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The Service Magazine**
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Post Reunion - 2003
Issue 4



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

A. E. F.
Artois-Picardy
St. Mihiel
Meuse-Argonne

E. T. O.
Northern France
Ardennes
Rhineland
Central Europe

God Bless America — Color Guard at D-Day Memorial



Deadline for the next issue is March 1, 2004


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

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

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 Richard Davis (905 FA Bn)
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 Robert J. McDonald (C-319)

3 Years
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 Tom Pappas (F-318)

Commander's REPORT



This is my first report as National Commander of the 80th Division Veterans Association. It is a privilege to serve as the Commander of such a distinguished group of WWII Veterans, and I thank you for the honor of serving as your Commander.

It has been a busy year as Senior Vice Commander. In addition to planning for the Roanoke Reunion, I attended the spring meeting of Florida Post #47, visited the battlefields of France, and spent a wonderful week with the U. S. Veterans Friends in Luxembourg. This Year will be the 60th anniversary of the landings in Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge. It is probably the last big celebration for WWII Veterans. If you have the opportunity, this will be a great year to visit Europe. I especially recommend attending the U. S. Veterans Friends week in Luxembourg from June 17th through June 24th.

While in the Moselle River area where the 80th Division experienced such bitter fighting in 1944, I visited with a French army officer, Captain Michel Mathieu, who found the body of Pfc. Robert Horner of West Virginia 55 years after he died fighting with the 317th Inf. Reg. He is interested in obtaining a tree from West Virginia to honor the site where Pfc. Horner died. I promised to try to bring a tree from West Virginia to plant as a memorial.

Let me close by recognizing the superb leadership of Eric Reilinger as National Commander and Ida Reilinger as President of the Ladies Auxiliary this past year. I would also like to thank the many veterans and spouses who helped to make our Roanoke Reunion a success. Special recognition goes to the Army's 80th Division (IT) for their support and participation. **Archer H. Futch**

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

I wish to apologize this month for the contents of the newsletter. For the first time in eleven years, I had my computer crash. It wiped my hard drive clean. If you paid dues to me at the reunion or sent in any money for your dues, Life Membership or Donation or McBride Fund after June 1, 2003, please send me the date you are paid to so I may have your record straight. Those of you who paid after 8 November I have your record as I had not yet entered them. By chance I saved my address file from mailing the last issue. Also, if you sent in a man for "Taps" send that also. I lost them when I lost the newsletter. If you see you name in this issue, or you paid after the 8 November 2003 then I have a record of you. I now back up daily. Thank you (Editor)

Life Plus Club 2002-2003

If you sent money in, I'm sorry but I lost that information, please tell me if you sent money in. It will appear in the next issue.

Anon I-318
Mascuch, John B-305 Medics

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Pietch, Paul J. AT-318
7550 San Gabriel Road
Atascadero, CA 93422
Tele: 805-461-0880
E-mail jpietsch@concentric.net

Simpson, Kenneth I-317 Assoc
15333 US 127
Cecil, OH 44821
E-mail kennydee@broad.net

Correction on Brewton, Oneal the
Company should have read B-318
instead of B-317

McBRIDE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Again if you sent money in, I'm sorry but I lost that information, please tell me if you sent money in. It will appear in the next issue.

Secretary's REPORT

FAX: (412) 828-7651
NEW "E" MAIL ADDRESS:
divinf801@verizon.net

NOTICE

To all those having Advertisements
in the Newsletter, Advertisements
are now due for 2004

*The Wyndham Pittsburgh Airport Hotel
Welcomes the 80th Division
Veterans and Families
To the 85th Reunion
August 11 - 14, 2004*

Our staff will try and make your stay a great one.

*Susan C. Stidles
Asst. Director, Sales*

Help! Help!! HELP!!!



We have been searching for these men for many years. During the Christmas season in 1944, they were with my family in Domeldange, a village a few kilometers outside of Luxembourg. We can only remember some names... Jimmy, Tom, Mike and Frank.

My father took several pictures of them and their Jeep. The other photo shows the two of us inspecting a tire. Do you recognize anyone in the group photo? Jean and Nelly Bichel, 7 rue Pierre Conrardy, L-7219 Helmsange-Walferdange, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Adrian L. Slusarczyk Am Zap-
penberg3 66687 Wadern, Germany.
E-mail aslusarczyk@web.de would
like any information on the area
around Merzig, Perl, Zerf, Losheim,

Weiskirchen, Wardern, Dagstuhl and surrounding area for the month of March 1945, partially the 17th. He stated all towns are within a five-mile radius of where he lives. The History Club at his High School is planning a public presentation of this project next spring. Any help you can give him would be appreciated. Robert Coleman "C" Company 318th 401 Centre Avenue, Nyack, NY 10960, is trying to locate a man he called "Duke with the Bazooka" although his name was Kent. Can you help him?

Mary Lou Pevehouse 5429 FM 619, Taylor, TX 76574, wants anyone who served with Geogory H. Rodrigues of "E" Company 318th to contact her.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON 85th 2004 REUNION

By 2004 Chairman Spencer's request, CO-Chairman Clarence H. Brockman along with his wife Naomi finalized all the plans and arrangements with Susan Stidler and staff at the Greater Pittsburgh Airport Wyndham Hotel and Resort.

The direct phone line to the Hotel is 1-412-788-8800, please use this phone number for making reservations. DO NOT CALL the 800 Toll Free Number. Also use the above number to call to the Hotel when arriving at Pittsburgh International Airport for the Hotel Van to pick you up and upon leaving to take you back.

The room rate will be \$72.00 plus tax, per night and will be in effect from Sunday, August 8th through Sunday August 15th. This will give you plenty of time to come early and see Pittsburgh and surrounding area before the reunion begins.

Pre-registration will be \$22.00 per person, if you wait until you get to the reunion to pay, it will be 25.00 per person.

Award tickets will be \$2.00 each and 10 tickets will be in your registration packet. This raffle helps to cover some reunion costs. Both Wednesday and Thursday nights, \$500.00 will be awarded, you do not have to be present to win.

As usual the Commanders Reception will be held on Wednesday evening and the cost is \$13.00 per person. The menu will be as follows: Ham Bar-B-Q and Turkey Sandwiches, Corn on the cob, Chips, Variety of Cheeses, Condiments, Dessert and a variety of Hot and cold Beverages along with a cash bar.

Thursday morning at 9:AM all Ladies attending the reunion are invited to attend the annual Coffee Break in the Florida Post Party Room. Feel free to bring a friend.

The cost of the Dugout Party on Thursday night will be \$20.00 per person. You will be served Tossed Salad, Seafood Newburg with Rice, Beef Stroganoff over Noodles, Peach Cobbler and a variety of Hot and Cold Beverages along with a Cash Bar.

Friday, after the Association and Auxiliary Meetings, there will be a bus trip to North Park to see the 80th Division Memorial, which honors both WW I and WW II. The cost of the Bus ticket is \$12.00 per person. Then we will head back toward the Hotel for a late lunch at Hoss's Steak and Seafood Restaurant where you can order whatever you want to eat and pay for it yourself. Arriving back at the Hotel around 4:30 PM with plenty of time to get ready for the Post and Unit Parties, The Past National Commanders and the Past National Ladies Presidents Dinners.

Saturday morning will be the Memorial Service for Our Departed Comrades followed by the Ladies Auxiliary Installation Luncheon, at a cost of \$16.00 per person. The meal will be Fresh Fruit Salad, Manicotti, Coconut Cake, Coffee and Tea. During this time the Auxiliary Officers will be installed, Auxiliary Award Tickets and Hospital Table Raffles will be drawn.

Saturday Evening will end with the Dinner/Dance at a cost of \$26.00 per person. The menu will be Potato/Leek Soup, Tossed Salad, Stuffed Chicken Breast, Stuffed Pork Chops

or Salmon along with Green Beans, Potatoes, German Chocolate Cake and a variety of Hot and Cold Beverages along with a Cash Bar.

All persons attending these functions must wear their Registration Badges and have their Ticket or they will not be allowed in to each festivity.

We hope that everyone will be able to attend, making our 85th Birthday of the Association great event. The Hotel is laid out in such a manner that you will do a little walking from the Main Lobby Elevators to the Meeting Rooms, Party Rooms or the Registration Desk. Susan has promised that that there will be no Cauliflower, Broccoli served at all and only Chicken on Saturday Night. You will be receiving your Registration Packet and Call to the Reunion letter in March 2004.

Marvin, Helen, Naomi and I wish you and yours a Happy Holiday Season and a Healthy New Year! See you in Pittsburgh where it all began... Happy 85th Birthday 80th Infantry Division Veterans Association.

Brock, Co-Chairman 2004 Reunion

**2005 Reunion:
Columbus, OH
2006: Green Bay, WI**

The Ladies Auxiliary

The Past National Presidents of the Ladies Auxiliary made a good showing at the Roanoke Reunion in September. Those in attendance were: Ida Reilinger, Rita Kutch, Cara Lee Davis, Margaret Schok, Alice Schmidt, Naomi Brockman, Rosemarie Palmietto, Kay Rejnieck, Helen Beers Josephine Rokatis, Pauline Parks.

It was nice to see two of our Past Presidents back at the Reunion, Pauline Parks and Jo Rakotis. We have missed them both for several years. We are in hopes to see more of them at our 85th Reunion in Pittsburgh August 2004.

The Presidents had a delicious dinner on Friday Night at the Clarion Restaurant. Everyone there enjoyed being together and made plans to do it again in 2004.

The Ladies Auxiliary had a very nice Coffee Break on Thursday morning with many women attending.

On Friday morning, the Ladies Auxiliary held their annual meeting, which included the election of Officers for 2003-2004 where Kay Rajnicek was elected a second time as National President. There was also a brief Memorial Service for all the Auxiliary Members that had passed away since the last Reunion.

Saturday was the Ladies Auxiliary Installation Luncheon, held in the hotel. All officers were installed at that time, and the raffle prizes were awarded and a great time was had by all.

"TAPS"

Blocker, Karl W. B-313 FA
1182 Cobblefield Drive
Mansfield, OH 44903 11/30/03
Rptd by Lee Hatcher

Bryson, Gordon 1st Sgt A-305 Eng
No Address given 8/9/2003
Rptd by Lou Kalita

Colcord, Ora Chalmer C-318
No address given no date given 2003
Rptd by Steve A. Vargo

Colegrove, Wendal B-319
Springfield, OH 5/23/91
Rptd by Daughter

Dunagan, Edward W. 780th Ord
PO Box 121
Friendship, TN 38034-0101
Rptd by Postal Return marked
Deceased

Howard, Guyowen H. Sr. B-317
C/o 12 Plant Road
Clifton Park, NY 12065-4313
3/15/2000
Rptd by daughter Gayalyn

Jacobs, Wayne W. M-317
129 N Swope Street
Greenfield, IN 46140-2109
Rptd by ? Computer Down

Krischbaum, David L-319
29 Barclay Drive
Pennsville, NJ 08070-2301
8/29/2003
Rptd by Hank Einolf

If you sent in a name and you don't see it in this list write me and I will enter the name in the next Issue. (Editor)

McMichael, Robert S. MD C-319
190 Buford Place
Macon GA 31204-2636

Miller Ralph C. C-318
337 West Westbrook Road
Brookville, OH 45309 unknown
Rptd by son James

Myers, L. Richard C-317
15174 Arnold Road
Dalton, OH 44618-9229

Rice, Banner L/M 319
13 Delavaga Circle
Hot Springs Village, AR
71909-6009
11.24.2003
Rptd By Hank Einolf

Scepita, Joseph C-314 FA Bn
6010 Rayburn Drive
Temple Hills, MD 20748-3744
Rptd by Postal Return marked
Deceased

Thomas, Frederick W. 780th Ord
68 Valley Drive
Elkview, WV 25071-9463
Rptd by Postal Return marked
Deceased

Wessels, Henry F. D-319
597 S. (th Street
New Hyde Park, NY 11040-5522
11/2003
Rptd by Ed Bredbenner

Out of the past... *Continued from Spring 2003 Issue*

THE THIRD CORPS' COUNTER-ATTACK TOWARD BASTOGNE

There remained to the LXXXV Corps the 352d Volks Grenadier Division, by this time reduced to two battered regiments huddled north and east of Ettelbruck. These regiments were needed where they stood for not only did they guard the Ettelbruck bridgehead, covering the flank of the Sauer crossings in the LXXXV Corps' sector, but they also represented the only cohesive defense on the north bank of the river in the event of the American XII Corps decided to turn in that direction. The bulk of the 915th Regiment of the 352d, cut off by the American advance on 23 December, could no longer be reckoned with. (The major portion of these troops finally escaped through the thick woods, but would not reach the lines of the 352d until 25 December and then minus most of their equipment.) The fight to bring the American 80th Division to a halt south of the Sure, or at the river itself, would have to be waged by the half-strength 79th Volks Grenadier Division. The battleground, be it said, favored the defender so long as he retained sufficient strength to seal off all penetrations. Whether he could do so remained to be seen.

General McBride continued the attack on 24 December with the 317th and 319th, whose forward battalions had been engaged with the enemy all through the previous night. After the loss of the two battalions from the 318th to the 4th Armored Division, the 317th had a simply bypassed Ettelbruck, and the 3d Battalion of the 318th was left to harass the enemy therein with artillery and mortar fire. The immediate division

mission remained the same: to root out the enemy south of the Sure River and close in the north along the Sauer.

The 319th, on the left, was in possession of the road net at Heiderscheid and had only a mile to cover before the regiment was on the Sure. Indeed, two companies had spent the night within sight of the river at Heiderscheid although this was in the zone of the 26th Division. The 317th had farther to go because the Sure looped away to the north in its sector. Furthermore the regiment was advancing with its right flank exposed to any riposte coming from the east of the Sauer River. Advance northward would have to be made under the eyes of German observers atop two dominating hill masses, one close to the Sure at Ringel, the other rising on the west bank of the Sauer near the bridgehead village of Bourscheid, the initial assembly area of the 79th Volks Grenadier Division. Fortunately for the Americans the 79th lacked the artillery to make full use of such commanding ground, but the German gunners proved to be very accurate.

For the past twenty-four hours the 317th Infantry had been attacking to reach Bourscheid and the high ground there. Although the 2d Battalion lunged ahead as far as Welscheid during the night, it failed to take the village and spent all the daylight hours of the 24th waiting for two companies to extricate themselves from the ridge on whose slope they lay pinned down by German fire. (The regimental commander would later remark on the excellent mus-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

ketry training and first-rate small arms practice of this German unit.)

The First Battalion, meanwhile, tried to hook around to the northeast and gain entrance to Bourscheid along the main road. This advance brought the battalion onto open ground where the enemy assault guns spotted farther north could get to work. Then the battalion came under flanking fire from the Germans around Kehmen, in the zone of the neighboring regiment. Mercilessly pounded from front and flank the battalion fell back for a half mile; its casualties numbered 197, mostly wounded. At this point each of the battalions had taken a crack at punching a way through to Bourscheid. At the close of the 24th the 317th Infantry could report severe losses but no progress and the German tanks and assault guns were raking the Americans wherever they concentrated, even laying with accuracy on the battalion command posts.

While the 317th was being held in check by well-directed gunfire, the 319th attack collided with the enemy counterattack aimed at Eschdorf and Heiderscheid. For this the 79th seems to have assembled at least two battalions of infantry, as well as tanks, assault guns, and armored cars from the Fuehrer Grenadier Brigade. The 319th occupied a triangular position: at the apex the 3d Battalion held Tadler, overlooking the Sure River; to the right and rear the 1st Battalion had bivouacked in Kehmen on the Bourscheid road; the 2d Battalion (less two companies near the Heiderscheidgrund crossing) was station as the left wing anchor at Heiderscheid. Colonel Taylor, the regimental commander, wished to bring his right forward to the river. In the dark, on the morning of the 24th, the 1st Battalion (Lt. Colonel Hiram D. Ives) marched west out of Kehmen.

Intending to turn north at the next

crossroad, two miles away, and push for Ringel on the river.

Daylight was breaking when the head of the column came into sight of the crossroad. About that same time two things happened. A German detachment rushed into Kemen, which the 1st Battalion had just left, while a German tank suddenly open fire from a masked position near the crossroad and knocked out two Sherman tanks with the advance guard. The remaining American Tanks hastily reversed to the cover of a nearby draw and the infantry deployed along the road. About 0930 one of the attached self-propelled tank destroyers sneaked forward and gave the coup de grace to the German tank. New orders, however, left the battalion standing at the crossroad, for the 2d Battalion at Heiderscheid was hard hit by the main force of the German counterattack and needed protection on the east. Ultimately fire from the 1st Battalion did contribute to halting the enemy attempt at encircling Heiderscheid.

Colonel Bandy had held his 2d Battalion in Heiderscheid during the night of 23 December while awaiting the return of the two companies that had been sent down to the river. An hour or so before daylight the first German shells came in. After ten minutes of this preparation the enemy, on trucks, armored half-track and armored cars, suddenly appeared at the southwest corner of the village. This was the main counterattack of the day for the 79th Volks Grenadier Division, launched as planned, from Eschdorf. The single American tank in the way was surprised and was put out of action, but strangely enough the German armored vehicles, mostly light flak tanks with 20-mm. Guns, did not risk a precipitate dash into the village, contenting themselves with racing up and down the road that passed on the south, firing madly at

the houses. The Americans, for their part, clustered at the windows and returned the fire with every weapon they could lay hand on.

One tank destroyer was in position to enfilade the road but by a curious chance it had been in the path of a bomb dropped by a stray German plane during the night and the firing mechanism was damaged. The tank destroyer commander tracked his gun on the passing targets, jumped up and down on the firing treadle, swore volubly, and banged the firing mechanism with a hammer but to no avail. Twice the German grenadiers got close enough to pitch grenades through windows. Finally one American tank worked its way around to get clear aim and did destroy four of enemy armored vehicles. Eventually the enemy foot troops made their way into the streets. With this forward observer for the 315th Field Artillery Battalion took over, calling for his 155-mm. Howitzers to shell the village. For half an hour shells exploded, killing and lacerating the unprotected enemy. When the Germans retired they left 76 dead and 26 badly wounded; their Red Cross had removed many more during the fight.

By mid afternoon firing died down all along the 319th front. The hastily organized 79th Volks Grenadier Division counterattack had failed in its larger purpose although it had led Colonel Taylor to recall his advance battalion from its position of vantage close to the Sure. On the whole the 80th Division had been through a hard day's fight, and McBride was more than willing to accept the corps commander's orders to hold up the attack until the following morning. Across the lines the Seventh Army was bringing in a new, provisional headquarters to assume direction of the battle around Bastogne. The boundary, to be effective Christmas Day, ran between Eschdorf

and Heiderscheid, approximating that between the American 26th and 80th Infantry Divisions. The Fuehrer Grenadier Brigade now passed to the new Corps Rothkirch but would continue to oppose the 26th Division just as the major part of its strength had done on 24 December. The LXXXV Corps was left with the 79th and 352d. On Christmas Eve the last troops of the 352d left Ettelbruck, shelled out by high explosives and white phosphorus. The German line north and east of the city hereafter would rest on the far bank of the Sauer River.

Kniess was not yet ready to withdraw his right wing to the protection of the river barrier, nor would the Seventh Army commander permit it, for the high ground in the Bourscheid bridgehead could still be used to observe and interdict any crossing of the Sauer River farther south and at the same time act as an anchor at the eastern end of the Sure River. Because the 79th Volks Grenadier Division still lacked much of its infantry and nearly all its heavy weapons, the corps commander ordered Colonel Weber to defend the bridgehead by concentrating in the heavy woods around Kehmen and Welscheid. With the limited rifle strength at his disposal. Weber was able to man the Burden ridge, his left right flank thus adhering to the Sauer, but in the north the right flank of the 79th consisted only of a thin outpost line extending to Ringel Hill and the Sure river.

Continue Next Issue

THE 84th ANNUAL REUNION ROLL CALL

As is customary, the names of those who attended the 2003 Roanoke, VA reunion are published. The list is taken from the Official registration fee of attendance or Registered and is prepared as accurately as possible. It contains the many family members and guests that attended. It also contains the widows of deceased servicemen. If by chance your name does not appear and you were in attendance, please contact the Editor and your name will be published in the next issue of the Blue Ridge Newsletter.

317TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Adkins, Andy / H Assoc Grantsville, FL		Haviland, Joseph Levittown, PA	D	Smith, Robert W. PNC Wooster, Oh	K
Artino, Sal Parma, OH	A	Irwin, James H. Port Washington, NY	Hq	Spencer, Marvin R. / Hq Co Texas City, TX	
Barone, Angelo PNC Pottsville, PA	L	Muller, Victor / A Assoc Mission Viejo, CA		Sturgis, Ellis P. Fruitland, MD	A
Basden, Bryan L. Rutherford, NC	M	Munn, Troy Tulsa, OK	K	Rajnicek, Francis PNC Richmond Heights, OH	H
Brockman, Clarence H. PNC Hq-317 McDonald, PA		Myers, Gerald V. Lakeland, FL	G	Strickland, Frank W. Langhorne, PA	D
Bugg, Robert W. Pilot, VA	M	Odom, John H. Newport News, VA	L	Turner, Zane L. Riner, VA	H
Burrows, Robert H. Chandler, AZ	Hq	Palmietto, Dominick Croton On Hudson, NY	G	Umbarger, Howard Eaton Rapids, MI	A
Cistolo, Felix PNC Ellwood City, PA	G	Palomboro, Dominic F. Philadelphia, PA	Hq		
Clark, James F. Danville, KY	SV	Parks, Robert E. Nashville, TN	L	318TH INFANTRY REGIMENT	
Courtney, William M. Ephrata, PA	E	Patterson, Raymond W. Riverside, RI	A	Beckman, Charles Morgantown, IN	C
Cyrana, William J. Union, NJ	L	Paul, John J. Haddon Heights, NJ	D	Dorsten, Elmer G. Coldwater, OH	A
De Lucas, Donald Forked River, NJ	AT	Pauley, Roy A. Costa, WV	G	Hechler, Otto W. Markham, IL	L
Dumrauf, Raymond B. ? Pittsburgh, PA		Petrollini, William PNC Youngstown, OH	I	Hopkins, Gene H. Cottage Hills, IL	B
Edwards, Jack E. Carlsbad, CA	K	Pierce, Leroy K. Morning Sun, IA	L	Murrell, Robert T. PNC Oakmont, PA	M
Esco, Virgil Wetumpka, AL	K	Prappas, Dempsey Huston, TX	AT	Pappas, Thomas J. Chicopee, MA	F
Fleming, Daniel R. Handcock, MD	K	Reilinger, Eric PNC Hq 3d Bn Newland, NC		Ritchie, Bill Sun City West, AZ	M
Flick, Douglas Shawsville, VA	Sw/G	Schmidt, Max R. PNC Greensboro, NC	G	Stewart, Patrick E. Inkster, MI	E
Frederick, William C. 2d Bn Hq Co Shamokin, PA		Schock, Laverne J. Port Huron, MI	F	Storkman, August A. Gig Harbor, WA	G
Futch, Archer Cmd Livermore, CA	G	Shoemaker, Howard Verona, PA	I	Szeffler, Casimir A. Bayonne, NJ	B
Holtz, Val W. Thomaston, TX	F	Simpson, Robert I. Cecil, OH	I	West, George V. HNC Presto, PA	C
		Simpson, Kenneth / I Assoc Cecil, OH		Wignall, Jeff Assoc. Peabody, MA	A
				Wilkinson, Robert O. Greensburg, PA	I

319TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Acree, James M. Dallas, TX	C	Marsh, Burt R. Hamburg, NY	M	314TH FA BN	
Beers, Melvin Natrona Hgts, PA	C	Martin, Webster S. Bassett, VA	F	Mc Andrew, Paul L. Kearny, NJ	Hq
Bell, George M. Melbourne, FL	F	Martin, Ronaldo P. Clearwater, FL	A	315TH FA BN	
Black, Bill Assoc. Morehead, KY	G	McDonald, Robert J. Greenville, PA	C	Cresson, Albert Derry, PA	Hq
Blatz, Louis P. Mount Clemens, MI	L	McKenzie, William J. Finksburg, MD	H	905 FA BN	
Bowles, Lloyd A. / ACSV Florence, KY		Morinello, Frank Derby, NY	A	Davis, Richard S. Ellison Bay, WI	C
Cooper, Walter A. Lake Worth, FA	L	Ohlman, Gerald G. Staint Peters, MO	H	305 ENGINEER BN	
Coscia, Joseph J. Southaven, MS	A	O'Neil, Eugene P. Jr. Upper Marlboro, MD	C	Cleary, Richard N. Albuquerque, NM	B
Craviotto, Charles C. Santa Barbara, CA	K	Pfeiffer, George Scranton, Pa	L/AT	Dovenbarger, Byron Zanesville, OH	C
Davis, Don K. Sioux Falls, SD	K	Plaisted, Ralph E. Lakeland, FL	C	Lelito, Edmund R. Highland, IN	H&C
Di Carlo, Victor J. 2d Bn Hq Pittsburgh, PA		Ralph, Voncile B. San Francisco, CA	A	Mayer, Peter W. Staint Louis, MO	B
Dolan, John Poughkeepsie, NY	C	Siebert, Bill Salina, KS	L	Sick, Russell P. PNC Hamilton, OH	?
Dolan, John J. Jr. / C Assoc Highland Mills, NY		Spangler, Walton W. Ashville, OH	A	Siegrist, Robert H. Roanoke, VA	B
Eckelmann Fred C. Schuykill, PA	L	Spellman, Jerry / Hq,K,L,M Anaheim, CA		Wilson, Delmar E. Mc Connelssvill, OH	C
Einoff, Henry C. Laurel, MD	L	Torrance, Bert Erie, PA	A	80TH MILITARY POLICE	
Flynn, John Laguna Niguel, CA	L	Wheeler, Edwin H. Beaumont, TX	A	Jobe, Frank E. Latrobe, PA	
Garone, Frank Hq 1st Bn Lake Ronkonkoma, NY		Young, J. Givens Florence, NC	L	80TH RCN	
Greene, Raymond T. Jr. Sand Point, ID	L	313th FA BN		Closer, Paul J. Sinking Springs, PA	
Gonzalez, Andrew H. Victoria, TX	K	Hatcher, Lee Knoxville, TN	A	Hege, Joe H. Jr Lexington, NC	
Harmon, Charles R. Seattle, WA	AT	King, Earl P. Houma, LA	B	80TH SIGNAL	
Ignelzi, Paul / Assoc South Haven, MI		Noxon, Charles Richmond, VA	B	Crafton, John D. Chesapeake, VA	
Jones, Byron A. Macon, GA	C	Phillips, James W. PNC Elizabethtown, PA	A	Markoff, Andrew W. Gahanna, OH	
Krehbiel, Bill Halstead, KS	L	Shirey, Lou PNC Reading, PA	B	Ormond, Conrad M Grant, FL	
Laing, William Highland Park, IL	G	Viviano, Paul Dr. Long Island, NY	Med	Smith, James C. Birmingham, AL	
Lishko, Robert C. Chandler, AZ	M	Wright, Mahlon G Waldwick, NJ	D		

80TH QUARTERMASTER

Carver, Francis
Monroe, IN
Hurst, Caleb J. Jr
Franklin, VA
Mintra, James
Columbia, TN

305TH MEDICAL BN

Leonard, Frank B
Hazleton, PA
Magolan, Emil B
Beverly Hills, FL
Rothhard, Lionel J. Col. B
Boynton Beach, FA
Stubblefield, B
Gloucester, VA

WW I

Anthony, Lee S. Dr. F
Salem, VA
Nelson, Rodger Band
Arkon, OH
Smith, Bruce W. Friend
Fayetteville, PA

Wives, children and guest in attendance. If I have omitted you, please bring it to my intention.

Ambrosic Susan
Ashworth, Reva
Barone Kay
Beckman, Elizabeth J.
Beers, Helen PNP
Bell, Jean L.
Blatz, Richard
Brockman, Naomi PNP
Bugg, Onita L.
Burrows, Robert Jr.
Burrows, Mabel R.
Carver, Marjorie
Two Guests of Carver
No names given
Cerny, Linda Hechler
Clark, Merle
Cleary, Faye E.
Coinelissens, Pam
Coscia, Joanna
Courtney, Ruth

Crafton, Laura Russell
Crooks Jane Futch
One other no name
Davis, Cara Lee PNP
Davis, Marjorie P.
De Lucas, Elvera
Dian, Bettie
Dovenbarger, Irene
Eckelman, Fred G. Jr.
Einolf, Maria
Esco, Marjore
Flynn, Betts
Futch, Norma
Gonzalez, Paula
Hatcher, Ann
Hechler, Mattie
Hopkins, Anna Lee
Hyman, Vera, Dr.
Jackson, Pat A.
Jones, Gladys F.
Kicho, Mary P.
King, Eunice
Klimkowski, Paulette
Krehbiel, Billie
Kutsch, Rita PNP
Latusek, Mrs. Hilda
Laing, Charmaine
Lelito, Geraldine
Leonard, three
Guests no names
Lue, Jean E.
Marsh, Barbara A.
Martin, Muriell
Martin, Willie
Mayer, Bonna Mae
Mc Donald, Helen C.
Mc Kenzie, Wilma
Murrell, Doris E.
Myers, Bobbie
Nelson, Martha D.
Noxon, Alice W.
Nowotarski, Dorothy
Odom, Bonnie L.
O'Neil, Iuy D.
Ormond, Lois K.
Palmietto, Rosemarie PNP
Parks, Pauline PNP
Paul, Doris
Pauley, Jewell
Phillips, Ruth J.
Pierce, Nancy P.
Poletti, Francis E.
Prappas, Mary T.

Rajnicek, Kay PNP
Reilinger, Ida PNP
Rakotis, Josephine PNP
Ritchie, Bill Jr.
Rothbard, Phillis
Smith, Nancy
Spangler, Annabel
Spencer, Helen
Shaffstall, John
Shaffstall, Sharon
Strickland, Lee
Storman, Beverlee
Schmidt, Alice PNP
Schock, Margaret M.
Schoenly, Elearnor B.
Schweitzer, Betty M.
Shaffstall, John
Shaffstall, Sharon
Siegrist, Frances M.
Silvey, Ancil
Silvey, Bettye
Simpson, Mable I.
Smith, Cecelia M.
Smith, Bess C.
Sturgis, Guest of Ellis
Tristano, Gerald
Turner, Edna
Umbarger, Darlene
Umbarger, Delton
Umbarger, Ruth
Viviano, Grace
Vinson, Lynne
Walker, Jean L.
West, Helen
Wheeler, Nonie
Wignall, Mary
Yarner, Bobbi

Attending Saturday Night Banquet

Lt. General Joseph Inge
Staff Sgt. Romma Marchant
Major General Douglas Dollar
Sgt. Major Luis Blanco
Col. James D. Andrews
Michelle Andrews
Brig. General John P. Mc Laren



Lloyd Jonnes, Co. M-318 and Vic Muller, Co A-317 Assoc., with a wreath that was laid on the grave of Robert B. Horner whose body was found in 2002 on Hill 351, 500 yards west of Morey, France.





Some of those watching the parade...



more...

...and more!



We had a great turnout for the Reunion Parade in downtown Roanoke, VA on Saturday.

On the following pages we have photo highlights of the Parade. Our first in many years!



Last, but not least...



*TOP, L to R:
Brig. General John P. McLaren, Lt. General Joseph Inge, General
Douglas Dollar, S/Sgt Rumma Marchant*



*LEFT, L to R:
Brig. General John P.
McLaren, General
Douglas Dollar, and
Colonel James D.
Andrews.*



*The Mayor of Roanoke presenting a proclamation to
Commander Relinger*



Reviewing the troops.



The Head of the Parade...



The Younger Generation...



Some Got a Ride...



Notice: All in Step!



Great Music from the 29th Infantry Band...



...and the Ladies Had a Part Also.

Brett Post # 3

This reunion in Roanoke, VA was a memorable one for my wife (Helen) and me because a buddy from C-318 showed up. His name was Charles Beckman. I did not remember him, as he was a replacement. He and his wife sat at our table along with the Brockman's and Bob Smith on Saturday night. Charles and I had a long chat of our Army days. I also had the opportunity to visit for the second time the Memorial in Bedford, VA that represents the D-Day Invasion where the young men of Bedford perished on D-Day. It is the most beautiful and humbling depiction of those brave young men that I have ever seen.

After viewing the memorial we were served a very nice Barbecue lunch. We then headed to Johnson's Orchard to sample and purchase their goodies and then returned to our hotel.

George West C-318.

Greater Reading Post # 32

Two of our Post Ladies are residents of Nursing Homes. PNP Mary Schapelle is now at HCR Manor Care, 3000 Windmill Road Sinking Spring, PA 19608 and Mrs. Charles "Dolly" Van Reed resides at Manor Care 425 Burronwood Street West Reading, PA 19611. Lets brighten their day with cards and wishes as both are well and doing fine but miss the Reunions with their spouses.

I'm busy as Hades making plans for the Christmas dinner at the Crystal Springs Restaurant, December 22, 2003 at 1PM. Sinking Springs, PA. All members of our Post are welcome to sit down with us and enjoy a good dinner. Bring a friend if need be. We expect to have a good showing of members. Many of us have aches and pains but with God willing, we will make it! This is about all the news for now.

Lou Shirey, Sect/Treas Post 32

Wishing Everyone

a Merry Christmas

and a Prosperous New Year

Company H 319th Post # 33

News has been scarce but as the saying goes, "No news is good news." Heard from Lois Kudrna, by now she is settled down in Paradise, Southern Florida. Lois enjoys the sunshine.

Irv Robinson is on the road to recovery and feeling much better. Of course he relies on Hilda for support and warmth and a smile.

John Beebe has scraped his vegetable patch. He and Kate now sit on their lounge chairs watching TV and wondering what to fix for dinner. Strolling through the Mall is still a good pastime.

Unpleasant news has come my way. C.D. Clements called to tell me Nel Ledbetter has passed away. She died 26 October. She will be missed by all of us. She was a pleasant person with her soft voice and broad smile. Our, Co. H's condolences to Orin and the Ledbetter family.

I'm about ready to give the doctor the okay to replace my cantankerous knee that seems to be worn out. I think too many 25 mile marches are to blame. Yikes! I can hear you now and some of you are scratching your heads, thinking how can we have that happen, when riding in a jeep.

What's Happening in Seattle?
Mercer Island where are you?

God Bless. Ohly

*My appologies to Post 33 for the
wrong caption last issue.*

3rd Battalion 317 Post # 36

Bob Smith attended the Florida Post meeting in Ocala. He was asked to speak at a Veterans Day ceremony on the Battle of the Bulge. He stayed down there for Thanksgiving and expected to return about December 2nd. He mentioned because of the outlandish prices for beverages and other high charges the Post Friday Hospitality get-together at the reunion was canceled. Hope Pittsburgh will be better although it is the same hotel chain.

Ellie Schaub writes she is doing well; the children live close and they keep in touch. Ellie, glad to hear from you. Stay well and write again. Polly Parks wrote she and Bob were at the reunion in Roanoke. Polly's sister and her husband were with her. Thank you all for filling me in on the various functions. Sorry Rose and I missed the reunion. The first in many years.

To members of other units, please forward to me any news whatever it may be, so that I can include it in this column. A post card can be used. My address is Newtown Towers 204-B 3400 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square, PA 19073.

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

Wishing all the best Holiday Season and a healthy New Year.

Bob Nathason, Sect.

Lane Hall Post # 42

Hello everyone, I will be substituting for Jim Phillips and I hope that all of you will be getting in touch with me for any news, you would like for me to mention in the Blue Ridge for 2004.

I don't know whether any of you received mail from the WW II Memorial that will be built in New Orleans. I have sent a few donations in my husband's name. Of course I hope to see the final construction, some day, but in the meantime if any of you are interested it is a good cause.

I received this from Jim Phillips - "Thanks to all who contributed so generously toward the hospitality room expenses at the Wyndham Roanoke Hotel. I was surprised and pleased with our excellent attendance. It was good to see all of you. I am already making plans for the 85th Annual Reunion in Pittsburgh, PA in 2004. We will have hospitality room. The request has already been made to the committee. Your Sect Treas. Jim Phillips

Jim also wrote he had a call from his sister in California. The fires were only 20 miles from her. Thank goodness they never reached her home.

I have talked with several of our members. Audrey Blocker's husband Karl is not doing well, she visits and sits with him daily. He has lost a great deal of weight. Mary Brinker also, keeps in touch, and Bob is about the same also. She and Jim send their regards to everyone. Warren Burhart will be going through a few more minor surgeries, but seems a little better. I talked with Dom and

305th Engineers Post # 40

The Roanoke reunion was well planned by Chairman Archer Futch and our hospitality room at the hotel was the best of a number of years. The weather for the parade wasn't the too great but also could have been worst so let us remember that we enjoyed the spirit of the occasion.

Members of Post 40 who were there: Byron and Irene Dovenbarger, Delmar Wilson, Edmund and Gerry Lelito, Richard and Faye Cleary, Pete and Bonna Mayer, Elmer Dorsen and myself.

As you read this, Thanksgiving has come and gone so the family gatherings of the past do continue to stir memories of our early days more than any other holiday. I'll take this opportunity to try to wish all of you good health during the next year. My health has been so good I sometimes get left out of the conversation as my card-playing buddies discuss their health problems.

Closing here with no news from anyone...don't eny of youse guys no how to rite.

*"Colonel Russell" Russ Sick,
Commander.*

Jeannette and Jeannette tells me she is doing better. Our prayers are with all of friends.

Please keep in touch with me with any news you may have about our members, etc. Even though I will be in Pittsburgh for a month, my granddaughter who will be staying at my home before she leaves for Alaska will pick up, my mail. Take care.

Frances Poletti, Acting Sect

New York Post # 43

No new members were added to our rolls in 2003. The Post is now over 22 years old and still going strong. Our peak of 160 members is now down to 54. We lost Tom Ryan and Jon Burke in 2003. Our officers were all reelected Burt Marsh, Don Wilkinson, Ed Bredbenner and Abe Barone Chaplain. Many sick cards and contacts to members and we again approved a full-page ad in our reunion program.

The Post had a great year, another active year, with our annual gathering an election in Albany, NY at the Turf Inn with their great accommodations, good food and services. Our Fall gathering was here in Ithaca, NY and we were kept busy visiting and eating. Supplies of wines, good apples, and travel were the order of the day. Best Western Inn gave us a very nice functional hospitality room and we kept it well stocked.

Next year, (2004) we again will return to the Turf Inn, Albany, NY for our annual meeting and election of officers. This will be Memorial Day weekend, May 27-31, 2004. The Fall gathering to be announced. Possibly it will be back to Geneva, NY at the very nice Ramada Inn on Seneca Lake. Possible dates are Monday to Friday, October 4-8, 2004. More later.

We thank you all for your support in many ways. Attending the gatherings and supporting the post keeps us going. Some may not be able to attend the National so we hope to fill the gap. But, we do need your support if we are to continue the Post and also the National. KEEP ME INFORMED on any changes of

address and telephone numbers. Also, let me know of any troubles you may get into? You can help your secretary by filling out the forms correctly. Paying dues on time and well just staying out of trouble.

We continue to support our National with gifts to Life Plus in memory of a deceased member rather than sending flowers. We all hope you will continue to support the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary supports us and the many VA Hospitals with their gifts. We of course will continue supporting the National with a full page Ad in our convention program.

Note the dates of meetings, Spring meeting at Turf Inn, Albany, NY, May meeting 27-31, 2004. Fall Meeting about Oct. 4-8, 2004, possibly Geneva Ramada Inn. This is a Monday through Thursday gathering.

Our Post meets three times a year Spring, at the Convention and in the Fall. We have our fun and serious moments and support our National and our Auxiliary. We do need your support to survive and continue. Your dues? Are you paid up?

More News from New York Post

Had an excellent time for all at the fall meeting here in Ithaca. We kept them busy. Some arrived on Tuesday and we toured the area and ate at every good spot. We had lunch at the Tower Club at Ithaca College, 14 stories overlooking the area and Lake Cayuga. Special veterans night at the local Elks. A man from the 8th Air Force, Tom Cory, who just received the Distinguished Flying Cross, told of his experiences while being shot down over Germany.

More good meals on Friday and visit to nearby winery for supplies and a meal. Saturday we saw an exciting football game at Ithaca College and at night at local Legion Club. Had a rep. from local V. A. talk



to the guys who are looking for support for claims. He gave them excellent pointers to help them with their claims. Sunday back to the Antlers and our great White Elephant Raffle along with a great buffet. I did not get a list of the many winners this time. Some stayed over Sunday and out on Monday. It was a long week for me, but all went well. Even had to help one of our well known members get their car going to head back home. Best Western gave us a nice room for hospitality and we had a good supply of food and also beverages. Thanks for the beer from Pottsville.

Back to Albany Memorial Day weekend for annual meeting and election. Mark down the dates, May 27-31, Thursday through Sunday. Still looking for fall site, possibly back to Geneva Ramada Lakeside Inn overlooking Seneca Lake. One of the Finger Lakes and in the middle of the wine and apple and fruit basket.

All returned home safely as session closed in good order.

Ed Bredbenner, Sect.

Post #44 Company M 318th

I was happy to see my old buddy Bill Ritchie along with his son and granddaughter Nancy at our Roanoke, VA reunion. It was New Orleans that I last saw Bill and I had never met his son or granddaughter, a beautiful young lady. All enjoyed the entire time. I received a most delightful letter on the 14th of November. I had written several postcards attempting to locate some of my old Army Buddies. After several cards I finally it pay dirt. I heard from Carl H. Goetz at the time he was a T/5. Do any of you remember him? He was in Company Headquarters. He lives in Cumberland, MD.

I enjoyed the reunion even though I walked it seemed miles to and from the meetings and my room. Three Busloads of 80th Men and Guests visited to Bedford and the D-day Memorial. Even though it rained toward the end, we still had time to get in a hot lunch served there. It was well worth the visit. I became a bit emotional, but soon was able to continue. Anyone who has never visited the Memorial I highly recommend you visit.

I wish to thank Victor Muller (Assoc. A-317) and Lloyd and Lynn Jonnes ("M" 318) who placed a wreath on the grave of Robert Horner (H-317). A soldier whose body was found years after the war was over. (See Pictures on page 15.)

Florida Post # 47

Our November meeting in Ocala was the most amicable and entertaining in years. It was a good turn out considering the weather on Thursday and the forecast. As usual the sun came out and we enjoyed excellent conditions during our gathering.

On Friday night we were entertained by Irish dancers who were going to complete in an Irish Folk Festival on Saturday.

We were glad to see two of our members who had medical problems and missed our March meeting in Melbourne. They were the Brockman's and Bob Smith.

The ladies, of course, prepared a lovely and appetizing supper and lunch and as usual the fresh baked cookies were available at 8:00 PM every night provided by the hotel.

Our daughter Christine and her husband came up from Tampa to spend the weekend with us and the group.

Our next meeting will be March 11 through 14, 2004 at the Holiday Inn, 2605 North A1A, Indialantic, FL 39203, phone number is (321) 777-4100. Room rate is \$85.00 single or double accommodations. The rate is good 3 days prior and after the meeting. Reservations must be made no later than February 20, 2004. Be sure you tell them you are with Post #47 of the 80th Division Veterans Association.

Looking forward to seeing all of you there and be sure to bring your sun block.

Francis Rajnicek, Sect

Company L, 319th Infantry

Another successful Reunion is behind us and we enjoyed it as usual. Company L had 10 members attending along with brothers, sons and Lady friends for a total of 18 people. Our Hospitality Room was open from Wednesday until late Saturday night and our traditional Friday evening Dinner together was exceptionally nice.

I hate to start this article with depressing news but have to inform you that David Kirschbaum passed away on August 29th and Banner Rice passed away on November 24th. I know you join me in expressing our deepest sympathy to the families of these two fine former officers of Company L.

Jim Young had another wedding in the family. Granddaughter number 2 was married on November 1st to a graduate of The Citadel with a major in mechanical engineering. The wedding was in Jim's back yard with about 800 guest attending. Jim said it was a grand affair catered by a well know caterer from the area and Jim had two large heated tents to accommodate the guests.

Jim had just gotten out of the hospital on the day of the wedding.

Received a note from Lou Blatz and he tells me all is well in Mt Clemens MI., however he also told me he lost a sister, two brother in laws and a very dear friend in the last 12 months. Our heartfelt sympathy to Lou, Rich and their family.

Rudy and Carol are settling into their new home after their move from Irvington to East Orange, NJ. and Frank and Helene are adjusting

to their new surroundings. Frank is having a lot of problems with his legs and foot.

Received an E-mail from the Krehbiel's. and they are as always on the move. Since the Reunion, they have spent 10 days with son Phil in Manistigue MI., 10 days in Branson MO. and attended the Vets Day parade and 10 days in Table Lake Rock with son Dane. Finally back home, they spent Thanksgiving with daughter Susan.

It's a small world. John and Betts Flynn were having dinner with friend at the Palm Desert Marriott Hotel and the word Madison MI. was mentioned. A voice from a few tables away wanted to know who was from Madison. John told him that he was not from Madison but had served in the 3rd Army with a fine officer from Madison. That officer happened to be Captain Norman "Coney" Moe who after the war became the Postmaster in Madison. Incidentally the couple with John and Betts lived within 3 blocks of the couple who asked the question.

Maria and I had dinner with my old Army buddy Gayle Baker and his wife Gloria in Hancock, Md. in late October. Gayle and Gloria, Maria and I visited Lorraine Sciese, wife of George Sciece who lives just outside of Hancock. Lorraine said she really misses George but is happy that he is now no longer suffering the pain he has endured since he was wounded.

As for me, I had a Cauterization in late September and the Doctor's found 2 blocked arteries. On October 1st, I had 2 stents implanted in the arteries and everything seems to be working out OK.

I have added 4 more members of Company L to the National War Memorial. Enshrined now in addition to the ones previously reported are Max Coleman, Fred Eckelmann, Lemoin Vaughn and Banner Rice. Lou Blatz is also enrolled.

A very Merry Christmas to all of you and your Family. May the New Year bring you health, wealth and all of the good things this great country has to offer.

Hank Einolf

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All of the past National & Honorary Commanders are looking forward to seeing you at the 85th Annual Reunion August 11—14, 2004 at the Wyndham Pittsburgh Airport Hotel, PA

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

**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
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Hamilton, OH 45015-1740

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

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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.

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2003-2004**

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Alice Schmidt, 1st Vice President
Barbara Brockman, 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*

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POST #47**

Gerald V. Meyers (G-317)
COMMANDER

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