

BLUE RIDGE

The Service Magazine
Volume 86, Number 344

Spring - 2005
Issue 1



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

Be sure it will **NOT**
be forgotten!

Remember....
every dollar received
before June, 2005
adds two to the

**80th Division
Monument Fund**



Submitted by Jeff Wignall

Deadline for the next issue is June 1, 2005



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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George V. West (C-318)

Tom Pappas (F-318)

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

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

2 Years

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1 Year

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Richard Davis (905 FA Bn)

Albert S. Haley (H-317)

3 Years

George V. West (G-318)

Andy Ferens (M-317)

Robert J. McDonald (C-319)

COMMANDER'S REPORT



I want to thank Brock and Naomi for all they done for me on the reunion. I couldn't have made it without them. Also, many thanks to Barbara for everything she did. I can't forget about the PNC Angels. I would like to say thank you to A. Barone and his wife Kay. Kay helped in the booth continually. She knew how to do everything. When we would get fouled up, she would straighten us out.

When you receive your 85th Reunion notice from Sr. Vice Commander Walton Spangler, please respond as soon as possible so we will have another successful reunion in Columbus, OH. (August 24-27, 2005) Walt Spangler is a good man, and he has worked very hard for us to have another good reunion.

My health is somewhat better now. But, I had been in the hospital three times just before the reunion in Pittsburgh. A spider bit me, which took four months to heal. I'm feeling pretty good now. Here's looking forward to seeing you in Columbus, OH in August.

M.R. Spencer, National Commander

2005 Reunion will be in Columbus, OH Greetings from Ohio!

We have been busy preparing the program and entertainment for the 80th Division Veteran's Association. Reunion to be held at the Marriott Hotel North in Columbus, Ohio on August 24 - 27, 2005. We hope to see you there.

The Reunion Announcement and Registration Form will be mailed April 1, 2005. I would urge you to return the information to me as soon as your plans are completed.

We are looking forward to visiting the Florida Post on March 3 - 5. It will be good to be in the warm sunshine and visit with the friends we have made in the Eightieth. Anything there will be better than the floods, ice, and snow we have had this winter.

I received a letter from Eugene O' Neil, Chairman of the Monument Committee, regarding, the proposed 80th Division Veterans Memorials to be placed in Arlington National Cemetery and Fort Benning, Georgia. Although there are still hurdles to cross, we are progressing in the right direction.

I have included a line on the Registration Form for anyone that would like to make a contribution for the Memorials. I will be forwarding those contributions to Secretary Bob Murrell as they come in. Best wishes to each of you.

Walt Spangler, Senior Vice Commander, Reunion Chairman

8275 Hagerty Road, Ashville, OH 43103-9715

phone: 740-474-5734

Memorial Fund Goal \$20,000

These men have contributed since the last issue of the Blue Ridge Newsletter.
We wish to thank all that are making this Memorial possible.

Barone, Angelo, PNC L-317
Barr, Jack G-317
Barwell, Herbert E. A-317
Beebe, John H-319
Blazek, Joseph L. Nephew
In memory of his Uncle Joseph Blazek
Bunn, I. B. B-305 Med
Cincinnati Post #34
Clouser, Paul A. 80th Rcn
Company L 319th Post
Detamore, James A. F-317
Dottery, Harold C. 80th Rcn
Eckrich, John H. C-318
Einolf, Henry C. Jr. L-319
Ferguson, Angus 2d Bn Hqs 319
Futch, Archer, PNC G-317
Hechler, Otto W. L-318
Kaufman, Murray I. F-317
Kenetski, Frederick A-318 Assoc.
Lane Hall Post 42 313th FA Bn
Link, Albert R. L-317
Mc Andrew, Paul L. Hq-314 FA Bn
Muller, Victor A-317 Assoc.
In Memory of his Bro. Joe.

Murrell, Robert T. M-318
Nicoll, William O. 780th Ord
Orr, David C. F-319
Reilinger, Eric Hqs 3rd Bn 317
Phillips, James A-313 FA Bn
Predieri, James B-319
Robinson, Irvin H-319
Schultz, William K. Hq-317
Sick, Russell P. 305-Eng
Sick, Russell P. 2nd Donation 305th Eng
Spangler, Walton W. A-319
Starner, Ralph C. E-319
Steffy, Charles W. D-318
Tagmeyer, Nathan B-319
Terry, James B. F-318
Wadley, R.B. I-319
Warman, Clayton D. F-318
Watson, Charles 319-Medic
Wegman, William E. B-318
Wettig, John T. Sr. 2d Bn Hq 319
Wojtowicz, Gayalyn/Wallace Friend
In Memory of S/Sgt Guyowen H.
Howard, Sr, and in honor of Marjorie

To all of you who have made a contribution to the Memorial Fund, on behalf of the Association I wish to thank you for your donation whether it was a large or small. However, it seems that some of you have forgotten your buddies of the war. I'm sure this is an oversight. This will be your last opportunity to remember your buddy and send a much-needed gift to match that of Dempsey Prappas. Won't you re-think about this? We are trying to have a Memorial in both Arlington National Cemetery and Fort Benning GA.

LIFE PLUS CLUB 2004-2005

If you sent in money and I omitted your name let me know so I may give you credit. Last date of entry 3/1/2005

Bunn, I.B. B-305 Med
Clouser, Paul J. 80th Rcn

McBRIDE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

If you paid into the McBride Fund since the last issue and I have omitted your name, send me your name so I can give you credit. Last date I entered a name was credit. Last date I entered a name was 3/1/2005
Clouser, Paul J. 80th Rcn
Hovey, Richard E-318

Welcome New Members

Condon, Cornelius J. C-319
1308 Coventry Lane
Islin, NJ 08830
732-283-2115

Dowdy, Melvin H. Hq-318
1200 Granger Road
Ortonville, MI 48462
248-627-6653

Elvin, Jan E-318 Assoc
6618-31st Street NW
Washington, DC 20015-2346

Kenetski, Frederick A-318 Assoc
5805 Victoria Court
Westerville, OH 43082
614-895-7859

Power, Thomas J. Assoc
12250 Jerusalem Road
Chelsea, MI 48118

Strong, Rollin M. F-318
3046 Mason Lane
San Mateo, CA
650-574-8042

MAIL BAG

Murray Kaffman wishes that Jim Detamore gets well very soon.

Congratulations to Donald P. Schoo of the 633 AAA AW Battalion who was attached to the 80th Division through out the war for making 31 Hours of appearances before 1750 people in 2004, telling of his experience and that of the 80th.

The Ladies have reported four deaths 1972-1973 PNP Ann Coniglio of Cleveland, OH, Margaret Inselmini of Latrobe, PA 2004, Erestine Wilson of McConnsville, OH 12/31/2004, and Lucille clark, Danville, VA 24550, 3/2005.

HELP WANTED!!

Bob Burrows wishes to know if the Artillery controlled the L4 spotter planes or did the Army assign them to the 80th. If you knew any one flying these Planes write to me and I will relay the info. Bob says he was flying with one of the fellows when they crashed and would like to know who he was?

Willard Ballenger, Company D 318th, 35425 Ave. 13, Madera, CA 93638, phone 559-645-4330, who was wounded near the Moselle River and is 80 years old now would like to know if there is anyone from Company D 318th out there, if so would you please call or write me. I would be ever pleased and grateful. Thank You!

Jan Elvin whose father was in E-318 wants to know if anyone of the 318th remembers Ebensee? If so please write her at 6618-31st Street, Washington, DC 20015

Thomas Power, son of Lt. Robert Edwin Power of the 317, perhaps also of 80th Signal and CIC, would like to know if any of you remember his father. If so contact him at 12250 Jerusalem Road, Chelsea, MI 48118. Cell 724-897-7431

I'm looking for 80th Division members who may have known my father; **T/Sgt. Richard B. Herklotz**. He was in Company G, 318th Infantry. My dad was wounded on 19 January 1945 at Ettelbruck, Luxembourg. His comrades carried him to safety. He was with a Lt. Charles Riggs who also got hit. He rejoined the 80th after recuperating, in June 1945. Dad passed away in 2000 but I would greatly appreciate hearing from any veterans who knew him or served with him in the 80th. Robert A. Herklotz, 1142 Roseland Drive, Columbia, TN 38401-7700. Phone: 931-381-6092, e-mail: robherk@copper.net

My query concerns the involvement of the 80th Division in the liberation of sub camps of the notorious CC Mauthausen in Austria at the end of the war. I am writing from Austria and I am a member of the Gusen Memorial Committee that does research in the history of the largest sub camps of Mauthausen, in Gusen I, II and III.

In all those years of our work we have made valuable contacts with survivors. Recently a lady, Mrs. Clare Parker, approached us in a letter. She was born a Hungarian Jew, together with her mother deported to Auschwitz in 1944 and sent on to do slave labor in one of the minor sub camps of Mauthausen, a place that was called LENZING-PETTIGHOFEN, near Voecklabruck and not far from Ebensee. As we know, Ebensee was liberated by the 80th. At her liberation this lady was a young girl (13), her mother had tragically died in a work-related accident some months before liberation. She remembers so vividly when the first US soldiers entered the courtyard of their camp (women only) in the first days of May 1945. They were enormously shocked at the state of the liberated women and briefly told them they were free. This lady would so much like to find her liberators and thank them, but we lack any information about which unit actually was there, this camp being such a tiny one and the guys probably not knowing themselves where they were and having to move on quickly.

She has also written a book for children about her experiences "Klara's Story", this paragraph is taken from her book:

A day came when, having dragged ourselves outside to sit in the open air, we could not see a single soldier or guard. The place seemed deserted. We sat propped up against the wall. One of us suddenly pointed at the gate. It was half-open and no one was guarding it. We were stunned, too weak even to realize that we were now free to walk out. We tried to gather up our thoughts. We did not even know where we were... Suddenly, the gates open wide. Soldiers are coming in. Not German soldiers. They are... Americans! But just inside the gates, they stop. Some of them even step back. Their faces register deep shock. As they stand there for some time staring at us, we burst into tears. Finally, one of them asks: "Does anyone here understand English?" Yes, one woman does. He explains that they will organize transport to take us somewhere, that we will only have to wait a few minutes. We can see some of the soldiers wiping their eyes. They leave. They have not come near us, only stood there just inside the gates. They seemed almost afraid of us, petrified by the sight we presented, creatures hardly recognizable as women.

By Ms Siegi Witzany, member of the Gusen Memorial Committee, Austria

Hamm, Luxembourg:

The little village of Hamm, in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, lying between Germany, France and Belgium, took its hallowed place in American history on December 29, 1944, as the forces of the enemy made their last major bid for victory on the Western front and were met and defeated and thrown back by the Armies of the Allies.

The village is located approximately 4 miles east of Luxembourg City, capital of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The city is situated on jagged cliffs overlooking a tributary of the Sure River in the rugged Ardennes mountain region. The natural fortification of the city was first exploited by the Romans and through the centuries was developed into an impregnable strong point. The fortress was considered the strongest in Europe after Gibraltar until it was dismantled at the close of the Franco-Prussian War in 1871.

The tiny duchy, a battleground throughout the ages, was invaded by the Germans in World Wars I and II. It is bounded by Belgium on the north and west, France on the south and Germany on the east. On May 10, 1940, the Grand Duchy was invaded by German forces as they swarmed over the Lowlands and France and on August 30, 1942, the enemy announced the inclusion of the enslaved Luxembourg into the Third Reich.

The United States First Army, which had invaded France on June 6, 1944, pushed the enemy across France and Belgium, and on September 10, 1944, liberated the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Luxembourg's liberty was threatened for a second time in World War II. On December 16, German tanks and troops poured over the Belgium-Luxembourg borders in the enemy's final major bid for victory on the Western Front, now known as The Battle of the Bulge.

To help repulse the enemy's surprise counter-offensive in the Ardennes, the U.S. Third Army swung northward from Metz region on December 19, 1944 to attack the enemy north of Luxembourg City on December 22, 1944. The counter-offensive was led by the Third Army's Tenth Armored Division, which began rolling in the direction of Luxembourg on December 17, 1944.

On December 26, 1944, the Third Army's Fourth Armored Division hurtled through the snow-clogged roads of Luxembourg to relieve the United States 101st Airborne Division besieged by German attackers at Bastogne, Belgium, approximately 32 miles northwest of Luxembourg City.

We all know the 80th was involved but for some reason has never been mentioned.

TAPS

Barnes, Wyatt E. F-318
 13905 Mctyres Cove Lane
 Midlothian, VA 23112-4668 12/15/04
 Rptd By Bob Fasnacht

Benford, James A. Hq 314 FA Bn
 C/o 1041 Los Arabis Lane
 Lafayette, CA 94549-2817 6/25/02
 Rptd by Daughter-in-law

Brinkman, Walter A-305th Eng.
 Bastrop, TX 6/2/04
 Rptd by Lou Kalita

Clark, Alferd Hq 2nd Bn 318
 RR 1 Box A1
 West Columbia, WV 25287 8/3/04
 Rptd by Darold Borne

Clark, James F. Sv-317
 620 Highfield Road
 Danville, KY 40422-1759 Unknown
 Postal return marked Deceased

Dilworth, Joel J. A-313th FA Bn
 651 Sinex Ave. H-116
 Pacific Grove, CA 93950 12/3/03
 Rptd By Jim Phillips

Elvin, William J. E-318
 C/o 6618 31Street NW
 Washington, DC 20015 8/26/04

Hittenger, Harry K-318
 5149 Stone Terrance Drive
 Whitehall, PA 18052-2236 11/17/04
 Rptd by Grandson Paul

Getzes, Sidney 80th Signal
 2259 Strahle Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19152-2516 3/13/03

Maalaska, Thomas L. E-319
 600 Greenhaven Drive #106
 Burnsville, MN 55306 11/2/04
 Rptd by wife Joyce

Markus, Roy C-318
 1120 Colerain Pike
 Martins Ferry, OH 1/30/05
 Rptd by wife Madalyn

Menifee, Walter D. 319-Med
 4081 Mapleleaf Drive
 Dayton, OH 45416-2051 8/27/01
 Rptd by Postal Return Marked Deceased

Sexton, Dennis HQ 314th FA Bn
 No Address given 8/24/04
 Rptd by William D. Wilkinson

Shekoski, Edward W. B-318
 Michigan 7/30/1992
 Rptd by Daughter Katie

Simpson, Robert Billy Bob L-318
 619 W. Cooper Street
 Ripley, MS 38663-1542 1/1/05
 Rptd by son Bob

Vega, Robert M-317
 4758 Euclid Ave.
 East Chicago, IN 46312-3528 10/3/04
 Rptd by John Eckrich

Widmar, Edward J. Cn-317
 10-8th Street
 Downers Grove, IL 60515 12/21/04
 Rptd by Daughter Candace

Zito, Prosper, Jr. K-318
 257 Broad Street
 Wassworth, OH 44281-2112 9/22/04
 Rptd by Wife Caroline

Secretary's REPORT

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

Look at the front cover of the Newsletter. If your date of Dues is other than 2005, you owe dues. The Executive Council in 1998 ruled for anyone in arrears more than three years be dropped. I must have something toward your dues or you may be dropped.

I am reminded that Chaplain and Arlene Woods will be having their twenty-fourth Wedding Anniversary coming up on 11 July 2005. Let's all send them a card for the occasion. The address is as follows:

Col. John H. and Arlene Woods
341 E. Jamestown Road #45
Greenville, PA. 16125-9206



John & Arlene on their 23rd wedding anniversary, July 11, 2004

Army Creates Badge for Non-Infantry Soldiers Who Participate in Combat

Please do not contact the Editor on this. When I get more information I will pass it along. This news came from the Military.com as of 2/16/2005.

ARLINGTON, VA.—After 60 years as of debate, Army officials have finally decided to create a badge for non-infantry soldiers that recognizes their direct participation in ground combat. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker presented the new Close Combat Badge, or CCB, to a cadre of senior officers Friday (Feb. 15, 2005), during a regularly scheduled meeting of four-star Army generals, according to Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty, an Army personnel spokesman. The new badge will be the equivalent of the Army's Combat Infantry Badge, which was created in 1943. The CIB, in its form of a rifle surrounded by a wreath, is reserved for infantry and Special Forces Soldiers only.

The Close Combat Badge will be awarded to soldiers with military occupational specialties in armor, the cavalry, combat engineers, and field artillery. Officers must have a branch or specialty recognized in Army regulations as "having a high probability to routinely engage in direct combat." The CCB will be presented only to soldiers who are engaged in active ground combat, moving to contact and destroy the enemy with direct fire. All soldiers are allowed to wear their combat patch on their right shoulder as a "combat patch" after spending 30 days in an authorized combat theater. While prestigious, however, the wearing of this unit patch as a combat designator does not necessarily indicate that the wearer was involved in direct ground fighting. That is the purpose of the combat Infantry Badge and a Combat Medical Badge, which is reserved for Army, Navy and Air Force medics. These were the only two symbols that indicate that the wearer was has under direct enemy fire.

Combat badges are different from military medals. Medals and the ribbons that represent them are worn only on a soldier's mess dress and Class "A" and "B" uniforms, never on battle dress uniforms. But the badges, which are rectangular pieces of medal when worn on the dress or Class "A" and "B" uniforms, are also worn as a fabric patch above the right hand breast pocket of the BDUs-acting as a "visual recognition of close combat" whenever a soldier is in uniform, Hilferty said.

The creation of the new Close Combat Badge closes a debate that soldiers have been "talking about since the 1940s" when the CIB was established, Hilferty said in a Monday telephone interview. Soldiers and their leaders have argued over the years that the Infantry and Special forces are not the only two branches of the Army that get into fire fights. The Army has periodically reviewed the criteria for the Combat Infantry Badge, but it wasn't until the con-

ventional wars in Iraq and Afghanistan turned into insurgencies that the non-infantry soldiers, point of view gained increased momentum.

So, at the request of commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan, last year Schoemaker approved the creation of a task force to look at creating a new badge to widen the pool of soldiers recognized for their actions under fire, Hilferty said. More Details about the new Close Combat Badge, including its design and the procedure for soldiers to request the award, will be unveiled later this week. Army officials said they are hoping that Lt. Gen. Franklin L. “Buster” Hagenbeck, the Army’s chief of personnel, will personally announce those details. A March administrative message will follow that formally outlines the exact rules and requirements officials said.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



THE DESCENDANTS OF 80TH DIVISION VETERANS

are pleased to announce the recent publication of the History of the 80th Division in WW1 . This is the manuscript of Russell L. Stoltz, Division Historian, and was completed in 1926, approved for publication in 1946, but until 2004, had not officially been published. This edition was edited by Lee S.

Anthony, Ph.D., Commander of the Descendants, and has been enhanced with photographs and official listings of honors, POWs and selected biographies. Permission for publication was granted by the grandsons of Mr. Stultz, as well as by the Commander of the 80th Division Veterans Association.

This book is hard bound, printed on acid-free paper and contains a complete index. It is the most complete history of the Division in WW1 to be found anywhere, and it is certain to become a treasure among your military memorabilia. The cost of the book is \$95, plus shipping fee of \$4.00. To order your copy, send check or money order to:

Descendants of 80th Division Veterans
P. O. Box 206
Fayetteville, PA 17222

POST NEWS

Greater Reading Post # 32

We are looking forward to our “Post Brunch” Saturday March 19th. Hopefully more than five will be there for “roll call”.

My chauffeur Paul Closer who drove me to the last two reunions was in the hospital for a Pace Maker. He’s doing good and is going to marry his caregiver in June. They will probably spend their honeymoon in Columbus. I hope to get to go along for the ride.

Warren March was in and out of the hospital for back trouble and a mole but is home now and so far no operation is planned.

The committee in charge of the 80th Exhibit at the Boone Area Library in Birdboro, Mill Street is still accepting World War II Material but is moving very slow getting things started, I may have some good news soon.

My debut on TV was a splash. Many offers from Hollywood, but I’m not rushing into things right now. My health is good but I have no pep. The public wanted to know what delicious chow I served back at the 105 Howitzers beside SOS. Desert every lunch and dinner. I’m also buying the Brooklyn Bridge next year!

Lou Shirey

Post #44 Company M 318th

I am happy to report the progress of my wife Doris. She is now over halfway through her chemo treatments and is taking 85% of the regular dose know as FU5. This treatment is one that she will not lose her hair. To date she has had no ill side effects and her spirits are strong. Our daughter Gayle is now back to work after her surgery. She is now eating on a limited basis and drinking fluids and lost 71 pounds.

I had a call from Bill Mullins, who was a Captain in K-318 and for years he and his wife sat at my table at the Reunions. A few years back at a Dress Parade in Richmond, VA, what should I see but Bill dressed as General. All these years of my calling him Bill did he correct me? Now I would say that is a true friend. You fellows in K-318 give the General a card or letter or Phone call. General William J. Mullins, Jr. address is, 6725 W. 85th Terrace, Shawnee Mission, KS 66212-1106. Sorry I don’t have a Phone Number for Bill. I’m sure he will be glad to hear from you.

Also had a call from Jack Stumcke, his voice was so weak I had a difficult time understanding him. He called again a few days back and this time he came in strong. Jack is in a Nursing Home, why not drop him a line. His address is a follows, John C. Stumcke, 215 Bicentennial Hwy Apt 301, Springfield, MA 01118-9962. Seldom do I hear from any “M” 318th people. In a second call, he is doing better.

Lloyd Ionnes called, he and Lynn just came back from Europe where he does tracings for the German government.

Bob Murrell

Company H 319th Post # 33

Greetings from all of us!

Well, once again news is scarce. I do hear from John Beebe, Irv Robinson and occasionally from Mac. Each has written they are well and active. John Beebe has traded his garden tiller in for a snowplow. I say, "better you than me, John." Me too, for I would be doing the plowing (I am his daughter, Kris, who lives across the street from the Major.)

The Beebes live close to Joe Richle. The Richles have seven children. Bob also, like John, is an avid gardener. Perhaps having 7 children was a reason for raising veggies. Irv is doing well recuperating from his surgery. He says he still has a small problem but it will not keep he and Hilda from going to Columbus in August. Congrates to you Irv!

Mac and Wilma are doing well. I know Wilma has a full time job with her R.R. Engineer, husband!

Had a surprise letter and call from Zachary Collett. He is the grandson of Lt. Noah Collett of Company H during WW II. Although he never saw his grandfather he is interested in gathering information about Noah. Lt. Collett was a forward observer in the 81-mm Mortar Platoon and unfortunately was killed in action 11 October 1945. I did call Zack and gave him some information that I had stored in my memory. As you all know he was a very calm. Likeable, and efficient officer. If anyone remembers Lt. Collett and has some little remembrances of any action or events of him please write or call Zack.

Zack W. Collett, 140 Woodmere, Atlanta, GA 30327, Tele: 404-351-704 or 404-21305748 A call or a letter would be extra special. Lt. Collett son did not get to know and love his father (Noah) and thus his grandson, Zack has no special memories or knowledge of his grandfather that would have been passed down to his father. Noah's son was born while Noah was in Europe. So, please answer Zack if you have any information about his grandfather.

Our weather has been somewhat topsy-turvy. We had 71 degrees one day and rain and 43 degrees the next day.

Orin Ledbetter and Debbie are also planning the reunion. Orin says he will have some new stories to tell!! We are waiting for him to author a book. My family of Penny, John, and Jerry will be at the reunion, also. It would be great if we make this event a priority and not at the bottom of the list. Think Positive Think Columbus God willing, I'll see you in Columbus.

God Bless, Ohly

LAST CALL

Post Ads for 2005 now due

3rd Battalion 317 Post # 36

Am listing a few notes from cards and letters received which will be of interest to many.

Susan Williams, niece of Lucille Clark (L), writes that Lucille went into the Roman Eagle Memorial Home 45, 2526 North Main Street, Danville, VA 24540, and her mother went into a retirement Home. Lucille writes she is doing fine and enjoys all her new friends and all the activities. She often thinks of her 80th friends and the years gone by with lots of good warm memories. Susan had two houses to sell and had to get rid of most everything in them, except pictures and some trinket from the 80th, which she keeping and will always treasure as her special group of friends. Susan writes further her son married in June and a stepdaughter graduated college.

John Daniel (I) and wife Simonne are physically well and hope to stay that way. John is a cancer survivor and doing real well and hopes to continue staying well. John is a cancer survivor and doing real well and hopes to continue staying well.

Dolly Crofoot (L) writes she is well and still lives in her home. Plays Bingo three nights a week. That's her enjoyment, win or lose. Her daughters take her shopping and to the doctors. She enjoys hearing from 80th friends. She always thinks of the good times they had at reunions.

Opal Finch (L) writes she is still in her home and can do for herself. Has a nurse check on her now and then. Friends take her to church. Her friends and neighbors are excellent.

Bill Petrollini (I) writes he is hanging in there. Hopes to see all in Columbus.

Leroy Pierce (L) and Nancy write its been a eventful year, not too good health-wise, but fine in every other area. Their children are doing well. Grandchildren are "all above normal" ages 5 to 26. Going to be Great-Grandparents in January! Both Nancy and Leroy had physical problems, which kept them from attending the reunion. They hope to be in Columbus. They are looking forward to a good year in 2005.

Ellie Schaub (L) writes her health is good has a lot of arthritis, but is still in her home. She has good friends and family to help. Misses seeing everyone at the reunions. Martha Linck (L) sends greetings to everyone.

Joe Zabitchuck (L) still with stroke. Was in the hospital with physical problems. Pauline writes road was difficult. Joe likes to read the BLUE RIDGE.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Bob Smith (K) and Bettie Dian on their marriage September 18 in Orlando, Florida. They will be spending the winter months in Orlando and the summer months in Ohio (2717 S. Osceola Avenue, Orlando, FL. 32806-5416, Phone 407-423-4885; 4118 Swanson Blvd. #59, Wooster, OH 44691-9650, Phone: 330-345-9638). Bob and Bettie were in an automobile accident recently, the car was demolished by they came out alright!

Please send me any news so I can include it in the column. We are all interested in knowing about each other. My address is: Newton Towers 204-B, 3400 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square, PA 19073. We extend our prayers for a speedy and lasting recovery to all who are sick and have physical problems.

Bob Nathason, Sect.

Company L, 319th Infantry

As I sit here at my desk ready to write this column, a song keeps going through my mind. The words are “Love is just around the corner” and I replace the love with “spring”. Yes, spring is just around the corner. My crocuses are blooming and my daffodils are poking through the ground and are up about 6 inches. I hope that spring brings a burst of new energy to all of you.

Jim Young E-mailed that he will become a great grandfather in July. He also told me he would be taking a trip to Alaska with the Calmest University Alumni also in July. He will start with a land tour in Fairbanks and end with a cruise down the “Inside Passage” to Vancouver. He expects he will be the oldest Alumnus in the group. Speaking of cruises, John and Betts Flynn recently celebrated Betts 80th birthday by taking their family on a cruise to Mexico. Their grandchildren had never been on a cruise before and asked what they liked about it, one said the “rootbeer floats”, another said “dinner” and another said the “elevators”. A great time was had by all and it was decided that they would take another trip when Betts was 85, but Betts said at her age, it should be every year.

Seems like everything happens to Dick Tracy and Lou Blatz. January started out with the heat going off in the house and when Lou awoke at about 1:30 AM, the temperature was 40 degrees. That was finally fixed at 10:30 AM and his 12-year-old Microwave decided to call it quits. On the 17th his car heater gave out and he needed new brakes. Other than that, Lou and Rich are well. (And you think you have troubles).

For those of you who have not heard this, I had a Raccoon fall down my chimney and do a real job on my home. Trying to get out, he ruined my fireplace cover, a mantle full of Christmas decorations, screens in 4 windows, 8 bottles of liquor knocked off the shelf and broken in my den and various other items throughout the house. Seems he/she liked some of the liquor, drank it and then went upstairs into the bathroom, pulled a towel and a rug into the tub and went to sleep. My son-in-law found him/her in the tub, called animal control and he/she was removed. A frightening experience for Maria because I was in the hospital and she was home alone.

Had a short note from Helene Soloninka in which she said she had just gotten out of the hospital and was eager to get back on her cardiac rehab real soon (note-dated 1/27/2005).

John Balas informed me that Helen is suffering dizziness and that her hip is giving her a bad time. John had a bone scan for osteoporosis and Doctor has proscribed Oscar for him. He is still helping the daughter of his best friend who was killed in a rollover last may.

The Krehbiels told me they have been well this winter with no flu or other winter ailments. They have just been “home bodies” just doing the normal daily and weekly activities.

This is the limit of news for this report. Hope all of you are making plans for the reunion in Columbus Ohio. Keep healthy and get ready for another good time in August.

Hank Einolf.

Lane Hall Post # 42

Hi, Everyone, It seems so long since I have heard from some of you. It would be nice to hear from everyone so that I can let others know how you are doing, what you are doing, and what you would like to be doing. It has been a very confusing year, with the war in Iraq and boys going through what they are going through there. But I do hope that they know that our prayers are with them and we all hope they will be able to come home soon.

I did speak to some of our members, Dom. Abbruzzese seems to be doing better and as we were talking told me he hopes to attend the reunion in Ohio next year.

Also heard from Mary Brinker, and Jim had been burned again, but is doing okay. He was 55 in 2004 his birthday Mary made his Birthday. Mary made his favorite meal, Corned Beef and Cabbage. He was so pleased. Belated Happy Birthday Jim from all of us.

Spoke to Paul Burgee, many people have asked me about him, and he is doing okay. He did tell me he had fallen a few times, I told him to get that checked out by his Doctor. Mary is doing fine.

Alice Noxon called me in November just before Thanksgiving doing well. She did tell me that Manuel and Elva Gonzalez lost a daughter-in-law in 2004. Our sympathies go out to their son and family. I spoke to Elva and she said they are both getting on their feet and doing well, but find it difficult getting to the reunions, which I am sure in time, will effect most of us.

Many of you have new phone numbers and new addresses. I will be sending out a new listing soon. Jim Phillips sent me some corrections, so I am going to make an updated copy with the corrections I have and he had, since no one has contacted me with changes. It will have to go out as is. I hope it will be okay. Please send in any corrections you may have so that the next listing will be updated properly. Thank you.

Received many beautiful cards at Christmas time from so many of our 80th friends. One of them from Dom and Cara Lee Davis of Sioux Falls, SD. Dom sent a picture of himself at the WWII Memorial in Washington. D.C. H said he was so pleased that the Alsace (Moselle River) campaign was so beautifully recognized. He also sent pictures of his trip to Luxembourg and Moscow. Luxembourg is where he was taken prisoner in 1944: The visit to Europe was in June of 2004.

Christmas is such a great time for mends and it was so good hearing from so many. I heard from Arthur Skinner who happened to be good friends with my husband Ed before Arthur was transferred to the 317th. He wrote that he was a Forward Observer with the 317th, with a Captain Talcott and Lt. Moss. Also that his wife had a stroke 2 year ago and he has been caregiver to her since that time. They have been married 62 years. I am sure he would love to hear from some of his old friends.

Jim Phillips received a card from Willis Fraley,s family. He and his wife have not been well.

Also, from David Dilworth, Joel Dilworth's son wrote to Jim about his Dad. He said his Dad passed away December 3 as the sun was lighting up the fog, and that his last breaths were very gentle, to the sounds of his favorite—the Eddie Duchin band. He also gave a history of Joel's life, and how he enjoyed his retirement which he said did not slow him down, he devoted much time to tennis, traveling, studying French and Spanish as well as to other interests such as swimming, square-dancing and cross-word puzzles.

Jim Phillips received 26 Christmas cards from the 313th group. 15 were from 313th Veterans and the remainder from wives and friends.

Sorry to hear that Ann Hatcher had pneumonia: We all hope she is feeling much better. Jim also spoke to Lee and he is feeling fine.

If you have any information to send to me, please send it on. Frances E. Poletti 28 Arnold Lane, Rowayton, CT. 06853, 203-855-1928. Thanks and have a good rest of the Winter and spring.

New York Post # 43

We will again return to our two favorite sites for year, 2005. Albany will be Thursday through Sunday, May 26-30, 2005 Geneva will be Monday through Thursday, October 10-14, 2005.

We will again try to visit the New York State Military museum in Saratoga on Friday morning. If you remember it was closed for some additional work. We have the usual suite #305 for our use. Saturday night Prime rib. Buffet and Sunday Champaign brunch, both are outstanding productions. Turf Inn in Albany.

We go back' to Ramada Lakefront Inn again. All seemed very pleased with all functions and the weather last year, we are all set. You have plenty of time to visit wineries in area, and there are about 50 around Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. Plenty of good food and fruits available as well as shopping.

Sad to report the loss of one of our long time post members, Alvin Black, Ft. Covington, NY Company E, 317th Died Oct. 2004. This was reported by Bob in last Blue Ridge issue.

Ed Bredbenner, Jr. Sect

Florida Post # 47

We have been in contact with the Hotel on the beach in Melbourne. Due to the hurricanes they are doing extensive remodeling and it will be sometime before they will be open. We will keep you informed when we have more to report on this matter. It was a real and very difficult chore to find a hotel in the Melbourne area for our March meeting. All beachfront hotels in a fifty-mile long stretch suffered sufficient damage to force them to close for repairs. Working from our home in Ohio, we faced a real dilemma, how to locate another place for our Florida Post's March meeting. Through a number of phone calls we contacted a number of people and had very little success until calling George and Jean Bell. With their help and cooperation and knowledge of the area we were able to arrange a March date and hotel in the Melbourne area.

Even though we will not be on the beach there is a very nice pool area to use and enjoy the sunshine. So be sure to bring your sun block.

I have no other news to report at this time but hope I will have more after our meeting.

Francis Rajnicek, Sect.

ETTELBRUCK

*The following Article appeared in the VBOB November Issue
Robert T. Murrell 80th Infantry Division 318th Infantry Regiment Company M*

On the morning of 24 December 1944, the 3rd Battalion, 318th Regiment, relieved the 1st Battalion in its mission of containing and if possible capturing Ettelbruck. "I" Company occupied the high ground northwest of the town.

Urgent and sudden orders were received after the regiment had virtually gone into division reserve attaching the regiment minus the 3rd Battalion to the 4th Armored Division. At 1700, 24 December both the 1st and 2nd Battalions and Regimental Headquarters were entrucked and joined the 4th Armored Division that evening. The 1st Battalion was attached to CCA, detrucking at Ell, while the 2nd Battalion and Regimental Headquarters proceeded to Fauvillers where they joined 4th Armored Division CCB.

The mission of the 4th Armored Division with the attached battalions of CT 318 was to drive a wedge into German lines to relieve our troops encircled at Bastogne. These troops consisted of the 101st Airborne Division, CCB of the 10th Armored Division and miscellaneous engineer and other units as well as stragglers.

Both battalions in support of the armor jumped off at 0800, 25 December 1944, the 1st Battalion capturing its objective of Tintage while the 2nd Battalion captured the Town of Chaumont and its objective. On the 26th of December the 1st Battalion advanced approximately 3,000 yards against heavy opposition through thickly wooded and extremely mountainous terrain. The 2nd Battalion attacked with the 10th Infantry Battalion capturing the Town of Grandrue and clearing the woods 1,000 yards to the north.

On this latter date opposition had considerably stiffened and the enemy was resisting fiercely, our advance. Enemy opposition to our troops was identified from prisoners as coming from all elements of the German 5th Parachute Division which had been considerably reinforced by attachment of the 408th Artillery Corps (6 battalions of artillery). The 5th Parachute Division was fifty percent stronger in infantry manpower than any normal German Volksgrenadier Division, which had been encountered during the last few months. Each of the infantry regiments had three battalions and the personnel consisted mostly of the cream of the draft age Hitler Youth with fanatical morale.

Early in the evening of 26 December 1944, tank elements of the 4th Armored Division were able to get into the beleaguered city but unable to return. First Lieutenant Carr, of Company E, led a four man patrol through nearly 4,000 yards of enemy held territory, with the use of red and green flares and made contact with elements of the 26th Engineer Battalion within the city at 0430, 27 December, 1944. They were escorted to the 101st Airborne Command Post from where Lt. Carr and his patrol brought back an overlay of the

positions inside the circle and a situation report of the unit. They arrived at 2nd Battalion Headquarters in time to participate in the morning's attack.

On 27 December, the 1st Battalion took Livarchamp and Honville and cleared the woods south and east of Assenois and advanced to this village. On the morning of 28 December 1944 the 2nd Battalion jumped off and reached its objective close to Bastogne on the same day, the 2nd Battalion encountered the 2nd Battalion, 104th Regiment, 15th Panzer Grenadier Division in defense of Honville and this battalion had been thrown in as a last ditch defense of the encircling troops to prevent our wedge from becoming a reality. No other elements of the 15th PGD were identified.

Casualties suffered by the 1st and 2nd Battalions were heavy, but nevertheless every mission was carried out successfully and every objective was reached. The limited number of front line personnel available from 26 December on through 28 December (1st Battalion had only 96 riflemen) makes the job done by the two battalions of CT 318 an even better one. The staff of the 4th Armored Division accordingly was full of praise.

The 3rd Battalion CT 318 continued to maintain positions on the high ground northeast of Ettelbruck. Patrols of the CT 318 entered Ettelbruck and reported it clear of enemy troops. Additional patrols were sent out to determine the condition of bridges in the area east of the town. Artillery fire was received in the battalion area the night of 26-27 December 1944.

On 26 December a patrol of 3rd Battalion CT 318 took several prisoners in Ettelbruck and found that all organized resistance had ended. Thereupon at dawn 27 December, one platoon of Company I was sent into the town clearing and capturing 40 prisoners. In consequence the battalion took up defensive positions on the high ground around Ettelbruck.

The 3rd Battalion CT 318 on 28 December continued to outpost the vicinity of Ettelbruck. At 1745, the battalion was ordered to move one company along with one platoon of heavy machine guns to the high ground north of Ettelbruck and another company to patrol the town. Roadblocks were set up and maintained on the bridges to the northeast and roads to the north of Ettelbruck. The positions designated were occupied by 0 I 05 for the night. Battalion patrols were active in the vicinity of Warken and east of Ettelbruck.

On the evening of 28 December, the 1st Battalion CT 318 was relieved from attachment the following day the 2nd Battalion was relieved also and rejoined the 80th Infantry Division in its sector.

Expanding the XII Corps Bridgehead

The troops that Davall's task force set out to contact had found the opposition stiffer than that facing the VIII Corps but nevertheless had made steady progress. With less ground to cover to reach the intercorps boundary, they would be on hand at the boundary when Davall arrived. These were men of the 80th division, who on 18 February only a few hours after the VIII Corps jumped off had begun their assignment to help clear the Vianden bulge. At the same time they were expanding the Corps bridgehead and preparing the way for a final drive on Bitburg.

Early on 18 February, the 80th Division commander, General McBride, sent two regiments north from the vicinity of Wallendorf toward Mettendorf and Hill 408, the latter the most commanding ground in the second and third tier of hills beyond the German frontier. While protecting the left flank of the 5th Division in the corps main effort, the thrust would uncover the West Wall pillboxes along the Our River.

The 80th Division's two regiments took three days to reach Hill 408, but before daylight on 21 February a battalion of the 318th Infantry slipped through the darkness to occupy the height after firing only a few shots. In the meantime, a battalion of the 317th Infantry took the enemy by surprise at Enzen, on the little Enz River southeast of Hill 408, seized a bridge intact, and gained a leg on the next fold of high ground lying between the Enz and the Pruem.

The 319th Infantry meanwhile maneuvered against the pillboxes along the Our. Advancing along the west bank of the Gay Creek, the first stream line behind the river and the pillboxes, one battalion during the night of 18 February occupied high ground near Niedersgegen, nestled at the bottom of the creek valley, and soon after daylight took the village itself. The next day, 20 February the same battalion turned west to the Our, cutting off the Germans in a two and a half mile stretch of the West Wall.

The job of mopping up the pillboxes fell to the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion, attached to the 4th Armored Division. The weather helped. With the ground free of snow and more than a hint of spring in the air, it was no time to die. By nightfall of the 21st, when the mop-up was complete, 337 German had emerged from the West Wall bunkers, hands high in surrender.

With the West Wall eliminated and Hill 408 taken, time for exploitation appeared at hand. As a first step in commitment of the 4th Armored Division, the corps commander, General Eddy, attached Combat Command B to the 80th Division. On 23 February the armor drove northeast to take Sinspelt and its bridge over the Enz River on a main highway nine miles due west of Bitburg. It was no easy assignment, for in the last ditch effort to prevent breakout, the Germans rushed the remnants of the 2d Panzer Division down from Proem. Nevertheless, as night fell Sinspelt and a serviceable bridge over the Enz were secure.

Also taken was the settlement of Obergeckler, along the corps boundary just over a mile west and slightly north of Sinspelt. There a battalion of the 319th Infantry kept pace with the armor and as night came was in position to welcome Colonel Davall's task force from the 6th Armored Division, approaching from the north.

Task Force Davall had begun to move at 1630 from the village of Jucken, on a secondary road six miles northwest of Obergeckler. Brushing aside a show of resistance at a crossroads not quite two miles from the starting point, the task force continued southward through the night, gathering in surprised Germans along the way. At 0700 the next morning, 24 February, Task Force Davall made contact with contingents of the 80th Division just north of Obergeckler.

Before the day was out, the 90th Division too had swept to the corps boundary. At a cost of some 600 casualties, of which approximately 125 were killed, three divisions and a cavalry group had pierced the West Wall in the rough terrain of the Eifel and established a solid front along the Pruem River. In the process, they took more than 3,000 prisoners.

...to be continued



80th Division Color Guard, Luxembourg

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