

# The SERVICE MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of  
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF 80th DIVISION VETERANS

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Junior Vice Commander .. Frank J. Saccomandi  
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Sergeant-at-Arms ..... Felix Cistolo  
National Service Officer .. Edward R. Hartman  
(Box 522, Cove Station, Weirton, W. Va.)

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SPRING EDITION — 1968

## Convention Plans Progressing

Colonel Cottingham and his Signal Corps boys are working hard to put together the best convention they can. At this point a tentative program has been outlined and a bulletin direct from Convention Headquarters should be in the mail very shortly.

Pre-registration or what is known as a 4-Day Pass, will cost \$18.00 per person. At the present time it is contemplated this will include a big party on Wednesday evening, tours to either Avon Products or Proctor and Gamble on Thursday and an outing at the famous Coney Island Amusement Park. There will be a boatripe or picnic on Friday, and of course on Friday night the various units will hold their usual parties at the Headquarters Hotel. On Saturday evening there will be the big banquet and dance. While we haven't used a lot of adjectives we guarantee you will be pleasantly occupied most of the time. If you do not register ahead of time we are sure the cost will be quite a bit higher. In that regard we would like to say that anyone registering in advance and later finding he is unable to attend will have until July 15 to request a full refund. After July 15 a service charge of \$3.00 will be made; however, you will receive for this \$3.00 an opportunity to participate in the Awards Fund Program. We hope that no one will have to request a refund.

For our young people we are setting up a program and they too will have a pre-Registration feature. The committee has not set a price on this as yet, but it will include their own hospitality room, trip to Coney Island, boatripe or possibly a picnic, and the tours and also a trip to the Air Force Museum.

To break even on this Convention we are going to need the help of everyone as to the Awards Program and the Patrons List. As you all know by this time the Awards Pro-

gram was started back in October and we started off with a bang, then the mail stopped coming in, so we must get back on the ball. Some of you have asked for tickets and we have been reluctant to send a large quantity for various reasons, but even if you don't get some of the tickets don't hesitate to send in your money. If you want a receipt please send a self-addressed stamped envelope and we will send it to you.

The Patrons List this year will be \$2.00 per line minimum. This means that we will accept anything over and above \$2.00, and if you're fortunate enough to be able to send \$25.00 or more we won't refuse it. We're not kidding as some people were kind enough to send as much as that in 1959.

If you are a businessman and want to place an advertisement in the Program the prices are: 1/10 page, \$10.00; 1/4 page, \$25.00; 1/2 page, \$50.00; Full page, \$100.00.

The Headquarters Hotel will be the Netherland Hilton and the rates are as follows:

Single	\$10.50-12.00	12.50-16.00	17.00-20.00
Double	\$14.50-15.50	15.50-18.00	
Twin	\$17.00-18.00	19.00-20.00	21.00-25.00
Suites	\$33.00 and up		

These rates are guaranteed. What we mean by guaranteed is that if you request a \$10.50 single room, this is all you will have to pay. However, you have the opportunity of paying a little more and being assured of getting a better room right away. Parking is free, providing you don't take your car in and out. We urge you to get your reservation in as soon as your bulletin is received, and a card for this purpose will be included.

The Convention Awards Program winners are Early Birds:

Melvin Wanner, Reading, Pa., November  
Mrs. Arnold Sneed, Cincinnati, O., December  
Robert Schrott, Cincinnati, O., January  
Capt. Dewey Garner, Cincinnati, O., February

All awards will be presented at the Convention or mailed thereafter.

## Buchenwald: I Was First— And I Was Ashamed

As a rifle squad leader in Co. A, 317th Infantry, I was a member of the team that joined in the liberation of Buchenwald concentration camp near Weimar, Germany in April of 1945.

I have only recently (1964) heard of and joined the 80th Division Veterans Association. I do not know whether any articles have appeared in the Service Magazine about the liberation but I have jotted down my remembrances concerning this occasion. My memory of the events while still vivid may not be absolute as to dates and time of day but my visions of the people and circumstances remain clear.

If there have been other articles about this particular incident, I would appreciate hearing of them. This is the way I remember the events leading up to the liberation.

In the very early morning hours of April 10th, 1945 we were approaching a small village about two miles west of Erfurt. We were stretched out in a column of twos. Just before we reached the town our column was cut in two by four Panzers and seventy to one hundred infantry. Unknown to us, the Fourth Armored Division was already in town and opened fire on the enemy force. Needless to say, we were caught in a murderous cross-fire. Our weapons platoon was especially hard hit—half of the platoon was killed or wounded and the other half captured in a cellar on the outskirts of town. We fought our way into town and were dug-in that night near an orchard on the south side of the village.

The next day we reached the city of Erfurt. To my knowledge, our regiment did not engage in any combat that day for I believe the 318th had cleared the city that morning.

We were loaded into 6x6's at Erfurt early in the afternoon and took off for "whatever came next." As it turned out we were shortly approaching the town of Weimar, seat of the German Republic of 1919. A peculiar stench permeated the atmosphere. The convoy halted on the main road for a half hour or so while some discussions were taking place up front. When we moved on again several trucks were shunted into a dirt road that ran up a hillside to our left (north) side.

The hillside was sparsely covered with small firs and as our truck, first in line, reached the summit we saw a heavily wooded section about one hundred yards ahead. Thru these trees and more to the right of this wooded section was a tremendous enclosure filled with barracks-type buildings. The road we were on led into a clearing that was churning with men whose clothes were in various stages of disrepair. Many were wearing striped (prisoner type) uniforms.

Our driver stopped when we heard gunfire.

Although we soon realized that it was too distant to have been directed at us we were a bit cautious about going into the clearing. My squad and part of another was in the lead truck—I was in the cab with the driver. Before we moved again, I dismounted and sat on the right fender. I had a strong feeling that something unusual was about to happen and I wanted to be the first American there, even if it were only by a few feet.

The stench was unbearable as we halted in the clearing, the trucks surrounded by a ragged group of men as I've ever seen. I spoke to some of the inmates (in my limited French and their limited English) who told us that this was a concentration camp called Buchenwald, the gunfire was from other inmates who were hunting down German guards who had taken off, and—that they were starving.

Several of these men had broken into the arsenal and were carrying rifles, burp guns, and sidearms. One man was carrying a light machine gun and wearing a machine gun belt across one shoulder. Occasional shots were being fired—just for the hell of it—they were that exhilarated by freedom.

We were directed to disarm the inmates, pile all the weapons at one spot, and try to bring some semblance of order into the area. It took some doing but most of the men were very cooperative.

We gave them all the food we had—all 'K' rations and some 'C' rations that the truck driver had. The men were in very poor shape—one man showed me his hip bone actually exposed thru the skin which had worn off by the weight of his belt. They were unbelievably thin with hollowed eyes and sunken cheeks.

The inmates took us into the compound where they had been held prisoner. The buildings were filled with pallet type bunks and many men were crowded together on these pallets, too sick to move. The odor was nauseating. Thru the rest of the compound, dead inmates—men, women, and children, were lying in rows outside of each barrack. I can't describe the horror we felt seeing for the first time a prime example of "man's inhumanity towards man."

We were shown the furnaces where dead prisoners were burned. Troughs leading to the furnace doors allowed for sliding the bodies into the huge furnaces. It was all so fantastically unbelievable that we were in complete shock.

That night we slept in a house just outside the compound that may have belonged to the head guard—I don't remember now whether we even asked who had lived there. The inmates wouldn't let us stand door guard, they insisted on doing it for us. We were quite happy to afford them this privilege—we hadn't had a full night's sleep since Weisbaden, some ten days prior to that time.

In the morning we saw thousands of the other prisoners all milling aimlessly about in the compound—most of them completely devoid of energy and motion. They really hadn't the will to do anything. These people were horrifyingly thin; emaciated skeletons covered with skin. When they shuffled about it seemed more by habit than choice.

How could such a thing have happened?

Why had it taken us so long to uncover such atrocities?

I was ashamed—of the whole human race.

By mid-morning we piled into the 6x6's again and pulled out preparatory to descending the hill to the main road. As usual, the lead truck stopped long enough to allow the other trucks to "close up" after loading.

Someone shouted, "My God, look over there".

We looked and wished immediately that we hadn't. There was an open communal grave that was one hundred feet wide, two hundred feet long, and about twenty feet deep. The entire floor of this grave was completely covered with bodies of all sizes and ages in horribly twisted positions heaped one on top of the other. Next to the grave about halfway up one side, was a truck with an open flat bed piled high with bodies like cordwood. Two prisoners were taking each body in turn, (one holding the hands and the other holding the legs) and were "one—two—threeing" the bodies over the edge and down into the grave each one tumbling over and down until it got caught on one of the other corpses. I turned away and tried to focus my attention on a fir tree to see if what my eyes had seen was really true. It was like pinching oneself to see if you're awake.

Fortunately, we left soon after and caught up to the rest of the division just past Weimar. I learned later that there were about 21,000 prisoners then at Buchenwald but that some 12,000 had been marched eastward just a week or so before towards Regensburg. I recall reading a report on this journey that only 4,000 were alive at the end of the march.

The only uplift we got that week was overtaking the force that had captured the men from our weapons platoon. They were hungry and tired, having been marched for four or five days, but otherwise in pretty fair shape.

Members of my squad at that time were: Julian Cimbalk, Sam Monazym, Charles Sims, William Stahley, Albin Hughes, Robert Faulkner, Willis Bramblett, Frank Lovallo, Frank Erboso, Ernie Gallagher, and Roy Etheridge. Our CO was Capt. J. P. Woodside, who now resides in Simpsonville, South Carolina.

By S/Sgt. Martin Rennie  
165 5th Street

Hicksville, L. I., New York

## Reflections Of A Sports Writer

Any of us could fill this page with names of people we should thank for one reason, or scores of reasons. But, let's skip that. Allow me, please, a brief minute to thank one man, for all of us, for something he did on Christmas Eve, -1944.

I don't even know if he's alive. And, if he is, chances are he'll never read this tribute.

But, on the day before Christmas 23 years ago, on a snowy field near Bastogne, Belgium, a staff sergeant named John Blakeman of Nebraska gave his life for America—though he wasn't killed.

He was a quiet boy, and a tremendous athlete, and he was a distinguished member of Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army attempting to charge through German steel to relieve beleaguered Bastogne.

On the morning of Dec. 24, he had been an attack leader for a battalion which was ambushed—and one of only a score of surviving Americans who didn't panic and fall back in disgraceful rout.

He held his ground, spent five hours crawling about to aid and comfort wounded, and then he volunteered to go through suicide open ground for help.

Blakeman went back, and came back, and with medical aid—with guns in a couple of friendly backs.

The quiet Germans allowed two red-cross-flying jeeps down a long, exposed hill without fire, and Blakeman thought he had it made.

He loaded both vehicles with wounded, and there was no room for him to ride—not at first.

That was after the Germans mortared the mobile hospital just as Blakeman ordered it to move out, without him.

An 81-mm shell landed right at his feet. Shrapnel nearly cut him in half. Blakeman was shoved on an already-occupied stretcher. He got out.

Months later, somebody returning from England-hospital convalescence, said they'd seen him. He had a new stomach, he had lost 70 pounds, and he was not looking back.

What with more pressing business going on, and other heroism, Sgt. Blakeman was soon old history. And he was never decorated. And I know no one who has seen him in 22 years.

But, I know one man Blakeman put on a stretcher, and I know this man is thankful, and I know at least one of those two men believes in the Christmas spirit. The true Christmas spirit.

(Excerpted from the Christmas sports column written by Capt. Alfred Van Hoose (Co. C, 317 ETO) for the Birmingham Daily News. Reprinted with permission.)

## 317TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

### LINEAGE

Constituted in National Army 5 August 1917 as 317th Infantry Regiment, assigned to 80th Division. Organized 23-27 August 1917 at Camp Lee, Va. Demobilized 13-14 June 1919 at Camp Lee. (80th Division demobilized 5 June 1919, relieving components from assignment; reorganized in 1921 in Organized Reserves.) Reconstituted, allotted to Organized Reserves, assigned to 80th Division, 3d Corps Area, 24 June 1921, and organized November 1921. Ordered into active military service, less personnel, and organized 15 July 1942 at Camp Forrest, Tenn., as element of 80th Infantry Division. Inactivated 10 January 1946 at Camp Kilmer, N. J. Redesignated 317th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 80th Airborne Division 15 July 1946 and assigned to Second Army 1 August 1946. Redesignated 317th Glider Infantry Regiment 23 September 1946. Activated 14 November—3 December 1946 at Washington, D.C. (Organized Reserves redesignated Organized Reserve Corps in March 1948.) Redesignated 317th Airborne Infantry Regiment 5 October 1950. Redesignated 317th Infantry, 80th Infantry Division, 10 May 1952. (Organized Reserved Corps redesignated Army Reserve in 1952.)

### CAMPAIGN STREAMERS

#### *World War I*

Picardy  
Somme Offensive  
Meuse-Argonne

#### *World War II*

Northern France  
Rhineland  
Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe

### DECORATIONS

Tank Company entitled to DUC embroidered MOSELLE BRIDGEHEAD.  
(WD GO 74, 1945)

Company E entitled to DUC embroidered MOSELLE-RHINE BRIDGEHEAD.  
(WD GO 124, 1945)

Service Company entitled to MUC embroidered EUROPEAN THEATER.  
(GO 205, 80th Inf Div, 1945)

### COAT OF ARMS

*Shield.* Azure, on a bend of three alerions of the field, in base a lion rampant of the second.

*Crest.* That for the regiments and separate battalions of the Army Reserve: On a wreath of the colors (or and azure) the Lexington Minute Man proper. The statue of the Minute Man, Captain John Parker (H. H. Kitson, sculptor), stands on the Commons in Lexington, Mass.

*Motto.* *Armis et Animis* (By Arms and by Courage).

The shield is blue for Infantry. The bend and alerions are taken from the coat of arms of Lorraine (but the tinctures are changed), and the lion represents service in the Picardy sector.

### DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA

The distinctive insignia is the shield and motto of the coat of arms of the regiment.

### PUBLISHED HISTORIES

Edley Craighill, *History of the 317th Infantry Regiment* (Tours, France, 1919)

Contributed by Ed Naughton,  
905 FA, ETO. Richland, Wash.

## With The Bards

A. E. Fer's LAMENT

"Where are all the World War One boys,  
I used to see so many,  
But now I watch from day to day,  
And don't see hardly any.

"By chance at times I see one,  
Strolling down the street,  
His hair is white, his shoulders drooped,  
And he slowly drags his feet.

"Many have gone to the Great Beyond,  
A few are left to stay,  
The death rate at the present,  
Is three hundred every day.

"Almost forsaken, almost forgotten,  
Our way seems rough and steep,  
As we try to make our living,  
While the loafer gets his keep.

"They used to call us boys,  
When sending us away,  
To fight in foreign battles,  
Where we knew that we might lay.

"We were glad to serve our country,  
And to fight let come what may,  
We were proud to be a soldier,  
And we are glad of it today.

"Many a soldier, young and bold,  
The battlefield did make grow old,  
Why then were we so soon forgotten,  
Sometimes I think our deal is rotten.

"Now they've given us a new name,  
We who were the loyal ones,  
They don't call us boys any more,  
But Treasury raiders, boozers, bums.

"War One Vets will take the insults,  
For the short time we have left,  
And if needed by our country,  
We will fight and do our best.

"Nothing will make us unfaithful, untrue,  
To the world's greatest nation,  
the Red, White and Blue,  
Still loyal and faithful, we ever will be,  
God bless America, God keep us free."

Contributed by H. F. Clem,  
Co. G, 318 Inf., AEF,  
Parkersburg, W. Va.

## A. E. F. Parlez Vous

"Dites done, got a ciggy,  
My old camarade?  
Comment ca va the world,  
Pas bon, hey or glad  
S'il vous plait a briquet—  
Ah, merci beaucoup.  
And what are you planning  
This evening pour vous?"

"Who, moi? Why, I'm pensing  
I'll aller coucher  
Today at the office  
I've trop travaille,  
As soon as I've mange  
My diner ce soir.  
It's me for my chambre at  
Neuf heures, oo-la-la!"

"Well, thanks for the smoke, kid,  
Au 'voir, must go vite."

"Oh, ca ne fait rien,  
Come see me toute suite."

(By A. E. F. veterans  
Strange language is shed,  
But—think if the war'd been  
In China instead!)

—William Warren.

## F. D. R. Reviews 80th 25 Years Ago

Greatest single honor accorded the 80th Division of World War II was the recent visit of our Commander in Chief, Franklin D. Roosevelt. Reviewing the massed might of the 80th at Camp Forrest on Saturday, April 17th, the President looked extremely fit and displayed keen interest in the Division's equipment as well as the awe-struck rank and file.

Expecting a distinguished visitor for days, every man in the 80th counted the salutes fired in his honor and as the 21st round boomed sharply over the parade grounds an impressive hush fell upon the 15,000 men.

Especially honored was the 314th Field Artillery Battalion. Their "C" Battery fired the 21 round salute in the Chief Executive's honor when he inspected WAAC units at Ft. Ogelthorpe while the afternoon found Battery "A" at "Cannonners Post."

Riding in an open sedan with the Division CG, Maj. Gen. H. L. McBride, the President stopped to talk with men of our own 305th Engineers. The reviewing party included the Presidential Press Secretary, Steve Early, who served with the 80th in World War I. Ruffles and Flourishes were supplied by the combined 318th Infantry and Division Artillery Bands.

Excerpted from 80th Forward  
by Ed Naughton, 905 FA, ETO,  
Richland, Wash.

## Ho, Hum!

News item: "Statisticians find that nine out of ten women are knock-kneed." And for years we'd been thinking that statisticians never had any fun.

## THE LETTER BOX . . .

Dear Comrades:

I am enclosing my check for which please mail to Mrs. Anna B. Farris, Box 444, Mt. Vernon, Ky., a set of decals and a souvenir plate. Also, will you please put her name on the mailing list for the Service Magazine.

While serving with Co. I, 318th Infantry in France, November 1944, her husband, Platoon S/Sgt. Owsley M. Farris, Jr., was killed in action during our attack on Nomeny. He took over command of his platoon just as we were assembling to move out on this mission to seize Nomeny. A report reached Company Headquarters that his platoon officer had been suddenly burned and had gone to the Medics.

I recall as Company Executive Officer under Captain Ralph Fontaine—I believe it was in Lixierres—going to Sgt. Farris in the wee hours of the morning after we received the report that his CO had been burned. He had his platoon assembled in the street of the little French village where we were located, preparing to move out on mission. I remember speaking to this fine, towering Kentuckian and asking him if he knew the situation. To my knowledge he gave me a positive report.

We had many casualties that day and to our sorrow lost Sgt. Farris. Capt. Fontaine had assigned me to the Weapons Platoon and I stayed right close that day to my Chattanooga friend and Weapons Platoon Sergeant, J. W. "Bill" Dooley, or at least until I received word that Capt. Fontaine had been wounded. After receiving this message I moved to him right on the edge of some Nomeny buildings. He said he was going back, but he might return. I did not see him again. He is a Louisville (Ky.) banker, as I understand, and has served (and may still be) as Secretary of the Kentucky Banker's Association.

Soon after reaching Capt. Fontaine our Regimental CO, Colonel Lansing McVikar, came rolling nearby standing in a tank. You could see the white flags going up all across the orchard area where the Germans were dug in. The Colonel was killed sometime later in Luxembourg, in an area very close to our location; as a matter of fact while trying to reach our Company. And one of my best friends, and an officer whom I thought was about the best, Lt. Kenneth Carlson of International Falls Minn., was killed trying to reach the Colonel.

Mrs. Farris wrote to the Company after receiving word of her husband's death. I recall answering the letter briefly as we could not write about casualties, and told her that I would try to contact her or write more if I returned to the States. And it was after my return sometime later, as I recall, that I found her address where her name had been recorded in a note book. It has been nice to

keep in touch with her and her family periodically.

Capt. John H. Marshall, AUS (Ret.)  
Marion, Alabama

Dear Sir:

I was with Co. A, 317th Infantry Regiment of the 80th Division from the very beginning. I was wounded a number of times and had several operations, the most recent being October, 1967 for shrapnel and concussion of the left leg. I am happy to say that all the bits of shrapnel are out and the damaged veins in the leg were removed and new veins substituted, thank God.

As I write this letter to you I feel fine, and with the help of God I hope and pray I will make the 1968 Convention as I haven't seen most of the boys in over twenty years.

Would you please put my name, address and outfit in our Service Magazine? I certainly would appreciate it so very much as I want to hear from the gang, who I'll never forget.

Fred Hyde  
1041 Puagsley Ave., #2F,  
Bronx, N. Y. 10473

Dear Comrades:

I read with pride the article written by Col. Charles Francois of the F.F.I. concerning the battle of Pont-a-Mousson, France. As time erases incidents that take place in battle it helped me to relive some of that tremendous action.

First let me salute the members of the 318th Infantry (and all other units involved) for their great fight. For those who survived, this article probably brings back some wonderful and also some sad memories.

I was a little dismayed at the slight account given to the men of the 1st Battalion, 319th Infantry. As I had the honor to serve in this battalion commanded by, at the time, Lt. Col. H. Dudley Ives (now Maj. Gen., ret.). I am enclosing a copy of General Orders, concerning the award of the DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION which I received after my discharge from service.

I think this is self explanatory and if there is space to reprint this account in the Service Magazine, I would be deeply appreciative. (We are glad to do so, and it follows—Ed.)

James E. Martin  
Co. D 319th Inf., ETO.  
Philadelphia, Pa.

## HQ, 80th Infantry Division General Orders Number 100

The following unit of the Division is cited for extraordinary heroism, gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in overcoming hazardous and difficult conditions against an enemy of the United States in France.

**FIRST BATTALION, 318TH INFANTRY:** The First Battalion, 319th Infantry is cited for outstanding performance of duty in France on 16 and 17 September 1944. On 16 September 1944, while advancing against the enemy held city of Nancy, France, this battalion was quickly diverted from this mission and directed to proceed north and defend a flank of the threatened Division bridgehead across the Moselle River near Loisy, France. Upon reaching the bridgehead the battalion immediately crossed the river under severe enemy fire and took position at Loisy, France. On the morning of 17 September 1944, the enemy made several counterattacks in force against this battalion with infantry and armor one from each flank. During one of these attacks the enemy armor reached within two hundred yards of the battalion defense position and poured direct fire therein. Armed only with organic weapons, the men of this battalion adhered to their positions and fought heroically to successfully repulse the fanatical attackers on each occasion. In the afternoon of this same day the battalion, with a tank company attached, attacked and cleared Atton, France, the Bois de Trappes, and Lesmenils, France, and relieved an infantry battalion which was completely surrounded by enemy forces.

The hard, resolute, and determined fighting of this battalion definitely aided in relieving the enemy threat to the bridgehead across the Moselle River, repulsed several heavy enemy counterattacks, and fought successfully to reach a trapped battalion thereby saving it from possible annihilation. Such courage, determination, and fighting spirit are commensurate with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States.

BY COMMAND OF

MAJOR GENERAL McBRIDE:

S. P. Walker,  
Colonel, Cavalry,  
Chief of Staff.

Gentlemen and Comrades:

This is intended to advise that I am now recuperating from sciatica and neuritis that has practically confined me to this nursing home during the past three years. I celebrated my 77th birthday during the last month, and I am able to get around without canes; even in cabs downtown for a good meal and a couple bends of my elbow.

Will be glad to see any of my old buddies at Huber Restorium, 521 - 69th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Fla. If advised in advance of your arrival I may be ready to join you for some interesting views of our city. At least I will be glad to communicate with any of you comrades who remain. Now I will be listening.

James H. Barlow,  
Co. M, 318th Inf., AEF.

## OUTFIT NEWS

### Co. H, 319th Inf. Assn., AEF

Secretary John G. Rainey reports that Comrade Samuel T. Cowan Sr. has been removed from the St. Luke Hospital to a nursing home, the Mason Manor (Room 207), 1827 Stockton St., Jacksonville, Fla. Cards will be appreciated. Comrade Wm. Wunder has been fighting the old flu bug since his return from the hospital, but is on the mend at this writing. A card from John Luce of Perryopolis, Pa., informs us that Comrade Paul Miner, who was a patient in Uniontown Hospital in February, is now convalescing at home. Maybe some of these warm days will be a big help to most of us old veterans after the deep freeze of the past winter. Comrade James Schneider of the Coulter road tells us Comrade Tom Lyons of Coulter, Pa., is not in the best of health. Tom has been laid up for quite a while. The James Morgans of Munhall, Pa., have returned home after visiting with their two sons who live in Virginia. They also stopped in to see the Wm. Davids of Norfolk and received the red carpet treatment. The Milton Pratts are home from their trip to the mid-West.

Pleasant phone conversations with the following comrades of Co. H who wish to be remembered to their comrades. They are Vice Pres. Emil Meier, Duquesne, Pa., Harvey Clark, Pittsburgh, Cheaser Talavania, Greenrock, Pa., and Lew Semler of McKeesport, Pa. It was nice hearing from Sebastian Peluso of Carnegie, Pa., via the Morning Report. Hope he is feeling better since the operation.

Secy. Rainey's new address is Room 224, Court House, Pittsburgh, Pa., 15219. Any news for the Reunion Edition should be forwarded before June 15.

Reported by Roy W. Painter,  
R. D. 1, Box 188,  
Elizabeth, Pa. 15037

### Bty. E, 313th FA, AEF

National Commander Calvin J. Webb was the featured speaker at the annual banquet during the reunion of Bty E at Martinsburg, W. Va., Saturday evening, September 23, 1967. On this occasion Commander Webb put in a good "plug" for the coming National Convention in Cincinnati.

One of the nice things about winter in Florida, besides the sunshine, is an annual get-together meeting of Battery E mates Ed Stout of Orlando, Loring Bean of Sebring, and Sam Evans who hibernates at Lake Wales. The March 11 meeting was the sixth such event. The ladies are always in on this affair. Capt. Russell Bontecou of Bty C is a resident of Lake Wales with whom visits are exchanged.

Reported by Sam Evans,  
125 Spring St.,  
Clarks Green, Pa.



Regret that he missed the Pittsburgh Convention due to an attack of shingles (Herpes Zoster) is voiced by **Herman G. Davis** (Div. HQ, AEF), 102 N. Main St., Keyser, W. Va. Davis was the driver for General Cronkhite during WW I, and would like to hear from someone who also served in the Headquarters Troop.

Friends of **Dr. Noel F. Grim** (HQ, 318 ETO), VA Hospital, Marion, Ind., may be interested to learn that he has been a psychologist with the Veterans Administration for approximately ten years now. . . . Rubbing it in as he does annually, **Morris Levine** (Co. D, 305 Ammo Tr., AEF), 9903 E. Light Drive, Silver Springs, Md., sends regrets from Florida that we poor folk up North have to put up with such lousy, cold, snowy weather.

**Oscar E. Clark**, Rt. 3, Box P19, South Boston, Va., says that the men of Co. I, 317 ETO were saddened to learn of the death of **Matt Allen**, and extend their sympathy to Mrs. Allen and the family. . . . **C. M. Wills** (Co. F, 317 AEF), Rt. 2, Bedford, Va., enjoys reading the Service Magazine particularly to see if any of his old buddies are mentioned in it. He was pleased to see that **Alexander H. Holstein** of Co. F was in good health, and would like to hear from any of his other buddies from that outfit. . . . **Eldon C. Gardner** (Co. E, 318 ETO), 2212 Estella, Perry, Iowa, has often wondered if there wasn't any decoration or other acknowledgment for the action of the 80th in the Luxembourg, Bastogne and Belgium area. His unit received a Presidential Citation, but to his knowledge no other.

**V. G. Yokum** (Bty. A, 313 FA, AEF), Rt. 1, Box 164, Keyser, W. Va., would like to attend the conventions, but claims there doesn't seem to be any of the 313th boys on hand anymore. He would enjoy hearing from any of the Pennsylvania boys from old Bty. A. . . . As a Chaplain with the 318th ETO, **John W. Osberg**, 178 Merrison St., Teaneck, N. J., was with this unit all through training and

combat. He has been on the staff of the American Bible Society for the past 22 years, and is now director of Special Events and Exhibits at the Society's Headquarters, Broadway and 61st St., New York City. At the Bible House there is on display many rare and historic items with the largest collections of Bibles in the Western Hemisphere. He would be glad to personally show old friends from the Division around the Bible House. . . . We regret to report that **George Hedderick** (313 MG Bn., AEF) is still a patient in the Erie (Pa.) VA Hospital and fails to show any appreciable improvement.

**Sgt. Earl Weeks** (Co. A, 318 ETO), 839 Jones St., Ravenna, O., would appreciate hearing from anyone who served with him at Camp Forrest, in Europe and the Bulge. . . . **Louis Agostini** (313 MG Bn., AEF) of Erie, Pa., made a flight to Germany to see his oldest son in the Army there, and later continued on to Rome where he visited with members of his family he hadn't seen in over 40 years. . . . The 25th Reunion was great according to **Norman Lesser** (Svc. Co., 319 ETO), 1824 Second Ave., Decatur, Ga. It was his first one and he really enjoyed seeing a lot of old friends.

**Ed Pushnik** (HQ, 318 ETO), who is an old pal of **John Linder's** (305 Med. Bn., ETO), is the proprietor of Pushnik's Motel in Lebanon, Pa., "Home of the Big Bands." John and Ed entered the 80th together. . . . **Capt. James S. Douglass Jr.** (Co. B, 318 AEF), 1204 S. Alfred St., Alexandria, Va., recently called to the attention of **John McKelway**, columnist for the Washington Star, some facts regarding the original bestowing of the Congressional Medal of Honor. It seems that during the Civil War this exalted decoration was bandied about in a very indiscriminate manner. McKelway subsequently wrote a lengthy article on this initial mishandling of the Nation's highest award. In it he mentioned that Congress, in 1917, took a good look at the previously awarded medals and decided to strike all the

names of the undeserving recipients from the list—a total of 864! . . . **Bill Gonsalves**, 91 Bliss St., East Providence, R. I., would like to say hello to all his buddies from Bty. B, 314 FA, ETO), and he wishes them good health and happiness.

**John W. Barrett** (314 FA, AEF), 925 Ohio St., East Liverpool, O., inquires as to when he can get a history of the 80th in WW I. We are sorry but we couldn't give him an encouraging reply, only that the matter is still being studied. . . . **Stan "Pop Abe" Abelaf**, 62 New Broadway, North Tarrytown, N. Y., often wonders whatever happened to the boys who belonged to the so-called "Tiger Patrol." They were a dozen of volunteers whose only job was to scout at night behind enemy lines. He was with them from October to Christmas eve, 1944, when shrapnel put him out of commission. That event took place in Luxembourg on the way to Bastogne as part of the HQ, 2nd Bn., 317 ETO. "Pop" says it would be nice to get in touch with any of these men. . . . We furnished **Capt. Alex Yereance** (305 Engrs., AEF), 6518 Valley Court, Falls Church, Va., with the names and addresses of 80th men living in his area. He does not know any of these comrades, but will keep an eye and ear open for news of them, and hopes to meet some one of these days.

A change of address should be noted for **Edward Joseph McFeely Patrick** (Div. HQ, ETO). It is now 10-B, 70 King's Court, Condado, Santurce, Puerto Rico, 00911. . . . **Leslie L. Whitehead** (Co. B, 318 AEF), 4408 Stone-wall Ave., Richmond, Va., who was the head chef of his outfit, wants the boys of Co. B to know that he is still around and would like to hear from them. He retired 12 years ago after 45 year's of service with the Southern Railway, and recently became an octogenerian. With Mrs. Whitehead they celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Jan 4 in good health. Leslie sees some of his old buddies on occasion and says it brings back memories of the times they had together during the war and subsequent peace. . . . Our sincere thanks to Bernice Kaufman, the wife of **Murray Kaufman** (Co. F, 317 ETO) of Reseda, Calif., for her excellent translation from the French of the article written by Col. Charles Francois, F.F.I., which was published in the Winter Edition.

A member of the Association since it was formed in France in 1919, **Clayborn M. Bickley** (Co. M, 319 AEF), Cutler Ave., Louisa, Va., also belongs to the American Legion and the Veterans of WW I. Now a hale 72, and weighing in at an even 200, he is in good health with the exception of a few aches and pains, and is now equipped with glasses and China Clippers. . . . **Lee Roy Boehme** (Co. A, 318 ETO), 1 Inwood Circle B, Orange, Texas, says he enjoys reading the Service Magazine and looks forward to receiving it each quarter.

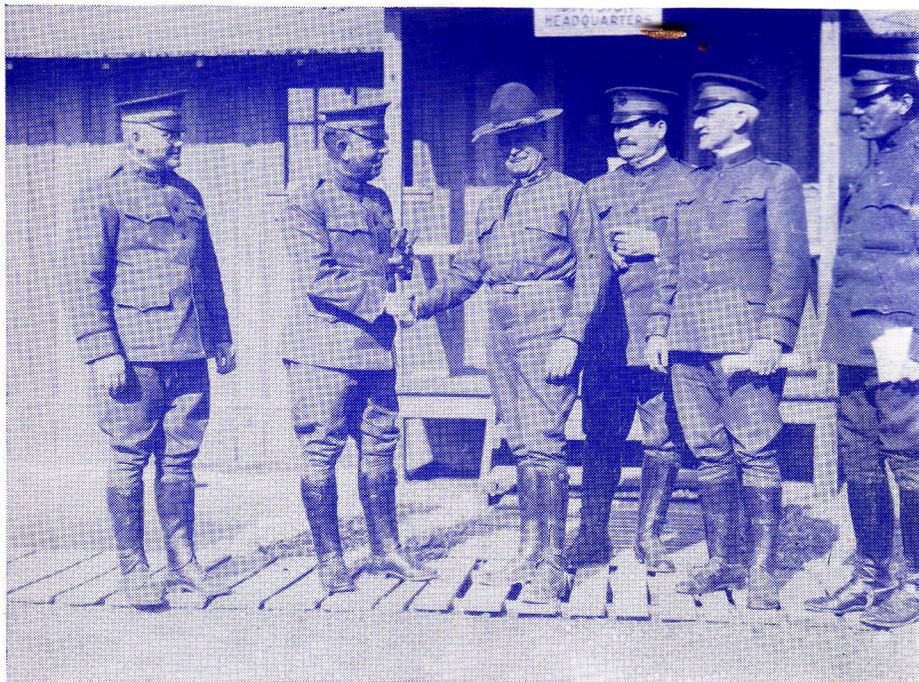
. . . Enroute to Florida to spend a couple of winter months, **Walter S. Wilson** (80th MP Co., AEF), East Hickory, Va., visited with **Luther Ransome** of his old outfit. Since his arrival he has seen a couple of men from the Ammo Train, and he suspects there are other 80th men around, but he doesn't know just where.

Rene Poitou of Ancy-le-Franc, France, recently sent to **Leslie L. Jones** (Co. F, 318 AEF), 3203 Floyd Ave., Richmond, Va., the post-Armistice snapshot reproduced here. The three Blue Ridgers shown are **J. C. Wise**, Covington, O.; **Richard Harges**, Seattle, Wash.; and **Lewis A. Irons** of Norristown, Pa. Poitou, a relatively young man, does not say how he came in possession of this picture, termed by him as "un photo historique," and we are assuming it must have been in his family. Does anyone know anything about these men?



Through the medium of Service, **S. A. Smith**, Box 73, Maud, Okla., was fortunate in making contact with **E. E. Sandy** and **Harold Jarret** at Shinston, W. Va. They were good old buddies of Bty. B, 314 FA at Camp Lee and in France. Smith hopes he can hear from more. **George T. Jones** (Co. B, 317 ETO), Monroeville, Ala., noted in our Autumn Edition the letter of Mr. Phillip F. Strauss soliciting information regarding his brother who was killed in the vicinity of Halsdorf, Germany. He has since written to Mr. Strauss giving certain information it is hoped will give him the answers he is seeking. . . . Associate member **Tom Furey** (1st Div., AEF) says we are to be congratulated on having such a fine group of men in Philadelphia Post No. 2. He has turned out with them several times on Memorial Day and opines that they are a good, snappy outfit with fine officers and an exceptionally good rifle squad. Merci bien, Thomas!

## FIFTY YEARS AGO AT CAMP LEE



Gen. Cronkrite is greeted by Brig. Gen. Brett (shaking hands) and other high-ranking officers upon his return from an inspection tour of the Western Front.



Unidentified outfit leaves for "Somewhere in France"

(Dwight H. Fee Collection)

Nelson W. Curtiss (314 FA, ETO), 901 Karlson Ave., Hyattsville, Md., sends along some news about some former ETO artillerymen, viz: **Jay Frederick** (80th Art. S-3) is now a Dr. of Metallurgy with the Dow Chemical Co., **General McKelvie**, CO of the 80th Division Artillery, is now living in Denver, Colo., and **Col. Daniel J. Minihan Jr.** (CO, 314 FA Bn.), since retiring from the Army, is with the faculty of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. . . . **Homer S. Cunningham** (Bty. E, 314 FA, AEF), Ft. Lowell Apt. 10, 3212 E, Ft. Lowell Rd., Tucson, Ariz., states that it does not appear many men from his battery are members of the Association, but personally is very proud to have served with the 80th and of its war record. He retains very pleasant memories of his association with E Bty. and thinks that not many can now answer roll call. He extends best wishes to all, especially the WW II boys who he hopes will carry on in the future.

**J. Leroy Wade** (Co. G, 317 ETO), I Madison Ave., New York City, certainly enjoyed the Pittsburgh Convention, and although he met only two of his buddies was thrilled to see them, especially **Felix Cistello**. He feels that he lives far from the 80th but is going to make it his duty to attend the conventions held near him particularly since **Ray Fong** (HQ, 3rd Bn.), who he thinks is "quite a guy," can make it all the way from California. . . . **Howard A. Holmes** (Co. I, 320 AEF) of Midway, Pa., is just lying around waiting for spring to come so he can start working on his old job at the Midway Cemetery. He takes care of it in the summertime and thinks it's not so bad for an old guy 73 years young. Ha! Ha!, he concludes.

**Walter M. Bralley** (Co. A, 305 Engrs., AEF) of Kingsport, Tenn., missing from the reunions since Erie in 1965, has indicated his intention of returning to the fold at Cincinnati. Walter, known to his reunion buddies as "Tennysee," was always busy passing out potato chips and such stuff to anyone who seemed to be in need of nourishment. . . . **Sam Evans** (Bty. E, 313 FA, AEF), Clarks Green, Pa., recently bumped into **Bryson Dunmire** (HQ, 315 FA, AEF) of Salix, Pa., and found out that he is a kinsman of **Clarence E. Dunmire** (HQ, 305 Engrs., AEF), 531 Grant St., South Fork, Pa. He learned from Bryson that Clarence, who attended the reunions regularly until 1959, has been confined to his bed for several years. . . . The Olympia Shopping Center in McKeesport, Pa. is a great place to meet 80th Division veterans. **Aristide Pigozzi**, who was a cook in Co. L, 319th Infantry, AEF, is a daily visitor to this place and is enjoying his retirement to the fullest.

## Netherlands To Sponsor Memorial Pilgrimage

The Netherlands War Graves Committee, Amsterdam, has announced that a special memorial pilgrimage has been scheduled to Europe for American servicemen next-of-kin for May 26.

Departing from New York via KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, relatives of American servicemen buried in The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg will be the guests of the Dutch people for nine days, during which time visits to the graves of America's war dead will be arranged and a special memorial service conducted on May 30.

During their stay in Europe, all participants will be hosted by The Netherlands—all transport in Europe, lodging and meals being provided **without cost**. Lodging generally will be in Dutch homes.

A complete program of activities will also be provided during their visit to further the "people to people" approach and to acquaint everyone with the highlights of these countries.

Any immediate member of the deceased veteran's family is eligible to participate. This will include Father, Mother, Widow, children of the deceased, brothers, sisters and foster parents. The spouse of a relative would also be eligible to accompany said relative.

The entire program—all expense—including round trip air transportation from New York to Amsterdam, lodging, transportation in Europe and all other incidentals except purely personal expenses is offered at a cost of \$210.00 per person. For relatives who cannot afford to pay this amount, a limited number will be assisted financially by the Netherlands War Graves Committee, as it is the desire of the Dutch to make a trip to the veteran's burial site possible for everyone who wants to do so even if finances are of great moment to that relative.

Through this medium, the Dutch people by their hospitality hope to demonstrate in a positive way the great gratitude to those who, through the sacrifice of their lives, liberated the Netherlands from Occupation in 1945, so bringing back freedom to their country. By this means, the next-of-kin will have an opportunity to see that this sacrifice made by United States servicemen has not been forgotten.

All arrangements for this pilgrimage are being made by The Netherlands War Graves Committee special United States representative in Wheaton, Ill. Inquiries should be addressed to The Netherlands War Graves Committee, P. O. Box 522, Wheaton, Ill., 60187.



- BEHARRY, George** (Co. F, 305 Amm. Tr., AEF)  
February 22, 1968, Sharon, Pa.
- BICKFORD, Paul** (Co. B, 313 MG Bn., AEF)  
Feb. 13, 1968, Cherry Tree, Pa.
- BISHOP, Lewis A.** (MG Co., 319 Inf., AEF)  
Dec. 23, 1967, West Mifflin, Pa.
- DERRY, Garland** (Co. B, 318 Inf., AEF)  
Feb. 14, 1968, Harpers Ferry, W. Va.
- DE TRANO, Pasquale** (Co. L, 317 Inf., ETO)  
Jan. 31, 1968, Philadelphia
- DUNMORE, Morris** (Co. D, 315 MG Bn., AEF)  
Mar. 10, 1968, New Kensington, Pa.
- FOGG, W. P.** (Med. Det., 319 Inf., AEF)  
Aug. 24, 1967, Beaver, Pa.
- GONTZ, Arlie** (Co. I, 320 Inf., AEF)  
Feb. 11, 1968, Derry, Pa.
- GOODWIN, Geo. F.** (Co. B, 315 MG Bn., AEF)  
Jan. 8, 1968, Uniontown, Pa.
- HISSOM, Olin S.** (Bty. A, 314 FA, AEF)  
January, 1968, St. Mary's, W. Va.
- HOSACK, Hilton E.** (Unknown Unit)  
Jan. 26, 1968, Sharon, Pa.
- MOYER, Paul R.** (Med. Det., 80th MP)  
Unknown Date, Greenville, Pa.
- JENKINS, James L.** (Bty. A, 315 FA, AEF)  
Feb. 6, 1968, Charleston, W. Va.
- LOVE, Benjamin J.** (Co. B, 305 MST, AEF)  
Jan. 25, 1968, Latrobe, Pa.
- LUPTON, Frederick W.** (Bty. E, 313 FA, AEF)  
Nov. 9, 1967, Augusta, W. Va.
- McKALLIP, Grant E.** (Co. A, 305 Engrs., AEF)  
Jan. 26, 1968, Gilpin Twp., Pa.
- MARTIN, Everette R.** (Co. E, 317 Inf., AEF)  
January, 1968, Waverly, W. Va.
- MATHERS, Walter** (Co. D, 313 MG Bn., AEF)  
Feb. 14, 1968, Erie, Pa.
- RENTZ, Regis C.** (305 Engrs., AEF)  
Jan. 20, 1968, Hollidaysburg, Pa.
- RUSS, James R.** (Co. A, 305 Amm. Tr., AEF)  
March 6, 1968, Warren, Pa.
- SCHAUERMAN, F. J.** (Co. D, 313 MG Bn., AEF)  
Feb. 17, 1968, Erie, Pa.
- WISE, Lt. Col. J. C., DSC** (2 Bn., 318 Inf., AEF)  
Feb. 20, 1968, Hampton, Va.

### Lt. Col. J. C. Wise

Lt. Col. Jennings Cropper Wise, whose colorful career as a soldier, author, educator and public servant spanned half a century, died on Feb. 20 in Kecoughton VA Hospital, Hampton, Va., where he had been a patient for more than two years. He was 86.

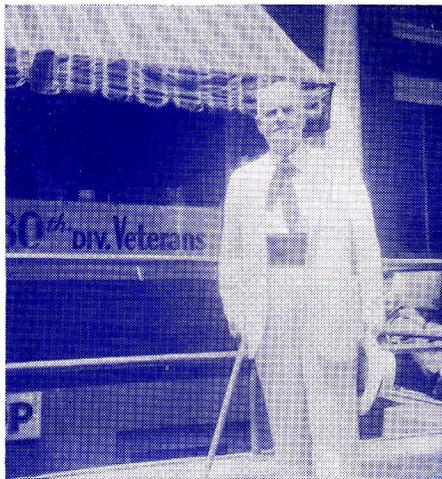
Born in Richmond, he was graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, N. H., Virginia Military Institute and the University of Virginia Law School. He was a member

of the law firm of Pollard, Wise and Chichister until 1912, when he was appointed commandant of cadets at VMI.

During World War I he was military observer to the French and British Armies on the Western Front. Later he was placed in command of the 2nd Bn., 318th Infantry, AEF, serving in Picardy and the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne Offensives. He was wounded at Nantillois, was twice cited for gallantry in action, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross "for extraordinary heroism in action, retaining command though wounded." Among his other decorations are the Purple Heart and French Legion of Honor.

Col. Wise was appointed assistant attorney general in President Hoover's administration, returning to private law practice in 1933. He was a prolific writer of military history, one of his most interesting works being "The Great Crusade," an account of his wartime experiences concealing the autobiographical nature of the story by calling himself "Smith." He was a recognized authority on artillery of the Civil War.

He is survived by a son, Henry A. Wise of Lexington, Va., and a daughter, Mrs. L. S. Vincent of Williamsburg, Va. Interment was in the Wise family cemetery near Onancock, Va.



Col. Wise at 1958 Harrisonburg Reunion.

### Interstate Route 80 (Cont'd)

In the Winter Edition we reported that the Pennsylvania General Assembly had enacted legislation providing for the designation of Interstate Route No. 80, within Pennsylvania, as the "Memorial Highway of the 80th Division of the U.S. Army."

This statement, based on a local newspaper article, was premature. As a matter of cold fact no such legislation was passed. How-

ever, a bill (House Bill No. 2087) was introduced with this intent and referred to the Highways Committee. Therefore, members and Posts located in Pennsylvania are urged to write their State representatives soliciting prompt action on this important bill. They should be addressed at the Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120.

## NEWS FROM THE POSTS

### Greater Reading Post

Post No. 32 met on the eve of St. Patrick's Day and observed the occasion by serving "green" beer. There was quite a display of green on the part of those attending.

As usual there will be a 39-passenger bus engaged for the jaunt to the Cincinnati Convention, complete with "une vase de nuit." The round trip fare has been established at the modest sum of \$25.00. Post members are being urged to make early reservations at Cincinnati's Netherland Hilton Hotel and not later than two weeks prior to opening date of the convention.

Through a typographical error in the Winter Edition, the item regarding the distribution of gifts at the Valley Forge General Hospital indicated the number donated as a mere 10 bags. It should have read 100! (We have fired the proofreader—Ed.)

### 80th MP Post No. 38, ETO

The newest Post of the Association has presently enrolled 36 veterans of the ETO as Charter Members. Appointed temporary officers until presentation of the charter in Cincinnati are: Adam A. Wojtycki, Commander; Ralph Rocco, Secretary; Frank Dremons, Treasurer, and Edward Allison, Service Officer.

John Cooper of Santa Monica, Calif., who regularly attends the reunions is currently recovering from a recent extended illness and sends along his appreciation for the many get-well expressions sent by his many MP buddies. A hearty welcome to our newest member and one of Pittsburgh's finest—Jack Sarsfield.

A record 19 members attended the Pittsburgh affair and many are arranging vacations to get to the Cincinnati meeting August 7th to 10th, inclusive.

### Philadelphia Post

The dinner in honor of retiring Post Commander Robert N. Nathason will take place at the William Bolton-Dixon Post, American Legion, in Ft. Washington, Pa., on Saturday evening, May 11. Russ Mahon is in charge of this annual happening.

The spring dinner meeting of the Past Commanders Club was held at Imhof's Restaurant in Germantown on March 5, with Ben W. Heist presiding.

On Memorial Day the Post will hold services at the graves of Richard R. Fleisher

and Morris Goldstein in Mt. Sinai Cemetery, and Paul Beck in Rosedale Cemetery. Top Sergeant Al Markert will be in charge of the firing squad at these ceremonies, with Lt. Rod Bonsall leading the contingent.

### 3rd Bn., 317 Inf. Post, ETO

Responses are coming in to Harold Render's (Co. L) letters and requests for names of members who were in the 3rd Bn. He writes that many members, who seldom if ever, attended any of the reunions, have indicated their intentions to be in Cincinnati. We look forward to a large attendance. J. H. O'Neil (Co. I) of Richmond, Va., sent along a list of 26 names. Many thanks. We will send letters to each.

We regret the passing of Pat DeTrano, Co. L, on January 31, 1968. It was sudden—a heart attack. He was looking forward to Cincinnati this year and it would have been his first reunion. We extend our sympathy to his wife and children.

Reported by Bob Nathason, Co. I  
45 Upland Rd., Havertown, Pa. 19083

### Cincinnati Post

Post No. 34 held a pre-Convention meeting at the Hotel Netherland Hilton on March 16 to discuss the various activities of the Convention. The ladies of the Post are busy making ducks and rabbits and all kinds of little things to sell at the Western Woods Charity Fair. They hope to raise money from this activity for Viet Nam packages and for Cincinnati's part in the Convention. The Drum Corps will be starting to move soon, so watch for them in your area. On April 7 they will be at Indiana City; Sunday, April 21, Midwest Color Guard Finals at Chicago, Ill., and at Columbus, Ohio, on June 28 and 29.

### 80th Recon Troop Post

The Recon Troop Post No. 37 hopes to see all of its members at Cincinnati in August. Post Commander Wilbur Meyer urges all who plan to come to make their hotel reservations early. The Convention Committee has many interesting plans designed for our pleasure. So, let's all support them with our attendance.

### Falsies, Anyone?

A sawed-in-half billiard ball . . . furnace cement . . . liquid solder . . . bone . . . carpet tacks . . . plaster . . . woodscrews. Put them all together and what have you got? A complete set of false teeth—plus dental plates! By using various combinations of those elements, a man was able to make his own dentures and wear them for about 40 years.

The case came to light when the man, now 79 years old, was admitted to the VA Hospital at Oklahoma City for a physical ailment not related to his dental problems. During a general examination, it was discovered he

## COLLEGE CITY MARKET

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RAYMOND FONG, Proprietor

Hq. Co., 3rd Bn., 317th Inf., ETO

LIFE MEMBER 80TH DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Member: CINCINNATI POST NO. 34  
CLEVELAND POST NO. 35  
3RD BN. 317TH INFANTRY POST NO. 36  
80TH RCN TROOP POST NO. 37

was wearing dentures made out of furnace cement, built up with liquid solder, and topped off with wood screws which acted as molars—the grinding teeth in the rear of the mouth. He had been using them for 25 years.

Dentists at the hospital were amazed at the man's ingenuity. They said he had no more than a third grade education and never worked with a dentist or technician. Asked where he learned to make dental impression, he answered: "The idea just came to me. I picked it up on my own."

Dentists provided him with a brand-new pair of acrylic dentures, professionally-fitted to his mouth. The man said he liked the new dentures much better than the old ones and that he felt as if he did not have anything in his mouth. "They don't hit nowhere," he said.

Dr. Kenneth M. Tucker, staff dentist, said the man told him he made the dentures himself and that he had fashioned others in past years. One time, he said, he cut a billiard ball in half with a hack saw and chopped the inside out to fit his mouth. "I took an impression of my mouth and 'turned it' with furnace cement," he told Dr. Tucker. "I finished chipping the inside of the ball out until it looked like the mold and then carved the teeth out. This didn't fit so good, so I took another impression, 'turned it' with furnace cement, and made a model. I filled the billiard ball plate with liquid solder and put it on the furnace cement." The patient said he used one half of the billiard ball for the upper plate and the other half for the lower. He chipped the inside of the ball out with a file. "The billiard ball teeth wore off in about six months. I sawed the back teeth off and put bone in, but it wore off. Then I put carpet tacks in the 'molders' (molars) and soldered them in. The tacks never did taste right and they left a 'whang' in my mouth."

Tucker said the man then decided to make a set of teeth out of liquid solder. He used

a plaster impression of his mouth into which he placed furnace cement and then painted liquid solder on the furnace cement mold. He made six sets of teeth that way, he said. The man ran into chewing difficulties when the back teeth made out of the liquid solder wore out. It was then that he started using wood screws. The dentures he wore when admitted to the VA hospital were those he had made 25 years before. The dentures were pink with a gray metallic strip simulating the front and side surfaces of the teeth. Part of this strip had been scored to denote the front teeth. Dark flat, scored objects, which dentists later learned were wood screws, acted as the molars.

Dr. Tucker said the homemade dentures did not fit correctly and that the relationship of the upper and lower "teeth" was poor. They weighed over one-half ounce more than the professionally-made dentures. The patient said he lost his teeth in 1913 as a result of "fights." Out of six sets professionally-made in different cities in subsequent years, he was satisfied with only one of them—but he "lost" these around 1925. That is when he thought he "could make some myself."

When he found out about liquid plastic, he said he painted on his furnace cement mold plates. As the plastic wore off, he repainted them. "The top plate got heavy in the last four to five years because of the liquid plastic I kept adding," he said. "The plates were so heavy I couldn't do heavy chewing. I didn't like to use powder or any adhesive to keep the plates in so I kept adding plastic."

The man said he wore the teeth "all the time" and took them out only to clean them at irregular periods. He said he was able to eat "anything except tough foods." At last report, Dr. Tucker said, the patient was still satisfied with his VA-made dentures, eating such foods as crisp bacon, toast, mashed potatoes, green beans and corn bread.

VA Information Service