



80th Forward

Volume 1, Number 5

THE 80th ONLY MOVES FORWARD

Monday August 20, 1945

Award New Silver Stars

A recent General Order from the Headquarters of Division Commander, Major General Horace L. McBride, announced the award of five Silver Stars for gallantry in action, to three 319th Infantry Non Coms, a 317th Sergeant and a Pfc. from the 318th Infantry.

A Green Mountain State "Blue Ridger," T/Sgt. (then S/Sgt.) Robert E. Dyke, Co B, 319th Infantry, was cited for gallantry in action in Luxembourg on the 6th, 7th and 8th of January, 1945. At the height of the 80th's furious drive into the southern flank of Von Runstedt's last ditch offensive, during the attacks on the fanatically defended towns of Dahl and Nodder, T/Sgt. Dyke, displaying outstanding leadership and tactical ability, although painfully wounded in both legs in the initial attack, led his men over hazardous terrain made even more difficult by severe winter weather, and through all types of intense enemy fire for three days to take and consolidate every objective.

Takes Pillbox

S/Sgt. Donald B. Hull, Co F, 319th Infantry, was cited for his heroism at the assault crossing of the Our River from Luxembourg into the Reich and the 80th's first attack on the once vaunted Siegfried Line. During this action it was imperative that a strategic German pillbox be destroyed. S/Sgt. Hull voluntarily and with utter disregard for safety, crawled through a hail of hostile fire to the Nazi fort. Hurling a phosphorus grenade through an aperture, the aggressive Buckeye State "Blue Ridger" forced the enemy from their position.

T/Sgt. (then S/Sgt.) Charles J. Krasienko, Co A, 319th Infantry, earned his Silver Star near Jena, Germany, when a convoy was ambushed by a force of fanatical Germans and his platoon leader was killed. The courageous Ohio Sergeant voluntarily and with complete disregard for his own life, led a patrol in the face of fierce Nazi fire to force the enemy to surrender.

New Communications System

Intrepid and enterprising, Sgt. Albert E. Melcolm, Co H, 317th Infantry, established a new system when his battalion's communications were destroyed during the assault on Borschied, Luxembourg. The battalion commander and his staff officers became casualties and communications were utterly disrupted in the fury of the attack. Without a moment's hesitation, the Florida infantryman advanced through heavy hostile fire to a exposed hilltop, from which he relayed vital field messages from forward to rear elements for eleven hours, though he was subjected to continuous German barrages.

At Kassel, Germany, North Carolinian Pfc. Nelsen S. Martin, Co M, 316th Infantry, although painfully wounded during a desperate enemy counterattack, braved withering fire to secure a mortar vital to the repulse of the German attack. After returning, he refused evacuation and voluntarily remained to carry ammunition to his platoon and served as a rifleman in routing the enemy.

New Sig Co Comdr.

The Signal Co's new commanding officer is Capt. Richard W. Fuchs, whose last assignment was company commander of the 150th Armored Signal Co, of the 10th Armored Division. He succeeds Capt. Robert L. Cottingham.

Membership For Blue Ridgers In 80th Vets Association



Membership for "Blue Ridgers" of World War II in the 80th Division Veterans Association was approved by "unanimous action" at the Annual Meeting of the Veterans Association, held in Pittsburgh, Pa., on August 9th, according to a recent letter from National Secretary George J. Klier, addressed to "Blue Ridge" Division Commander, Major General Horace L. McBride.

Patton Praises

Third Army Commander, General George S. Patton Jr., has officially commended the 80th Infantry Division as a direct result of his complete satisfaction with all "Blue Ridge" units which participated in the review and demonstrations staged on the occasion of his visit to the 80th on July 20th.

In a letter addressed to our Division Commander, Major General Horace L. McBride, General Patton wrote:

My Dear General McBride:

Please accept for yourself and express to the officers and men of your command my great appreciation of and admiration for your recent demonstrations and review.

Since we have no military word better than "superior" that is the only word I can use. You and your Division are hereby highly commended for your superior performance.

Truly yours,
G. S. Patton, Jr.
General

A happy coincidence allowed General McBride, as acting XX Corps Commander, to add his personal commendation in that capacity before forwarding General Patton's commendation to the officers and men of his own "Blue Ridge" Division.

Mr. Klier wrote that "a copy of the resolution together with other information will be forwarded at an early date." In closing he added "Since the news of the war is very encouraging, we hope the 80th will be back in the States to stay very soon." Another thought he shares with all present "Blue Ridgers" was expressed when the National Secretary added "We would appreciate any news, which might not be military secrets, of the anticipated dates of arrival in the United States."

Another highlight of the Annual Meeting of what is now our Veterans Association, was the election of A.P. Sundry, of Blairsville, Pa., as new National Commander. In this capacity Mr. Sundry succeeds James M. Kilgannon of Philadelphia.

Our parent Division's Veterans Association has followed with keen interest and profound admiration, the activities of present-day "Blue Ridgers." Founded in France in March, 1919, the 80th Veterans Association opened their National Headquarters in Pittsburgh in August of that same year. A Philadelphia Chapter is also maintained and the 80th Veterans Association have published their Service Magazine continuously since October, 1919.

Div Arty Red Cross Opens

FORWARD's photographer was on hand to dunk the first doughnut at the formal opening of the new Div Arty Red Cross Doughnut Dugout in Memmingen. From left to right in the above photo, Hostesses Flo Young, Mary Lou Pierce and Helen Zimmerman greet the initial GI through the portals which opened on Sunday, August 12th.

Flo and Mary Lou delayed their trip back to the States to be on hand for the event.

AFN Munich Salutes 80th

Armed Forces Network, Munich Station, will devote their "Salute of the Day" to a ten minute history of our 80th "Blue Ridge" Infantry Division at 1305 hours on Friday, August 24th. The brief program will review the saga of the 80th from activation, through combat, to the present day.

Record Breaking 55th Fighter Group, 80th Neighbors

Kaufbeuren Airfield: Newest outfit to move into the Kaufbeuren area is the 55th Fighter Group, top loco-busting unit of the Eighth Air Force, now assigned to the Ninth Air Force for occupational duties.

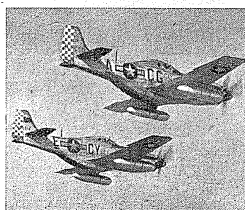
Flying P-51 Mustang fighters, the 55th hung up a new Eighth Air Force record when it destroyed 170 Nazi locomotives on two consecutive missions in February, 1945.

For destroying 106 German planes on eight missions in 11 days in September, 1944, the group was awarded the gold framed blue ribbon of the Distinguished Unit Citation. The citation termed the feat "one of the most outstanding records of enemy aircraft destroyed and damaged by one group in any similar period in the history of air combat over Europe."

Cited Twice

An Oak Leaf Cluster to the 55th's Distinguished Unit Citation was awarded for the record-breaking two days of loco-busting. Whipping up and down German railroad lines on the relentless hunt for locomotives, pilots of the 55th gave Hitler's transportation setup one of its worst blastings.

Arriving in England in September, 1943, when "Blue Ridgers" were training at Camp Phillips, Kan., the 55th began operations in October, flying P-38 Lightnings. Supplying the first long-range, over-the-target protection for Eighth Air Force



heavy bombers, the group was often out-numbered by Nazi fighters in the target area.

In March, 1944, the 55th made the first American combat flight over Berlin. On the following day, heavy bombers of the Eighth Air Force made their initial bombing attack on the Reich capital.

55th Lightnings kept up a non-stop patrol over ground troops waiting to strike at the Nazis across the English Channel, in the anxious hours just before D-Day, and after the invasion had been launched, the patrol was continued with greater numbers of planes than before.

Shortly after changing to P-51 Mustangs in August, 1944, the fighter group set another Eighth Air Force record by escorting heavy bombers on a 1,600 mile round trip to targets at the great Polish port of Gdynia.

The 55th was the first unit to engage the German pick-a-back planes, consisting of a Messerschmitt 109 fighter mounted on an explosive-laden Junkers 88 bomber. Five of the combination planes were sighted flying at low-level near Hamurg, and all were destroyed. Pictures of the contraptions, taken by automatic gun-cameras on 55th Mustangs, were a source of valuable information to British and American intelligence.

"I was glad to see so many men from the 80th 'Blue Ridge' Division when Bob Hope and his company played at this field not long ago," said youthful Lt. Col. Jack W. Hayes Jr., commanding officer of the 55th. "A standing invitation is extended to all members of the 80th to visit our field when other USO features are shown at our open-air theatre," added the San Diego, Calif., birdman.

Pre-Pearl Harbor Outfit

The 55th Fighter Group is one of the oldest fighter units in the Army Air Forces, having been activated in January, 1941, a year and a half earlier than the 80th Infantry Division. Before leaving for England, it trained fighter pilots on the Pacific West Coast.

During 18 months of combat against the Luftwaffe, the 55th destroyed more than 850 German planes and nearly 1,000 locomotives.

1st Bn., 318th Commended

In a recent order signed by Division Commander, Major General Horace L. McBride, the 1st Battalion, 318th Infantry Regiment was 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."

This citation covers the 1st Battalion's outstanding performance of duty in action against the Nazis during the bitter battle that raged against the enemy for the period from September 13th to 17th, 1944.

Behind Nazi Lines

Then under the command of Major Albert S. Tosi, (later Lt. Col.), on September 15th, the "Fighting First," had knifed its way 35 miles behind the German lines when orders came through to return to its parent organization and seize the strategic town of Ste. Genevieve on a heavily fortified hill overlooking the Moselle River bridges at Dieulouard.

Fiercely fighting through enemy held territory, the Battalion reached the base of the hill the next morning. Braving a terrific barrage of artillery, mortar, automatic and small arms fire, the 1st Battalion, 318th, continued the assault, bayoneting many Wehrmacht men in their foxholes. Caught from the rear, the bewildered Nazis were overwhelmed and the Battalion objective was seized.

Lt. Col. Tosi was wounded in a subsequent action near Ettelbruck, Luxembourg. Present Battalion Commander is Major Warren B. Haskell.



S/Sgt. Alfred Stern, Managing Editor; Sgt. Charles V. Heisa, Sports Editor; Cpl. Ralph Owen, Art Editor; Sgt. Charles J. Hoffman, Contest Editor; Cpl. Kenneth C. Brown, Photographer; Pfc. George E. McGunnagle, Layout; Pfc. Robert A. Compton, Technical Supervisor. Unit Correspondents: Pfc. Adolph S. Schmitz, 317; Pfc. Robert D. Fasnacht, 318; Sgt. Melvin Lotka, 319; S/Sgt. John W. Van Sledon, Artillery; Cpl. Benny Klucinec, Special Troops. 2nd Lt. William C. Glenn, Division Newspaper Officer. Address all communications to 80th Forward, Newspaper Office, care of APO 80 or through M/C. Telephone: Hercules Newspaper Office.

VICTORY IS A SOLEMN MOMENT

The world is at peace. Thank God the Japanese War is at an end far sooner than most of us anticipated.

Yes, thank God, and the wise statesmen, the men of good will who met at Potsdam, and at Yalta, Teheran, Quebec and many widely scattered geographical locations, men who settled or submerged their national or personal differences and vested interests for the common good of humanity. Thank God for them.

Thank God for our brilliant scientists and tireless airforce who through the introduction of new and powerful weapons speeded up the ultimate objective of right-thinkers the world over, victory against tyranny and aggression.

Thank God for the determined British and Chinese, and our courageous ally, the Soviet Union, whose entry into the Pacific War tipped the scales heavily in our favor and insured speedy victory with or without atomic bombs.

If the men of good will the world over realize their and our good hopes and dreams, none of us will ever have to take up arms again during our life times. Nor will our sons after us. Thank God for that.

But our moment of final triumph was dearly purchased with the blood of our comrades, American and foreign. As soldiers or civilians we must never forget them and by our every action always do them honor. Through their sacrifices, we've all got a new lease on life, liberty and the constructive pursuits of happiness. God bless all who made it possible.

A. S.



TIME TO REMEMBER

Almost a year ago, with the fighting front a few kilometers to our side, Jewish New Year's Services were held for some of our troops in the vicinity of the 80th Division Clearing Station. We were preparing to cross the Moselle River and our casualties had begun to assume ominous proportions.

Many of us discovered then, perhaps for the first time, the solace of prayer and the comfort that comes with religious faith. In the ensuing months of bitter fighting and extreme discomfort, our soldiers surely prayed to God for an early victory. Was VE Day His reply? Obviously, our Allied Generals had considerable to do with it. One must conclude, however, that our military success is directly attributable to our faith — the faith we hold with our Generals, with our Country and with our God.

Religious Freedom

The Jewish People have had traditional success in overcoming countless road blocks in their path of religious freedom. Our history strengthens the faith of all peoples — Christians and Jews — in their constant struggle to establish a better world.

It is fitting and necessary to dwell upon the experiences we endured over the past year for we now approach the coming of the Jewish High Holy Days. Many of the men with whom we worshipped last Fall have died on the battlefield. Gloriously — perhaps, but the cause for which they fell will yet afford the rest of humanity an opportunity to live better.

Rosh Hoshonah (New Year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) could best be observed in our

Synagogues at home together with our families. Away from home, however, the observance of the High Holy Days this year on German soil symbolizes the total destruction of Nazism and the commemoration of religious freedom.

Rosh Hoshonah

The spirit of Rosh Hoshonah is memorialized in the blowing of the Shofar (Ram's Horn). Soldiers in Biblical days warned their comrades of impending danger by the blowing of the Ram's Horn. Since Medieval times the Shofar has signified the summoning of Jews to pray all over the world. The High Holy Days this year, therefore, bear a profound significance, now, with the final victory over the Sons of Nimrod kindling the dawn of a New World — where men of all religious denominations may again worship in freedom and without fear of dictators and bigoted, tyrannical governments.

Holidays

Although practically since Activation, the Jewish men of our Division have not had the assistance of a Jewish Chaplain, the generous cooperation and leadership emanating from the Office of the Division Chaplain in cooperation with the Chaplains of the Division, has afforded regular Sabbath Services and the observance of Jewish Holidays. Presently, a plan is being formulated whereby the Jewish men and officers of the Division may observe the High Holy Days. Year 5706, on the 8th, 9th and 17th of September. Services will be held at the Schauburg Theatre in Kaufbeuren, in the vicinity of Division Headquarters. Officers and men of units located within the area are invited

The Forward Looks Backward

One Year Ago Today, August 20th, 1944, "Blue Ridge" doughs of the 317th and 318th Regiments seized Argentine just three days after they, as part of the V Corps of Lt. General Courtney Hodges' First U.S. Army, had received orders to capture this objective and the high ground north of the city. 80th Division and attached artillery battalions had previously set Argentine aflame and the seizure of that city and Chambois, seven miles to the east, closed the Allied pincer movement and sealed the doom of the retreating German Seventh Army, scoring the first major "Blue Ridge" victory in World War II.



by Miss Beddheck

With smiling Lt. John G. Bacon, the Officer involved with "Hearsay's" weekly gazette, Miss Beddheck buzzed the 80th Signal Co area this week. They've got their recreational activities neatly centralized in a handsome Bavarian manor house, once the domicile of a Luftwaffe Lt. Colonel, at present residing in an American PW Enclosure.

Now the villa under the direction of Sgt. Jack Edwards, contains a ping-pong parlor, two spacious chambers of chance for Signal card fiends, a music room and the editorial offices of "Hearsay."

Signalmen report that several bottles of fine vintage champagne were discovered buried in the garden and their interest in tilling the soil has shown a marked increase. As a matter of fact, at present the garden looks as though a platoon of industrious moles have been working overtime.

Needle & Thread Dept.

Pfc. Christ Malliaris runs an efficient little tailor shop on the premises and what with new arrivals and recent Signal Co promotions he was up to his neck in chevrons and shoulder patches when Miss Beddheck looked in.

Nearly stables under the direction of Pfc. Robert "Pop" Havens and two Hungarian grooms, house ten fine steeds for Signal saddlemen, while Pfc. Harry Sunshine makes continuous daily rounds of Signalmen's billets refilling kegs of beer, one of which is in every building quartering contented communications troopers.

Honor Comrade

Thorpe Field across the way, gives the Signaliers a fine parade ground and ball field where 11 teams of their two softball leagues play and practice. Thorpe Field was named in honor of Pfc. Junior Thorpe, popular Signal soldier who fell in battle near Wiltz, Luxembourg.

Miss Beddheck found life in the Signal citadel altogether agreeable. Next week Miss Beddheck will take a gander at the after retreat gambols of the Quartermaster and Ordnance hombies.

to attend. Transportation will be made available through the unit Chaplains.

Sgt. Allan Bass

Editor's Note: Since the early days of training and throughout the long months of combat, Sgt. Allan Bass has given freely of his time and boundless energy toward the organization and guidance of Jewish affairs throughout our Division. In the absence of a Jewish Chaplain, FORWARD felt it was appropriate to ask Sgt. Bass to write this article especially dedicated to the men of Jewish Faith throughout the Division.



S.O.S. S.O.S., stranded in Europe, please get me transportation to the CBI.

No, I'm not crazy but my pal and I do wish to go to the CBI. I hope some one can help us, we have been trying for two weeks or more.

Direct or otherwise, it makes no difference with us.

A Pfc. & Pvt.
AT Co, 319th Inf.

FORWARD admires the patriotic motivation and aggressive spirit of these two "Blue Riders." This sincere admiration was shared by Division G-1 who cut red tape, and both men have already left on orders.

Ed.

This is a suggestion to the various orientation officers in the Division. Don't tell your men that you are totally unprepared, as ours has for the past five weeks. There is nothing that can make one of these forced attendance lectures more uninteresting than those old familiar words "I was only informed a few minutes ago and am totally unprepared."

27 Unorientated EM

FORWARD has attended many such lectures and finds that at least your orientation officer was honest. Seriously, FORWARD suggests that the Division I & E Office prepare appropriate poop in advance and distribute it to orientation officers for use in their weekly lectures.

Ed.

To the Editor:

My compliments on the excellence of your 80th Division newspaper. Ever since the arrival of the 55th Fighter Group, as your new Ninth Airforce neighbor, I've noticed our men coming from Kaufbeuren with copies of the paper and reading it in mess halls, outside their barracks or on the line.

Rather than have them take papers you've placed in the Red

Cross Club for your men I wonder if it'd be possible to have weekly copies sent to us direct?

It has been my experience that fighting men everywhere are interested in the doings of their comrades and your newsy periodical helps to acquaint us even more with the heroic exploits that have made the 80th Division famous throughout the conquered countries and in the rest of the world.

In an endeavor to have you see and hear a little about the Air Corps I'm sending two films: "Ramrod to Emden" and "Target for Today," depicting Eighth Air Force fighter and bomber operations, to be shown to soldiers in your theatres.

Your paper is knitting a closer understanding between members of all branches of the United States Army and certainly deserves the success for which it is so earnestly striving. With the surrender of the Japs a reality at last, we of the 55th look with pleasure to FORWARD — and beyond!

Cordially,

Jack W. Hayes Jr.
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps
Commanding

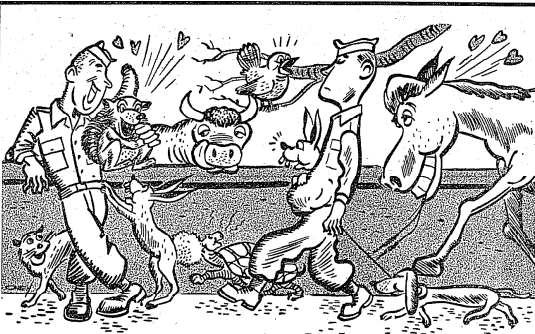
Thank you sir! The two fine films are being shown to "Blue Riders" through Special Service. FORWARD will send you the papers and we're beaming from ear to ear!

Ed.

Dear Forward:

Please insert in your paper: Lost on Route N-14 outside of Memmingen, a black wallet containing family photographs and several addresses, also 180 marks and a pay book envelope with large photos. Finder may keep the money but please return wallet to the writer.

Pfc. John F. Callaghan, 42073732
Co I, 319th Infantry Regiment
APO 80, U.S. Army.



THE 80TH IS LOOKING FOR A "BLUE RIDGE" MASCOT!

You're kind to animals. Let 'em give you a break! A photo of your pet pup, a candid of a kitten or canary, a snapshot of your mascot, here or at home, no matter what kind of animal or bird it may be, may win you one of three peachy prizes.

PRIZES

FIRST PRIZE . . . 7 DAY FURLOUGH TO THE RIVIERA
SECOND PRIZE . . . 3 DAY PASS TO PARIS
THIRD PRIZE . . . 1 KEG OF BEER (50 liters)

Send your entry to 80th FORWARD, Division Newspaper Office, through APO 80, or Message Center.

Include your name and address and the name of your pet, and please make it a glossy print suitable for reproduction.

A Committee of FORWARD Judges will select the prize winners. All decisions will be final.

FORWARD's Contests are open to Enlisted Men only.



Attractive and acrobatic Nina Nova recently entertained "Blue Ridgers" in the USO "Broadway Abroad" unit. Nina is a Denver, Colo., darling.

Unit Award To 317 Sv. Co

Cited for "Superior performance of duty, achievement, and maintenance of a high standard of discipline during the period 6 August, 1944 to 8 May, 1945, Service Company of the 317th Infantry Regiment has been awarded the Meritorious Service Plaque according to orders issued by the Headquarters of Division Commander, Major General Horace L. McBride.

A glance at the Company's sterling record indicates exactly what "superior performance" means. From the time the 317th landed in France until VE Day, the vehicles of the cited unit travelled 444,565 miles to transport troops and supplies for the 317th and attached organizations. Included in the vital cargos were 318,930 gallons of gasoline, 600 tons of ammunition and 2,009 tons of rations.

Golden Wreath

During the period covered by the citation which authorizes Service Co personnel to wear the golden wreath of Meritorious Service on their right sleeves, a two man team within the Company repaired the staggering amount of 12,825 tires, while Service Co mechanics did epic work in keeping the unit's vehicles rolling. Testimony to this is the fact that the outfit still has 24 two and a-half-ton trucks which were issued in England.

The steady stream of expertly repaired weapons which kept the 317th shooting at the Moselle and again during the critical Ardennes Campaign, was serviced by the Regimental Armament Section, staffed by Service Co personnel. These skilled technicians made many repairs ordinarily handled by Ordnance.

Service Co did their share of

Service Plaque Twice to Medics

Previously awarded the Meritorious Service Plaque, the 80th's 305th Medical Battalion has received a second award of the prized golden wreath covering a latter period, January 1st to June 30th, 1945.

Then under the command of Lt. Col. H. Fishkin, the 305th Medics received high praise for their epic life-saving performance throughout combat and their continued efficiency and discipline after the cessation of hostilities.

This second award of the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque entitles all 305th Medics to wear a gold star inside the proud wreath which now adorns their right sleeves according to Major Robert L. Rate, who has replaced Lt. Col. Fishkin as Battalion Commander.

Five Best BAR Teams - 317th

The 317th Infantry Regiment covered itself with glory by taking the first five places in the "Blue Ridge" Division-wide Browning Automatic Rifle competition held on Monday, August 13th.

Co G's ace BAR men took first prize, a trip to England, when they scored an impressive 153 points. The prize winning crew consisted of Sgt. James D. Stoien, Pfc. Ralph L. Wingate and Harold J. Holland.

Co A, represented by Pfc. Frank P. Mondell, James Cody and Clifton Allen took second prize, a pass to the Riviera, by chalking up 115 points. Co E's 102 points placed them third and won Pfc. Lucas Luna, Charles L. Slatten and Jack J. Stratton passes to Paris.

Co B, represented by Pfc. Herman A. Hill, Luther R. Hunley and Lee O. Henley took fourth place, while T/Sgt. Jack R. Cooksey, T/Sgt. James C. Hayden and Pvt. Jake Haefler of Co C, placed fifth.

"Flying High"

The newly completed Division Artillery Sports Platz at Memmingen, with a seating capacity of close to 3,000, will house "Flying High," a USO variety revue scheduled to begin a five day run tomorrow, August 21st.

Featuring lovely songstress Felice Shaw, George Dobbs, Hollywood tap dancer, the comedy team of Bernard & Conklin, a 15 piece band and a bevy of beautiful girls, "Flying High" will give a two o'clock matinee on the 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 25th and 26th of August. The troupe will have a day of rest on Friday, August 24th. Rail transportation is being arranged for "Blue Ridgers" not in the immediate vicinity of Memmingen.

New Jive To Band

The 80th Division's 14 piece dance band is now featuring the very latest in jive tunes imported from "Uncle Sugar," having just received 80 of the newest orchestrations from a leading N.Y. music house.

soldiering as well, as indicated by two Silver Stars, 12 Purple Hearts and 24 Bronze Stars awarded their personnel. Capt. James G. Martin, recently succeeded by 1st Lt. Andrew G. Bourdrow, was the unit's commanding officer during the time covered by the citation.

1700 Blue Ridgers Take I & E Courses

More than 1,700 "Blue Ridgers" are participating in the 80th Division's Educational Program according to a report from 80th I & E Officer, Major Robert D. Hanson, and this figure does not include the approximately 200 "Blue Ridgers" from all units currently studying at various Army and civilian educational centers.

New On-the-Job Courses added to the Division's expanding program include Air-Ground Instruction, Restaurant Management, Weapons Maintenance, Band, Journalism and Basic Electricity.

The Air-Ground School with a quota of forty is being sponsored by the 315th Field Artillery Bat-

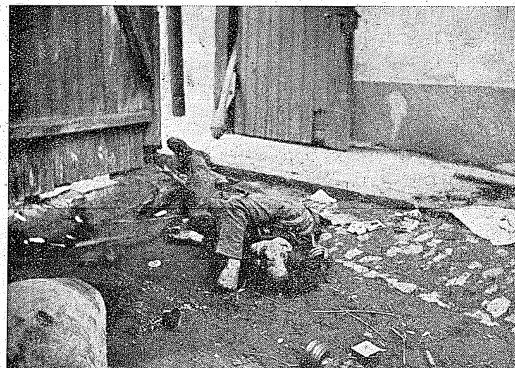
alion on Division level. The 60 hour course will cover sufficient ground training to qualify students for pre-flight and flight training, and is being conducted at the Memmingen Airport. Students accepted must be physically qualified to fly.

Auto Mechanics continue to be the leading On-the-Job interest of "Blue Ridgers" with a present enrollment of 478 receiving practical training throughout the Division. Secondary interests are woodwork and carpentry with some 215 men enrolled, while the third leading vocational interest is machine shop operation with 139 "Blue Ridgers" involved.

Privates Win Combat Photo Contest

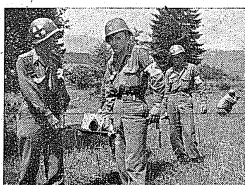
FORWARD received scores of excellent combat photographs, but in the opinions of the judges, few told more eloquent or diversified combat stories than the prize-winners printed below. The old axiom that a private sees more of the war than anyone else was borne out by the fact that first and third prizes went to privates first class, while a private took second place.

COUNTER-ATTACK



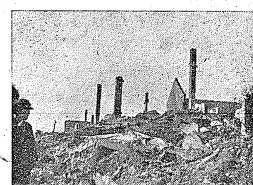
A Nazi SS trooper sprawled on the cluttered streets of Gisperleben, Germany, snapped by Pfc. Charles A. Blomquist shortly after his Co H, 317th Infantry had beaten off an enemy counter-offensive, won first prize for Blomquist. The Riviera should prove a pleasant contrast to battered Gisperleben.

LITTER BEARERS



This second prize winner was taken at Atton, France, by Pvt. Joe Perreault, Co C, 305th Medical Battalion. Notice the dough still firing at the enemy in the background. Perreault will return to France, only this time it'll be Paris for three days.

GERMAN HOME

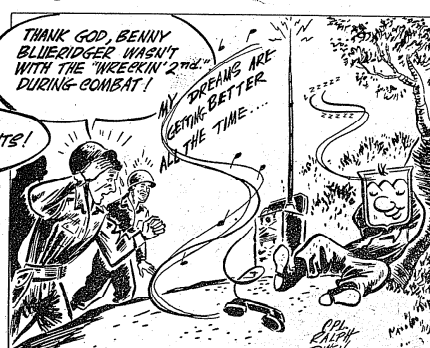
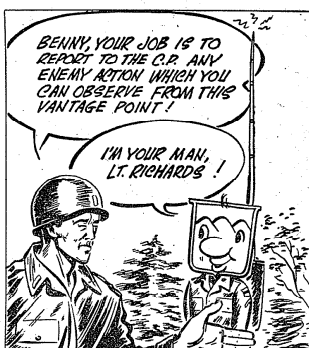
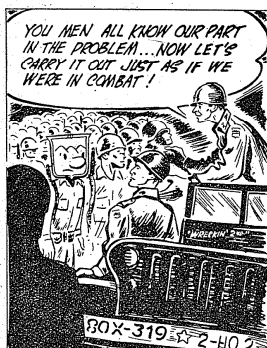


Pfc. Edwards S. Carmen, Div Hq (C/S Sec.) photographed the third prize. The ruins and rubble of this German home between Nurnberg and Braunau graphically depict the misery and futility of war brought home to the civilian population.

Benny Blueridger

by Cpl. Ralph Owen

Benny Wrecks Wreckin' Second





80th Beats 44th AAA 4-0

319th Blast Engineers 14-0
Cleghorn Shuts Out 317th

The 80th Division "Mountaineers" slapped out ten hits, while Munson handcuffed the 44th AAA boys, and wound up with a 4-0 victory. The second win for the "Blue Riders" since entering the league.

Eddie Yarmul, hard hitting left fielder, smashed out three base hits in four times at bat, to gain batting honors for the day.

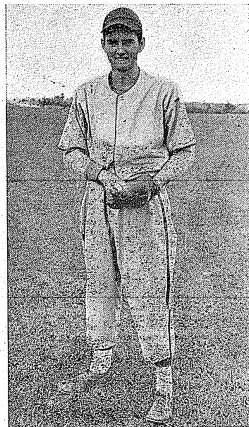
"Bums" Beaten

In a game that was finally halted by rain, the 318th "Hamperites" soundly trounced the Special Troops "Bums" 10-0.

Tommy O'Keefe, slim right hander, had things his own way in setting down the Troopers with two hits.

After scoring duces in the first and second innings, the "Hamperites" came through in the third and added four more markers. Holmes walked to start the rally, and Gus Kumor, first sacker, slammed the pill to deep right field for a double, sending Holmes to third. Griggs walked to fill the bases, and Zachol, hard hitting right fielder, banged out his second hit for the day, scoring both Holmes and Kumor, and sending Griggs to third. Griggs scored a few seconds later on Carpenter's bunt with "Zack" going to second. Zachol took third on a wild pitch and scored on O'Keefe's hit to second, ending the inning with an 8-0 lead.

Going into the last half of the fifth, the weather man frowned on the day's activities and the game had to be called because of showers, with the "Hamperites" leading 10-0.



Tommy O'Keefe Ace Hurler of the 318th "Hamperites".

Engineers Humbled Molley Stars

With "Chet" Molley pitching five hit ball, the championship bound 319th "Hayseeds" blasted the 305th Engineers 14-0, at Lloyd Field on the 14th.

The "Hayseeds" started the slaughter in the first inning by scoring four runs. Jahn, rightfielder, and lead off man opened their half of the inning by driving one deep to short, and when Centro booted the ball, he pulled up safe at first. Knight batting next, drew a base on balls, sending Jahn to second. Masio then popped out to O. Tighe in short center, but DeStefano came through and lined a hit to right scoring Jahn and sending Knight to third. Lis, fiery catcher for the "Hayseeds", with a count of three and two, singled to center scoring Knight, and sending DeStefano to second. With Barillo at bat, DeStefano

and Lis pulled a double steal. Barillo then drove one to short and "Bob" Centro trying to get DeStefano at the plate, threw wild over Roundtree's head, and both DeStefano and Lis scored, ending the inning at 4-0.

The "Hayseeds" scored two more runs in the second, and then came up in the third for the final outburst that sent Hayes to the showers and brought Frey in from the bull pen for the Engineers.

Barillo started that hectic inning by singling sharply to left. Hornberger drove one deep to center field, and when W. Tighe overran the ball, Hornberger came in credited with a home run. McGuinness then singled and "Chet" Molley, keeping the boys alive, doubled to centerfield sending McGuinness to third. Hayes was then taken out, and "Whitey" Frey came in to take over pitching chores for Lt. Hoffman's team. Frey got Jahn and Knight on pop outs, but Masio threw coal on the fire by singling to center and sending in both McGuinness and Molley.



Molley

DeStefano came through with his third straight hit, a double to right field. Taking a one and one count, Lis brought both Masio and DeStefano in with a punch hit over third, ending the scoring for that inning with six runs on six hits. The score in the third standing at 12-0 in favor of the Doughboys.

Umpiring

The "Hayseeds" scored one run in the fifth and again in the sixth to wind up their scoring for the afternoon. The game finally being called to a halt in the seventh by the consent of both teams.

Once again umpiring was the cause of disputes, and according to the Engineers, the worst they had ever seen. I do feel however, that with the score of 14-0, and the brand of ball exhibited, the poor umpire could hardly take all the blame.

"Hayseeds" Romp

Continuing to dominate league play, the 319th "Hayseeds" whitewashed the luckless 317th "Headachers" by a score of 7-0.

The Hayseeds started right off in the big half of the first by scoring three runs on two hits. Hornberger hit a twister down to second base, and when Garrison booted the ball, Hornberger pulled up safe at first. Al Masio then followed with a booming double down the left field line, and Hornberger pulled up at third. Danny Stefano, with a count of three and one, hit the cripple for a base knock into right field, scoring both Hornberger and Masio, and when the right fielder bobbed the ball, the flashy first sacker pulled up at second. "Donuts" Barillo hit to third, and was out on a close play, DeStefano going to third. Danny scored a few seconds later on a throw down to third from Betlinski, the "Headache" catcher, the ball getting away from the third sacker and rolling into short left field.

The "Hayseeds" came back again in the fourth to add two more markers to the cause. McGuinness, second baseman, slapping the first ball pitched into left field for a double. Jim Cleghorn, "Hayseed" hurler, fanned, but Jahn walked, putting runners on first and second. Hornberger with a count of two and two, missed a fast ball for the third strike, but Al Masio took four

905th Cops Championship

Behind brilliant one hit pitching by "Knuckles" Nagode, the 905th Field Artillery Battalion softball team edged out the 318th team in a thrilling game 2-1.

Both teams were able to garner only one hit, however the boys from Hectic combined their one hit with a walk and a sacrifice and nosed out the Hambone team in the final inning.

The 905th went out in front in the second inning when Amolsch, shortstop, walked and went to second on a sacrifice bunt, scoring seconds later when a bunt by Pass was bobbled by Brinker.

The 318th didn't dent the plate until their half of the last inning, when Thompson led off by banging a hard hit double to left center field. Wilson followed by flying out deep to center, and Thompson tagged up and took third. Hayes then rapped one down to short, and when Amolsch kicked the ball, Thompson came in with the tying run.

The Hectic bunch came back in the last of the inning to sew up the ole ball game. Zorena walked to start the inning, but Maxwell who had pitched hitless ball up until this inning, bore down and got Pass and Nagode on strikes, but Gintner, first sacker for the 905th poled one deep to left field, driving in the winning run.

Blue Ridge Mythical All-Stars

The 319th "Hayseeds" and 318th "Hamperites" led the Blue Ridge league in men selected for the "mythical" 1945 all-star team.

The official 1945 all-stars with pitchers won and lost records and batters averages in parenthesis:

Pitchers

Molley, 319 (4-2)
O'Keefe, 318 (2-2)
Tucker, 317

Catchers

Lis, 319 (250)
Smegowski, Div Arty (266)

Infielders

DeStefano, 319 (365)
Masio, 319 (404)
Correia, 318 (.538)
Barillo, 319 (.365)
Linehan, 317

Outfielders

Griggs, 318 (.207)
Zachol, 318 (.375)
Hornberger, 319

pitched balls to walk and fill the bases. DeStefano then tagged the pill, driving it between first and second. Garrison came over trying to make the play, but the ball took a freak hop, hitting his glove and bouncing off toward second base, with McGuinness and Jahn scoring on the play.

Pudvah, 317th hurler, then proceeded to pitch air tight ball until the ninth, when big Al Masio started the fireworks off again, by singling to left. DeStefano followed by drawing a base on balls with "Big Al" going to second. "Donuts" Barillo then slapped a drive through the box to center scoring Masio, but DeStefano was out trying for third, Feretta to Halsey. Sewell was then sent in to run for Barillo. "Donuts", having been spiked in the earlier part of the game, was unable to continue. Sewell promptly stole second, and scored a few minutes later on Solomika's double to right center field.

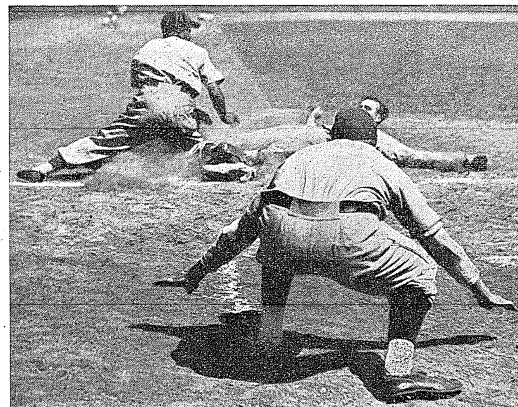
Jim Cleghorn, "Hayseed" hurler, pitched a beautiful ball game, limiting the 317th to seven scattered hits, while striking out ten batters.

BLUE RIDGE

Leading Hitters—2nd Half

	AB	H	Pct
Lacy, Sp Trps	2	2	.1000
Correia, 318	8	4	.500
Francescan, 317	4	2	.500
DeStefano, 319	14	6	.428
Masio, 319	13	5	.384

"Some Slide, Eh Kid?"



During a recent hotly contested ball game between the 318th and 319th, Griggs, left fielder for the "Hamperites" is shown sliding into third base. Barilli, is the third sacker, while Lenhart is the man coaching.

Div. Softballers Down Signal 3-1.

The 80th Division "Blue Riders" softball team, behind the three hit pitching of Siebert, defeated the 80th Signal "Wireman" by a score of 3-1. The game was a nip and tuck affair all the way, and the outcome was definitely undecided until the final out was made.

Fielding gem for the afternoon, was a beautiful back handed catch, by Blake of the "Wireman" of a drive that was ticketed for extra bases.

Novak Runs For ETO

Andy Novak, 80th MP's, has been selected to run the 110 High Hurdles on the ETO track team. The meet will be held in either Rome or Frankfurt in the near future, against the MTO track team.

Andy, although not placing in the final USFET meet, had the race sewed up, until the eighth hurdle, when he lost his balance and kicked over the obstacle.

DOUBLE X LEAGUE

Standings

Teams	Won	Lost	Pct
103 Div	3	0	.1000
80th Div	2	1	.667
44th AAA	1	1	.500
10th Armd	1	1	.500
9th Div	1	1	.500
Corps Hq	1	2	.333
71st Div	0	1	.000
14th Armd	0	2	.000

Scores

80th Div—4 44th AAA—0

BLUE RIDGE LEAGUE

Standings

Teams	Won	Lost	Pct
318	1	0	.1000
319	2	1	.667
805 Engr	1	1	.500
317	1	1	.500
Div Arty	0	1	.000
Sp Troops	0	1	.000

Scores

305 Engr—11 Sp Troops—3
319—14 305 Engr—0
319—7 317—0
318—5 319—0

Sportraits

By "Mac"

