

BLUE RIDGE

The Service Magazine
Volume 86, Number 346

Post Reunion - 2005
Issue 3



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

A. E. F.

Artois-Picardy
St. Mihiel
Meuse-Argonne

E. T. O.

Northern France
Ardennes
Rhineland
Central Europe



*A More Lasting
Tribute...*

*Submitted by
Jeff Wignall*



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

NATIONAL OFFICERS 2005-2006

NATIONAL COMMANDER

Walton W. Spanger (A-319th)

8275 Hagerty Road Asheville, OH 43103-9715 Phone 740-474-5734

SR. VICE COMMANDER

PNC Robert H. Burrows (Hq-317)

P.O. Box 453, Broomfield, CO 80083-0453

2ND VICE COMMANDER

Elmer G. Dorsten (A-318th)

208 N. Elm Street, Coldwater, OH 45828-1164

3RD VICE COMMANDER

Eugene O'Neil (C-319th)

4718 Col Darnell Place Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-2801

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630 Pennsylvania Ave., Oakmont, PA 15139-1574, (412) 828-7651

Honorary Chaplain

Chaplain

Judge Advocate

Historian

Service Officer

Flag Sergeant

Color Sergeant

Sergeant-at-Arms

Public Affairs Officer

Division Photographer

Robert T. Murrell (M-318)

PNC Angelo J. Barone (L-317)

Dempsey J. Prappas (317-AT)

Edgar E. Bredbenner Jr.* (B-318)

Felix J. Cistolo (G-317)

Albert J. Cresson (Hq-905 FA Bn)

Albert J. Cresson (C-315 FA)

Don Davis (K-319)

George V. West (C-318)

Tom Pappas (F-318)

TRUSTEES

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

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

3 Year; Felix Cistolo (G-317)

2 Years

George V. West (G-318)

Andy Ferens (M-317)

Robert J. McDonald (C-319)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1 Year

Gerald V. Myers (G-317)

Laverne J. Schock (F-317)

Tom Pappas (F-318)

3 Years

Emil Magolin (B-305 MD)

Burt R. Marsh (M-319)

PNC Russell P. Sick (305 Eng)

COMMANDER'S REPORT



The 86th Annual Reunion of the 80th Division Veterans Association is history. As I begin the year as your Commander, I feel very humble. I will do all in my power to carry on the work of former Commander Spencer and all the Past National Commanders. It is indeed an honor to serve.

Allow me to thank all that was able to attend our reunion in Columbus, Ohio. It was a pleasure to serve as your host. Although it has been a busy summer, I have enjoyed writing letters and talking by phone with many of the Veterans of the 80th Division. I have expressed my appreciation to the Marriott for the excellent food and facilities.

As you know, the 86th Annual Reunion became a family project. Annabel and I had the good fortune to have our daughters, Carol and Karen, to prepare the program and memorial publications. They have not stopped talking about the wonderful time they had working the registration desk and meeting so many nice people. We could not have conducted the reunion without their very able assistance. Finally, let me thank all who assisted with planning and helping with the reunion.

As your Commander, I will be available when needed. Feel free to let me know your concerns by phone or letter. I'm sorry I do not have facilities for email.

Best regards, Walt Spangler

A note from M.R. Spencer, Past National Commander

It has been a great honor to serve as your Commander. I want to thank everyone of this great 80th Division Veterans Association for putting up with me during my term of Commander. I enjoyed Mr. Walt Spangler's reunion very much, here's good luck to him as Commander.

Welcome New Members

Hooper III, Harris C.
2095 Arnold Hollow Road

L-317-Assoc.
Waverly, TN 37185

Monnahan, James R.
Box 531
801-373-6054

80th Rcn
Provo, UT 84603-0531
JRMONNA@Comcast.net

Nicholas, William
1981 Hawktown Road

L-317
Madens, VA 32102

Memorial Fund Goal \$20,000

The following men have contributed to the Memorial fund. If I have omitted your name let me know so I may give you credit Last date of entry 9/1/2005

Barhold, Walter	80th Signal	Merkison, Donald	L-317 Assoc, Son
Bunn, I. B.	B-305 Medic	In Memory of his father Elmer	
Bunn, I.B.	B-305 Medic	Newman, Robert B. III	
	2nd Donation	Friend of the 80th	
Cool, Harry A.	F-317	Plylar, Odell	SV-319
Dortsen, Elmer	A-319	Pullin, Thomas S.	HQ-314 FA Bn
Finger, Benjamin B.	I-318	Mrs. Thomas Pullin	
Foertmeyer, Charles H. MD.		in memory of her husband	
	305Medic Bn	Ten Have, Milton J.	D-317
Frohbose, Dr. Frederick A.	Friend	Siegrist, Robert H.	E/319/B-305 Eng
Hotz, Val	F-317	Smolarski, Joseph R.	Hqs 3rd Bn 319
Ingles, John S.	Hq-314th FA Bn	Spellman, Jerry	Hq/KLM-317
Jobe, Frank E.	80th MP	Stell, Cleston E.	G-317
Jonnes, Lloyd	M-318	Swiader, Joesph G.	1st Bn Hqs 317
Koch, Charles L.	G-317	West, George-Helen	C-318
Markowski, Marianne in memory of		West, Martin-Fran	Son of George
HNC Joseph S. Coniglio	Hq-318		

I wish to thank all that have contributed to this fund. We have met the challenge of Dempsey Prappas and we as an Association want to thank him for his generous check of \$10,000.00. Yes, not all of you contributed, for whatever the reason.

Correction to spelling of a name on last Issue. It should have read, *Teerlinck, Constant, 305th Med Bn*

LIFE PLUS CLUB 2004-2005

If you have sent in money and I omitted your name, let me know so I may give you credit. Last date I have entered a name 9/1/05.

Bunn, I.B.	B-305 Medic
Coleman, Robert	C-318
Cool, Harry A.	F-317
Cistolo, Felix	G-317
Ferens, Andrew B.	M-317
Poletti, Francis	313th FA Bn
Shoemaker, Howard	I-317
Stuart, D.D. Dr.	B-305 Medic

McBRIDE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

If you have sent in money and I have omitted your name please let me know so I may give you credit. Last date I have entered a name 9/1/05

ROLL CALL: REUNION 2005

317th

Adkins, Andy H-37 Assoc. - Gainesville Fl
Anthony, Lee S. F-317 WWI Assoc.
Artino, Sal A-317 - Parma, OH
Barone, Angelo PNC Chaplain L-317
- Pottstown, PA
Brockman, Clarence PNC Hq-317
- McDonald PA
Brown, William S. K-317 - New Springfield, OH
Burrows, Robert Hq 2d Bn 317
- Broomfield, CO
Cirino, Sal J. K-317 - Cincinnati, OH
Cistolo, Felix PNC - Ellwood City, PA
Niece of Holbrook, Allen A. - Kalamazoo, MI
Dumrauf, Raymond B. ?-317 - Pittsburgh, PA
Edwards, Jack E. K-317 - Carlsbad, CA
Esco, Esco K-317 - Wetumpka, AL
Fleming, Dan R. K-317 - Hancock, MD
Flick, Doudlas G-317 - Shawsville, VA
Frederick, William C. Hqs-317 - Shamokin, PA
Futch, Archer PNC G-317 - Columbus, GA
Haviland, Joseph E. D-317 - Levittown, PA
Hooper III, Harris G. L-317 Assoc - Waverly, IN
Moorhead, Robert L-317 - Wallingford, PA
Muller, Victor S. A-317 Assoc
- Mission Viejo, CA
Munn, troy K-317 - Tulsa, OK
Myers, Gerald V. G-317 - Lakeland, FL
Nutting, Harry I-317 - Middlegrove, NY
Palombaro, Dominick Hq-317
- Philadelphia, PA
Parks, Robert E. L-317 - Nashville, TN
Patton, Clay J. L-317 - Knoxville, TN
Petrollini, Willam PNC I-317 - Youngstown, OH
Piece, Leroy K. L-317 - Morning Sun, IA
Prappas, Dempsey AT-317 - Huston, TX
Rajnicek, Francis PNC H-317
- Richmond Heights, OH
Reilinger, Eric PNC Hq 3d Bn 317
- Melbourne, FL
Schmidt, Max PNC G-317 - Greensboro, NC
Schock, Laverne F-317 - Port Huron, MI
Shaffstall, John G-317 Assoc - Elyria, OH
Shoemaker, Howard C. I-317 - Verona, PA
Simpson, Robert I. I-317 - Cecil, OH
Spellman, Jerry K-317 - Anaheim, CA
Spellman, Timmie C. K-317 Assoc
Spencer, Marvin Commander Hq-317
- Texas City, TX
Sprunger, Edward F. A-317 ((first timer))
- Decatur, IN

Strickland, Frank W. D-317 - Longhorne, PA
Umbarger, Howard R. A-317
- Eaton Rapids, MI
Wenzel, Ray W. G-317 - McMurray, PA
Wenzel, Steven R. G-317 Assoc
- McMurray, PA

318th

Anderson, George W. F-318 - Peachtree, GA
Barth, Ernest A. F-318 - Elyria, OH
Cicchini, Florlor L. I-318 - Cherry Hill, NJ
Demuro, Jerry A. L-318 - Westchester, IL
Dorsten, Elmer G. A-318 - Coldwater, OH
Eckrich, John H. "Jack" C-318 - Hebron, IN
Elvin, Jan E-318 Assoc - Washington, DC
Fasnacht, Robert F-318 - Canton, OH
Floyd, Daniel K-318 Assoc - Woodbridge, VA
Hopkins, Gene H. B-318 - Cottage Hill, IL
Inselmini, Bruno Cannon-318 Latrobe, PA
Jonnes, Lloyd M-318 - Washington, DC
Kenetski, Frederick A-318 Assoc
- Westerville, OH
Martin, Ronaldo P. A-318 - Clearwater, FL
McDonald, Edward D. F-318 - Salisbury, CT
Murrell, Robert T. PNC Secretary M-318
- Oakmont, PA
Nagel, Thomas M. Cannon-318 - Latrobe, PA
Pappas, Thomas J. F-318 - Chicopee, MA
Pietsch, Paul AT-318 - Atascadero, CA
Ritchie, Bill M-318 - Sun City West, AZ
Ritchie, William M-318 Assoc
- Sun City West, AZ
Stanley, Sheldon L-318 (first timer)
- Columbia Heights, MD
Stewart, Patrick B. E-318 - Inkster, MI
Strong, Rollin M. F-318 (first timer)
- San Mateo, CA
Vallario, Rudolph A.?-318 - Penella Park, FL
Vonda, John F-318 - Annville, PA
Warman, Clayton D. F-318 - Adamstown, MD
Wegman, Bill B-318 - Sun City West, AZ
West, George V. HNC G-318 - Presto, PA
Wignall, Jeff A-318 Assoc - Peabody, MA
Wilkinson, Robert O. I-318 - Greensburg, PA
Wojciechowski, Irwin F-318 - New Carlisle, IN
319th
Basden, Bryan M-319 - Rutherfordton, NC
Berman, Rudolf L-319 - West Orange, NJ
Blatz, Louis Paul L-319 - Mount Clements, MI
Coscia, Joseph J. A-319 - Southaven, MS
Czerkas, Frank J. Cannon-319
- North Ridgeville, OH

Davis, Don Sgt.-at-Arms K-319
- Sioux Falls, SD
Eckelmann, Fred G. Jr L-319 Assoc
- Schuykill Haven, PA
Eckelmann, Fred G. Sr. L-319
- Schuykill Haven, PA

Einolf, Henry G. "Hank" L-319 - Laurel, MD
Fylnn, John F. L-319 - Laquna Niguel, CA
Grossi, Nick H-319 - Bellevue, WA
Hanright, Robert A. - Palm Beach Garden. FL
Krehbiel, Bill L-310 - Halstead, KS
Laing, William A. G-319 - Highland Park, IL
Lisko, Robert C. M-319 - Chandler, AZ
Marsh, Burt R. M-319 - Hamburg, NY
McMormick AT-319 - Rochester, NY
McDonald, Robert J. C-319 - Greensville, PA
McKenzie, William J. H-319 - Finksburg, MD
Norry, Gerald AT 319 - Avon, NY
Ohlman, Gerald G. H-319 - St. Peters, MO
O'Neil, Gene C-319 - Upper Marlboro, MD
Plaisted, Ralph Cannon-319 - Lakeland, FL
Plylar, Odell Service-319 (first timer)
- Elizabeth, CO

Ralph, Voncile A-319 - San Francisco, CA
Siebert, Bill L-319 - Salina, KS
Skaggs, Wilcie J. E-319 (first timer)
- Daniels, WV

Soloninka, Frank L-319 - Bradenton, FL
Spangler, Walton A-319 - Ashville, OH
Young, James Givens, L-319 - Florence, SC

Division Headquarters

Stevens, Lyell B. - Fishers, IN

313th Field Artillery

Abbuzzese, Dom - South Plainsfield, NJ
Brinker, James Assoc - Richmond, IN
Grof, Joseph - Madison, OH
Hendley, Carl N. - Enid, OK
Myers, Ray D. - Waveland, FL
Noxon, Charles W. - Chesterfield, VA
Phillips, James W. PNC - Elizabethtown, PA
Rhodus, Alvin Dennis - Richmond, KY
Shira, Lou PNC - Reading, PA

315 Field Artillery

Cresson, Albert J. - Derry, PA

905th Field Artillery

Early, Charles W. - Freeport, PA
Horner, John - Bertrand, MO

305 Engineers

Dovenbarger, Byron Battery C - Zanesville, OH
Lelito, Edmund R. - Highland, IN
Morckel, David O. - Magnolia, CA
Nelson, Roger H. HQ Battery Assoc
- Arkon, OH
Sick, Russell P. PNC - Hamilton, OH

Quartermaster

Carver, Francis C.

80th Recon

Clouser, Paul J. - Bernville, PA
Rehling, Arthur J. - Cincinnati, OH

80th Signal

Markoff, Andrew W. - Gahanna, OH

305th Medic Battalion

Magolan, Emil - Beverly Hills, FL

Guests

Ambrosic, Susan - South Park, PA
Ashman, Judy Chandler, AZ
Barone, Kay - Pottsville, PA
Barth, Agnes - M. Elyria, OH
Barton, Jeff - Hamburg, NY
Barton, Tina - Hamburg, NY
Beers, Helen PNP - Natrona Heights, PA
Berman, Carol - West Orange, NJ
Blatz, Richard E. - Mount Clements, MI
Blocker, Audrey - Mansfield, OH
Bowin, Gayle - Richmond, KY
Brinker, Mary - Richmond, IN
Brockman, Naomi R. PNP - McDonald, PA
Burrows, Mabel - Broomfield, CO
Carver, Marjorie - Monroe, IN
Carver, David - Monroe, IN
Carver, Louis - Monroe, IN
Carver, Barbara - Monroe, IN
Cicchini, Matilda - Cherry Hill NJ
Cicchini, Samantha - Cherry Hill, NJ
Cirino, Monica - Cincinnati, OH
Clouser, Ruth E. - Bernville, PA
Cooper, Bob Annville, PA
Cordi, Ashley - Kalamazoo, MI
Cornelissens, Pam - Chandler, AZ
Coscia, Joanna - Southaven, MS
Crumes, Karol A. - Altoona, IA
Czerkas, Marion - North Ridgeville, OH
Davis, Cara Lee PNP - Sioux Falls, SD
DeStrange, Lycille - Croton on Hudson, NY
Dovenbarger, Irene - Zanesville, OH
Dougherty, Alma - Freeport, PA
Einolf, Maria P. - Laurel MD
Esco, Marjorie - Wetumpka, AL
Fasnacht, Dorothy - Canton, OH
Flemming, Pat - Monroeville, PA
Flemming, Jack - Monroeville, PA
Flynn, Betts - Laquna Niguel, CA
Foster, Marjorie - Enid, OK
Futch, Sybil - Columbus, GA
Grossi, Ginny - Bellevue, WA
Hamilton, Barbara - Cherry Hill, NJ
Hanright, Mary - Palm Beach Garden, FL
Haviland, Margaret E. - Levittown, PA

Hooper, Margaret - Waverly, TN
 Hopkins, Anna Lee - Cottage Hills, IL
 Horner, Susan - Bertrand, MO
 Hreha, Dorothy - Wexford, PA
 Hughes, Rosalie - New Springfield, OH
 Hyman, Dr. Vera
 Jackson, Patricia - Inkster, MI
 Jonnes, Marilyn A. - Washington, DC
 Klimkowski, Paulett - Lower Burrel, PA
 Knorr, Sally - Eaton Rapids, MI
 Krehbiel, Billie M. - Halstead, KS
 Kudrma Lois E. - Center Point, IA
 Kutch, Donna 1st Vice President -
 Mount Lake Terrace, FL
 Kutch, Rita, PNP - Natrona Heights, PA
 Laing, Charmaine - Highland Park, IL
 Lamolinara, Gary - Latrobe, PA
 Latusec, Hilda - Monroeville, PA
 Lelito, Gerry - Highland, IN
 Marsh, Barbara - Hambruh, NY
 Martin, Kathy - Woodbridge, VA
 Martin, Muriel L. - Clearwater, FL
 McCormick, Jane - Rochester, NY
 McDonald, Helen - Greenville, PA
 McDonald, Ellen - Salisbury, CT
 McDonald, Tresa - St. Peters, MO
 McKenzie, Wilma - Finksburg, MD
 Moorhead, Joan M. - Wallingford, PA
 Morckel, Sarah - Magnolia, CA
 Murrell, Doris Sgt.-at-Arms - Oakmont, PA
 Myers, Emma "Bobby" - Lakeland, FL
 Myers, Phillip R. - Waveland, FL
 Nelson, Martha D. - Arkron, OH
 Newman, Robert Friend of the 80th
 - Marietta, OH
 Newman, Edith - Marietta, OH
 Norry, Vera - Avon, NY
 Noxon, Alice W. - Chesterfield, OH
 Nutting, Frances - Middlegrove, NY
 Nutting, Kenneth - Middlegrove, NY
 Nutting, Susan - Middlegrove, NY
 Ohlman, Jerry - St. Peters, MO
 Ohlman, Donna - St. Peters, MO
 O'Neil Ivy D. - Upper Marlboro, MD
 Palmietto, PNP - Croton on Hudson, NY
 Parker, Milt Friend of the 80th - Macomb, MI
 Parks, Pauline PNP - Nashville, TN
 Patton, Susann K. - Knoxville, TN
 Phillips, Ruth J. - Elizabethtown, PA
 Pietsch, Helen - Atascadero, CA
 Plylar, Betty - Elizabeth, CO
 Poletti, Francis E. - Rowayton, CT
 Policastro, Theresa - Duncansville, PA
 Rajnicek, Kay PNP - Richmond Heights, OH

Rakotis, Josephine PNP - Pittsburgh, PA
 Rehling, Grace E. - Cincinnati, OH
 Reilinger, Ida PNP - Melbourne, FL
 Rhodus, Virginia - Richmond, KY
 Schmidt, Alice PNP - Greensboro, NC
 Schock, Margaret M. PNP - Port Huron, MI
 Shaffstall, Sharon - Elyria, OH
 Silvey, Ancil L. - Nashville, TN
 Silvey Betty M. - Nashville, TN
 Shoemaker, Judy - Verona, PA
 Schweiter, Betty M. - Verona, PA
 Seitz, Mary - Knoxville, TN
 Simpson, Mable L. - Cecil, OH
 Skaggs, Vivian - Daniels, WV
 Smith, Bruce W. - Fayetteville, PA
 Smith, Cecelia M. - Fayetteville, PA
 Soloninka, John - Bradendon, FL
 Spangler, Annabel - Ashville, OH
 Spellman, Patricia A. - Anaheim, CA
 Spencer, Helen - Texas City, TX
 Spunger, Marilyn - Decatur, IN
 Steimann, Kathy - Cottage Hill, IL
 Stevens, Anita G. - Fishers, IN
 Strickman, Lee - Longhorne, PA
 Strong, Mary Ann - San Mateo, CA
 Thompson, Janet - Shamokin, PA
 Tristano, Jerry - South Park, PA
 Thurston, Sue Ellen - Eaton Rapids, MI
 Umbarger, Ruth - Eaton Rapids, MI
 Vallario, Virginia - Pennella Park, FL
 Vinson, Lynn - Rutherfordton, ,NC
 Williams, Mike - Annville, PA
 Walker, Jean - Ft. Collins, CO
 Warman, Anne - Adamstown, MD
 Warren, Fran - Verona, PA
 Wegman, Ginny - Sun City West, AZ
 Werth, Margaret - Novato, CA
 West, Helen - Presto, PA.
 Wignall, Mary - Peabody, MA
 Wojciechowski, Gertrude

TAPS

Bettencourt, Frank C. B-313 FA Bn
20578 S. Wagner Ave
Ripon, CA 95366-9722
6/5/2005 — Rptd by William Miller

Bockemuehl, Eugene A-317
San Diego, CA
7/18/2005 — Rptd by Bill Costley

Collins, Frederick K-317
PO Box 253
North Truro, MA 02652-0253
5/29/2005 — Rptd by D. Fleming

Garea, Ray F-317
Youngstown, OH
8/10/2005 — Rptd by Gaylord Smith

Kime, Joseph E. SV-315
798 Pine Court
New Castle, PA 81647-9461 2005
Rptd by Mail return marked Deceased

Hall, Eugene M-318
1900 Alamanda Drive
Naples, FL 34102-5066
7/19/2005 — Rptd by wife Virginia

Harris, Frank E-317
53 Coventry Road
Kenmore, NY 14217-1105
4/21/2005 — Rptd by wife Helen

McFarland, James H. E-318
Jamestown, RI
2/22/2005

Miller, Charles C. B-905 FA Bn
Mail Return marked FOE and also
Deceased — Date of death Unknown

Murphy, John F. (Jack) 905 FA Bn
221 Spring Street Apt 3D
Latrobe, PA 15650-1968
8/15/2005 — Rptd by Raymond Fritz

Rund, Melvin F. Hqs -317
6675 W State Road 135
Trafalgar, IN 46181-9179
6/29/2005 — Rptd by Grandson Jamison

Simpson, Thomas Dv HQ Co
4 Corbett Drive
Irwin, PA 15642-3260
8/7/2005 — Rptd by Helen Beers

Telles, Joseph E. B-317
66 Corey Road
Aromas, CA 95004
5/25/2004 — Rptd by Wife Mary

Vallosio, Mario Hq-318
426 Canal Street
Leechburg, PA 15656-1110
2/22/2005 — Rptd by Daughter

Woods, John O. Division Chaplain
339 E. Jamestown Road
Greenville, PA 16125
8/7/2005 — Rptd by Robert McDonald

Rev. Colonel John O. Woods

Our Beloved Chaplain and Great Friend

September 20, 1907-August 7, 2005

A Change has been made on the Chaplains Burial in Arlington Cemetery. The date is still October 26, but the time of burial has been changed from 3 PM to 11 AM.



REV. COLONEL JOHN O. WOODS, U.S. Army 80th Infantry Division retired, 97 of St. Paul Homes, West Salem Township, died at 4:50 a.m. Sunday August 7, 2005 at UPMC Horizon, Greenville, PA. He was born September 20, 1907, in Laramie, Wyo., to the Rev. Oscar and Frederica (Prah) Wood.

A 1924 graduate of Elderton, PA, High School, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Thiel College, Greenville, in 1928. In 1931, he earned a master of divinity degree from Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary. Thiel College awarded him an honorary doctor of divinity degree.

Following his ordination, he served as [pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Coudersport, PA., from 1931 to 1935. Throughout his retirement, he enjoyed serving as a supply pastor to congregations throughout the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod.

In 1935, he was called to active duty as a Reserve Army chaplain, attached to the Civilian Conservation Corps in Virginia, where he served until 1939, when he was commissioned into the regular Army. In 1942, he joined the 80th Infantry Division, went to Europe with this outfit and remained with the 80th Infantry for 3 1/2 years.

During World War II he was awarded four battle stars, including the Battle of the Bulge in the winter of 1944.

His tours of duty included Fort Le, VA, Frankfort, Germany, Fort Meade, MD.; Korea, and Fort Knox, KY. From 1956 through 1962, he was XVIII Airborne Corps Chaplain with headquarters at Fort Bragg, NC.

A cross-country runner for most of his life, at the age of 49 he earned his parachutist wings, and also the Master Parachutist Badge. During this time, he made more than 90 military jumps from military aircraft.

From 1962 to 1966, he was stationed at Heidelberg, Germany, as senior Chaplain of the U.S. Army Europe. He was retired as a chaplain at the rank of Colonel in October 1967 by the U.S. Army at Valley Forge General Hospital, Phoenixville, PA.

His awards and Decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal and various campaign and theater medals and ribbons from WW II, Korea and Vietnam eras. He loved the military and people, no matter where he lived. He was especially fond of people of Greenville where he retired.

He was a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Greenville. He participated in many local organizations, including Kiwanis Club, American Legion Post 140, Cpl. James O. Jordan Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3374, all of Greenville, PA. 80th Division Veterans Association, Greenville Ministerial Association, Thiel College Alumni Board, Penn Lakes Girl Scout Council, Korean Bible Society, Food Pantry and many others.

Memorial Service

I wish to thank Chaplain Angelo J. Barone, PNC, for chairing the Memorial Service. The musicians, under the direction of Clifford L. Kerns, a retired music and band teacher from Circleville, Ohio, were wonderful. Lastly, I would like to thank the soloist and bugler who performed very well.

The Memorial Enlightenment was closed with a poem. Several asked for a copy and I suggested that it be printed in the Blue Ridger. The poem was found on the body of a soldier killed in action. I am not aware of the title or author of the poem.

Look, God, I have never spoken to You,
But now I want to say how do You do.
You see God, they told me You didn't exist,
And like a fool, I believed all this.

Last night from a shell hole, I saw Your sky.
I figured right then they had told me a lie.
Had I taken time to see things You made,
I'd have known they weren't calling a spade a spade.

I wonder, God, if You'd shake my hand.
Somehow I feel that You will understand.
Funny I had to come to this hellish place,
Before I had time to see Your Face.

Well, I guess there isn't much more to say,
But I'm sure glad, God, I met You today.
I guess the "zero hour" will soon be here,
But I'm not afraid since I know You're near.

The Signal! Well, God, I'll have to go.
I like You lots, this I want You to know.
Look now, this will be a horrible fight,
Who knows, I may come to Your house tonight.

Though I wasn't friendly to You before,
I wonder, God, if You'd wait at Your door.
Look I'm crying! ME! Shedding tears!
I wish I had known You these many years.

Well, I have to go now, God, good-bye.
Strange, since I met You, I'm not afraid to die.

LETTERS

1st Sgt. Frank Dobozy entered service at Fort Hayes, Ohio in 1937 and left in 1940. In February 1941, he entered as a Buck Sgt. 1st Mechanical Cavalry Armor Division. Four Campaign Stars ETO, Bronze Star and Oak Leaf. He also received Purple Heart at Kingman, Luxembourg.

He spent 1949-1953 in Germany, then was sent to Japan. He was also in Korea from 1954-55, under Sgt. Major Ardiane Sector. 10 years at Fort Knox, Kentucky, made Sgt. Major in charge of institution officer of investigated allotments.

1st Sgt. Orville Munyon was killed, and Jack Edwards was in back of him. Munyon received shrapnel in the back of his lung and Medic Tony Sterk and Jack Edwards helped him out. The Medic taped him up and the first thing Munyon asked for was a cigarette. The radio was not working. The 4th Weapon Platoon was there with Sgt. Hubert.

1st Sgt. Davison was captured at St. Avold and Sgt Dobozy then took over. Capt. Robert Smith was also wounded at Kingman, Luxembourg and 1st Sgt. Dobozy got a bullet through his helmet and received the Purple Heart. Dobozy had a 1903 Riffle with a Sniper Scope and 2 or 3 gunmen surrendered to him. Capt. Palmer got hit in the stomach and later died.

Sgt. Katzman was the hunter for rabbits in the outfit. 1st Sgt. Dobozy told the unit to button their shirts when standing in line for chow.

After Capt. Smith was wounded, Capt. Garbuit took over the Company. Jack Edwards and several others of Company K volunteered for night patrol. Capt. Garbuit got hit in the thigh and was sent back to the United States. Before leaving Capt. Garbuit told 1st Sgt. Dobozy "Don't let them mix up this company."

Capt. Carl Wallace took over after Capt. Garbuit left the company. Jack Edwards had a bazooka and a half dozen tanks came in and Jack with the other K Company men fired at the tanks for 57 minutes, but it didn't do anything.

Submitted by Jack Edwards K-317

Bob Newman in Marietta, OH, is doing research on the Lorraine Campaign and seeks information on **KEITH THOMAS** who was KIA on 10 Nov 44 — which Regiment (almost surely the 317th, 318th, or 319th) and Company. Bob can be reached at 304 Lawton Road, Marietta, OH 45750, Tele: 740-373-1549

Bill Costley (C-319) while dining at the San Diego "Old Town" Restaurant saw a man wearing an 80th Cap. Going over and making an acquaintance he met Eugene Bockemuehl of A-317th. Bill found he lived only two blocks from his oldest daughter, and a friendship was founded. They discovered that they both have written books: Bill on American and German Militaria; Eugene wrote "On the Road with The Jimmy Dorsey Aggravation, 1947-1949." Bill's buddy passed away this past July.

Herb Barwell A-317 writes that he lost his wife Barbara on July 31st from liver cancer, they were married 61 years...

Kenneth Kerr writes sorry to miss the reunion but Doctor tells me I can't travel. Say hello to all.

POST NEWS

Brett Post # 3

The Brett Post #3 enjoyed their monthly meeting on June 9, 2005 at De Nunzio's Restaurant at the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport, Latrobe PA.

There were 16 in attendance, all enjoyed reminiscing and remembering about Memorial Day services.

Bruno Inselmini was honored with a bench being dedicated in his honor in the Veterans Memorial Plaza, Latrobe. This bench was made by Gary Lamolinara in honor of his Uncle Bruno, who served with the Cannon Company of the 318th Infantry.

P. Louise Fritz Acting Sect



Bruno Inselmini (center) stands behind a bench dedicated to him and placed in Veterans Memorial Plaza, Latrobe. The bench is one of three Gary Lamolinara, owner of Great Dane Power Coating, Loyalhanna, has given to the local veterans association to be placed in the plaza in honor of three uncles who have served the United States in major conflicts. Shown are Dana Lamolinara and her husband, Gary; Matthew DeVitto, another uncle who served during the Korean War; Inselmini, and Thomas B. Anderson, American Legion Post 515 members Don Vargo, a Vietnam Veteran; Ralph Sloan, World War II, and Daniel Stumpf, World war II. Another uncle, the late Tom Smith, was a Vietnam veteran.

CO H 319th Infantry Post 33

Again it is difficult to get this report for the next addition of the Blue Ridge Magazine out on time. Trying to write and watch the Katrina hurricane at the same time is a hard task. I know our prayers are with the people of Louisiana and Mississippi.

The Division reunion was a great success. In attendance were **Bill and Wilma McKnight**, **Nick and Ginny Grossie** from Seattle, and Iowa, were **Louis Kudrna** with daughter Karol. My son, Jerry and dear friend Theresa McDonald were there for the gathering. Jerry's daughter, Shalaya visited us on Friday. Of course yours truly was also present. A guest, Barbara and another visitor from Florida, joined us for the trip and pig roast.

Jerry rented a 13-passenger van and as the driver, took us to all spots in Ohio, especially the German section. We could not have made it without Theresa, as she was the navigator and aid to the seniors while getting in and out of the van. She also appropriated a step-stool that helped the seniors. One stop was to the village of Rosco. It was a quaint little village about three block long and cobble streets with old beautiful; homes on the upper side. Not one of us attempted the stairs to the homes. The village was established along the canal to service the boats and passengers traveling the canal. The shops included a blacksmith, printing press, candle and pottery shops and other supplies. The Doctor's home was of great interest; I'll describe later. Time being of the essence, we only visited on side of the street. We found Roscoe on the Ohio map near Coshocton. It was worth the visit.

After making it back to the hotel, with a short visit to the Van Buren's where Mrs. V presented us with a box of her delicious cookies, we changed quickly, refreshed ourselves then is was off again. We took a trip to Germantown with a bumpy ride over the cobble streets to Schmid's restaurant. German food and desserts, yummy! Desserts were four inches high and thick cream puffs as large as softballs were drooled over. The atmosphere was definitely German, even the beer.

The dedication ceremony was well planned with band music befitting the ceremony. After the service and a change of clothing, the group headed for Ohio State University then for a refreshing stop at a German brewery—why not? The evening dinner and dance was well accepted, a band with real Tommy Dorsey type music of the 40's filled the room. Yes, the dance floor was full most of the time. I even had a fling on the floor. Don't ask Theresa as she may think differently.

We topped off Friday and Saturday evening by playing some sort of a game called Pig. I'll not mention the winner as the IRS may be listening. Yes, there was some loser's, right? Jerry, Theresa?

Missed were Irv and Hilda, Orin and daughters. Leadbetter-Texas. Maybe in Columbus or Georgia we will meet again.

God Bless, Ohly

Company L 319th Inf.

Another Reunion is behind us and Company L as usual had a good attendance. We signed in 18 people, which included 12 veterans, 5 Ladies and a nephew of Frank Soloninka. As a group we had a great time and spent most of our leisure time reliving the funny things that happened both in the United States and in the ETO. It's strange but as the years go by, the horrors of war are forgotten and only the comedic things are remembered especially hearing about the Lieutenant diving into a "slit Trench" when incoming was heard.

Freddy Ecklemann again brought his Dad and has been the case over the last few years was extremely helpful in the Hospitality Room. Freddy watches over his Dad like a little old Mother Hen. By the way, Fred smiled five times and laughed once during our Reunion.

The visit to the Mott's Museum was interesting and while the trip to the Longanberger Basket Company was educational, the men saved a lot of money because there were no baskets for sale and the ladies were itching to buy baskets. Fact is Maria had set aside \$200 just to purchase baskets.

All company members who attended appeared to be in as good a shape as can be expected for our age group. **John and Betts Flynn** left the Reunion to fly to Washington DC to visit friend and to see the WWII Memorial and **Bill and Billie Krehbiel** left the Reunion to visit family in Michigan. **Jim Young** informed us that he had divested himself from most of his pecan business and maybe soon you will not be able to purchase Young Pecans at the Sam's Club or at your favorite grocery store. **Lou and Richard Blatz** are their usual jovial selves and **Rudy and Carol Berman** lit up the dance floor with their smooth dance movements. **Bill Siebert** looks so young that it's hard to believe he was in the war with us. He can easily pass for 60. **Frank Soloninka** appears to be handling the loss of Helene quite well and I'm sure it was hard for him to be with us but without her for the first time. We really missed her presence.

The food at the Dinner and Dance on Saturday night was good and the band played our kind of music but the evening was partially ruined by a member of the 80th Division who was seated at a table next to our tables. He thought he would be funny by imitating Adolph Hitler. He didn't do this on the spur of the moment; he came fully prepared with his little mustache and a hair comb-over to put on his act. It was a disgusting display, in poor taste and totally offensive to members of Company L who lost family in the Holocaust. Had I been commander, I would have had the Sergeant at Arms remove him from the ballroom and take away his membership card and destroy it. He deserves no better and is a disgrace to the 80th Division and dishonors all members who fought and died in our battles against the German Army.

Before I left for the Reunion, I received an E-mail from **Dom Chism's** Daughter Donna. She wrote that Don is in an Assisted Care facility in Elko and has found a Cribbage partner to play the game he is so fond of playing. If you would like to contact Don, it can be done through Donna, who will get any messages to him. Donna's E-mail address is dCHISM@CTNIS.COM. I'm sure Don would like to hear from you. Maria and I really enjoyed being with you at the Reunion and hope that all of us and more will be together again in Columbus GA. in 2006.

Hank Einolf.

Lane Hall Post # 42

Hello everyone well the summer is almost gone and I hope all of you have had a pleasant one, and those that made the reunion, hello again. I was so happy to be able to attend this year and get to see some of our old friends.

Some of our friends that I have heard from before the reunion. On may 9th, **Mary Brinker** had a total knee replacement and everything went well.

Hilda Latusek, also had surgery during the month of May. She had two cataract operations and she can see well enough to read big print, which she missed very much.

Spoke to **Paul Burgio** in May also, and he told me he had fallen, he is feeling pretty good now and he is quite busy caring for Mary, and they are both now feeling fairly well. He asked about everyone, and when you can, give him a call, he would love to hear from some of you. I know he misses **Jimmy Sanropietro** who frequently stopped by to see he and Mary.

I received an e-mail from **Alice Noxon** on June 6, telling me that **Frank Bettencourt** passed away on Sunday June 5 at 2 p.m. our prayers and condolences go to his wife Mary and his family.

Alice Noxon also mentioned the Gonzalez's in e-mail to me; **Manny and Elva** are doing pretty well, but mentioned that they will no longer be able to attend any of the future reunions. They were not able to attend this year. They extend their best wishes to everyone, and would like to hear from some of their old friends, we wish them both well.

REUNION NOTES:

I was so happy to be in attendance this year, since I had not been able to attend last year. It was so good seeing everyone, and sorry for those who were not able to come.

We missed **Lee and Ann Hatcher** very much this year. They were always a prominent member of our group, but Lee has not been well and has been in and out of the hospital in the past few months. Lee and Ann, our prayers are with you and you were missed very much.

Received a note from **Bill Hansen** with a donation for the memorial fund. I sent it on to Bob Murrell for Bill. Bill was also unable to attend the reunion this year, and Bill, we wish you well.

Ed Hargra also sent a note, saying he was not able to attend this year either. Had a great deal of work to do for the Creede Museums annual fundraiser. Sent on a lovely picture of his grand daughters wedding.

For a list of those attending see the Roll Call. Please keep in touch and call me anytime with any news you may have about our members or yourself. Frances Poletti
28 Arnold Lane, Rowayton, CT. 06853 203-855-1928

Florida Post 47

We have received some encouraging news from the Holiday Inn Hotel in Indian Atlantic, Florida. They expect to be up and running by March 2006. The exquisite two-story hospitality room was destroyed by the hurricane and has now been replaced with one single story hospitality room with comparable facilities.

I will be down in Florida in October to keep updated with the progress of the renovation of the property and will keep you informed in my next Post 47 report.

We received the sad news of the death of **Chaplain Col. John O. Woods**. He went to his Eternal Reward August 7, 2005. Kay and I were able to attend his funeral service in Greenville, PA. Before the service members of the 80th Division Association gathered to pay their respects and conduct the 80th Division Veterans Association Memorial Service. There were seven members present, along with wives, **Bob & Helen McDonald, Clarence & Naomi Brockman, Robert and Doris Murrell, Russell Sick, Elmer Dorsten, Felix Cistolo and Kay and I**. The funeral service held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church was very impressive. He will be laid to rest on October 26, 2005 at Arlington National Cemetery.

Post 47's next meeting will be October 27, 28 and 29, 2005 at the Hampton Inn, 3434 S. W. College Rd., Ocala, FL 34474. Phone number 352-854-3200. The room rate is \$63 per night. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Francis Rajnicek Sect.

Rcn Post # 37

Eleanor Schoney wishes to thank Art and Grace for writing the last column while she is laid up. Sends Congratulations to **Ruth and Jake Clouser** of Bernville, PA and says she gets to kiss the bride and loves them both. Also thanks **Joe Hege** for the labels. To **Harold Davis** for his collection of jokes and cartoons. Says 'no news is good news.' She urges all to write so she has something to say in her Newsletter. She has gone back to embroidery and weighs 158 pounds. Urges all to pay their dues and to attend the reunion in Columbus, OH. Sounds like she is a bit down as you folks aren't writing her. Remember she has been doing this and holding the Post together all these years. She needs to read letters from the Rcn Folks. She signs off with Sticky.

POST # 47

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I will be down in Florida in October to keep updated with the progress of the renovation of the property and will keep you informed of the situation in my next report.

New York Post 43

Annual meeting at Turf Inn, Albany, NY went off with out any problems. All officers were reelected. Had a good White Elephant Raffel. Folks seem to like this. We combine this with our 50-50 raffle.

Fall gathering will be in Geneva, NY at the Lakefront Ramada Inn, Oct. 10-13, 2005. This is a Monday through Thursday event. We have a very nice buffet set for Thursday noon followed by our gathering and the 50-50 and White Elephant Raffle.

This is at the end of Seneca Lake, one of the larger Finger Lakes in New York State. The other is Cayuga Lake. This is former Indian country and these lakes are named after Indian Tribes. There are about 50 excellent wineries in this area and a great sight seeing area along with great wines and fruits to stock up on for the winter.

We need your support and we do need reservations for rooms as well as food on Thursday noon. Hope to see you there.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS IN ADVANCE—SPRING MEETING MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND IN ALBANY.

**Ed Bredbenner, Sect*

OUR TEAM MATES

This supplement to the story “The Story of the 80th Division” is written to acknowledge the debt we owe to the attached organizations and units for their outstanding contributions to the great successes attained by our division during its victorious drive across France, Luxembourg, Germany and Austria. Their gallant efforts and ever present support in all engagements with the enemy has earned for them the admiration, respect and heartfelt gratitude of every member of the 80th Division.

702 Tank Battalion

Joining the 80th Infantry at Craon, France on 8 August 1944, the 702nd Tank Battalion battled side by side with the “Blue Ridgers” up to the final day of triumph on the Enns River in Austria.

The capture of Argentan, the dash across France and the embattled bridgehead on the Moselle River gave testimony to the shattering power of the charging armor-infantry combination. As integral part of the 317, 318 and 319th Combat Teams, the companies of the 702nd smashed Nazi machine guns, pillboxes and tanks to aid the on rushing 80th.

On 8 October 1944, during the overwhelming attack on Mt. Toulon, key to the expanding Moselle bridgehead, the 702nd Tankers proved that they could make an “all armored” assault on the Supermen and drive it home. Dashing behind the infantry objective, the “Red Devils” disorganized the hostile rear elements and made possible an annihilating defeat of the surprised Nazi forces.

The Krauts in the Maginot Line, St. Avold, Rundstedts Ardennes Bulge, the Siegfried Line and the crumbling Nazi defenses in Germany and Austria wilted before the terrific blast of a well-coordinated and hard hitting Blur Ridge-Red Devil team.

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633 AAA (AW) Battalion

The 633rd AAA (AW) Battalion joined the Division in the vicinity of Evron, France on 9 August 1944. This association continued throughout the ten months of action seen by the “Blue Ridgers”. Each succeeding month the total of enemy planes damaged or knocked out of the skies increased as the 633rd AAA fulfilled its assignment of protecting ground troops and installations from air attacks. Always on the alert and ready to give the Luftwaffe a warm reception, the 633rd rendered many hostile air missions over the division area ineffective.

However, the number of planes damaged or destroyed tells only a part of the story of the 633rd's assistance in the advances across Europe. Equally noteworthy among the achievements of this organization were the achievements of this organization were the overhead ground support given to the infantry on many occasions. At Mt. Toulon, Mt. St. Jean, Morville Sur Seille, St. Avold, Masseler, and in the breaching of the Siegfried Line, the 633rd fired 424,209 rounds of 50-caliber tracer ammunition in front of the advancing doughboys and helped pave the way through stiff resistance.

610th Tank Destroyer Battalion

On 9 August 1944, shortly after the 80th Division reached the shores of France, the 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion became a part of the “Blue Ridge” forces. IT participated in the bloody battle that closed the Argentan-Falaise Gap and destroyed seven enemy tanks, two 88's and numerous German vehicles in that engagement. During the Moselle River operation, the 610th helped repel strong enemy counterattacks and accounted for seventeen tanks. It added to its score in the drive through the Maginot Line, by knocking out thirteen pillboxes in one day. In support of the 80th Division's counterattack against the Ardennes Bulge, the 610th took a heavy toll of the defending Nazi tanks.

808th Tank Destroyer Battalion

Becoming attached to the 80th Division on 25 September 1944, the 808th Tank Destroyer Battalion early proved its worth by providing anti-mechanized defense and maintaining roadblocks. By its timely and accurate firing of all assigned missions, during the all out push across the SEILLE River, it materially aided in the success of that operation. Until its release from the Division on 21 February 1945, the 808th continued to make the enemy feel its strength.

811th Tank Destroyer Battalion

From 3 February 1945, the 811th Tank Destroyers have moved forward with the 80th Division. Besides accomplishing its primary mission of destroying the enemy armor, it has rendered invaluable assistance in demolishing enemy pillboxes and material. Many times the “dough's” went riding into battle on the decks of the 811 tank destroyers. So successful were the tank destroyers in deriving enemy personnel from buildings many “dough's” referred them as “town destroyers”.

OUT OF THE PAST...

continued from last issue

EXPLOITATION PHASE, 15-18 SEPTEMBER

The period of 15-18 September was devoted to a true operation of exploitation. Strong outposts were stationed on all main roads from CHAMBREY on the north to the RHINE-MARNE CANAL on the south. Raids by small infantry-tank teams were made on towns to the east to the limit of supporting artillery range. Reconnaissance was conducted by Troop D of the 25th Cavalry to a distance of approximately 15 kilometers to the east of MOYENVIC-BOURDONNAY highway. In addition to this, a perimeter defense was maintained on the high ground surrounding ARRACOURT on the south, east, and north.

On 15 September there was no heavy fighting, but large numbers of prisoners were taken and much enemy material was destroyed. At 1130 word was received from division headquarters that the 80th Infantry Division was receiving a heavy counter-attack near STE. GENEVIEVE and that the 1st Battalion of the 318th Infantry was to be returned to the 80th Division at once. It was further ordered that this infantry battalion be escorted by at least one company of medium tanks. At about 1500 the battalion started on its return to the STE. GENEVIEVE escorted by Company C of the 35th Tank Battalion. The operations officer of the 35th tank Battalion was placed in command of this entire force for the return movement. The empty trains of the combat command, carrying approximately 600 prisoners of war, accompanied this task force. Adjustments were made in the perimeter defense to compensate for the loss of infantry battalion and the Tank Company.

At 1800 word was received from this departing force that it had encountered enemy tanks near NOMENY and had suffered some damage. It planned to attack west in the direction of STE. GEVEVIEVE. Shortly thereafter radio contact was lost, nothing further being heard from the force until nearly 1200 on the 16th.

About 1200 on the 16th, Captain Strong, who had commanded the column of command trains accompanying this task force, returned to the bivouac area at ARRACOURT with his trains intact and carrying nearly 100 more prisoners than had departed with the day before. Escorting him was a platoon of Reconnaissance Troop of the 80th Infantry Division. This platoon had been cut off by the enemy near AULNOIS and had joined the task force late the afternoon before.

Captain Strong brought word that the task force had encountered the rear elements of the German force attacking STE. GENEVIEVE. The fight had begun shortly after 1800 of the previous afternoon and had continued through most of the night with each side attacking and, in return, receiving counter-attacks. Just before daylight the task force commander reached the decision that the trains seriously hampered his chances of fighting through the German lines without suffering excessive losses. He accordingly ordered them to return to the bivouac area at ARRACOURT and gave them the reconnaissance platoon, previously mentioned, as an escort. He had expected to attack toward STE. GENEVIEVE at daylight.

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At about 1300 word was received from Headquarters 4th Armored Division that the attack of the task force had been successful and that it had retaken STE. Genevieve with heavy casualties to the enemy, while suffering only light losses itself. For the second time in three days a force from the combat command had taken STE. GENEVIEVE from a determined enemy. After assisting the 80th Division in an attack toward PONT-A-MOUSSON, Company C of the 35th returned to its battalion in the vicinity of LUNEVILLE, traveling a circuitous route to the west of NANCY to do so.

In the meantime Combat Command B was meeting determined resistance in its efforts to cross the RHINE-MARNE CANAL in the vicinity of MAIXE and SOMMERVILLEER, which is about 6 miles southwest of MAIXE. Accordingly, division headquarters ordered the CC Attack to clear the north bank of the canal to assist CC B in its crossing. At 90500 a task force of tanks, infantry, and artillery moved west to accomplish this mission. After clearing the woods west of EINVILLE and the towns of SERRES, HOEVILLE, DROUVILLE, and COURBESSEAUX, contact was made with CC B's 8th Tank Battalion west of DROUVILLE at HARRUCOURT late in the morning. This sweep had broken the German defense, causing the defenders to retreat to the north and west. Addition contact was made with elements of CC B at MAIXE. By 1300 this mission was complete and the task force returned to its original position. CC B crossed the rear of CCA moving to the north and took up position in the vicinity of FRESNES, on the high ground west of CHATEAU-SALINS.

From approximately 1600 on the afternoon of the 14th until CC B had completed clearing the area to the west of CC A, the command had been isolated. During this 48-hour period, 1614 prisoners of war had accumulated in the combat command PW cage. In addition to the requirement of guarding this number of prisoners, the additional problem of feeding and providing medical care for the numerous wounded became acute. Included in this bag of prisoners was one entire German field hospital with nearly 400 patients. The field hospital had been captured by the combat command surgeon late on the afternoon of the 15th, with a scalpel late on the afternoon of the 15th, with a scalpel as his major piece of armament. When he first observed, it had been attempting to escape with all wounded in ambulances. What seems at first amusing might have been disastrous to the surgeon in view of the large quantity of small arms and hand grenades which were discovered when the ambulances and personnel were search after reaching the PW cage.

17 September was uneventful except for receipt of a warning order from division that the command was to move in the direction of SARREGUEMINES early on 19 September.

When CC B had moved to FRESNES on 18 September, the reserve command of the division had occupied LUNEVILLE after the 2d Cavalry Group had received a severe mauling at the hands of the German 11th Panzer Division in the FORET DE PARROY. Now the reserve command was under heavy fire heavy fire from the same famous German division, and it appeared that an assault by that division was imminent. At 1200 the command was ordered to reinforce the reserve command with a minimum force of one medium Tank Company, one field Artillery battalion, and one platoon of tank destroyers. A force of this composition under the command of the executive officer of the 37th Tank Battalion began moving to LUNEVILLE at 1300.

At 1500 the entire command was alerted for possible movement to the south to repel the German attack expected in the LUNEVILLE area, should it develop. The 25 Cavalry Squadron would be attached to CC A and would arrive during the night to screen to the south and southeast. The German attack did not materialize, and the command settled down for the night shortly after dark. At 2300 the 37th Tank Battalion reported hearing an unidentified armored column approaching its position from the direction of BOURDONNAY and pulling off the road approximately a mile to the south of the outpost. Soon this column was identified as enemy and dispersed with artillery fire.

Shortly before midnight the 166th Combat Engineer Battalion moved into their bivouac area and was attached to the command.

DISCUSSION

The four days of this particular phase of the operation can be truthfully called a typical operation of exploitation. It was typified by constant movement within the enemy line by constant movement within the enemy line and the use of fast-moving, aggressive task forces operating from a secure and easily defended base. Isolation for a 48-hour period caused no concern to any member of the command: rather it spurred them to greater alertness and activity. The flexibility of armor was typified in the ability of the command to shift the composition of its task force or combat teams to meet such changing situations as the necessity to assist other friendly elements. Examples of this were the movement of the one such force to STE. GENEVIEVE, another force to LUNEVILLE, and the sweep to the west by a third. Concurrently with these activities, plans were being made to continue the advance to the northeast and preliminary reconnaissance was made toward that end.

To illustrate the comparative damage that can be inflicted upon an enemy in such a situation, the losses suffered by the Germans during these four days included 1070 killed or captured, 16 large caliber guns destroyed, 8 tanks destroyed, and 232 miscellaneous vehicles destroyed. In contrast the total casualties of the combat command during these same four days were 3 killed, 15 wounded, and four tanks knocked out.

next issue: DEFENSIVE PHASE, 19-26 September



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looking forward to seeing you at the 87th Annual Reunion
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Futch, Archer H. PNC G-317 - President
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Cistolo, Felix PNC G-317 - Secretary

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*Bruno Inselmini,
Commander*

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**LANE-HALL
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