

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

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Volume 84, Number 336

Spring — 2003
Issue 5



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A. E. F.	E. T. O.
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St. Mihiel	Ardennes
Meuse-Argonne	Rhineland
	Central Europe

God Bless America

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Deadline for the next issue is June 1, 2003

Eightieth Division

Veterans Association

BLUE RIDGE

The Service Magazine

The official quarterly publication by the 80th Division Veterans Association. (Incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in the State of Pennsylvania).

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Color Sergeant Don Davis (K-319)

Sergeant-at-Arms George V. West (C-318)

Public Affairs Officer George V. West (C-318)

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1 Year; Robert N. Nathason (L-317)

2 Year; Robert W. Smith (K-317)

3 Year; Felix Cistolo (G-317)

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1 Years

Gerald V. Myers (G-317)

Laverne J. Schock (F-317)

Tom Pappas (F-318)

2 Years

George V. West (G-318)

Andy Ferens (M-317)

Robert J. McDonald (C-319)

3 Year

Melvin C. Beers (C-319)

Richard Davis (905 Fa Bn)

Albert S. Haley (H-317)

Commander's REPORT

As I write this article, around the 1 March deadline, I'm looking forward to the spring get together of Florida Post 47 in Melbourne, FL, in about two weeks. It is a time when we are all anticipating the spring thaw. This has been a tough winter. It seems to get tougher each year, as the old bones can't take it like they used to.

Several weeks ago Ida and I represented you at an Awards Dinner of the new 80th Division in Virginia Beach. As usual we were graciously received by MG Douglas Dollar and his entire staff.

In April we'll be travelling to Germany to join a group of veterans from the 76th Infantry and the 6th Armored Divisions in retracing some of our WWII steps. Specific stops will be in Weimar, Erfurt, Troistedt and Buchenwald. The 80th Division will be particularly honored in Weimar, where a ceremony is planned at the Memorial Plaque erected in honor of the 80th. To my knowledge only Bob Harmon from Seattle (formerly 319th Anti Tank Co) will join Ida and me on this trip. I'll give you a full report about the trip in the next issue.



I hope each one of you is planning to attend the Reunion in Roanoke, Virginia in September. Senior Vice Commander Archer Futch is scheduling an exciting affair that no one should miss. As you know our ranks are dwindling, which makes it urgent for us all to make the effort to be there.

Stay healthy, and God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

In comradeship,
Eric Reilinger, Commander

Life Plus Club 2002-2003

Life Members who contribute over and above the Life Membership. There is no set amount, it's free will as of 1 March 2003, and 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!

December 8, 2002 Dear 80th Friends,

I just wanted to drop a note to thank you all and your organization. The activity and enthusiasm of your group was a pinnacle in my father's life and I believe it made his last years more bearable as he looked back upon those things he accomplished and people he loved and cherished.

There are different peaks and valley throughout anyone's life—your organization was certainly a peak for my dad.

Sincerely and kindly,
Nancy Puleo & the Wurst Family

Annon	I-318
Barr, Jack	G-317
Bell, Alvin	80th Signal
Bloomer, Lloyd C.	314th FA Bn
Bowman Mrs Betty in memory Of her husband Henry	80th Qm
Costley, Maurice W.	C-319
Demuro, Jerry C.	L318
Goode, Irv	K-317
Hege, Joe	80th Rcn
Hovey, Richard B.	E-318
Jarr, Arthur W.	B-905 FA Bn
Kaufman, Murray	F-317
Kebbe, Mrs Cecelia P in memory of her husband Rex	L-317th
Kelly, William	F-318 Assoc.
Laing William A.	G-319
Litwinski, Rudolph J.	318th Med Det
Mahoney, Michael E.	A-318
Muller, Victor S.	A-317 Assoc
Munn, Troy	K-317
Pappas, George	SV-318
In memory of his wife Emily	
Pflederer, Robert H.	Cn-319
Prappas, Dempsey J.	AT-317
Scheftic, Thomas E.	B-317
Stewart, Charles C.	Hq 305 Med Bn
Snyder, Willard	F-317
Teerlinck, Constant	305th Med Bn
Turner, Zane L.	H-317
Van Court, James F.	H-317
Wilkinson, William D.	HQ 314 FA Bn

"The Stories of the Men of the 80th"

\$25 includes the postage
Send your check payable to
Robert T. Murrell

Secretary's REPORT

FAX: (412) 828-7651
"E" MAIL ADDRESS,
Divinf80@AOL.Com

If anyone wishes another copy of Brig. Gen. William E. Carlson Keynote Speech at the last Reunion, send \$1.00 to cover the cost of mailing. I have a few extra copies left over.

MCBRIDE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

We had to make up the difference between what the interest on our Foundation had earned and the Award to Madison High School of \$270.15 due to the poor performance of the Stock Market. The award is \$500.

80th Rcn Troop in memory
Edward A. Gorczyca
Watson, Charles H. 319 Med

Welcome New MEMBERS

Persing, Raymond A. ?318
4340Elm Drive
Allentown, PA 18103

Overlooked
Schuelke, Robert H. K-318
5058 Arroyo Chamisa Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111-3722

Ignelzi, Paul Assoc 317
Son of Melvin Beckwith
11116 M-140 Hwy
South Haven, MI 49090-9405

Mc Donald, Robert J. Hq-3d Bn 319
392 Collinston Road
Bastrop, LA 71220-6040

MAIL BAG

Calagero A. Russo 7300 N 51st Ave. C38 Glendale, AZ 85301, Telephone 1-623-931-2645, writes please put my name in your newsletter. Someone might recognize me. I would like to meet others of the A-317th. I was wounded on 26 December 1944 in Luxembourg... Irv Goode, 3547 Laburnum Court Northbrook, ILL 60062, K-317 writes, sorry to hear of Jim Deily's death—he was one of my Co-officers in K-317 and a good guy. He came to my home for dinner right after the war, 1947-8. We were single and had a good reunion. I am doing fine but my wife passed away last year. Our condolence to you Irv... From Willard Snyder, 23 Hialeah Dr. Albany, NY 12205-2530. Tells of the time when he and two others met the Russians in Czechoslovakia and a Russian Lt. took out his pistol and fire a round into the water tank atop the water tower, he done this twice, so not to be outdone, I pulled out my Forty-five and fired at the water tank and hit the weather vane atop the tower. With that I holstered my Forty-five and walked away, having a good laugh about what had happened... James F. Van Court 4305 Boone Albuquerque, NM 87109 Company H 317th writes, met Capt. Woods in Europe one night before going into combat. A small group of us were sitting around telling jokes when Capt. Woods joined us. The jokes were all clean? After the war my wife and I saw Col. Woods at a reunion. While we were conversing I learned he was from Greenville, PA just 30 miles from where I lived and we both knew some folks from Andover, OH. Small world. I enjoy the Blue Ridge very much...

80th INFANTRY DIVISION REUNION

September 10 — 13, 2003

The 84th reunion this year at the Wyndham Hotel in Roanoke, VA promises to be a very special event. Virginia is one of the three "Blue Ridge" states that contributed men when the 80th Infantry Division was first organized, and is the home state for the Army's 80th Division. We are planning on joining with the Army for a celebration of Patriots Day. This event will feature a parade through downtown Roanoke on Saturday afternoon followed by comments from local dignitaries. The parade is an optional event for those who would like to participate and will not interfere with our usual program. The Army will provide Humvees for those who are not able or choose not to march.

We will visit the beautiful and inspiring D-Day Memorial on Friday afternoon at Bedford, Va. Our tour will include a picnic lunch followed by a brief ceremony with the color guards and a bugler for taps provided by the 80th Infantry Division. The 80th Band and Color Guards will also participate in our Memorial Service on Saturday morning. Other activities will follow the usual pattern with the Commander's Reception on Wednesday night and the Dugout Party on Thursday night. An eighteen-piece band that specializes in the music of the forties will provide the music for the banquet on Saturday night. Stay tuned for additional details and plan on attending this special reunion.

An Invitation to the Ladies Auxiliary

The dictionary describes the word auxiliary as "giving help or aid, assisting or supporting. A supplementary group or organization such as, 'this club has a women's auxiliary'."

The 80th Division's Veterans Association was chartered on 10 August 1946. Since then the membership has grown each year, and has given much support to the 80th Division Veterans.

Contributions have been made to the McBride Fund, various hospitals, and other worthwhile organizations.

Members include wives, widows, relatives, and associate members. We welcome new members, and look forward to new ideas in order to keep

our club interesting to all.

I can think of no greater contribution to our veterans than to support them—those who are still with us, and keep the memories alive, of those who have passed on.

Arthur Futch, this year's Senior Vice Commander and Chairman of the up-coming reunion in Roanoke, VI, on September 10th through 13th is going full speed ahead on his planning for a greater reunion.

If you are not already a member, won't you take this opportunity to join the Ladies Auxiliary, at the reunion? You can do so at the Ladies Meeting (posted in the program). You'll be glad you did!

*Ida Reilinger,
President Ladies Auxiliary.*

Attention Children & Grandchildren of 80th Veterans!

This past year my father, Sgt. William Black (319th Co. G), passed away at the age of 92! He called himself "an old soldier" right up till his final days. He was so proud of his service in the 80th. He attended many reunions in the 60's and 70's, but as his buddies passed away and he got older, he was not able to attend.

As each day passes we lose more and more of our precious veterans. How many of you hold dear the battle stories you have heard from the mouths of your father or grandfather? The near misses, holding a badly wounded buddy, digging foxholes, capturing prisoners, the snow and cold that had to be endured—and many, many more. What our fathers lived and died through was nothing short of one of the defining moments of our existence. As descendants of these heroes, we must do whatever we can to insure the legacy they have left us stays intact. We must not let the annual reunions dwindle in number.

I am calling on all descendants of 80th veterans to join me at the upcoming convention in Roanoke this September. There, we shall get together and share some of those stories of our fathers, make new friends, and most importantly, begin to chart our future course for keeping the 80th reunion active for decades to come. Will you join me? Write or call me and let me know if you are planning to come and if you would like to play a role in planning our get together in Roanoke.

I would love to hear from you. The best way to contact me would be through email. My email address is: billblack@adelphia.net. If you don't have a computer, feel free to call me at 606-784-3684. If you prefer to write me, my address is: 116 Beechwood Lane; Morehead, KY 40351.

I can't wait to meet you in September!

Bill Black
(Proud son of a Blue Ridger)

Robert W. Smith takes a fall.

PNC and Trustee Robert W. Smith, 4118 Swanson Blvd, Wooster, OH 44691-9650, Company K 317th Regiment, reports he took a fall on January 11, 2003 shattering his right shoulder. He had to have surgery to repair the damage. In talking to Bob, he said it was his right shoulder that was shattered and having only a thumb and one

finger on the left hand it is difficult to do what he was used to doing. His daughter came from CA. to take him home with her so she could take care of him, where he spent the last month. He is now home under going therapy for the shoulder. Lets all send Bob a Get Well Card.

"TAPS"

Bagwell, Bernice M. 80th QM
1033 Camerom Street
Indianapolis, IN 46203 9/21/01
Rptd by Caleb Hurst

Birong, John F. L-319
571 Gortland Drive
Lake Zurich, IL 60047-2335 2/15/03
Rptd by Hank Einolf

Blume, Bernard R. A/B-319
6 Melshire Court
Saint Louis, MO 63122-6510
Rptd by Daughter Daria 1/02

Bravar, Stephan J. H-319
4041 Sunnyside Place
Monroeville, PA 15146 1/5/03
Rptd by son Steven

Berkhouse, Franklin Oscar 317
No Address not a member 12/11/95

Barry, Gene N. Hq 3rd Bn 319
665 W. Sunset Strip Drive
Beverly Hills, FL 34465-4741
Rptd by wife Mary J. 1/12/03

Dollinger, Leroy M-318
310 J Willrich Circle
Forest Hill, MD 21014 12/12/02
Rptd by wife Dolores

Forlines, Errthum Grady H-319
South Bostson, VA 3/24/02
Rptd by Son

Gainor, Charles L. G-318
P.O. Box 275
Enola, PA 17025-0275 1/9/03
Rptd By C.D Clemens and
Ivan Downs

Gardner, Herbert C. D-317
531 Clifton Street NW
Camden, AR 71701-3487 12/26/02
Reported by F. Dale Hunter

Goddard, Burdette Bruce "Dick" AT-318
Parkview 409 Box 757
ImperialNE 69033 11/28/02
Rptd by wife Donna

Gorczyca, Edward A. 80th Rcn Tr
1542 Cypress Trace Drive
Melbourne, FL 32940 1/20/03
Rptd by Carol

Harris, Marynard F. Med 2d Bn 318
3549 Sunset Road
Collinsville, VA 24078 12/21/02
Rptd by Daughter Elaine Wade

Havery, Hugh G. B-318
159 Shepherd Drive
Lexington, VA 24450-4021 2/14/03
Rptd by PNC Ed Bredbenner

Hoffman, Carl A. Hq 305 Eng
916 N Park Road
Crestline, OH 44827 2/5/03
Rptd By PNC Russell Sick

Jennings, Del L-318
Phillipsburg, KS 67661
Rptd by Bob Wilson 2/23/03

Jorden, Andrew R. 1/12/03
No address given Hq-314 FA Bn
Rptd by William D. Wilkinson

Knebel, Nelson D-317
13222 Iberg Road
Highland, IL 62249 2/2/02
Rptd by Jack Paul

Lightbown, Norman K-317
9A Colonial Drive
Whitinsville, MA 01588-1431
Unknown
Rptd by Postal Return Deceased

Ryan Thomas S. I&R Hq 317
36 Wilbert Drive
North Syracuse, NY 13212-3815
Rtpd by Brockman 12/02

Saks, Harold A-313th FA Bn
Rptd by Postal Return Deceased
Unknown

www.thetroubleshooters.com
troubleshooter@thetroubleshooters.com

From the Web Site of the 702nd Tank Battalion who has graciously added the 80th Division to his site. I recommend those of you who are on the net to bring this Web Site up and see what a tremendous job Terry Janes is doing.

I take great pride in announcing that I have made a large number of additions to the website. I have increased its number of pages from just over 200 to a total of 388 pages now! The Blue Ridge Section has a new area called "Highlights from

Shue, Donald H. B-317
923 Moss Street
Reading, PA 19604-23112/2003
Rptd by PNC Shirey

Sulo, Saario C-318
343-3rd Ave S
Edmond, WA 98020 8/13/83
Rptd by son Bryant

Sumskis, Edward D. E-317
983 Knollwood Villiage
Southern Pines, NC 28387 1/9/03
Rptd By Bill Courtney

Taschek, Karl A-305 Eng
5409 Marsh Woods Drive
Mc Farland, WI 53558-9107 11/21/02
Rptd by Postal Notice

Volpe, Philip ?
Saltsburg, PA 12/01/02
Rptd by Lou Shirey

Witt, Joseph 905 FA Bn
Box 385
Mullens, WV 15882-0385 11/17/01
Rptd by Jack Wilson

past issues" containing many interesting stories and photos gleaned from past issues of that publication. Also, the 702nd Tank Battalion now has it's own section entitled "Rolling On", featuring many interesting stories and photos gleaned from past issues of the 702nd Tank Battalion Red Devils Association newsletter "Hot Line", as well as items sent to me by various Red Devils. The name for this section was inspired by an old tanker, now deceased, who always said, "A Red Devil never dies, he just keeps rolling on!" I have rearranged many other things with the goal of making pages load faster and making it easier to read overall. I invite you to drop in for a visit. Take some time to look around, I'm sure you'll find many new things of interest.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a happy, healthy holiday season. I want to thank all my visitors for helping to make this website so successful. Thanks to people like you, the website has had 2,308,066 hits in 284 days online.

Terry D. Janes
www.thetroubleshooters.com

BRITTANY AMERICAN CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL

By Dempsey J. Prappas, 317th Anti-Tank Company

On October 14, 2002 I visited the Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial near St. James, France, which lies about 200 miles west of Paris, to visit the grave site of Pfc. Melvin M. Beckwith, who was killed on August 14, 1944 as a result of "Friendly Fire" while sleeping in his fox hole. I was surprised to learn that he was not awarded a "Purple Heart" even though he was on the front line. The assistant Superintendent, Carlos Castello, did not know why and suggested that I contact the office of the American Battle Monuments Commission in Paris. I called Mr. Walter Frankland III, the Deputy Director, and inquired why Melvin never received a "Purple Heart". I subsequently received a fax from Mr. Frankland and he advised me that during the war it was the policy of the Army to not award "Purple Hearts" to soldiers killed as a result of "Friendly Fire". However, this regulation has been changed and Melvin's family could request a "posthumously" awarded "Purple Heart". Upon returning to Houston I contacted the local newspaper in South Haven, Michigan and received an e-mail from Melvin's son, who was born after Melvin left for Scotland and never knew his father. As a result of my letter, he is going to apply for a "Purple Heart" for his father, even after 58 years since he was killed.

I have discovered that in all the American Cemeteries in France where members of the 80th Infantry Division are buried there are many members who did not receive a "Purple Heart". For example, at the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial at St. Avold, France where there are more than 800 members of the 80th buried there, there are 16 members of the 80th who were not awarded a "Purple Heart". I have no way of knowing whether these 16 members died as a result of "Friendly Fire"- but if they did, then their heirs and next of kin can apply and receive a Purple Heart" even if they were killed as a result of "Friendly Fire".

If any member of the Association personally knew a member who was killed by "Friendly Fire" please contact me and I will be more than happy to assist you in locating the next of kin and inform him or her about this change in the regulations and how they can apply and receive "posthumously" a "Purple Heart" for this veteran, and remedy an injustice.

Dempsey J. Prappas
1302 Harold
Houston, Texas 77006
Telephone No. (713) 630-0600
Fax No. (713) 630-0017
Email-
DPRAPPAS@CGPC-LAW.COM

A Tribute to Victor Muller

Vic, as he likes to be called, a few years back about four, ask for information of his Brother who was in Company A 317 Infantry Regiment, and KIA on February 26, 1945 in Biersdorf, Germany, not only has he been back to visit his brother grave, but has taken an active part in the 80th. He has attended every reunion since his joining. His many efforts is the location of a French Army Captain who has been sending him information of the Hill 351, 300yds West of Morey and the town of Morey, France. (Which he has visited.)? At this point I want to say this French Army Captain Michel Mathieu who has found the body of a H-317th soldier after all these years and is also actively searching for seven other 80th Infantry Division men known to be MIA in this same general area. He has provided us with a lot of information to date. (At this time I am not to reveal the name, due to the family being notified.)

Vic has taken it on himself to locate this family, and tells me he will be available to visit with the family, when and if the family has a Memorial Service. He has been in contact with the National Archives in St. Louis, Grave Registration, The American Battlefields Battle Monuments Commission, and the Mortuary and Casualty Office in Virginia. Just 50 miles from my home, here in Oakmont. "Quote" Vic says I feel very strongly about all service men and I want to make sure they are not



forgotten. This soldier has been in an unmarked and unknown grave for almost 57 years. Just six days after this man was KIA, my brother was KIA. He tells me that he can't let this man come home without someone from the 80th being there for the family. And with that said, I am going myself, along with Victor who lives in California. (I might add this location is in a radius of 40 mile of Pittsburgh.) If anyone wishes to join us, send me your name and when Vic gets the information, on when the Memorial Service is to be held, I will get in touch with you where to meet us. My hat is off to Victor. If only we had more men like him, after all he is an Associate Member.

New Ceremonial Bugle to Improve Veterans' Funeral Honors

In a meeting with veterans' service organizations in Washington, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense John M. Molino unveiled an innovative way to improve military funeral honors: Honor guard members, though not musicians, can now play "Taps", on a recently developed ceremonial bugle, thanks to dramatic advancements in digital audio technology.

The Department worked with private industry to invent a small device that can be inserted deep into the bell of a bugle that plays a very high-quality rendition of Taps virtually indistinguishable from a live bugler.

The ceremonial bugle is intended to be a dignified alternative to pre-recorded Taps played on a stereo, but will not be used as a substitute for a military musician when one is available.

"We will ask families if they would like to take advantage of this new technology to honor their loved ones," said Molino. "In addition to the very high quality sound, it provides a dignified 'visual' of a bugler playing taps, something families tell us they want".

To use the device, a member of an honor guard needs merely to push a button and hold the bugle to his or her lips. It offers several other advantages over a stereo, including increased reliability.

The Department will begin a six-month test of the ceremonial bugle in Missouri beginning Nov. 7. Fifty prototype bugles will be distributed to military units and other authorized providers of funeral honors, such as veterans' service organizations. During the test, families and honor guard members will be surveyed. Once that data is compiled and the test is completed, a decision will be made whether to expand the program or not.

The Department of Defense provides military funeral honors free of charge to thousands of veteran's families each year. These honors demonstrate the nation's deep gratitude to those who, in time of war and peace, have defended their country. The ceremonial paying of respect is a final tribute to their service.

I hope none of you need to avail yourselves of this service, but thought you may be interest.

Sincerely,
Eric Reilinger

317th / 318th / 319th
HISTORIES
\$20 EA
Operational History — \$30 EA.
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Robert T. Murrell
630 Pennsylvania Ave.
Oakmont, PA 15139-1574

This Belated Article from Frank Lee, Dated 10 July 1987

RECOMMENDED READING

I just finish reading the book Pattons Ordeal and Triumph, published 1963, and written by Ladislas Faraco. It brought back many memories-some are listed below.

I was attached to Headquarters Company 1st Battalion 319th Regiment, 20th Corps, 3rd Army under General George Patton. It was the third week in August aboard the "LST" that we landed at Omaha Beach. We proceeded to ascend the cliffs trying to locate our outfits. (80th Division). This took two days. You might remember, a few members of the 1st Battalion 319th Regiment, namely Colonel Hiram Ives, Lt. Charles Johnson, S/Sgt. Charles Evans, Major Joe Denbeau and S-2 Captain Jesse Mikles.

In one action I recall when the 1st Bn 319th Regiment of the 80th Division who with the 2nd French Armored Division came upon a great plain about three miles south of Paris. We viewed this from a distance awaiting orders for attack. We received orders to "hold". General Eisenhower, Commanding General, decided to use the First Army and other units to enter Paris, three weeks later. Meanwhile, the 2nd French Armored Division decided to go into attack without us, while we awaited orders from General Eisenhower.

We knew at this time that a grave injustice had been done to our beloved General George G. Patton, and the men of the 80th Infantry Division, 3rd Army and supporting troops.

CROSSING OF THE RHINE RIVER

26 MARCH 1945

In the morning training of replacements and inspection of weapons were conducted. In the afternoon at 1230 an order was issued for the 80th Infantry Division to move to concentration areas in the vicinity of MAINZ and prepare to effect a crossing of the Rhine and Mainz rivers.

Combat Team 317 (reinforced) commenced to move to an assembly area in the vicinity of NIEDER-SAULSHEIM at 1800. The Regimental Command Post moved to NIEDER-SAULSHEIM .

27 MARCH 1945

The Germans appeared to be defending the east bank of the RHINE RIVER in the vicinity of MAINZ. Intermittent fire from 20mm AA and artillery fell in CT 317 zone. CT 317 (reinforced) moved to an area in the vicinity

continued on page 14

Nobody ever said "War Life" was fair, but we considered it unfair, that General Montgomery received most of the Gasoline, Rations and support for "his" command, while we sat in our muddy bonkers with inadequate Rations of Gasoline, food and protective clothing.

In conclusion, may I say for the men of the 3rd Army and Supporting units, we shall never forget those who fought and died for our great Country, under the command of general George G. Patton, US 3rd Army.

ity of MAINZ, Germany, preparing to cross the RHINE RIVER. The Regiment Command Post moved to MAINZ.

28 MARCH 1945

At 0100 on 28 March, the 80th Infantry Division jumped off to force a crossing of the RHINE and MAINZ RIVERS and seize bridgeheads for the passage of the XX Corps, this being accomplished, to continue the attack to the north and northeast.

The enemy resisted the crossing of the RHINE RIVER by placing heavy artillery and direct fire weapons, AA and mortar and small arms fire on the bridge sites, as well as on the city of MAINZ. After CT 317 (Reinforced) was firmly established on the east bank of the RHINE RIVER, the enemy infiltrated small groups out of the sector. Approximately 900 prisoners were taken during this operation.

The 2nd Battalion crossed the RHINE RIVER in assault boats from MAINZ and reached the far shore in the vicinity of KUSTEL and KUSTHEIM. Strong resistance was met by the assaulting troops when they reached the far shore, this resistance consisted principally of small arms fire and direct fire from high velocity AA weapons, seized a bridgehead across the RHINE RIVER in the vicinity of MAINZ. Meeting determined resistance. Company "G" repulsed two enemy counterattacks consisting of an undetermined number of infantry and tanks in the vicinity of KASTEL. Later in the period the 2nd Battalion moved to BIEBRICH. The 1st Battalion following the 2nd Battalion crossed the RHINE RIVER, at 0700 and attacked to the northeast and captured WIESBADEN. The 3rd Battalion crossed the RHINE RIVER and attacked to the north and seized

ERBENHEIM and BIERSTADT.

Combat Team 317 (Reinforced) seized the following: KAST, WIESBADEN, BIERBADEN, BIERSTAT, KOSTHEIM and ERBENHEIM. Also captured was an enemy aircraft factory, landing field. Six enemy aircraft and ordnance repair depot, numerous field pieces and 20mm AA guns, a champagne factory with 4000 cases of champagne and a German military hospital. Approximately 900 PW's were captured during the day. The Regiment Command Post moved to BIERBRICH.

29 MARCH 1945

Combat Team 317 (reinforced) in Division Reserve positions, outposted the area, and mopped up the area. There was no organized enemy contacted. PW's continued to be captured, approximately 1200 taken during the day. Moving into assembly areas later in the day. The 1st Battalion assembled in WIESBADEN, the 2nd Battalion in BIEBRICH and the 3rd Battalion in BIERSTAT.

Combat Team 317 (Reinforced) seized the following towns: GEORGENBORN, SCHLANGENHAD, WAMBACH, SEITZENHAHN, HETTENHAM, HAHN, BLEIDENSTADT, DOTZHEIM, FRAUENSTEIN, NEUDORF, SCHIERSTEIN, NIDERWALLUF, OBERWALLUF, and AURINGEN.

31 MARCH 1945

During the day's progress to the north small arms, light mortar, antitank and artillery fire was received on the bridgehead across the Fulda River. It is estimated the enemy is attempting to delay our advance on the FULDA RIVER line south of Kassel with a force of 1000 infantry.

"DRIVE LIKE HELL"

General Patton inspected the III Corps dispositions and divisions on the 20th of December, concluded that the corps concentration was proceeding satisfactorily, and on the following day gave the order for attack at 0600 on the 22nd. The corps scheme of maneuver, issued to the divisions in the early afternoon, was simple. The III Corps would advance north in the direction of St. Vith. The 80th Infantry Division, on the right, would maintain contact during its advance with the left wing of the XII Corps. The 26th Division would form the center. The 4th Armored Division would advance on the left-Bastogne lay in its zone.

The last of the eleven field artillery battalions which had been taken from active engagement on the old Third Army front to form the corps artillery arrived that day. They had wheeled north at an average twenty-mile per hour clip. In addition the infantry divisions each had a tank battalion and a self propelled tank destroyer battalion attached. To eke out some cover on the open flank, Task Force Lyon, consisting of the 178th Engineer Combat Battalion with reinforcements, was assigned the task of erecting roadblocks and preparing bridges for demolition.

The Third Army Commander's last instruction to his commanders reflected the admonition against a dribbling attack given by General Eisenhower: He (General Patton)

avored an attack in column of regiments, "or in any case lots of depth." As usual Patton was optimistic. He felt certain that the enemy was unaware of the storm about to break that German intelligence had not spotted the appearance of the 26th Division in the area, and that it did not know the exact location of the other two divisions. "Drive like hell," said Patton.

THE 80TH DIVISION ADVANCE

Despite hurried preparations the III Corps attack got off at the appointed hour on the 22nd. The 80th Division, whose regiments earlier had assembled north of Luxembourg for the defense of that city, had as line of departure the Mersch-Arlon road on a front of five and a half miles. During the night it was learned that the 109th Infantry of the dispersed 28th Division still was facing the enemy near Vichen, five miles to the north. This would give some cover for the development of the 80th Division attack; so McBride ordered his left wing regiment to pass through the 109th Infantry, relieving it in place. There was no artillery preparation (nor were there any certain targets) for the surprise attack.

The two assault regiments, 319th Infantry on the left and the 318th Infantry on the right, went

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Men of 319 Inf., 80th Div question prisoners captured during fighting in France.

forward fast on this cold morning, tramping over a light blanket of snow which had fallen during the night. In two hours the 319th Infantry (Col. William N Taylor) reached Vichen and relieved the 109th; as the regiment moved on toward Merzig the first few rounds of small arms fire came in. The 318th Infantry (Col. Lansing McVicker) headed for Ettelbruck, constricted to column formation by the Alzette River on the east and a high ridge on the west. South of the bridgehead town enemy shellfire briefly stopped the advance until the German guns were quieted by counter battery from the 314th Field Artillery Battalion.

The cannonading was brought on by a peculiar circumstance. The 352 Volks Grenadier Division (General Schmidt) on the morning was

advancing along the Diekirch-Ettelbruck-Merzig highway in front of but at a right angle to the American advance from the south. Schmidt was under the impression that his division had broken through the American line and was now marching through undefended, unoccupied country. The 914th Regiment had just entered Ettelbruck when the 318th Infantry appeared. It was the artillery regiment of the 352d, bringing up the tail of the division east of the town, which ran afoul of the Americans. Quite obviously the Germans did not expect an attack from this direction. The 914th faced left and deployed hurriedly, using the town as a base, but in the process lost its heavy metal, for the German batteries were in no position to engage in an artillery duel,



ETO-Officers and men of 314 FA Bn, 80th Div in CP map room prepare for offensive against Germans in France.

and fell back to Diekirch.

Farther west the rear of the 915th Regiment column was moving directly across the 319th Infantry line of march. To the amazement, troops of the 3rd Battalion suddenly saw the Germans filing past, only a few hundred yards away and oblivious of any danger. Tanks, tank destroyers, and the 57-mm. antitank guns of the 1st Battalion ended this serene promenade. Many Germans were killed, a gun battery was blown to pieces and numerous trucks and horse-drawn wagons were destroyed. The 319th Infantry had knifed between the head and tail of the 352d. It now swung right onto the Ettelbruck road and that afternoon reached the villages of Oberfeulen and Niederfeulen. Merzig, however, remained

in German hands.

At sundown the 80th Division could look back on a highly successful day. Extensive gains had been the story along the entire Third Corp Front and Patton was very much pleased. This was, he told General Millikin, a chance to win the war; the attack must be kept rolling through the night. The 319th Infantry put its 2nd Battalion, the reserve, into trucks as far as Oberfeulen. There the battalion dismounted about midnight and under a full moon began an advance to take Heiderscheid. The 318th Infantry, which had found it difficult to maneuver on the constricted southern approach to Ettelbruck or bring its tanks and tank destroyers

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to bear against the town, at nightfall began a series of successful assaults to gain the hills which looked down upon Ettelbruck from the west. Company B moved with such speed that it reached the houses at the western edge of the town. Although its commander was wounded during the assault his company held on. The 80th Division would have to do some bitter fighting before this bridgehead over the Sure and Alzette was cleared of the enemy, but the division had one of the main supply routes of the German Seventh Army.

One lone rifle company holding a few houses hardly made for a handhold on Ettelbruck. In and around the town the enemy had a grenadier regiment and many direct fire weapons. Because the bluffs surrounding the town precluded much maneuvers in attack, assault on the west, or American, bank of the Alzette had to be made frontally. Lt. Col. A.S. Tosi had brought the two other rifle companies of his First Battalion close to the edge of the town when daylight came on the 24th (Company still held inside), but three separate attempts to reach the town failed, and with severe casualties. In the afternoon a few tanks were maneuvered into position and with their help the 1st Battalion reached the houses and took fifty or sixty prisoners. By this time the battalion had lost the equivalent of a full company, Colonel Tosi had been seriously wounded, and all company leaders had been killed or wounded. One tank reached the streets but found them cluttered with debris and impassable. The Division Commander decided to call off the attack; at dusk all the companies withdrew while the artillery

plastered Ettelbruck. This second day had voided the bright promises of the first, for the 80th Division finally was in contact with the main German forces, well-entrenched in towns and villages, which could be attacked only over broken and difficult terrain.

In the course of the afternoon General McBride decided to keep the attack rolling by interdicting his reserve regiment, the 317th Infantry (Lt. Col. Henry G. Fisher), which had been following the 318th Infantry, was given the mission of clearing the ridge which ran north to Welscheid. Once beyond this town Fisher's troops were to turn east toward the Sure River, thus cutting to the rear of Ettelbruck. When night fell the regiment was on its way, the 2nd Battalion in the lead and the 1st Battalion a thousand yards to its rear. Nearing Welscheid sometime after midnight, the forward battalion started into the assault over a series of rough slopes where each man was outlined by the moonlight reflecting from the glazed field of snow. The enemy waiting with machine guns on the reverse slopes had all the best of it. The American tanks tried but could not maneuver over the broken ground. The battalion commander therefore sent two of his companies to make a wide detour through a deep gorge, their place in the line taken by the 1st Battalion. But this movement consumed too much time, and day broke on the 24th with the two battalions out in the open and dangerously exposed to German fire. The attack had to be abandoned; new plans were made for bypassing the town and striking directly at Bourscheid and the Sure River.

The 319th Infantry had continued its battle by sending the 2nd

Battalion against Heidersheid, which lay on the Ettelbruck-Bastogne route and from which a secondary road ran laterally west to Martelange across the 26th Division zone of advance. Just north of Heidersheid were several crossing points on the Sure River, the chief natural obstacle to be surmounted by the 80th Division in its march northward. The 2nd Battalion (Lt. Col. Bandy) reached Heidersheid about 0230 on the morning of the 23rd, but when two rifle companies neared the edge of the village they were stopped by assault gun fire and machine guns firing tracers to point the targets for the gun crews. Infantrymen with submachine guns worked close enough to fire bursts into the positions from which the orange line of the tracers came but could not deal with the German assault guns. Two American tanks belonging to the 702 Tank Battalion came forward only to be checked by a minefield across the crossroad. A German gun took a shot at the tanks but in so doing gave away its location, and a quick return shot set the assault gun afire. Guided by the light from the blazing gun carriage the American riflemen rushed the gendarmerie, took it and there barricaded themselves. About this time the explosion of a German shell detonated the minefield, and the tanks ground forward to the village. An hour or so before the last of the stubborn defenders had been routed out and the 2nd Battalion was north of the village.

The fight was not finished, for at noon two enemy companies converged in a yelling assault on Heiderscheid. Some of the 2nd Battalion broke but the rest stood firm, killed the German infantry commander, and wrote quietus to this threat.

Then affairs took a more serious turn as eleven enemy tanks hove in sight, decks and capolas packed with snow for camouflage. While a hurried call was dispatched for armored aid, bazooka teams crawled forward to try their luck. Two of the enemy tanks fell prey to the bazooka teams, led by 2nd Lt. Michael Hritsik, whereupon the others showed themselves loath to close in. Friendly tank destroyers appeared in time to account for four more German tanks, and an American tank knocked out a fifth.

By the time the 3rd Battalion (Lt. Col. Elliot B. Cheston) came hurrying up the battle was ended. Cheston's battalion, having spent most of the morning rounding up a large enemy detachment in Merzig, now turned northeast from Heiderscheid and marched through a deep defile to reach and take the hamlet of Tadler on the Sure. The Germans blew the nearby bridge, then sat back on the far bank to pound the battalion with rocket salvos. About dark the regimental commander ordered a company to move west along the river and outpost Heiderscheidgrund; admittedly this was poaching in the zone of the 26th Division, but the bridge there was needed. The company found the bridge intact and a stream of German vehicles running back and forth. Organizing an ambush, the company spent the night picking off unwary travelers.

On the eastern flank the 1st Battalion and its tank support spent most of the 23rd negotiating the rough ground, dense woods, and deep snow in an advance from Feulen toward Kemen. From a hill

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south of Kehmen the advance guard counted twenty-four tanks rolling toward the village from the east, apparently on their way to retake Heiderscheid. Word already had gone back for more tanks, but those with infantry, plus a few tanks destroyers, got in the first fire, immobilized two of the leader, and surprised the rest that they turned tail and hurried back to Bourscheid which the 905 Field Artillery Battalion promptly took under fire. Discerning at least a tank platoon backing the grenadiers inside Kehmen, the 1st Battalion waited until after dark for reinforcements-ten tanks formerly attached to the 28th Division. With their help, the battalion delivered a sharp assault, destroying three German tanks and freeing the village.

The night battles had shown clearly that the 80th Infantry Division faced hard going as the 24th dawned. The advance had carried north to a point where it impinged on the Seventh Army communications leading to the Bastogne battleground. The main fight for the III Corps was that flaring farther west. Henceforth McBride's operation would be subsidiary to the attack by the corps' left and center, an operation designed to interdict the movement of reinforcements heading for Bastogne and to contain the enemy in the Ettelbruck and Bourscheid sectors. Orders from General Millikin, received at the 80th Division post early on the 24th, underlined the swift gravity westward: McBride was to send two battalions of the 318th Infantry from Ettelbruck to assist the 4th Armored Division, and at once.

Lane Hall Post #42

313 F.A. Bn

First, Ruth and I wish to thank all the members and 80th friends for remembering us with Christmas cards. It is always good to hear from you.

Bill I and Irene Hanson had a busy year with the grandchildren. Their granddaughter was in charge of the Spring Dance Concert at Macon College in Lynchburg, VA. The grandson graduated from Annapolis. Bill had the honor of pinning on his 2nd Lt. bars at graduation... Marge Gay has not changed. Sent in two jokes... Mary Brinker had a carpal tunnel operation. She and Bob celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Not much improvement for Bob... Carl (Doc) and Audrey Blocker are both spending time in Crest Wood Care Center. Doc is in Room 118 and Audrey Room 300. Their address is 225 West Main Street Shelby, OH 44875... All the others we heard from have the common aches and pains that goes with old age... The best to all of you. Try to enjoy retirement.

As mentioned before, we will attempt to have a mini reunion again this year.

Dates:

Wednesday June 18 through
Saturday, June 21, 2003

Place:

Best Western Bedford Inn
Bedford, PA 15522

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Co. M 318th Inf.

Post #44

Received both a Christmas Card and a letter from Sandy Best, telling that Rita, his wife has had a stroke and he is taking care of her. Wrote saying he enjoyed the article in the last newsletter. Also received cards from Allen Waller, Bill Ritchie, Lloyd Jones, Steve Popoplis, Ben Rupp, Ed Thomas, and a host of others. I wish to thank all of you, they were appreciated. My son was home for Christmas, the first for many years. No need to say, but I will, he made Ma and Pa very happy... I have the sad duty to report the death of Roy Dollinger. His wife wrote me a very nice letter telling me of his suffering that started in late December 2001. Roy had caught a cold and it improved but as from that point on, he lost the ability to walk. Lewey-Body dementia (Alzheimer-type disease). He was

Phone:

814-623-9006
or 1-800-752-8592

Fax: 814-623-7120

More information will be forwarded in a mini reunion packet. Hope to see you there.

We have had 28 inches of snow her in Elizabethtown, PA. Brings back many memories, especially the German winter of 1944 and the Battle of the Bulge. How anyone ever survived, I don't know. So long for now. God Bless.

Jim Phillips Sect/Treas.

in the VA hospital until Dolores had him moved to the Bel Air Mariner Nursing Care facility in March of 2002. He was home for the their 50th Wedding Anniversary in May. He declined very quickly. Then Dolores received the call at 12:30 a.m. that Roy had slipped away. All you "M" people that read this send Dolores a card. Her Address is 310 J Willrich Circle Forest Hill, MD 21014... How many of you in "M" Company recognize this man? (pictured below) The answer will be in the next issue.



DV and DV Hqs Co. Post #39

Sadly I report the death of Tom McMillen who passed away on Sept 17. Tom was the head of the 80th CIC detachment. Our heartfelt sympathy to his wife Nan and Family.

Tony Manganiello Division Surgeon and Bill Elzeer (AG Sect) reached their 90th birthday in January. Tony on the 10th and Bill on the 11th. Neither can play their beloved golf any more. Bill has hip problems and Tony suffers nerve trouble in his feet and both has a balance problem. Happy 90th Guys!

Ivan Downs (JA) is a victim of diabetes and is in dialysis, but Dialysis the like of which I have never heard. He gives himself the treatment at home! He has a computerized machine next to his bed and when he retires for the night, lets say it's 10 O'clock. He hooks the machine to his body and turns the machine on. It runs for nine hours and his blood is cleansed. In those nine hours he can read, or watch TV and sleep for seven hours. He must do this every day. He says he feels great, and what's more he had gone back to work! If he wants to go anywhere for a few days, the machine is portable and only weighs 35 lbs. Medicare pays for it.

Yours truly had been doctoring for the last 5 months. In October my heart started to fibrillate, and I spent five days in the hospital before the doctors got it under control. I now take medication for it. In November, I had trouble swallowing my food. So back into the hospital again. The doctors found my esoph-

Brett Post #3

Brett Post held their Christmas Dinner on 13 January 2003, with 20 members in attendance. This was to be held 9 December 2002, due to bad weather and was cancelled. In that our reservations were paid for, it was held at the later date.

Commander Bruno was very pleased that everyone was able to attend due to so many being ill, and has not been able to attend previous meetings.

The McDonalds from Greenville, PA and was the farthest to come. He said he had visited Col. Woods and his wife Arlene at Christmas time and they were doing as well as could be expected for a pair in the 90's.

It was nice to visit with everyone and it was like it was Christmas again.

Our next meeting will be held 13 March 2003-12:30 at the Blue Angel Restaurant.

Sincerely Helen Beers

agus was the culprit. The doctor dilated it and now it works great. In December I had a urinalysis and it showed blood in my urine.

The doctor did a biopsy that proved to be cancerous. He then cut it out, and gave me a clean bill of health. Now I have to be scored every 3 months. I closed 2002 with a lot of problems. I hope 2003 is a lot better.

Fred Buscarni Sec't

New York Post #43

We did enroll a new member from A-319, Frank Morienello from Derby, NY near Buffalo. Welcome Frank. I did attend the annual re-enactment of The Battle of the Bulge in January at Fort Indian Town Gap, near Harrisburg, PA. I spend some time with my sister in Tucson, AZ to be with her on her Christmas Birthday.

Two big meeting planned for 2003. We again return to Albany, NY to the Turf Inn for our usual annual meeting and election of officers along with their excellent facilities and wonder foods. Great spot to relax and have fun and meet with our buddies. This takes place Memorial Day weekend, May 22-26, 2003, Thursday through Sunday Night.

The fall gathering will be held in Ithaca, NY September 24-28, 2003. Most plans have been made and we will again stay at the best Western Inn. A full schedule is planned starting Wednesday noon. We will again eat at the Tower Club at Ithaca College high overlooking Cayuga Lake restaurant, outside overlooking the lake area. A Veteran's night at the local Elks a trip to a winery to eat and stock up on supplies. Friday night back at the Elks for Fish or Steak and Saturday tailgating at an Ithaca football game and the game. The Veterans from the Bath V.A. Hospital will also be attending the game after a meal at the Elks. This will be the 55th year that the Elks have invited the Vets to a meal and a game. For those not interested in

Florida Post #47

Our weather this winter has not lived up to the normal high standard that we have accepted as usual balmy days and comfortable nights month in and month out. Wearing long sleeves and sweaters is supposed to be for up north in Georgia but I'm sure the Chamber of Commerce will come through for our March meeting with warm days and cool evenings. The last few weeks have been improving. I am perspiring as I sit writing this article. If this keeps up we will have to turn on the Air Conditioning, I'm sure hope it still works. We have not used it for a while.

There will be a few members missing at this meeting due to the usual family previous commitments and health. George and Helen West, he has fractured vertebra, he won't be doing much of anything for a while. Naomi is recuperating from shingles, which is quite painful.

Don't forget to start preparing for National Reunion at Roanoke, VA in September. It is never too early to start planning.

Francis Rajnicek, Sec't

the game plenty of travel to visit the many State Parks and/or wineries. Saturday night back again to the local Legion for reception and buffet. Sunday noon we will again be at the Antlers for their food and our white elephant raffle. This will keep you occupied and out of trouble. See you there.

Ed Bredbenner Sect.

Post #36 3d Bn., 317 Inf.

Am listing a few notes from Christmas cards, which I hope, would be of interest to all.

Cecelia Kibbe expresses her thanks for the many cards and notes she received in memory of Rex. They meant so much to her and the family. Cecelia had been ill and is recuperating with her daughter and husband until May at 1202 S. 4th St. Dayton, WA 99328, Phone 509-382-2496. We wish you a speedy recovery. Thank you for your Hospitality Room contribution in memory of Rex. Lucille Clark writes she is thankful for her health, which is about the same. She has a companion that comes in every day and someone at night. Her niece Susan Williams is doing fine. They hated to miss the reunion in Florida but hope to make the Roanoke Reunion. Opal Finch still lives alone at home. She has good neighbors and friends who guard over her. Dolly Crowfoot takes one day as it comes.

Frank Florence spent several days in the hospital in October. A special diet now keeps him on track. Frank; hope your health improves. Bill Petrollini can't wait to go to Florida to escape the weather in Youngstown, OH. He has his aches and pains but isn't complaining. He hopes to make Roanoke, VA. From Joe and Pauline Zabitchuck, Joe had a stroke five years ago, can't talk or walk, is wheelchair bound. Joe loves the 80th magazine. Pauline, our prayers and thoughts are with both of you. Martha Linch writes she is in good health, walking six days a week.

Leroy and Nancy Pierce had a banner year. High point was a Lawn

and Garden Party celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on October 5 with family and friends, over 180. Congratulations! They did some traveling to Elderhostel in Western Virginia. Learned more about the Civil War. Also attended wedding in Florida. Leroy enjoys helping in family furniture, funeral home, and a bit of golf and singing in a men's group. Nancy keeps busy with her garden, church activities and civic club work. They have a wonderful bunch of grandchildren ages 24 to 3 and their grandparents are very proud... John and Simonne Daniel (I) are both in good health at the present. John keeps busy working hand-painting and repairing the house.

I heard from Judson R. Baron who is looking for members of AT Co. 317th. He joined as a replacement in September 1944. His address is 7 Gould Road, Lexington, MA 02173-1003. Angelo and Kay Baron are looking forward to their trip to Florida and the Florida Post meeting in March. Bob Parks is not well at this writing. A card would be welcomed. His address is 238 Summit Ridge Dr. Nashville, TN. 37215-3819, Phone 615-292-2995.

A correction to the name appearing at the bottom of the column of the last issue of the Blue Ridge. The correct name should be Charles Kille (K) 6655-100th Ave, Pinellas Park, FL 33782-2922. Charlie, sorry for the printing error.

Please forward to me any news, which can be included in this column. We are all interested in knowing about each other. My address is Newtown Towers 204 B, 3400 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square, PA 19073. WE extend our prayers for a speedy and lasting recovery to all who are sick and have physical problems.

Bob Nathason, Sect.

Post #33 Co. H, Inf.

At this time I have little news to report as pens and pencils seem to be dormant. Did hear from Irv saying his surgery has been postponed for the present but is still more than just an option. Keep Irv and Hilda in your thoughts and prayers.

Steve Bravar passed away January 5, 2003. Mary, his wife preceded him in death in 1994. I am sure all remember Steve as an easy going person and his leadership as a weapons platoon sergeant. Steve was ninety years of age and lived a devout and giving life as a comrade, husband and father. I am sure all join me in extending our sorrow and gratitude to his family.

I am still a volunteer at the USO every Friday evening, 6:00 PM to Midnight. The recruits have changed since Selectives of the 1940's.

God Bless American

Ohly, Commander

QUOTABLE QUOTES...

*Politicians and diapers
have one thing in common.
They should be changed
regularly and for the same
reason.*

*An optimist thinks that this
is the best possible world.
A pessimist fears that this
is true.*

*If marriage were outlawed,
only outlaws would have
in-laws.*



Steve Bravar, CD Clements and
Cadre Sgt (?)

Rcn. Post #37

We have lost another member, Edward Gorczyca on 20 January 2003. His sons Address Edward Gorczyca, 1542 Cypress Trace Drive, Melbourne, FL 32940-1627. Send a card.

Our mailing list is now down to 38. Response from Christmas Cards was 17 — wish it could be 100% just one time. We have the usual problems. Aside from medical problems, I think our biggest excuse is PRO-CRASTINATION!

A Post 37 Newsletter is in the process. You'll have it soon!

Eleanor B. Schoenly Sect

305th Engineers Post #40

There's practically no news from the troops so I'd like to use this column for a proposal to the 80th Division Veterans Association members reading the "no news" of the engineers.

We have discussed the termination of our Association several times at our executive board meetings and general business meetings but no real intent to do so has emerged with the first step Our age goes on, our health gets worse and the reunion attendance drops. Each reunion Chairman risks committing financial hiatus and the hotels will not commit their accommodations with uncertain and unpredictable attendance.

Let us revise our traditional format of four days to two. Registration and hospitality the first day with the evening party. Memorial Service the next morning, tours or more hospitality that afternoon and the banquet that evening. *Less is more:* less expense, less time, less travel, more hospitality, more program, more attendance.

A choice location that would host the 80th veterans with respect might just be the Ft. Lee, Va. area (Richmond, VA) home of the current 80th Division Command I suggest that the Division Commander at Ft. Lee be contacted in regard to this idea and what cooperation he might offer. An annual recognition of WW II vets could be an acceptable idea for the Commanding General and if so, then the work for a reunion chairman is almost eliminated.

Major General Douglas O. Dollar has indicated his interest of the his-

tory of our division and also has said he XVIII attend our next 80th reunion 2003 at Roanoke, Va. We may have an opportunity to solve the evident problem of emasculating attendance if he accepts the "recognition" idea. And if members of this Association SUPPORT my proposal.

There is a road block here... are we prepared to change our format to accept an invitation from the current commanding general when of course we know military commanders frequently change and an annual invitation could not be guaranteed. Think the only answer in that regard is the success of the FIRST "Recognition Dinner". This is what future commanders will refer to when they contemplate the annual continuance by them.

Another thought of the new format is relating to date of the event to be changed to Veterans' Day in November ... Our day, the 80th way, move forward with new ideas. As the nation honors ALL veterans, we will gather together the 80th veterans to salute our departed comrades at our Memorial Service (and that day might also appeal to Commanding General Dollar).

One more thought about the format a veteran's recognition dinner MAY. NOT include the ladies and separate arrangements would be necessary but certainly not too difficult for them. They might even get better chow than the men will get from an army service club kitchen.

Think about these proposals and forget tradition because the time has come to make necessary changes for future reunions, or what is your suggestion?

Before closing... I now ask the

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Greater Reading Post #32

Our Christmas Dinner was a big success. We had 33-80th people attending and a delicious meal was served to all. Thanks to all who traveled a distance to attend.

Some sad news was received over the Holidays, two of our members passed away. Charles Gainor died Jan. 9, 2003 in Harrisburg. Philip Volpe died Dec. 1, 2002 in Saltsburg, PA. Our condolences go out to their families. My hips are giving me a problem, as I must use a walker to get around the house. Hopefully a solution by the Drs. Will let me return to just using a cane. Gehman is at home recovering from his surgery, so that's good news. Time is not good to us "young" fellows, but we will survive. Mary Piergrossi had a slight stroke and is now at home. Don't forget to make plans to attend our 80th Reunion September 10 to 13th at the Windham Hotel, Roanoke, VA. Commander Futch will keep us entertained and we will get to see our Buddies whom we have meet over the years. Lets Roll!!!!

Lou Shirey Sect

305th Post 40 members of our Association to be planning now to come to Roanoke. Some have not been showing up and we miss you. Everybody has an excuse me story but NOW I don't want to hear it. Just make plans to get there and you will be there. Our hospitality room is going to be full of engineers one more time.

Russell Sick, Commander

Cincinnati Post #34

Sunday, December 1, 2002 found 9 members of the Cincinnati Post and PNC Russell Sick attending our monthly Dinner Party at Donte's in Western part of Hamilton County Ohio. Among the nine present were; Melda Schmidt, the Opels, Reilingers, Benzingers and Wettings. We had an enjoyable dinner and talked about our families and reminisce about our days with the 80th. We missed most of all Betty Cammerer who was unable to come due to illness. I talked to her by phone and she is taking some strong medication for the illness. I encourage the membership to mail "Get well" cards to her as she could use a boost through her period of illness.

We have been having a cold spell over the weekend and this should end this coming Thursday. The weather up to this week has been very good with temperatures in the 50's for the fall days.

I do hope I get this letter to you for the current issue if not then the next. We all wish you had a Merry Christmas and a good New Year. Fraternally,

Brother John T. Wettig, Sr.



*My how Balls
and Only wright*

Co. L 319th Inf.

What a winter this has been—our weather here in Maryland has been more like the normal weather in Alaska than that which we normally experience here in the East. This was predicted by the Woolly Bear Caterpillar which was totally black instead of its usual mix of black and tan. Black indicates a severe winter and old Woolly Bear was right on. I can finish this report after I shovel about 30 inches of snow off my walkways and driveway. (I'm back).

On the light side—picture this if you will—Close your eyes and envision a gentleman walking down an aisle or a pathway beautifully dressed in a Tuxedo or Tails. He has a young lady clinging to his right arm who is radiant in white. His face is aglow with pride and the eyes of all of those in attendance are on him. Who is this handsome gentleman ? It is none other than our beloved Rudy Berman who will be giving away his youngest daughter in marriage sometime in late March. Rudy and Carol, you're not giving away a daughter, you're gaining a son.

You can now address John and Helen Balas as great grandfather and great grandmother. They reached this plateau on December 21st, 2002 when their grand daughter gave birth to a baby girl who will be named Natalie. Congratulations John and Helen.

On a sad note, I am sorry to report that Big John Birong passed away on Saturday, February 15th. Seems John was not allowed to drive but nevertheless slipped out of the house to go to the hardware

store for some screws for a project he was working on. Audrey was not aware that John had gone until the Police came to her door and told her that John had had a stroke and had died. For those who wish to send a note or card, Audrey's address is 181 Muir Drive, Love Park, Illinois 61111. Her phone number is 1-815-773-3730. I know you join me in expressing our heartfelt sympathy to Audrey and her family.

I was talking to Betts Flynn by phone early in the week of February 10th and she told me she was going into the hospital for an angiogram. I then received a e-mail from John on the 18th informing me that the angiogram discovered a 70% blockage in one of her arteries and angioplasty was performed and a stent was inserted in the artery. John said Betts is doing quite well and should be back to tennis and her exercise regimen in a few weeks. Tough gal that Betts.

I spoke to Marshall Hill recently and he sent me a copy of a book he has written. It is in the form of a diary and covers the period from his induction until his discharge. Rather interesting. Marshall was in my squad and the diary brought back many memories both good and bad, but mostly good of our time together. Marshall said he will try to make the Roanoke reunion.

I received a Happy New Year letter from Bill Siebert and he enclosed an article he extracted from a magazine called World War II. The article outlines the role of the 318th Regiment in the Battle of the Bulge. It pretty much describes much of what our Regiment also went through. If you can get a copy of the

magazine, its a good read. Bill said the weather in Salinas has been like a yo-yo — goes from the teens to the fifties in 2 to 3 days.

Bill and Billie are busy as usual. Bill is currently working on a revision of the Company L history and has received a contribution from Jack Barrett for the revision. Bill is marking all of the maps to locate the towns that pertain to the monthly sections. Bill and Billie talked to Lou and Banner Rice and learned that Banner is still suffering physical difficulties and must take periodic blood transfusions. Banner however says he is feeling pretty good.

Ray Greene may or may not have had a hip replacement as you read this. It has already been postponed once due to the Doctor's fear of a staph infection but maybe that threat has passed.

Don Chism is planning to attend the Roanoke Reunion if his health permits and he can get a ride from Nevada. His return will be a welcome addition to our group.

No word from the "Champagne Kid" but I suspect Lemoine Vaughn is in good health and enjoying life in California.

I received a birthday card for my birthday on February 4th from Lou and Rich Blatz and am happy to report they are both well and continuing to enjoy life.

Frank and Helene Soloninka are in almost daily touch with the Flynn's, the Berman's the Krehbiel's, Jim Young and myself. None of us have heard anything that would indicate there is a problem in the Soloninka household except perhaps those that most of us are experiencing because of being in our Golden Years (says Who.)

Jim Young e-mailed that he has just returned from a trip and cruise to South America. Jim made the trip with his friend and neighbor Doctor Hyman. They flew to Rio de Janeiro and spent New Years eve and New Years day there and then traveled to Iquazu Falls which Jim said was a beautiful sight. Iquazu Falls is about twice as high and four times as wide as Niagra Falls. From there it was off to Buenos Aires and the cruise ship the Silver Whisper. The cruise ship took them to the Straits of Magellan, Cape Horn and the southern most city in the world-Houwashia. Then it was on to the fjords of Southern Chili, a flight over the Andes Mountains with its ice bergs, glaciers and lakes. The cruise ended at Santiago, the capital of Chili and a flight to Atlanta ended the trip. Jim said it was an experience of a lifetime but the weather was colder in Atlanta when they returned then it was at the South Pole. Welcome home Jim.

As for Maria and me, we have had our share of winter colds and the usual aches and pains of aging but otherwise we are OK. Maria had an angiogram of her Carotid artery and it showed no problems and I am awaiting an appointment with the VA to take another procedure to try to relieve me of my leg and back problems.

Lets all hope and pray that this miserable winter weather is behind us and that spring will give us a new lease on life and keep all of us well and happy.

Don't pack for Roanoke yet but start thinking about our get together in August. Hope to see all of you there.

Hank Einolf.

continued on page 29

All of the past National & Honorary Commanders are looking forward to seeing you at the 84th Annual Reunion September 9-13, 2003 in Roanoke, Virginia

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