

BLUE RIDGE

The Service Magazine
Volume 88, Number 356

Winter - 2007
Issue 4

80th Infantry
Blue Ridge Division



Only Moves Forward

A.E.F.	E.T.O.
1917-1919	1942-1946
Artois-Picardy	Northern France
St. Mihiel	Ardennes
Meuse-Argonne	Rhineland
Battle Deaths 1232	Central Europe
Casualties 5000	Battle Deaths 3,480
	Casualties 12,484

In remembrance of our 80th Division comrades
who died and served in WWI and WWII

Official Publication of the 80th Division Veterans Association, Inc.
Deadline for the next issue is March 1, 2008



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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Flag Sergeant	
Color Sergeant	
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Davis (K-319)
Public Affairs Officer	HNC George V. West (C-318)
Division Photographer	Tom Pappas (F-318)

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1 Year: PNC Felix Cistolo (G-317)
2 Year: PNC Walter W. Spangler (A-319)
3 Year: PNC Robert W. Smith (K-317)

2 Year

Gerald V. Myers (G-317)
Laverne J. Schock (F-317)
Tom Pappas (F-318)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1 Year

Emil Magolin (B-305 Med)
Burt R. Marsh (M-319)
PNC Russell P. Sick (305 Eng)

3 Year

HNC George V. West (C-318)
Robert Moorhead (F-317)
Robert J. McDonald (F-319)

* Deceased

COMMANDER'S CORNER

*Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year*

*The Commander sends greetings
to each and everyone in the 80th
along with their Families*

Emer G. Dorsten (A-318)

LIFE PLUS CLUB 2007-2008

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 December 1, 2007.

Bedient, Francis	R. G-317
Poletti, Francis	Lane Hall Post
Tagmeyer, Nathan	B-319

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

H. P. Becnel B-318
116 Laguna Lane
Lafayette, LA 70508

Myers, Leon "Shorty" ?-319
1007 Oak
Marysville, KS 66508

**Additional copies of the MEMORIAL NEWSLETTER:
DEDICATION ISSUE are available. Send \$5 to Robert Murrell, Editor,
630 Pennsylvania Ave., Oakmont, PA 15139-1574**

TAPS

Beck, Richard A. HQ Co. 319
4655 Meadowgreen Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15236-1846
Rptd by Ray Dumrauf

Crafton, John D. 80th Signal
100 Burr Court
Chesapeake, VA 23320-6002
8/7/07 Rptd By wife Laura

Dottery, Harold C. 80th Rcn
108 Seminole Drive
Marysville, TN 37804-4337
10/7/07 Rptd by Edgar Wilson

Fraikes, Homer L. I-319
1110 Davison Street
Joliet, IL 60433-8512
4/7/07 Rptd by Daughter

Hagist, Franklin A. L-318
1317 James Buchanan Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022-3101
11/24/07 Rptd By Jim Phillips

La Framboise, Benjam J. M-318
Bay City, Mich 1
0/4/07 Rptd by Wm. C. Kuhl

March, Waren L. Hq-317
464 Buck Hollow Road
Birdsboro, PA 19508-8266
11/20/07 Rptd by Lou Shirey

Mastern, William W. 780-Ord
6 Indian Mound Road
Lebanon, IN 45036
Rptd by wife

Roberts, Ralph C-318
10819 Faitmont Village Drive
Lakeworth, FL
5/8/07 Rptd By G. West

Rosenblum, Howard M. K-319
5401 Zelzah Ave. Apt 120
Encino, CA 91316-2224
8/14/07 Rptd by Son Richard



It is my sad duty to report the death
of our 2nd Vice Commander
SHELDON STANLEY, L-318

3905 Arthur Street
Columbia Hts, MN 55421-4135
10/26/07

Commander Dorsten and PNC Rus-
sell Sick made the trip to Minneap-
olis after returning from the Florida
meeting to represent the 80th at the
Interment.

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 1
December 2007.

MEMORIAL FUND

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have omitted your name please let
me know so I may give you credit.
Last date I have entered a name 1
December 2007.

In Memory of Ernest A. Barth F-318
by the Barth Family

Luxembourg - American Friendship Week

June 19 - June 24, 2007

*The following comments are presented by
G. Virgil Myers, Co. G 317 Reg. 80th Division.*

This is a summary of our trip to Luxembourg June 2007 where we took part in the annual "Luxembourg—American Friendship Week's Celebrations". This annual series of Veterans celebrations are planned and sponsored by "The U.S. Veterans Friends Organization of Luxembourg" to honor those American Veterans that fought in "The Battle of the Bulge" and others that helped free Luxembourg from the Nazi forces.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19: Bobbie and I arrived at the Luxembourg City Airport at 11:10 am by Northwest and KIM via Amsterdam. Waiting for our arrival at the terminal was Constant Goergan, Marco Eifes, Renee Schlosser and Denise Thill. This group makes an exerted effort to meet every person coming to Luxembourg by plane or train for this week's celebrations. We were transported to the Euro Hotel in Gonderange, Luxembourg just 15 minutes from the airport where we rested and napped that afternoon to ease the jet lag we normally feel after the long flight to Luxembourg City.

At 7:00 p.m. the U.S. Veteran's Friends had a welcome reception at the Euro Hotel for all visitors. Snacks, drinks and programs for the week were given out. Name tags and a lot of pictures were taken. Everyone had a chance to get acquainted. We were told an air-conditioned bus would pick us up the next day at 1:00 p.m. sharp and for us to be sure to get our sleep for it is a long afternoon.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20: To start this week's celebrations we were met at the hotel by a modern high profile air-conditioned bus furnished to the group by the U.S.V.F. at no cost to the group for the whole time we were there. Everyone was ready to board the bus 15 minutes before time to leave. Christian was our driver again this year. He can drive the big bus better than most people can drive a jeep. It was a comfortable, safe and enjoyable way to tour Luxembourg all week. The group of 57 people had a ball together. The 80th IT Inf. Division Headquartered in Virginia was so cooperative. General Evans dispatched 6 color guards, a bugler, a photographer and 2 staff people to direct the soldiers and carry out their responsibilities while attending the celebrations. They displayed the colors and the 80th flag along with the 80th battle streamers at every monument we stopped at to honor during the celebrations.

We had a grand tour of Luxembourg City. We visited the old city and the old forts built in the cliffs that surround the entire old city. They took us through the new part where the European General Secretariate of the European Parliament holds court, the European court of Justice and the Court of Auditors all have high rise new buildings, schools for their children and apartments all newly built. There are 228 international banks located in Luxembourg City.

After the tour of the city we visited the Foundation Pescatore Building where General Patton had his headquarters from December through March. This is where his famous prayer of the Battle of the Bulge was written. Copies of Patton's prayer are always available in the chapel there.

General Patton's granddaughter, Helen Patton- Plusczyk read the prayer as she said she thought her grandfather would have said it. Medal of Honors for all Veterans and family members for KIA Veterans were given out at the Pescatore Chapel to all those that had never received it before. Next we were taken to the office of the Luxembourg City Mayor who is also a Member of Parliament. We had refreshments and the mayor thanked the veterans for what we did during WWII for her country.

At 6:00 p.m. we arrived at Hamm Cemetery where we had the showing of the colors, and flowers were placed for the unknown soldiers in the cemetery chapel. The American Ambassador, Ann Wagner, gave a greeting to everyone visiting Luxembourg and especially the WWII Veterans. The color guard and bugler were the high point of the celebration.

At 7:15 p.m. we arrived at the Oetrang Culture Center where certain American, Luxembourg, German and Belgium people were presented "The Chapel of Four Chaplain Certificates". This ceremony was followed by a beautiful banquet prepared by the people of Oetrang, Luxembourg. We arrived at the hotel at 11: 00 p.m. What a day!

THURSDAY, JUNE 21: This morning the bus picked us up at 9:30 a.m. and took us to Dudeldange, Luxembourg located on the Luxembourg- French border directly south of the Luxembourg City about 35 kilometers south of our hotel. The first thing on the schedule was the dedication of a new monument to U.S. Soldiers who fought in the Dudeldange area in WWII. The American Ambassador, Ann Wagner, helped dedicate the new monument along with the color guard and bugler who did a stellar job even though we were having a rain shower at the time.

We were all invited to the City Hall for refreshments of all kinds. While there, the city presented a program in the council room honoring all the American Veterans that were there. The names of all veterans were shown on a screen throughout the program. We were all presented with a nice book about Dudeldange, pictures of the war torn city during WWII and today.

Lunch, more like a banquet, was served at the Parc Le' H" restaurant. After lunch we left for Fort Hackenberg located on the northeastern section of "The Maginot Line" about 30 kilometers east of Thionville in the rolling countryside of the Frances' top farming area. The Hackenberg fortification is one of the biggest structures in the entire Maginot line. The fort covers over 440 acres underground. After a two-hour tour of the fortification we went to the entrance park area where we dedicated a monument to the U.S. WWII soldier. This was an American GI carved out of tan lime stone over 7' tall. The French had a 30 man flag group, along with our color guard and bugler which made a very colorful ceremony. The French and American anthems' were sung by all. We ended the evening program with a tremendous banquet in Veckering, France. We were served by the 1944 Moselle River Association, many that dressed as WWII soldiers. What a long day.

FRIDAY, JUNE 22: At 9:30 a.m. we boarded the bus for the Village of Cinqfontaines, Luxembourg located in the extreme northwest part of Luxembourg. We traveled over a lot of Luxembourg's beautiful rolling hills that we fought in during "The Battle of the Bulge" plus miles of the prime farmland in Luxembourg. Wheat, barley, corn and pastures filled with dairy and fat beef animals. During the week you travel over about every section of Luxembourg in a comfortable bus; north, east, west, south and into France this year.

In Cinqfontaines we paid tribute to the Jewish people that were interned at the

concentration camp there in 1939- 1942. It was a satellite camp for Auschwitz, but was closed after a little over two years due to the small number of Jewish people in that area of Luxembourg and Belgium. The color guard and bugler made it a very moving ceremony. The echoes of the bugler's music could be heard from the deep valleys below where the camp was which made it a very memorable stop on our schedule.

From there we traveled to the town hall of Winrange where we were treated to refreshments and short talks by the mayor of the areas villages. We then went to a local restaurant for lunch. There was enough food for a hard working thrashing crew. The amount of food consumed by our group was amazing. Everything served was delicious.

Our next stop was in the Village of Pintsch about 12 miles northeast of Wiltz located in an area of deep ravines, steep hills and covered with big pine forest. It looked much different than it did in January of 1945. Five villages went together and erected a monument in honor of the 317 Regiment that freed those villages from the Nazi in a severe fight for the area. The monument is standing just outside a walled cemetery rear the front of the chapel there. On Thursday, June 21, Dan Fleming and his family were taken from Dudeldange to Pintsch (about 50 miles) so he could take part in a dedication of the monument sponsored by C.E.B.A. whose president is Camille Kohn. Dan had fought with the 317 Regiment Co. K and had used the buildings near the monument as cover as they fought the Germans to take the town. Around 200 local people were at the dedication of the monument. Dan again related to our group his experience on that day in 1945 when he fought there. It is a beautiful remembrance of the 317 Regiment men. The color guard and bugler set the stage for a memorable stop in Pintsch, Luxembourg.

From there our next stop was to Eschweiler for a memorial to the 28th Inf. Division and George Morgenthaler who was killed in the woods close by. The church was heavily damaged during the war. George's parents paid the entire bill for having the church rebuilt. The local priest and George became good friends when the 28th Division spent several weeks in and near Eschweiler. The village people treated our group to a very nice reception followed by another bountiful meal only the Luxembourg people can provide you. We headed back to the hotel after another full day of scenery, food and wonderful people.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23: National Holiday - This was dress up day. Formal dress, medals, ties, hats for the ladies if they wanted to wear one because it was the National Holiday and celebration of the Grand Duchy's birthday. Each person in our group received a special invitation to attend this celebration in the massive Notre Dame Cathedral in Luxembourg City. Our group of ordinary Americans were the only people in the entire cathedral that were not either an ambassador of some foreign country, embassy people working in Luxembourg, CEO's of major companies, heads of international banks or military officers from countries invited to send representatives. The average citizens of Luxembourg do not get to attend the ceremony the first day. They have an exact duplicate ceremony the next day for Luxembourg people. Anyone is welcome to attend, first come first admitted in casual wear.

The ceremony lasted almost an hour of songs, prayers and music. It is one of the most impressive ceremonies I have ever witnessed. Everyone in the cathedral had to have an invitation. Their seat was designated by row, number and name. The Royal Family entered the cathedral last. Everyone stood in respect. When the

ceremony was completed everyone stood as the Royal Family left first.

After all the dignitaries had left the church and their driver had picked them up, our bus was allowed to pull up and we all loaded aboard and were on our way to Boulaide, a small village just south of Bastogne on the Belgium Luxembourg border. The 35th Division fought over the hills and valley near this village for days until they finally drove the Germans out. Captain Hank Harrington of the 35th Division led an infantry company near here and dedicated the new monument placed at the church in the middle of the village. After the dedication ceremony the people of Boulaide served us an outstanding meal and a delicious dessert.

Around 4:30 p.m. we were leaving the West Side of Luxembourg and headed to Dillingen, Luxembourg located all the way across Luxembourg on the Luxembourg-German border. It was a beautiful trip with scenery to spare everywhere. We arrived to the location about 500 yards north of the Village of Dillingen along the west banks of the Sauer River where the 318th Regiment and the 2nd Bn. Of the 317 Regiment crossed the river February 7, 1945 into German territory.

Waiting for us were around 150 local people to share in the dedication of this beautiful monument. The color guard again displayed their professional talent and the bugler music reverberated along the cliffs of the Sauer giving you cold chills to watch the color guard perform and hear the music of Taps in the setting.

General Evans and I were asked to remove the big Luxembourg flag after comments were made by different Luxembourg officials. We removed the flag to reveal a huge monument erected by the people of Dillingen after retired Col. John Parker and George Daubenfeld approached the village council with the idea for a monument where units of the 80th Division crossed the Sauer. They met several times with the village to make sure all historical facts were confirmed. When they gave approval for the monument, John and George contacted Fernando Zen who designed the monument and the brass plaque at no cost. He has many other monuments in Luxembourg to show is appreciation for what the U.S. Veterans did in WWII.

I was asked to describe the crossing of the Sauer River since my Company G was involved in that crossing. The dedication of the new monument has been one of the high lights of the celebration so far. After my comments, General Evans made his comments, thanking the Luxembourg people for their hospitality toward our veterans and how the color guard, bugler and staff officers appreciated being asked to come to represent the 80th Inf. Division at all the ceremonies. You would have been proud of the comments made by General Evans each day at each ceremony where his men presented the colors and taps. He said the right thing at the right time and said just enough that he was a big hit with the Luxembourg people.

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Following the dedication the people of Dillingen served us another super banquet, wine and all. Another long day but it was a great one.

SUNDAY, JUNE 24: This morning we left the hotel at 8:15 a.m. because we had a full day on the schedule. Our first stop was at the 80th Division monument located in a drive through park just west of Heiderscheid along Hwy N-15 that runs east to west from Ettelbruck to Bastogne.

The 80th Division color guard presented the colors as Veterans of the 80th Division WWII placed flowers at the monument and the bugler played taps in honor of those 80th Division men that didn't return home from WWII. It was a beautiful display of respect by everyone there. General Evans completed the ceremony with just the right comments for the time and place. The area around Heiderscheid was where the 80th Division fought most of its toughest battles during the Bulge. After many pictures were taken around the monument and of the beautiful countryside it is located in, we were on our way to Dahl.

At Dahl a special mass was held for American soldiers who lost their lives during "The Battle of the Bulge". The color guard entered the church and proceeded to the very front right side and stood at attention during the entire mass without moving a muscle. It was a moving and beautiful ceremony.

After mass we went to the Michael Lenners farm where S/Sgt. Day Turner's monument is located. Sgt. Turner earned the nation's highest honor, the Congressional Medal of Honor. The large brass plaque on the monument is a replica of Sgt. Turner's medal. As the ceremony started the color guard again displayed the colors and the flags of Luxembourg and the U.S.A. were raised at the same time on twin 24' flagpoles. These flags are raised everyday by Michael Lenners or someone in his family. After taps was played by a Luxembourg civilian, the 80th Division bugler played the echo. Then the national anthems of Luxembourg and America were sung by everyone. The story of S/Sgt. Day Turner's experience at the farmhouse was related so the first time visitors to Luxembourg would know how he earned his Congressional Medal of Honor.

Michael had barbecued several different meats and the ladies had made tables of vegetables, salads, pies and many other items. Any kind of drink was available. Michael and his wife were presented a plaque by the office of the American Ambassador to Luxembourg for what they have done over the years looking after S/Sgt. Turner's monument.

After lunch I took Nell Vas of Virginia and three others in her family to the location north of Kehmen and south of the Village of Dirbach on the mountainside west of Bourscheid where her father was killed in January 1945. The group of WWII enactment soldiers from the area took us there in WWII jeeps, command car and a 6x6 truck. Nell and her family had never been back to Luxembourg since her father was killed in action. It was a very emotional moment for the family when they realized they were in the general area that John M. Thurman, Co. E., Reg. was killed on January 21, 1945. I am sure that area will be remembered by the U.S.V.F. in the future.

We loaded on the bus about 4:00 p.m. to go back to the Euro Hotel for our farewell banquet served by the Luxembourg Government. As we passed through Goesdorf we had a short stop at the monument of Private Alfred Echerverry whom as killed in action with 319 Reg. A second stone is in honor of all WWII orphans.

At 7:00 p.m. we all were seated at the Euro Hotel for our farewell greetings. The food was out of this world. Comments were made by many of those that attended the weeklong celebrations. General Evans presented the General's 80th Division coin to all Veterans and many of the Luxembourg hosts. His comments to the people of Luxembourg and to we fellow 80th Veterans were appreciated by everyone for he was a great ambassador for the 80th Division. The Luxembourg people confirmed that with a standing ovation after his comments.

Tomorrow most will return home. This year we had a variety of visitors to the D.S.V.F. week. WWII Veterans, wives, sons, daughters and relatives of those killed in action, historians and two people writing a book on the action of the 80th Division in WWII. All but three of we 80th Division visitors were first time visitors to the D.S.V.F. celebrations. They all said the trip was much more than they ever expected and many said they plan to return next year.

If you have an interest in attending the 2008 D.S.V.F. celebrations, I will be glad to help you in any way I can with information on the trip. It will be held the same week in 2008. You may contact me at G. Virgil Myers 1-863-686-2121 or email virg2121@yahoo.com.

G. VIRGIL MYERS

POST NEWS

Cincinnati Post #34

The Cincinnati Post has discontinued the Sunday Dinner where they gathered to meet once a month. It was decided to disband after only three members along with their wives showed up. This Post deciding not to continue with the Dinners joins the other Posts that membership has dwindled. Just hope they are able to continue to come to the reunions.

Also our friend John Wettig was in an auto accident where he demolished his vintage 1993 truck and doctors telling him not to drive. However he still drives locally. The good thing is, no one was injured too badly. He and Vicky wish to convey a Merry Christmas to all the people of the 80th and Friends.

Attention Men of Company I-318.

If you on 23-24 September 1944 and were part of the action for Hill 340 and 351 West of Morey France, please read and reply. From the Morning Report's:

Two platoons of Company I 318th, left Hill 351 to attack the town of Belleau, France, mission accomplished at 1700. At 1800 the second platoon of Company I, plus one section of heavy machine guns of Company M attacked hill 340 and mission was accomplished at 2000. 1st Platoon repulsed one counterattack during the night of 23 September 1944 but were driven off Hill 440 at 1200 24 September 1944. 3rd Platoon still holds Hill 351 and the rest of Company I holds the town of Morey, France. 2nd Platoon moved on Hill 351 to relieve the 3rd Platoon. 3rd Platoon plus light machine gun section moved out to attack Hill 340. 3 EM KIA, 2 EM SWA, 1 EM LWA.

It is that I would like to know if you remember vacating the hill on 24 September at 1200 and what happened. I was the Section Sgt. of the Heavy Machine Guns and I had been given two new men to place in my squads of MG's. One I assigned to a squad the other I told to stay with me in my foxhole and I gave him the 1st watch. It was while he was on watch the counterattack happened, and two of the Germans soldiers not knowing the hole was occupied attempted to come into our hole and stepped on my thumb in so doing. The new man bayoneted the one German and using the German rifle shot his buddy on the edge of the hole. Mind you he had never seen combat. While leaving one of the Germans whom had been taken prisoner, and in one of the slit trenches started to laugh as we were leaving, one of the men of Company I pulled a grenade from his belt pulling the pin and threw it in on the German saying you will never laugh again.

If you can remember any more details of this action, please write me and tell what you remember? Bob Murrell/Editor

Company M-318 Post #44

I wish all the Men of "M" 318th as well as all the others of the 80th Division a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

No news to report.

3rd Battalion 317th Post #36

It was nice to talk to a former member K Company, who now lives in New Jersey, even though our previous meeting was of short duration in December of 1944 as he joined the company the day that I was injured and taken out of action. He called this fall, but I didn't get his name, so I would ask that he please contact me again.

We were sorry to hear of the passing of our 2nd Vice Commander Sheldon Stanley on Friday, October 26. We extend our sympathy to his family.

Abe and Kay Barone went to Carlisle recently to help the committee select a site for our coming monument. They also celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary recently for which they certainly deserve a round of applause. I had a good letter from Jim and Helen Pietsch. Also I received a nice phone call from Jerry Spellman from the Los Angeles area. It's always good to hear from any member of the 80th Division.

I guess that is about all the news from the 3rd Battalion at this time. We hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving and our best wishes to everyone in 2008.

Bob Smith, 61 Broad St. #108, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405 / 805-545-7815

Lane Hall Post #42

I would like to thank those of you who keep in touch with me. Thank you so very much. It means so much to me. I heard from a few of our members this summer and early fall and I appreciate that. Heard from Jim and Ruth Phillips a few times and it was good to hear from them. They went to the shore for a few days in October and enjoyed it very much.

Lou Shirey keeps in touch with a few telephone calls, and seems to be doing very well in his new quarters. He told me he was going to check on the hotel in Carlisle where the next reunion is to be held.

A call from Mary Brinker, she tells me her grandson Scott and his wife Sara adopted a beautiful little Boy three years old named Ben. We wish them all the best in the world with their son.

John Engles was nice enough to answer my question on the "Short Snorter" question I asked in the last Newsletter. He gave me a wonderful explanation, which I turned over to my son David who questioned what it meant. John Engles also mentioned Charles Noxan in his letter to me, how Charlie was such a memorable participant of our past reunions. I also received a great detailed explanation from Bob Sproll. David took both of the letter and explanations home with him. He has been interested in the goings on of our Veterans for some time, as I told you previously, he is a member of the Motorcycle group who accompany the Veterans body that are returned from Iraq to their burial site.

I have been in touch with Hilda Latusek also in October, she was still with Patty and Jack, but soon heading home. Also, Alice Noxon took pictures of a beautiful display her children put up at Charlie's wake. Manny and Ava Gonzalez are doing well and sends everyone their best. On November 4th, Ed Hargrove called to check on me, Thought the bad weather that was going through the east might have touched down here, I told him it passed by. It was nice of him to call.

Frances E. Poletti, 28 Arnold Lane, Rowayton, CT 06853, 203-855-1928

New York Post #43

With the Thanksgiving Holiday behind us, we are looking for good ole Santa Clause to arrive. By the time you get to read the Post 43 meeting in Geneva, NY will be over and we will be looking forward to Easter. Wow! How fast they creapt up on us.

Now everyone can concentrate on attending the NY Post meeting in Geneva Lake in the Ramada Lake Front Hotel on May 19 through May 22, 2008. The arrangements are in order and we need the 80th Division members to join us. All are welcome. We have planned a trip (10 miles) to Sampson Air Force Base Veterans Association, Inc. Museum. During WWII it was Sampson Naval Station right on Seneca Lake. The trip will take place on Wednesday, May 21, 2008.

Yours truly had cataract removed from the left eye on 11/12/07. The results are very good. Barbara and I spent Thanksgiving at our daughters (Tina Barton) house in Columbus, OH. Our family will be together this year in Hamburg, NY.

Sorry to have received a letter from Sect Murrell telling of the death of our 2nd Vice Commander Sheldon Stanley.

We expect to attend the Post #47 meeting in Florida this year, which I think, is in February. They always have a good attendance, food and socializing.

Just to remind you Post #43 meeting May 19-22, 2008. Call me 716-648-2534 Bert Marsh Commander.

Florida Post #47

Florida Post #47 is planning their February 2008 get-together where all members and friends of the 80th Division Veterans Association are welcome.

DATE: February 21-23, 2008

PLACE: Crowne Plaza Melbourne Oceanfront Hotel
2605 N. A1A, Melbourne FL 321-777-4100

Room rate: \$109 single or double plus tax / reservation by Jan 31

Reference "Florida Post #47" when making reservations

Hospitality room will be open Thursday afternoon thru Saturday night. Dining will be at 5:30 pm on Thursday; 12:30 pm on Friday and 12:30 pm on Saturday. The Saturday meeting will be a 10 am, dinner at 6 pm. MENU: Prime Rib, Chicken or Fish \$35 per person, includes tax and gratuity

Post 33 Co. H 319th Infantry

Being way out in the Midwest the mail and phone service is somewhat sluggish. However, I did hear from John Beebe. He and Kate are well and busy making a list for Santa. Congrats to Bill Mac, he frequently accompanies with a friend and picks up a guitar and harmonica and heads for the mall to play for the senior citizens or any other fortunate shopping mall goes. Wilma probably cracks the whip.

I called Irv and Hilda. Both are well, however, they are moving to an assisted living home. They both don't need it, they just want to take advantage of the "golden years". New address is unknown but they have the same phone number.

Orin says Texas is having so much rain and his cows are getting fat. I assume Lois is down in lovely Florida soaking up the warm rays and counting gators.

Nick and Ginny are spoiling the grandkids and trying to see the peak of Mt. Rainier.

89TH ANNUAL REUNION

80th Division Veterans Association

Veterans of WWI, WWII & Global War on Terrorism

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 14TH

Visit to Gettysburg Battlefield and Eisenhower Farm

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15TH

Memorial Service at Carlisle War College / Base Chapel

Dedication of Second Memorial to Fallen Comrades at Army
Heritage and Education Center

PLUS:

WEDNESDAY: Commander's Reception

THURSDAY: Dug-Out Party

FRIDAY: Descendants Dinner

SATURDAY: Banquet

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Lee S. Anthony, Ph.D., Commander

PAID ADVERTISEMENT


Eightieth Division
Veterans Association

Date: November 2007

To: Eightieth Division Veterans Association
Members, Friends and Supporters

From: Eugene O'Neil
Senior Vice commander and Memorial Chairman

Subject: Erection of Memorial Friday, August 14, 2008,
during our 89th Annual Reunion in Carlisle, PA

Final approval has been granted to our Association to erect a memorial on the grounds of the Army Heritage and Education Center, by the Secretary of the Army, Pete Geren. We can look forward to dedicating this tribute during our annual reunion August 13-16, 2008. The new 80th Division monument will be the first of its kind in this unique park-like setting.

During the past two years, our Committee has actively pursued the placement of a monument in Arlington National Cemetery in memory of our fallen comrades. A Joint Resolution of the U.S. Congress is required in order to accomplish our goal, and toward that end, we have made contact with close to two dozen Senators and Representatives, and have had little success in gaining the cooperation of our Congress persons to sponsor the requisite legislation.

If, at some future date, we were given permission to honor our buddies there, it is likely that we would only be able to install a small plaque, roughly eighteen by thirty inches, and it would have to be placed by the roadside, in some obscure location.

Currently, records of the 80th Division in WWI have been retired to the Army Heritage and Education Center (formerly Military History Institute) adjacent to the Army War College in Carlisle, PA. Likewise, many of the records of the Division from WWII are being indexed at the facility, and plans for retiring other 80th records there in the future are in place.

We have been given an opportunity to place and dedicate a memorial on the new Heritage Trail, which is an outdoor addition to the Center. By placing a memorial in this area, our Division can be more distinguishably served at the same location where military records of our service are also archived. Approved plans for this facility include multiple buildings where research can be accomplished, as well as climate-controlled environments to safeguard the integrity of Division documents. Future generations will have not only an opportunity to view the monument, but at the same time, will be able to study our history in an easily accessible location.

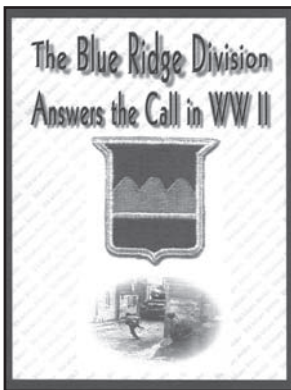
**88th Reunion Attendance Roll, Dayton, OH
Dayton/Fairborn, OH**

Abbruzzese, Dom	DeStaffany, Naomi	Kenetski, Fred
Adkins, Andy	Dorsten, Elmer	Kenetski, Arlene
Adkins, Michael (Aide-to Camp)	Dorsten, Fred	Knorr, Douglas
Altrichter, Sandy	Dorsten, Linda	Knorr, Sally
Anderson, George W.	Dorsten , James	Krehbeil, Bill J.
Anthony, Lee	Dowdy, Melvin H.	Krehbeil, Billie
Artino, Sal	Dowdy Dave	Latusek, Hilda
Ashman, Judy	Dumrauf, Raymond B.	Luthman, John
Ashman, Dave	Eckelmann, Fred G.	Luthman, Judy
Baldt, Greg	Eckelmann, Fred G. Jr.	Marsh, Burt R.
Baldt, Rick	Eckrich, John	Marsh, Barbara
Baldt, Susan	Eckrich Delphine	Martin, CR
Basden, Bryan	Edwards, Jack family	Martin, Trish
Barone, Angelo J.	Ellensberger, Joseph Jr.	Martin, Ronald P.
Barone, Kay	Ellensberger, Sophia	Martin, Muriel
Barton,Jeff	Esco, Virgil	Metzger, Lottie
Barton, Tina	Esco, Marjorie	McDonald, Robert J.
Beers, Helen	Elvin, Jan	McDonald, Helen
Blatz, Louis Paul	Evans, MG David L.	McKenzie, William J.
Blatz, Richard F.	Evans, Patricia	McKenzie, Wilma
Blocker, Audrey	Fasnacht, Robert D.	Morehead, Robert G.
Brinker, James	Fasnacht, Dorothy	Morehead, Joan
Brinker, Mary	Flemming, Jack	Muller, Victor S.
Brockman, Clarence H.	Flemming, Pat	Murrell, Robert J.
Brockman, Naomi	Flick, Doug	Murrell, Robert T.
Brown, Patricia	Grant, Karen	Murrell, Doris
Bugg, Robert W.	Halladay, Nancy	Myers, G. Virgil
Bugg, Onita	Hanna, Paul	Myers, Emma (Bobbie)
Burrows, Robert	Hanna, Phyllis	Neel, Alma
Burrows, Mabel	Hanright, Bob	Neel, Earnest
Burrows, Bob, Jr.	Hatcher, Ann	Nelson, Roger, H.
Christen, Dan	Hopkins, Gene H.	Nelson, Martha
Christen, James J.	Hopkins, Anna Lee	Newman, Robert
Conway, Susan	Howey, JoElyn	Newman, Edith
Cornelissens, Pam	Inselmini, Bruno	O'Neil, Eugene
Coscia, Joseph J.	Inselmini family	O'Neil, Ivy
Coscia, Joanna	IT Brass Quintet	Palmietto, Rosemarie
Cresson, Albert	IT Color Guard	Palombaro, Dominic
Davis, Don	Jackson, Patricia	Parker, Charles G.
Davis, Cara Lee	Joselyn, Richard	Parker, Doug
Deimler, James	Kelly, William P.	Parker, Pat
	Kelly, JoAnn	Parks, Robert E.

Parks, Pauline
Pasciar, Walter
Pasquarrett, Michael
Pasquarette, Jim
Pasquarrette, Lynne
Phillips, Barb
Pierce, Leroy K.
Poletti, Edward A.
Poletti, Francis
Rajnicek, Francis
Rajnicek, Kay
Rakotis, Josephine
Ralph, Voncile B.
Reish, Tom
Roland, Jane
Ritchie, William
Ritchie, William Jr.
Ritchie, Robert
Rupp, Annette
Rupp, Benjamin G.
Rupp, Helen
Russell, Alexander E.
Russell, Charles

Schock, Laverne J.
Schock, Margaret
Schmidt, Max R.
Schmidt, Alice
Schmidt, Melda
Schweitzer, Betty
Sick, Russell
Shrader, Anthony L.
Shrader, Jake
Shoemaker, Howard C.
Shoemaker, Judy
Siebert, Bill
Silvey, Ancil L.
Silvey, Bettye
Simpson, Robert I.
Skopow, Walter Jr.
Smallman, Sue
Smith, Bruce W.
Smith, Cecelia
Smith, Robert W.
Smith, Nancy
Spangler, Walt
Spangler, Annabel

Spellman, Jerry
Stall, BG Robert P.
Stanley, Sheldon
Steinmann, Kathy
Stewart, CSM Donald W.
Stewart, Patrick
Troedsson, Rebecca
Thurston, Sue Ellen
Umbarger, Howard
Umbarger, Ruth
Umbarger, Keith
Umbarger, Carol
Vinson, Lynne
Vonada, John
Warren, Francis
West, George V.
West, Helen
Wignall, Jeff
Wignall, Mary
Williams, Michael
Wojciechowski, Irwin J.
Wojciechowski, Gertrude
Wollett, CSM Doris



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OUT OF THE PAST...

The Last Offensive-Goetterdaemmerung Continued

The rapid deterioration of German forces everywhere on the Western Front prompted Field Marshal Montgomery to advance the date of the river crossing two days, to 29 April. It also prompted General Ridgeway to propose that instead of waiting six or seven days to cross British bridges, the XVIII Airborne Corps make its own assault crossing before daylight on 30 April. The commander of the second Army, General Dempsey approved.

General Ridgeway's problem was to get an assault force ready in time. Although by nightfall of the 28th from mop-up operations in the Ruhr, its regiments were concentrated near the British crossing site in keeping with the original plan. Of the 82nd Airborne, assembling near the bridge sites reserved for the U.S. corps, only a battalion had arrived by dawn of the 29th, and a full regimental combat team was not scheduled to arrive until late afternoon of the same day, a few hours before the time for the assault. A third division, the 7th Armored, was not to complete its move until the 30th.

In the interest of speed and in a belief that resistance would be light, Ridgeway named the airborne division for the assault even though at the start only one battalion of the 505th Parachute Infantry would be available. To provide a ready follow-up force, he attached four battalions of the 8th Division to the 82nd.

Following an almost unopposed crossing by British commandos near Lauenburg before daylight on the 29th, the battalion of the 505th paratroopers moved silently in assault boats across the sprawling Elbe River at Bleckede, six miles upstream from Lauenburg, at 1010, 30 April, as rain mixed with snow prompted the Germans on the far bank to seek cover, only an occasional flurry of small arms fire swept the river.

The paratroopers fanned out against sporadic resistance, though artillery fire began to all in heavy volume at the crossing site. The shelling harassed succeeding waves and hampered engineers construction a heavy ponton bridge, but a 1,100-foot bridge was nevertheless ready for traffic before dark on the first day, fifteen hours after work had began.

The next day, 1 May, the bridgehead expanded rapidly. Having crossed a British bridge at Lauenburg, the 6th British Airborne Division was attached to General Ridgeway's command to form the left wing of the corps. Four battalions of the 8th Division and an additional parachute infantry regiment of the 82nd participated in the day's attacks amid increasing indications that all resistance was about to collapse. By the end of this second day, the American bridgehead was six miles deep contact was firm with the British on the left, and a second bridge was in operation eight miles upstream from Bleckede. Contingents of British armor to assist the British airborne division and a combat command of the 7th Armored Division to help the 82nd were crossing the river.

On 2 May, as news of Hitler's death spread, the enemy's will to fight disappeared. In rare instances was a shot fired. The problem became instead how to

advance without running down hordes of German soldiers and civilians who got out of the way of the Russians.

With attached armored, the 82nd Airborne Division moved east to Ludwiglust and southeast along the Elbe to Doemitz to anchor the 21st Army Group's right flank on the line General Eisenhower had specified to the Russians. The 8th Division drove 40-five miles to the northeast to occupy Schwerin. While British troops before Hamburg began negotiations for the fire-gutted city's surrender and while a British armored division entered Luebeck without a fight, the 6th British Airborne Division dashed all the way to Wismar on the Baltic. The drive sealed off the Jutland peninsula, trapping German forces in the nation's northernmost province and barring the way to Denmark. Two hours later the first Russian troops arrived.

The second of the continuing Allied offensives, a prolongation into Austria of the drive through southern Germany by the Sixth Army Group and the Third Army, also became closely involved in the growing German dissolution. Hardly were the first troops across the Austrian frontier when the news broke that on 29 April the German command in Italy had surrendered. The capitulation was effective at noon on 2 May and included the Austrian provinces of Vorarlberg, Tirol, Salzburg, and part of Carinthia (Kaernten), the areas into which troops of the 6th Army Group were moving.

On the same day, 2 May, Admiral Doenitz, new head of the Third Reich, convened his advisers in a headquarters established in the extreme north of Germany. Anxious to end the bloodshed, Doenitz just as fervently wanted to save as many German soldiers and civilians as possible from the grasp of the Russians. Aware that agreements between the Soviet Union precluded his surrendering all to the Western Allies alone, he believed that only chance of saving more Germans lay in opening the front in the west while continuing to fight in the east, meanwhile trying to arrange piecemeal surrenders to the Allies at the level of army group and below. As Doenitz surmised, the way was open for such indications reaching General Eisenhower's headquarters in mid-April that German commanders in Norway, Denmark, and the larger north German cities might be induced to surrender, the Combined Chiefs on 21 April had notified the Russians that surrender of large formations was a growing possibility. They suggested that Britain, the Soviet Union on each front in order to observe negotiations for surrender. The Soviets had promptly agreed.

Word went out from Doenitz's headquarters during 2 May to commanders facing the Russians in the north to move as many men as possible behind the line. Wismar-Schwerin-Ludwiglust-Doenitz set to exploit any opportunity to negotiate local surrenders to the Allies. General der Infanterie Kurt von Tippelskirch, commander of the Twenty-first Army, complied that afternoon, contacting General Gavin, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division in Ludwiglust. Tippelskirch surrendered his command unconditionally, though in deference to the Russians, Gavin specified that the capitulation was valid only for those troops who passed through Allied lines.

A formal surrender was hardly necessary in any case. By afternoon of 2 May the bulk of German troops and their commanders were falling over themselves to get into Allied prisoner-of-war enclosures. That the Germans in the area north of Berlin were squeezed into a corridor only some twenty miles wide between Russian and Allied troops hardly have eluded anybody. Great columns of motor vehicles, horse-drawn carts, foot troops, even tanks, moved in formation to surrender.

Other soldiers straggled in individually, many with their women and children and pitiful collections of personal belongings. To the 8th Division alone at Schwerin more than 55,000 Germans surrendered that day.

The next day, 3 May, Tippelskirch himself entered an enclosure of the 82nd Airborne Division along with some 140,000 other Germans of the Twenty-first Army, while farther north, at SCHWERIN, some 155,000, mainly of the Third Panzer Army, including the commander, General von Manteuffel, surrendered to the 8th Division. The headquarters of the army group controlling these two armies apparently disintegrated. Having narrowly escaped capture when men of the 8th Division entered Schwerin, the newly assigned commander, General Student, went into hiding but would be apprehended later in the month.

As Tippelskirch surrendered on the 2 May, Admiral Doenitz was sending emissaries to Field Marshall Montgomery with a view to surrendering all German forces remaining in northern Germany. Under instructions from General Eisenhower, Montgomery on 4 May accepted the unconditional surrender effective the next day of all Germans in the Netherlands, the Frisian Islands, Helgoland, and all other islands, north Germany, and Denmark. (Norway, Eisenhower ruled, would constitute a political rather than a tactical surrender and thus would have to await negotiations at which Russian representatives would be present.) Although Montgomery refused to accept withdrawal into his zone of German civilians or military formations still opposing the Russians, he agreed to accept individual soldiers. Since the bulk of those opposing the Russians already had entered Allied lines in any case, the restriction made little difference.

General Wenck's Twelfth Army and survivors of the Ninth Army meanwhile entered negotiations with the U.S. Ninth Army on 4 May in hope of gaining approval for troops and a mass of civilians accompanying them to cross the Elbe and surrender. The Ninth Army's representatives agreed to accept the troops so long as they brought along their own food, kitchens, and medical supplies, but forbade the civilians to cross. Actually, the Ninth Army's troops imposed no ban on civilians. On a catwalk spanning the ruins of a railroad bridge, on ferries, boats, and rafts, or by swimming, some 70,000 to 100,000 men of the Ninth and Twelfth Armies got to the west bank of the Elbe.

In Austria, first indications that Field Marshall Kesserling might be ready to surrender his Army Group G and the Nineteenth Army developed on 3 May when General Devers learned through SHAEF that Kesserling had asked the German high command in Italy to whom he should surrender. On the same day Kesserling asked Doenitz for authority to surrender, which Doenitz granted.

As Kesserling began his overtures, the war in Austria went on amid an aura of unreality—not really war, yet not quite peace. There were three main drives, that of the French into Vorarberg, that of General Patch's Seventh Army toward Landeck and Innsbruck, and that of General Patton's Third Army toward Linz.

The 13th Armored Division of General Walker's XX Corps in the Third Army's was the first of Patton's troops to reach the Austrian frontier in strength, do so on the first day of May along the Inn River opposite Braunau (Hitler's birthplace). The next day, as divisions of the XX Corps bridged the Inn at three places, in the process capturing both Braunau and Passau, the latter at the juncture of the Inn with the Danube, a new order and another that was pending forced General Patton to alter and broaden his plan of attack.

The first order was the boundary change according Salzburg to the Seventh

Army. The change pinched out the III Corps along the part of the Inn River that flows inside of Germany, ending participation of General Van Fleet's command in the fighting. The second was based on a plan to withdraw headquarters and special troops of the First Army from the line, a first step in projected deployment of General Hodges' command to the Pacific. As part of the plan, General Huebner's V Corps on 2 May began relieving northernmost units of General Irwin's XII Corps along the Czechoslovakian frontier, a preliminary to transfer of the V Corps two days later to the Third Army. Irwin's Corps was thus freed to join the drive on Linz down the north bank of the Danube. The scene was also prepared for an operation, to which General Eisenhower had alerted the Russians a few days earlier, an advance of up to forty miles inside Czechoslovakia to Karlsbad, Pilsen, and Ceske Budejovice.

Under new arrangement, Walker's XX Corp was to press from the bridge head over the Inn to the line of the Enns River southeast of Linz while the right wing of Irwin's XII Corps moved along the north bank of the Danube to capture Linz. Irwin's left wing meanwhile was to attack into the southwestern corner of Czechoslovakia toward Klatovy and Ceske Budejovie, while Huebner's V Corp advanced eastward to take Karlsbad and Pilsen.

The divisions of the XX Corps drew only occasional enemy fire as they moved swiftly to reach the Enns River on 4 May and there awaited the Russians. The 11th Armored Division of the XII Corps at the same time reached a point only a few miles north of Linz, where an official of the city offered to surrender on condition that the German garrison be allowed to march east against the Russians. The armor refused that proviso, and a column advanced swiftly the next morning to find a bridge across the Danube intact, the city almost devoid of Germans. Another column uncovered more evidence of German atrocities in concentration camps near Mauthausen and Gusen. The armored then moved to the Linz-Ceske Budejovice highway to join neighbors of the XX Corps in a watch for the Russians.

For the rest of the XX Corps and for the V Corps, the drive into Czechoslovakia's was at first anticlimax. The fighting was unreal, a comic opera war carried on by men who wanted to surrender but seemingly had to fire a shot or two in the process. The land too, was strange, neither German or Czech. The little towns near the border, with their houses linked by fences and their decorated arches over the gates, had the look of Salvic villages, but the population was unquestionably hostile. This country was the disputed Sudetenland.

The monotony, an occasional burst of small arms fire along roads, a rocket from a Panzerfaust at a roadblock, a stray round of artillery fire in fields, was broken for the 90th Division on 4 May when out of the wooded hills emerged an old foe of the Third Army, the 11th Panzer Division. This time the panzers were bent not on attack but on surrender. With an odd conglomeration of tanks and other vehicles, the remnants of the division marched with their commander, General von Wietersheim, to prisoner-of-war-cages.

Two days later General Patton sent the 4th Armored Division through the 90th Division in hopes that general Eisenhower would agree to an advance down the valley of the Vltava River to Prague, but approval never came. Patrol had advanced as far as Pisek on a tributary of the Vltava northwest of Ceske Budejovice when the armor came to a halt.

Conclusion in next issue

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