

BLUE RIDGE



THE SERVICE MAGAZINE

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HONORING THE BLUE RIDGE LEGACY

80th Division Plaque Dedicated at the U.S. Army National Museum



ON MAY 31, MEMBERS of the 80th Division Veterans Association, along with several long-time soldiers and supporters, proudly gathered at the U.S. Army National Museum at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, for the unveiling and dedication of the 80th Division/ Training Command Plaque. The event marked a historic moment for the 80th—known as the “Blue Ridge Division”—as its storied legacy officially took its place among

the Army’s honored units displayed in the nation’s most prestigious military museum.

The plaque stands as a permanent tribute to the thousands of soldiers who have served under the 80th’s banner since its formation in 1917. It recognizes their unwavering dedication from the trenches of World War I to the fierce campaigns of World War II, through the Cold War, and into the modern era as a premier training command. Its presence in the National Museum ensures that the valor, duty, and resilience of these soldiers will be remembered for generations to come.

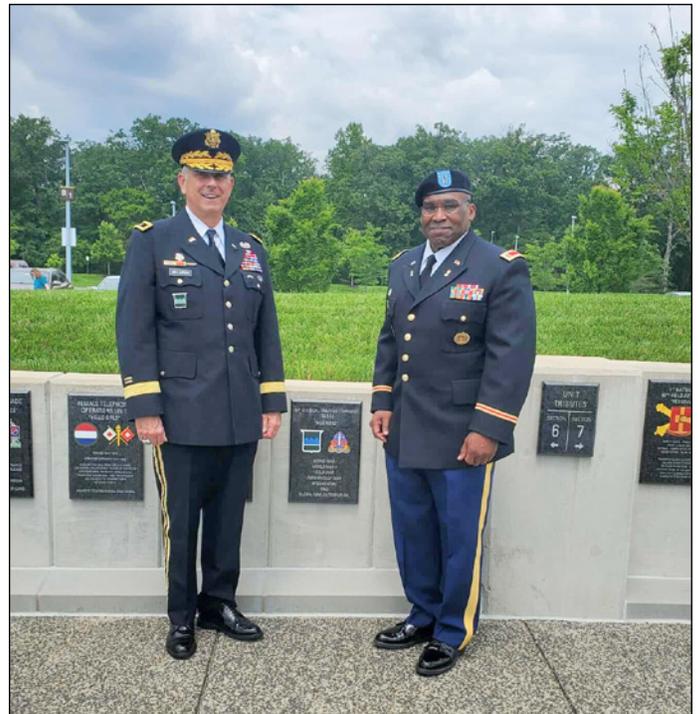
The creation of this tribute was made possible through the vision of PNC John McLaren and determination of Lindsay Marsh Trombetta, who spearheaded a GoFundMe campaign in 2024 to fund the plaque’s design and installation. Her efforts, supported by the generosity of 80th Division veterans, their families, and friends, turned an inspiring idea into reality. The campaign drew widespread support across the 80th community, uniting past and present members in a shared mission to preserve the Division’s history.

The unveiling ceremony brought together veterans and families who have long carried the Blue Ridge spirit in their hearts. Attendees reflected on the Division’s proud history and its role in shaping generations of soldiers. The plaque itself serves as a symbol of unity and pride, representing not just a military lineage, but also the enduring bond between those who have served and those who continue to uphold the 80th’s standards of excellence.

As one attendee remarked, the day was “a moment of pride and reflection for all who have been part of the 80th’s story.” The event was a fitting celebration of the Division’s 108-year legacy, and a testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together to honor its own.

The 80th Division Veterans Association extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to this meaningful tribute. For more information and photos from the dedication, as well as future updates, please visit our social media page on Facebook (80th Division Veterans Association) and our website at www.80thdivision.com.

Well done to all who made this recognition possible—and to the Blue Ridge soldiers whose service continues to inspire.



PNC John McLaren, 80th Division Veterans Association & CW5 Carlton Darby, 80th Training Command (TASS)

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Blue Ridge Service Magazine

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SAVE THE DATE REUNION TIME IS COMING

105th Reunion – Dayton, Ohio

AUGUST 5–9, 2026

Get ready to reconnect and celebrate with fellow members at the 105th Reunion in Dayton, Ohio, August 5–9, 2026!

*We'll also be honoring a very special milestone—the 100th birthday of PNC and WWII veteran **BURT MARSH!***

More details and registration forms will be available in the Spring/Summer 2026 issue of the Blue Ridge and on our website at 80thdivision.com.

See you in Dayton!



HOW TO SUBMIT STORIES

Are you a veteran or a family member of an 80th Division veteran? Are you currently serving in an attachment to the 80th Training Command (TASS)?

Are you a historian with a connection or interest in the 80th Division during any wartime campaign?

Then you have a story to tell. Help keep our magazine alive—share your experiences, memories, and insights by submitting your story to:

blueridge.editor@gmail.com.

We need your voice! Together, we'll keep history alive—one story at a time.

Next submission deadline: February 25, 2026

Thanks for your support of the 80th Division Veterans Association

(through August 2025)

DONATIONS

Stephen, COL (R) Thomas
Honor of HQs, 80th Div TNG



We Want You!

...to help research and write the stories of all 421,000+ World War II fallen American service members.

The Stories Behind the Stars project currently has nearly 1,000 volunteers, from all 50 states and more than a dozen countries, but to accomplish this ambitious goal, we need many more volunteers.

The Stories Behind the Stars project was created to organize a central digital location to collect the stories of all of the WWII American service members represented by the Gold Stars. These stories are being digitally linked to war memorials and cemeteries so that visitors to a fallen's grave site or memorial can read his or her story on their smartphone.



TO READ AN EXAMPLE STORY:

www.fold3.com/memorial/653606440/luther-james-isom#stories
or scan the QR code left.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

www.storiesbehindthestars.org
or scan the QR code right.



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Brian Faulconer, National Commander

GREETINGS TO ALL members of the 80th Division Veterans Association, family, and friends.

It is both an honor and a privilege to once again be part of this outstanding organization. The proud legacy of the 80th continues to capture the interest of many of our European allies. Over the past year, numerous towns across Europe have marked significant World War II anniversaries—many of which honored the 80th Division's lasting contributions. Our association was invited to participate in several of these commemorations, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to PNC Dr. Lee Anthony and PNC Bill Black for representing us so admirably at some of these special events.

I encourage everyone to read the Spring Issue (April 2025) newsletter, which beautifully documents these commemorations and other milestones. Many thanks to Christine Guidry Law, our editor, for her dedication in producing such a remarkable publication.

This year has also seen continued recognition of the 80th Infantry Division's enduring impact. In May, Maj. Gen. (R) John McLaren led a project to install a commemorative plaque at the National Museum of the U.S. Army, honoring



the 80th Division and the Training Command (TASS). Several of our members attended this moving tribute, and we are deeply grateful for the partnership and collaboration with our Training Command.

Our association's legacy is one of strength, service, and family. It was one of my late father's greatest joys to be part of this group, and he often hoped I would one day contribute to its future. I feel blessed that he was able to see me serve as National Commander before his passing. I encourage each of you to consider volunteering in some capacity to help keep the spirit of the 80th alive and strong for genera-

tions to come.

Looking ahead, please join us for our 105th reunion in Dayton, Ohio, in August 2026. The planning committee—Lindsay Trombetta and Christine Guidry Law—is already working diligently on logistics and venue details, which will be shared in our Spring 2026 newsletter. Until then, may God bless you all.

The 80th only moves forward!
Brian Faulconer

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Christine Guidry Law



GREETINGS, READERS! Over the past months, I've had the opportunity to represent the 80th at several outreach events. These experiences have reaffirmed the deep admiration and respect our allies and communities continue to hold for the men and women of the 80th. Each encounter reminds me of the importance of keeping our mission alive—honoring the past while strengthening the bonds of our association for the future.

As we look ahead, our focus turns to the upcoming 105th Reunion (August 5 – 9, 2026), where we will not only celebrate the enduring legacy of the 80th Division but also honor a true living treasure—PNC and WWII Veteran Burt Marsh, who will be turning 100 years old. This momentous milestone will make our next gathering even more meaningful, and I encourage everyone to make plans to join us for what promises to be

a memorable celebration.

The legacy of the 80th is written in the courage, sacrifice, and spirit of those who served—and in the voices of those who continue to remember them. Through the *Blue Ridge Magazine*, our amazing website, and ongoing outreach efforts, we keep that history alive—not confined to the past, but carried forward through every story shared and every life touched.

I invite you to be part of this living legacy. If you have stories, photos, or memories to share—or if you're a veteran, family member, or part of the 80th (TASS)—please reach out at blueridge.editor@gmail.com. Together, we'll continue to honor the 80th—one story, one name, and one voice at a time.

And if you are not already a member of this great organization, I encourage you to join us by sending in your membership form found on page 19 of this issue!

With respect and dedication,
Christine Guidry Law

TASS NEWS

80th Training Command

New Prestigious Members Join the IG Team at TASS

On August 2, TASS welcomed new members to the Inspector General (IG) team. Lt. Col. Jason Nagel (formerly of the 11th Battalion, 95th Regiment, 97th Training Brigade, and 100th Training Division) and Command Sgt. Maj. David Nyholm completed their administration of the IG oath at the 80th TASS headquarters in North Chesterfield, VA. In the past, Lt. Col. Nagel won the 2017 Instructor of the Year award in the Army Reserve category. Master Sgt. Nyholm previously served as Task Force Titan Medical NCO in charge of staff, and was stationed in Afghanistan.



L to R: Command Sgt. Maj. Rogelio James; Lt. Col. Nagel; Command Sgt. Maj. Nyholm; and Maj. Gen. Mike Dougherty

New Commander of the 94th Training Division

On September 6, the 94th Training Division - Force Sustainment Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Louisa R. Bargeron, handed the reins over to incoming Commander, Brig. Gen. Christopher J. Niewind.

Brig. Gen. Bargeron is a graduate of the Quartermaster Officer Basic and Advance Courses, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College. She has been deployed multiple times to Iraq, most recently supporting Operation Inherent Resolve and Spartan Shield as the Equipping Director for the Counter-ISIS Train and Equip Fund, 1st Theater Sustainment Command.

Brig. Gen. Niewind was promoted from Colonel on July 15, 2025, upon approval from the 119th Congress. Niewind graduated with a BA in Elementary Education from Minnesota State University, and holds an MA in Organizational Leadership from Webster University as well as an MS in Military Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He has served with

the Reserves since 2000, including a tour of duty in Germany. His experience in his civilian life as an engineering director will translate well into his new role, and we wish him incredible success.



Left with Flag, Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Eddy; Brig. Gen. Louisa Bargeron ; Brig. Gen. Christopher Niewind; and Maj. Gen. Mike Dougherty

Capt. Brydon Jackson to Georgia for AGR

On September 25, TASS bid farewell to Cpt. Brydon Jackson as he departed the 80th Training Command to start his first AGR tour in Georgia. A graduate of Liberty University, Cpt. Jackson states, "I have always wanted to work in a job to safeguard and better my country." TASS thanks him for his years of service to the command as the Knowledge Management Officer and Aide de Camp to the commanding general.



Capt. Brydon Jackson

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Drill Sergeants of the Year Awarded

Command Sgt. Maj. Rogelio James, 80th TASS Command Sergeant Major and a former drill sergeant, presented coins to the Army Reserve and Active Component Drill Sergeants of the Year on September 18 at Ft. Jackson, SC. Congratulations go out to the 2025 U.S. Army Reserve DSOY, Staff Sgt. Brady Benedict, and Active Component DSOY, Sgt. 1st Class Randall Smith.

L to R: Sgt. 1st Class Randall Smith with Command Sgt. Maj. Rogelio James; Staff Sgt. Brady Benedict with Command Sgt. Maj. Rogelio James

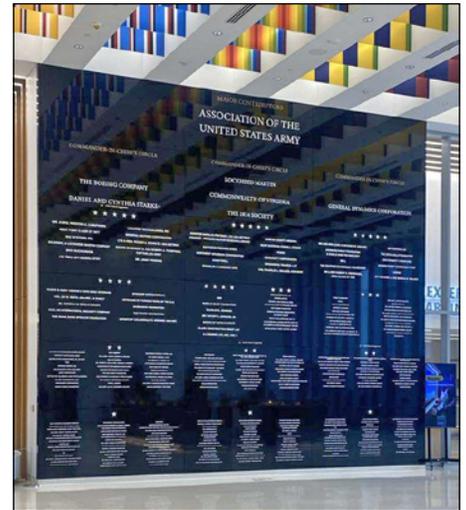
Photos provided by LTC Thomas J. Piernicky and Sgt. 1st Class Crystal Harlow

Honoring the Legacy... continued from page 1

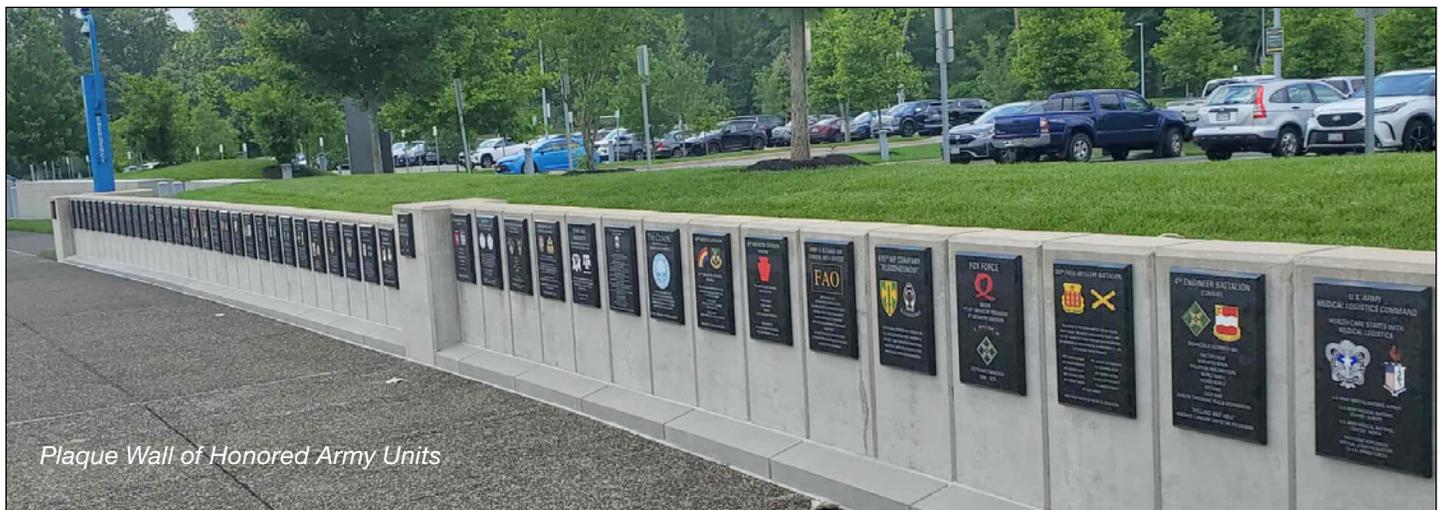
Photos provided by John McLaren, Christine Guidry Law, and Kathleen Zoll



Christine Guidry Law, Doris Wollett, Louis Blanco, Rick Littleton, PNC John McLaren, CW5 Carlton Darby, and Jamie Vincent



Army Association Wall inside the museum



Plaque Wall of Honored Army Units

80TH DIVISION (WWI) HISTORIAN'S REPORT

by Lee S. Anthony, PNC & WWI Historian

HISTORY CONTINUES TO be made, discovered, and appreciated! I first want to thank our WWII historian, Andy Adkins—a true digital whiz and my frequent collaborator in answering family inquiries about their veterans.

I'm now a member of both the 80th and 29th Division Veterans' Associations, giving me a broader perspective on their shared legacies. Our activities remain centered at "The Barn" here in Roanoke County, where volunteers Rosemary Brown and Frank Campbell are invaluable. Rosemary handles secretarial duties, and Frank—our "Jack of All Trades"—keeps operations running smoothly. The Barn continues to fill with militaria and memorabilia reflecting our proud history.

Recently, we were delighted by a visit from an 80th Division couple. I hope many more will follow. Among our ongoing projects is the restoration of the Association's historic flag, originally presented by the Ladies Auxiliary at its first meeting. It has been used in recent years as a banner, but proper restoration will cost several thousand dollars. Alongside the flag are cherished documents: a Post charter signed by General Brett and the original Auxiliary charter. Perhaps one day, the Auxiliary itself might be reestablished.

Sadly, we lost two dear French friends this year—Dr. Lucien Houlemare, former president of our now-defunct French Post, and Mr. Daniel Huard, who generously hosted me in France over the years. Their passing is deeply felt.

Europe Travelogue

Although I am hesitant to write about my travels, they may serve as a guide for anyone wishing to explore the hallowed ground where Americans twice fought for liberty. My trip to Europe this May and June—my 30th visit—was with my friend Frank Campbell and his grandson, Nicholas Powers. Each journey deepens my respect for those who served.

We departed on May 20 and returned June 10, in time to observe Memorial Day overseas. It remains a profound honor to represent the 80th Division Veterans' Association at the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) cemeteries—immaculately maintained resting places of those who gave their lives for freedom.

Months before Memorial Day, our office arranges floral tributes for all thirteen ABMC cemeteries. Since the ABMC no longer coordinates this directly, we must work with multiple vendors at a cost now exceeding \$2,000. Most cemeteries kindly send photographs of the 80th Division arrangements once placed.

This year, we attended Memorial Day at Normandy (Colleville) Cemetery, seated among the Honored Guests. Superintendent Bruce Malone, a friend, managed both the Normandy and Meuse-Argonne observances with grace and dedication. The ceremony was moving beyond words. Following it, we visited the Maisy German artillery battery—buried and forgotten since WWII until its recent rediscovery. Standing on those invasion beaches, one cannot help but remember the sacrifices of June 6, 1944—the Bedford Boys especially.

Remembering Captain Eddie Simpson

Our travels next took us south of Paris to the Loire region, tracing the story of Captain Edward "Eddie" Kingsbury Simpson, Jr., of the famed 357th Fighter Group. Many know Captain Bill Overstreet—Roanoke's own WWII hero who famously flew his Mustang beneath the Eiffel Tower—but Bill always said, "Don't tell my story. Tell Eddie's."

Eddie, part of "Bud" Anderson's elite fighter group, was escorting bombers over France on August 10, 1944, when his P-51 collided midair with another Mustang. Eddie parachuted to safety in occupied France and joined the Resistance (Maquis).



Lee Anthony shows Captain Simpson's name on Lorris monument



Frank Campbell, his grandson Nicholas Powers, and Lee Anthony

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Historian's Report... continued from page 6

Four days later, while the Maquis held a funeral for fallen comrades, German patrols attacked. Forced to flee in stolen German trucks, the Maquis were pursued by enemy forces.

Eddie and four Maquis volunteers stopped, mounted a machine gun, and fought to the last man—buying time for 250 comrades to escape. Their self-sacrifice saved countless lives. Eddie's story was uncovered years later by a Stars and Stripes reporter in 1959. Eddie now rests at the ABMC cemetery in Epinal, France.

In September 2024, I requested that our Congressional representatives pursue the Medal of Honor for both Eddie Simpson and his commander, "Bud" Anderson—whose aerial victories far exceeded official counts. Sadly, our efforts stalled when congressional offices misplaced the documentation. We continue to pursue recognition, with a follow-up meeting scheduled for September 2025 at The Barn.

Across Belgium and the Western Front

From the Loire, we traveled north to Belgium, where history echoes in every field. At Ypres (Leper), we visited "The Christmas Truce" field, Messine Ridge, and St. Nicholas Church—where Hitler was once treated for wounds. Each evening, the "Last Post" ceremony honors Britain's WWI missing under the Menin Gate, rain or shine. The sheer loss—20,000 killed and 40,000 wounded in a single day—remains unimaginable.

Nearby Flanders Field still bears witness to Dr. John McCrae's poem, written beside the grave of a fallen comrade.

Standing there, one truly feels the enduring cost of war.

We then visited the Somme, where Cpl. Henry G. Sentell—Company F, 317th Infantry—became the first soldier killed in action by friendly fire. In the churchyard nearby lies the story of The Englishman's Daughter, a haunting reminder of the civilians caught in war's crossfire.

While in the region, we enjoyed the company of our dear friends Debbie and Dominique Desmetre—true Christian friends whose hospitality I treasure.

Luxembourg and Germany

Our journey continued to Luxembourg, home to the American Military Cemetery and General Patton's grave. The region also boasts great museums such as the must-see National Military Museum in Diekirch.

From there, we traveled to Munich, visiting the ruins of Hitler's "Eagle's Nest"—a stark reminder of tyranny's fall.

Reflections

Each journey deepens my gratitude for the generations who sacrificed everything for liberty. The cemeteries, the villages, the friendships forged across oceans—all testify to the lasting bond between those who served and those who remember.

Here at The Barn, our mission continues: to preserve, educate, and honor. With the help of friends and volunteers, I hope to sustain this work daily, God willing.

All photos provided by Lee Anthony



Lee Anthony at Normandy (Coleville) Cemetery



The Christmas Truce in the vicinity of Ypres/Leper



Lee Anthony at Eagle's Nest (site of Hitler's home)

A LIFE BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD

by Tyler Boland, KeepingHistoryAlive.org

RECENTLY, I DROVE SOUTH to sit with 101-year-old World War II veteran Mr. Tom Carmelo, a man whose quiet dignity fills a room before he even speaks. Hard to believe, but this was the first time anyone had ever interviewed him.

Mr. Tom lost part of his left arm in combat while serving with the 80th Infantry Division, earning a Purple Heart for his sacrifice. What remained of the arm was later amputated in England.

Born in Manhattan in March 1924 and raised in Brooklyn, Mr. Tom grew up one of five brothers—and every one of them served. The Great Depression didn't strike his family as hard as it did others, but like many kids of that era, he says they didn't think much about money. "You just made do," he told me. After high school, he went to work at the Norden Bombsight factory, contributing to the war effort long before he ever wore a uniform. That job postponed his draft—until 1944, when the Army finally called.

He'd hoped to join the Navy, but, he added with a grin, "I couldn't swim, so that wasn't going to happen."

Training took him to New Jersey and Camp Blanding, Florida, before he shipped out to England. By August 1944, he was in France with an anti-tank battalion, hauling a 57mm gun on a six-by-six truck. Within days, his unit engaged a German Panzer. Soon after, he was reassigned to K Company, 317th Infantry Regiment—and that's when his war changed forever.

After digging a foxhole one afternoon, German artillery struck. A shell exploded just above him, tearing into his hip, back, legs—and left arm. "Play dead," his buddies told him as

German troops advanced. For nearly twenty-four hours, he lay there, bleeding and silent. At dawn, he heard German soldiers moving from foxhole to foxhole, finishing off the wounded. When they reached him, he opened his eyes just enough to see them standing above—and then, miraculously, they walked away.

That night, American forces counterattacked, and a medic finally reached him. He was rushed to a field hospital, then flown by C-47 to England, where surgeons amputated what remained of his arm. Eventually, he was brought back to the United States. He spent more than a year in a full body cast, fighting his way back to life.

But Mr. Tom never stopped moving forward. He built a life defined by grit and generosity, becoming a tireless advocate for other wounded veterans—especially amputees. He even played baseball again, suiting up for the Broken Wings and the Flat Tires, two teams of amputee athletes who squared off at the Polo Grounds in New York. Later, as part of the AmpVets Softball Team, he traveled the Northeast, playing everyone from Eddie Feiner's legendary squad to local radio station teams—raising awareness and hope wherever they went.

As our conversation wound down, Mr. Tom smiled and said quietly, "I just did what I had to do."

Thank you, Mr. Tom, for trusting me with your story—and for reminding us all what courage, humility, and endurance truly look like.



1. Tom Carmelo holds Blue Ridge patch
2. Tom's medals
3. Tom and his sweetheart
4. The Broken Wings baseball team
5. Tyler and Tom

REMEMBERING THE LIBERATORS: A Moving Inauguration at Saint-Joseph Chapel

by Joseph Sprunck – Retired Newspaper Writer, Lorraine Region

ON MAY 24, 2025, the quiet village of Ormersviller in Lorraine witnessed a moment of deep remembrance and gratitude. Bill Black, who traveled from the United States, came to honor his father and the soldiers of the 80th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army—men who helped liberate France and our little town during World War II.

A Memorial for the 80th Infantry Division

A new memorial, dedicated to the 80th Infantry Division, now stands beside the monument commemorating the expulsion of the local population and across from tributes to the 32nd Infantry Regiment of Tours and the 127th Regiment of Zweibrücken. The 80th fought here in December of 1944, during a period of severe Nazi aggression.

The unveiling was carried out by Mayor Marcel Vogel and Bill Black, in the presence of flag bearer Patrice Schwalbach, many residents, and students waving both French and American flags. Under the direction of Véronique Meyer, the children's voices rose together in a heartfelt rendition of La Marseillaise, honoring those who sacrificed their lives for freedom. Like every generation since the war, they are taught the importance of gratitude toward the American soldiers.

In his moving speech, Mayor Vogel recalled his parents' wartime hardships and the long nights they spent sheltering in cellars in fear of the Nazis:

"We wanted to pay tribute not only to the GIs, but to all those who died, whose names are engraved on our monuments. The liberation of our country is one of those great events we believe can never be forgotten—but remembrance

must be nurtured. We must pass it on to our children and grandchildren. Let us never forget the sacrifice of those who gave their lives so that France could be free again—strong in her values of equality, justice, and liberty."

The Story of Staff Sergeant William Black

Through Philippe Dunoyer, a member of Parliament who gladly served as his interpreter, Bill Black shared the story of his father's service:

"When my father William entered France in August 1944, he was a Private First Class in General George S. Patton's Third Army," Bill began. "He served in the 80th Infantry Division—nicknamed Patton's 'Workhorse Division.' It was one of Patton's favorite divisions, responsible for the liberation of dozens of towns in northern France, many near the site of Saint-Joseph Chapel."

By the time he reached the Ormersviller, Epping, and Urbach area, William had been promoted to Staff Sergeant, leading a platoon of ten to twelve young men into combat. His devotion to his fellow soldiers was recognized, and the promotion well-earned. On the morning of December 19, 1944—just one day before the 80th Division was sent to Luxembourg for the Battle of the Bulge—his squad faced a fierce German assault near the chapel.

"Close your eyes and imagine the gunfire, the machine guns, the mortar explosions," Bill said softly, his expression reflecting the gravity of the battle and his love for his father. "They fought for every meter of ground."

continued on page 10



Left to right: Guillaume Violet, Joseph Sprunck, Marcel Vogel, Bill Black who is carrying the portrait of his father, Philippe Dunoyer and Patrice Schwalbach



Left to right: Bill Black, Joseph Sprunck, Philippe Dunoyer, and Philippe's grandson

HONORING WWII VETERAN JOHN V. MASCARO

PVT. JOHN V. MASCARO'S service in World War II illustrates the courage and resilience of the generation which answered the call of duty in history's most decisive conflict. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mascaro enlisted into the Army in September 1942.

By early 1944, Mascaro was stationed at Yuma Army Airfield in Arizona. His courage was proven when he underwent an emergency appendectomy in an open-air hospital. After only a thirty-day convalescent leave in San Bernardino, California, he was cleared for overseas duty and sent to Manchester, England.

One month after D-Day, in July 1944, he landed in France with Battery C of the 314th Field Artillery Regiment, part of the 80th Infantry Division, known as the "Blue Ridge Division," where he also served as the company bugler. The 80th Division advanced through a succession of towns across northern France, liberating them and pushing back German forces. While each step forward came at a cost, the 80th made significant progress toward the liberation of Europe.

In the brutal winter of 1944–45, Mascaro and the 80th Division took part in one of the most critical campaigns of the war—the relief of Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. Amid freezing conditions and relentless enemy resistance, the division's artillery support helped break the siege and turn the tide of battle. The 80th also fought through the dense

Argonne Forest and pushed into Czechoslovakia as the Allied forces closed in on victory. During this time, Mascaro captured a Nazi flag, which he kept as a memento of American victory and the horrors of war. He returned home with it in December 1945.

Mascaro passed away in 2011, leaving behind his wife of 65 years, three sons, a daughter, twelve grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Recently, the flag was discovered among his personal belongings and his daughter has decided to donate the flag to the Barn Museum, overseen by Dr. Lee Anthony, historian for the 80th Division Veterans Association. This valuable artifact will become part of the museum's collection, preserving the memory of the soldiers who fought for freedom. Pvt. Mascaro's journey, like his capture of the flag, is a reflection of the endurance, courage, and the quiet heroism of America's soldiers.



September 27, 1942 before a dress round.
L-to-R: Hannon (37 years old, Baltimore),
Mascaro, Parreca (27 years old, Philadelphia),
and Shaeffer (23 years old, Philadelphia).



June 6th, 1945 on a road march from Tweng,
Austria (center of Alps) to Achensee, Austria
along Lake Traunsee in Gmunden, Austria.
L-to-R: John Mascaro, Leland H. Treap, and
Chick Klukowski.

Liberators... continued from page 9

During the attack, one of his father's men was seriously wounded in the open field. Despite the relentless fire, William ran forward, lifted his comrade, and carried him to safety. For this act of heroism, he was decorated.

The unit then moved on to the Battle of the Bulge. Weeks later, in January 1945, William was gravely wounded in Nocher, Luxembourg, when an enemy mortar fragment destroyed his right elbow.

"He lost his right arm," Bill continued, "But he never lost his courage. He taught himself to paint with his left hand—and became the best house painter in his town. His devotion to his family was as strong as his devotion to his soldiers."

A Legacy of Courage and Gratitude

After the ceremony, Bill posed for a photograph with me—I had first helped him trace his father's wartime footsteps through Lorraine in 2015—and with Philippe Dunoyer, who has accompanied him as interpreter on every visit since.

"Thank you all for coming to Saint-Joseph's Chapel today," Bill concluded. "It means more to me—and to the Veterans Association—than words can say."

That serene May morning in Ormersviller became a testament to shared history—the enduring friendship between France and America, and the courage of those who crossed an ocean to fight for liberty. Their memory, now etched in stone, will live on for generations.

HONORING THE 305TH IN NORMANDY

by Mary Collatos

IN MAY, MY HUSBAND Sgt. Maj. (R) George Collatos and I traveled to Normandy with the WWII Museum Travel Team from New Orleans—a journey that proved both moving and unforgettable.

Our six-day tour began at Pegasus Bridge, where the museum's exhibits vividly connect the present-day quiet with the dramatic moments of June 1944. Nearby, we explored Arromanches, where remnants of Mulberry B still rise from the surf off Juno Beach—massive concrete foundations that once supported an artificial harbor. It's hard to imagine these immense structures being floated across the Channel, yet there they rest, silent witnesses to ingenuity and sacrifice.

The most powerful moment for me came at Utah Beach where my father, Joseph Fatula, (T/4, Company A, 305th Engineer Bn), landed there in early August 1944. Standing on that sand, I felt an overwhelming sense of connection. Our tour

guide provided small vials so we could collect sand—a simple, sacred memento. The museum staff, who had learned of my father's service beforehand, helped me honor him and the 305th with a quiet ceremony at the shore.

On our final day, we visited Falaise, where the 80th Division—and the 305th—played a pivotal role in closing the gap that ended the Battle of Normandy. A map provided by our guides, with the 80th's position marked, made the history come alive in a deeply personal way.

Throughout the trip, our local guides, both native Normans, shared stories that blended history and humanity. From Sword and Omaha to the solemn beauty of the American Cemetery, each stop offered reflection and gratitude.

This journey helped me trace my father's footsteps and continue piecing together his wartime story—a labor of love that keeps his memory, and that of the 305th, alive.



Mulberry B remnants rising from the surf of Juno Beach in Arromanches



Mary collects sand from Utah Beach where her father landed in 1944



Section of old Pegasus Bridge preserved today



Pegasus Bridge in 1944

WWI UNIFORMS OF THE 317TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Recently added to the private collection of Lew Dominick, Fayetteville, Pennsylvania

Cpl. Harry Harrison Sorrels

THIS UNIFORM GROUPING is attributed to Corporal Harry Harrison Sorrels, Serial No. 1818543.

Cpl. Sorrels was born in Amherst, Virginia, in 1891, and was inducted into the U.S. Army on September 18, 1917, at Lexington, Virginia. He served with G Company, 317th Infantry Regiment, 80th Division until his discharge.

He departed Norfolk, Virginia, on May 26, 1918, aboard the *Mongolia*, bound for France. He later departed Brest, France, on May 20, 1919, aboard the *Nansemond*, arriving at Newport News, Virginia.

Cpl. Sorrels was honorably discharged on June 26, 1919. He resided in Akron, Ohio, until his passing in 1969.



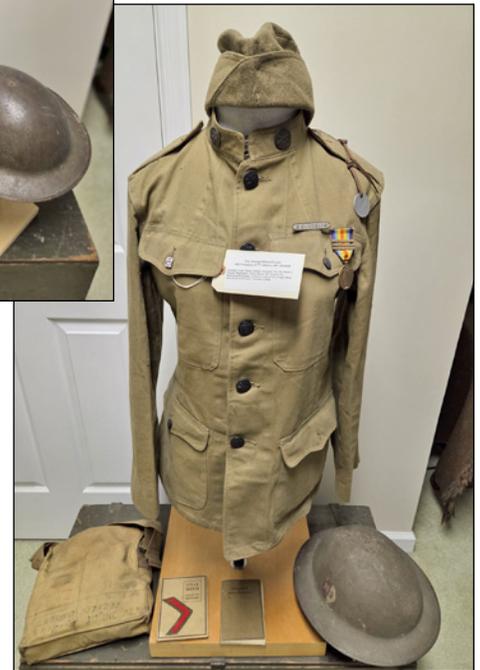
Left:
Uniform and items belonging to Cpl. Harry Harrison Sorrels

Pvt. George Willard Bryant

THIS UNIFORM GROUPING is attributed to Private George Willard Bryant, Serial No. 374239.

Pvt. Bryant was born in Buffalo, Erie County, New York, in 1893, and was inducted into the Army on May 11, 1918, at Clinton, New York. He was first assigned to provisional units, including Headquarters Company, 164th Infantry Regiment. On October 16, 1918, he was reassigned to Headquarters Company, 317th Infantry Regiment, 80th Division, where he served until discharge.

He departed New York, New York, on July 30, 1918, aboard the *Mauretania* as a member of Company 5, Camp Hancock July Automatic Replacement Draft (Infantry), bound for France. He returned to the United States aboard the *Nansemond*, departing Brest, France, on May 20, 1919, and arriving at Newport News, Virginia. Pvt. Bryant was honorably discharged on June 17, 1919, and later resided in Utica, New York, until his passing in 1949.



Below:
Uniform and items belonging to Pvt. George Willard Bryant



Proposed wording for new St. Avold plaque

COMMEMORATING THE 80TH DIVISION IN SAINT-AVOLD, FRANCE

THE CITY OF SAINT-AVOLD, France, is preparing to install a memorial plaque near the site where a booby-trapped building exploded in November 1944, tragically killing 22 men from a unit attached to the 80th Infantry Division. The 80th Division liberated Saint-Avold on November 27, 1944, during its advance across Lorraine.

This commemorative effort has been led by Simon Petitot, whose dedication and collaboration with local officials have secured the mayor's approval for the project. The total cost for the plaque and installation is estimated at €2,200.

Further information on how to contribute to this memorial initiative will be shared soon through our social media channels and website.

THE WARTIME MEMORIES OF THEODORE F. PULLY

by Jordan Pully

MY FATHER, THEODORE F. Pully, was working at Woolworth's in Suffolk, Virginia, in July 1942 when he received his draft notice. He entered the Army the following month and was assigned to B Company, 317th Infantry Regiment, 80th Division at the age of 26.

Dad trained for two years at Camp Forrest, Tennessee; Camp Phillips, Kansas; Camp Laguna, California; and Fort Dix, New Jersey, before sailing to Scotland and then to England. In August 1944, at age 28, he stepped off an LST onto Utah Beach. Seeing wrecked equipment scattered along the sand, though his training had led him to think the vehicles almost indestructible, he thought, "Oh my God, we're in it now." He later admitted that fear lingered with him through most of the following four months.

These are the stories he shared with me throughout my childhood, back in the 1970s and 1980s.

First Combat

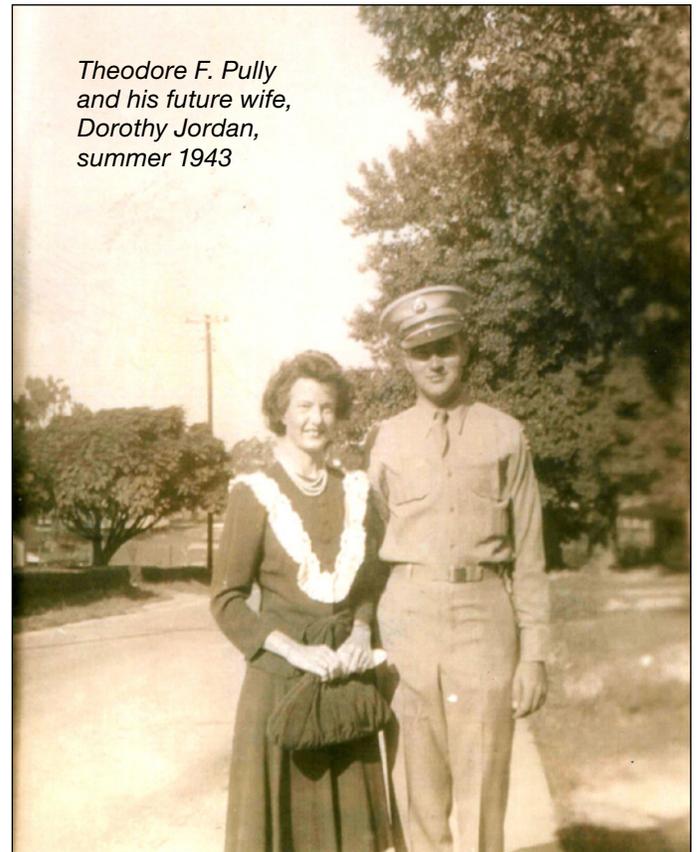
The 80th Division moved toward the front, at first transported by truck, later on foot. One evening, B Company set up foxholes near old World War I dugouts. Dad was assigned guard duty at the Command Post, set up in one of the trenches. A fellow soldier came to relieve him. He had just started back toward his foxhole when a shot rang out. Spinning around, he saw that the man who'd relieved him had killed a German soldier armed with a hand grenade. "It would have been my job to kill that German, but I didn't even know he was there," Dad later said. After that shot, "all Hell broke out." He spent the rest of the night firing from his foxhole. At dawn German tanks appeared—only to be driven off by American tank destroyers.

Dad was sometimes used as a runner. On one occasion, under heavy fire, Capt. Mudge ordered him to deliver a critical message despite protests that the enemy fire was too intense. Crawling through a ditch too shallow to conceal him, a bullet sliced through his pack strap. Terrified but determined, he delivered the message.

Another time, moving through no man's land at night to deliver a message, he hugged a tree to hide as German soldiers passed so close he could smell them.

Close Calls and Casualties

One day, mail call brought a "care package" from his sister: toiletries, candy, writing paper, and a jar of orange marmalade with crackers. Tired of K rations, he devoured the marmalade and crackers in his foxhole. Suddenly the Germans attacked. He fought so close to his buddy their shoulders rubbed together. The other soldier took a fatal bullet to the chest, spraying blood throughout the foxhole and across Dad. He vomited up the marmalade, and could never eat it again. He was so sick, the medics diagnosed him with stomach flu. He spent a week in a field hospital before heading to the Replacement Depot.



*Theodore F. Pully
and his future wife,
Dorothy Jordan,
summer 1943*

He returned to B company with a group of young replacement soldiers—"a bunch of squirts" as he called them—who looked to him as the senior man. When ordered to walk toward the front, he had to grab a discarded rifle from a passing truck just to be armed.

In one action near the Moselle River, B Company received the order from Capt. Mudge: "There will be no retreat." Dad said he knew it would be bad, as they'd never received such an order before. Under terrible artillery barrage, casualties mounted. The next day, the order was reversed, and the men pulled back. Mudge was relieved, replaced by Lt. Ware.

Frozen Feet

Occasionally Company B was allowed to fall back to the rear for some R&R. One night Dad and his buddy snuck out of camp and walked several miles to a French village. The villagers welcomed them, a café owner bringing out champagne to celebrate the first American soldiers they'd seen. When Dad asked when the Germans left the village, the Frenchman answered, "Oh, they're still here." Dad and Sterling raced back to camp and never told anyone about their adventure.

continued on page 15

THE NAME BEHIND THE TAG: REMEMBERING EARL G. WORKMAN JR.

by Anthony Guerin, Mémoire de Guerres en Lorraine Association, Toul

IN THE SPRING 2025 ISSUE, I wrote about my enduring fascination with World War II history and my focus on collecting memorabilia from the 80th Infantry Division—particularly items connected to the units that helped liberate my hometown of Toul and the surrounding Lorraine Valley in France. What began as a modest curiosity has grown into a dedicated mission of historical preservation, one that continues to guide my work with the Mémoire de Guerres en Lorraine Association. Over time, my research and collecting have centered increasingly on the men of the 80th Division, whose presence shaped the history of this region. Each artifact—helmet, dog tag, uniform, or piece of equipment—serves as a quiet witness to their experiences, tangible fragments of lives once lived across a war-scarred continent.

With the invaluable help of *Blue Ridge* editor and dear friend, Christine Guidry Law, I've been able to expand my collection through online searches and purchases from the United States, which she kindly forwards to me here in France.

Most recently, I was fortunate to acquire a set of dog tags belonging to a World War II soldier of the 80th Division. After close examination, I could make out the following inscription: Earl G. Workman #38451211 T43-44 O. The three-line format suggested it had been issued after July 1943—but uncovering the rest of his story required deeper research. Christine and her assistant, Kathleen Zoll, eagerly joined the search.

Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, on September 9, 1922, Earl Gazzam Workman Jr. was the son of Earl Sr. and Clara Barton Workman (née Cotten). His father, originally from Springfield, Missouri, was a mechanical engineer by trade. Military service ran deep in the family—both Earl Sr. and his brother, Ross Workman Jr., served in France during World War I. Earl Sr. enlisted with the Aviation Corps (17th Company, 3rd Regiment) and was wounded in action on September 18, 1918. His brother Ross served with the 110th Motor Supply Train, 35th Division, and fought in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive later that same year.

In 1924, the Workmans welcomed a second son, Robert. By 1930, the family had relocated to Tulsa, Oklahoma, and later settled in Kilgore, Texas. Earl Jr. attended college for three years before finding employment as a machine operator with Consolidated Steel Corporation, Ltd. When he enlisted on February 8, 1943, in Houston, Texas, he was single, had no dependents, and listed his residence as the Navy Barracks in Orange, Texas.

His enlistment record categorized him under “Branch Immaterial—Warrant Officers, USA,” a general intake designation not tied to a specific role. Later documentation places



Earl G. Workman dog tag.

him with Headquarters, 80th Infantry Division, where he held the rank of Technician Fourth Grade (T/4) with MOS 405—Clerk-Typist. This position involved administrative and clerical duties such as preparing correspondence, reports, and maintaining military records—essential work that kept division operations running efficiently behind the lines.

Morning Reports from early 1945 confirm his presence with Headquarters Infantry, and by April 1945, he had

attained the rank of Sergeant. A May 1, 1945 report notes his transfer to the 305th Medical Clearing Station near Neufahrn, Germany, for treatment of non-combat, line-of-duty injuries. He was found physically unfit for continued military service and subsequently discharged under Section II, AR 615-360.

After returning home in January 1946, Workman lived with his parents in Orange, Texas. By 1950, he had relocated to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he began a civilian career as an advertising copywriter for a retail store. Over time, his creative and organizational skills led him to a position as advertising manager for Sears, Roebuck and Co.



Earl G. Workman Jr. grave marker

continued on page 15

Though he never married, he built a stable career and life in the postwar years.

Earl Gazzam Workman Jr. died on December 12, 1968, in Dallas, Texas, at the age of 46—just four years after his father's passing. He predeceased his mother, Clara, by eighteen years. His cause of death was listed as cardiac and respiratory failure due to malignant melanoma metastasized to the left frontal lobe. He was laid to rest in Sparkman Hillcrest Memorial Park in Dallas, Texas.

Each discovery like Earl Workman's dog tags reminds me why I continue this work of remembrance. Behind every artifact lies a human story—one that bridges continents and generations, binding the present to the past. Though Earl's life was brief, his service and legacy endure through the tangible traces he left behind, now preserved here in Lorraine, the land his division helped to liberate. Through research, friendship, and dedication, we give voice once more to those who served quietly, ensuring their names and their stories are never lost to time.



Above: top to bottom:

Earl's Draft Card

Morning Report February 1944 showing Earl's promotion during Training

Morning Report May 1945 showing Earl lost to 305th Medical Station

Excerpt from The Orange Leader, Mon, Jan 07, 1946 (Page 1)

One night in late November, it had rained all day. Dad had a dry pair of socks, but delayed changing them in case the company was ordered to move out. He fell asleep, and by morning his feet were frozen. Unable to walk, he crawled on hands and knees toward a rear aid station who was too busy for him. He fell asleep again, and woke to find the station had moved forward. Exhausted, he eventually flagged down a truck and was evacuated to a field hospital, then to England.

New Duties

Doctors reclassified him unfit for front-line duty. At the Replacement Depot, he requested retraining at Cook School, so naturally the Army sent him to MP School. He was then posted to the French Riviera. There, in stark contrast to the front, he lived in a private hotel room, patrolled by night, and spent his days on the beach. He was loving life.

After the war ended, his last assignment was at Fort Hood's disciplinary barracks, which he described as worse than combat—guarding rapists and murderers in the cell blocks. Finally, in November 1945, he was discharged at Fort Dix.

Life After the Army

Back home in Virginia, after realizing how much he'd enjoyed his time at the Riviera, Dad pursued a career at The Carlton Hotel in Washington, D.C. He worked his way up from room clerk into management and stayed in the hotel business until retirement. He married in 1946, raised two sons, and lived in Northern Virginia until his death in Alexandria in 2007 at age 90. My mother, Dorothy (née Jordan) passed in 2006. He was survived by myself, my brother Richard, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He had the honor of being buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Afterword

One day about six months before my father's death, I visited his nursing home. By that point, he was pretty much bedridden, due to heart ailments and several strokes.

He asked how my twenty-two-year-old daughter was doing. I told him she wasn't doing very well as she had received some bad news. A friend she had known in high school had become a Marine, and was killed by a sniper in Iraq.

My father cried for several minutes before regaining his composure. He said, "I know about those snipers. I had a good friend who was killed by a sniper, he had a little baby at home. He never got to see his baby." After that visit he never spoke of the war again.

I believe my father suffered from PTSD. Though he was a good husband and father, he had issues with anger management. He was a nice guy to be around about half the time. At other times he could get quite angry, often over minor issues.

All combat veterans should be honored for their service and sacrifice. War is indeed a terrible thing.

80TH DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION – 2025 WEBSITE UPDATES

by Andy Adkins

A major update to report. By the way, have you tried the site “Search” yet? Awesome new feature I put on the website (read the “red” print, though).

Morning Reports

Talk about a labor of love ...

The 80th Infantry Division was re-established on July 15, 1942, at Camp Forrest, Tennessee. Up until now, the *only* Morning Reports I had available on the website were during the war: August 1944 through May 1945.

Earlier this year, the National Archives made available additional Morning Reports ... from the beginning: July 15, 1942. I said, “Holy Toledo!”

So, *another* journey began. About half of these were already in downloadable PDFs (easy, peasy), but the other half were individual images, which took a bit of time to download individual images (in front of the TV), and then convert them to PDF. During this process I also needed to redesign the Morning Report web pages so I could include the additional links to the individual monthly Morning Reports.

Couple of things to note:

1. The Morning Reports from *July 1942 through July 1943* use the old “WWI” Morning Report format: horizontal and handwritten. *August 1943 began* the revamped “WWII” Morning Report format that you’re used to.
2. There are a few MRs missing (I simply could not find them):
 - a. 317th Infantry Regiment / Company F: July ‘42 – Dec ‘42
 - b. 318th Infantry Regiment / HQ Company: July ‘42
 - c. 319th Infantry Regiment / Headquarters: July 1943
 - d. 319th Infantry Regiment / Company G: July 1943
3. If anyone can find these missing Morning Reports and send me the link, I’ll be forever grateful.

Oral Histories

There are more than 180 Oral Histories from 80th Infantry Division soldiers on the site now. These include audio and video interviews, and written histories. I also spent time transcribing the video and audio & video interviews using a digital transcriber. I don’t have any new Oral Histories, but I thought it important to restate that there are many on the site.

New Photo Collections

- *Anthony “Tony” Nase (318th Cannon Company)* – courtesy of Rick Nase.
- *Russell Lee McCaleb (319th Cannon Company)* – courtesy of Pam & Scott McCaleb.

Newspapers Added

Under the Miscellaneous Reports page, I’ve added four newspapers:

- The Thundering Herd – *317th Infantry Regiment* (July 7, 1945; August 11, 1945)
- The Wreckin 2d – *2d Bn, 317th Infantry Regiment* (August 9, 1945; August 22, 1945)

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONS TO BIBLIOGRAPHY

by James T. Controvich, Springfield, MA

I AM SEEKING to expand my comprehensive Bibliography of United States Army Unit and Organizational Histories—a 592-page reference work organized by major branches of the U.S. Army and covering all levels from Army Groups to individual companies and detachments. The bibliography includes general titles, specific unit histories, and related materials for each branch, along with three appendices:

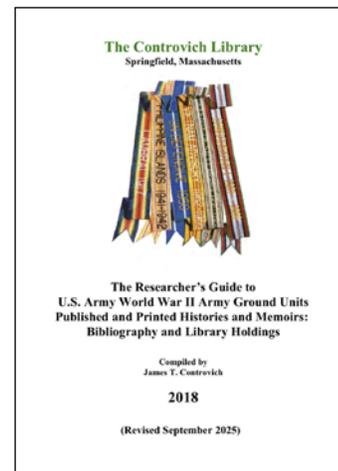
- Appendix A: Holding Library Codes
- Appendix B: Campaign Participation Credits
- Appendix C: World War II Division Organic Units

If you are aware of additional World War II unit histories, memoirs, or related works—published or unpublished—please forward full citation information and, if possible, the holding library. Common repositories include the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (Carlisle, PA), the Library of Congress (Washington, DC), and the Donovan Library at Fort Moore.

Your contributions will help maintain the completeness and accuracy of this resource. Corrections and updates are also appreciated.

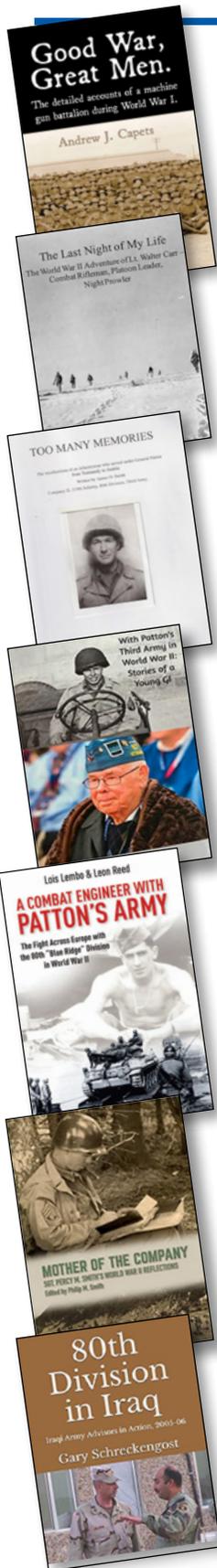
Bibliography: <https://80thdivision.com/wwiiresearch.html>

Contact: Jim Controvich: jcontrovich@comcast.net



BLUE RIDGE BOOKS:

World War I, World War II, and Beyond



Good War, Great Men

Andrew J. Capets

The Last Night of my Life: The World War II Adventure of Lt. Walter Carr, Combat Rifleman, Platoon Leader, Night Prowler

Walter Carr & Leon Reed
318th Infantry Regiment

Too Many Memories: The Recollections of an Infantryman who Served under General Patton from Normandy to Austria

James O. Smith & Charles M. Smith
319th Infantry Regiment

With Patton's Army in World War II: Stories of a Young GI

Bob Burrows
317th Infantry Regiment

A Combat Engineer with Patton's Army: The Fight Across Europe with the 80th "Blue Ridge" Division in World War II

Lois Lembo & Leon Reed

Mother of the Company

Philip M. Smith
317th Infantry Regiment

80th Division in Iraq: Iraqi Army Advisors in Action, 2005-06

Gary Schreckengost (Author)
John McLaren (Contributor)



REMEMBERING ETTELBRUCK:

A CALL TO PRESERVE HISTORY

By Jos Tholl, President,
General Patton Memorial Museum

Dear National Commander,

For many years, we have worked to trace the history of the American units that participated in the liberation of our town of Ettelbruck—during both the first liberation on September 11, 1944, and the second on December 25, 1944. Between those two events, Ettelbruck endured occupation, the onset of the Battle of the Bulge, and unimaginable suffering. Our mission is to ensure that the courage and sacrifice of those young American soldiers will never be forgotten.

The town of Ettelbruck was liberated on December 25, 1944, by the 318th Regiment, part of the 80th Infantry Division under the command of Major General Horace McBride. Colonel Lansing McVickar led the 318th Regiment in this decisive action.

The U.S. Third Army, commanded by General George S. Patton, along with multiple Corps and Divisions, took part in the Battle of the Bulge (1944–1945). These included Army Corps III, VIII, XII, and XX; Infantry Divisions 4th, 5th, 26th, 35th, 76th, 80th, 83rd, 87th, 89th, and 90th; the 17th Airborne Division; and the 4th, 6th, 9th, 10th, and 11th Armored Divisions.

We seek your help. Our museum still lacks vital information and images from that period. We appeal to veterans, their families, and all who may hold documents, letters, or artifacts connected to the units that fought here to make them available for our permanent exhibition at the General Patton Memorial Museum in Ettelbruck. Your contributions will help preserve and share this extraordinary history with future generations.

We express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support in honoring these heroes.

Sincerely,
Jos Tholl
President, General Patton Memorial Museum
Ettelbruck, Luxembourg
jos.tholl@patton.lu

TAPS

*The men of the Greatest Generation, who saved the world from Hitler's tyranny,
are facing their last muster with grace and dignity.*

Booth, Mike SFC (R) 80th Div Band

Ashland, VA
DOD: 3/22/25

Rptd by: Richmond Times Dispatch

Clay, Jonathan DS 3/319

Abingdon, VA
DOD: 4/15/25

Rptd by: MSG (R) Terry Moore

Davis, Myers 2LT 3/319

Bluff City, TN
DOD: 4/4/25

Rptd by: MSG Terry Moore

Digg, Jacqueline SFC (R) 80th G3

Petersburg, VA
DOD: 3/9/25

Rptd by: MSG(R) Charlene Williams

Estes, Cary SSG (R) 80th Div Band

Chesterfield, VA
DOD: 4/11/25

Rptd by: Tina Estes, Wife

Harrison, Ruth SFC (R) HQ, 80th Div

Richmond, VA
DOD: 5/25/2025

Rptd by: Richmond Times Dispatch

Middleton, Clyde 80th Div

Midlothian, VA
DOD: 3/21/2025

Rptd by: Richmond Times Dispatch



Morgan, David COL (R) 1st Bde

DOD: Unknown

Rptd by: CSM (R) James Stavely

Phillips, James PNC 313th FA Bn

Elizabethtown, PA

DOD: 4/29/25

Rptd by: Anne Hatcher

Transits, Jr, Charles 305th Med Bn

Scranton, PA

DOD: 1/4/25

Rptd by: Ron Transits, Son

Wagner, James W. 1SG (R) 3/319

Abingdon, VA

DOD: 6/8/25

Rptd by: MSG (R) Terry Moore

Walton, Lionel MAJ (R) HQ, 80th Div

Crownsville, MD

DOD: Unknown

Rptd by: SGM (R) Sharon Williams

Zizaro, Michael, 314th FA Bn

Mission Viej, CA

DOD: 8/7/03

Rptd by: Alice Rozie, Niece





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lsa80division@gmail.com

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