

"The 80th Only Moves Forward"

THE BLUE RIDGER

Northern France
Ardennes
Rhine-land
Central Europe

Articles reproduced from Leading Newspapers

Third Anniversary Edition

80th Rescues Buchenwald's 21,000 Slaves

BY ALVIN J. STEINKOPF
New York Herald Tribune

Weimar, Germany, April 16 (A.P.)—Young Americans of the 80th Division broke into the notorious Buchenwald concentration camp a few miles outside of Weimar and brought fresh air, hope and liberty to 21,000 miserable, sick, and ragged men.

Tens of thousands of other prisoners had died before the Americans got there, and many of the liberated were too far gone to be saved. In the first 24 hours of American administration a few more than 150 succumbed of malnutrition and disease. In the next six hours, 39 more died.

All that the small American Military Government staff could do immediately was to increase the soup ration—adding meat and vegetables—and release five interned doctors to help the sick.

The Americans found a shocking mess, but inmates said that Buchenwald had been improved lately, with the Germans apparently cleaning it up in expectation of the Americans' arrival.

There once were more than 50,000 prisoners at Buchenwald, but shortly before the Americans came the Nazis marched 20,000 to 30,000 eastward.

I saw several inmates die in Baracks 61.

Bodies were hauled to a six-burner crematorium.

Baracks 61 of the hospital section, which inmates said was the worst in the compound, looks like a conventional one-story wooden army barracks. Inside it is divided into two rows of four-tier shelves divided at five and one-half foot intervals by upright partitions.

In each hole, approximately 18 inches high, as many as six men were quartered. Three in a cubby hole could lie comfortable on their backs. With six, the men had to lie on their sides. There were no mattresses on the boards and few had blankets. The patients had pneumonia, dysentery, typhus and almost every type of disease.

Baillie-Stewart Seized in Austria

Stars and Stripes

With U.S. Third Army in Austria, May 20 (Associated Press)—Norman Baillie-Stewart, cashiered lieutenant in the Seaforth Highlanders who once broadcast Nazi propaganda to Britain from Hamburg, has been taken into custody by the U.S. 80th Infantry Division.

The Americans found the renegade Briton in a luxurious mountain hideout at Alt Aussee, Austria.

The Britisher possibly would have escaped detection, authorities said, had he not offered his services as an interpreter to the military government.

Became Reich Citizen

Baillie-Stewart became known as "The Officer in the Tower" in 1933 when his identity was hidden by English authorities. Subsequently he was court-martialed on a charge of selling information to a German agent for 50 pounds, sentenced to five years' imprisonment and dishonorably discharged.

The British Secret Service said that after Baillie-Stewart was liberated in 1937 he first worked for an Austrian tourist agency, applied for Austrian citizenship and smuggled arms into Austria for the Germans. After Hitler's Anschluss, Baillie-Stewart automatically became a German citizen and started his radio work. He married a German girl.

His propaganda work gained him an army deferment but late in 1944 he was reported fired for departing from his script, and was called for duty with the Volkssturm. Claiming a liver ailment and other disorders, Baillie-Stewart retired to the Alt Aussee mountain estate of a Countess Platin, where he was found.

CORPS COMMANDER PRESENTS BATTLE HONORS



Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig, (center) XX Corps Commander, Brig. Gen. George W. Smythe, (right), Asst. Div. Comdr., and Col. James S. Luckett, (left) CO 318th Inf., at the presentation of battle honors to 80th Div. troops.

The 80th Is Three Years Old

The 80th Infantry Division is three years old today. Now that's a respectable age for a chipmunk but there is nothing remarkable about it for a military organization or even a child. It's quite young in fact but this "Blue Ridge" son of battle is a remarkable kid for his young but certainly not tender years.

Few people in the then over-crowded little Army town of Tullahoma, Tennessee ever heard of the sleepy little Bavarian town of Kaufbeuren, Germany, and I dare say the reverse is equally true, yet three years ago on the hot and dusty parade grounds of Camp Forrest, Tennessee, a few hundred officers and men activated the new 80th Infantry Division. Thus the "Blue Ridge" battle baby was born. He came from fine American stock. His father had fought with honor in World War I and handed down a proud and glowing family tradition, "The 80th Only Moves Forward." These were not merely stirring words but a credo for the new child to live and perhaps die by.

Those were dark days in 1942, the still strong tentacles of European and Asiatic totalitarianism were strangling the embattled democracies, yet with time bought by British, Russian and Chinese blood the young "Blue Riders" had time to prepare for their eventual task and on its first anniversary the 80th was playing at war on Tennessee maneuvers not far from its birthplace. The next birthday was celebrated in England on the threshold of combat and now the third natal day in what was once the Nazi Reich is observed in victory and grim resolve for what is yet to come.

Yet three years is not a long time. It's not long enough to complete a high school or college education. But it is long enough to learn many lessons far beyond the feeble efforts of academic education.

This battle-worn three year old has seen little men rise to legendary heights of gallantry. American kids suffer and die for America's convictions. Catholic, Protestant and Jew fight and die for a common cause and sometimes save each other. This three year old has sacrificed at least one man dead or wounded for every day of its existence and wears three Congressional Medals of Honor and over ten thousand Purple Hearts on their behalf. Yes, this child with more than thirteen

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BLUE RIDGERS GIVEN CITATION



The 2nd Bn. 318th Inf. received battle honors for its action at Bastogne, while the 313th Field Artillery Bn. was honored for its support at the Moselle River in September 1944. Troops are pictured here en masse before the presentation.

Wiedorfer Awarded Medal Of Honor For Gallant Action

RUSSIANS DECORATE CPL.,
NO. 1 GI OF 20th CORPS
Stars and Stripes

With the 80th Infantry Division, Germany, July 6—Chosen as the outstanding soldier in the U.S. 20th Corps, Cpl. James J. Beck, assistant squad leader in Co. K, 318th Inf., has been awarded a Red Army medal of the Order of Slava, it was announced yesterday.

Beck, who previously had been awarded the French Croix de Guerre, the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart, is a resident of Philadelphia.

Walter Kuhn Under Arrest

By Ed Wilcox
Stars and Stripes

KAUFBEUREN, Germany, July 2. Proudly wearing a sweat shirt labeled "Jackson Heights Owls," Walter Kuhn, 18-year-old son of Fritz Kuhn, American Bund leader, smiled broadly for photographers today and discussed politics in an accent that sounded like Bavaria and Brooklyn at the same time.

Kuhn, who returned to Germany with his mother in Feb. 1944, was selected to lead Hitler Youth resistance in southern Germany but was captured by the 80th Infantry Division when he came down out of the hills after the war ended. He was being held by the CIC for questioning.

Since returning to the Reich, the blond Kuhn had been a student in the Auslands Deutsche Schuelerheim in Wuertemberg where a select group of 106 German nationals from foreign countries was being trained as diplomats, who would eventually spread the Nazi doctrine around the earth.

Brooklyn Roommate, Too

"My roommate was from Brooklyn, too," Kuhn said. "His name was Gunther Fiebig. There were quite a number of South Americans, many boys from the Balkans, some from China and Japan. Most of them were studying to be diplomats, but I wanted to be a chemist."

He said emphasis was put on the 25-point Nazi program and on party history and organization. Students ranged in age from nine to 18 and the full course required eight years. "Most of the boys were fanatics," he continued, "but my roommate and I were not. Being Americans, we realized that Germany could not win the war and that all this business about super races and that sort of thing was the bunk."

No Choice, He Says

Someone asked why he had come back to Germany if he had not wanted to.

"My mother is a German," he explained, "and she wanted to come back after my father was interned in the States. I was 16 then and had no choice in the matter."

Reminded that when he was picked up, he admired Hitler and said he was a fanatical Nazi himself, Kuhn answered that he had been "misquoted" and that he admired Hitler's farm policy but nothing else. CIC men said his story had changed considerably since his capture.

He smiled and pointed to the large white owl and the letter on his shirt.

"See that," he said. "I was a member of the Jackson Heights Owls basketball team. And I played football and baseball, too. I played first and I'm a pretty fair left-handed hitter. I was in sports at Bryant High School in Queens. I really miss that gang."

HERO BUSINESS HARD ON
NERVES, WIEDORFER TELLS
HIS PARENTS

Baltimore Sun

Baltimore, Md (June 2, 1945) --- I'm just another GI among 8,000,000 grand fellows who are doing a swell job and, honestly, I can't see what all the shouting's about," Staff Sergeant Paul J. Wiedorfer, of Baltimore, the only living Marylander to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor in this war, said yesterday as he arrived in New York from England after a plane trip.

A few minutes before he had talked by long-distance telephone from the Evacuation Hospital, Mitchell Field, Long Island, with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wiedorfer, and his brothers and sisters at their home, 2431 McElderry street.

Sergeant Wiedorfer, 24, obviously was startled as, sitting in a wheel chair with his left leg in a cast, he called, "Hey, don't tell me that" when he learned that Governor O'Connor and Mayor McKeldin had appointed a joint committee to give him a gala welcome home.

To Speed Up Plans

Joseph F. Mannion, national judge advocate of the Army and Navy League of Valor and State Committee of the organization who is chairman of the welcoming committee, last night said plans for the reception will be accelerated.

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Hungary's Gold Cache Located By 80th Troops

Chicago Tribune

Paris, May 21 (Associated Press) The state treasure of Hungary, including the total gold reserve behind all Hungarian currency in circulation, was uncovered recently by the U.S. 80th Infantry Division on a rocky, pine-covered crag high in the Austrian Alps.

The treasure trove, hidden at the ancient mountain village of Spital am Pyhrn, was unearthed by Hungarian-born Master-Sgt. William J. DeHuszar of Chicago, Ill.

It includes 4,000,000 pengos (130,000,000 dollars at the present rate of exchange), 29,000 kilograms of gold bullion worth \$30,000,000, complete sets of Hungarian bank note plates for printing all Hungarian currency, plus other wealth representing most of the capital interest and individual deposits of Hungary removed from Budapest before the Russians captured that city.

Also in the mountain top chapel cellar were more than 1,000,000 reichsmarks, \$159,000 in American currency, six cases of priceless Hungarian art treasures.

Plunder Balked

This wealth in money, art and jewels was watched over by the pro-Nazi president of the Royal Bank of Hungary and some 500 financial experts, clerks, bookkeepers and other employees, guarded by 200 picked Hungarian gendarmes.

Supreme Headquarters said Nazi Gestapo agents tried to hijack the treasure shortly before the arrival of 80th Division doughboys. The Gestapo had the active cooperation of the Hungarian bank president, who was an appointee of the puppet Premier, Dr. Ferenc Szalasi.

But a patriot Hungarian stalled on the job and deliberately misled keys and vital records and generally sabotaged the German attempt at plunder.

GI Clerks, Cooks Batter Nazis In Baptism of Fire

By Lewis Hawkins
(Associated Press)
Chicago Tribune

With the Eightieth Infantry Division, Luxembourg, Jan. 31.—A week ago K Company of the 317th Regiment was a loosely knit, odd lot of rookies, clerks, cooks, drivers and gunners—learning a rifleman's job and wondering what combat was all about.

Today K Company is a band of proven fighting men with a healthy cockiness reflected in a new found motto: "K Company leads the way."

The change occurred during 48 blazing hours last week when K Company took two towns alone, helped take another and captured and killed more than its own normal combat quota of 155 fighting men.

The company's story essentially is one of replacement—now officially known as reinforcements—who must uphold standards set high by the original men of units long in battle. But it's a special sort of replacement story because the green and puzzled newcomers to K Company had to make their own way and earn their own confidence with a minimum of veterans at their side.

Started With Few

K Company could count only 12 combat-able men December 27 when its commander was hit. The long Lorraine campaign and the fierce fighting for the Luxembourg village of Kehmen had accounted for the rest.

First Lt. Karl E. Wallace, husky 22-year-old, of Coleman, Tex., normally a mortar platoon leader in another company, was placed in command of the hard-hit company. He said:

"Within a few days after I took over, reinforcements came in fast and we soon were up to numerical strength, but it was a mixed bunch—transferred from anti-aircraft outfits, clerks, cooks and drivers—far removed from a rifleman's life.

"My dozen holdovers included only one noncom, my first sergeant, Frank Dobozy, so I just interviewed these new arrivals and decided just by talking to them for a few minutes which ones should be made squad leaders. I'm frankly proud that of these selections not one has had to be removed or demoted.

Quick Training Given

"Fortunately we then were in a quiet sector so Dobozy and I and the few other veterans were able to get in some intensive training in the use of Garands, Browning automatic rifles, bazookas and rifle grenades.

"When we got orders to attack across the Clerf River into Wilwerwiltz the night of December 26 we really were whipped down. But the outfit clambered across a broken bridge and waded the stream to get into the town and quickly mopped up a handful of snipers, some of whom had been located by a patrol which went in earlier under my untried platoon leader, Lt. Charles W. Garbutt.

"There was no rest that night and next morning we had to attack up a steep hill to take the town of Pintsch, about a mile away and held by 300 Germans with three tanks.

"In this scrap we took 66 prisoners and I think we must have killed over 100. The next day we went on another two miles with the rest of the battalion to take Bucholz. Our

losses were only a very small fraction of those we inflicted.

"Because those untried men had learned their lessons well and had plenty of guts I couldn't single out one for individual praise."

Town of Jena Taken After "Honor Battle"

Chicago Tribune

JENA, Germany, April 13 (Associated Press)—The German commander of this city, forty-five miles southwest of Leipzig, refused a surrender ultimatum today, but the Eightieth Infantry Division of the United States Third Army captured it easily in a brief, half-hearted "battle of honor," in which only a few shots were exchanged.

Jena is the home of the famed Zeiss optical instrument firm and has a normal population of 60,000. It had been by-passed earlier by the Fourth Armored Division of the Third Army, speeding eastward, but today it fell to doughboys commanded by Col. Normando A. Costello of Franklin, Mass., and Lieut. Col. Henry Fisher of St. Petersburg, Fla.

All production in the Zeiss plants had been halted since Allied bombers wrecked the company's buildings March 19, an official of the firm said. He estimated that the main plant, in the center of the city, had been 60 per cent destroyed, but an inspection today made it appear that 90 per cent would be more accurate.

One Zeiss plant was discovered underground at Torthenstein, four miles south of Jena.

Other buildings near the Zeiss plants suffered some damage, but in general the people of Jena got off lucky. They lined the streets as the doughboys poured into the city and seemed happy.

Third Army Driving Fast

By Gault MacGowan
New York Sun

With U.S. Third Army in Germany, April 14 (Special-Delayed)—Our troops are driving so fast across the Third Reich that once you say goodbye to an outfit you have a hard time finding it again. Sometimes you leave a command post at dawn for a visit to the forward area and return to find it has moved out suddenly and there is no dinner waiting for you. So it is unsafe to leave your base of operations in the morning without having your gear packed and ready.

The atmosphere of the towns and villages change rapidly as well. In the morning, streets may be packed with guns, infantry and tank headquarters direction boards everywhere. By nightfall, all that remains may be a solitary direction post "military governor." The village has sunk back into its former obscurity, and inhabitants are left to meditate the meaning of the blackened ruins and hopes where roadblocks stood and buildings were bombed.

Along The Highways

Back along the highways, higher military headquarters move similarly. For weeks a big city may bustle with staff cars of generals, smart military policemen, military shoppers, Army clothing stores, Red Cross girls and nurses. Suddenly everybody moves out and the town or city that looked like an international capital for a few weeks, maybe months, becomes just another European town again with a few echelon supply trains rumbling through at night faintly echoing its former importance.

Yesterday I was with General Horace McBride's 80th (Blue Ridge) Division when the towns of Erfurt-Thuringia's little Venice and Weimar, where Goethe spent his happiest and most productive years, fell to the Blue Ridge infantry who liberated me when I escaped from the Nazis last fall. Weimar, too, you will recall, was the birthplace of Germany's 1919 republic.

Patton Praises Bastogne Role of 80th Division

With the 3rd Army, Feb. 2 (Associated Press)—Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton, commander of the 3rd Army, today described the role played by the 80th Infantry Division's 318th regiment in the relief of Bastogne as "one of the finest chapters in the glorious history of the United States Army."

"Hitler-Hating" Dr. Skubl Taken Prisoner By 80th

By Joseph Driscoll
New York Herald Tribune

With the 80th Division, Germany, April 4.—As the Americans move deeper and deeper into central

Germany, they expect to find on the roads any day three nondescript persons looking like Adolph Hitler, Heinrich Himmler and Paul Joseph Goebbels. No doubt they will try to convince the Americans that they always hated Hitlerism and secretly were opposed from the beginning to National Socialism and all that the Nazis stood for.

Such a problem faced the 80th (Blue Ridge) Division at noon today when a Continental gentleman walked up to its prison inclosure and asked to be let in, identifying himself as Dr. Michael Skubl, erstwhile Austrian Secretary of State for Public Security.

Obviously glad to place himself in the custody of the Americans rather than the Russians, little Dr. Skubl gave the following account of himself:

Born in Bleiburg, Carinthia, in 1877, he joined the Vienna Police Department in 1906. At the time of Hitler's forcible annexation of Austria he had risen under the ill-fated Chancellor Kurt Schuschnigg, who refused to collaborate with Hitler, to be Secretary of State for Public Security and Police Commissioner of the City of Vienna.

Seeking today to establish himself as a man of importance and entitled to preferential treatment among prisoners of war, Dr. Skubl said he had been police chief of Vienna from 1934 to March 11, 1938. Asked whether he had been police commissioner when Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss was assassinated by Hitler's agents, Skubl said no, he had taken office five days later.

Prisoner Skubl recalled the time when the intimidated Chancellor Schuschnigg "abdicated." He said he stood beside Schuschnigg on a balcony when the Austrian Chancellor, intimidated by an Austrian renegade, broadcast his farewell message to the Austrian people and said "God save Austria!" He recalled Schuschnigg saying, "We are saying before God and the world we are only surrendering because of the brutal force being imposed against us."

At Schuschnigg's request to preserve law and order, Skubl said, he continued as Vienna's police chief until May 23, 1938, when two Gestapo agents took him in charge and transported him to Kassel, Germany, together with his wife and their personal maid.

One gathered that living was not made too difficult for Skubl, for he stayed at the Hotel Schirmer in Kassel until 1944, when the Gestapo relaxed its vigilance and permitted him to sojourn at the town of Holzhausen, eight miles to the south.

Yesterday a tank battle was at that town and three Tiger tanks were knocked out. Whereupon Dr. Skubl walked up to an 80th Division prisoner-of-war camp and happily announced he wished to surrender.

Patton Inspects 80th

With the U. S. Third Army in Austria, May 20 (International News Service)—General George S. Patton, returning unexpectedly after the first day of what he planned as a 10-day leave in England, completed a weekend inspection tour today of Third Army lines and positions skirting the Austrian Alps.

Patton toured the general area between Steyr and Salzburg and conferred with staff officers of the 20th corps, and with divisional commanders of the 80th Infantry Division and Third cavalry group.

Prussian Patience

(Stars and Stripes) First across a newly built pontoon bridge spanning the Erz River at Mettenhof, Germany, was a patient Prussian who sat on the opposite bank waiting for the 305th Engrs., 80th Inf. Division, to complete the bridge. As the last plank was dropped into place the Heinie hiked across and surrendered to the 317th Inf. Cpl. Olindi F. Ferlo, of Rome, N.Y.

Nazis Fake British and American Money and Credentials

Paris, May 19 (AP)—An underground Nazi counterfeiting plant which turned out millions of dollars worth of fake American and British currency as well as hundreds of phony identification credentials was uncovered by doughboys of the 80th Division near Schlier, Germany.

M51 In Ground Support Used By Blue Ridgers

Infantry Journal
5 May 1945

The 80th Infantry Division has found that the quadruple caliber .50 AA machine gun on an M51 mount can be used effectively in supporting ground attacks. The M51s of two batteries of an attached anti-aircraft artillery battalion were used for overhead ground support fire in the 80th's attack on the high ground at Mt. Toulon and Mt. St. Jean in France during the expansion of the Moselle River bridgehead.

On October 7, 1944, the two batteries moved into position after a thorough reconnaissance. Guns were emplaced during the afternoon at intervals of 25 to 50 yards on the reverse slope of a hill about 3,500 yards from the objective. The tow vehicles were parked in the underbrush one mile from the firing line. All guns were sited in heavily wooded areas so that the occupation of positions could not be observed by the Germans. Trees and brush in the field of fire were removed before dawn on October 8. An engineer platoon from the divisional engineer battalion helped in the construction of gun positions and filling the sandbags. During the preliminary work, there were some moderate enemy artillery and mortar fire. The M 51s were dug in to maximum depth and there were foxholes adjacent to each man.

The OP of a divisional field artillery battalion was used for the fire control. From this observation post one line was laid to each battery's OP. The batteries in turn laid direct lines from their OPs to individual guns. The battery commanders were stationed at their observation posts situated in the flank of the firing line. Because the range of the targets exceeded the tracer burn-out point, elevations were given to each gun before opening fire. At 0600 fire began and continued until 0630, all guns firing continuous short bursts at the designated objectives. At about 0610 enemy machine guns opened fire on one battery's M51s from the town of Sivry, about 1,500 yards in front of the guns. The other battery opened fire on this machine-gun nest and put it out of action.

At 0630, when fire terminated, all guns were thoroughly cleaned and the two batteries moved out. The results obtained by this use of the M51s were excellent, but the use of M51s in similar roles is recommended only in exceptional circumstances. Owing to the constant firing, barrels became very hot even though changed frequently. In virtually all cases, by the time the rotation was completed the first barrel was still quite hot. Moreover, the constant jarring of gun and mount in repeated firing may bring on a failure of the traversing mechanism. Nevertheless, the only real damage to materiel during the mission was the ruin of eleven barrels. The ammunition expenditure came to 79, 700 rounds.

Most Forward Rear

Army Times 20 January 1945

WITH THE 80th INFANTRY DIVISION IN FRANCE—During recent operations around St. Avold, the 80th Division's Rear Echelon has been farther forward than the Forward Echelon and all three Regimental Command Posts, due to the irregularity of the front lines. Throughout the entire Battle of France, the 80th's Rear Echelon has never been farther than five miles behind Major General Horace L. McBride's Forward Command Post and boasts of being the most Forward Rear in the European Theater of Operations.

Three Blue Ridge Units Win Plaque For Good Work

Stars and Stripes

WITH THE 80th INF. DIV.—Meritorious service plaques have been awarded three Blue Ridge units by Maj. Gen. Horace L. McBride, commanding general of the 80th Div., for "superior performance of duty, achievement and maintenance of a high standard of discipline."

The 305th Med. Bn. won its plaque for outstanding perseverance in standing by Blue Ridge doughboys under the severest battle conditions. Lt. Col. Hymal Fishkin of Natrona Heights, Pa., commands the unit.

For rapidly and efficiently repairing anything from a GI watch to a 155 mm howitzer in its job of maintaining the division's equipment, the 780th Ord Co., commanded by Capt. William O. Nicoll of Schenectady, N.Y., was awarded one of the three plaques by General McBride.

In presenting the third of the plaques to the 80th Quartermaster Co., led by Capt. Robert R. Jackson, Alexandria, Va., General McBride pointed out that the unit speedily and efficiently transports and distributes an average of 1,000 tons of clothing and 1,250 tons of food for 80th Division infantrymen each month.

City Of Flowers

Erfurt, a city of flowers and 164,000 Germans, is famous among souvenir-hunting doughboys as the home of the Luger pistol, but the doughboys were impressed when their first glimpse of the tall, slender Gothic spires dominating the city center brought out the information that Erfurt was the home of the Protestant reformer, Martin Luther. When they heard of the famous 'old Beggars' Church, also called the Church of the Barefoot, they promptly declared it the church of the doughfoot.

The division's Damon Runyon character, a New York Chinese boy, Pfc. Guy Foote, hearing that Erfurt's botanical gardens and cauliflower plants were Europe's best, declared: "Keep the gardens and give me the cabbage."

Surrender Of Weimar

Twelve miles east, the second Blue Ridge combat team had forced the surrender of Weimar, the cradle of Germany's only attempt at a working democracy. The fanatical SS men, associating the city with its new Horst Wessel Haus and heroic monuments in Adolph Hitler Platz, for a time stiffly resisted the Blue Ridgers' advance.

Lieut. Henry Minier, of Big Flats, N.Y., the thoughtful young platoon leader, commented: "It's strange that a bunch of American boys should bring democracy's banner back to the city where Goethe and Schiller once dreamed"... Kids who never heard of either of them and who prefer to read comic strips, yet somehow know what was in Schiller's and Goethe's hearts.

The Blue Ridgers scarcely have stopped going since they first picked me up from the maquis last fall in the spearhead of Patton's drive across France. They are thrilled and excited now to know that they're one of the most easterly infantry outfits and the boys are seeking every opportunity to pick up new Russian words and extend their vocabulary beyond "Tovarich" and "Vodka."

THE BLUE RIDGER

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PASSED BY THE AEF FIELD PRESS CENSOR FOR MAILING HOME.

Do You Remember?



THE ROAD TO VICTORY — This scene is typical of many road marches made by the infantry.



YOUR COMMANDING GENERALS — Gen. George S. Patton, Third Army Commander (center), Maj. Gen. Manton S. Eddy, XII Corps Commander (left), and Maj. Gen. H. L. McBride, 80th Div. Commander (right).



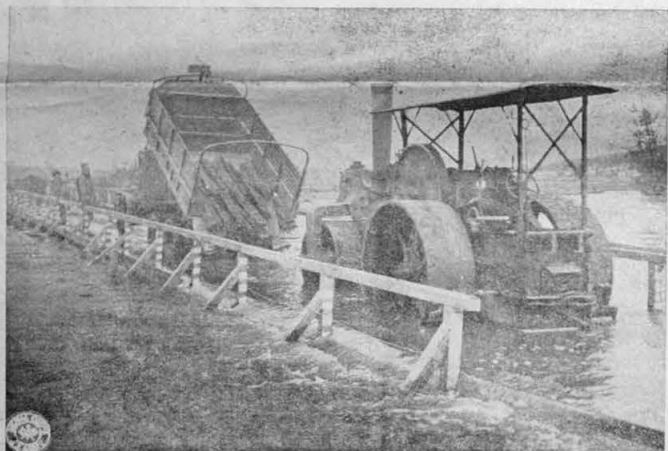
V-E DAY — This huge fleet of motorized equipment was surrendered to the 80th Division by the 6th German Army. May 1945.



THE DONUT GIRLS — Here Louise Langdon, Brooklyn, N.Y., ARC girl, plays some records for the troops. Can you see the wolf? Sept. 1944.



MARLENE "LEGS" DIETRICH — A musical saw, a musical salute — to the fighting men of the 80th. Marlene Dietrich, Hollywood star, put on a grand show at Dieulouard, France. Oct. 1944.



THE FLOODED MOSELLE — Heavy rains flooded the valley and the engineers anchored this bridge with steel beams and a steam roller. Oct. 1944.



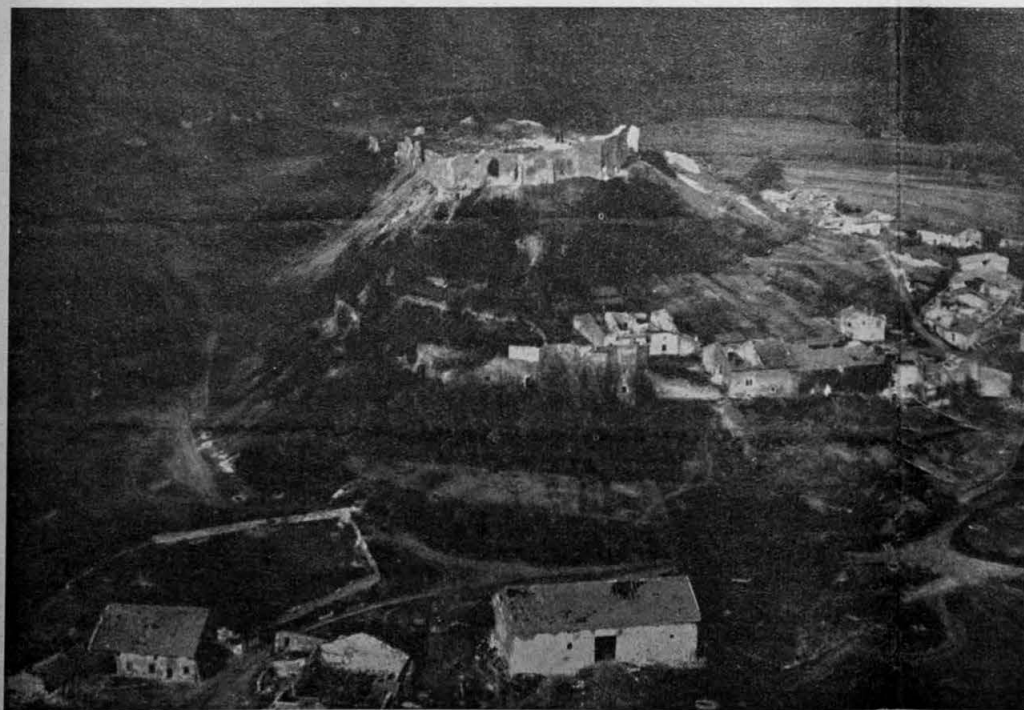
MARTINCOURT, FRANCE — Scene of the first evidence of Nazi crimes in the 80th's zone. Two recon men are shown examining the body of a murdered Frenchman. Sept. 1944.



NAZI PRISON CAMPS — The camp at Ebensee, Austria, was one of the last camps to be overrun and liberated by American forces. One of the inmates is pictured above. May 1945.



WINTERTIME IN LUXEMBOURG — Heavy snows in the Ardennes made the job of smashing Von Rundstedt's offensive a tough "baby". The artillerymen helped to make it tougher for the Nazis. Dec. 1944.



MOUSSON HILL — Crowned by a ruined castle, rising above the town of Pont-a-Mousson, France, this high vantage point was the key to the Moselle River in the 80th's zone of advance. It was on these heights that Brig. Gen. Edmund W. Searby, Division Artillery Commander, was killed in action. Sept. 1944.



MONT SEC, FRANCE — On the approaches to the Moselle River, this World War I monument could be seen for miles by the men of the 80th. Sept. 1944.

Lt. Lloyd Receives Nation's Highest Honor For Heroism Against Germans In France

Army Times

WASHINGTON, 7 April 1945—1st Lt. Edgar H. Lloyd, 23, of Blytheville, Ark., rifle platoon leader of the 319th Regt., 80th Infantry Division, who used his fists as well as his weapons to destroy five German machine guns and kill and wound many Nazis, has been awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously, the War Department announced Tuesday.

The action occurred near Pompey, France, on Sept. 14, and Lieutenant Lloyd was killed in a subsequent action on Nov. 16.

"Lieutenant Lloyd was assigned the mission of expelling an estimated enemy force of 300 men from a heavily-fortified position," the citation says. "As the attack progressed, his platoon advanced to within 50 yards of the enemy position where they were caught in a withering machine gun and rifle crossfire which inflicted heavy casualties and momentarily disorganized the platoon. With complete disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant Lloyd leaped to his feet and led his men on a run into the raking fire, shouting encouragement to them.

"He jumped into the first enemy machine-gun position, knocked out the gunner with his fist, dropped a grenade and jumped out before it exploded. Still shouting encouragement, he went from one machine-gun nest to another, pinning the enemy down with submachine-gun fire until he was within throwing distance, and then destroyed them with hand grenades. He personally destroyed five machine guns and many of the enemy, and by his daring leadership and conspicuous bravery, inspired his men to overrun the enemy positions and accomplish the objective in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds."

In all, more than 100 Germans were killed and 12 enemy guns destroyed.

Father Receives Medal

Presentation of the medal was made to the father, Edgar B. Lloyd, of Blytheville, yesterday noon in Memphis, Tenn., by Lt. Gen. Lloyd R. Fredendahl, Commanding General, 2nd U.S. Army.

Lieutenant Lloyd, who was graduated from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, in 1943, received his commission as second lieutenant at Fort Benning, Ga., on Nov. 9, 1943, and went overseas as a platoon leader. He was promoted in the field to first lieutenant last Oct. 29.

Gigantic Third Army Vise Crushes German Armies

No Mourners But The Nazis

New York Times

With the United States Third Army May 7.—It was a slow, lingering death that came today to the Reich, crushed by its enemies in a gigantic vise, the like of which history had never before recorded.

The last pressure was applied by the Third Army, and at 8 A.M. the cessation order was issued.

As the German Army passed into oblivion, carrying in its wake the Nazi party, there were no mourners but the Nazis. The demise was anticlimactic. It had been expected for days, and for this reason its import was considerably diminished. It was as if someone had told you that the snake you shot yesterday had died this morning.

When the "cease firing" order was given to General Patton's eighteen divisions the men were unaware of its complications, although some must have surmised its meaning. They were simply told to hold fire; that might have meant anything from a truce to a change in sector.

80th Fired Last Shot

As far as can be determined at this writing, the Eightieth Division

The 80th Is Three Years Old

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thousand hearts and minds and twice that many eyes has seen and learned a lot.

We must know now that the world is a community of men. That never again can we return to smug indifference about the nations of the world and repeat such phrases of isolationist folly as "Let's mind our own business, what does it matter to us how men live and die in Europe or in Asia." For us for all time we know that to be false. For us the Moselle is as important as the Mississippi, Bastogne must mean as much as Buffalo and Argentan certainly equals Akron, for our comrades gave their lives there and at a hundred other places with names that we will not long remember but for a sacred cause that we can not forget.

So three years can be a long, wise, heart-hurting time and the 80th's third birthday is not a cause for gaiety but rather an occasion for sober reflection and remembrance. A time to say "God bless every American who ever wore and yet wears our 80th 'Blue Ridge' shoulder patch.

Sgt. Alfred Stern.
Public Relations Office

Chicago Reporter Describes Destruction Inside Germany

BY ROBERT CROMIE
Chicago Tribune

With the U.S. 80th Infantry Division, Kaiserslautern, Germany, March 20.—Our party drove 250 miles today—most of this in Germany—and saw what happens when a once-great army falls to pieces before the onslaught of a greater army tremendously aided by its air force.

The day was sunny and bright, with so many civilians abroad that the whole effect was a false one of some nation-wide holiday that brought every one outdoors.

But it was no holiday for the Germans. The only persons actually merry were the newly freed "slaves," the Russian, Polish, and French men, women, and children who are their own masters at last. The so-called "master race" was too busy to issue any orders.

In New Role As Refugees

The German citizenry was either digging thru the wreckage of its smashed towns to see what could be salvaged, plodding down the roads like the refugees of other countries in years past, digging holes to bury dead horses, digging up posts which had been used to make road blocks in every town, moving from homes temporarily to make room for American units, or just standing, staring in silent amazement at more motorized equipment than most of them ever knew existed.

Dead horses—hundreds of them—smashed equipment from tanks to guns to little wooden wagons were everywhere down all roads, their numbers increasing as we approached the Rhine.

Poles and Russians, most of whom already were carrying huge bundles of personal equipment, were happily poking thru wrecked German trucks in search of something else of value to add to their packs. Most of these people—officially known as "displaced persons"—were walking. But some few rode horses and we even saw one small group riding elegantly along a famed Nazi autobahn (super-highway) outside of Kaiserslautern atop a little diesel powered car which looked as tho it should be rolling down railroad tracks somewhere.

Piles Of Ammunition

Nearly every clump of woods we passed held undamaged piles of Nazi ammunition or burned and exploded piles that had been hit by bombs or strafing. At one place dozens upon dozens of horses grazed quietly in the woods, relieved of their appointed task of pulling ammunition wagons. And everywhere along the roads under guard or untended, by the hundreds or alone, came the prisoners— young and old, military and unmilitary looking— with others walking in from the woods and fields to swell the number.

We followed a friendly vehicle thru a bumpy, wooded road and suddenly found ourselves on the autobahn. As we turned into it G.I.s in a truck ahead cheered at the sight of the best road they had seen since leaving the United States.

There was no trouble in getting into Kaiserslautern except for a short detour necessitated by the fact one overpass of the autobahn was either demolished by the Germans or by American bombs.

City Badly Damaged

Kaiserslautern was badly damaged by air force bombing, but no further damage was added today, since the city fell virtually without a fight. What impressed us most about the city was the trivial fact that some one had cut a steak-sized slice of meat from a freshly killed horse in the middle of the main street.

We found American armor a few miles beyond the town after passing a still burning Sherman tank behind which lay a terribly mangled body of an American soldier. An 88 mm. shell had scored a direct hit on the tank.

In the town of Frankenstein we worked our way thru a traffic jam by following a medical jeep which was enroute to pick up a wounded German on a side road. As they were lifting him onto the vehicle, two enemy soldiers came into view, trundling a little barrow on which lay a wounded tank.

He said weakly that he was shot thru the lung and had been spitting blood all morning but "these guys (indicating the Germans) did a good job."

Blue Ridge Infantrymen Indicate Post-War Wants

Wiedorfer Wins Medal Of Honor

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"This business of being called a hero makes a fellow more nervous than at the front where the bullets are flying," Sergeant Wiedorfer said. "Every time a chap turns a corner there's a banging of flashlights and a lot of people saying 'Now, just how did it happen?'"

"And to tell the truth, I don't know. You want me to tell what I do know? There isn't anything heroic about it; mind you, because actually I don't know how it happened. I was in Company G, 318th Infantry, 80th Division, the Blue Ridge Division. Sounds like close to home, doesn't it?"

"It is true that I was a green replacement and that I had never seen battle and it is true that we went in on Christmas Day. It was the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. Our company came out of a woods and started across a clearing toward another woods.

Planned Down By Nazi Fire

"The Heinies were in a woods across the clearing and they opened up with everything they had. Those Heinies had to be cleared out. Everybody took cover, and rightly so. We were pinned down by the Nazi fire.

"Now don't ask me what made me jump up and rush their machine-gun nests. (He did not mention that he knocked out the two machine-gun nests, killed three Germans and captured 20 others.)

"I was dead tired and it was as cold as hell.

"A fellow out there does not know what prompts him to do a certain thing. He just up and does it. If I had sat for a few minutes and deliberated on running over to those nests, I wouldn't have done it. There's no time for thinking, for heroics at the front. You do something and then try to figure out why you did it."

"Some Hot Rest Period"

"And the joke of it was that all the excitement occurred when we were supposed to be in a rest period. That was some hot rest period. I'll tell you.

Sergeant Wiedorfer was a cadet in aviation training when he was switched suddenly to the infantry with thousands of other cadets and sent to Europe. At the time he was transferred he told his wife he was disgusted and fed up.

Heart Still With Air Corps

"Maybe, if I'd stayed in aviation I wouldn't have received the Medal of Honor, but, to tell the truth, my heart is still with the Air Corps," he said yesterday.

However, he has earned additional honors in the infantry which, modestly, he has refrained telling his relatives about in letters home. He wears the ribbons of two presidential citations, the French Croix de Guerre, the Purple Heart with cluster, stars on European theater ribbons and the Good Conduct Medal.

Although he came out of the Christmas Day exploit unscathed, he was wounded with nineteen other soldiers—two others were killed—in action in France, February 1. Shrapnel "got me in the left temple." A short time later he was wounded again in action in Germany. This time he "got shrapnel in my right leg, right hand—where several fingers were put out of business temporarily—stomach, and my left leg was broken."

All of the wounds have healed. Only the left leg now "bothers" him. He can walk on crutches, but uses a wheel chair often.

80th Takes Over

T-Patch 36th Division Paper

KAUFBEUREN, Germany, 17 June 1945—The 80th "Blue Ridge" Division this week took over the Kaufbeuren-Landsberg area vacated by the 36th. One of the ablest units in Gen. Patton's Third Army, the 80th came overseas last July and first saw action in the now famous St. Lo breakthrough.

Blue Ridge men may boast of the relief of Bastogne, the capture of Wiesbaden and Kassel, and the firing of the last shot on the Western Front.

Vocational and technical training won top rating but advertising and salesmanship fared well in one of the first battlefield surveys of what the soldier intends to do as a civilian.

Results of the questionnaire survey of the educational interest of 3,000 men in the European Theatre of Operations were dispatched to ADVERTISING AGE by Lt. Nathan R. Abelson, 317th Infantry, 80th Infantry Division. The study indicates not only what subjects will be conducted by the regiment, under the Army Education Program introduced to combat troops shortly after V-E Day, but provides a measuring stick for business men and educators at home.

To Revise Programs

The Army Education Program is intended to prepare military personnel for their return to civilian life and to help commanding officers maintain discipline and morale within their respective units. The plan calls for revision of military training programs after hostilities cease, for all units except those being transferred to other war theaters, to include the maximum amount of education, recreation and athletics.

Half of the members of the 317th Infantry Regiment, representative of many other units in the ETO, want to study subjects in the vocational and technical fields. Of the remaining half, 9 per cent want to study courses listed under agriculture; 15 per cent prefer general education subjects, and 26 per cent voted for business courses including advertising, salesmanship, and "managing a small business."

Other Studies Requested

Aside from the courses listed in the questionnaire, these combat troops also want to study such varied subjects as air conditioning and refrigeration, advanced electricity, operation of the Diesel engine, college mathematics, music, photography, pilot training, shorthand, typing, welding and printing.

Fourteen of the men said they had done college post-graduate work; 45 are college graduates and 474 have some supervisory experience in civilian work.

Hoosier Finds Rich Haul Of Nazi Medical Depot

Chicago Tribune
April 11, 1945

With the 80th Division in Germany—The 80th Division recently seized Kassel, Germany's largest military medical supply depot. The division surgeon, Lt. Col. Harold J. Halleck, Winamac, Ind., said the five warehouses and laboratories at Irlinghausen, just north of Kassel, contained more than \$100,000 worth of new surgical instruments, vast stores of pharmaceutical supplies, and facilities for the manufacture of precision instruments and the preparation of pills, medical capsules, and vials.

"Wrong Town" Sandusky Scores Two-For-One

Stars and Stripes

With the 80th Inf. Div. in France, Dec. 5—"Wrong Way" Corrigan, according to men in the 80th Inf. Division's attached 702nd Tank Battalion has nothing on their "Wrong Town" Sandusky.

During the current Lorraine offensive, S/Sgt. Michael Sandusky, leading a tank section that was hacking at German defenses, was ordered to smash into Juville, clearing the German heavy stuff so the infantry could move in.

Sandusky moved his tanks up, tore into the town, and was pounding the Germans, but discovered he needed infantry support—and quickly. He frantically radioed back, "Where the hell are the dough-boys?"

The answer, prompt and emphatic, almost blasted his headset off. "Right in the middle of Juville. Where the hell are you?"

Sandusky gulped, looked around, and found the answer. He had entered the wrong town.