



BLUE RIDGE

THE SERVICE MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2009

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

EUGENE O'NEIL



Comrades and Friends:

The 80th Division has an exemplary history of service to the Army and to our Country. Since its organization in 1917, the Division has maintained the tradition of meeting or exceeding its objective, whether on active or reserve duty.

At the annual reunion of the 80th Division Veterans Association in 2004, the surviving veterans of the conflict of World War II recognized that the ravages of time and sound of TAPS were rapidly thinning the ranks of our organization. It was past time for us to honor our fallen comrades who gave their all in duty to our Country. At that meeting, the Association launched an effort to erect a permanent memorial to their memory.

In September 2006, we dedicated a monument in Sacrifice Field at Fort Benning, Georgia. There is an historical connection between the 80th Division and Fort Benning, and the Army command there was most accommodating. However, the majority of our Veterans reside in the mid-Atlantic region, and traveling to Georgia is not an easy trip for any of them.

In August 2008, a second monument was dedicated on the Heritage Trail, which is a part of the Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, PA, which more readily accommodates the veterans who do reside in the mid-Atlantic region.

My grateful thank you is extended to those who contributed funds to erect these monuments, and to PNC Robert Burrows, PNC Archer Futch, PNC Walt Spangler, PNC Angelo Barone and his wife, Kay, and to the Descendants of 80th Division Veterans for helping to make the dedication of these monuments a reality.

Eugene (Gene) O'Neil

Chairman and National Commander



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, change of address, dues remittances, and death notices should be addressed to the Secretary/Editor.

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Historian PNC Robert T. Murrell (M-318)
Flag Sergeant Open
Color Sergeant Open
Sergeant-at-Arms Open
Public Affairs Officer HNC George V. West (C-318)
Division Photographer Tom Pappas (F-318)

TRUSTEES

1 Year: PNC Walter W. Spangler (A-319)
2 Year: Bert Marsh (M-319)
3 Year: PNC Felix Cistolo (G-317)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1 Year Gerald V. Myers (G-317)
Laverne Schock (F-317)
Tom Pappas (F-318)
2 Year HNC George V. West (C-319)
Robert Moorhead (L-317)
Robert J. Mc Donald (F-319)
3 Year Jim Pietsch (AT-318)
PNC Russell Sick (305 Eng Bn)
PNC Robert Burrows (Hq-317)

80th Division Veterans Association Sustaining Membership Drive - 2009

As you all are aware, our Secretary/Editor, PNC Robert T. Murrell, has cautioned us over the past few years that the reserve funds in Association accounts were being depleted rapidly. Several reasons account for this: chief among them is the lack of substantial fiscal income to operate all functions. Our roster is shrinking fast because of illness and death of our members and until last year, we were not open to admitting members who served in the 80th after WW II. Our annual reunions have also become more expensive to plan and execute, with fewer of our members able to attend each year. As a result, we faced no more than two years before we would be forced to disband.

So that you may understand, our membership at the beginning of the fiscal year was as follows: 606 Life Members, 449 regular dues-paying members, with 44 widows and exchanges. As one may see, 449 regular dues-paying members, providing an income of \$4,490, were carrying the financial load, and that amount comes nowhere near the annual expenses, currently in excess of \$20,000.

Our Sustaining Fund Drive was highly successful, with more than 100 Veterans contributing approximately \$15,000.

Again, in this endeavor, I would like to thank those who contributed, as well as Angelo and Kay Barone and Bruce and Cecelia Smith for their assistance in making the Sustaining Fund Drive successful.

Eugene (Gene) O'Neil
Chairman and National Commander
(Last date I have entered a name is May 21, 2009)

The list of names on page 3 are those who contibuted in the membership drive.

Life Plus Club 2008-2009

Last date I have entered a name is June 1, 2009
Marsh, Burt (M-319)

Fund Honoring PNC Robert Murrell

Last date I have entered a name is June 1, 2009
Joe Hege (80th Recon)

If you have sent in money for any of the above funds and I have omitted your name, please let me know so that I may give you credit.

317TH INFANTRY

Barone, Angelo
 Barwell, Herbert
 Blatchley, Clifford
 Chiara, Joseph*
 Childress, Carl
 Cistolo, Felix
 Cool, Henry
 Dick, Frank
 Doyle, L.G.
 Dumrauf, Raymond
 Esco, Virgil
 Gentry, James
 Gilliam, Willis C.
 Grover, Charles
 Houser, James F.*
 Hovey, Richard
 Kaufman, Murray
 Koerber, Charles E.
 Kurey, Andrew
 Metzger, Howard
 Midey, Dean (Rita)
 Moorhead, Robert
 Myers, G. Virgil
 Patterson, Raymond
 Plumly, Gene H.
 Rampy, Robert
 Reck, Clement (Marlene)
 Reilinger, Eric
 Schaub, David (Eleanore)
 Schmidt, Max
 Schock, Laverne
 Shoemaker, Howard
 Simpson, Robert (son
 Scott)
 Sonnenfeld, Fred J.
 Shaffstall Ed (son John)
 Smith, Robert (Daughter
 Pat Brown)
 Spencer, Marvin
 Stepansky, William
 Troutman, Henry
 Turner, Zane
 Wenzel, Ray W.
 Wratschko, Robert*
 Zakel, Paul
318TH INFANTRY
 Aladeen, Kenneth
 Allen, William F.

Anderson, George W.
 Anzaldo, Anthony
 Bellflower, Levi H.
 Bloedorn, John H.
 Brautigam, Sol*
 Carpeloti, Anthony
 Cicchini, Flordor
 Dorsten, Elmer
 Drylie, James
 Eckrich, John
 Fabre, Rudolph
 Gehringer, Carl F.
 Griesbaum, Edgar
 Hart, Edward
 Heath, R. Vance
 Hiller, Richard A.
 Hopkins, Gene
 Hovey, Richard
 Jones, Robert
 Karr, Alfred
 Kelly, William (by son)
 Litwinski, Rudolph
 Long, Harry B.
 McCoy, William
 McDonald, Edward
 Mercer, Paul
 Morrison, James E.
 Murrell, Robert T.
 Nicholson, Clarence
 Pietsch, Paul
 Riley, Terence
 Ritchie, William R.
 Stockman, August (son
 Francis)
 Strong, Rollin
 Stuart, Carl A.
 Szeffler, Casimir
 Vonada, John
 Warman, Clayton
 Wilkinson, Robert
 Wojciechowski, Irvin
319TH INFANTRY
 Acree, James
 Anderson, James
 Balas, John
 Barden, David R.
 Basden, Bryan
 Bell, Wade E.

Brown, Walter H.
 Caldwell, Thomas
 Cattrell, Roy F.
 Chapman, Joseph
 Coscia, Joseph
 Costley, Maurice
 Davis Donald (Cara Lee)
 Einolf, Henry
 Flynn, John F.
 Grossi, Nick
 Hughes, William
 Johnson, Robert
 Jones, Carroll
 Lowenstein, Donald
 McCormick, Milton
 McDonald, Robert
 Mennen, Harold E.
 Merritt, Kerry
 Norry, Gerald
 O'Neil, Eugene
 Palombaro, Dominic
 Peterson, Carroll
 Poinsett, A. Wright
 Schultz, Calvin
 Schwenderman, George
 Siebert, W. D.
 Todaro, Salvatore
 Wettig, John
305TH ENGINEERS
 Falvey, Charles
 Sick, Russell
305TH MEDICS
 Harris, Edward R.* (by Bill
 Heath, nephew)
 Kasperik, Louis
 Mascuch, John
80TH HQ
 Sukits, Joseph
 Wilkinson, R. Donald
313TH FA
 Burkhardt, Warren
 Hargraves, Ed
 Ingles, John S.
 Noxon, Charles (Alice)
 Phillips, James
 Poletti, Edward (Frances)
 Sproull, Robert C.
 Weishaupt, Karl

314TH FA

Burns, James A.
 Bloomer, Lloyd C.
 Cotton, Preston
 Parks, Louis F.
315TH FA
 Cresson, Albert
 Goldberg, Al
80TH QUARTERMASTER
 Bowman, Henry (by
 daughter)
80TH MP
 Jobe, Frank
80TH RECON
 Clouser, Paul J.
 Rehling, Arthur
80TH SIGNAL
 Bacon, John
 Barthold, Walter
 O'Brien, John P.
 Westbrook, Robert
780 ORDNANCE
 Stiers, John D.
905TH
 Tarbay, John
80th (TASS)
 McLaren, MG John
 Stewart, CSM Donald
 Wollett, CSM Doris
NY POST #43
Associates /Descendants
 Adkins, Andy
 Baldt, Rick
 Bayruns, Frank
 Bezjak, Judy
 Dowdy, David
 Johnson, Robert
 Kiehl, Joseph
 Kenetski, Fred
 McGrogan, Joseph
 Muller, Victor
 Nelson, Roger
 Velasquez, Albert
 Williams, Elbert
Unknown Company
 Kudenov, Peter (Helen)
 * DECEASED

Meet Andy Adkins: I'm Your New Secretary/Editor

I just wanted to take a quick moment to introduce myself to you. My name is Andy Adkins. My father was A. Z. Adkins, Jr. and served in the 80th Division as a heavy weapons platoon leader (and eventually CO) in H-317th. During the war, he kept a diary and presented it to me and my sister in 1986. After working on it for several years, I had it published: "You Can't Get Much Closer Than This: Combat with Company H, 317th Infantry Regiment, 80th Division," by Casemate Publishing in October 2005. The book was immediately selected as the Book of the Month for the Military Book Club in November 2005. To make a point, I was bitten by the history bug.

I started attending the 80th Division Veterans Association annual meetings, starting with the Roanoke, VA meeting in 2003 and met many of the veterans that my dad spoke about in his book. I also became involved with the Descendants of 80th Division Veterans. I built Internet web sites for both organizations (www.80thdivision.com and www.80thdescendants.com) and have been maintaining them since 2003 at no cost to either association—it is my privilege and honor to do this.

Three years ago, Walt Spangler, Virgil Myers, and Bob Murrell provided me with the association's copy of the 80th Division Morning Reports, in microfiche form. I took on a project to digitize these reports (that is, convert them from microfiche format to electronic format), starting with the three rifle regiments (317, 318, 319), and putting them on the Internet for others to research. I finished the initial project in two years—at this time, there are about 30,000 pages of morning reports online: www.80thdivision.com.

In addition to the Morning Reports, I have also found many other Unit Histories, After Action Reports, Interviews, and Oral Histories, all of which I have digitized and put onto the web site.

I can't tell you how many letters, emails and phone calls I have received from 80th Division veterans, baby boomers, such as myself, or their kids telling me how much they appreciate being able to locate information about their fathers and grandfathers. It is heartwarming to be able to help these individuals research their fathers' Army history, much like I did for my dad, and provide them with a glimmer of what these courageous men did to make our world a better place.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone, by postal mail, or by email:

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Amendment Changes to Constitution By-Laws

The 80th Division was deactivated a second time in 1946, but reorganized as the 80th Airborne in the 1950's and has remained active since that time as the 80th Institutional Training Division (IT) and currently as the 80th Total Army School System (TASS).

During our Executive Council Meeting in August 2008, all 80th Division soldiers were approved for full membership in the 80th Division Veterans Association. Further approval was given to open full membership to all relatives of the 80th Division Veterans; i.e., husbands, sons, grandsons, nephews, wives, daughters, granddaughters and nieces.

THEREFORE, the by-laws of the Association are to be amended as follows:

ARTICLE I

OBJECTS

The objects of this Association are: Patriotic, Historical and Fraternal, and to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America, to foster and perpetuate true Americanism, to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members, to assist worthy comrades and preserve the memories and incidents of our Association in World Wars of April 6, 1917 against Germany and the Central Powers, and December 7, 1942 against Germany and the Axis powers, and from the time of reactivation in 1950 forward, that any 80th Division soldier has served.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

2. Any Honorably Discharged person, or present officer or enlisted person, welfare worker or accredited news-correspondent who served with the 80th Division (between August 27, 1917 and June 26, 1919 or July 15, 1942 and May 8, 1945 or anytime following reactivation of the 80th Division in 1950) is eligible to become an active member of the Association, subject to the following provisions and qualifications:

ADD:

2c. *Any person who is a relative of any 80th Division Veteran shall be eligible for full membership in the Association: i.e., husbands, sons, grandsons, nephews, wives, daughters, granddaughters, nieces or any other relative with an interest in preserving the objectives of this Association.*

POST NEWS

313th Field Artillery Battalion

Hi, everyone. I hope all of you had a good Easter Holiday, and are well and looking forward to attending the reunion in Pennsylvania. I certainly am, since it is in the town I graduated high school from, and even though that school no longer exists, I do have some friends who still live in Coraopolis, that I may get to see while there and also a couple of nephews that still live there. We should have a good turnout, since many of our members are still residents of Pennsylvania.

Oh yes, I meant to mention that I will not be at the reunion on Wednesday, I will be arriving on Thursday. I have not made arrangements for a meeting room as yet, and if anyone thinks we should, please let me know.

I have been talking with Lou Shirey, and he sounded great. He seems to be doing well, and I really enjoyed conversing with him. The last time we spoke, he was very upbeat and also looking forward to the reunion. He sent me a picture of Gene Burkhart, Warren's son, that was in the paper, who does a great deal of philanthropic work with underprivileged people. Gene was a teacher and is now retired and always seems to be able to help those who need it. Lou keeps in touch with Warren and said he is also doing well.

Felix Cistolo had the flu very bad in March and ended up in the hospital. I hope things are better with him now.

I also keep in touch with Paul Burgio, and he is doing well. He also loves hearing from his old friends, and wishes more would call and talk with him.

I also was able to get in touch with Paul Viviano, and his wife Grace. Paul had not been well, but he sounded great and talked with me. Grace had hurt her ankle but it was mending. They would love hearing from any of their old friends.

I tried to get in touch with Joseph Prost and also Alvin Phodus and was unable to since they either have new phone numbers or have moved. If anyone knows anything about this, please send me the new numbers so that when I type up a new listing, I will have the updated information. Thanks.

I did receive an updated address change from Michael and Dorothy Evanovich; it was so cute. They have moved from Wall, PA to Steubenville, OH. I thought that was great of them to let me know. It helps a great deal, so that won't waste money sending things to the wrong address. And Michael, make sure you inform the publishers of the Blue Ridger so they will have the correct address for you.

Called Grandma Latusek's daughter, Patty, on the 22nd to ask how Reagan was doing. Jack said she had one more chemo to go through, then she was going to have a week or so of other treatment and hopefully would be finished with treatments and be able to be home and with her family. Let us all keep Reagan in our prayers, and hope all will be well after she is through with all of

this. She has been through so much for a little girl.

I tried to get in touch with James Lewis, but the number I have is incorrect. Does anyone have his phone number?

Also need a number for Herman Newsome. I tried to call everyone to see how things are going so these numbers are very important to me.

Received an early Spring 2009 issue of THE CREEDE MAGAZINE from Jim Phillips and most if it was about our friend Ed Hargraves. There were many pictures of Ed at different times, and the one that really got me was one of him and a friend and this is what it said:

"2009 Creede People of the year Nell Wyley and Ed Hargraves have been well-respected and well-liked fixtures in Creede since the mid-40s. They may be the People of the Year, but with the decades they have given of themselves in helping make this a better place, Nell and Ed should be called Creede People of the Century."

They also had a write up about Ed's history and it was so great reading it; it had a complete biography of his birth, education, etc. They did mention that one of his big passions is the Creede Historical Museum where he served as a volunteer director for more than 40 years. We are very proud of Ed, and Ed—keep it up. Like you, I also volunteer and enjoy it very much. God Bless You!

Jim Phillips, thank you so much for sending that information of Ed to me. I enjoyed reading it so much. At our age, it is good to read about the good work one of our group is doing.

Getting back to the changes in address, phone numbers, etc. I also heard from Walter Stec's daughter; he is now at: The Pavilions at Forrestal Village, 1000 Windrow Drive, Princeton, N.J., 08540. I will add this to my new listing which I am getting ready to update this month, also. So if any of you (and I know I am repeating myself) have any changes you know about, phones, addresses, etc. please let me know so that I may include it in my new address listing.

Please take care and keep in touch, Frances Poletti
29 Arnold Lane, Rowayton, CT 06853, 203-855-1928

Florida Post #47

The February meeting is now a memory. A good time was had by all and the weather though a bit cool did not stop us from having an enjoyable time. We missed George and Jean Bell who were unable to attend because of the death of Jean's brother.

We have to report a long time member of the Post has passed away. John Firestone attended meetings until health problems made it impossible for him to come to the meetings. Our deep sympathy goes out to his family.

Our next meeting will be held October 29-31, 2009:

Hampton Inn - Ocala 352-854-3200

3434 SW College Road, Ocala, FL 34474

The room rate is \$79.00 per night. We hope to see all you Floridians there.

Remember the 80th Division reunion is August 26-29, 2009 in Pittsburgh, PA. (See page 7.)

POST NEWS

NY Post 43

Just returned from our NY Post 43 meeting in beautiful Geneva, NY on Seneca Lake and I must add, everyone had a wonderful time. We were so busy, some of the fellows said "let's get back to the hotel so I can get a nap before dinner." I had dinner reservations made in advance at the best restaurants in Geneva.

Tuesday, we had our winery trip which started at Swedish Hill Winery ended at Wagners Winery. Yes Commander O'Neil, you missed it again.

After we got our fill of wine and beer at Wagners and made our purchases, we headed back to the hotel, in time for a nap. We all assembled at 5:30 p.m. to have dinner at the "Delux Rest." We waddled out of there and return to the Seneca Room (Hospitality) to fraternize a little, but some went right to their room. We did some chatting and locked up about 9:30 p.m.

I told everyday to report to the Seneca Room at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday—we will leave for Sampson Air Force Museum at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday morning, I called the local newspaper and told them that if they were looking for an article (news) for Memorial Day weekend to come to Sampson Air Force Museum at 11:30 am, because I had a group of World War II Veterans that all fought in "The Battle of the Budge." Would you believe, a reporter and photographer arrived right behind us? If you'd like to read the article, it appears on the *Finger Lakes Times* Internet web site: www.fltimes.com, search for "Looking Back" on 05/22/09.

The museum was great. They even had an Air Force historian for our tour. Everybody enjoyed it very much. We left about 2:00 p.m. For an added attraction, we all saw two albino deer on the Government owned land that we passed by.

We stopped at the "Crows Nest" for lunch. You would have to know where it is or you would never find it. Okay, you fellas found your way thru France and Germany, so maybe you could have found the Crows Nest. It was a beautiful spot on Seneca Lake. You could look up the lake and down the lake, just beautiful.

Got back to the hotel at 3:30 p.m. Some napped and some hung around the Seneca Room.

At 5:30 p.m. we were off to the restaurant "Tory Park." What a meal we had and it was delicious. Our waitress was Barbara's niece. She sure took care of us. Back to the Seneca Room, now everybody is tuckered out, some hung around and talked. By 10:00 p.m., the room was empty.

Needless to say, no one showed up until 10:30 a.m. Thursday morning. At 11:30 a.m., we held our business meeting. Everybody want to come back in 2010, same place, same time and asked if I would handle it. I said okay, if you all promise to attend. Since our National Association is in dire need of funds, I suggested sending them \$500.00 from Post #43. A motion was made

by Russell Sick to do it, seconded by Don Wilkinson, no discussion, unanimously passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

We all went to dinner in the Geneva Room, a delicious meal, we returned to the Seneca Room for our white elephant gift exchanged. Jane McCormick and myself split the 50/50 drawing. A lot of gifts were dispersed and by 2:30 p.m. the reunion came to an end.

We had a sorrowful incident that took place Monday. I received a phone call from Kay Barone stating that Abe had been hospitalized with trouble breathing. I kept in touch with Kay throughout the reunion. By Thursday, he was feeling better and Friday after I got home, Kay reported that the doctors thought a blood clot caused his problem. I talked with Kay today (5-28-09) she stated that Abe did have a heart attack. He came home Sunday 5-24-09. He is feeling better, walks within the house and is eating, all are signs of recovery. Keep it up, Abe, we all are praying for you.

Francis Rajnicek told us at the reunion, he had been hospitalized last September, had trouble breathing, but the doctors couldn't pin point the cause. He is doing okay now.

Barbara is doing well—her left side is still impaired and the wheelchair gets a work out. She wanted to go to Geneva with me, but I was afraid she couldn't stand the 440 mile trip.

We had 17 attending the reunion. They were: Milton & Jane McCormick, Bob & Helen McDonald and their son & daughter-in-law, David & Carol McDonald, Rita Midey, Gerald & Vera Norry, Francis & Kay Rajnicek, Don & Rose Wilkinson, Elmer Dorsten, Russell Sick, Burt Marsh & son-in-law Jeffery Barton.

I would like to thank Pat Koneski (the late Leo Koneski's daughter) who baked a zillion cookies for our reunion. She made enough for a platoon and we only had a squad. Everybody took some home with them, Thanks Pat.

I was very pleased with the attendance, despite the four cancellations. Hope we can do as good next year. I'll keep you informed. If any of you has any news, please call me. See you in Pittsburgh.

Burt R. Marsh, Commander, Post 43
1897 Fontenay Court, Columbus OH 43235
614-725-2573

Company L 319th

I've always heard that 'no Noose is good Noose.' As I haven't received any Noose from any of Youse, I'm hoping that no Noose is good Noose.

I suppose that I will have to wait for the Reunion to get any Noose from Youse—so I'll see you in August and get either good Noose or bad Noose from Youse.

Hank Einolf
9218 Twin Hill Lane, Laurel MD 20708-2507



90th Annual Reunion — Pittsburgh Marriott Hotel

777 Aten Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108 — August 26-29, 2009

All of the Past National and Honorary Commanders are looking forward to seeing you at the 90th Annual Reunion in 2009.

Airport Marriott Hotel	\$85 +Tax
Registration	\$40
Wednesday Night Dinner	\$24
Enjoy an old fashion Turkey Dinner with Trimmings for our 99th Birthday	
Thursday Night, 3-Hour Dinner Cruise	\$55
Aboard the Gateway Clipper for the Dugout Party, dine and sight-see along the Ohio River.	
Friday Night, Descendants' Buffet Dinner	\$30
Ladies Get-together Friday Morning	
Memorial Service Saturday, 9:00 am	
Ladies Luncheon Sat. Noon	\$18
Saturday Night Banquet.....	\$35
Choice of Chicken, Salmon, Beef or Pork Chops.	

PARKING: Complimentary on-site parking

DRIVING DIRECTIONS FROM PITTSBURGH AIRPORT:
Exiting the airport, follow the signs to Pittsburgh. Follow 60 South for approximately 5 miles to the Montour Run Exit #2. Make the first right off of the exit and an immediate right into the parking lot of the hotel.

AIRPORT SHUTTLE SERVICE: reservation required, complimentary

ESTIMATED TAXI FARE: \$20. (one way)

MARRIOTT PITTSBURGH AIRPORT

777 Aten Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108

Phone: 1-412-788-8800 Toll-free: 1-800-328-9297

Fax: 1-412-788-0743



Flags for Luxembourg

On December 16, 2008, American Flags were flown over the United States Capitol for the 80th Division Veterans Association, at the request of Senator

Mark Udall (R-CO). The date was significant in that it marked the anniversary of the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge. Those flags have now been shipped to Luxembourg, on behalf of the Association, to be presented to the U.S. Veterans Friends of Luxembourg Committee during the annual week-long celebration in June 2009. A Certificate of Appreciation will also be presented to each recipient of a flag.

This project was mentioned briefly in the Winter Issue and the Spring Issue of the Blue Ridge, and at the suggestion of one man who has been involved with the Friendship Week activities for a number of years, an American Flag would be a most appropriate gift for them, one that the recipients could display outside their home. It is our hope that all members of our Association will want to contribute to the flag fund. As a unit, we appreciate

the respect and gratitude that the folks in Luxembourg have shown for our actions, both as individuals of the 80th Division, and as a Nation, in securing their liberty those many years ago.

While the per-member cost for the flags is minimal, we know you will assess a greater value to this small gesture when you forward your contribution. Those of our Comrades who have been personal recipients of the hospitality of the people of Luxembourg should certainly appreciate the efforts that have been made to reciprocate their kindnesses and friendship. Please forward your donation to Secretary Andrew Z. Adkins III at 2121 N.W. 54th Terrace; Gainesville, FL 32605-3392, and mark it "Flag Fund."

The following is a list of contributors to the Flag Fund, as of June 1, 2009. Thank you for your contributions.

- Anderson, James K., (Hq-319)
- Gentry, Jim, (F-317)
- Muller, Vic, (Assoc, A-317)
- Peterson, Carroll E., (H-319)
- Schmidt, Max, (G-317)
- Schultz, William K., (Hq-317)
- Warman, Clayton D., (F-318)
- Wilson, Robert, (L-318)

OUT OF THE PAST

How the 317th Inf Reg Spent Christmas 1944 - The Battle of the Bulge

Major James Hayes, S-3 317th Inf, interviewed by Lt S. J. Tobin, at CP 317th Inf, Heiderscheid, Luxembourg, 16 January 1945.

On 17th December 1944, the 317th CT less 313th FA Bn with Co C 808th TD Bn and Btry D 633d AAA left at 0700 and moved by motor to the area east of SARRE UNION. The 317th CT was established at ALTWILLER. There they established road blocks and divided their sector into Bn areas for patrolling. 1st Bn was given the northeast, 2d Bn the northwest, and the 3d Bn was given the southeast and east sector.

The 18th Dec 1944 was spent continuing the training of units in assault of fortified position preparatory to attacking the SIEGFRIED Line. That night the CP moved to RAHLING. At 2230 Col Fischer returned from division headquarters and said that all units must be prepared to move northward a distance of approximately 80 miles.

On 19th Dec, Lt Col Elegar, 80th Div G-3 called telling Major Hayes that they must move out by 0930; the IP would be SARRE UNION and that their final destination would be in the vicinity of LUXEMBOURG. The march tables arrived and the first elements of the march column reached the IP at 1020. The orders were to march to BASCHARAGE where a representative of III Corps would meet them. At 1930 on 19 Dec, Capt Zukerman, who was in charge of the quartering party had arrived in BASCHARAGE and had gone on to arrange for quarters in the vicinity of ARLON. The 1st Bn reached BASCHARAGE in the lead of the march column, followed by the 2d and 3d Bns respectively. Meanwhile the CG, 80th Div, had received orders to remain at BASCHARAGE. The 1st Bn was then ordered into position southwest of the town. 1st Bn had just pulled off the highway when the Asst Div Comdr received information that the orders were rescinded and that the Div was to move along highway N5 to LUXEMBOURG where a guide from III Corps would be at the west edge of the city. They were to stop the leading element of the 2d Bn in time to keep the Div moving on route to LUXEMBOURG. The 1st Bn was given instructions to join the end of the Div column. The CT move on in the following order: 2d Bn, 3d Bn, special units, 313th FA Bn and finally 1st Bn. At about 2150, as the Div was continuing toward LUXEMBOURG, five German fighter planes swooped down to strafe the part of the column containing 313th FA. The night visibility was good owing to a full moon. The portion of the 313th they strafed was a Plat of Co A, 655d AAA which opened up on the planes with all weapons. Their volume of fire limited the Jerries to one strafing run and they flew on towards the east without further molesting the Div column. After meeting the III Corps guide, they found heavy and congested traffic in the city of LUXEMBOURG. Vehi-

cles were constantly breaking in and out of their column. They moved through without undue delay or trouble. Maj Hayes said they used 75 guides along the route through the city to facilitate their movement.

On the morning of 20 Dec, the 80th Div closed on the area in rear of the 5th Inf Div in the vicinity of GONDERANGE at 0530. There they received orders to prepare reserve defense positions and to be prepared to counterattack in any direction. The regimental areas were as follows: 317th on the right, 318th on the left, and the 319th in reserve. The 317th put the 1st Bn in reserve with the 2d and 3d Bns in defensive position. At 0830, orders came to the 317th that they would be responsible for the defense of Radio LUXEMBOURG northeast of JUNGLINSTER which was about 8 kilometers from the front lines. Maj Hayes ordered that one Plat be sent to relieve the engineers who were guarding it at the time. During the afternoon, the 317th received orders to prepare to attack to the north, northeast, or southeast with Co A 702d Tk Bn in support. The Div mission at the time was to protect the right flank of the III Corps.

On the morning of 21 Dec they moved out from GONDERANGE to the vicinity of STEINSEL. They moved out at about 1000 by motor and marching, arriving in position about 1700.

The regimental mission was still unchanged and they moved out in attack formation at 0600 following the 318th Inf on the morning of the 22d. At 1030 Div G-3 visited the 317th CP and told Maj Hayes to concentrate his troops north and west of BERG and that they would be committed in between the 318th and 319th Regts. As the 317th was already underway, Maj Hayes issued orders to attack northward immediately going through MERZIG on to WELSCHEID to proceed to the river and take over the sector of the 318th. While Lt Col Elegar, Div G-3, was there, Gen McBride, CG, called from the 319th rescinding the order, saying that the 318th could do it. Lt Col Elegar said for them to be prepared to execute the plan. The CP then moved up to BERG.

At 1400 Lt Col Elegar called Major Hayes and told him to execute the plan as before being rescinded. Maj Hayes went to BERG and contacted Col Fischer giving him the mission. The Bns started at 1500 with 2d Bn in the lead followed by the 1st with the 3d in reserve. They had no artillery at the time, however Co A 702d Tk Bn was in support. Col Fischer gave instructions to move the CP to NIEDERFEULEN. The roads were jammed with traffic near NIEDERFEULEN and it was about a half hour after dark when the CP opened. The 2d and 1st Bns passed

OUT OF THE PAST... continued.

through with the 3d following. The 2d Bn advanced through the night to WELSCHEID. Resistance was met at WELSCHEID and E and F Cos were sent around the right to by-pass WELSCHEID and take BOURSCHEID.

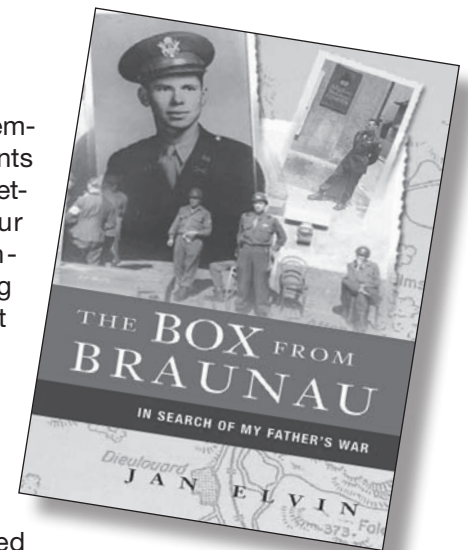
On the morning of 23d Dec, 0900, the 317th completed relief of the 318th. The 3d Bn was ordered to take KEHMEN and then BOURSCHEID. The 3d Bn started off but met heavy MG and small arms fire from the vicinity of WELSCHEID in addition to heavy artillery and nebelwerfer fire estimated to be about 1000 rds. The 3d withdrew with 24 casualties including 2 killed. At 1500 a message was received from the 319th to expect a counterattack in their area (KEHMEN-WELSCHEID). Lt Col Roberts, 317th Ex O, withdrew the unit to a defensive position on the high ground south east of KEHMEN in vicinity of (780450). However, the expected counterattack did not come. During the night, the 2d Bn was relieved in the line by the 1st Bn. On the morning of 24 Dec, the 1st Bn attacked KEHMEN on the left, but was unsuccessful; they withdrew to the original position about 1000 yds from KEHMEN after having 197 casualties including dead. The units of the 317th continued to maintain their positions at the same places as on the 23d. Heavy fighting took place all day in the sector of the 317th.

On the morning of 25 Dec, the 317th attacked with the 1st and 3d Bns abreast and took the high ground south and east of SCHEIDEL. The 1st Bn took SCHEIDEL and the 3d Bn took about a quarter of KEHMEN. They were ordered to withdraw to their original positions by the CG, 80th Div. During the attack they suffered 161 casualties including dead. The regiment spent the next three weeks maintaining its defensive positions in the vicinity of HEIDERSCHEID. The period being spent in training and rehabilitation.

Note: This and other After Action Reports are available on the 80th Division Veterans Association website Digital Archives:
www.80thdivision.com/WebArchives/

— PAID ADVERTISEMENT —

JAN ELVIN, a member of Descendants of 80th Division Veterans, spent four years researching and writing a memoir about her father, Bill Elvin. The book is called *The Box From Braunau: In Search Of My Father's War*.



Bill Elvin served as a First Lieutenant in 318-E who landed at Omaha Beach on D-Day plus 60 as a replacement officer. In early November he was awarded a Silver Star after leading a patrol into enemy territory in Rouves, France, destroying enemy positions, and returning to his patrol carrying a casualty. Five days later he was wounded and evacuated to a hospital in England. Elvin rejoined his company in early February and remained with E Company until he was appointed Company Commander of 318-F on June 19, 1945. He led F Company during the Occupation and returned home safely to his wife and son in early January 1946.

Jan interviewed World War II veterans (including many from the 80th), family members and friends of her father. She also spent an emotional three days at the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camp at Ebensee, Austria and interviewed survivors of the camp.

She was able to include Lieutenant Elvin's letters from the front and excerpts from his war diary. Part history and part memoir, *The Box From Braunau* unfolds in chapters alternating between Bill Elvin's war experiences and his family life. It is a tribute to her remarkable father.

Copies will be available at the reunion in Pittsburgh. Available in bookstores June 8.

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TAPS

Dolmovich, Henry L.,
Hq 3d Bn-318
1701 State Hill Rd.
Wyomissing, PA 19610
DOD: unknown
Rpt by Don Stewart

Edwards, Jack
K-317
659 Weir Dr.
Hemet, CA 92543
DOD: 5/21/2009
Rpt by Naomi Brockman

Firestone, John
I-317
Titusville, FL
DOD: 4/23/2009
Rpt by George Bell

Guinther, Donald M.
Hq Btty-313th FA Bn
1615 Yeager Road A-11
Mount Vernon, OH 43050
DOD: 3/8/2009
Rpt by his wife, Mary

Harris, Edward R.
B-305th Med Bn
PO Box 910
Goldthwaite, TX 76844
DOD: 5/11/09
Rpt by Bill Heath (nephew)

Hulsey, Mike
(80th TASS)
Rpt by Doris Wollett
DOD: Unknown

Kendall, Richard H.
Sv-317
3176 W. 231st Street
North Olmsted, OH 44070
DOD: 11/26/2008
Rpt by his wife, Beverly

Lockard, James C.
315th FA Bn
9 Dublin Way
Bel Air, MD 21014
DOD: 05/19/2009
Rpt by his son, James

Mashburn, Culen
Sv-317
355 Nix Road
Phil Campbell, AL 35581
DOD: 4/18/2008
Rpt by Robert Murrell

McVay, Thomas Jr.
780 Ord
15 Elena Ave.
Lower Burrell, PA 15068
Died 5/26/2009
Rptd by Brother Donald

Nicholson, Clarence H.
F-318
65 Steadman Avenue
Leighton, PA 18235-2634
DOD: 3/19/2009
Rpt by his wife

Sackela, Andrew
E-319
6342 Duncan Dr.
Youngstown, OH 44514
DOD: unknown
Rpt by Don Stewart

Sims, Harold E.
(80th TASS)
6600 Glyndon Lane
Richmond, VA 23225
DOD: 4/6/2009
Rpt by Doris Wollett

Stepnesky, William, MD
D-305th Med Bn
11220 Shannondell Dr #220
Audubon, PA 19403-5800
DOD: 11/08/2008
Rpt by Robert Murrell

Stockman, Francis G.
unknown unit
DOD: 7/1/2007
Rpt by Don Stewart

Stuart, Carl A.
(80th TASS) Hq-318th BN,
Demolition PLT
DOD: 04/09/09
Rpt by Don Stewart

Susheraba, John A.
C-318
5601 Chilton Lane
Erie, PA 16505-1111
DOD: Unknown
Rpt by George West

Teerlinck, Constant
Hq-305 Med Bn
RR2, Box 2406
Canadensis, PA 18325
DOD: unknown
Rpt by Don Stewart

Tiano, James E.
D-317
1909 Foster St.
Philadelphia, PA 19116
DOD: unknown
Rpt by Don Stewart

Weaver, Luther
A-319
65 Brand Acre Drive
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
DOD: 8/2008
Rpt by Bob McDonald

Williams, Raymond H.
L-319
1804 W. Johnson St.
Vandalia, IL 62471
DOD: unknown
Rpt by Mail Return marked
Deceased

Wollenzier, Ralph T.
80th Qm
7914 Colage Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44102
DOD: 3/20/2009
Rpt by daughter Joan

Visit the 80th Division Veterans Association Site on the Internet:
www.80thdivision.com

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Latrobe, PA 15650-1012

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3131 Pleasant Avenue
Hamilton, OH 45015-1740

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POST #36**

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Secretary*

CINCINNATI POST #34

Jack Wettig, COMMANDER

Art Rehling, TREASURER
4656 McNeil Ave.,
Cincinnati OH 45212-2541
(513) 631-0031

**Company "H"
319th Inf. POST #33**

Gerald G. Ohlman, Commander

*Irv Robinson,
Secretary*

FLORIDA POST #47

George Bell, COMMANDER

*Francis Rajnicek
SECRETARY*
215 Bill Allen Circle, W
Sabastian, FL 32958

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Membership Drive Results
- New Newsletter Editor
- Constitution & By-Laws Changes
- Post News
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- 2009 Reunion Information



**80TH DIVISION
MONUMENTS:** Sacrifice
Field, Fort Benning,
Georgia (left) and
Heritage Trail at the Army
Heritage and Education
Center, Carlisle,
Pennsylvania.