffensive went first to the two panzer armies. Since there was inadequate transport for resupply in the main battle area, Brandenberger could hardly expect that addition trucks and critical items would reach the tactical backwater where his army was stranded. The German commanders on the Sauer front had recognized as early as the 21st and 22nd that the bolt had been shot; they and their weary troops knew that the coming battle was lost. The

Continued on page 18...

ground to be held, however, generally favored the Americans first phase.

There was one notable exception—the natural corridor of the Schwarz Erntz. This corridor could be used to split the two German divisions. Moreover, it led directly to the main corps' bridge at Bollendorf and this bridge, if lost, would leave the bulk of the 276th Volks Grenadier division stranded on the west bank of the Sauer. So seriously was this threat regarded that on 22 December the Seventh Army started work on a heavy bridge at Dillingen to the rear of the 276th.

The morning of the 24th broke clear and cold, bringing a mixed blessing. The thermometer stood at 20 degrees below F, and the American foot sloggers would have to suffer (trench foot was commencing to appear), but the gunners and fighter-bomber pilots could rejoice. With two fire direction centers handling the corps artillery and with perfect visibility at the observation posts, the battalions fired salvo after salvo for interdiction and destruction. A few woods and villages got special treatment—TOT's with white phosphorus, a killing device for which General Patton had built up some attachment among troops of the Third Army. It seemed to the Americans that the good shooting by enemy gunners in the forty-eight hours past required an answer; so counter battery work began the moment the infantry jumped off in the attack. During the day and night the XII Corps artillery would fire 21,173 shell to support the attack on a ten-mile front. The 5th Division artillery fired 5,813 rounds, exceeding the daily expenditure during the bitter

September battle in Arnaville bridgehead. General Weyland's XIX Tactical Air Command, old friend of the 5th Division, made good use of beautiful flying weather, but there were many targets to divert the fighter-bombers beyond the XII Corps zone. The 405th Fighter Group flew eight missions during the day, dropping fragmentation and napalm bombs at points along the Sauer, then strafing and bombing the roads east of the river.

At 1100 the ground attack commenced. There must have been an uneasy feeling that the enemy had plenty of fight left because the corps commander told Iwrin that should he feel the attack was proving too costly it would be called off. Caution, it was said, had become less opprobrious in the Third Army since 16 December. The XII Corps G-2, who like many other intelligence officers had miscalculated the German ability to resist during the optimistic days of early September, now estimated that the enemy reserves in front of the corps equaled one infantry and one armored division. At the same time the American staffs had an uncertain feeling that the extremely tenuous connection between the XII and XX Corps along the Moselle would attract German attention.

The 5th Division began the attack with three regiments in line on an 8-mile front reaching from Savelborn on the west to Osweiler on the east. From the line of departure, generally in the rear of the main line of resistance, Iwrin would feed his battalions into the 10th Armored line on the left and the 4th Division on the right, eventually relieving the latter by extending the

5th division wing lengthened by the 2nd Calvary Group, to the Sauer. Tasks forces of the 10th Armored Division were to attack on a northern thrust line, clearing the villages on the south banks of the Sauer as they went. The main effort by the 5th Division, also looking north aimed in its early stages at high ground overlooking the Echternach bridgehead: Hill 313 southwest of Lauterborn, the scene of much bitter fighting when first the Germans pushed down the road from Echternach; the ridge south of Berdorf commanding the Schwartz Erntz gorge; and, in the old 9th Armored Division sector north of the gorge, the plateau and village of Haller.

On the right of the division the two battalions of the 10th Infantry continued their attack north of Michelshof. Along the thickly wooded ridges to their front the 320th Infantry, supported by most of the 212th Volks Grenadier Division artillery, was concentrated to block the way to Echternach. The 1st Battalion, advancing to the right of the Michelshof-Echternach highway, one again found the combination of heavy woods, Germans in well-disguised foxholes, and accurate shellfire too much. Two hours after the attack began the enemy retaliated with a counterattack, assault guns paving a way for the infantry. The American gunners quickly disposed of this. The 2nd Battalion, to the west, had eight medium tanks belonging to the 737th Tank Battalion and less difficult ground. Four tanks and two platoons of Company G started along the main road, covered by other troops advancing on the ridge to either side of the draw. Shell bursts on the road and bullet fire soon

drove the troops to the cover of the trees lining the draw, where other of the battalion were ferreting German riflemen out of their camouflaged foxholes. Smoke fired to cover the attack gave added momentum; then the tanks destroyed a pair of machine guns nests on Hill 313. Momentarily, however, the attack wavered when a part of Company G turned west toward a hill mass it mistook for its objective. Brought back, the infantry followed the tanks to the proper objective. The Germans there decided not to engage the Shermans, and by dark the battalion had Hill 313.

The 2nd Infantry sector, in the division center, extended from the Mullerthal (Schwarz Erntz). Immediately to the north lay the thick forest and rugged ground of the Kalkesbach, an unsavory obstacle. Col. A. Worrell Roffe, the 2nd Infantry commander, decided to risk a flanking thrust along the Mullerthal with his 2nd Battalion and use his 3rd Battalion in a frontal attack against the Kalkesbach. For the final punch a tank company and the 1st Battalion lay waiting in Colbet. If all went well the regiment would swing onto the Berdorf plateau and face eastward above the Sauer River.

To gain entrance to the Mullerthal was no simple task. It required an attack due west down into the draw, where artillery could be of no help. Companies F and G undertook the task, and the fight became a man-hunt, rifleman against rifleman, stalking one another in crevice, on cliffs, from tree to tree. The quarry, skillfully hidden, had the best of it. Company F ran against a strong point on a cliff and was the loser in a fire fight. Company G lost direc-



Ordurf concentration camp, April.

tion several times in the maze of cross corridors, but at one point drew sharp fire. At dark the two companies dug in against bullets seemingly whistling in from every direction. It was evident that the tree covered rocky floor of the gorge was no place for further attack, and Colonel Roffe ordered the two companies to fight their way out of the gorge at daybreak. The battalion was then to gather in an attack on Doster Farm, which overlooked the road to Berdorf.

The 3rd Battalion, north of Scheiden also had hard fighting and a slow advance. The terrain over which the attack was made consisted of alternating draws and ridges, cleared ground and timber. Advance by ridge line or draw terminated in cross corridors, natural glacis for the enemy riflemen firing down the slope. At one point Company L suddenly was swept by rifle and machine gun fire, suffered thirty casualties, lost two company commanders in the space of minutes,

and became disorganized and unable to move. Lt. Col. Robert E. Connor, the battalion commander, got the division artillery to work on the ridge line confronting the company, sent his S-3, Capt. Frederic C. Thompson, up to sort out the demoralized soldiers and replace the platoon and squad leaders who hors de combat, then put his reserve, Company K, in to flank the German position. The reserve company made its way to the head of the draw from which the enemy could be taken in enfilade. While this flanking fire swept the German line, Company L (reorganized in two platoons of twenty-five men each) attacked with marching fire. The ridge was gained and most of the defenders killed, but this time the attackers lost only three men. Company I, advancing along a draw on which Wefers were directed, took many losses during the day. All told the 2nd Infantry had made only a few hundred yards by close of 24 December.

Continued in next issue

Co F 318 Post 46

Ed McDonald sent me a section from a book written by EMILE SINKOVEC, the French 17-year-old who aided us in France. He became the unofficial interpreter for Capt. McDonald. The late Lou Ungrey visited Emile a few years ago, and Emile attended our reunion in Jackson, Miss. Here's the translation from his book:

"Early in the morning, Captain McDonald and his 1st Sergeant, Al Slagus, arrived at my parent's house. Having learned from neighbors that I spoke English, they wished to press me into service as interpreter. The first thing they wanted me to do was help them prepare lodging for the company... because, while waiting for the next offensive, the division had decided to take up winter quarters in our town. Each family was asked to give up two rooms of its apartment in order to lodge about a dozen soldiers. We met with no difficulties. On the contrary, the people seemed truly delighted to welcome our liberators.

The captain installed his "CP" in the home of the Cottini family, who lived on the corner of our street, not far from the "CP" of the battalion. My orders were to keep myself available in case he needed my services, but since he was Scottish, therefore miserly, this didn't happen too often.

Although seeming more like a kid beside the Captain who was 2 meters tall, I was quite proud to

see myself, in a way, requisitioned by the Americans. And so I spent most of the day discussing things with the officers and underlings of his company. For the first time, I was surrounded only by adults! But were they really adults? In spite of their age, they didn't give me that impression. During our lengthy discussions, I discovered that I was

at least as mature as they were."

Plans for the 2001 REUNION in Springfield, Mass., are moving forward. June 2-3-4-5 are the dates. You'll be getting a registration packet, just as soon as Tom Pappas get all the details worked out. He promises good accommodations, and some very interesting side trips. You might add a few days to your trip and see some other New England states.

Thru the aid of the Internet, I've found a few more Company F alumni: Fred Bruno Frank Dvorak, Joseph Friguetti, Clura Long, Leonard Obler, Earl Priddy, Wayne Rexroad, Thomas Tusinac, Fred Volkmar .

You'll see their addresses and phone numbers in the next mailed newsletter. If you have any old army orders with lists of Co. F men, I'd like to receive copies. Al Gioffredi send copies of orders for Good Conduct Ribbons and Combat Infantry Badges... they were very helpful in finding the people listed above.

Enough till later
Bob Fasnacht Sect.

Lane Hall Post #42 313 F.A. Bn

First, I wish to thank all who remembered Ruth and me during the Christmas Holidays. It was a pleasure to hear from so many old friends.

About 90% of the news received was bad. I guess the other 10% just didn't want to complain. Oh these good old days! After reading all the cards, I must give the Aging Veterans Award for the year 2000 to Charlie Noxon. He had four surgeries, celebrated his 80th birthday, his 50th wedding anniversary, and he became a great Grandfather. If anyone can top this in 2001, let me know and we will consider your name for the award.

I just got word that Warren Burkhart had two major operations in February 2001. He is doing O.K. Recuperating at home.

About a mini-reunion for 2001 at Bear Creek farms in Bryant, IN. After reading all the ailments, I know the heart and mind says go for it but I am convinced that our old worn out bodies could make the trip. Therefore, I decided to eliminate the mini for 2001 and concentrate on Hampton, VA in August. God willing, we will have a hospitality room.

If anyone is interested in vacationing at Bear Creek Farms, contact me and I will send you information I received from Mary Brinker. It looks like a very good spot to visit.

I just borrowed a closing line from Irv. Robinson. ENJOY, HAVE FUN, IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK. Jim Phillips, Sect/Treas.

Post #33 Co. H, Inf.

For a starter, I moved from Bridgeton, MO, to St. Peters, MO. This is about seventeen miles from where I did live. I purchased a house behind my daughter's house. The move was not of my wanting but rather because of the St. Louis Airport Expansion. I didn't think it would have been wise to look a bulldozer in the eye so the move was the better alternative. I am still living out of boxes. Not really, just that they are, still boxes in the basement that have to be gone through. In time it will be home. I am settled enough to accommodate friends. So, drop by.

From the Christmas cards that I received it would appear that more are considering to make the 2001 Reunion in Hampton, VA. I plan to attend as well as my family. John and Penny (daughter) are already preparing an itinerary for the free time. Of course my son, Jerry is planning an organized trip to historical places with bar stops along the way. I am sure Commander Brockman will have an outstanding program that will be a good time for all.

On the sadder side, Kate Bebe fell and broke her arm near the shoulder and got cut on her face. No, the cause is not what you may think. She was returning from church when she slipped on the ice and fell. She is doing fine and is her happy self because John is doing the house work. Jean Poppen reports she is well but has given up golfing. Who said the Golden Years are great! Al & Dorothy Conway

305th Engineers Post #40

At the reunion, (2000, Louisville) it was discussed about how the Post might continue to function and we decided that as long as the 80th Association does... we will. If your opinion is different you have to write to the secretary and it will be considered at the first meeting of the Post, by the members present.

I received Christmas cards but little correspondence. Ruth Hanson explained something about Evertt's health. Dick Foerster said he has improved. They are as old as all of us so we don't expect a miracle to happen.

For some who have not taken a train ride lately I have news that late in September I made a 6000 mile cross-country Amtrak trip that was really enjoyable even without a sleeping compartment. I left Hamilton on Saturday morning, took Southwest Chief out of Chicago and arrived in San Diego on Monday morning. After four days

are hoping to attend the reunion. Of course Bill and Wilma McKinzie will be there. Both were missed last year because of an automobile accident that left Wilma with some bruises.

Orin and Nell Ledbetter are already making plans to attend. "Way to go!" Tony and Lois Kudrna snowbirded to Florida for the winter and no doubt will attend the 2001 Reunion. Nick and Ginny

there I went up to San Francisco, rented a car a few days then took the California Zephyr back home.

My transvan is sitting in the back yard waiting for me to jump into it and go but maybe it's made it's last trip by me. Gas for it too high for miles traveled. Anybody want to make an offer? I'll deliver it.

Checking my mailing list of 305 Engineers living in Virginia gives me hope that some new (old) faces will be seen at the Hampton (2001) reunion. When you receive the registration letter, make plans to be there. The good times are not over yet and this is an opportunity you should not pass up.

Russell Sick, Post Commander



Grossi will make the long trip from Settle. Continuing from the west coast, Irv and Hilda Robinson will be there. Wow! "Way to go". I have not heard either way from C.D. but hope he and Louise will attend.

So long for now. Hope to see ya'al in Hampton, VA for a great Reunion. God Bless.

Gerald Ohlman, Commander

Cincinnati Post #34

The Cincinnati Post #34 met Sunday for lunch and I was asked to send in a report, I took several pictures, but later found I had no film in the camera.

Cincinnati Post 34 meets every month on the first Sunday for lunch during the dark months and beginning in April we will change to five O'clock dinners. The Post has dwindled to just a "group" but we still want to remain loyal to our Eightieth Division veterans.

Our Christmas party was at Dante restaurant at the Imperial Motel on River boat Row, in Newport. On Sunday 4 February we had lunch at "Jeckles at Hyde Park". Present were Stan & Gladys Benzinger, Art & Grace Rehling, Jesse & Jean Obel, Betty Cammerer, Melda Schmidt, PNP, Floyd Warner with his son Dale and his wife Hella, Howard & Lucky Macke and Russell Sick, PNC. I'll say somebody is doing a fine job to select the locations and making all the arrangements.

Best regards to all our friends and the readers of the Blue Ridge.

Submitted by Russell Sick, PNC

Co. L 319th Inf.

Thank God it's getting close to springtime and the nasty winter weather is nearly behind us. I hope all of you will quickly shed the Winter Doldrums and feel that spring come back into your steps. Ah, the thought of the warm sunshine and the longer days of light makes me feel like Little Orphan Annie "Good all over"

Good news about the upcoming reunion in Hampton. Our hospitality room has already been contracted for by Jim Young and will be Room 1201. For convenience, my room will be 1202 so to be close to the action. To put it mildly, Jim is really on the ball, when it comes to having a hospitality room available for our use. We owe you a tremendous vote of gratitude Jim and I know that I speak for all of us when I say "Thank you Jim"

I have heard from Christine Cooper and am happy to report that she is making slow but steady progress and should be back on her feet, ready to join us in Hampton.

Betts Flynn E-mailed me that John had a successful operation but is in a Rehab Facility and is in a lot of pain. She said that he is working very hard doing his Physical Therapy so he can get home pretty soon. Betts also told me that she had a colonoscopy on January 21st and although not a lot of fun, the excellent results are worth it. She promised to tell us all about it at the reunion.

Helen Soloninka has been in the hospital and soon will return for shoulder surgery. Let us all keep John and Helene in our prayers.

Jim Young keeps in touch with me through E-mail as does John Flynn and Rudy Berman. Rudy is a great one for sending 3-mail jokes and hardly a week goes by that I don't hear from him.

I am still having my leg and hip problems and the residual pain I had after my October 7th operation will not go away. Doctors have prescribed Physical Therapy, Celebrex, xooox, Morphine—none of which worked and now I am taking Epidural Nerve blocks to try to remove the pain. I have taken 5 nerve blocks up to now and have experienced a minor improvement in the pain level. I expect to continue these nerve blocks until I obtain some tolerable level of pain relief.

I received a note and some pictures from Lemoyne and everything seems to be going well for him in sunny California. I received a Birthday card from Lou Blatz and Richard and they both appear to be enjoying life. Bill and Billie keep in touch occasionally by phone and it appears that life in Kansas keeps them busy. Many thanks to all who favored Maria and I with greeting cards during the Christmas season. Included with the cards were notes from Faye Anderson, Helen Haddock and Pearl Grady, Faye told us she is heavily involved with her Grand Kids. Helen says she is still deeply involved in her bowling and does extensive traveling when not bowl-

Company L 318

Company L-318 is meeting in Logan, Ohio for a Company Reunion at the Bear Run Inn on the north side of Logan, about four miles out, on 11,12 and 13th September 2001. All 80th men invited and more so if you are L-318, we would love to have you join us. Come join in and win the war once again. Be nice if you would let us know if you are coming. Bob Wilson 506 Tomlinson St., Indianapolis, IN 46222-3248. 317-244-0226 E-mail Address: rdmvw98rdmvw1998@yahoo.com

ing. Pearl writes that she often thinks of her visits with the Company L family at the reunions and how much she misses Bob.

I had a letter from my old foxhole buddy, Gayle Baker who was Squad Leader of the 3rd Squad, 3rd Platoon. He and his wife Gloria are well and Gayle is recovering nicely from his heart problems.

So much for now. Save up your pennies for another great get together in Hampton. Stay healthy so that you can take advantage of this once a year opportunity to meet and greet old friends and combat buddies. Soon you will be getting your Registration Forms. Get your paper work in early. Please don't put it aside. Make your plans to be in Hampton NOW.

Hank Einolf.

Greater Reading Post #32

Not much action here in reading or at least I haven't heard about it. We do have a death to report, Thomas McMullen reports his brother-in-law Robert Brockmeir 606 Tafel St. Cincinnati, OH Cannon Company passed away recently.

Also Warren Burkhart had two stays in the hospital as his doctor used "generic" staples (Ha, Ha) and after a day at home, he had to return and have repairs made. He is slowly recovering.

Frank Bettencourt had a kidney removed and is under the able care wife and nurse Mary at home and hopes to be up and around soon.

Florida is losing one of their snow birds as the Thynger's are returning to live in "Gods Country" to be near their children. Both are having health problems, like the rest of us.

Our next breakfast meeting will be held at Crystal Springs Restaurant on 17 March, 9 A.M. St. Pattys day, wear your green, come green or not.. "Its free." At our Christmas Dinner we had 27 people and they enjoyed their selves.

Perhaps our post will be able to afford a bus to go to the Reunion in Hampton, VA in August. I'm checking prices as of now.

More bad news, Thieves broke into Karl and Audry Blocker's home,

Co. M 318th Inf. Post #44

Bill Kessler writes, he called Fred Opel and Bob Murrell, but neither was home, he has arthritis in the shoulders and heart problem, gets over to the club to play Gin Rummy, didn't say if he wins or loses... Jack Stumcke has had a bout with his health, but still thinks and calls around to different M men,... On a sad note, we have lost another "M" man to our Supreme Commander. Marion Courtney passed away on 1/20/01, after a long illness. Marion was one of the few who made several reunions. His wife Betty passed away last year. I will miss both of them.

while they were away at church and stole money and other valuables. My own home was broken into twice, so I know the frustration.

I am planning a farewell (?) trip to England and Europe for the month of April and hope to see all my friends one more time. Hopefully all my friends will open their doors and welcome me with open arms? I wish and hope!!

PNC Lou Shirey Sect/Treas

NO REPORT:

Rcn. Post #37

Post #36 3d Bn., 317 Inf.

As I have done in previous years, I've taken the liberty of abstracting a few words from Christmas cards which, I hope, may be of interest to many.

From O. E. And Lucille Clark: "It's been a very blessed year for us." George and Dolly Crofoot "Have a nice holiday." We understand George is having medical problems. Paul Cowgill mentions the ranks are "getting thinner." Paul resides in a Masonic facility. Opal Finch says 2000 has not been her best-had two sessions in the hospital with heart problems. She is fortunate and blessed to be home with wonderful neighbors and friends. Rev. Frank Florence has had physical problems and was in the hospital several times since Thanksgiving. We hope Frank, at this writing, you are showing signs of improvement.

From Rex and Cecelia Kibbe: "Glad to see Parks at the reunion." They mentioned that they hadn't seen Bill Cyrana there. The Kibbes are busy. In May they went to Seattle for grandson's college graduation. Painted outside of house this summer. If roads are good will spend Christmas with son 42 miles east of them. Rex walks a lot and goes to weight room 3 times a week to keep fit. First of year will visit a son in Texas who is an engineer on railroad. Bill Petrollini writes he is feeling great (after 3 years of misery) thanks to the man upstairs. Bill, glad to hear the

good news. From Leroy and Nancy Pierce: he is still working about 2 days a week in the family store when needed. He mentions the heavy snow and roads slippery. They will spend Christmas with one of their sons in Arizona. Nancy had her fourth knee operation (replacement) on December 28. Nancy, we wish you well.

Ellie Schaub writes: Enjoyed the card from the reunion. Her children make sure she is doing fine. We didn't hear from Joe and Pauline Zabitchuck. Hope, Joe, you are improving. Angelo and Kay Barone, Betty Hook, Bill and Charmaine, Martha Linck, Bob and Joan Moorhead, Harry and Fran Nutting, Bob and Pauline Parks, Mildred Render, Bob Smith Jeff and Mary Wignall send Holiday Greetings and good wishes for a Healthy New Year.

Rose and I will be going down to Florida for January, February and March. We don't expect to count ballots. We also understand the Barones and Bob Smith will attend the Florida Post meeting in early March.

Bob Nathason, Sect.

Brett Post #3

The Luncheon meeting for May 17, 2001 will be held at the Shakespeare's Restaurant, 1495 Mercer Road, Ellwood City, PA from 12-4 PM. Choice of Entrees. All 80th invited but must know if you are coming. Call Helen or Mel beers at (724) 224-8956. Letter to Post members will be sent out soon.

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St. Louis, MO 63131

DV and DV Hqs Co. Post #39

Bill Elzeer and Tony Mangan both observed their 88th birthday. Tony on 10 January and Bill on 11 January. Fondly, we send our best wishes to two great guys, and we hope they both make it to the century mark. At the time of his birthday, Tony came down with a worrisome bladder problem. Thankfully, things worked out fine.

Jim Sell finally moved into his residence in Landsdale, PA about 20 miles from his old abode. He is slowly getting adjusted to his new digs, and says that in a few weeks he will feel right at home. His new address: 3316 Brittany PTE, Lansdale, PA 19446-6525. Phone (215) 442-3884.

Talking about birthdays, on February 23rd, I celebrated my 80th! You know, mentally I still feel bright-eyed and bushy tailed, but physically, I'm a total wreck.

Our best to all of the Blue Ridger and keep thinking HAMP-TON, VA. CIAO

Fred Buscarni



Florida Post #47

By the time you read this we will already have had our spring meeting at the beach in Melbourne. I hope not too many got sunburn. Walter and Christine Cooper are hoping to attend if Christine continues her improvement. It is our heartfelt wish that they make it.

While visiting our daughter and family in Tampa we were able to stop and see Wally Ponder. He is looking good and hoping to make an appearance at Melbourne.

Sid Haley and his wife Marcella were in Egypt enjoying all the monuments and the stone work that the Egyptians did four to five thousand years ago. They will be back in time for our March get together.

Our next meeting will be in Ocala, Florida November 2nd to the 4th. It will be held at the same Hampton Inn as last year. It is located at 3434 SW College Road, Ocala, FL 34755. The telephone number is (352) 854-3200. When making reservations ask for Type C, reservations by October 19, 2001. The rate will be \$61.00 Double or Single. Rate is good 3 days prior and 3 days after the meeting. We will have the same hospitality rooms.

Remember to mark your calendars for our National Reunion in August at Hampton, VA. Hope to see you all there.

Francis Rajnicek, Sect

New York Post #43

Our next gathering will be in Albany, NY at the Turf Inn. This will be our annual gathering and election of officers and our 20TH POST ANNIVERSARY. Date are Memorial Day weekend, May 24-28, 2001. We will have our usual four day gathering and on Friday night we will have a big cake and celebrate our 20th year. Much fun for all.

Our usual meeting at the convention. Check bulletin board for data. Our fall gathering we are still working on, but we know the dates and location. Above Watkins Glen at the Glenora Wine Cellars overlooking beautiful Seneca Lake at Dundee, NY. New beautiful motel in a beautiful location. Dates are October 8-12, 2001. This is a Monday through Thursday program. Better rates and availability at this time. Something new to try?

Barbara has been under the weather so I am behind schedule, but will catch-up shortly. Hope to see many of you at our gatherings, just let me know your plans if you plan to attend. All are welcome... Ed Bredbenner Sect

(Editor note) Let us all send Barbara a get well card, she has had surgery and an infection in her head. Her address: 141 Honness Lane Ithca, NY 14850-6253.

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

Russell Sick, President
Frank Terrizzi, Vice President
Felix Cistolo, Secretary / Treasurer

**Brett Post No. 3
Pittsburgh**

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

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

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Commander

Robert N. Nathason
Secretary / Treasurer

Greater Reading Post No. 32

Phil W. Piergrossi, 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
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Art Rehling, Treasurer
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David C. Orr, Post Rep.
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**305th
Engineer Battalion
Post No. 40**

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