

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

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# BLUE RIDGE

The Service Magazine  
Volume 82, Number 329

Summer — 2001  
Issue 2



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

## A. E. F.

Artois-Picardy  
St. Mihiel  
Meuse-Argonne

## E. T. O.

Northern France  
Ardennes  
Rhineland  
Central Europe

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*Deadline for the next issue is September 15, 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).

**Secretary/Editor**

Robert T. Murrell

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All communications, including articles, photos, news items for publication, changes of address, dues remittances and death notices should be addressed to the Secretary/Editor.

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

**TRUSTEES**

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

**2 Years**

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

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**1 Year**

George V. West (G-318)  
Louis Cayer (80th SIG)  
Joe H. Hege, Jr. (80th RCN)

**3 Years**

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

## Commander's Corner



We (Mabel and I) attended Florida Post 47 annual March "madness" meeting in Melbourne. Had a good time. Most was up and at them at daylight to see the launching of the space shuttle. Spectacular! (So was some of the haberdashery)

Have been in contact with the Brockman's and all is well for our gathering in Hampton, VA in two months. Attendance has fallen the past few reunions. We should make extra effort to persuade others of the Association to be present and supportive of this Honorable group of Heroes! (The 80th Infantry Division!).

I have seen numerous TV programs of various WWII Combat units lately and they deserve the accolades given, but, some of these units were called upon for only one engagement and did not have the line time of the 80th. I know the men of the "Blue Ridge Division" deserve the same respect. (We did not have a good press agent!) Therefore we need to join together for the common good and remember those past experiences and those who did not return.

See you in Hampton!

Remember:

*"The 80th only moves forward"!*

## 82nd Reunion & Convention

The Reunion Chairman says all things are go and just waiting for your Registration.

*Welcome to 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 old friends and maybe make new friends, avoid the crowd at the registration desk. REGISTER NOW! See, you and all your buddies and guests, it may be the last time to see them.

## McBride Scholarship Fund

Once again, since there were 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) others will donate \$200, he will still donate \$500 to the McBride Fund. His new offer expires 1/1/02. To date we have one taker.

Stumcke, John C. M-318

### *Letter from Recipient of the McBride Scholarship Award*

Dear Robert T. Murrell:  
National Sect.  
80th Veterans Assoc.

I have been chosen as the recipient of the Horace McBride Scholarship Award from the 80th Division Veteran's Association for \$500.00. I am currently a senior at Madison High School in Madison NE. Next fall I will be attending Wayne State College in Wayne, NE. I plan to major in Computer Science and this scholarship will help defray my many costs. I am extremely grateful for this generous gift.

This scholarship has aided many Madison Students in the past and it is greatly appreciated. I wish you well and I thank you and your association for this scholarship.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Meier  
P.O. Box 25  
Madison, NE 68748

## Welcome New Members

Collins, Frederic K-317  
PO Box 253  
North Truro, MA 02652-0253

Cruey, Linsey H. 314 FA Bn  
408 Merriewood Drive  
Bristol, TN 37620

Freedman, Eddie D-317  
14 Finsbury Park Ct.  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
301-598-9919

Kline, Leonard A. Assoc? 80th  
321 Calvin Drive  
Salisbury, MD 21804  
410-742-4129

McPhee, Peter ?  
5523 Columbus Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33405-3414  
?-588-7114

Neider (Formally Neiderjaufner)  
Florian A L/M 317  
50 Pimlico Drive  
Bella Vista, AR 72714-6104  
501-855-2681

Stanley, Sheldon M. L-318  
3905 Arthur Street NE  
Columbia Heights, MN 55421-1435  
763-788-0062

Tusinac, Thomas G. F-318  
830 Lake Orchard Circle #102  
Vero Beach, FL 32962  
561-770-6032

## Life Plus Club 1999-2000

Life Members who contribute over and above the Life Membership. There is no set amount, it's free will as of 1 June 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  
Annon I-318  
Bardinelli, Rufus C-305 Med  
in memory of his wife Doris  
Barr, Jack G-317  
Bruno, Ralph J. L-317  
Clark, Oscar I-317  
Cree, LeRoy E-318  
in memory of his brother, Melvin also  
E-318  
Damkowitz, Virginia Mrs.  
In memory of her husband  
Falzone, Joseph J. 2nd Bn Hq/318  
Hovey, Richard B. E-318

Kauffman, Murry I. F-317  
in memory of Capt Jess Barton F-317  
Michael G-317  
Dodd, Richard P. Hq 318/317  
Hamsher, Richard C. Cn-319  
House, Ray M. Hq-315 FA Bn  
Karr, Alferd B-318  
Parks, Robert E. L-317  
Paterson, Raymond W. A-317  
Pflederer, Robert Cn-319  
Reber, Sydney A. Dv Hq Sp. Trps  
Scacco, Anthony A. A-305 Eng  
Schultz, Calvin F. Hq 3rd Bn 319  
Swisher, Jeanette Mrs., In memory of  
her husband Edward 80th Sig  
Weaver, Robert 80th Rcn  
Westbrook, Robert 80th Sig  
Zabicki, Benny Hq 318

## "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!

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

\$20 EA  
Operational History — \$30 EA.  
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630 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oakmont, PA 15139-1574

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## Mail Bag

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I have been asked to print the E-mail address of our members, the list ran last issue, this is the new E-mail address's and corrections to add to your list.

Anderson, Dale -E-317

Correction:

canineHndlr@aol.com

Bell, George M. F-319

WA8DY@aol.com

Barden, A. A-318

bigbands@execpc.com

Berry Gene

Gberry@Tampabay.RR.com

Brumfield, Mary Ann Widow

Brum@aol.com

Daniel, Jean Gilbert I-317

Jnpepe@aol.com

Florence, Frank L-317

Elizflorence!@cs

Kelley, Sheldon E 305 Med Bn

sk1395@earthlink.net

Monday, Adrain L. F-318

Correction:

Aalm78@aol.com

Monaghan, James J. Cn-317

Correction:

Monaghan@msn.com

Moore, D.L. Samuel, 1st Bn Hq 319

Samglo@pocketmail.com

Noxon, Charles 313 FA Bn

Cnoxon1020@aol.com

Pressley, Edmund J. A 314 FA Bn

Geezereye@aol.com

Petrollini, William I 317 Correction:

Petro39@aol.com

Stepneski, Anthony J. A-317

ajstepneski@aol.com

Our Past National Commander Frank Terrizzi has had a rough time of it, along with his eye sight being bad he has had a stroke, Prostate Surgery and now an aneurysm... Had a phone call from Louis Cayer, Lou said to tell everyone he has had a new hip installed. In the hospital three weeks and now he is walking without any pain. Good to hear from you Lou... William I. McDaniel I-318, RR 1- Box 101 Wallace, WV 26448-9716 sure would like to hear from some of his old buddies... Rita Holt writes, thanks for keeping the Newsletter coming. I look forward to each issue. I lived in Tullahoma and Salina until 1944 when Ken was sent to Yuma. I returned home to have our baby girl, Diane. I am now 80 years old and in good health... Bob Westbrook writes, I appreciate the effort everyone puts forward to make the "Blue Ridge" so enjoyable to read. I was an 80th Signal Co. Member from Camp Forrest to the end of the war. Although I am not an active member, I am proud to have been part of the 80th Division, and remember many good men and activities that took place. One of my proud moments and memory is receiving the Bronze Star in France. Also, winning a trophy for being the best shot in the Signal Co at that time. So much for the memories. Good luck to all my buddies... A. Barden of A-318 asks if anyone remembers the counter attack by the Germans at Kassel on 2 April 1945 if so E-mail him... It again becomes my sad duty to relay the death of two very close friends. Mrs. Barbara Bredbenner, Jr. Passed away after a brief illness. She was the wife of our Past National Commander and National Historian Edgar E. Bred-

benner, Jr. Who is also the Sect. of the New York Post. Barbara was my back up for the National Roster of the Association and I shall miss her very much The address here is 141 Honess Lane, Ithaca, NY 14850-6253... also the passing of Ada Shiffette, wife of William of C-319. The address here is 292 Moon Clinton Road Coraopolis, PA 15108-2415. Ada took ill when she had returned for the funeral of her mother and died from a heart attack while there. We send our condolences to both of these families... From Fort Polk Military Museum, P.O. Box 3916, Fort Polk, LA 71449-0916 Subject: Distinctive Insignia. Dear Mr. Murrell: In behalf of our Installation Commander, and speaking for this Museum Staff, I want to thank you for your gift of a 317,318,319 Regiment Distinctive Insignias. Your welcome gift will be a great addition to our new museum exhibit. Again, I want to thank you for your honored gifts and for responding to my original introductory letter, Sincerely, David S. Bingham, Museum Curator. This is a response to a request for the Regimental Insignias... It has been reported that George West C-318 208 Bridge Street, Presto, PA 15142-1204 has had a pace maker installed and is doing very well at home... Fran Poletti writes and is asking all of us to write to Richard L. Friedman, Chairman, National Capital Planning Commission, 401-9th Street NW North Lobby Suite 500. Washington, DC 20576 concerning the delay in the building of the WWII Memorial and ask him to do all in his power to have the ground breaking before we are all gone and won't get to see it. I am of the opinion, this

ground belongs to the WWII Veterans the same as the people who don't want our memorial there. Come on Guys and write that letter... The 2001 VBOB reunion, is to be held in Orlando, FL on Sept. 29-Oct. 3, 2001. Those wishing to attend call 407-647-4672... Congratulations go to William Pettrollini I-317 who again was elected the Mason of the year, in Youngstown OH.

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## Secretary's REPORT

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"E" MAIL ADDRESS  
Divinf80@AOL.Com

### Gentlemen:

I am asking you to check your dues on the front of this issue of the Blue Ridge Newsletter. Some of you are in arrears of your dues. The Executive Council a few years back voted to have me remove all those who are three or more years behind with your dues. I have not toed the line for some of you, but due to the number members appearing under "Taps", I can no longer carry you and unless I hear from you with some sort of payment toward your dues, THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE. I personally feel some of the Newsletters may be going to Widows or family members who are deceased and have not been reported to me. If this be so, please forward that man's name to me so I may let his Buddys know of his passing. THANK YOU

## "TAPS"

Barton, Jess Capt 575 Welcome Way SE Salem, OR 97302-3931 Rptd by Murry Kauffman	F-317 4/5/01	Hall, Troy c/o 500 Rockaway R Irvine, KY 40336 Rptd by wife Beulah	M-319 2/5/01
Blank, James c/o 5894 Biarhill Dr. Solon, OH 44139 Rptd by daughter Marian	F-318 12/29/00	Havlik, Rudolph 2701 Regency Oaks Blvd Clearwater, FL 33759-1535 Date unknown Rptd by Fred Buscarini	Dv Hq
Brown, Charles Rt. 1 Lowell, Ohio 45744 Rptd by Al Scacco	A-305 Eng 3/31/01	Henry, William D. Sr. 157 Taney Ave Bellaire, OH 43906-1668 Rptd by wife Betty	Sv Co 318 5/19/01
Budziak, Joe 683 Carson Street Hazelton, PA 18201-3318 Rptd by B. Fasnacht	F-318	House, Ray M. 2405 Pebble Creek Place Jonesboro, AR 72404-6954 Rptd by Mancy Henson	Dv Arty 4/22/01
Bulloch, Broze B. 399 E Center Street Trl 22 Cedar City, UT 84720-2670 Mail notice Deceased	Hq 2nd Bn 317 4/1/01	Johnson, Gustave H. 14 Barton Street W. Hartford, CT 06110-2103	M-318 3/27/01
Cornell, Donald North Bangor, NY 12966 Rptd by Alvin Black	F-317 1/6/01	Koons, Ralph E. Waynesboro, PA Newspaper obit Rptd by Bruce Smith	?-319 3/01
Delaney, Dennis A. 1337 N 10th Street Manitowoc, WI 54220-1907 Rptd by Paul Arndt	80th Sig 2/24/01	Lueders, Ruben c/o 11034 Wynong Drive Baraboo, WI 53913 Rptd by Ole Fosback	G-319 date unknown
DeMond, Eugene 11278 Bridgetower Dr Boise, ID 83704-5501 Rptd by daughter Loren	B-318 Unknown	Matthews, Joseph Former CO Dv HQ Co. Address and Date of death unknown Rptd by Fred Buscarini Postal return by Nursing Home	
Dunn, Eustace E. (Frenchy) 1337 Merimac CV Memphis, YN 38134-7720 Rptd by Pete Mayer	B-305 Eng 5/30/01	Pudelek, Paul 8498 Grayfield Street Dearborn Heights, MI 48127-1540 Rptd by Reunion Chman (letter)	F-317 10/00
Garris, Albert H. 99 Leroy Street Binghamton, NY 13905-4324 Rptd by Wife	E-319 10/00		

Rogowski Harry F-317  
119 Colonial Street SW  
Port Charlotte, FL 33952-9108 5/12/01  
Rptd By Gaylord Smith

Silberman, Donald J. MD Bn Surg 317  
Birmingham News Obit 4/26/01  
Rptd by James J. Monaghan G-317

Silberstein, Fred L-319  
10651 W. Clairmont Circle  
Tamarac, FL 33321-7857 4/19/01  
Rptd by Jim Young

Smith, W. Truett 317 MD  
c/o 7920 Lockwood Lane # 239  
Austin, TX 78757 4/29/01  
Rptd by Deborah Smith

Thiel, Albert E ?-317  
Port Charolet, FL 3/3/01  
Non Member Rptd by  
A. Cresson Newspaper Obit

Umberger, Charles H. 80th Sig  
7901 N. Wheeling Ave  
Muncie, IN 47304 4/30/01  
Rptd by son David

### 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.

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**MILIBOOKS - Dept. A**  
**10410 Donoho Place**  
**St. Louis, MO 63131**

## HELP!!

Dear Robert Murrell,

What a thrill it was this afternoon to talk with someone like you who was so nearby when I was liberated. Whether or not I am able to learn the Regiment, Battalion, or whatever sized unit it was that liberated me—and locate one or two of the men that were there with me in those joyous days so long ago, just finding you has given me a great deal of comfort. As I told you on the phone, I only knew that my liberators were in the 3rd Army, and that the soldier that I had the most contact with was a Lt. J. O. Tripp — nothing more. It had snowed heavily for a short time early on that Thursday morning in Ried, Austria, but it had mostly cleared off around noon. As I told you I was a tail gunner on a B-24 bomber that had been shot down in early December, '44, and was the only American or Allied POW being held in an abandoned brick factory on 'high ground' about 250 yards from the main part of town. With me were about 50 Russian POW's and just after dawn a couple of the Ruskies came running through the building saying they had just seen American tanks 'skirting or spearheading around Ried without encountering any resistance whatsoever and heading toward the East. After hearing about the tanks (presumably from their own people) the old German guards offered to give us their rifles thinking the war was now over. However, while these guards were waiting for us to take their guns, a squad of SS men walked into the building with their machine pistols "

held at the ready" and said if any further effort was made by the guards to surrender, they would shoot everyone. So nothing happened until around 2:30 pm, when I began to hear loud automatic gunfire coming from the direction of the main part of the town. After only a very few minutes, the firing slacked off and then two P-51 Mustangs came in at fencetop level and shortly after that there was no more gunfire as white sheets were seen from my location all over town. During those almost two days I was with these men I developed a feeling of closeness just about like I had with my fellow crew members on our bomber--so you can see why I want to contact some of them if any are around and can remember these long ago events. I forgot to say that the men said they had been ambushed by a small force of SS men and Hitler Youth firing behind tombstones in a cemetery just outside Ried as they attempted to enter the town. Well, I didn't mean to get this 'wound up'. So thanks for whatever you can find out. Do you think there is any possibility that it might have been part of the 65th motorized Infantry Division that crossed the Inn river May 2nd at Scharding a few miles north of Branau and continued Eastward (according to the book, "Patton's Third Army Chronology" day by day account??

With warm regards,

Eugene R. Hodge ("Gene")  
#4 Arnold Drive  
Texarkana, AR 71854  
Ph - 870 772 4723  
Fax - 870 772 4728

*Does anyone remember the above?  
if so write the man, please!*

## More Memories of Mousson Hill

TOLD BY JOESPH J. LARA L-317

As we approached the town of Pont a Mousson under heavy artillery fire, we were told to take cover in the basement of a house in the town. After a few hours, we were called out of the houses under heavy artillery fire to help the Engineers carry the assault boats to the river. We were to become the first wave. As we hit the far bank of the river, we hit the dirt and dug slit trenches while waiting for the second wave which never came.

As the barrage on the town increased in ferocity, the rest of Company L pulled back. When we knew we were not going to be reinforced, some of us were going to swim back to the other side of the

river. Since some could not swim, we elected to stay.

The Germans countered attacked and overran our positions. We suffered heavy casualties. Some were killed and some, like myself, were wounded. The Germans marched us up the hill to a barn. Our troops saw movement on the hill and thought we were Germans and shelled us killing and wounding some G. I.s. We were moved back behind the German lines. We were placed on trains where we were strafed and bombed on our way to Frankurt. From there, we were sent to Stalag 7A in Mooseburg, Germany where I spent almost nine months before being liberated by General Patton who rode through the camp on a tank. What a beautiful sight.

—PAID ADVERTISEMENT—

## LAST 100 DAYS, E.T.O.

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—PLATOON SERGEANT—

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INFANTRY DIVISION  
THIRD U.S. ARMY



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**D-DAY**  
**1944-2001**  
*We shall  
never forget  
those who led  
the way.*

---

PHOTOS BY CALEB HURST

# 80th Infantry Division in WWII

SENT IN BY GEORGE WEST G-318

Recognized by the Army of the United States as one of the crack divisions in General Dwight D. Eisenhower's "Crusade in Europe," the 80th was known as the "work-horse" infantry division of Lt. General George Patton's swashbuckling Third Army.

All but one long week of the 80th (Blue Ridge) Infantry Division's 274 combat days were spent in "Blood and Guts" Patton's Army.

The exception was when the American and British Armies trapped the German Seventh Army and destroyed much of that enemy army in closing the Argentan-Falaise Gap in a long and bloody week. In this long week, the 80th was in the First Army and received its major baptism of fire liberating the French town, Argentan, from the Germans.

The 80th was praised by the commander of the V Corps in which it served in the Argentan-Falaise Gap, then Maj. General Leonard Gerow, who later became the three-star commander of the 15th Army, organized late in the war.

Several days after the 80th's victory at Argentan, the division, whose motto was "The 80th Only Moves Forward," rejoined Patton's Army in its historic drive across France, often being the point of Patton's racing columns and working much of the time in tandem with the fabulous Fourth Armored Division. To the east of Paris, Chalons-sur-Marne, Bar-le-Duc, and St. Mihiel, of World War I fame, all were

liberated in short order by the 80th of War II.

But, soon a diversion of Gasoline by Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces to troops north of the Third Army slowed Third Army. As a result, Patton's armored and infantry division could not continue to leapfrog one another, as they had been doing, American Blitzkrieg style, capturing roadnets, tearing the guts out of the enemy.

A Moselle River crossing soon proved extremely costly to the 80th, particularly to one of the 80th's three regiments, the 317th Infantry.

The 80th 319th Infantry successfully established a crossing of the Moselle at Toul, south of the 317th and 318th Infantries, then joined in the horrendous fight going on between the 317th and 318th versus the Germans from the city of Pont-a-Mousson and to its south.

Within several weeks, the French rains came. They came and came to flood all area streams. The rains never ceased for long during the next several months. And much of the time, in the mud, American armor bogged down. On top of that, Hitler put an expert in tank warfare over the Nazi forces waging a campaign of attrition against the Third Army. He was general of the Panzer Troops Hermann Balck. Balck's rank was that of Colonel General in the German Army.

Most 80th Division men who fought in this infantry slugfest during September, October, November and early December 1944 in Alsace-Lorraine and who also were still

living to fight in the Battle of the Bulge in Luxembourg in December 1944 and through late January 1945 have contented the Lorraine Campaign was the worst of all four campaigns of the 80th Division, even worse than the bone-chilling Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge) Campaign.

Months later in early May 1945, after the 80th had finished its role in the Battle of the Bulge, subsequently had broken through the Siegfried Line two times so two different American armored divisions could rush through it, had crossed the Main and Rhine rivers against opposition, had defeated the enemy at Kassel, Erfurt, Gera and Jena, overrunning the city of Weimar and nearby Buchenwald Concentration Camp in the process, and liberating Ebensee Concentration Camp in the Austrian Alps, the war was coming to an end, and troops of the Soviet Union from the east were in hot pursuit of the German forces in Austria, and the 80th was the Allied division which was attacking to the southeast in the Austrian Alps.

The same Col. Gen. Balck, who had conducted Hitler's horror-filled war of attrition against the American Army east of the Moselle in French Lorraine, was now on that Austrian scene as the top officer over two German armies, the sixth SS Panzer Army and the Sixth Wehrmacht (non-SS) Army, both now being attacked from their east.

Balck is reported to have told his two armies that he now was going to surrender to the Americans and his troops had the option of surrendering to the Americans or to the advancing Soviets. About 60,000 SS

Officers and enlisted-grade personnel surrendered to the 80th at the same time. Nobody has ever reported that any of Balck's troops waited for the advancing Soviet to take them prisoner.

The SS came in on armored motor transportation on one highway and the ordinary German Army officers and enlisted grade personnel came in on another highway on horse-drawn transportation. One reason the 80th is credited with 212, 295 prisoners-of-war is due to the surrender of these two field armies. Even without them, the division's prisoner-of-war counts in earlier combat operations was a most impressive number.

At this 80th Division Veterans Association's 81st Annual Reunion (The World War I, 80th Division was called upon three times in the great Meuse-Argonne Offensive and was ranked first among National Army Divisions by the War Department), there were more than 300 people attending, including wives, children and grandchildren of its World War II Veterans. The youngest of the veterans will be about 74. The eldest division veteran to attend is the chief chaplain of the 80th Division in World War II, is now in his 90's. Younger comrades of this high-casualty division--which had 17,087 battle casualties with 3,500 killed in action or who died of wounds inflicted by the enemy in nine months--like to say, "This chaplain was protected by the armor of God." The foregoing article was written by Col. Lou Engelke who served as a first lieutenant in the 80th Infantry Division Military Police Platoon in all four of its World War II Campaigns.



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## WORLD WAR ONE MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE (Summary)

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Originally designed to be an "isolated attack" by the British troops along the Somme River, to be followed by an American push on Meziers, over time the plan to capture a German stronghold turned into a plan for a "massive attack" by the Allied forces. From September 26, 1918 until the armistice on November 11, 1918, more than 120,000 allied soldiers on a front of 64 kilometers had engaged and decisively beaten 47 different German divisions. The allied force suffered 26,277 killed and 95,786 wounded, compared to the 130,000 German soldiers who were killed to wounded and another 26,000 German prisoners captured.

Altogether, the Meuse-Argonne offensive was the greatest American battle of World War One.



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## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENT GREETINGS

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This is to Acknowledge That The President of the United States of America Authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918.

The Silver Star Medal

To: John L. Lawler

Sgt. 1827812

Company "K" 319th Infantry  
United States Army

For extraordinary gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Meuse-Argonne region of France September 25 through November 11, 1918.

Given to his Granddaughter, Cecilia M. Smith, by the office of Franklin County Veterans Affairs of Pennsylvania on this 20th day of May in the year of Two-Thousand and one in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

Past National Commanders, Angelo Barone, Clarence Brockman and Robert T. Murrell along with their wives drove to Fayetteville Pennsylvania, then to the VFW in Chambersburg, PA. representing the 80th Infantry Division, where they were witnesses to the presentation of the Silver Star Medal, along with the Purple Heart given to Mrs. Smith. They were the weekend guests of Bruce and Cecilia Smith, of Fayetteville, PA. who were very gracious Hosts.

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## 80TH LADIES AUXILIARY

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The ladies of the 80th Auxiliary sure made a wonderful showing at the Florida Post Meeting last spring, in Melbourne Fl. The following was in attendance;

National President

Cara Lee Davis

2nd Vice President

Ida Reilinger

Secretary

Rose Pallietto, PNP

Chaplain

Kay Rajnicek, PNP

Historian

Rita Kutch

Sgt-at-Arms

Helen West

The following PNP's were present.

Alice Schmidt

Margaret Schock

Marsella Haley

Lorene Meyer

Naomi Brockman

and many others members of the Auxiliary.

We wish to send get well wishes to 1st Vice President Charmaine Laing. We are sorry to hear of your accident.

We also send Best wishes to Mabel Burrows and her husband Bob on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Also to our Past National Commander Henry and Camille Wurst also on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.



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

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Not too much news since the last issue of the Blue Ridge.

Lou Shirey spent a lot of time April and May visiting friends in Europe. He stopped to see Tillie Kimmes. Lou stated the weather was not too cooperative. A lot of rain. I wish he would have been able to send some to Southern Pennsylvania. We really need rain here in Elizabethtown.

There will be no "Aging Veterans Award" this time. Maybe later. Let me know your problems.

For those of you who remember Rose Rickard, Clay's wife, she passed away in April of this year. She was living with her daughter, Lisa, in Temecula, CA.

If all goes as planned, we will have a hospitality room at the Hampton Hotel August 22 through 25. Room number 3408 on the 4th floor. We will be there sometime on Wednesday, the 22nd. BYOB.

From all indications, we will have a good attendance. Keep in touch, see you soon.

Jim Phillips Sect/Treas.

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## Co. M 318th Inf. Post #44

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It is again my sad duty to tell you of another M-318 man passing away. Gustave H. Johnson. Gus as many of us knew him by, came to many reunion until his health began to fail. He was in bad health for a number of years, but still kept in touch. We'll miss Gus.

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## Greater Reading Post #32

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Things here at the post hasn't changed much from the last blue Ridge printing.

We lost a wonderful friend and member of our Post, Barbara Bredbenner. Our members offer their condolences to Ed and Family.

It seems only bad news is received here. Many of our members are living on pills and treatments. Myself, I have a severe ankle sprain, I developed running to catch the boat from Calais to Dover. HA, HA! Other than having 25 days of rain during my month in Europe, I did get to visit many friends made over 30 years.

I visited Tilley Kimmes in Luxembourg City and she now in a home with her own apartment and still likes being independent.

We have another breakfast-meeting June 6 at the Crystal Springs Restaurant in Sinking Springs. All of you are welcome for a free breakfast. We had 22 at our last meeting.

Each Memorial Day we place a wreath at the Forrest Hills Cemetery where our Post has a plaque in memory of many of our boys who are buried there including PNC Henry Moyer.

Our get well wishes go out to all of you who are not in the best of health but are hanging in there.

Hope to see all of you in Hampton, VA. If any of you would like to try out for 3rd Vice Commander, please let me know. The Association could use some new blood and I don't mean the red kind.

PNC Lou Shirey Sect/Treas.

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## Co F 318 Post 46

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### GREAT REUNION!

Thirty-four persons attended the reunion of Co. F, 318th in Springfield, Mass., May 2-6, 2001. This year's reunion was brightened by the attendance of sons of men killed in combat during the war. Bill and Joan Kelly, and Herb and Todd Meinke attended and were pleased with the camaraderie and willingness of our men to share their memories of their fathers.

A tour of the Springfield Armory and Museum recalled the "03s" and Garands and BARs we carried in WWII. Tom Pappas also arranged a trip to the Westover Air Force Base, where we toured the C-5 Galaxy... the largest plane in the Air Force... an impressive 144 ft. long and able to carry about 150 tons of cargo. Later we visited the Yankee Candle Museum.

The formal Post 46 meeting concluded with arrangement to have the next reunions in Florida and Indianapolis... with a possibility of meeting on the Queen Mary at some date soon.

A Saturday evening dinner completed the schedule, with most agreeing that the friendships formed were the greatest reward for attendance.

Bob Fasnacht,  
Secretary

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## Florida Post #47

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Our post meeting in Melbourne was well attended. The Florida Chamber of Commerce did their job. The weather was as they promised. Sorry to say some attendees over exposed themselves and there were some red or pink body parts to advertise the fact.

Our entertainment was very good and much appreciated, especially the stand up comedian attested to by the number of favorable comments that were received.

Many thanks to all ladies that assisted in on obtaining, preparing and presenting all the copious dishes provided at all our luncheons in the spacious hospitality room.

While attending the Lakeland VBOB meeting I saw Wally Ponder, he was looking good. I phoned Walter Cooper, he said Christine is improving. We hope to see them at the fall meeting.

As was mentioned in the last issue of the Blue Ridge, our fall meeting will be held at the Hampton Inn in Ocala, FL November 2 - 4, 2001. Those attending can call the hotel direct for reservations, the number is (352) 854-3200 ask for Type C reservation. The rate of \$61.00 for single or double will be good 3 days prior and 3 days after the meeting.

Hope to see you all at the National Reunion in Hampton, VA.

Francis Rajnicek Sect.

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## New York Post #43

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By the time you read this we will have had our annual meeting and election at Turf Inn, Albany, NY. This is our 20th year and we plan special times.

We will meet for a short meeting at the reunion in Hampton, check the board for data.

Fall gathering will be at a winery off Seneca Lake, above Watkins Glen. Glenora Wine Cellars has just opened a new 40 room motel at the winery and over looking Seneca Lake. The color should be at its peak and I am sure we can find some wine and some fruit, especially apples. We are going to meet in the middle of the week. Monday through Thursday, Oct.8-12, 2001. Our Thursday noon buffet and social will be at the Watkins Glen Elks Club, just above the village of Watkins Glen on State RTE 14. This will be Thursday, Oct. 11, 2001 at 1130 AM. We will have a nice hospitality room at the INN and a good relaxing time. Many others wine stops nearby and across Seneca Lake where we usually find some food and wine. The Cayuga and Seneca wine trails have over 40 wineries to see. This is a special time of the year in the Finger Lakes with leaves turning and harvest of fruits and vegetables. Post members will receive the usual mailing. If others are interested let me know. The deadline for rooms is Sept. 17th. See you there.

Ed Bredbenner, Sect.

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

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We had a nice note from Oscar and Lucille Clark and their niece Susan (L). They are all doing fine and write they have been healthy this past winter. They still go to town and eat out routinely. Glad to the good news. They also wrote they expect to see everyone in August in Hampton, only a 4-hour drive for them.

We received a nice letter from Rex and Cecilia Kibbe (L). They traveled a bit during the winter. Down to Texas to see one son and then to Nevada to see another son and back home in April. Rex mentions he had stroke symptoms and wound up in the Emergency Room in Las Vegas. After under going tests, nothing was found wrong. Found he had arthritis in the right side of neck. Taking medicine for this. Cecilia has to have knee replacement in late June. They will not be at the reunion in August. Rex wants everyone to know they are still around. Hope you both get well real soon.

Angelo and Kay Barone and Bob Smith attended the Florida Post meeting in march in Melbourne, FL. After visiting their son in Orlando and attending the meeting in Melbourne, the Barones drove down to St. Petersburg and visited us for a few days. Wasn't that good of them? We had spent the winter in St. Petersburg, and are now back in Newtown Square PA.

Information about the reunion has been mailed out. We urge all to register early.

To those who are ill, our prayers and thoughts are with you and hope for a speedy recovery.

Bob Nathason, Sect.

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## *Cincinnati Post #34*

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Just a few lines after returning from Post # 34 Sunday's Dinners held at Perkins Restaurant, Western Hills, Ohio (Suburb of Cincinnati). As you know quiet a few members, spouses, and widows of decease members who get together on the first Sunday of each month to "Break Bread" and visit each other.

At the gathering this afternoon were the following: Russell Sick, of Hamilton, OH., Betty Cammerer, Mel Schmidt, Grace and Art Rehling, Treasurer, Jean and Jesse Obel, Grace and Stan Benzinger, Lucey and Howard Macke, and Vickie and John T. Wettig Sr. Sect.

Our commander Floyd Warner has been ill for the past two months was unable to attend. He is greatly missed by the group and we wish him a speedy recovery.

This group has been getting together for sometime and we like to talk about the old and good times.

We thank God that we are still able to get together and visit and talk over dinner on these Sunday afternoons.

Everyone send their hello's and to write when you have time, we like to hear from our fellow buddy's.

John T. Wettig, Sr.



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## *Co. M 319th*

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I've just returned after three months in Florida and thought I had better get some news off to our friends of Company M. I received some very nice Christmas cards with some good and bad news.

From Bryan Basden, attended his class reunion (1943) in Wendell, NC, also took a trip to Myrtle Beach with his church group.

From Doris and Emily Fleetwood, says he is doing good for an 80 year old man. Spent five months in Florida. Stated he done a lot of fishing. Do you eat all your catches Doris?

From Troy and Beulah Hall, Beulah had both knees replaced and also major surgery. Therefore was unable to make the Louisville reunion. Troy turned 81 in December and on February 5, 2001 passed away from a heart attack. Beulah is now living with her daughter at 500 Rockaway Road Irvine, KY 40336 Phone 606-723-8292 and her daughter's 606-723-5565.

From Katherine Johnson, sounds ok and stated she and her daughter Barbara may make it to the Hampton reunion for the week end. Has a niece who lives in Suffolk.

From Robert Lisko, Bob had eye surgery in December and now says he can see very well with the implants. Bob is experiencing other health problems. Expecting to move to Arizona to be near his daughter Pam.

Bill and Betty Miller, Betty is recovering from a benign tumor of the brain and is improving every day. We are pleased to hear the good news.

Banner and Lois Rice, a very nice note describing Banners spine and knee problems. Had surgery two years ago but still in considerable pain and walks with a walker. Unable to attend the reunions.

Harriet Tucker Johnson, Harriet married David Johnson October 7, 2000. Congratulations to the couple. Address remains the same drop her a line.

That is the news for this writing. I would like to thank all who sent in the news, without it our M friends wouldn't know what their buddies are doing. Sorry it is so late getting the news to you, Burt Marsh

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### **NO REPORT:**

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## *Rcn. Post #37*

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## *Company L 318*

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

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## *Brett Post #3*

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

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## *305th Engineers Post #40*

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## *Co. L 319th Inf.*

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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

*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

**Melvin Beers,**  
Secretary/Treasurer

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

Robert W. Smith  
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  
POST #34**

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

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

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

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

**2001 DUES NOW PAYABLE  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**



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

New Member       Renewal

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

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

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

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

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

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

**NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY**

**2000-2001**

**Cara Lee Davis, President**

Charmaine Laing, 1st Vice President  
Ida Reilinger, 2nd Vice President  
Rose Palmietto, Secretary — Helen Beers, Treasurer  
Kay Rajnicek, Chaplain — Rita Kutsch, Historian  
Doris Murrell, Sgt. at Arms — Helen West, Sgt. at Arms



**FLORIDA  
POST #47**

Archie Howell (A-315)  
Commander

Francis Rajnicek  
Secretary  
215 Bill Allen Circle, W  
Sabastian, FL 32958