

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

The Service Magazine
Volume 84, Number 337

Summer - 2003
Issue 3



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

A. E. F.

Artois-Picardy
St. Mihiel
Meuse-Argonne

E. T. O.

Northern France
Ardennes
Rhineland
Central Europe

God Bless America

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Deadline for the next issue is September 1, 2003


Eightieth Division
Veterans Association

BLUE RIDGE

The Service Magazine

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Don Davis (K-319)

George V. West (C-318)

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3 Year; Felix Cistolo (G-317)

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Tom Pappas (F-318)

2 Years

George V. West (G-318)

Andy Ferens (M-317)

Robert J. McDonald (C-319)

3 Years

Melvin C. Beers (C-319)

Richard Davis (905 Fa Bn)

Albert S. Haley (H-317)

Commander's REPORT

As I write this article, we have just finished unpacking after a trip to eastern Germany. As I stated in the winter issue of the "Blue Ridge," we joined a group of veterans of the 76th Infantry Division and 6th Armored Division on this trip. Unfortunately only Bob Harmon, from Seattle, WA (formerly AT Co 319th) joined Ida and me to represent the 80th Division. The 76th Division had 10 people (six veterans and four dependents) and the 6th Armored had seven people (four veterans and three wives). It appears that a number of interested travelers cancelled because of the war in Iraq, and the attitude of the German government about the war.

Actually, with the exception of one incident we encountered only the greatest of hospitality and friendship in each place we visited. The exception was the village of Troistedt, where the mayor's wife (a Dr. Lenzler) delivered a prepared anti-war speech. (Not an anti-American speech), in front of an 80th Division Memorial. Yours truly delivered an answer along the line, that Americans in general don't like war any more than anyone, but sometime feel compelled to face up to an evil dictator, just like we did in WWII. If we didn't who know were the good people of Troistedt, or the inmates of nearby Buchenwald would be. The incident ended on a friendly note and better understanding of our people.

Better understanding was the purpose of the whole trip. The veterans were US Ambassadors to promote German-American relations. The US Army, Europe, specifically



the US 1st Division, acted as our host and followed the group. M.G. Jones, the Commanding General of the 1st Division greeted us in Frankfurt on our arrival. He assigned a Full Colonel to accompany the group all the way. In addition three medics were assigned, a bugler for ceremonies, a chaplain for Palm Sunday services and others from the US Army as needed. The public relations effort was a huge success.

I won't bore you with the details of each stop through Thuringia. We were joined by the U.S. Consul General, at Leipzig Mr. Burton, the President of the Thuringia State Parliament, and the Lord Mayors of the various cities visited, German military brass and the usual number of politicians. Each one anxious to make speeches in German and English. Representatives of the press, newspapers, radio and TV constantly pursued us. Of course there were meetings with local citizens. The veterans and their families conducted themselves in an exemplary manner, like great ambassadors. Ida and I had a great time and are proud to have represented each one of you at this PR exercise.

*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 June 1, 2003. If I have omitted a name I assure you it was not intentional, please let me know if your were omitted, 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
Barthold, Walter	80th Signal
Barr, Jack	G-317
Bayruns, Frank	I-318
Bierbaum, Paul M.	80th Qm
Bredbenner, Edgar E.	
In memory of Greenlee, Joseph C.	I-318
Falvey, Charles L.	A-305 Eng
Goodspeed, Peter H.L.	K-317
Hugh Harvey	B-318
Cool, Harry A.	F-317
Cross, George	L-318
Engstrom, William	80th Sig
In memory of his brother Robert	
Karr, Alferd Jr.	B-318
Liebreich, Oscar P.	A-319
Mahoney, Michael E.	A-318
Mc Andrew, Paul	Hq-314 FA Bn
Pflederer, Robert H.	CN-319
Tagmeyer, Nathan	B-319

2004 Reunion Chairman Comes to Pittsburgh

Marvin Spencer, 3rd Vice Commander (Mr. Texas) and his wife Helen, daughter Carol and granddaughter Brook arrived 22 April at the Pittsburgh International Airport, where Brock and Naomi picked them up. Reason for the trip? To see and inspect the hotel for our 86th Annual Reunion to be held in Pittsburgh. On Wednesday we had lunch with the Director of Sales, who showed us the rooms and party rooms, we talked about the food for the party rooms and all else pertaining to the reunion.

On Thursday, a beautiful day for sight seeing, we drove them around the backcountry, with Marvin stating the hills and curves, no flat areas. They really enjoyed the ride.

On day of departure, we picked them up and took them to breakfast and at noon we went to McDonalds so Brook could play with other children. After this we went to the airport where their plane was to leave at 3:15 pm.

The Spencers thanked Naomi and Brock for the wonderful visit.

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.

Mrs. Kathleen Briggs, in
Memory of her Husband Eugene Hq-319

A letter concerning the McBride Award:

Mr. Don Davis
4323 Town Park Place
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Dear Mr. Davis:

I am delighted to have been chosen as the 2003 recipient of the General Horace McBride scholarship Award from the 80th Division Veterans Association. I appreciate the kind generosity from which this award is given.

I am currently a senior at Madison High School and am looking forward to the opportunities that lie ahead. Next fall, I will be attending Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, where I will major in Accounting and Pre-Law. The scholarship will help fund my college education.

Aspiring students from Madison every year are able to learn about the accomplishments of General Horace McBride. His path to success can be a reminder to students to pursue their dreams. Thank you and your association for this scholarship.

Sincerely,
Marie K. Bruening
305 East Second Street
Madison, NE 68748-6403

Welcome NEW MEMBERS

Anderson, George W. 125 N. Cove Drive Peachtree City, GA 30269-4235	F-318
DiCarlo, Victor J. 103 W. Genesee Street Pittsburgh, PA 15223-1014	HQ 2d Bn 319
Harlan, Joe 316 N. Walnut Street Adairville, KY 42202-8435 270-726-6784	E-317
Goins, C. Leon 7013 Copper Mountain Corpus Christi, TX 78413-4307 361-850-8243	E-317 Assoc
Hoffnagel, John F. 130 Carvel Beach Road Baltimore, MD 21226-1947 410-360-4730	A-318 Assoc
Marksberry, Estle 14 New Uri Avenue Florence, KY 41042 589-371-7280	1st Bn Hq-319
Simpson, Scott E. 17350 East Temple Avenue # 309 La Puente, CA 91744-4636 909-990-6543	C-317 Assoc
Merlino, Anthony 879 Edgebrook Drive N. Toms River, NJ 08757	E-317
Preedy, William E. WWI Assoc. 456 Deal Drive Chesapeake, VA 23323-3217	
Scott, Lacey C. 6220 W. Earll Drive Phoenix, AZ 623-247-3213	A-317
OVERLOOKED FROM LAST ISSUE	
Barwell, Herbert 26 Woodbridge Rd North Andover, MA 01845	A-317

80th INFANTRY DIVISION — REUNION —

FROM ARCHER FUTCH, REUNION CHAIRMAN

Attention all Personnel!

Invitations for the 84th Reunion are out.

Your attendance is earnestly requested at the Wyndham Roanoke Hotel on September 10-13, 2003. Come on down for a great time!

COMMANDERS RECEPTION Wed., Sept. 10th
TICKETS REQUIRED

DUGOUT PARTY Thurs., Sept. 11th
TICKETS REQUIRED

D-DAY MEMORIAL & PICNIC Fri., Sept. 12th
TICKETS REQUIRED

MEMORIAL SERVICE Sat., Sept. 13th
WEAR AUTHORIZED RIBBONS

DINNER/DANCE Sat., Sept. 13th
TICKETS REQUIRED



Secretary's REPORT

FAX: (412) 828-7651

"E" MAIL ADDRESS: Divinf80@AOL.Com

PLEASE NOTE —

If you have moved and have not sent in your change of address, when it is no longer that the Postal Service will forward your mail, then it comes back to me without an address to send it too. Therefore, when you don't receive your Newsletter, blame yourself, not the Secretary. As of this issue I have 22 Forwarding Order Expired I can't send to... Thanks to Irv Robinson for identifying the picture on Page

25 of the last issue, it was Sgt. William A. Martin of Company H 319th Infantry. The other picture on page 21 was James Siniard Company M 318th Infantry. From Carroll Peterson comes the following, Joseph Mulloy H-319, 3201 Stone Park Blvd., Westwood Nursing Home. Sioux City, IA 51104. Also talked to Don Davis in the same city, hope to get over sometime to have a cup of coffee with him....

*Welcome to the 84th
Reunion of the 80th
Infantry Division
Veterans Association!*

Our hotel, the Wyndham Airport Hotel is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia at Roanoke, VA. We will visit the beautiful and inspiring D-Day Memorial on Friday at Bedford. Our Tour will include a picnic lunch followed by a brief ceremony with color guards and taps provided by the 80th Div (IT). This reunion promises to be a very special event as we join with the Army to celebrate Patriot's Day with a parade in downtown Roanoke on Saturday afternoon. The Parade will include both the 80th and 29th Infantry Division Bands followed by comments from local dignitaries. This parade is an optional event for those who would like to participate. For those not able or choosing not to march, rides in antique military vehicles will be provided.

Other activities will follow the usual pattern with the Commander's Reception on Wednesday night, the Dugout Party on Thursday night, and the Memorial Service on Saturday morning. A sixteen-piece band that specializes in the music of the WWII era will perform for the banquet and dance on Saturday. Our speaker will be Lt. Gen. Inge, Commanding General of the First Army.

For those flying, Delta Airlines and US Air provide service into Roanoke Regional Airport. Free shuttle service is provided by the Wyndham Hotel Just use the direct

Wyndham phone line in the baggage claim area. There is also "free" parking at the hotel for all vehicles. All hotel reservations should be made directly with the hotel by phoning their toll free number 1-800- 996-3426 as soon as possible but no later than Aug. 26. Reunion hotel rates will apply 3 days prior and 3 days after the Convention. Looking forward to seeing all of our veterans, ladies of the Auxiliary, and guest in Roanoke. Do not miss this special event; make your reservations today.

All members of the 80th Inf. Div. Veterans Association should have received their 84th Reunion Notice and invitation by this time. If not please notify the Reunion Chairman Archer Futch by either e-mail (ahfutch@yahoo.com) or phone (1-925-447-4858) to receive a reunion packet.

"The Stories of the Men of the 80th"

\$25 includes the postage
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Robert T. Murrell

317th / 318th / 319th HISTORIES

\$20 EA
Operational History - \$30 EA.
- POSTAGE PAID -
Robert T. Murrell
630 Pennsylvania Ave.
Oakmont, PA 15139-1574

Sometimes We Must Blow Our Own Horn

One of the traveling exhibits shown during our recent trip to Germany described the collapse of the German Wehrmacht under the Allies attack in Thuringia. The exhibit emphasized action by the 76th Division and the 6th Armored Division, but ignored the 80th Division. I spoke to the producer of the exhibit, who seemed amenable to correct the oversight if given the necessary information.

I have sent the following letter to the producer:

*Mr. Ulrich Koch / Athene TV
10409 Berlin, Germany*

Dear Mr. Ulrich:

Your exhibit about the liberation of Thuringia by the US Forces was very interesting. It obviously concentrated on the actions of the 76th ID and the 6th AD. However there were many other key units fighting in Thuringia, such as the 80th ID. As a former member of the 80th, I was disappointed by the

absence of any mention of my division.

To put the operational picture into perspective, the 80th ID saw more action than most other units in the European Theater as borne out by published casualty figures. Specifically, the 80th ID suffered 15,964 casualties, as compared to the 76th ID with 2,334 casualties, and the 6th AD with 4,656 casualties. Because of my division's significant involvement, I believe the 80th deserves a major part in your exhibit.

I have included 12 pages from the 80th Division Operational History "From Gotha to Erfurt to Chemnitz" I hope the enclosed data will help you to correct the oversight. If you need additional information, please contact me, or Robert T. Murrell, the Secretary of our Veterans Association, who compiled the enclosed data.

Sincerely, Eric Relinger

A letter from: Marguerite DeHuszar Allen Phone 1-847-492-0976
1735 Chicago Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201

My father, William I. DeHuszar, worked with the CIC of the 80th Division from March 1945 on. A Hungarian by birth, he uncovered the Hungarian National Bank that the Hungarian Nazis had stolen and hidden in the cellar of a monastery in Spital, Austria. He interrogated and arrested the Hungarian Nazis in charge.

I am interested in hearing from anyone who knew my father during the war. I am looking for information about the recovery of the Hungarian crown of St. Stephen.

Thank you, *Marguerite DeHuszar Allen*

Memo From President IDA REILINGER 80th Division Ladies Auxiliary

Patriotism reigns supreme these days in the U.S.A. We are proud of our service men and women. We are also proud of the 80th Division, WW II fighting men who gave so much for our country. Let us support our troops in this war and pray they will come back to us safely. However, let us show our support, also, for the veterans who look to us for remembrance of the valiant battles they fought some making the supreme sacrifice.

The Ladies Auxiliary is having a Luncheon & Installation Service on Saturday, September 13th at 11:30 AM. You won't want to miss this one. Not only will you be supporting our Veterans; you will receive a great lunch besides. To tempt you a little, here is the menu: Fresh Fruit Cup, Chicken Farfalle Roma (seared boneless breast of chicken, sautéed with Garlic, Herbs, & Fresh Market Vegetables, finished with a Light Cream Sauce, served over Bow Tie Pasta with Parmesan Cheese). For dessert: German Chocolate Layer Cake, and of course Coffee & Tea. The price is \$16, and this includes tip & tax.

Everyone is welcome, bring your family and your friends. Pick up your tickets from Helen Beers, Treasurer, at the desk in the Lobby near the 80th Division Registration desk.

I am looking forward to seeing you at this great Reunion. Archer Futch, Sr. Vice Commander has done an excellent job. I know you will enjoy yourselves. *Thank you*

MAIL BAG

A letter from Agnes Yemola, wife of Leo; AT-319, 648 North Street Hazleton, PA 18202-3613 writes to say that Leo has been in a Nursing Home for 2-1/2 years. Said she is sorry she hasn't written sooner but she hasn't been the same since Leo has been there. Hey Guys, write Agnes a card. She needs a lift... Letter from the old 1st Sgt. of G-317 John Geste PO Box 114 Marianna, PA 15345-0114, I was 86 in Feb. Congratulations John... Rev. Milton J. Ten Have 4705 Dove Drive Zephyrhills, FL 33541-7180. I notice that there doesn't seem to be any one listed from Dog Co. 317. I was transferred out to the 508th MP Battalion in Munich "Lucky Rear" about that time because the 80th was going home and my 39 points didn't qualify me to stay with the outfit. Sending in a "Taps for my Buddy Solomon. Like to hear from some of you... An E-mail from John G. Daniels 6800-18th Street N. St. Petersburg, FL 33702-6548 writes, My operation seems to have gone well, almost up to full strength once again. Hope everyone is doing fine... Faye Young writes, Richard (E-317) has not been feeling well the last few years. Says she has taken over all the bookkeeping chores Drop him a line at 2251 Covello Street, Canoga Park, CA 91303-1036... Urban Weinheimer C-305 Engineers, had a fall while in Florida and hit his head. In the fall he broke a finger. He has been transported back to Montefiore Hospital to undergo tests. Best to you Urb.

LETTERS

*From Burl Mansberger
Co B 318-80th Div 343
Woodbridge Lane
Jericho, NY 11753-2628*

Dec 22 1944 I was assigned to be POINT (Naturally, I was the newest replacement) going up a hill above Ettelbruck. We reached the top of the hill and were pinned down. We got orders to attack Ettelbruck. Company B moved with such speed etc. while we were running down the freaking hill, many soldiers were hit then. We reached the end of town, a machine shop on the right and houses on the left. I was assigned with a Bazooka Man to set up a roadblock a few houses in on the left.

During the night German Tanks came up the block, (road). I had set up a dresser mirror so I could see without being in line of fire. The tanks treads were muffled as well as their exhaust. Soldiers were alongside the tanks.

When the lead tank reached the house we were in I took the Bazooka and stepped out on the stoop and fired. The tank was not destroyed but the column retreated.

We stayed there till Morning when I found I was wounded in the left wrist. My wristwatch was split in two pieces. I was evacuated to Etampes, a hospital Near Paris.

That is just a first hand story of my experience at the battle of the bulge.

Sincerely, Burl Mansberger

*From Bill Costley
3152 Via Arcilla
San Diego, CA 92111*

...sorry, its difficult for me to write. Christopher J. Anderson has been a good friend of mine over the years. He is the editor of WW II Magazine. He told me several days before the article of Walter E. Barnes B-318 of the 80th was to appear and sent me a copy. He was kind enough to dedicate The Fall of Fortress Europe to me, which he wrote.

*Dempsey J. Prappas of AT-319
1302 Harold Houston, TX 77006
writes:*

As a World War II veteran I watched the news of the men and women being KIA in the Iraqi war by friendly fire, and it brought back vivid memories of 59 years ago in France, of a comrade from South Haven who died in a similar way.

The comrade was Melvin M. Beckwith whose death along with two other soldier buddies, have haunted me all these years. I was wounded on Sept 13, 1944 by two German machine guns bullets. How I survived only God knows. On the same day Lou Far was killed outside my foxhole and at the same time 2d Lt. Lou Perkins was also killed by shrapnel. I have lived with emotional scars of seeing three buddies killed on the battlefield.

It was the death of Beckwith that has lingered on because he was KIA under unusual circumstances, that the Army didn't want to talk about. We were in an open field and everyone dug in. Melvin dug his foxhole and placed a hay stack on top. My buddy Lou Far and I dug

our foxhole next to Melvins. It was after 11PM while sleeping Melvin apparently rolled over.

Beckwith movements startled two soldiers on guard duty. Seeing the haystack move they closed to the foxhole Melvin was in and demanded, "Who's there?"

Melvin was sleeping and didn't hear them, and when Beckwith didn't hear them, the guards opened fire with their M-1 rifles, only to realize several moments later that they had shot one of their own. "You got me boys," saying from his foxhole.

We jumped out of our foxholes and removed the haystack. We called the Medic but seeing his bullet riddle body knew he could not do anything for him. This tragic event has been with me all my life.

In visiting the Grave of my former buddy, at St. James, France, I was provided with list of 80th Men buried there. I noted that after

Beckwith's name there was no awards granted, including the Purple Heart.

Determined to find the reason, upon return home I contacted the American Battle Monuments Commission and was told that soldiers who died due to friendly fire were not awarded the Purple Heart Medals.

By 1999 the United States Armed Forces felt differently about men killed by their own comrades and began to issue Purple Heart Medals.

I found Beckwith could receive the medal, posthumously, but that a descendent would have to apply for the Medal. Dean Beckwith youngest brother, who then made contact with Melvin's only son, a Vietnam War Veteran who has now applied for the medal. Anyone wishing help, please contact me.



Don Davis, K-319 among Memorial statues...



Joe Dondelinger formerly of Ettlebruck, Luxembourg, at Pierre, SD Memorial Day parade. Joe is a long-time friend of the 80th. Joe is wearing the 80th Patch.



Here's some history fun for you that I hope you will enjoy. I'm sure you never learned this in school. Next time you are washing your hands, and complain because the water temperature isn't just as you would like it, Think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

- Most people got married in June, because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled good in June. However, as time passed they started to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flower to hide the body odor.
- Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water; followed by his sons, and other men living under the same roof. Then came the women and finally the children. Last of all were the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could acutely lose someone in it, hence the saying "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."
- Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw piled high-with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so the dogs, cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof, thus the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs."
- There was nothing to stop from falling from the house either. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.
- The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than

dirt. The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way creating a "thresh hold."

- In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lighted the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables without much meat. They would eat stew for dinner, leaving the left overs in the pot to get cold overnight, then start over the next day. Often times the kettle contained the same stew for quite a while, hence the rhyme, "peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."
- Families that could obtain pork consider themselves quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang their bacon to show off. It was an outward sign of wealth that a man could "bring home the bacon."
- Another indication was to cut off a sliver of bacon to share with guests and sit around to "chew the fat".
- Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and the guests got the top, or "upper crust."

And that's the truth folks. Who said History is boring.

"TAPS"

*Day is done, gone the sun
From the lake, from the hill,
from the sky.*

All is well, safety rest.

God is nigh

Thighs and praise, for our days

'neath the sun, 'neath the stars

'neath the sky.

As we go, this we know,

God is nigh.

Ange, Levin V. G-318
5716 Aloma Woods Blvd
Oviedo, FL 32765 4/14/2003
Rptd by Daughter Mrs. Richard D. Lewis

Basinger, Noel P. L-317
480 NW Terrapin Dr
Dunnellon, FL 34431-1943 3/2002

Briggs, Eugene "Moe" H-319
144 Everett Street
Middleboro, MA 02346-2066 4/11/2003
Rptd by wife Kathleen

Burkhart, Edgar K. (Pork) B-317
420 Benton Drive
Holiday Park, PA 16648 4/5/2003
Reported by son Gerard

Ciarniello, Andrew E. "Irish" C-317
1135 Haselton Road
Cleveland Heights, OH 44121 4/15/2003
Rptd by Daughter

Dodd, Charles H. B-319
719 Vermont Ave
Fairmont, WV 26554-4134 12/21/2002
Rptd by Daughter Faye

Downing, John A. H-318
460 Faddis Ave
New Castle, PA 16105-1410 11/4/2002
Rptd by Archer Futch

Ellenberger, Joseph Hq Btry 313 FA Bn
1312 Hull Street
Baltimore, MD 21230-5223 11/16/2002
Rptd by Jim Phillips

Emrich, Daniel L. Div. HQ
14306 Ravenwood Lane
Tampa, FL 33618 3/18/2003
Rptd by Son Jan

Faust, Robert J. M-317
628 N. Elmo Street
Allentown, PA 18104-4342 Unknown
Rptd by Postal Return Marked Deceased

Filler, James L. M-317
12565 Sheridan Blvd
Broomfield, CO 80020 4/22/2001
Rptd by wife Marie

Fisher, Jean Robert 80th MP
114 W. 7th Street
Emporium, PA 15834-1108 2/18/2003
Rptd by Gene R. Fisher

Harner, William H. I-318
48-77th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11209-2919 ?-1999
Rptd by Family

Hart, John J. L-319
1760 Vale Street
Reno, NV 89509-1836 ?-2000
Rptd by Jean Hart

Hornik, Steve L-317
Lansing, OH 43934-6436 12/4/2002
Rptd by Robert E. Parks

Jackson, Andy A-318
2888 Gradyville Road
Broomall, PA 19008-1025 12/27/2002
Rptd by Widow

Josay, Frank W. L-317
17 Carpenter Road
New Brunswick, NJ 08901 2/9/1999
Rptd by Wife Gertrude

Kacher, Michael Hq-318
1215 Hukill Street
Brilliant, OH 43913-1037 4/1/2003
Rptd by Archer Futch

Kulsa, Alexander N. SV-318
821 Craig Street
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168
Rptd by wife Geneva 8/16/2002

Locke, Denton E. B-905 FA Bn
132 N. Star Street NW
Carrollton, OH 44615-9448
Rptd by Wife Evelyn

McCaskey, Edward M-317
2590 Washington Road
Lake Forrest, IL 60045-2459
Rptd by Bob Murrell

McMullen, Therman A. Can Co 319
3014 Marion Street
Laureldale, PA 19605-2700 3/29/2003
Rptd By PNC Shirey

Myers, Clyde P.
1021 Trindle Road
Carlisle, PA 17013-2628 3/20/2003
Rptd by wife Marjori

Mukulski, Florian F. A-305 Eng
1406 Chesaco Ave
Baltimore, MD 21237-1528 3/8/2003
Rptd by Charley L. Falvey

Novinski, Stanley M-319
2110 Stetler Drive
Coal Township, PA 17866 2/17/2003
Rptd by Burt Marsh

Ponder, Wallace G. B-305 Eng
4010 W. Leila Ave.
Tampa, FL 33616-1117 3/13/2003
Rptd by Son Wayne

Rhinehammer, Irvin C. C-305 Med Det
239 W. Main Street
Glenn Lyon, PA 18617-1226 Unknown
Report by Postal Return marked Deceased

Rocco, Carmen J. 80th Signal
557 Midwood Drive
Brick, NJ 08724 5/11/2003
Rptd by Mrs. Helen Lee

Routier, Ralph H. A/B 318
38751 Stranquil Drive
Tucson, AZ 85739-2176 6/1999

Schnur, Merton L. Hq 1st Bn 317
N6754 U.S. Hwy 12
Black River Falls, WI 54615
Rptd by Brother Robert

Sconce, Raymond W. B-319
HC 2 Box 39
Eminence, MO 65466-9603 10/17/2002

Shell, Claude O. ?-318
1090 E Roberts Aman Road
Perry, FL 32347-9462 3/9/2003
Rptd by wife Jacqueline

Solmon, Vernon L. D-317
No Address given 7/5/2000
Rptd by Milton Ten Haven

Stephenson, William E. Hq-905
772 County Road 1
Oshkosh, WI 54902-8874 10/3/2001
Rptd by Archer Futch

Sumskis, Edward B. E-317
P.O. Box 772258
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477 1/8/2003
Rptd by son Jeff

Zabicki, Benny P. Hq-318
20507 Oak Farm
San Antonio, TX 78258
Rptd by wife Irene

EDWARD MCCASKEY 1919-2003

Edward McCaskey was chairman emeritus of the Chicago Bears board of director, died Tuesday 8 April 2003 at age 83, at his home in Des Plaines, IL. He was the father of eleven children and recently celebrated his sixth anniversary, two months ago. The entire Association sends the family our sincere condolences. We will miss him.

NEWYORK POST # 43

No new members to add to the rolls. We did lose one member, Thomas S. Ryan, I&R, 317th Hqs, on 12/2/02, from Syracuse, NY. Our membership is now down to 55 on the rolls.

By the time this is received our annual gathering in Albany, NY at the Turf Inn, Memorial Day weekend, is history. More on this later. We look forward to our fall gathering here in Ithaca, September 24-28, 2003, at the Best Western Inn. A full five-day schedule is in the process. I reported the schedule in our last issue. We will be attending the football game along with Vets from the Bath, NY, V.A. Hospital, which is a full day and exciting time for the Vets. The local Elks feed them take them to the game and then to Corning, NY York Elks for an evening meal and festivities.

Plan to return to Albany in 2004, for our annual gathering and election. Plans still up in the air for fall, 2004 location. Many ideas on the menu and we will have discussed this at the Albany gathering this year.

Big wedding anniversary for Vivian and Jack Wilson in nearby Trumansburg, NY. Don Wilkerson and myself were invited to a wonderful reception at their local American Legion. They have a wonderful, family association. This was number 60.

Reading Post # 32

Aside from every member having aches and pains, we all, as, 80th Men are moving ahead, some slower than other.

We did experience some sad news as one of our Post Charter Members passed away.

Therman Mc Mullen (Mac) joined his buddies in Heaven March 29th 2003. He never recovered after the death of Jerri his wife of many years.

A Chicken Bar-B-Que is planned for the September meeting at Crystal Springs Restaurant at noon of September 20th.

For more information call my Assistant Phil Piergrossi at 610-929-1958 or me before I leave for Roanoke.

That's all the News. Good Health to you'll. See you in Roanoke the Lord willing.

PNC Lou Shirey

Just had a call from Vivian Wilson. Jack had another stroke. Not bad, but enough to keep him from the Albany gathering. He had a stroke about six years ago. Had a good talk with him on the phone and will get up to see him soon.

Ed. Bredbenner, Sect

Co. H Post # 33 H 318th Inf

As time draws near I've been hoping to hear from more members of H Company. Yes, news would be welcome from the ladies.

I have kept in touch with John Beebe. He and Kate are doing well and even going for an evening on the town, occasionally. John is preparing to get his garden planted. I'll have to admit he does grow some nice veggies. Yes, I have eaten some of his home grown produce.

Talked to Irv Robinson, he says he and Hilda are doing okay and planning to be in Roanoke for the reunion. At present Irv is the official photographer for Leisure World. At present he is moving the Photo Lab to another area. You know Irv could never sit still.

Nick Grossi and Ginny and family are well and enjoying wet Seattle. Last summer Mercer Island sponsored an Italian celebration of sorts that draw thousand of visitors. Yes, Nick was the chairman of the event and with Ginny's help I am sure he did an outstanding job. Naturally that is expected of a member trained in Company H. "Amen" Congratulations Nick!
The big news from the Midwest has been the recent tornadoes. My hometown of DeSoto, MO took a very serious beating but by God's grace there were not any fatalities.

Hope all are planning to attend the 80th Division reunion in Norfolk, VA. Now that airfare is low-Hop aboard and I'll see you there in September. God Bless,

Glenn "Ohly" Ohlman

Lane Hall Post # 42

About all the news I received is not good but what can we expect at our age.

Jeannette Abbruzzese is fighting a battle with cancer. Best of luck Jeanette.

Lee Hatcher was back in the hospital in May for some check ups. Not much change for Bob Brinker and Doc Blocker.

As per our conversation on 22 May, it appears that Lou Shirey is winning his battle. No more walker.

I am sure there are plenty more medical problems out there among our members but enough is enough. If you want me to mention your ailments, let me know.

The month of May here in PA is much like our past winter. Only three days of sunshine so far. Very few days above 60 degrees. Not my kind of weather.

By now you should have received your information about the annual reunion to be held September 10-13, 2003, Roanoke, VA. TRY TO MAKE THIS ONE. Who knows, this may be your last chance? Ruth and I are making plans to be there. Make your reservations early. All the events sound good.

See you in Roanoke if not before. GOD BLESS THE USA

Jim Phillips, Sect/Treas.

Post # 36 3rd Bn., 317th Inf.

We're glad the harsh winter here in the northeast is over and look forward to improved weather this spring and summer.

Bob Parks has filled me in with news for some members of Company L. Steve Hornik passed away December 4, 2002. To my recollection he seldom attended reunions but always interested in hearing about members of the Company and in reading the Blue Ridge. We extend our deepest sympathy to the family (Box 346, Lansing, OH 43934-0436) Willis Tarpley is not in the best of health at this writing. Numerous trips to the hospital with physical problems. His address is 5090 County Road 52, Anderson, AL 35610. Willis, I hope things are improving. Bob writes he also heard from Hank Lyrran and Otis Rice.

We learn Bob Smith is slowly recovering from his nasty fall. Bob hopes he will be able to travel to Roanoke.

Bill Petrollini (I) writes while down in Florida he had a heart attack. Had a rough time. They implanted a defibrillator in his chest. He has other physical problems and is going for more tests at the Cleveland Clinic. Bill we hope you get a good report. Bill's address is 20 Woodleigh Court, Youngstown, OH 4451, phone 330-792-8089.

We understand Angelo and Kay Barone attended the New York

Rcn Post # 37

Last Newsletter brought some responses; less than I had hoped for. Don't forget that if you want address labels, I need an order from you. The list will not be sent automatically.

Hopefully, some of us will be at the Reunion in Roanoke, VA September 10-13, 2003. You should have received your letter concerning the hotel, program, and etc. Respond to the Pre-registration, drawings, and Patron's listing-even if you can't attend, you can help the Reunion Committee with your responses.

Ask a friend to write me if you can't write-we all want to hear from you.

E. Schoenly, Sect

Post Memorial Day Weekend I Albany.

It would be good to receive any news from individuals in other units. We are all interested in knowing about each other. So please write.

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

Bob Nathason, Sect.

Post 44 Company M 318th Inf.

Had a phone call from Bill Ritchie on March 26th telling me of Ruth's (his wife) death on March 7, 2003. Said she had been ill for over a year and was using a walker with his assistance when her legs would no longer hold her up. I was out of the home when he called and Doris answered the phone, and kept him on the line until I returned which was at least ten minutes. Bill and I both compared our ages 89 and 87 and remembered the times when we in service together. Both making the statement we didn't have to be told what the young men and women who are fighting in Iraq were facing. Other than the suicide bombers and soldiers dress in civilian clothes, which we didn't face. Promised to make an effort to come to the reunion this year in Roanoke. Probably the last for both of us. Jim Sinard whose picture was in the last issue of the newsletter has made his reservations and will be there. **WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF YOU? WILL YOU JOIN US?**

NO REPORT:

L-318

DV Hqs and Hqs Co

Brett Post # 3

Cincinnati Post # 34

Post # 46 Company F 318th INFANTRY

The 2003 Reunion of Company F, 318th went off without hitch. The event in Indianapolis, under the direction of Irv Wojciechowski was well planned and executed. About 25 members and spouses enjoyed the tours of The Indy Speedway Museum, the tour of Indianapolis (an impressive city) and a great farewell dinner. Another highlight was the coincidence of an infantry unit from the Viet Nam war reunion in the same hotel. These men welcomed us and shared their experiences with us. It seems the memories of all combat veterans are similar, no matter when or where the war is fought. As Al Slagus said, "Real estate is expensive when you are in the Infantry."

Among those attending were Wyatt and Nancy Barnes, Ernest and Agnes Barth, John and Ida Bell, Bob and Dorothy Fasnacht, Paul and Kathryn Fate, Bill Kelly, Ed and Ellen McDonald, Adrian Monday, Tom Pappas, Manuel and Delores Tijerina, Clayton Warman, and our hosts, Irv and Gert Wojciechowski. The Company accepted the invitation of Wyatt and Nancy Barnes to host the 2004 Reunion in Virginia. The details of this event will be coming in our newsletters.

My wife and I are off in June to Kempten, in Bavaria, to renew friendships made in 1945 and then to Berlin to return a Hitler Youth shirt to its original owner.

Bob Fasnacht, Secy.

Florida Post #47

Florida Chamber of Commerce came through again. This winter weather had been the longest and coldest since we became the Sunshine State's winter residents. It did not very just steady cold. When we got a warm spell, just before the March meeting, and turned on our air conditioner it required a service call. We had a week of beautiful Florida weather for our beachfront get together. But the day of departure it was foggy, misty and cold, but we already had our week in the sun.

Our sympathy went out to those who for one reason or another could not make it. Some of our steady buddies, Naomi and Clarence Brockman with her painful shingles, Bob Smith with his broken shoulder and our venerable Public Relations officer HNC George West who had a serious back problem. How about all of you get well and join us next year at the beach.

Max Schmidt missed because of a weather-related problem. Due to a storm he had trees down in his yard and was waiting for their removal.

Dr. Bobb our battalion surgeon, who treated both Sid Haley and myself, planned to attend but his wife Elma had a health problem that precluded attendance.

We sincerely regret reporting the lose of Wally Ponder, the best post secretary that represented us for so many years. The family did not notify anyone in time for the Post members to show their respects. He had a wealth of knowledge that greatly assisted the Post in our formulating years. He con-

Post 40 305th Engineers

No mail from anybody, I have thought I might get some response after the pervious issue of the Blue Ridge. Impossible to determine your support or opposition to my proposal. Members of our Post will have our hospitality room open to all reunion guests as always. Please come by for some respects to earlier days when we packed the place. There will be music of Glenn Miller and refreshments by Miller Lite, Old Crow and Dr. Pepper.

Russell P. Sick, Commander.

tinued in a Senior Statesman position in his assistance to the Post with his vast experience since leaving office, I for one will sorely miss his guidance.

Its time to start planning now for our Fall meeting which again will be held in Ocala at the Hampton In, 3434 SW College Road, Ocala, FL 34474, Phone (352) 854-3200, dates are Nov. 7th to 9th. The rate remains the same as last year, \$61.00. When making reservations please use the code F80.

Let us all make a special effort to attend this years Reunion in Roanoke, VA not only has our Chairman wisely selected one of the two months holding the most military reunions, he also has planned a full and varied program. SEE YOU THERE.

Francis Rajnicek, Sect.

Company L 319 Infantry

I have had very little news from Company L members and consequently this report will be brief.

Join me in wishing a Happy Anniversary to John and Helen Balas. This beautiful couple celebrated their 55th year of happy marriage on May 29th.

Bill and Billie Krehbeil were in Chicago recently to attend the graduation of their grandson Carlens from Moody Bible Institute. Then they were driving to Manistique Minnesota to be with son Paul for three weeks. These two jitterbugs never stand still. Our condolences to Bill who lost his sister Dottie who passed away on May 3rd after a two-year battle with cancer.

Jim Young was released from the hospital after successful abdominal surgery and went to Jamaica to attend the wedding of his first granddaughter. Congratulations Jim, you now has a new grandson.

Mother Nature is not treating Frank and Helene Soloninka kindly these days. Frank is still suffering with his foot and back and Helene must undergo cauterization on June 2. We pray that Helene has passed this test with flying colors.

I had a telephone conversation with Betts and John Flynn and although Betts has recovered nicely from her problems, John is not

From AT 318 comes the following report:

We held our annual Reunion in Las Vegas present was 8 members and wives, children and grandchildren. Seven of which were of the original Company of 1942. Those present: Ernest Bessinger, Jim Bridgewater, William Conrad, William McCoy, Harold McMillian, Cecil Palley, Francis Redaz (Couldn't read it.) I joined them in 1943 in Camp Phillips, KS, John Bailey

doing too well from his last operation.

As for the home front, Maria passed out Palm Sunday on the church parking lot. She tore open the back of her left hand, which required about 6 stitches and had abrasions on her ankle, elbow, head and knee. Luckily there was a Doctor and two nurses next to her when it happened and they attended to her immediate needs. She has undergone a battery of test to try to determine the cause but as yet we have no answer.

No other news available about our members- sorry!

Looking forward to Roanoke. I have mailed in my registration forms-hope you have done the same. See you in September.

Hank Einolf

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

Robert Burrows HQ-317, President
Clarence Brockman HQ-317, Vice President
Felix Cistolo G-317, Secretary

**Brett Post No. 3
Pittsburgh**

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

*Melvin Beers,
Secretary/Treasurer*

**LANE-HALL
POST #42**

DIRECTOR: *Dominick Abbruzzese*
DIRECTOR: *Charles Noxon*
Jim Phillips, SECRETARY / TREASURER

3211 James Buchanan Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022-3176
(717) 361-5025

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

*Robert W. Smith
Commander*

*Robert N. Nathason
Secretary / Treasurer*

CINCINNATI POST #34

Jack Wettig, 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

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

*Meet Your Buddies 9 a.m.
Crystal Springs Restaurant
3rd Saturday of March, June & Sept.*

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

Russell P. Sick, Commander
3131 Pleasant Avenue
Hamilton, OH 45015-1740

Byron Dovenbarger, Secretary
3755 Meadowbrook Drive
Zanesville, OH 43701-1121

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

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

NAME: _____ UNIT: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP + 4: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Make Remittance Payable to: 80th Division Veterans Association.

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2002-2003**

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Kay Rajnicek, 1st Vice President
Alice Schmidt, Secretary - Helen Beers, Treasurer
Naomi Brockman, Chaplain - Rita Kutsch, Historian
Doris Murrell, Sgt. at Arms - Helen West, Sgt. at Arms

**Company "H"
319th Inf. POST #33**

*Gerald G. Ohlman,
Commander*

*Irv Robinson,
Secretary*

**FLORIDA
POST #47**

Gerald V. Meyers (G-317)
VICE COMMANDER

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