

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

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BRUCE SMITH 2001
254 WAVERLY CT
FAYETTEVILLE PA 17222-1202



BLUE RIDGE

The Service Magazine
Volume 83, Number 331

Winter — 2001
Issue 4



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

A. E. F.

Artois-Picardy
St. Mihiel
Meuse-Argonne

E. T. O.

Northern France
Ardenes
Rhineland
Central Europe

God Bless America

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Deadline for the next issue is March 1, 2002

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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*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
May each of you have the best ever*



On 10 September Naomi and I traveled to Fayetteville, PA to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Smith. On 11 September we, along with the Smiths traveled to the War College Carlisle, PA.,

for the dedication of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the BOB, who donated a huge Stained Glass Window showing the soldiers marching through the woods and snow depicting each unit who participated in the Battle of the Bulge. The 80th Patch is 3rd from the bottom on the left side. A very fine service was held with 300 people and representatives from Luxembourg and Belgium, in attendance. If in the area stop and visit at Brill Hall to see this window. I met another 80th man while there.

8 October I visited along with my wife and the New Honorary Commander George West and his wife to the fall meeting of the NY Post held at the Glenore Inn and Winery at Dundee, NY. We saw

both the color of the trees and snow. On the way home we ran into rain. Everyone had a fine time visiting the wineries and making a purchase while there. All the meals were very good. I won the 80th Clock. We wish

to thank the NY Post for the gifts and fine time shown us all week.

I wish to extend my deepest sympathies to the families of Tony Kudna and Oscar Clark, both who attended the Hampton Reunion.

I wish to thank everyone who sent cards, notes and phone calls about have such a good time at the reunion.

The Holidays will soon be here and Naomi and I wish to send our Greetings and Good Wishes to everyone. As each of you who have a Holiday Service, please light a candle and say a prayer for those of 11 September.

I will be visiting the Reading Post Christmas Party and the Florida Post Meeting in the Spring at Melbourne Beach.



2002 REUNION NEWS

The 82nd Reunion is behind us. We must now look forward to the 83rd Reunion in the year of 2002. Before we do that, let me once again congratulate Brock and Naomi Brockman on the highly successful Hampton Reunion.

The next one will be at the **Hilton Melbourne Airport** in Melbourne, Florida on August 14th through 18th, 2002. The cost of rooms will be \$74.00. The hotel has

reserved 20 Jr. Suites for units who need hospitality rooms. Free Parking, free transportation to and from Melbourne Airport and to the beach. The Airport is serviced by Delta and Continental Air Lines. The Hilton Airport is a first class hotel recognized as Central Florida's most comprehensive meeting place.

The city of Melbourne is conveniently located to the Kennedy Space Center and I'm planning a field trip with minimum walking there. Disney World, Sea World, Epcot and all the major attractions are in just a short distance away.

I will keep you abreast in the Blue Ridger as plans for the 83rd become definite. Firm up your plans to "Come on Down."! Eric Relienger, Chairman

Secretary's REPORT

Chaplain woods, if I bring you my TS Card will you punch it for me? I have a bitch. Our Guys don't bother to send in their change of address until after the Association has paid \$ 1.69 Cents for the change. Chaplin, it is much too late to save the Association the money after we have paid it. Maybe you can talk to them and ask them that when they move to forward the new address to the Sect. to me before I pay for it? Think if they

have to paid it back they will send it in? After all its only 21 Cents for a postcard as opposed to \$ 1.69.... Jake Phillips was in Company B 305th Med from 1042 until he was discharged in June of 1945. Some of the men I am trying to find or if someone remembers my brother please contact me. Bobby Phillips 500 Moorfield Lane, Montgomery, AL 36117-4457
Call Collect 334-270-2081
E-MAIL: Divinf80@AOL.Com

Life Plus Club 2001-2002

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

Anon.	I-318
Anon.	I-318
Anon	I-318
Bell, Irvin	80th Sig
Courtney, William	
E-317	
in memory of his	
Brother Marion	M 318
Omitted from Last Issue	
Goode, Irving	K-317
Goodspeed, H.L. (Peter)	K-317
Hogan, Walter Jr.	
K-319	
Kaufman, Murray I.	F-317
Litwinski, Rudolph J.	318 Med
Mc Caleb, R. L. Dr.	CN-319
Merritt, Kerry G.	F-319
Millen, Phillip, H. Capt.	C&B-319
Pappas, George	Sv-318
in memory of his wife Emily	
Pflederer, Robert H.	Cn 319
Tagmeyer, Nate	B-319
Taleos, Arthur	K-319
Tomasik, Rudy	I&R 319
Thompson, Ivan E.	L-318
VanCourt, Jim	H-317

Welcome New Members

Julius L. Gulden K-317
211 Batesview Dr Apt 52
Greenville, SC 29607-1159

Shelton, Montie F-318
224 Vine Yard Road NM
Albuquerque, NM 87107

Van Velzer, James W Sr ?-318
20203 S 4112 Road
Claremore, OK 74017

Please see page 25 for information on how you can let more people know about our Association.



Mail Bag

In a letter from Diana, daughter of Carl Henry, Hq 305th Engineers, she writes of the many things her father was involved in. She describes him as being very intense and was always saying he never felt better in his life including the days when he was so sick and he knew the end of life was near. Born in Cincinnati, OH 7 May 1913 and was involved in a shoe business run by an uncle.

Carl indulged in starting a humor magazine when he was about eight years old, and was a founding member of a Jewish youth group. A graduate of Harvard majoring in philosophy and graduated with honors, Magna cum Laude. At the end of his college career, Carl became involved with the struggle that enthused and tormented him—the struggle against fascism, being arrested when he demonstrated against Hitler when he sent a German warship to Boston Harbor. Carl raised to the rank of Warrant Officer. You can reach his daughter with the address in the Taps Column.... Letter from John Beebe H-319, sorry the wife and I can't make the reunions, don't like to get her too far from home. For myself I'm OK, maybe some day we can make the reunions.... Major Grant Porter whom those of you who attended the Hampton

Reunion, will remember him as he Video Tapped our Memorial Service. He is the 80th Training Division Historian and has now received some 30 odd show cases to display additional artifacts any and all articles of either records or Emblems or pins, pertaining to the 80th Division. Your help will be appreciated. If you care to donate let your editor know and I'll get the address where they are to be mailed.

Sorry to report the death of Susan Michalak on 6/14/2001 Reported by the Family.... Letter from Bill Kuhl, writing on the September 11 disaster, states it seems like a dream, and I am sure they culprits will be caught and pay for their deeds.... Jim Van Court 4305 Boone NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109, H-317 writes he has had his share of surgery: Three Aneurysm's, TIA's and Blood Clots. Still moving and enjoying life but at a slower pace. Read the article on Col. Woods and reflected back to the time the Col. was then a Capt. Jim grew up just 30 miles from Greenville, PA. He says he has a copy of General Patton's speech made in May 1944 before D-day... From Bill Spade G-318 just a few lines to let you know I am in good health. I have my ups and downs but don't complain at 81 this past August. Congratulations Bill on your B'day....

McBride Scholarship Fund

At the business meeting of the Association held in Hampton, VA this year, it was brought out, that we have enough money in the fund, to carry the annual scholarships, another 14 years (including the interest during those years).

It was decided to find a foundation, in which to invest this money, so that the scholarships could continue long after the last of the 80th WWII Veterans have all passed on.

We have found such a Foundation. However, we need to have \$10,000 for a permanent endowment. There is currently \$7192.30 in the McBride Fund. It would take approximately four years for the fund to grow to \$10,000. During these four years no scholarships

could be awarded.

We are asking those of you who are able to do so, to make a donation to the fund in order to build it to the money needed. Meaning, we need donations totaling \$2,807.70 to keep awarding annual scholarships. Can we count on you?

John R. In Memory of his father
Vaughn Chambers I-318
Colvin, Harry W. Sv-318
Diana Henry in memory of her father
Carl Henry Hq 305th Eng
PNC Club in Memory of HNC
Nichols Raakotis A-315 FA Bn
Eleanor Schoney in memory
of her Husband Paul, 80th Rcn
Fujion In Memory of her Husband
Spanos, Gilbert M. E-318
Futch, Archer G-317

“TAPS”

Angle, Lee H. K-319
9768 Molly Pitcher Hwy
Shippensburg, PA 17257-9204
10/14/01 Rptd by Wife Elizabeth Ann

Chambers, Vaughn I-318
1385 Holt Town Road
Newport, TN 37821-8410 1/3/2001
Rptd by son John

Clark, Oscar E. I-317
2051 Birchelmo Road
South Boston, VA 24592-6741
9/25/01 Rptd By Bill Petrolinni

Cook James W. 80th Sig
495 Lyle Drive
Hermitage, PA 16148-1631 10/13/01
Rptd by wife Betty

Czajka, Jerome N. Band
Toledo, OH
9/29/01 Newspaper Obit
Rptd by Alvin Bell

Dibble, Robert D. C-318
Address unknown
Not a Member
Rptd by H. A. Wolfe

Faust, Robert J. M-317
626 North St. Elmo Street
Allentown, PA 18104-4342 5/30/01

Frazier, Herman R. 1st Bn HQ-318
35 Huskins Circle
Bella Vista, AR 72715-2910
9/17/01 Rptd by Lucy Leader

Gramlisch, Ray A. C-305 Eng
c/o 1208 S. Main Street
Chaffee, MO 63740 10/13/01
Rptd by Brother John

TAPS continued on next page.

*The following is a letter Bob wrote to Tony's widow, Lois.
September 21, 2001 A.D.*

Mrs. Kudrna:

Permit me to add my prayers and best wishes for you and Tony and your entire family.

Nick Grossi and I were deeply touched by your thoughtfulness, and, strength, in taking the time away from your own private grief to, not just inform us of tony's death but to talk with us.

Your generosity in doing so says a great deal about you and Tony, and will always be remembered.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I am sending to the Gazette in Cedar Rapids, a letter which reflects my respect for tony and so many of the veterans (and, their spouses) from the 80th Division Association.

Finally, I am delighted to have had some part in getting Tony to write about his service to this great country of ours. Such stories should be told.

With affection and respect, Bob Harmon

Harmon, George W. 2nd Bn Hq 319 10152 Rockmoor Court Dallas, TX 75229-6017 10/25/01 Rptd by Paul R. Nelson Newspaper Obit	Morris, Robert G-317 7518 Regency Lane Stanwood, MI 49346-9672 8/1/01 Rptd by Ester
Henry, Carl Hq 305 Eng 201 East 79th Street Apt 3B New York, NY 10021-0844 8/24/01 Rptd by Daughter Diana	Nyparer, Richard A-318 Orr Street Cheswick, PA 15024 8/5/00 Rptd by Elmer Dorsten
Holditch, Damon, Capt Cn-319 C/o 14059 Cutten Road # 114 Huston, TX 77023-2213 Rptd by Walter C. Hogan Newspaper Obit	Rentz, William H-318 121 So. Erie St. #29 Three Rivers, MI 49093 9/20/01
Koczur, Edward C-318 c/o 1415 Sheffield Ave Dyer, IN 46311 10/29/01 Rptd by Daughter Dorothy	Spanos, Gilbert M. E-318 4201 N. Rawhide Circle Prescott Valley, AZ 86314-7651 Rptd by Fujino
Karsen, Jack D. K-317 P.O. Box 7 Cheyenne Wells, CO 80810-0007 9/11/01	Ross, John Sv 2nd Bn 318 2261 Fairgreen Street NE Warren, OH 44483-2801 10/26/01 Rptd by wife Aurelia
Leach, Alvin 131 FA Bn 400 Madrona Ave. SE Salem, OR 97302-6612 1/17/01 Rptd by wife Ruby	Szewczyk, Jack M-319 125 Morris Ave Garfield, NJ 07026-3728 Unknown
Miller, William I-319 112 Iroquois Street Sayre, PA 18840-1757 11/17/01 Rptd by wife	Troksa, Michael J. Unknown Whiting, IN 10/28/01 Rptd by Edmund R. Lelito Newspaper Obit

A Memory to Tony Kudrna

By Charles R. Harmon Ex PFC, AT Company & Regt. Headquarters Co. 319th Infantry
European Theater Operations 1944-1946, September 20, 2001 A.D.

THE EDITOR • THE GAZETTE • BOX 511 500 3RD AVENUE S.E.
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406

I have been saddened by the recent death of Mr. Tony Kudrna of Lafayette Road, Center Point, Iowa. We shared four European military campaigns as members of the same infantry regiment in General Patton's Third Army during the World War Two fighting from Normandy to Austria. We were not acquainted, but, probably saw one-another many times in the States and in Europe in 1944 and 1945. However, long after the war, conversation at a Divisional Reunion developed that we had met and spoken, at least once, on a violent day during the Battle of the Bulge.

That was in early January of 1945. We were in Goesdorf, Luxembourg, and German artillery was battering the village. Their shells destroyed the 57mm antitank gun on which I was a crew-member just as Tony came by on his way to a spot from which to direct fire of his Heavy Weapons Company mortar unit. It was dangerous and we both knew it. We paused long enough to exchange a few words, probably about the accuracy of the German gunners, and he went on to do his job. And, to do it well, as surviving members of his crew have since told me. A natural, dedicated leader, he had already made Sergeant and received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

We really met and talked almost fifty years later. Eventually, he decided

Kudrna, Tony H-319
3830 Lafayette Road
Center Point, IA 52213-9765
9/01 Rptd by C. Robert Harmon

that, as a present for family and friends, he would write a brief description of his Army years and the adventures which earned him his stripes. I had the honor of transcribing that memoir and a dedicated copy adorns my library.

One of Tony's men, Nick Grossi, was severely wounded at almost the same date, in Dahl. Like myself, Nick is a Puget Sound native and a fellow graduate from Seattle University's Class of 1950. Mrs. Kudrna, whom we often and always admired at Reunions, graciously took time away from her own grief to call us both with the news of Tony's passing. Nick and I will join together to remember Tony and his family at Mass and, I am sure, will often do so in the days remaining to us.

Tony was one of those men who- once met-are never forgotten. He was everything included in that highest of praise from one combat-veteran to another, "a good man".

In his memoir of war, there is a wonderful line about the feeling of committing to danger when we boarded the Queen Mary en route from New York to the fighting. To Paraphrase: You knew that it would be dangerous, but, somehow, you would just do it." Tony just did it. Someone once asked "Where does America find such men?" Well, America found Sergeant Kudrna right there in the heartland. It was a pleasure to have known him and a privilege to have served in the same Regiment.

Sincerely, Bob Harmon

From out of the past...

Continued from Spring 2001-Issue 1

The 3rd Battalion commander reported that the action had been like trying to catch a rat in a maze. The Germans, familiar with the ground, had run back and forth through the draws., popping up in new and unexpected positions. The Americans had lost direction and found maneuver difficult in the dense woods and jagged terrain, while their advance along the more direct paths offered by the draws had given the German batteries easy targets. After the untoward events of this first day the regimental commander instructed his battalions to avoid the draws as much as possible and work along the higher ground by short flanking attacks in which control could be retained.

The 11th Infantry took its attack positions during the night of the 23rd in the rear of the 10th Armored screen, the 3rd Battalion on the left at Larochette (Fels) and the 1st Battalion southeast of Christnach. Colonel Black had been ordered to put his main effort on the right in an attack up the draws in support of the 2nd but decided to throw his weight on the left. The left battalion, draped in white sheets and supported by tanks, made its advance in column of companies on a narrow

thrust line bearing north in the direction of Haller and hit squarely between the battalions of the 988th Regiment. Whenever the enemy stood its ground, artillery and tank fire was brought to bear, quickly followed with machine gun fire. Following a level ridge line the 3rd Battalion made good time. By mid-afternoon it held its objective, a wooded rise less than a thousand yards southwest of Haller.

The 1st Battalion has as its objective the wooded table which rose above the Schwarz Erntz northeast of Christnach-the scene of bitter fighting and bloody losses for the Americans when the enemy had held the initiative. Company A, sent down into the Mullerthal gorge while the remainder of the battalion threw in a holding attack on the left, moved slowly but steadily, until after some three hours it was opposite the village of Mullerthal. Here the Germans had dug in, checking the advance with machine gun and mortar fire into the gorge from Waldbillig, moving northwest through one of the cross corridors. As soon as the troops left the cover of the draw they encountered direct fire, and it looked as though the 1st Battalion would find it tough to continue a frontal attack.

The rapid advance by the 3rd Battalion on the left appeared a solution to this tactical problem. Colonel Black prepared to

alter the 11th Infantry scheme of maneuver on the 25th. The 3rd Battalion was to be relieved by the regimental reserve, then wheel to the right, bypass south of Haller, and seize the two hill objectives, the Hardthof and Hohwald, in front of the 1st Battalion. During the night 1st Battalion patrols worked to the edge of Waldbillig, found little indication of enemy strength and by daylight the battalion had a company in the village.

This first day of the 5th Division attack had netted rather limited gains except on the extreme left flank and in the 10th Infantry sector at Hill 313. The six American battalions engaged had lost about two hundred dead and wounded. The enemy generally had held the attackers at arms length (only nineteen prisoners went through the 5th Division cage) and probably had fewer casualties. The German artillery had been very active and effective, despite heavy counter battery fire, while tortuous nature of the ground had robbed the gunners supporting the 5th Division of much good shooting. But something had been accomplished. The 4th Infantry Division at last had been relieved (although it proved difficult to find and make physical contact with some isolated outposts of the 4th Division line), and Col. Charles H. Reeds 2nd Cavalry Group took over the quite portion of the line on the right of the 5th division.

At the close of the day, there

were indications at several points that the enemy was pulling away. A German withdrawal actually did take place during the night. The 2nd Infantry battle along the floor and sides of the Schwarz Erntz, viewed so pessimistically by those engaged, had convinced General Sensfuss, the 212th Volks Grenadier Division commander, that his extended right flank soon would be pierced or turned. To form a shorter and thicker line, Sensfuss drew both flanks and gave up ground in the center, creating a new position which reached from Berdorf across the hills flanking the entrance to Echternach (only 2,500 yards from the center of that town) and west to the Sauer. Meanwhile the miscellaneous troops covering the flank of the 212th west of the river withdrew behind the Sauer, leaving only small outposts behind.

The 10th Armored Division to which were attached the 109th Infantry and CCA, 9th Armored, put two task forces into the attack on 24 December, their mission to clear the enemy from the Ermsdorf-Gilsdorf road. In keeping with the 5th Division attack on the right, the axis of advance generally ran northeast. Task force Standish, on the right, was weighted with tanks and armored infantry backed by two armored field artillery battalions. One of its two teams advanced with little opposition, ending the day just northwest of Eppeldorf. The second team came under the German guns while moving across open ground west of

Eppeldorf; the first reports said half the team was lost to shellfire and rockets. Driven back to the cover of a wood lot the team reorganized, and took on reinforcements, and returned to the attack, this time swinging wide of the town to join the companion team. Later a task force from CCX (as CCA, 9th Armored Division now was named) seized the high ground west of Eppeldorf.

Task Force Rudder, composed of two battalions (less than half strength) of the 109th Infantry, most of the 90th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, and a company of tank destroyers, found the Germans decamping from the narrow strip they held south of the Sure River. Most of the fighting involved enemy on the north bank from Ettelbruck to the east. The tank destroyers claimed to have caught and destroyed numerous vehicles and one horse-drawn battery. In Gilsdorf the German rear guard succeeded in gaining a little time, but the attack continued eastward until nightfall, when Rudder's troops paused on the hill west of Moestroff.

While this advance was sweeping the near bank of the Sure the enemy destroyed his foot and pontoon bridges. The 10th Armored attack and deep thrust achieved by the left wing of the 5th division in the Haller sector was rapidly crowding the 276th Volks Grenadier Division back on Wallendorf and Dillingen, the crossings over which the division had come on 16th December. On Christmas Eve Colo-

nel Dempwolf moved the command posts of his division and regiments closer to the river—a sign of things to come. By this time there was no real tactical connection between the 276th and the 212th Volks Grenadier Divisions; each had been compressed into the area of its original bridgehead.

Since the river line in the 10th Armored Division zone had been reached on the first day of the XII Corps' attack, Christmas passed quietly on the Ettelbruck-Moestroff-Eppeldorf line except for sounds of the tank destroyers sporadically blasting at German traffic across the Sure on the Diekirch-Bettendorf road. But for the 5th Division Christmas was no day of celebration. At 0730 the infantry crawled out their frozen foxholes and moved into the attack. During the first hours they encountered few of the enemy, for the 212th had given up considerable ground during the night withdrawal, but German assault guns and artillery quickly made their presence known. Although the 10th infantry right slammed against the new enemy line in the Hardt woods before the day was through, it succeeded in lining up with the 22nd Infantry to the east.

The 3rd Battalion, which had taken over Hill 313 during the night, found that the Germans had fallen back a few hundred yards to the far side of a fine natural barrier, the Leimerdelt draw. This ravine was some two hundred yards across; its side

were virtually cliffs. Attempts to work around the draw by way of tributary cross corridors failed because the enemy had blocked these routes with machine guns. Lt. Col. Alden Shipley the battalion commander, asked permission to sideslip westward and flank the draw from higher ground, but the 2nd Infantry was engaged in the area Shipley needed for this maneuver and the request had to be denied.

North of Scheidgen, on the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, front American artillery had pounded the enemy all through the night in preparation for the attack, some batteries using the new POZIT fuse. Soon after the infantry started moving forward, reports came back that much damage had been done the enemy, that his line was softening. By afternoon the battalion had advanced well into the Friemholz woods, but not until the tankers had shelled the enemy out of a foxhole line of timber's edge. The 2nd Battalion, after a rugged night for its main force in the Mullerthal gorge, set about extricating the two companies there in preparation for the attack against Doster Farm. This was no easy task. Rather than work its way the length of one of the exit draws in which Company G had settled during the night, this company attacked up and over the bank, firing and taking losses. Company F had a hard time disengaging, but got out the path taken by Company G.

The battalion finally re-formed

on Company E, and the three serviceable tanks left in the attached platoon then prepared to attack Doster Farm, a small collection of stone buildings on an open rise. The German infantry had entrenched here, while in the woods to the north a section of machine guns knocked out a tank but in so doing enabled American observers to direct accurate fire on the gun positions. Once the guns were stilled the tanks and infantry took the farm by assault, then pushed to within a thousand yards of Berdorf.

West of the Mullerthal the 11th Infantry set out on the wheeling movement planned the night before to reduce the stubborn resistance in front of its right flank. Company A of the 91st Chemical Battalion smoked Haller while the 3rd Battalion, reinforced by ten jumbo tanks from the 737th Tank Battalion, crossed the southern face of the village and attacked toward the Hardthof rise. After this raid and successful advance, the tanks withdrew to help the 1st Battalion drive the enemy of the Hohwald of Waldbillig. Haller itself fell to the reserve battalion, which at twilight sent a rifle company and tank platoon against the village. Nearly two hundred prisoners were rounded up from the 988th, the center regiment of the 276th Volks Grenadier Division.

The 5th Division rate of advance had accelerated appreciably during the second day of action, particularly at those points where tanks were brought into

action. Difficult terrain, however, denied rapid exploitation and a clear breakthrough to the Sauer. Then, too, trench foot showed an alarming incidence among the attacking infantry, who found it impossible to keep their feet dry in this attack across the snow-fed streams in the bottom of the draws. The 5th Division, like other veteran divisions, was filled with troops who had returned to duty after evacuation for wounds or sickness, and these "RTD's" were much more susceptible to trench foot than other troops. Still, it was obvious that the enemy was in bad shape and lacked the rifle strength of the heavy weapons to stand for long against tank infantry assault. General Eddy and General Irwin agreed that the attack was profitable and should continue, although both were anxious to get their troops under cover.

The LXXX Corps could hardly be said to have a line of defense in either of its division bridgeheads on the 26th. Rather there remained an unevenly linked chair of small troop concentrations defending wood lots, hills, or villages-in effect a series of bridgeheads within the two main bridgehead areas. The 212th Volks Grenadier Division was in a particularly hazardous position, for the attack by the 3rd Battalion sector had carried to within sight of the Sauer, thus separating the German centers of defense at Berdorf and Echernach. In fact the enemy infantry to

the front of the 3rd Battalion had been forced to swim the chilly river on the night of the 25th.

The 1st Battalion, 10th Infantry, emerged from the Hardt woods and advanced astride the ridge lines leading north to Echernach. German Teller mines linked with trip wires dotted the trails and ridge crests, slowing the advance, but by dark the battalion was only a half-mile from the town. The 3rd Battalion, stopped the previous day at the Leimerdelt draw, renewed its renewed it advance about 0300 with a stealthy descent into the draw, Company L moving on the right to the bend where the draw turned north toward Echernach. Company I, on the left, attacked at daybreak through two tributary draws leading out to the north, each rifleman weighted down with three bandoleers of ammunition. Attacking boldly, firing at every possible enemy hiding place, and never halting for cover, the company killed the Germans in their foxholes or drove them back in flight toward the river. A small detachment of the enemy made a brief stand at Melick Farm, then gave way to artillery shelling and assault by Company L. Company I drove on to the ridge overlooking Echernach and the Sauer, while tanks shelled the woods and draw on the flank.

From this vantage point the artillery observer accompanying the riflemen could see little groups of the enemy paddling across the river in rubber boats.

A few were swimming, others were running across a small wooden bridge. Time after time the forward artillery observer called for battalion concentrations, watching the bursts with the POZIT fuse thirty feet over the heads of the fleeing Germans and the murderous effect therefrom. For awhile the enemy persisted in using the crossing site, then broke, fleeing into Echernach or along the road to Berdorf. That night patrols entered Echernach but could find no signs of the enemy or of company E, 12th Infantry, which, it was holed, still would be holed up somewhere in the town.

In the 5th Division center the 2nd Infantry struck at Berdorf and the hill mass next to the Sauer, two companies of the 2nd Battalion closing in on Berdorf at dawn. There in the half daylight Company G, marching on the left, saw troops standing in formation along the main village street while an officer pointed to various house, apparently disposing his men. The American commander thought that Company E might have come in from the right, but when he called out "Is that Easy Company?" a gruff voice answered "yah, das IST Easy Company." The surprised Americans recovered in time to shoot down or capture a number of the enemy, but enough reached the houses to organize a stubborn defense. Nevertheless by dark the 2nd Battalion had captured half of the town, a few prisoners, a number of dec-

orated Christmas trees, and cold leftovers of Christmas dinner.

Early in the fight Colonel Wolfe decided to employ his reserve, the 1st Battalion, in a drive for the final regimental objective, the Hamm Farm on the ridge north of Berdorf. The reserve battalion marched in column toward Berdorf, expecting to pass through the 2nd Battalion, but found a bitter fight in progress and the surrounding area plastered with shellfire. When the 1st Battalion tried to side slip to the west it ran into a group of Germans in the draw on its left flank and very heavy artillery fire. Company C alone lost thirty-two men while deploying to attack. Not until the morning of the 27th December did the final collapse of the Berdorf defense enable the 1st Battalion to reach the woods at Hamm Farm. The 3rd Battalion had meanwhile come forward to the east of Berdorf and reached Birkelt Farm, overlooking the river. All that remained were small rear guard detachments, but these put up a real fight in the woods and stone farmhouse. That night many Germans withdrew and swam the river to reach the West Wall lines.

The operations of the 11th Infantry on Christmas Day had forced considerable retraction in the southern flank of the 276th Volks Grenadier Division. Colonel Black ordered the attack continues on the 26th, sending two battalions against what was left of the 987th and 988th Regiments. Before daybreak the 2nd Battalion wheeled right and be-

gan an attack along the road running from Haller to Beaufort. The leading company encountered the first of the enemy in the wooded ravine of the Hallerbach, well camouflaged in unorthodox positions facing both sides of the ravine so that the attackers found themselves receiving mortar, and Werfer, and bullet fire from front to rear.

About 1000 Major John N. Acuff, the battalion commander, withdrew his infantry a short distance to see what a mortar barrage could do. The woods were thick, visibility was poor, and mortar fire proved not very effective. When the Americans resumed the assault they in turn were hit by a counterattack. It was dusk when the enemy finally gave way and the 2nd Battalion reached the woods north of the ravine. Ordered by Colonel Black to continue the attack through the night, the battalion in the pinchers move on the town of Beaufort, located on commanding ground and controlling one of the main exit roads leading to the Dillingen bridge. The enemy held for awhile in the north edge of Beaufort but by daybreak had abandoned the town to the 2nd Battalion.

During the morning of 26 December the 3rd Battalion had attacked almost without opposition, crossing the Hallerbach ravine and gaining the high ground to the east of Beaufort and overlooking the road to Dillingen. But when the first appetizing target appeared, a col-

umn of a hundred or more vehicles heading for Dillingen bridge, the artillery radios failed to function and a hasty barrage laid on the road caught only the tail of the column. By noon patrols were in position on the river bank to observe the Dillingen bridge site. Calls for artillery fire this time got through to the batteries, but the gunners had difficulty in directing fire into the deep river valley. The division air support party vectored a flight of P-47's over the bridge, but three separate passes failed to gain a hit. Later in the day the artillery observers succeeded in getting high-angle fire on the bridge; one hit registered while the span was crowded with men and Vehicles, but the bridge continued in use.

At the end of this third day of the 5th Division attack General Eddy and General Irwin agreed that the mission assigned was as good as accomplished. The west bank of the Sauer River had been gained at several points, and the enemy was hastening to recross the river and gain the protection of the West Wall. The Americans had taken over five hundred prisoners in the period of 24-26 December and had recovered much American material, lost in the first few days of the German advance. There still remained some necessary mopping up in those pockets where the German rear guard held on to cover the withdrawal of the last units of the LXXX Corps as these made their way to safety.

Although the 212th complet-

ed its withdrawal over the Bolendorf bridge during the night of 26 December, roving patrols continued to operate on the American side of the river well into January. The 276th Volks Grenadier Division held in some force for another twenty-four hours under specific Seventh Army orders to do so in keeping with the larger army mission of containment. For the 11th Infantry, therefore, there was one last round of fighting, fighting which would cost the 1st Battalion dear in the attacks against Bigelbach on the 27th. German artillery and Werfers, emplaced on the east bank of the river, made good practice, while the worn grenadiers fought stubbornly wherever they were assailed.

There was only one exit through which the German rear guard could hope to escape with minimum loss of men and equipment once its delaying stint was completed-the Dillingen bridge, built by the Seventh Army engineers for just this purpose. American fighter-bombers made a second effort against the span on 27 December, but reported near misses. Colonel Dempwolff has said that he was much worried about the bridge in the daylight hours of the 27th. Dramatically, the real danger to the division came after dark just as the final withdrawal commenced. Perhaps the law of averages was working, or it may be that an American gunner put on some particularly potent shell on this on this one shell; in any case, a

direct hit blasted a gap of about fifteen yards in the bridge structure. When the German engineers hastened to repair the span, they came under small arms fire from American patrols working down toward the river. Then, about 2000, shellfire suddenly increased to feverish intensity and the engineers were driven off the bridge. This shelling finally slackened, the span was repaired, the assault guns, flak, and vehicles filed across, just after daybreak the Germans blew the bridge

From 22 December, when the 10th Infantry launched the 5th division attack toward the Sauer, until 28 December, when the last formal resistance ended, the division took over 800 prisoners. Estimates by burial parties set the number of Germans killed at about the same figure. Losses in the 5th Division totaled 46 officers and 899 men as battle casualties; 22 officers and 598 men were non-battle casualties-a high ratio but understandable in terms of the 20 degree cold and the foot slogging advance through countless icy streams. The 227th Volks Grenadier Division lost about 2,000 officers and men between 20 and 28 December, from all causes, and the original division commander had been killed in the action. Many of its companies were reduced to ten men strength. The average strength of the rifle companies in the 212th Volks Grenadier Division, when they returned to the West Wall,

was 25-30 men, but the figure is derived from losses suffered since 16 December. Although this division was better trained than the 276th, it generally had engaged in border fighting. Its total losses, as estimated by the division commander, were about 4000 officers and men. The only exact casualty extant is that of the 988th Regiment, which on the 15th December had been at its full strength of 1,868 officers and men. By 28 December the regiment had suffered losses as follows: 190 known killed, 561 missing in action, 411 hospitalized as sick or wounded.

The terrain on which the 4th Infantry Division had defended and over which the 5th Infantry Division had attacked proved to be as difficult as any on which military operations were conducted in the course of the Ardennes Campaign. For this reason the battle at the south shoulder of the Bulge merits perusal by the student of tactics. American superiority in heavy supporting weapons, tanks, and tank destroyers never had the full tactical effectiveness on this broken ground which normally would be the case. The military student, however, will have to notice that psychological effect of American tanks and tank destroyers on an enemy who had no tanks and very few anti-tanks guns was considerable. For this battle German commanders all make much of those periods during the initial American defense and the ultimate counterattack when tanks, even in platoon strength, was employed against them. The relative immo-

bility of the two German divisions, whose flexibility in attack and defense depended almost entirely on the leg power of tired infantry, gave both General Barton and General Irwin a considerable advantage in timing, whether it was in moving troops to counter a thrust or in exploiting weakness in the enemy line.

The use of artillery on both sides of the line is one of the features of the XII Corps operation at the Sauer, and in numerous actions German use of the rocket launcher proved particularly disquieting to the Americans. This weapon, whose total weight was only some 1,200 pounds, but which could discharge 450 pounds of high explosive in ten seconds, more than made up for the limited number of conventional artillery tubes that the LXXX Corps had in the bridgehead, and its ease of movement and small silhouette were admirably suited to the broken ground west of the Sauer. The rate and weight of the rocket projector fire, plus the fact that the limited German artillery could concentrate to cover well-defined and limited paths of advance, led the veteran 5th Division to claim that it had been more heavily shelled during these days than in any battle it had sustained. The artillery support furnished the 5th Division, however, had been very effective; German records note it with considerable distaste. As might be expected of this pock-marked and tortuous ground,

both sides speak with respect of the enemy's mortars.

By 26 December, the last day of full fledged attack by the XII Corps against the Sauer salient, the Third Army was fully oriented on its new axis. With the 6th Armored Division en route from the south to join the XII Corps, it was possible to relieve the armor already in the zone and effect a general regrouping calculated to restore some organizational unity. CCA, 9th Armored Division, therefore, was ordered to Arlon and III Corps control; the 109th Infantry was restored to the 28th Infantry Division, still with the VIII Corps; the 10th Armored Division was directed to hand over its sector to the 6th Armored Division on 27 December and rejoin the XX Corps at Metz. General Patton wishing to integrate his northern front a little better, redrafted the boundary between the III and XII Corps so that the 80th Infantry Division passed in place of the latter. This new inter-corps boundary would originate in the north near Wiltz, run south toward Heiderscheid, and continue to a point below Merzig.

Neither Patton nor Eddy had a definite plan for the employment of the XII Corps once its immediate mission was accomplished and the anchor position of the Third Army opposite the German shoulder was secured. When it became apparent that the fight on the near bank of the Sauer was nearly finished, the corps commander made a ten-

tative plan-probably at Patton's instigation-for an attack north over the Sure River and on toward Bitsburg using his new armored division and the 10th Infantry. In addition Eddy asked Irwin's opinion on a river crossing by the 5th Infantry Division. General Irwin agreed that such a follow up was "worth a thought," reasoning that "the West Wall line in front is weak and we have destroyed much of its garrison."

The Third Army commander finally decided that the 5th and 80th Infantry Divisions would hold the existing line while the 6th Armored moved west to the Bastogne sector and there attacked northward on the left of the 4th Armored Division. The Corps front was duly re-formed, the 5th Division edging to the left to join the 80th and 4th Infantry Division (now commanded by Brig. Gen. Harold W. Berkeley because General Barton had been evacuated by reason of illness) taking over a wider sector on the right. The corps commander did not immediately dismiss the idea of an attack east across the Sauer River and through the West Wall. This project was on-again-off-again until, on 2 January, Patton ordered that plans be made for a corps attack northward. The XII Corps front, however, would remain quiet until 18 January.

End of The XII Corps Attacks
the Southern Shoulder

Post #36 3d Bn., 317 Inf.

In my previous column for the Summer 2001 Issue of the Blue Ridge, I mentioned the O.E. and Lucille Clark had been well an healthy the past winter. With sadness I write, O.E. passed away suddenly on 26 September.

O.E. as he was called was a member of I Company. In civilian life he worked as a letter carrier for the Postal Service. He belonged to the local Fire Department and his obituary mentions he seldom missed a meeting. After Lucille suffered a stroke and was confined to a wheel chair, they both still attended the 80th Reunions regularly. In later years, their niece Susan attended with them. O.E. was a caring and gentle person. He had a heart filled with love for his family and friends. O.E. We will miss you. Our sympathy is extended to Lucille and members of the family. A memorial gift was made to Lucille by the 3rd Bn.

Another 3rd Bn member passed away. He was Dolores Rodrigues (L). He passed away on 6 June. Many may remember him as he was a Jeep Driver for Capt. Render. Our sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

We just learned that a daughter of Jim and Irene Poulesos (3rd Bn Hqs) was lost in the World Trade Center tragedy on 11 September. All of us in the 3rd Bn. Extend our deepest sympathy to Jim and Irene and their family.

Bob Parks sent along a letter from Cecelia Kibbe in which she wrote that Rex (L) had a stroke on 24 June. He was in intensive care for awhile and later transferred to extended care facility for continued rehab. He is now in a Nursing Home. His address is: Daniel Memorial Nursing Home, Box 400, Scobey, MT 57263. He is slowly recovering and wants to be remembered to everyone in Co. L and the 80th. Cecelia had her left knee replaced and is doing well and says hello to everyone.

John Daniels (I) wrote that he had serious health problems but feels a lot better now. He had been in and out of the VA Hospital for many tests. After a major operation he developed shingles on the face. John, hope all this is past history now and glad to hear you are feeling better. Bob Smith, Angelo and Kay Barone, Harry and Fran Nutting attended the NY Post meeting 8-11 October at Seneca Falls. Bob also attended the events in Washington on Armistice Day.

Even though some of the above news is sadness and illness, I hope you will continue to send news of happenings and from other sources because everyone is interested.

We extend our prayers to all who are sick and those with physical problems and wish a speedy recovery for all.

Bob Nathason/Sect

Company L 318 Rcn. Post #37

The Post 37 Newsletter went out , but response's were few. I wish to thank those of you who answered, as that is what makes "my job" worthwhile.

The post really goofed this time. Not a Rcn member was present at the Hampton reunion. There was only two patron listings, Art Rehling and myself.

Start saving your pennies, take your pills, do your exercises, bring your walker, canes, crutches, polish your wheelchairs and come to Melbourne in 2002. I assure you, you won't be the only "elderly" person there.

I hope that none of the 80th people were involved in the recent disaster. One of my grandsons was doing business on the Monday before the bombing of the Trade Center. I'm thankful for that and my thoughts and prayers are with those who were involved in the horrible happening.

Eleanor Schoney, Sect

OVERLOOKED FROM ROLL CALL IN LAST ISSUE

Bowles, Lloyd A. Florence, KY	Ac/Sv/319
Clouser, Paul Womeldorf, PA	Rcn
Schoney, Eleanor Palm Harbor, FL	Rcn

Florida Post #47

Our Fall meeting at the Hampton INN in Ocala was a very successful and enjoyable time. Even though the Ladies provided a copious and sumptuous spread, we always seemed to have enough of an appetite for added dessert of fresh baked cookies provided by the hotel. The hotel management went through extra effort in providing us with a much larger party room and refrigerator, in a more convenient location.

Our raffle was a big success with everyone managing to hold a winning ticket. So we had no sad faces.

For our spring get together in Melbourne I suggest you snow birds bring plenty of sun block, if you use it you won't get a burn as some did last year.

The meeting will be March 13 thru 17, 2002, at the Holiday Inn, 2605 North A1A, Indialantic , FL 39203. Phone Number (321) 777-4100. Room rate is \$85.00 single or double accommodations. The rate is good 3 days prior and 3 days after the meeting. Reservations must be made no later than February 7, 2002.

Francis Rajnicek, Sect.

Lane Hall Post #42

313 F.A. Bn

We are about to start another new year. I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous 2002. I am sure it will be better than 2001. A good resolution would be to have America's New War ended and peace all over the world.

I suggested to President Bush to use WW II Vets first and agreed to recruit a squad or two. Anyone who wishes to join, let me know. Since we are all retired, there would be no pay, no uniforms and little training. No one would ever think these squads were military. Since everyone in the group would be 75 or more, there would not be much lost if the group got captured or eliminated. Get your name in early. Only the first 15 will be drafted.

Fran Poletti is quite busy looking for a place for a mini reunion in May, 2002. So far, she has contacts, as follows: Erie, PA--Scranton, PA--Gettysburg, PA--Hershey, PA--Dunkirk, NY (Near Niagara Falls) --also Harpers Ferry, VA has been suggested. Let Fran know your wishes ASAP. We will make the final decision early in the year.

Ed Hargraves is to be congratulated. He was named the Ambassador to Creede, CO. For the year 2001. This was quite a surprise and an honor. Over 200 people attended a surprise party. His daughter Kim presented a scrapbook of his life for all to see.

Mary Brinker reports that she and Jim had a good time at the

reunion. (Thanks for the tape.) Bob is trying and doing the best he can. Keep up the good work Bob.

I visited Lou Shirey and Warren Burkhart in Reading, PA. Shirey had a light stroke. He seems to be doing O.K. Used a cane for a while.

Had a conversation with Walter Stec. He was under the weather at the time of the reunion. He stated that he missed seeing all the old gang. He is doing O.K. now. Still going dancing with Dolores but not quite as often.

Hatcher went to the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio for some tests. Haven't heard any results. They finally got their leaking windows replaced and most of the water damage repaired.

Charles Noxon is doing O.K. He entertained the group at the Hampton reunion..

Hope I did not miss anyone. Keep in touch. God bless everyone. Hope to see you all soon.

Jim Phillips Sect/Treas.

NO REPORT:

Co. M 318th Inf.
Post #44

DV and DV Hqs
Co. Post #39

Brett Post #3

Cincinnati
Post #34

Post #33 Co. H, Inf.

Taps sounded for Tony Kudrna at his home in Center Point, Iowa, on 18 September. Joining Company H, Tony was assigned to the 81 Mortar Platoon. He remained in the company until his termination of WW II. Post 33 sent a floral wreath in his memory to Lois and family. His obituary appears elsewhere in the this edition.

Winter will soon be upon us, and truthfully I'm not looking forward to cold weather, however, the Midwest has enjoyed a warm fall. Mother nature has outdone herself by painting the foliage with brilliant multi-colors, that Monet would be envious.

I'm going to spend the Thanksgiving Holiday in New England. I will visit Penny and Jerry's families in Massachusetts. They always plan my visit to be a busy and happy one. As many of you know there are times when the old body would rather sit by the fire and gaze out the window.

I heard from Al Conway and John Bebee, both families are well and enjoying the good life. Lois Kudrna plans to spend the winter in sunny Florida.

I would love to hear from Texas, Maryland and the other parts of the U.S. So Long for now,

Gerald G. Ohlman, Commander

Co F 318 Post 46

PAUL and KATHRYN FATE have made the first arrangements for our next Company F Reunion. It's scheduled for May 1-5, 2002 in New Port Richey, Florida. The Clarion Hotel there has excellent facilities--nice rooms, pool, good restaurant and lots of shops nearby in Tarpon Springs... handicap facilities, too.

JOHN VONADA is recovering well from six bypasses... as of now, everything is going well for him... new diets, exercises, an all the good stuff that goes with heart surgery.

ED McDONALD is recovering from a hip replacement, still using a walker, but hopes to graduate to a cane soon. His wife, Ellen had surgery on a vertebra.

A CORRECTION.... last newsletter referred to Benjamin Terry... should have been James Terry... I had correspondence from both, and got them mixed up.

CLAYTON WARMAN received a letter from Bernard and Louise Lesage in France, expressing concern and sympathy to our country. Within hours of the World Trade bombing, I had E-mail or phone calls from Spain, England, and Germany... the world IS on our side!

Make your plans now to attend the May, 2002 Reunion in Florida.

Bob Fasnacht,
Secretary, Co. F-318

305th Engineers Post #40

I'll continue to attend our 80th Assn. Reunions for all the respect I have for those friends I'll meet there. If you were not at Hampton for our 82nd reunion I'm sure somebody missed you. We're not playing games but we're all "survivors", so let's continue the good times while we can. Post 40 hosted a very nice hospitality room as always and the four days Brock programed did pass with ease. I have never experienced a better memorial service. The 80th Training Division Band looked good and played well and the soloist sang beautifully. Rev. Col. John Woods made us feel the tingle of respect for those who passed on; for our country and for our own beliefs.

It was with some difficulty and a lot of determination that Everett and Ruth Hanson got here from Texas. They say it was worth it so we think so, too. Jetting was easy, said Edmund and Gerry Lelito, we drove here from

Indiana and you will be back in Texas before we get home to Indiana. Wally Ponder drove up from Florida like me. He just locked the door to the house and it may be awhile till he returns.

Delmar Wilson arrived without Ernestine who is ill and can't travel, he came with Bryon and Irene Dovenburger so and I hosted the hospitality room. He was glad to see his old buddy, Francis Gibbons and his wife from Stafford CT. They were surprised when their son came from Washington DC to join them at the Banquet Saturday evening. New York Post # 43 made arrangements to have a Post meeting in our hospitality room and we thank them for their contribution to our expense. All present had dinner Friday at the hotel dining room. I know everyone had a good time and we hope more engineers come next year. Our world has changed since our 82nd reunion and let Christmas remind us that there are different cultures that most of us are not familiar with that we must try to live with.

When I come to the reunions, I usually extend my trip to at least two weeks by additional

travel. When I left on Sunday I headed north to New York City. At Atlantic City I enjoyed the hospitality of a couple of casinos. From my motel in New Jersey, I programed a week of tourism around NYC that included the Belmont and Meadowland racetracks, Yankee Stadium, United Nations Headquarters and Liberty Island. After Labor Day I headed for Ohio but stopped at Pittsburgh for a ball game at the new PNC stadium. The following week a friend and I had plans to go to Chicago to see three Reds/Cubs games. Leaving on Tuesday morning early and we heard of the WTC attack on the radio. We arrived in Chicago, checked into our motel, went to dinner, came back to motel, got up the following morning and returned to Hamilton. 600 miles for dinner! NO ball games! However, at this time, I will continue to send the American tradition greeting...

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Russell Sick PNC
Post 40 Commander

Spread the Word About the 80th

We are asking each of you to place the following Advertisement in your local paper, in hopes of finding those who know nothing of our Association.

Military 80th Infantry Division WWII

The 80th Infantry Division, which is known as the Blue Ridge Division and served with General George Patton's Third Army, is trying to reach former combat infantry members of the 317th, 318th and 319th infantry regiments, along with the various Field Artilleries and all those attached units, to the 80th Division

Planning is underway for our next 83rd annual reunion and convention to be held in Melbourne, FL Aug. 14-18, 2002. WE have individual post scattered over the country which holds annual and semiannual meetings. For information, write Robert T. Murrell, National Sect. 80th Infantry Division Association, 630 Penna. Ave. Oakmont, PA 15139-1574 Telephone (412) 828-7651.



NEW BOOK "The Stories of the Men of the 80th"

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Co. L 319th Inf.

Tempus Fugit - How time flies! It seems that only a few weeks ago, we were in Hampton enjoying the reunion, and here we are already into the holiday season. I hope all of you are taking advantage of this great Indian summer weather we are having. It seems that winter does not want to come this year. Believe it or not, we are still mowing the lawn and the frogs and fish in my backyard have not, at this writing, gone into hibernation.

News for this addition of the Blue Ridge is rather scarce. I have E-mailed Rudy Berman, John Balas, John Flynn, Bill Krehbiel, Walt Cooper, and Jim Young for information to help me write this report.

John and Betts Flynn are again headed to Palm Desert for a brief vacation at their timeshare. Betts tells me that John will attempt to play golf while they are there.

John and Helen Balas are about the same, although John said that Helen continues to suffer with back problems. John has recently gotten a computer and is having fun playing Vegas Games. He wrote that he plays Play Poker almost daily and Helen is getting mad at him, accusing him of being married to the computer. Incidentally, John is \$6000.00 ahead of the machine (play money). He also informed me that he takes a two mile walk almost everyday and keeps in touch with his sons through e-mail - one lives in Cali-

fornia, the other in Colorado.

I received a nice long e-mail from Bill and Billie Krehbiel. They are two very busy people. Bill recently spent a few days at Berean Academy and spoke to a couple of the history classes. He took along his very comprehensive collection of WW II memorabilia. Needless to say, the pupils were fascinated with his material, especially the weapons. After the classes, he took the students to a grove of cedars and allowed them to do some target shooting at pumpkins.

Congratulations to Bill and Billie on their 53rd wedding anniversary (November 23). They celebrated with their daughter, Susan, by going out to dinner followed by an ice cream treat.

Don Chism has moved and is now a bachelor. He is living with his daughter at: HC 36-170-8, Spring Creek, Nevada 89815; phone: 775-753-9175; e-mail: Dchism@ctnis.com. Maria and I had a delightful Thanksgiving. Dennis, Alice, Shaun, and Noelle came down from Reading, Pa. Michele, Kenneth, Aaron, and Jared, who live nearby, also joined us. I prepared the turkey and gravy; Maria did the mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, peas, corn, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, and Jell-O salad. For dessert, we enjoyed apple and pumpkin pie with ice cream or Cool Whip, washed down with iced tea, lemonade, or coffee.

Maria had a cataract operation on Tuesday, November 27, and came through with flying colors.

To all of you, a very Merry,

The following is something to ponder:

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million, who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, Holy, and Prosperous New Year! May all of your wishes for next year be fulfilled and may all of your new year resolutions come true.

Hank Einolf
PS: No word yet from the Holiday Inn regarding our robbery.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than three million people in the world.

If your parents are still alive and still married, you are very rare, even in the United States.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer healing touch.

If you can say what you want without fear of going to jail, you are more blessed than three million people in the world who cannot express opinions freely.

If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you, and further more, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all.

Have a good day, count your blessings, and pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are.

New York Post #43

We added one new member, Don B. and his wife Doris, Thompson, 415 Buffalo Street, Beaver Falls, PA 15009, from that great Company B-318. We lost: Don Cornell, Albert Garris and HNC Nick Rakotis, our long-time National Secretary. Membership stands at 68. All officers were re-elected. Many sick cards were sent during the year and we approved a full page ad in the reunion program.

The post had an active year with our annual meeting and election at the Turf Inn, Albany. This year we held a special great party on Saturday eve, our 20th anniversary. The Inn prepared a special 80th Div. Cake and Harry and Fran Nutting served. We even had Abe Barone do the pouring. High priced help for this occasion. Commander Brockman and Naomi were given a bottle of wine for attending. Your Secretary reviewed the 20 year history of the post. We ate well at the Saturday eve prime rib buffet and the Sunday noon champagne brunch. We held a short meeting at the Hampton reunion. (Always check the bulletin board for data.) Held the fall meeting at the Glenora Wine Cellars with great accommodations. The bathrooms were large enough to sleep a full squad in. The food was good and like most, too much for us older folks. The week was left open so we could visit the Finger Lakes area with purchases of fruit, wines and visiting the many wineries, and

there are many.

One of the highlights after the Hampton reunion was a visit to the D-Day Memorial at Bedford, VA., right off the Blue Ridge Trail. (It was named after our Division.) This you should visit some day, very impressive. The Hampton reunion was excellent and well planned and well run. Number were down, but we continue to move forward. We need your support these events and we thank the many committees and Ladies Auxiliary for their support and work with the V.A. Hospitals. The Memorial Service was something special and we thank the Barones for their expertise.

We are looking forward to our annual gathering back at the Turf Inn next May 23-27, 2002. Looking at Seneca Falls or Geneva for the fall of 2002, meeting. Mark your calendars, too easy to forget. Thank you for attending meetings, supporting the post, funds and otherwise. Support is necessary to be sure we continue our post and our National Organization. **KEEP ME INFORMED OF ANY ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE CHANGES.** Some of you have new area codes so be sure to inform me. You can help the secretary by filling out the forms in full, paying your dues on time and let me know the type of trouble you get into??

Our Post meets three times a year, May, at the reunions and the fall. We all have fun, our serious moments and support the National as well as the Auxiliary. WE need you to continue and we have to stick together to survive. Dues

Normandy Campaign

June to Aug., 1944, in World War II. The Allied invasion of the European continent through Normandy began about 12:15 A.M. on June 6, 1944 (D-day). The plan, known as Operation Overlord, had been prepared since 1943; supreme command over its execution was entrusted to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. In May, 1944, tactical bombing was begun in order to destroy German communications in N France. Just after midnight on June 6, British and American airborne forces landed behind the German coastal fortifications known as the Atlantic Wall. They were followed after daybreak by the seaborne troops of the U.S. 1st Army and British 2d Army. Field Marshal B. L. Montgomery was in command of the Allied land forces. Some 4,000 transports, 800 warships, and innumerable small craft, under Admiral Sir B. H. Ramsay, supported the invasion, and more than 11,000 aircraft, under Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory, formed a protective umbrella. While naval guns and Allied bombers assaulted the beach fortifications, the men swarmed ashore. At the base of the Cotentin peninsula the U.S. forces established two beachheads—Utah Beach, W of the Vire River, and Omaha Beach, E of the Vire, the

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Ed Bredbenner, Sect.

scene of the fiercest fighting. British troops, who had landed near Bayeux on three beaches called Gold, Juno, and Sword, advanced quickly but were stopped before Caen. On June 12 the fusion of the Allied beachheads was complete. The German commander, Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt, found that Allied air strength prevented use of his reserves. U.S. forces under Gen. Omar N. Bradley cut off the Cotentin peninsula (June 18), and Cherbourg surrendered on June 27. The Americans then swung south. After difficult fighting in easily defensible "hedgerow" country they captured (July 18) the vital communications center of Saint-Lô, cutting off the German force under Field Marshal Erwin Rommel. The U.S. 3d Army under Gen. George S. Patton was thrown into the battle and broke through the German left flank at Avranches. Patton raced into Brittany and S to the Loire, swinging east to outflank Paris. A German attempt to cut the U.S. forces in two at Avranches was foiled (Aug. 7-11). (The 80th Division was part of this action.) The British had taken Caen on July 9, but they were again halted by a massive German tank concentration. They resumed their offensive in August and captured Falaise on Aug. 16. Between them and the U.S. forces driving north from Argentan the major part of the German 7th Army was caught in the "Falaise pocket" and was wiped out. (Again the 80th Division was part of this.)

All of the past National & Honorary Commanders are looking forward to seeing you at the 83rd Annual Reunion
 August 14th — 18th, 2002
 Hilton Melbourne Airport, Melbourne, Florida

Eric Relienger, Chairman

**Brett Post No. 3
 Pittsburgh**

Bruno Inselmini, Commander
 322 Carolyn Avenue
 Latrobe, PA 15650-1012

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: Charles Noxon
 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
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Byron Dovenbarger, Secretary
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2001-2002

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Ida Reilinger, 1nd Vice President
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Doris Murrell, Sgt. at Arms — Helen West, Sgt. at Arms

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 Commander

Francis Rajnicek
 Secretary
 215 Bill Allen Circle, W
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