

# BLUE RIDGE

The Service Magazine  
Volume 87, Number 348

Spring - 2006  
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

**DON'T MISS  
THE BUS!**

**Columbus, Georgia  
2006**



*... Then, at 1100 the 80th  
Veterans Association moves up  
by bus to Fort Benning for the  
memorial dedication...*

*Submitted by  
Jeff Wignall*

Deadline for the next issue is June 1, 2006


  
**Eightieth**      **Division**
  
**Veterans Association**

**BLUE RIDGE**

**The Service Magazine**

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

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

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Color Sergeant

Sergeant-at-Arms

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**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)

*\* Deceased*

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# COMMANDER'S REPORT

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*Greetings to all our 80th Division Veterans and friends from down on the farm.*

Some of you are aware that we live on a farm some 25 miles south of Columbus, Ohio. We have woods and have firewood available, so most evenings we enjoy a fire in the fireplace. I should add that I also get warm cutting and splitting the wood. The physical exercise is an added bonus.

It's a beautiful day. The sun is shining brightly and the air is a bit chilly, but still a fine day for February 21, 2006. I hope it's just as beautiful where you are.

Annabel and I will be flying to Florida the last of February for a 2-week visit. We will visit friends for a few days and then we will go to Melbourne to attend the Post 47 gathering they have each March. I look forward to visiting friends we have made through our 80th Division Veterans Association. It will also be good to enjoy some Florida weather.

I have talked with PNC Bob Burrows, our Senior Vice Commander and 2006 Reunion Chairman. I am sure everyone is familiar with the fact that we will be meeting in Columbus, Georgia on September 20 - 23, 2006 for the 87th Annual Reunion. We will be dedicating a Memorial on September 22, 2006 on the grounds at Fort Benning, Georgia. Thanks to Dempsey Prappas, Judge Advocate, whose generous contribution started a fund that provided funds for this monument, as well as one we hope to be able to place in the Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

I sincerely hope that we will have a good attendance for this dedication service at the Reunion in September. Traveling for some has been limited due to poor health. If this is the case, we understand, however, we know that your thoughts will be with those in attendance.

Best Regards, Walt Spangler

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## MEMORIAL FUND

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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 1 March 2006.

Forster James C.	H-317 Assoc
In Memory of Pfc Richard L. Forster	
Capt. R.L. Moye	E-317
In Memory of Lt. Henry Walker	
Rosenblum, Howard M.	K-319
Scheftic, Thomas E.	B-317

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## LIFE PLUS CLUB 2005-2006

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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 1 March 2006.

Artino, Sal	A-317
Barr, Jack	G-317
BartHold, Walter	80th Signal
Betty Bowman in memory of her Husband Henry	80th QM
Dolan, John J.	C-319
Frey, Earl B.	E-317
Pfledderer	CN-319
Frohbose, Frederick A.	Friend
In Honor of I. B. Bunn	
Scheftic Thomas E.	B-317
Schultz, Calvin F.	3d Bn Hq 319
Wadley, R. B.	I-319

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## DUES

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I want to thank each of you who have checked your dues date and brought them up to date. It is much appreciated. We have more men on the Life Roster than we have of those who pay the yearly dues. However, there are some of you who still need to catch up. PLEASE look at the front cover and see when you are paid to.

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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De LA Torre, Richard Cn-317th  
327 E. ASH  
Fullerton, CA 92832

Dick, Frank I-317  
1015 Bent Oak Ave # 5  
Adrian, MI 49221-1570

Guss, Donald ?-317  
1605 Eagle Nest Way  
Louisville, KY 40222-3987

Murphy, Thomas H. AT/S2-318  
3615 So. Huron St., Suite 205  
Englewood, CO 80110

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## McBRIDE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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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 1 March 2006.

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# LETTERS

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*Sir:*

My grandpa, Jackson R. Thomas, was in the 80th ETO during WWII. He was in a machine gun and mortar squad. I believe it was the 318th, Co I? He was wounded on the 11th of November, in the leg above the knee, by a German mortar, which landed in a mud ditch. He was carrying a 1917 Browning machine gun, the shell blew him back and the gun landed on his head. He was evacuated to England until spring.

I was wondering if there were a number of your members who might remember my grandpa. He lives near me in central Missouri, and would be very excited to know and possibly hear the voice of someone whom he had served with. Please, please reply to my email. I also know that, in talking with him, my grandpa told me that in Stephen Ambrose's book "Citizen Soldiers", his picture was taken along with some replacements and other GI's and is the bottom picture of "GIs outside the German placement office in Argentan, France. August 20, celebrate putting it out of business." My grandpa is the one standing on the far right with the carbine, which he said he always carried, and still has one to this day. I would appreciate any correspondence concerning the 80th infantry division, and I was excited beyond compare when I found your website.

Michael Thomas, Belle, MO 65013  
573-859-6009, E-mail mlthomas@socket .net

*Thanks...*

In response to my asking for someone to do the 990 Tax Form at the end of the year, Jim Genrty (F-317) a retired Lawyer who has done some tax work and his son who is a CPA came forward to do the job. On behalf of the 80th Division Veterans Association I wish to thank Jim and his son who is a CPA for volunteering.

## NOTICE

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Anyone interested in seeking an office in the next election, any office, to contact Francis Rajnicek PNC, Chairman of the Nomination Committee or any member of the Executive Council.

## ***Don't miss the Bus to Fort Benning for the Memorial to our Departed Comrades!***

The usual Registration and all the other goodies are pretty much the same with a trip to Warm Springs, GA on Thursday. Just 41 miles outside of Columbus lies Warm Springs, Georgia, home to the Little Whitehouse built by Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Roosevelt came to Warm Springs in search of a cure for the polio that had afflicted him in 1921.

Swimming in the warm buoyant waters did bring improvement. In 1945 during his visit to the community (FDR suffered a massive stroke April 12, 1945 while the 80th was at Weimar, Germany) while his portrait was being painted. The "Unfinished Portrait" is the focal point of the Little Whitehouse tour!

Your letter of invitation to our 87th Annual Reunion will be arriving in your mailbox in early May. We are looking for a very good turnout to honor all those who have gone before us. Won't you please make the trip to Columbus?

We have the active 80th Division Training Institution for our Color Guard. To augment the ceremony an 80th GI each carrying a Unit Flag accompanied by one of our own WWII men and a descendant representing their Father, Uncle, etc of WW I, i.e. 317th Infantry, 313th Field Artillery and 305th Combat engineers, etc.

Plans are for the Memorial Service to begin at 10:00 A.M. at Fort Benning, with Lunch on the Post at 11:30 and our Dedication Service to begin at 1:30 P.M.

We have the support of the Department of the Army, United States Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning GA. and our own 80th Division, Stationed at Camp Lee, VA

### ***...for a smile...***

The elderly American gentleman arrived in Paris by plane. At French Customs he fumbled for his passport. "You 'ave been to France before, mosieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically. The old gent admitted that he had been in France previously. "Zen, you should know enough to 'ave your passport ready for inspection." The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it. "Impossible, you Americans always 'ave to show your passports on arrival in France!" The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly said, "Well when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day 1944, I couldn't find any Frenchman to show it.

Q: What's the deference between a fighter pilot and a jet engine?

A: A jet engine stops whining when the plane shuts down.

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## MAIL BAG

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Just received a letter from **CONSTANT GOERGAN** stating that the U. S. VETERANS FRIENDS WEEK for 2006 Starts on June 21st and will end on June 26th.

Begin making your plans now. Don't wait until the last minute. Help the committee in Luxemburg plan for your Hotel, transportation for the week, food and your arrival at the Airport or R.R. Station.

CONSTANT made it very clear that everyone that was a Veteran of "The Battle of the Bulge", related to one of those Veterans, or has a Historical interest in the Battle of the Bulge or just wanted to see the Battlefields of Luxembourg, was invited to take part in the U S VETERANS FRIENDS CELEBRATION during the week of June 21st to the 26th of June.

If you need more information or have a question concerning the trip or how to plan for the trip, I will be glad to help in any way I can. Don't hesitate to get in touch with me. If I don't know the answer. I will do my best to find out for you.

Give your self-a wonderful Birthday present, Vacation or the trip to Luxembourg you have wanted to take for years. This is your chance.

**G. Virgil Myers, Pres. Chapter #32 VBOB, Lakeland, Fl.**

Congratulations to **EDGAR C. WILSON** Headquarters 905th Field Artillery who recently received the "Certificate of Appreciation" from General Peter J. Schoomaker, U.S. Army Chief of Staff. Does any one know of or remember General Patton sending a GI from the 319th to round up and bring back the Lipizzan Horses?

### ***An Idea:***

I get together with my former squad leader, Sgt. Remo Etzel, every year or two. It's difficult because he lives in Utah and I'm here in Maryland. We met last year in Provo, Utah. He brought his wife, three daughters, and a granddaughter to our lunch get-together. The girls wanted to come because they said their father-grandfather didn't talk much of his war days, and then maybe I would loosen him up and add something. Remo's granddaughter, Valerie Nuttall, brought a video camera, and recorded our stories, then put it on DVDs, one of which she sent to me. Now... here is my idea for those vets who may be interested. The DVD has been a great hit with my family, children and grandchildren. They have learned things and generally enjoyed our stories. I suggest that many of our families would like to have us record at least some of our experiences. In many instances they will find that their children and/or grandchildren have the appropriate video equipment. Probably many are way ahead of me on this, but others may want to think about doing it. Just an idea. Jim Gentry F-317

### ***317th Third “Cavalry” Bn***

Not the only, but certainly the finest “Blue ridge” riding academy is maintained by the 317th Infantry Regiment’s Third Battalion. When, in closing days of the war, the crack German 2nd Cavalry Division surrendered to the 317th in Austria, the Third Battalion acquired some of the finest mounts in Europe.

Pfc. Quinton J. Howell, who like the rest of the family has handled horses all his life, was put in charge of these Blue ribbon steeds. Expert equestrian Howell saved the better part of the herd in Austria when two trucks from the 101st Airborne caused them to stampede just outside of Leizen. Riding a bucking jeep, cowboy fashion, he succeeded in corralling thirty of the superb saddle horses while twenty-two were lost.

### ***135 Mile Trek***

When the third Battalion moved from Austria to Germany, no train space was available for the horses, so Howell, Pfc’s. John Yaune, James Tolme and A.C. Stazack rounded up and rode the herd 135 miles, from Tweng, Austria, to Kirkdorf Germany. The saddle soldiers took four days to hoof it. Anyone remember this?

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



#### **THE DESCENDANTS OF 80TH DIVISION VETERANS**

are looking forward to joining all of the Veterans at their annual reunion in Columbus, Georgia. We invite everyone to participate in our meeting, and to contribute to displays of memorabilia that our group will sponsor. If you have artifacts you would like to display, donate or sell, please contact us.

By authority of Lee S. Anthony, Ph.D.,  
Co-Commander

**Visit our website: [www.80thdescendants.com](http://www.80thdescendants.com)**





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# TAPS

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Burk, Henry S.           HQ 315 FA BN  
1891 Farmview Road  
Maple Glen, PA 19002-2910  
Date unknown  
Rptd by Alma Burke

Capps, Ernest P.       I-319  
1385 J T Heath Road  
Williamston, NC 27892  
2/5/06 Rptd by Roy F. Cantrell

Carlwell, Warren N.   B-905 FA Bn  
C/o 4 Abbott Road  
Keene, NH 03431  
12/05 Rptd by Daughter Sue

Coleman, John P.      2d Bn Hq 319  
Marysville, TN  
2/11/06 Rptd by Edgar Wilson

Corthell, Charles     I 319  
1761 Silver Lake Blvd Apt 319  
Alexandria, VA 22315  
7/05 Rptd by Roy F. Cattrell

De Chario, Sal         F-317  
Bronx, NY  
11/11/05 Rptd by Gaylord Smith

Diekl, Erle K. Jr.     2nd Bn AT 317  
925 New Garden Road Apt 401  
Greensboro, NC 27410-3255  
1/12/06 Rptd by Wife Charlotte

Feldman, Louis        I-319  
3801 E. Galbraith Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45236  
1/9/06 Rptd by Betty Cammerer

Foerster, Richard Henry   C-305 Eng  
4217 Lilic Vista Drive  
Louisville, KY 40241-7101  
1/17/06 Rptd by Ruth Hanson

Fraleigh, Willis        A-313Th FA Bn  
1265 Wayne Ave.  
Kenova, WV 25530-1858  
12/10/05 Rptd by Ann Hatcher

Haning, Harold         C-319  
Co 7115 Old Prose Court  
Dublin, OH 43017  
Rptd by Daughter Karen

Horton, Max            G-317  
212 Rosemarie Drive Apt 9  
Lebanon, OH 450-1266  
1/23/04 Rptd by wife Jean

Jones, Lynn P.         F-319  
403 Thorngate Drive  
Brandon, MS 39042  
12/29/05 Rptd by wife Nina

Nase, Anthony         Cannon 318  
8211 Deerfield Drive  
Parma, OH 44129-4332  
12/8/05 Rptd by Son

Parker, William (Billy) Eugene  
Hq Co 3rd Bn 318  
Bedford, VA  
12/31/05 Rptd by Dr. Lee Anthony

Peterson, James A.    C-318  
301 Winthrop Terrace  
Bedford, MA 01730-1270  
6/05  
Rptd by Wife

Pilkinton, William H. L-317  
6408 Forrest Commons Blvd  
Indianapolis, IN 46227-7104  
7/28/05 Returned marked deceased

Solimando, Joseph L-318  
7 Henry Street  
Emerson, NJ 07630  
?/2000 Rptd by Son

Stumcke, John C. M-318  
215 Bicentennial Hwy Apt 301  
Springfield, MA 01118-9962  
Rptd by Bill Ritchie

Terrizzi, Frank, PNC F-318  
1925 Larkin Road  
Boothwyn, PA 19061-2716  
1/25/06 Rprd By Angelo Barone

Terry, Benjamin F-318  
1 Brett Court Apt 220  
Essex, MD 21241-1411  
12/12/05 Rptd by daughter  
Norma Jean

Thornell, Max F-319  
972 Old Ware Road  
Wetumpka, AL 36093  
1/4/06 Rptd by Son-in-law James Hill

Valko, Raymond F. (Dutch)  
Unit unknown  
Latrobe, PA  
12/14/05 Rptd by Louise Fritz

I have been notified that the unit for  
Burton A. Kellerman was A-318  
He was listed in last issue.



# POST NEWS

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## NOTICE TO ALL POSTS

### Post Ads are now due for 2006

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#### **Brett Post # 3**

The 80th Division Veterans Association Brett Post #3 Christmas Party was enjoyed on December 8 at the DeNunzio's Italian Chophouse, Arnold Palmer Regional Airport, Unity Township. Post Commander Bruno Inselmini made the arrangements, assisted by fellow Post Members. Association Secretary/Editor Bob Murrell and his wife Doris were in attendance, as well as Bruno's nephew Gary Lamolinara and his wife Dana. Presented to John Pollock was a German Flag from the Field command Headquarters of the Siefried Line, signed by several hundred of his comrades. Also in attendance were: Helen Beers, Joe Boronyak, Jennie Cassioni, Bud Early and guest Erma Dougherty, Mike and Dorothy Evanovich, Ray and Louise Fritz, Paulette Kimkowski and guest Ruth Ursetta, Virginia Martin, Ada Park, Anna Pollock and Mary Rubino. Everyone enjoyed the good food along with a variety of cookies and candies made and donated by the wives of the Veterans. All the tables were decorated with poinsettia centerpieces and pine cone Christmas trees favors. Several prizes were awarded. Louise Fritz

#### **3rd Battalion 317th Post #36**

##### *A few messages from Christmas cards:*

Dolly Crofott is doing pretty good except for arthritis and other aches. Her two daughters help her and take her shopping. They both are her angles looking over her. She still plays Bingo three times a week. Dolly misses the reunions, good friends, and the good times they shared.

John and Simone Daniel say their health is holding and send Holiday Greetings. Opal Finch is still able to be in her home and is doing well. Bob and Pauline Parks are fair but say they could be better. They send their love and prayers.

Bill Petrollini had surgery on his kidneys and is waiting for final results. We hope you a good report, Bill. Leroy Pierce enjoyed the Columbus Reunion. His sons let him work in their store at least twice a week doing the accounting. Leroy is getting along well, but misses Nancy very much.

Jeff and Mary Wignall are fine. Jeff has been remodeling the kitchen since right after the reunion. He hasn't been outdoors other than runs to Home Depot in all that time. They did have a quick trip to D.C. at the end of September to attend their son's promotion ceremony at the Pentagon. Congratulations on your son's promotion.

Joe and Pauline Zabitchuck are about the same. Pauline has been taking care of Joe for seven years since his stroke. He is confined to a wheelchair can't talk or walk. Joe and Pauline wish all a happy, healthy New Year.

Willis Tarpley of 5090 County Road 52, Anderson, AL 35610-5138 is now in a wheel chair all crippled up with Rheumatoid Arthritis. He would appreciate any cards or letters you may send him.

Just heard from Bob Smith. He is very happy in his new apartment in California and is now walking with a cane and driving. Glad to hear the good news, Bob.

Your secretary is recuperating after heart problems and pneumonia. I want to thank all that called, wrote and sent cards.

Keep the news coming; we all want to know how things are going. Our prayers are with those who are ill and have physical problems.

Bob Nathason, Sect.

New address: 1739 Faunce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19111 (Rose says he is more comfortable living with his sister than where he was living before.)

### **Post 44 Company M 318th Inf.**

On the night of 27 December Bill Ritche called and informed me of the death of Jack Stumcke. Bill related how he had just visited Jack on 8 November, but that Jack was heavily sedated and didn't know him. Bill and Jack were buddies of the mortar platoon. It was in Sonthofen, Germany that I first met Jack when the NCO Club was formed, both Jack and I were officers in that club. After the first meeting we were very close.

Jack made several Reunions and he and I always had a good time just talking and remembering. While traveling the New England States, we had put up in a hotel in Boston. I called Jack to let him know we were to visit him the next day. Without our knowing, Jack made the trip from Springfield to Boston and checked us out of the Hotel. A knock on the door and there stood Jack with a Porter and telling us he had checked us out of the hotel and we were to spend the night with he and Clair. That night we had steaks on his porch and spent the night with him. A few years later we had gone to Nova Scotia and on the return we again stopped to see Jack and Clair. As we were leaving he asked that we not come again as it was too hard for Clair to come down the steps. (She had a very bad heart condition and the doctor had told her one trip down the steps a day.) We still maintained contact both by letter and the Telephone. His last call to me was in early November. That was the last I heard from Jack. Good Bye my good and faithful Buddy and Friend. I will miss you.

Bob Murrell

## **FLORIDA POST # 47**

Some good news to report, our March meeting will be held the wholly rebuilt (renovated) hotel in Indiatlantic, Florida, formerly the Holiday Inn now the Crown Plaza. The sand beach which was completely washed away with the hurricane has been restored. They have enlarged the sun deck and pool area. The rooms are more luxurious and beautifully appointed. We are looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Our place is now completely repaired. New flooring, patio, carport, skirting and heating and cooling ducts. This we were able to have completed at under the insurance coverage, so now Kay is going to add a few new features \$\$\$.

Sorry to report the loss of a long time friend and member of the Post Urban Weinheimer who passed away November 10, 2005. We also offer our condolences to John Firestone on the loss of wife Marjorie.

Its time to start planning for our National Reunion in September and our Post meeting the end of October. The Post meeting will be at the Hampton Inn in Ocala, Florida more information will be in the next report.

Francis Rajnicek, Sect.

### **Company L 319th Inf.**

This has been a really crazy winter season. I am putting this report together on the 26th of February. On the 19th we had 17 inches of snow and the other day, on the 22nd, there were Robins in my back yard and the daffodils are now 6 to 8 inches out of the ground. Almost all of January was like Spring and the snow-storm was quite a shocker.

Bill Krehbiel told me that the temperatures in Kansas have been hovering around 60 degrees during the day and between 20 to 40 during the night with no rain or snow. His county has imposed a Burn Ban and he has had to water his front yard at least once a week to keep it from totally drying out. Bill and Billie made a trip to the Ozarks on Valentine's Day to visit their son Dane and his family and returned to Halsted to attend their church Valentine Banquet on the February 18th.

I received a Birthday card from Lou Blatz and he wrote that the mother of his children passed away on December 18th and his 94-year-old sister passed away on November 1st. He also lost his closest friend on October 10th. A tough period for Lou and I know that you join me in expressing our deep sorrow to Lou for the loss he has suffered.

John Balas E-mailed me that Helen's condition is status quo and that she is scheduled to see a Specialist for a heart evaluation. John has his annual check-up at the VA and things are unchanged from last year. John and Helen expect to attend the Reunion in Georgia.

Jim Young loves to cruise and will be taking a Mediterranean cruise in May. He will leave from Charlotte and sail to Istanbul, Turkey with a visit to Athens and other stops in Greece, then on to Baltic Ports to Venice and some Mediterranean Islands in the south of France, then Spain and ending up in Lisbon Portugal and return to Charlotte. Sounds like a great trip and we wish Jim and his traveling companion Dr. Vera Hyman a wonderful and safe journey.

John and Betts Flynn made a trip to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico but it was not a great trip for John. John had a very severe cough most of the trip and wound up in the Hospital on their return with Bronchitis. John is in the Hospital as I write this but is expected to be released in the next 48 hours. Betts had a good time, got plenty of sunshine and returned with a good tan.

Maria and I received Christmas cards from Faye Anderson, Pearl Grady, Lorraine Sciece and Helen Hudock. These great ladies, the wives of our deceased combat buddies all seem to be doing well and enjoying life as best as they can.

I had a nice letter from Bill Siebert. He told me he was saddened by the news that Joe Lis and Pat DiCicco had passed away.

They were close friend of Bill's during the closing months of the war.

A special note about certain of our Company L Comrades. Did you know that three (3) of our members were awarded a total of fifteen (15) Purple Hearts for wounds received in action. Each man received five (5) and they were Jack Barrett, Joe Doyle and Glenn Gainer. An interesting story about the award of the 5th Purple Heart to Jack Barrett can be read on pages 161 and 162 of Bill Krehbiel's book, Company L World War History.

As you know from last report that Maria fell and broke her arm. Finally on the 7th of February she was discharged by the Orthopedic Doctor and by her Therapist on February 8th. On the 14th of February, Valentine's Day, she went outside to pick up the morning paper, slipped on the ice and fell and broke her wrist, luckily on the left wrist as she is right handed. She broke her arm on Labor Day and then her wrist on Valentine's Day. So in the future, I will be sure she stays in bed on all Holidays.

I hope that all of you who are reading this article are formulating plans to attend the Reunion in Columbus, GA. It will be great to get together again. See you there.

Hank Einolf

## Lane Hall Post # 42

Hi Everyone, the holidays are over and I am sure, for some of our members, it turned out great, some of course, miss people they used to share them with, and others are looking forward to the next ones.

It was so great receiving cards from so many of our members, and knowing that they were well and looking forward to having their families and friends able to share the holidays with them. Received a great picture from Cara Lee and Don Davis, and also a lovely picture of them with their grandchildren. They had been travelling quite a bit and visited Don's 80th Division comrade and his wife, Dempsey and Mary Pappas in Galveston & Houston. They also visited the big Island of Hawaii with their son and his family. Bless them, they are a very energetic twosome and we wish them all the best.

I also heard from Audrey and John Ingles, who wrote how much they miss joining us at the reunions. Well Audrey and John, we miss you both very much.

It was great hearing from Herman and Kathleen Newsome, from Rainsville, AI. Hearing from all of our old friends makes the holidays for me. Paul Burgio and Mary, who we miss seeing at the reunions, but he always calls me after the reunions to check up on everyone, he is still so much a part of the 80th. And the holidays would not go on without a loving card from Bob and Pauline Parks. And so very happy to hear from Ann Hatcher.

Also received a very nice note from Max Wheelwright. He has been busy attending weddings of his grandson's. At least it is something pleasant and hated missing the reunions but is looking forward to the next one.

And was very happy to hear from Earl and Eunice King from Louisiana. Happy to know that they are fine since the Katrina happenings. Ida Magnuson, sent me a note at Christmas time also, and misses hearing about the 80th activities. She does not receive the Blue Ridge and misses it very much. And Mary Bettencourt wrote to tell me how much she misses Frank, she and Frank had been married 56 years. I am sure she has some very good memories to hold on to.

The cards at Christmas time from the 80th members are so great, sort of brings me closer to everyone, even though we are so far away from each other.

Heard from Alice Noxon about B.J. Thyne & Pennell, B.J. was operated on for Cancer on January 16, 2005. The surgery, turned out well but Alice wrote she is still in I.C.U. let us hope that things will get better for her and that she will soon be on her way to a full recovery.

Received a copy of the following letter from Don Abbruzzese, it is addressed to U.S. Veterans friends Luxembourg A.S.B.I.



*Dear American Veterans and Friends:*

*Christmas 2005! What a wonderful time to remember, what a wonderful time to be grateful and to honor all those women and men in American uniforms who, some 61 years ago, came to our country to liberate Luxembourg from four and a half years cruel Nazi tyranny. We shall always remember American Veterans. You are the living legacy of a painful past and now you are our true ambassadors of peace and freedom.*

*Today, more than 60 years ago, are we still realizing what drama shook our countries and our families at that time? Even now, are we able to measure the sacrifices made by our liberators? Even now, are we ready to give a daily thank you to those who sacrificed their youth and their dreams for our freedom? These are just some of the important human values on the altars of the gods of greed and degradation.*

*In the American Military cemetery at Hamm, Luxembourg, five thousand seventy six stars remind us that these young Americans sacrificed their lives for our survival and our well being. The message these soldiers who fell on the front lines of the Ardennes battlefield beg us to cherish life, our families and our neighbors. They implore us not to refuse anybody the right to their life and their human dignity, nor to impose any dangerous political, economic or social system on anyone else. This message of peace, freedom, independence and realization of human values is joined by the same message from the thousands of German soldiers buried in the German cemetery close by. Fate made them enemies in their worldly lives, but now they implore us from eternity where they are reunited and united, to live a brotherly life where selfishness and strife for power have no place.*

*May all they who thrive on power and domination meditate over the tombs in all the military cemeteries strewn over the countries? May they reflect on the messages of the millions of lives lost on the battlefields from antiquity to today? May they learn the lesson of history?*

*Dear veterans, Luxembourg has not forgotten. From the depths of our hearts we all thank you. We wear in our hearts the noble words spoken by President Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg "We highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, it is for us the living, to be dedicated to the unfinished work which they, who fought here, have thus far so nobly advanced."*

*Our gratitude to our Veterans and heroes is boundless. We salute and adore you and invite you to visit us whenever the mood strikes you. You have a permanent invitation and you are always welcome.*

*Our American-Luxembourg's friendship week will be held next year from June 21st to June 26th. You know you are always welcome to join us.*

*We wish you a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and Healthy, New Year*

*Constant Goergen, President.*

Dom called in February; he had spent two weeks visiting friends in Florida, and enjoyed himself very much. It was good hearing from him.

Received a letter today, February 2, from Jim Phillips, he wrote: After giving our tentative mini-reunion a lot of thought and some checking around Lancaster, Pa. I decided not to have a mini-this year. It is a long distance for 90% of our members, and at our age, it is very hard to make a firm commitment. The mind and heart are willing but the remainder of the body is falling apart, and might not stand the trip.

The hotels and motels are asking how many rooms to block, how many days and how many people, which is hard to say. They also want up front security deposits. Since we do not have too much in our treasury, we cannot do this. I am sorry for this bad news, I will return all the information sent to me, since there maybe some people who still may want to make the trip on their own. Ruth and I may try to go to the National Reunion in Georgia, but time will tell. Jim Phillips.

In the meantime, I have been corresponding with a gentleman from Austria. He tells me he is in contact with about 20 others who were responsible for liberating Austria. He sent me a picture of himself and a friend standing in the front of Hitler's former home. His name is Hannes Eichsteiner, Ried. If anyone would like to contact him I have his address.

I guess that is all the news for this time, please don't hesitate to call me if you have any information about anyone in our group, I may try to go to the National, but nothing definite as yet. Frances Poletti 28 Arnold Lane, Rowayton, Ct. 06853 203-855-1928.

### **Company H 319th Inf. Post 33**

Time seems to fly by as it is again time by as it is again time to get some info to the Blue Ridge troops.

Recently the weather seems to be the topic of conversation. Here in the Midwest we have had above average temperatures, until February, then winter seems to have hit with a vengeance.

I did have a letter from Cornelius Gordon of N.J. He is seeking information about a buddy he thought to be Co.H from Oregon. As Cornelius was in the I&R Platoon, I think he may have the wrong Company. If any one has an idea about Cornelius please write to him: Cornelius J. Gordon, 1308 Coventry Ct, Iselin, NJ 08830.

I spoke with Irv and Hilda both are doing well, but do have minor medical problems. The Beebes are still up and about and with Dr. Rx's are doing fine. John visits Joe Richle every now and then. Joe will soon be busy with his gardening.

Spoke with Lois Kudma, she is enjoying the Florida winter in the sunshine state.

Reggie and Carol are wintering in South Texas. Naturally golf is the main past time. Enjoy while you can!!!!

Even heard from Bellevue. Ginny has had a bout with bronchitis, so Nick says she is now chief cook and bottle washer. This, I think, I have to see to believe.

Sorry, Barb, that the Colts slogan is—now wait until next year. Nick says Seattle also has the same feelings. Yes, we in St. Louis know the feeling. Bill and Wilma are still the same, enjoying life to the hilt.

I do have a slight problem, a blood vessel leaking behind my right pupil. I may have a major sight problem. Will return to the doctors to find out if the blood is diminishing and if my sight problem is not a problem but was only a concern.

God Bless, Ohly



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## **OUT OF THE PAST...**

### **continued from last issue**

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#### **Crossing the Rhine River**

The Germans remaining in the RHINE MAIN arc give the XX Corps commander General Walker, and his staff little pause. Even a cautious G-2 could find reason to believe that but one divisional unit and a hodgepodge of lesser forces defended there, and the estimate of even one divisional unit was actually in error. To the Germans it was quite apparent that WIESBADEN and the surrounding sector were soon to be either captured or encircled; the Americans in the bridgeheads both north and south of the city, would see to that. With this in prospect, no one on the scene would have been willing to leave sizable forces in the threatened arc, even had they been available.

The same provisional XII Corps that had come to grief in the OPPENHEIM bridgehead had borne responsibility for this part of the front as well until mid-day 25 March, when General Kniess and the staff of his LXXXV Corps arrived. Theirs was a thankless, hopeless task; part of the staff had trouble even getting to the scene. Having been sent northward by Army Group G, the staff found American armored pouring out of the OPPENHEIMER bridgehead and had to make a long detour to the east to avoid it, not to mention having the usual difficulty with ubiquitous American fighter bombers that circumscribed almost all movement in daylight.

When General Kniess took over from the provisional XII Corps on 25 March, he inherited only one divisional unit, the weak, almost ineffectual 159th Infantry Division, which was still south of the MAIN RIVER. He had promise of three others, of which only one, the skeleton of an infantry division sent from the First Army, actually arrived. The other two were the 11th Panzer Division, fast becoming the fire horse of the front now that the 9th Panzer Division had virtually expired at COLOGNE, and the 6th SS Mountain Division, the latter ordered out of the lines of the LXXXIX Corps just before the U.S. VIII Corps established a bridgehead across the RHINE gorge; but both would become involved with units breaking out of the VIII Corps bridgehead before they could reach General Kniess's sector.

Responsible for defending the MAIN RIVER at FRANKFORT opposite MAINZ, General Kneess had to focus his attention on the MAIN RIVER cities, since American armor was already racing toward them from OPPENHEIM bridgehead. When a request to OB WEST for permission to withdraw from the RHINE-MAIN arc drew the usual blunt refusal, Kniess and the Seventh Army commander, General Felber, resorted to what Felber's chief of staff "the well tested method" of withdrawal most of the troops from the arc, leaving a weak shell in place to maintain a semblance of defense.

By that move Felber and Kniess wrote off the RHINE-MAIN arc and laid plans for a new defensive line extending north from FRANKFORT. Just what troops were left in the arc by nightfall of 27 March neither of them knew for sure; but as of two days before, there had been available to defend the almost twenty-five miles of RHINE-MAIN frontage only three infantry replacements battalions with some engineer support, two artillery battalions and scattered anti-aircraft detachments.

The connivance with Kniess to abandon the RHINE-MAIN arc was one of General Felber's last acts as commander of the Seventh Army. Somebody had to pay for the failure, however inevitable, to prevent the American crossing of the RHINE at OPPENHEIMER. That somebody was the army commander. Later on 26 March, Felber relinquished his command to General der Infanterie Hans von Obstfelder, a former interim commander of the First Army. General Kniess unable to do anything about either the armored spearheads spreading from OPPENHEIMER or American crossings into the RHINE-MAIN arc, would follow Felber into Hitler's doghouse only three days later.

It was a noisy little war the 80th Division staged at MAINZ and a few miles away on the MAIN River before daylight on 28 March, but few, on the American side at least, were hurt. Following a half-hour artillery preparation, men of the 317th Infantry pushed out in assault boats at 0100 from slips and docks of the MAINZ waterfront, despite a blaze of German fireworks, mainly small arms and 20-mm. anti-aircraft fire. Once, the troops were ashore, the Germans mounted two small counterattacks, which like the fire on the river produced more tumult than effect. By the end of the day contingents of follow-up regiment had cleared WIESBADEN and more than 900 Germans had thrown up their hands; the 317th Infantry had not lost not a man killed and only five wounded. One of the more noteworthy events of the day was capture of a warehouse with 4,000 cases of champagne.

The 319th Infantry meanwhile encountered less clamor along the MAIN opposite HOCHHEIM but took a few more losses, 3 men KIA, 3 MIA, 16 wounded; there too it looked more like theatrics staged by condottieri than genuine battle. By early afternoon the 319th had linked its bridgehead solidly with that of the 317th, and bridge construction was proceeding apace with scarcely a round of German shellfire to interfere.

The Third Army's third major RHINE bridgehead came easy. Even those who believed their audacious army commander might have spared his troops a third assault crossing by using one of the bridgeheads previously established could find little quarrel with the outcome.

All of the Past National & Honorary Commanders are  
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