

BLUE RIDGE

The Service Magazine
Volume 89, Number 358

Summer 2008
Issue 2

80th Infantry
Blue Ridge Division



Only Moves Forward

A.E.F. 1917-1919 Artois-Picardy St. Mihiel Meuse-Argonne Battle Deaths 1232 Casualties 5000	E.T.O. 1942-1946 Northern France Ardennes Rhineland Central Europe Battle Deaths 3,480 Casualties 12,484
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In remembrance of our 80th Division comrades
who died and served in WWI and WWII

Official Publication of the 80th Division Veterans Association, Inc.
Deadline for the next issue is September 1, 2008


Eightieth Division
Veterans Association

BLUE RIDGE
The Service Magazine

The official quarterly publication by the 80th Division Veterans Association.
(Incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in the State of Pennsylvania).

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Color Sergeant	
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Davis (K-319)
Public Affairs Officer	HNC George V. West (C-318)
Division Photographer	Tom Pappas (F-318)

TRUSTEES

1 Year: PNC Felix Cistolo (G-317)
2 Year: PNC Walter W. Spangler (A-319)
3 Year: PNC Robert W. Smith (K-317)

2 Year

Gerald V. Myers (G-317)
Laverne J. Schock (F-317)
Tom Pappas (F-318)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1 Year

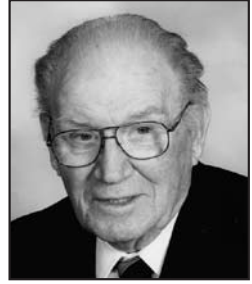
Emil Magolin (B-305 Med)
Burt R. Marsh (M-319)
PNC Russell P. Sick (305 Eng)

3 Year

HNC George V. West (C-318)
Robert Moorhead (L-317)
Robert J. McDonald (F-319)

** Deceased*

ELMER E. DORSTEN COMMANDER



LIFE PLUS CLUB 2008-2009

If you have sent in money and I omitted your name, let me know so I may give you credit. Last Date I have entered a name was May 1, 2008.

Allen, James S.	K-317	Sproull, Dr. Robert	Hqs 313 FA Bn
In Memory of Robert W. Smith	K-317	Stepneski, Anthony	A-317
Anderson, James K.	H-319	Stouder, Philip	E-319 Assoc
Bloomer, Lloyd D.	A-314 FA Bn	Tansits, Charles	D-305 Medics
Bowman, Mrs. Betty	80th QM	In memory of 1st Sgt. "Hap" Brogan	
In memory of her Husband		Weaver, Luther F.	A-317
Martin, Clarence R. Jr.	Hqs 80th IT	In Memory of his wife and all he had	
Patterson, Raymond W.	A-317	contact with since the war	

McBRIDE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

If you have sent in money and I omitted your name, let me know so I may give you credit. Last Date I have entered a name was June 1, 2008.

PNC Robert W. Smith K 317, Trustee
In Memory of Bob, The PNC Club

MEMORIAL FUND

If you have sent in money and I omitted your name, let me know so I may give you credit. Last Date I have entered a name was June 1, 2008.

It has been called to my attention that Jack Odell Plyar SV-319th was omitted from the list of people that gave a donation. My apologies to Jack.

Theresa Stockman in memory of her husband Francis J. Stockman B-905 FA Bn

IN ANSWER TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT

It was a complete surprise when I opened my mail and found several men who made a generous donation to help keep the 80th Association alive. Usually the mail comes in trickles for dues. I must say a big THANK YOU to you fellows. As with the Memorial Fund I won't mention the amount made. In the war our motto was "The 80th Only Moves Forward" we are still moving in that direction.

Welcome Home Warrior-Citizens

This past 12 April 2008, your Commander Elmer Dorsten, PNC Angelo Barone, and wife, PNC Clarence Brockman and wife, PNC Russell Sick and your Editor PNC Murrell, along with those from the Descendants Commander Lee S. Anthony, Secretary Cecelia Smith and husband, had the privilege of representing the 80th Infantry Division Veterans Association attending the Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Ceremony held at the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, PA.

Major General David L. Evans was the principle speaker, along with notable remarks from others. Dr. Lee S. Anthony who was representing both his father of WW I and the Descendants of the 80th along with five of us from WW II were asked to stand and were recognized.

Each of the 44 men were given awards for their many sacrifices and endurance demonstrated on the Battlefield over a period of time. Each was remembered for their many sacrifices, and overwhelming display of courage. Each Army Reserve Soldier received an encased American flag, a specially designed commemorative coin and Lapel pin set for the Soldier and spouse, and a Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen flag. These awards will be presented throughout the country upon the Army Reserve Soldiers' return home.

On Saturday, 17 May 2008, the 23rd Quartermaster Brigade Field at Fort Lee, Virginia was the scene of the formal Change of Command Ceremony for the 80th Training Command (TASS). TASS is the acronym for Total Army School System. The 80th Division has transformed from an Institutional Training Division into a Training Command for all Army Soldiers in the Continental U.S. and Puerto Rico, and now has personnel located at posts throughout the Country and off shore. In addition, some 80th troops are still deployed as part of the Global War on Terrorism and they are stationed in other parts of the world.

It was also a significant anniversary, in that ninety years previously, on 17 May 1918, the 80th Division departed Camp Lee for service in the fields of France during WW I. Armed Forces Day was also observed on this date.

For the past three years, Major General David L. Evans has been the Commander of the 80th Division. Under his leadership, more than 100,000 Soldiers were trained in the U.S. and abroad. The 80th was responsible for training soldiers and police following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, and the largest deployment of 80th Division Troops since WW II took place in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom when more than 750 troops were mobilized.

In his military career, MG Evans was first a Private in the Marine Corps, and after two years' active duty joined the Marine Corps Reserves as a Sergeant, at the same time pursuing his college education. He graduated from Officers Candidate School and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry. He has served in the Army Reserves since 1979, assigned to such posts as Southeast Asia during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He also served in Bosnia and Croatia and then was assigned to the 100th Division as the Assistant Commander -Operations until he assumed command of the 80th in 2005.

MG Evans relinquished Command of the 80th Division to Major General John P. McLaren, Jr. MG McLaren was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers and served on active duty for four years before transferring to the Reserves. He has held numerous command positions at various levels and served as Commander of the Iraqi Assistance Group at Multinational Corps - Iraq. Then a Brigadier General, he was the senior representative of the 80th Division's mobilization efforts to Iraq. Just prior to that assignment, MG McLaren

had served as Assistant Division Commander - Operations for the 80th Division. Following his return from Iraq, he was promoted to Major General and assigned as Vice Commander of the Joint War Fighting Center and Deputy Joint Force Trainer at U.S. Joint Forces Command, as well as serving as the Deputy Commander of Second Fleet for Joint Task Force Operations.

The official program was preceded by musical selections from the 100th Division Band. The various units under the Command were represented by their specific Colors and stood at parade rest along the field perimeter, brought to formation by the Commander of the Troops, Colonel C. R. Martin. The Invocation was pronounced by Command Chaplain (COL) Todd Combee, and a Fallen Warriors Remembrance was read by Chaplain (MAJ) Brian Harki.

In very impressive military style, the Colors of the Division were exchanged between the two Commanders. Presiding over the transfer of Command was Lieutenant General Jack C. Stultz, Commanding General, U. S. Army Reserve Command. CSM Donald Stewart, Assistant to the Commander and official keeper of the Colors, presented the flag to LTG Stultz, who then passed it to MG Evans. In turn, MG Evans returned the flag to CSM Stewart, who then passed it to MG McLaren, thereby assuring continuity of Command during the official transfer.

Just prior to this Change of Command, a parade vehicle had provided the means for the Official Party to inspect the Troops. As they passed in front of each unit, salutes were exchanged between the Soldiers and their retiring Commander one last time.

Immediately following the Change of Command, all three Commanders spoke to the audience of some two hundred invited guests. In his remarks, LTG Stultz commended MG Evans for the accomplishments of the Division during his tenure as Commander, especially in view of the myriad changes the Division has undergone. He then remarked about the choice of MG McLaren to lead the Division forward. The selection was not made by their peers, but rather by a group of senior officers, and returning MG McLaren to the 80th Division as Commander was their first choice, a decision which he wholeheartedly welcomed.

MG Evans thanked his Soldiers, their families and employers for the exemplary support and cooperation all had exhibited. The 80th Division Soldiers are volunteers, and their service to the Country is to be commended and respected. He welcomed MG McLaren back to the 80th Division as the new Commander. MG McLaren then spoke to the dedication and success that the 80th Division Soldiers had shown under his Command in Iraq and asked that their sacrifices be remembered by everyone, especially the four Soldiers who lost their lives and all who were injured while deployed to Iraq. Their mission goes forward, just as the 80th Division has only moved forward since 1918.

The wives of MG Evans and MG McLaren were presented with floral arrangements, as were the female members of their immediate families. MG Evans' wife, Patricia, was accompanied by her daughter and grandchildren and by MG Evans' son and his family. MG McLaren's family was represented by his wife, Diane, and both of their mothers, their daughter, son and daughter-in-law.

A number of former Commanders of the 80th Division (IT) were in attendance, as well as current and retired officers of the Command. Invited guests from the 80th Division Veterans Association included Commander Elmer Dorsten; Senior Vice Commander, Eugene O'Neil and his wife, Ivy; PNC Russell Sick; PNC Clarence Brockman and PNP Naomi Brockman; Executive Council Member Burt Marsh and his son-in-law, Jeff Barton. Representing the Descendants of 80th Division Veterans were Commander, Lee S. Anthony, Ph.D; Sec-

retary ,Cecelia Smith; Historian, Bruce Smith; Financial Director, Roger Nelson and his wife, Martha. It should be noted that CSM Donald Stewart, elected last year as a Vice Commander of the Veterans Association, played a significant role in the planning and production of the ceremonies. A reception following the program, compliments of MG McLaren, provided a time for additional fellowship and refreshments.

On Saturday evening, a Farewell Dinner in honor of MG Evans and Mrs. Evans was held in the Grand Ball Room of the Crowne Plaze Hotel in Richmond. Nearly three hundred family, officers and invited guests paid tribute to the Evans for their many accomplishments during the three years of his Command. Mrs. Evans was remembered for her compassion and caring in dealing with the families of the Soldiers and MG Evans was complimented for the manner in which he responded to the individual Soldiers' needs, both at home and on assignments abroad. He was referred to several times as a Soldiers' General. Gifts were bestowed on the Evans by each unit of the Command and verbal accolades flowed throughout these presentations.

The Army protocol and ceremonial rituals were again followed in a sequence of events beginning with pre-dinner music provided by the Training Command Band. LTC Terence Singleton performed the duties of Master of Ceremonies, introducing the official party. Colors were posted by the HHC Color Guard; the Invocation was delivered by Chaplain (COL) Todd Combee. Chaplain (MAJ) Brian Harki read the Missing Soldier -POW/MIA Tribute which was represented by a table set for one on a raised platform. Mr. George Albertine rendered Amazing Grace on the bagpipes, as he had also performed during the Change of Command earlier in the day. During and after dinner, special musical selections were presented by the 100th Division Jazz Band.

LTC Singleton resumed his position at the podium and the program continued after dinner with a video presentation depicting the phases of MG Evans' life and some of the photos elicited giggles and comments from the audience. This was the prelude to the presentations of multiple gifts and honors to the couple. MG Evans obviously has a passion for collecting eagles, and LTC Singleton jokingly remarked that he would need an armored car to take all his new eagles home with him. He received at least eight different ones, along with portraits, plaques and other mementoes, including the last volley from his earlier final salute on the field.

MG Evans concluded the official program with his thoughts and comments: "As Pat and I come to the end of this journey, we want to thank each of you for the opportunity to have known you and served with you. When we arrived here, we didn't know what to expect. We were strangers to you but you made us feel welcome. You became our family. For that we are eternally grateful.

"As we reflect upon the past three years, we all know it has been challenging times for Soldiers, Families and our Nation. Our Army remains at war and continues to transform to combat an adaptive enemy. Soldiers and Families from the 80th Division and 80th Training Command, you should be proud of your contributions in protecting this Nation's freedom and ensuring a secure America for future generations. From the sands of Iraq to the mountains of Afghanistan, or other parts of the world, to right here in the United States—our Soldiers have answered the "Call to Duty". We will cherish the memories, the accomplishments, the blood, sweat and tears shared by and with each of you. You have given us a legacy of valor and service that will never be forgotten.

"We are humbled by your presence here tonight and thank you for sharing

this special evening with us. May God bless all of you wherever life's journey takes you..”

Standing ovations followed MG Evans' final farewell and then Benediction, the Army Song, and Retirement of Colors brought the evening's program to a close. The Benediction was delivered by Chaplain Combee, with assistance from former 80th Division Chaplain Joel Jenkins, now assigned to the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg.

The Evans's first non-official travel was a planned trip to France to take part in Memorial Day ceremonies at the American Battle Monument Commission Cemeteries, and to tour areas where 80th Division troops saw action during WW I and WW II. They plan to spend time with family and at their new home in Tennessee. MG Evans, however, wanted the festivities to continue in Richmond and requested that the Jazz Band play a few more songs while folks said their good-byes.

WWI SGT. JOHN J. HALLER HONORED

The 2008 Memorial Day Ceremonies at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Museum included the induction of twelve veterans into the Joseph A. Dugan Jr Hall of Valor. Major John McCabe, USA, and Senior Vice President of S & S presided, with assistance from Captain Robert Gancas, USN, and Casey Patterson, who coordinated the program. The Three Rivers Leathernecks from the Marine Corps League provided the Honor Guard; soloist was Caroline McCabe and a group of Vietnam Veterans assisted with the presentations of the plaques.

Colonel Ira Houck, USMC (Ret.) pronounced the Invocation, followed by the reading of names of the Fallen Pennsylvania Soldiers from the War on Terrorism. Jason West, grandson of Honorary Commander, George West, was remembered, as well as some 200 other deceased Service personnel from the State. At the conclusion of the induction service and Benediction, a moment of silence was observed, precisely at three pm, in respect of the National Moment of Silence observance for Memorial Day.

There were seven WW II veterans; two from the Vietnam era and two from the recent Global War on Terrorism honored for their valor. Of these eleven, five were from Allegheny County, two from Westmoreland and one each from Washington, Lawrence, Beaver and Fayette Counties. Six were Army vets, two served in the Army Air Corps/Force, one was in the Naval Air Corps and one in the Air Force. This year, for the first time, eligibility was opened to Veterans outside the greater Pittsburgh area, and one inductee was the lone WW I Veteran, a native of Jefferson County and he served with the 80th Division. SGT. John L Lawler was cited for extraordinary gallantry in 1919, and in 2001 his family received his posthumous awards of Silver Star, Purple Heart and Victory Medal. When his native county was added to the area of eligibility, application was made for his induction into the Hall of Valor.

To be eligible for induction into the Hall of Valor, a Veteran must meet certain criteria; having been the recipient of a valorous medal (Silver Star and above), been a native of Western Pennsylvania or have resided there most of his/her life. According to Ron Gancas, President of S & S, there are plans to include additional counties, and possibly the entire State, for eligibility in the future.

Each inductee was honored with a specially framed plaque that included a photo and an exact copy of the citation for which he received the medal. These plaques will hang in the Hall of Valor for a year. In addition, each inductee's name is placed in the data base, accessible at the kiosk in the Hall of Valor, so that the family and public may read the specific citation even after the plaque is removed.

ODDS & ENDS:

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH ASSISTED LIVING? Go to www.Veternaid.org and read how to get help from the VA.

CURTIS H. GODWIN SV-319, 218 Old Champion Road, Room 106 Lexington, SC 29072 would like to hear from any of his old Buddies. He is now restricted to a Nursing Home.

TO WHOEVER SENT IN MONEY and copy for an AD in this Newsletter, I'm sorry, but I have misplaced your copy. Send in your copy for the next Issue and I will have it in there.

**Congratulations Maj. Gen. Evans, on your retirement.
Welcome Maj. Gen. McLaren on your appointment to
Commander of the 80th Division**

POST NEWS

Company H 319th Post #3

In early April I noticed small twigs appearing on my front porch. Maria kept sweeping them up and disposing of them. This happened on a daily basis and we finally came to the conclusion that a robin was trying to build a nest on top of one of my porch lanterns. We tried mightily to dissuade the building but the robin would not back off and the nest was eventually built. Before long three tiny blue eggs appeared and in a few weeks three robin chicks emerged. We watched every day as the male and female robins tended to their brood. It was wonderful to see the attention that was paid to their chicks and the way they constantly patrolled our lawn looking for worms and bugs to feed their babies. They are gone now having developed the wings and feathers that allow them to fly. We hope one of them will return next year and treat us to one of the wonders of nature.

I talked on the phone to John and Betts Flynn, Bill Siebert, Lou Blatz, Jack Barrett, Fred Eckelmann Jr. and Marshall Hill. I tried to reach Max Coleman but was informed his phone was disconnected. John told me he has been diligently practicing and will volunteer to do a one-legged tap dance at the Dugout Party. Betts told me her son; Doctor Rick Hodes was in New York recently and had dinner with Alan Alda, star of the MASH series. Bill is still taking his gambling trip but has not won a lot of money. He has taken a part time job with a local bank. Lou told me that he and Rich are doing well and as Lou likes to say "kicking". Jack is felling Ok but frets that he cannot hunt because of his leg pains. Bad legs are our reward for serving in the Infantry. He still pursues his hobby of making one of kind pocketknives. Fred told me his Dad is out of the hospital and in Rehab but is not sure he will make it to the Reunion. I know all of you will join me in offering Fred Jr. our congratulations and good wishes, as he will retire from the Tobyhanna Army Depot on May 30th. Happy Retirement Freddy. Marshall who is now 90 years old spent some time in the hospital recently but is now home and in recovery. His daughter Mary lives with him and is keeping him on the straight and narrow.

My E-mails to Jim Young, John Balas, Rudy Berman, Bill Krehbiel, Helen Hudock and Betty Lybarger have to this writing been unanswered so I have nothing to report from this group.

Hope to see all or most of you in Carlisle. Keep Well!!!! Hank Einolf.

3rd Battalion 317th Post #36

It is a sad day that I report the death of a long time member and Past National Commander, Robert W. Smith. Bob held the high award of the Distinguished Service Cross and attended their meetings regularly, he also worn many other awards. Bob served as National Commander 1972-73 and as National Trustee for many years, attending all the functions of the National Executive Council. He will be sadly missed. (Editor)

It is my understanding that Bob Morehead will be taking over the Post.

Post 40 305th Engineers

The Post has been quite inactive but we still have a good Dues paying Membership and Mailing List. The Communication hasn't been too good. My address is in our AD in every issue of the Blue Ridge Newsletter. If you want to E-mail, it's colrussick@Aol.com

At the reunion at Carlisle we will have a meeting to discuss the future of this Post...Please be there. The post will refund your Registration Fee and Dinner. We will have no Hospitality Room.

Post Commander, Russ

Lane Post # 42

I am beginning to write this on the first of April, and hope that I hear from some of you before I have to have my write-up in. I did hear from Jim Phillips and it was so very welcomed. I have sent in our ad for our group to the post program book, for the reunion, and also have sent in my reservations and hope and pray that I will get there somehow.

Jim Phillips wrote and informed me that Lou Shiryo spent 2 weeks in rehab and had some problem with his back. He has been walking with a walker and I am sure it will help him get around better. Lou has since written to me and hopes to be at the reunion. great!

Spoke to Audrey blacker a few times, she is doing well with the help of her friends. Walter Stec, the last time I spoke to him, he was in a nursing home, his number there is 732-906-2206, why not give him a call, I am sure he would love to hear from some of you. I tried to get in touch with Arthur Skinner and his phone was no longer in service, if anyone is in touch with Arthur please let me know and send me his new number.

Most of the people I have heard from express the desire to make it to the reunion this year. I am sure there will be some difficulty for them as it is for me, I am hoping I can get a ride there, since it is not too far from here, but we shall see. since I had written this, my oldest son David and his wife Karen will be driving me to the reunion. so I will be there on Thursday.

Spoke to john and Audrey ingress, they are very fortunate, they do have children nearby, who visit regularly, they do not travel anymore, and they enjoy where they are and send their greetings to everyone.

Called quite a few people in our listing, and there was no answer. I will try again before I complete this, and try to get in touch with as many as I can.

Spoke to Kay Barone, she and Angelo, are doing well, working on the reunion, and hoping there will be a good turnout.

Sophia, Ellenberger, is still keeping herself busy, when I called she told me she had a very bad case of the flu and now is busy doing her spring-cleaning. good for her.

Also was able to get in touch with the Gonzalez's, she said they were doing as well as anyone our age, many has been having physical therapy, has arthritis in his knee, she laughed when she told me many was told maybe he should use a cane, he said no, that would age him.

Paul Burgio will not be attending the reunion, health wise he is fine, but wishes everyone that attends and does not attend the best. Paul is very fortunate, he has his family nearby and they are there for him.

Spoke to Ann Hacher in April, and we had a very long talk and it was so good hearing from her. we discussed the reunion and she told me about a chance to vacation with some friends in haw ail she had never been there and really wanted to see what it was like, I told her I had been there several times and if this was a good chance to go and enjoy herself. she will be going with rev a, and it is so good having a friend to enjoy it with you. I had gone years ago with a very good friend and we enjoyed it so much. I am happy she is getting the chance and wished her a great trip. Ann's son has been ill and unable to go back to work for about a year, I am sure she would be so happy to hear from her friends in the 80th.

Received a card from Lou Shiry, in fact it was a card he had from when he was in London. Lou will be at the reunion and hopes we will have a good representation. he also added this number for him 800-692--7315 in case anyone would like to call him.

Called and spoke to Felix Cistolo, and he told me his wife was in the hospital and maybe would be home in a week's time, and they are living with one of his children, since neither is able to drive anymore and not able to live by themselves. this way they have family nearby and help is there if needed.

As I am always looking for news of the 80th in the paper, I was reading the obituaries in our town paper and came across this army veteran of ww11, whose name is Albert F. Halback Sr. he was an army veteran of W.W.II and a member of the 80th Infantry Division. he had received 3 bronze stars during his term in Europe.

Also had a talk with Cecelia M. Smith who is a member of the descendants of the 80th Div.Vet. she told me about what the hotel was charging to pick people up at the airport at a cost of \$50.00 each way. she said that some of the descendents of the 80th would be more than happy to pick someone up at the airport if you just let them know. when you are coming in etc. her number is 717-352-4883.

Received an e-mail from Mary Brinker. in April, told me she had gone through many tests, and they did find something that may have to be taken care of. Mary is on medication that is helping her. and of course Mary has Jim who helps her a great deal and blesses him for being there for her. Mary does not think she will be attending the reunion this year, and of course those of us who do make it will miss her and Jim very much.

I do hope that those of you, who have not contacted me for awhile, will either call or write me a note. I do so want to hear from you. so please call or write me. Frances E. Poletti 28 Arnold Lane Rowayton,CT.06853 203-855-1928

New York Post # 43

We had a great meeting in Geneva with 16 members participating; we did have 4 members cancel because of illness. Angelo and Kay Barone handled things superbly until I got there, Wednesday afternoon. They had everything under control therefore, I had nothing to do. Thanks Abe and Kay. Others attending were: Commander Elmer Dorsten and his sidekick Russell Sick, they came via Richmond, VA. Also, Bob and Helen McDonald and son David; Milton and Jane McCormick, Gerald and Vera Norry; Francis and Kay Radnicek; Frank Watson and Anne Hampson; Rita Medey, Burt Marsh and daughter Tina Barton filling in for Barbara. The weather was cold, windy and some rain. Since I had nothing scheduled most entertained themselves socially in the Geneva Room, I believe Radniceks made their trip to the winery, Frank and Anne to the race track. That's all of the reports I received. The Thursday luncheon was wonderful.

As most of you know, Barbara suffered a stroke on Feb. 11, 2008 while in Florida. She required surgery, the same day at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa to remove a massive blood clot. It was nip and tuck for three weeks. She went to a rehab. Center in Tampa until April 6, 2008. The doctors gave me clearance to air ambulance her to Columbus OH to a rehab. Center. I'm happy to say she is making progress in her recovery. She is beginning to talk and more mobility, her left side has been affected. It'll take time and I'm a believer.

I would like to thank everyone for your phone calls and cards during this time. I'm living in Hilliard OH with my daughter and son-in-law at the present time. I may relocate here, that is not my concern right now.

Harry Nutting was unable to attend because of being on dialysis 3 times a week and needs a walker. Wish you well Harry! You and your family were missed.

Rose Palmietto is recovering from a knee replacement and I understand she is doing okay. The gals wanted to go shopping but nobody would lead them. See how much you were missed Rose.

Gene O'Neil had some cancerous spots on his nose removed, so he and Ivy couldn't make it.

We had a moment of silences respecting the passing of Bob Smith.

We expect to return to Geneva at the Ramada Lakefront in 2009. May 18 thru 21, 2009, I'll have the complete schedule later this year.

Thanks to all of you who attended this year's reunion and sorry I didn't do more to keep your minds occupied, maybe next year. This year I was concentrating more on difficult problems.

Our elections of officers remain the same, Burt R. Marsh handling all duties.

Thanks, Burt R. Marsh Commander

Company M-318th Post #44

In 1985 Chuck McCool came to the reunion in Nashville, TN. He came up to me and said Hi, bet you don't know me. I didn't, as I hadn't seen him since the war ended. We renewed our friendship and enjoyed the company of one to the other along with all those of Company M, which that year we had eleven present. I had a hospital room and we all indulged and really fought the war again. The reunion ended and we all went our separate ways. Chuck and I corresponded then for a couple years and then I lost tract of him, search as I might.

I have this lady who belongs to the Ancestors and she regularly searches the files for any thing on the 80th. A week or so back, she sent me a list of men who

had passed away and the Obit carried that they were in the 80th, most did not contain what Company or Regiment. Almost all of them were not members of the association, but one she sent me was for a Charles H. "Ckuck" McCool.

Chuck was 81 years old and Truck Driver for many companies and retired in 1970. He requested that he be cremated. So I at last found Chuck though it was in Death. Men of "M" Company are now very few, only twelve whom I know of. Those who I do know of seldom write or phone me. Only Bill Richie and Lloyd Jonnes stay in touch. I'd like to hear from the rest of you.

I again will be carrying the Ad honoring the men of "M" Company, who are no longer with us in the Reunion Program Booklet, that Jack Stumcke and I vowed we would carry until we were both dead. Care to join in?

Bob Murrell

Company L-319th

In early April I noticed small twigs appearing on my front porch. Maria kept sweeping them up and disposing of them. This happened on a daily basis and we finally came to the conclusion that a robin was trying to build a nest on top of one of my porch lanterns. We tried mightily to dissuade the building but the robin would not back off and the nest was eventually built. Before long three tiny blue eggs appeared and in a few weeks three robin chicks emerged. We watched every day as the male and female robins tended to their brood. It was wonderful to see the attention that was paid to their chicks and the way they constantly patrolled our lawn looking for worms and bugs to feed their babies. They are gone now having developed the wings and feathers that allow them to fly. We hope one of them will return next year and treat us to one of the wonders of nature.

I talked on the phone to John and Betts Flynn, Bill Siebert, Lou Blatz, Jack Barrett, Fred Eckelmann Jr. and Marshall Hill. I tried to reach Max Coleman but was informed his phone was disconnected. John told me he has been diligently practicing and will volunteer to do an one-legged tap dance at the Dugout Party. Betts told me her son; Doctor Rick Hodes was in New York recently and had dinner with Alan Alda, star of the MASH series. Bill is still taking his gambling trip but has not won a lot of money. He has taken a part time job with a local bank. Lou told me that he and Rich are doing well and as Lou likes to say "kicking". Jack is felling Ok but frets that he cannot hunt because of his leg pains. Bad legs are our reward for serving in the Infantry. He still pursues his hobby of making one of kind pocketknives. Fred told me his Dad is out of the hospital and in Rehab but is not sure he will make it to the Reunion. I know all of you will join me in offering Fred Jr. our congratulations and good wishes, as he will retire from the Tobyhanna Army Depot on May 30th. Happy Retirement Freddy. Marshall who is now 90 years old spent some time in the hospital recently but is now home and in recovery. His daughter Mary lives with him and is keeping him on the straight and narrow.

My E-mails to Jim Young, John Balas, Rudy Berman, Bill Krehbiel, Helen Hudock and Betty Lybarger (Missed spelled in last issue) have to this writing been unanswered so I have nothing to report from this group.

Hope to see all or most of you in Carlisle. Keep Well!

Hank Einolf.

The Engineer's Do It Again

It was just another river crossing, one of many across which the 305th Combat Engineers had assisted the 80th Division. Yet this one was different, as the story is told by Captain Alferece E. Wrenn, Commander of Company C, 305th Engineer Combat Battalion.

One sunny September morning, September 4th to be exact, the time was 1130, the leading battalion of the 319th Infantry Regiment, under command of Lt. Colonel Cheston found itself just north of Toul, France with the Moselle River to its front. Enemy resistance near Toul had been successfully bypassed. C Company was in support of the regiment clearing all obstacles as the Infantry advanced. A quick decision was made, the river was to be crossed that day, and the enemy to be taken by surprise. HE WAS.

Plans were made quickly, but throughly. Captain Wrenn and 1st Lt. Hobson, one of his platoon leaders, made a personal reconnaissance of the assault crossing site, while 6 large rubber floats and their air compressor were brought up to the railroad embankment, at a point where a small creek flowed into the Moselle River. This creek flowed under the railroad, then under the canal which paralleled the Moselle River, and thence into the river itself. Both the railroad and highway bridges across the river had been completely demolished by the Germans.

At 1345 all preparations were finished and the actual crossing started. The inflated boats were floated down the creek. The Infantry, assembled behind high banks of the canal, loaded into the boats. One entire company in the first wave, rowed under the canal, straight out into the river and across. All this in a period of less than 10 minutes and the enemy never knew we were coming, till we hit the other side.

Before the boats had even gotten back, a foot bridge had been put in over the canal, due largely to the work of Sgt. Coppenetti of C Company, who swam the canal to accomplish this mission. The Second and Third Infantry Rifle Companies crossed the footbridge, got into the boats and crossed. All the fighting elements of the battalion were over in 30 minutes from the time the first boat of the first wave had started out.

All this while artillery fire, both friendly and enemy was falling on and near the crossing site. Enemy small arms fire was coming at us too, but the fast and daring crossing took most of the punch out of the enemy's fire. To further tax our Engineers skill and courage, the Moselle River was flowing with a 10-15 MPH current at the crossing site, and had numerous whirl-pools in its center.

Immediately after the assault crossing was completed, all boats were taken upstream and were used in building rafts to ferry litter jeeps, ambulances, ammunition and rations. These ferries had to be built under small arm fire. Supporting Engineer units constructed two power-driven ferries, and commenced building a 464-foot Treadway bridge near the old bridge site in Toul. The remainder of the equipment used to ferries and the debris at the old bridge, with ladders set up by C Company, to cross the river. By the next day the entire regiment was across and firmly established the first 80th Division bridgehead across the Moselle River.

Ten days later, Army Engineers had a 210-foot fixed timber trestle bridge in place. Due to the speed in effecting this crossing, our units had extremely few casualties. At no time could the enemy see any of preparations for the assault crossing, yet the work was done in broad daylight within yards of the river. It was just another river crossing, but a damn good job.

The Myth of the Redoubt

Under General Eisenhower's plan to break out of the Rhine bridgeheads and encircle the RUHR—the plan that had served as a blueprint for the spectacular dash to the ELBE—the role assigned General Dever's 6th Army Group was to protect the 12th Army Group's right flank. With the Third Army swinging almost due north toward KASSEL, General Patch's Seventh Army from its RHINE bridgehead near WORMS would have to drive northeast with a left boundary anchored on the HOHE RHONE, the wooded hills forming the southeastern wall of the FULDA GAP

Despite the northeastern orientation, General Devers was aware that as the southernmost Allied Forces, his 6th Army Group also would be responsible eventually for clearing southern Germany and dealing with an alleged last-ditch hold-out position the Nazis might be planning in the Alpine region of southern Germany and western AUSTRIA. It was called variously the ALPINE REDOUBT or NATIONAL REDOUBT.

Most Allied intelligence officers discounted the likelihood of any formidable, self-contained fortress in the ALPS, mainly because of limited agricultural and industrial resources in the region. Yet they did see the possibility of remnants of the German Army retiring to the ALPS for a final suicidal stand. Future generations then might claim, noted General Eisenhower's chief of intelligence, Major General Kenneth W. D. Strong that National Socialism and the German nation had never surrendered.

In late March the Seventh Army G-2 Colonel William W. Quinn, gave some substance to various reports of German defense preparations in the Alps. Although Colonel Quinn thought many of the reports fanciful and exaggerated, enough hard evidence existed, he concluded, to indicate that Hitler was consciously planning a final stand there.

Only six days, later on the last day of March, so rapidly did the Western Front crumble that the 6th Army Group G-2, Brig. General Eugene L. Harrison, foresaw an end to any German hopes of a genuine redoubt. Denied any respite after falling back behind the RHINE in the wake of the staggering defeat in the SAAR-PALATINATE, General Hausser's Army Group G had proved incapable of containing any Allied bridgehead and had failed to close the corridor leading northeast to KASSEL, thereby sealing the fate of neighboring Army Group B in the RUHR. Since the greatest threat to German integrity was the thrust to encircle the RUHR, Army Group G could count on no priority for reinforcement.

Army Group G's foundering Seventh Army, General Harrison noted, had not enough strength to re-establish contact with Army Group B. In dire need of a through rebuilding, a First Army already threatened by RHINE crossings of the Seventh U.S. Army and First French Army has to take on the job of preventing further expansion of the OPPENNHEIM bridgehead. Reduced almost to a training command after withdrawing from the COLMAR pocket, the Nineteenth Army (responsible directly to OB WEST rather than to Army Group G) was holding some 100 miles of front along the RHINE covering the BLACK FOREST and could only withdraw or await envelopment from flank or rear. The present commander of the Nineteenth Army was a former hear of the Seventh Army, General Brandenberger, who had been summarily relieved in February for failing to hold in the EIFEL.

“The turn of military events,” General Harrison concluded, “is effectively destroying the ‘National Redoubt’ for want of both territory and personnel. Any retreat into the mountains of southeastern Germany will hardly be voluntary on the part of the German leaders.”

Even though a formal National Redoubt might not exist, the Alps represented such a natural fortress that it would be well to launch an attack as soon as possible to prevent major German forces from retiring into the region. General Eisenhower held that view, though he accorded no immediate priority to the operation. Once the RUHR was encircled LEIPZIG was to have full priority, and any operation of the 6th Army Group toward the southwest would be mounted only if they were possible without jeopardizing protection of the 12th Army Group’s south flank. On the other hand, so near an end was the Supreme Commander intended soon to expand operations everywhere, perhaps to including reinforcing the 6th Army Group with a southeastward drive by the Third Army “to prevent Nazi occupation of a mountain citadel.

Looking ahead to the day when approval would be granted, General Devers contemplated a preliminary attack by the Seventh Army’s right wing generally to the south and southeast to cut behind the bulk of the enemy’s First Army and the entire Nineteenth Army in the Black Forest. Once the first French Army had enough troops on the east bank of the RHINE, the French were to drive south to eliminate the trapped enemy. Most of the Germans facing the army group thus was dispatched, Devers presumed he could drive swiftly to the southeast to link up with the Russians, possibly somewhere along the northwest frontier of AUSTRIA.

Sending his G-3, Brig. General Reuben E. Jenkins, to confer with SHAEF planners on 31 March 1945, Devers learned that SHAEF was thinking instead of a broad arc like sweep by the Seventh Army’s left wing deep inside Germany to the vicinity of NUREMBERG and BAYREUTH, thereby continuing to protect the 12th Army Group’s flank, thence to LINZ in AUSTRIA. Two days later General Eisenhower directed General Devers to begin the thrust as soon as troops and supplies were available.

The next day, 3 April, the SHAEF G-3, General Bull, read the special report on the Redoubt prepared by the Seventh Army’s Colonel Quinn. While referring it to the SHAEF G-2 for comment, Bull suggested expanding the Sixth Army Group operations into the ALPS of western AUSTRIA. When the commander of Allied forces approaching the ALPS from the Italian side, Field Marshall Sir Harold R.L.G. Alexander, indicated he would welcome such a drive, General Eisenhower approved it.

Although SHAEF intelligence a few days later concluded that no positive evidence existed of German strategy based on a National Redoubt, the possibility that the German armed forces would continue to resist unless Hitler died or was overthrown was real, in which case the ALPS appeared the logical place for a final stand. Since troops from the Eastern, Western, and Italian fronts might converge there, the contemplated thrust into the ALPS still might be needed.

The First Phase Beyond the RHINE

As these plans gradually took shape, General Patch's Seventh Army was continuing the assignment of protecting the 12th Army Group flank. Having crossed the RHINE at WORMS and established breakout conditions in the bridgehead by nightfall of 27 March, General Haislip's XV Corps was the logical choice for the main role on the left. The corps was to drive some fifty miles from the MAIN RIVER northeast through the SPESSART MOUNTAINS to the HOHE RHOEN. To protect Haislip's flank and prepare a way for the expected turn to the southeast, General Patch planned to commit General Milburn's XXI Corps in the center of the drive east through the ODENWALD, General Brook's VI Corps on the right to attack southeast across a plateau known as the KRAICHGAU GATE between the ODENWALD and the Black Forest. With ten infantry and three armored divisions, the Seventh Army had enough strength for all three thrusts.

While the 3rd and 45th Divisions passed through rear elements of the Third Army in the OPPENHEIM bridgehead to reach jump-off positions being vacated by Third Army units along the MAIN near ASCHAFFENBURG, the 12th Armored Division on 28 March pushed into the ODENWALD as a vanguard of the XXI Corps. To open a route for the VI Corps, the 44th Division drove south from WORMS bridgehead to reduce MANNHEIM. Although surrender negotiations conducted with the city's acting burgomaster went awry when German troops shelled American parliamentarians with mortars, the Germans pulled out during the night of 28 March, and the men of the 44th Division moved in the next day. Since MANNHEIM lies on both sides of the NECKAR RIVER, occupying the city provided a bonus of a bridgehead over the NECKAR.

In the main thrust by the XV Corps, the 45th Division crossed the MAIN RIVER on 28 March on the railroad bridge, just south of ASCHAFFENBURG, that had been taken by the 4th Armored Division—the place where Task Force Baum had begun its ill-fated foray to HAMMELBURG. In the three days since Task Force Baum had sent one of the three divisions constituting his LXXXII Corps to contain the little bridgehead. The 45th Division thus had to fight to break out.

The firmest resistance was on the left, from the fringes of ASCHAFFENBURG, where a combat command took seriously orders from OKW to fight to the end. There occurred one of the few instances in Germany where civilians in large numbers joined actively in the fighting, sometimes lining rooftops to drop grenades on U.S. troops below. German ranks also were heavy with Hitler Youth, boys who hardly begun to shave.

To spare his men, the 45th Division commander, General Frederick, directed his 157th Infantry to clear ASCHAFFENBURG systematically, making maximum use of artillery and aerial bombardment. For six men of the 157th Infantry fought house to house until at last, on the morning of 3 April, the combat commander, who hanged several German soldiers and civilians for advocating surrender, gave himself up.

The rest of the 45th Division meanwhile had advanced twenty-five miles to the northeast of ASCHAFFENBURG. The 3d division, having crossed the MAIN RIVER upstream from ASCHAFFENBURG early on the 30th March without opposition traversed the wooded ground lying in a great southward loop of the Main to reach the river a second time twenty miles to the northeast. Against neither division was resistance determined. Most delays were attributable to the densely wooded hill country and its winding roads, sometimes a defended town, and

occasionally a roadblock. "Sixty-one minute roadblocks," some German civilians called them derisively—the American soldiers laughed at them for sixty minutes, then tear them down in one.

Committed on the 2d of April, generally along the boundary between the two infantry divisions, the 14th Armored Division also reached the MAIN RIVER for the second time, and on the 3d seized LOHR, where Task force Baum earlier had shot up a column of German vehicles. The Germans fought all night in LOHR, but as elsewhere, it was no more than a last ditch stand by conglomerate units often lacking communications with higher command.

As the gap between Army Group B and Army Group G facilitated the Third Army's drive on Kassel and the subsequent thrust across central Germany by the First and Third Armies, so it also markedly influenced the campaign of the American Seventh Army. Constant efforts to close the gap to the north had the effect of pulling Army Group G's Seventh Army including Hahm's LXXXII Corps on the south wing, gradually northward, in the process created a gap within Army Group G between the First and Seventh Armies.

To OKW's continuing insistence that the Seventh Army close the gap to the north, the army group commander, General Hausser, replied with a counterproposal. The only hope for establishing a cohesive defense. Hausser believed, was to relinquish control of the area north of the MAIN RIVER, turning the Seventh Army over to direct control of the Commander in Chief West, with whom Hausser himself had lost communications; Army Group G which the first and nineteenth Armies might then withdraw into southern Germany. For his trouble in arriving in this solution HAUSSER paid with his job. On 2 April his replacement, General der Infanterie Friedrich Schulz, reported from the Eastern Front to the Reich Chancellery for a personal briefing by Hitler.

It was imperative, Hilter told Schulz to hold out another three or four weeks in the west, whereupon so many new jet-propelled aircraft would join the fight that the Germans would obtain "equilibrium if not superiority" in the air. "This would at the same time," Hitler said, "entirely change the situation on the ground as well.

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Dear 80th Infantry Division Association members and all WWII veterans everywhere,

On D-Day the world remembers the sacrifice and courage of the service members who fought in the largest seaborne invasion in history, and what many consider to be the beginning of the end for the tyranny that gripped Europe and most of the world.

As Soldiers in today's 80th Training Command, we understand the complexities of battle, the emotions of war, and pain of losing our brothers and even sisters in arms.

We understand your traditions and carry them on today, with your help, doing such things as providing chocolate to the children in Iraq with 80th Division stickers on them.

We teach our children about the D-Day invasion and tell them of the five beaches that the Allies secured by day's end. We read to them Gen. Eisenhower's order of the day and recount the heroic actions and sacrifices that were made.

But today, more than anything, we remember you...the machine gunners, the grenadiers and rifleman, the support personnel, and the families who prayed for their safety back home in the States.

We are truly blessed to know you and your families. We are truly blessed to have been born in a country that was built by generations like yours that stood up to tyranny. We will never forget you, your families, and those who never made it back.

The strength of our nation comes from our citizens and military. The strength of our Soldiers comes from their families and communities. We, the 80th Training Command, are strong because you are part of our families and are important members of our communities.

The 80th Division will always move forward, because you did when it mattered most.

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Sincerely,

John P. McLaren, Jr.
Major General, USA
Commanding

TAPS

Anderson, Harold W. SV-318
 2 Susan Circle
 Red Oak, IA 51566 10/10/07
 Rptd by Daughter

Bockemuehl, Eugene D. A-317
 724 Sutter St.
 San Diego CA 92103-3918
 Reunion Return marked Deceased

Bogacz, Edwin E-317
 30402 N. U.S. Hwy 12
 Round Lake Beach, IL 60073-9751
 Reunion Return marked deceased

Bunn, I. B. B-305 Medic
 701 Bolling Road
 Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870-1501
 2/8/08 Rptd by wife

Collins, H.M. 80th Signal
 407 Liberty Avenue
 Bridgeport, WV 26330-1838
 Reunion Return marked Deceased

Condon, Cornelius J. C-319
 15 Seneca Lane
 Hamilton, NJ 08690
 4/8/08 Rptd by son

Fleenor, Morris E. K-318/B-905 FA Bn
 216 Campbell Drive
 Rogersville, TN 37857-7627
 4/11/07

Graham, Curtis Clarkson K-319
 10265 Caldwell Road
 Mount Ulla, NC 28125-8708
 10/28/07 Rptd by Daughter
 (correction from last issue)

Haas, Francis J. 2d Bn Med 318
 PO Box 172
 Whitney, PA 15693-0172
 3/20/08 Rptd by A. Cresson

Hayes, James H. 2nd Bn Hqs 317
 31525 Germaine Lane

Westlake Village, CA 91361-4718
 3/6/08 Rptd by son Jim

Lunn, Gerald E. 80th Signal
 5300 E. Pop Fly Place
 Sioux Falls, SD 57110
 Date unknown 2008 Rptd by Wife Frankie

Manganiello, Anthony 305 Medics
 c/o 29 Irvine Road
 Old Greenwich, CT 06870
 3/18/08 Rptd by son Edward

Mc Andrew, Paul H Hqs 314th FA Bn
 703 W. State Street
 Coopersburg, PA 18036-1903 2/21/2008
 Rptd by William Wilkerson

Mulkerne, Donald J.D. B-317
 79 Jordan Blvd
 Delmar, NY 12054-3900
 Reunion return marked Deceased

Nugent, Thomas E. 80th Signal
 787 Meadow Drive
 Hewark, OH 43055-4331
 8/30/07 Rtpd By News Obit

Perna, Joseph T. 3rd K-319
 1168 Woodruff Road
 Coatesville, PA 19320
 1/15/08 Rptd by Daughter

Ramsey, Eugene P. 80th Rcn
 520 Bascom Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15212
 12/10/07 Rptd by Daughter Kathleen

Simpson, Edward H. AT 319
 1644 County Road 30
 Collingsville, AL 35961-4203

Slemenda, Norman J. Hqs 3d Bn 319
 6501 Highway 6
 Linesville, PA 16424
 3/20/06 Rptd by Family

Smith, Robert W. PNC/Trustee K-317
 61 Broad Street # 108
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93405-1771
 Rptd by daughter Pat

Stockman, Francis J. B-905 FA Bn
3501 Meadow Blvd Apt 6
New Castle, PA 16105
7/13/07 Rptd by Wife Theresa

Studt, William A. C-305 Engineers
7310 Morganford Road
St. Louis, MO 63116-2134
Rptd by wife Loraine

Sulitis, Albert L. B-313 FA Bn
270 Butternut Lane
Northfield, OH 44067-1939
5/08 Rptd by News Obit

In addition to those above, in a search of obituaries for those of the 80th Division the following was found but no ID of Company or Regiment. In addition, I also found men who I was carrying on the Roster for several years who passed away that were not reported.

Chewing, Thomas Ellis 314th FA Bn
Elkins, WV 12/28/06

Conner, C.K. 80th
Yakima, WA 2/4/05

Cooper, John W. Jr. 80th
Elliot City, MD 4/11/04

Corcoran, Robert W. 80-MP
Pittsburgh, PA 1/19/04

Cowgill, Paul E. L-317
Mason Village
Elizabethtown, PA 12/29/00

D'Amico, Salvatore P. 80th Recon
41 Francis Ave
Middletown, CT 06457 12/19/05

Dalton, Paul V. 315th FA Bn
Martinsville, Virginia 1/19/06

Dame, Roland D. 80th-MP
Northport, MI 8/27/04

Dyson, Robert C. 80th
Mooresville, NC 2/18/05

Eckstein, Arthur W. A-305 Eng
508 Washington Street
New Washington, OH 44854 7/4/05

Edwards, Daniel L. 80th Signal
5474 Naughton Drive
Huber Heights, OH 45424 8/2/07

Ellingwood, Leland 313th FA Bn
7 Well Sweep Acres Apt B
Rochester, NH 03867 9/4/06

Fink, Marice 80th
Dardanelle, AK 1/27/07

Galbraith, Lloyd L. 319th
Ludington, MI 11/1/06

Giles, Merlin D. 80th
Pasco, WA 8/13/04

Graham, Paul W. 80th
Grass Valley, CA 2/2/04

Green Gilbert 80th
Chatfield, OH 12/24/06

Hansen, Henry J. 315th FA Bn
Winamac, IN 4/15/06

Hill, Stanley W. 317th
Hughesville, PA 2/20/08

Howell, Erick R. F-318
PO Box 1138
Little Meadows, PA 18830 2/4/2006

Huskey, Major (Cotton) 80th
Gatlinburg, TN 7/28/03

James, Fairfax 80th
Thornhill Valley, WA 7/15/04

Landen, Delmar H. 80th
Wheatland, WY 7/5/05

Lester, John C. 80th
Forest, VA 11/16/06

Long, James J. Jr. 80th
West Chester, PA 1/31/2006

Malone, Jack James Williamstown, OH	317 10/2/05
McAllister, James H. Lamesa, TX	80th/702 TK Bn 1/20/05
McCollum, Paul J. Edden, NC	Hqs 318 5/19/05
McCool, Charles H. Bucyrus, OH	M-318 4/2/05
Mikolowsky, Fred E. Jr. Pittsburgh, PA	80th 9/28/05

Miller, Walter E. Jr. Asheville, NC	80th 8/11/06
Simpson, Billy B. 619 W. Cooper Road Ripley, MS 38363-1542	L-318 not Posted
Taddei, Alex Indian Valley, CA	80th 11/9/05
Wilson, Drue Jr. Milbrook, AL	80th 9/10/06



ROBERT W. SMITH, 90,
a native of Orrville,
died April 4, 2008,
in Los Osos, California.

In January of 1941, he entered the U.S. Army, served in Patton's Third Army, and following World War II retired from the Army in 1946, as a Captain. Bob was awarded the Army's second highest combat medal, the Distinguished Service Cross, in addition to the Bronze Star, Purple Heart with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Combat Infantry Badge.

Bob was a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, Association of the U. S. Army, 37th Infantry Division Veterans Association, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of the Battle of the Bluge, and Elks Lodge 1346 in Wooster. He was past National Commander of the 80th Infantry Division Veterans Association, the Disabled Officers Association and the Legion of Valor of the United States.

Surviving is a daughter, Patricia, son-in-law, George Brown, and grandson, Andrew, all of Los Osos, California; a niece, Roberta Shepard of Lafayette, Indiana.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Ruth in 1972, and his second wife, Mildred in 1997. He will be missed by all who knew him.

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*Bruno Inselmini,
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Art Rehling, TREASURER
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Cincinnati OH 45212-2541
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POST #36**

*Robert W. Smith
Commander*

**305th
Engineer Battalion
Post No. 40**

Russell P. Sick, Commander
3131 Pleasant Avenue
Hamilton, OH 45015-1740

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

*Gerald G. Ohlman,
Commander*

*Irv Robinson,
Secretary*

**FLORIDA
POST #47**

*George Bell
COMMANDER*

*Francis Rajniecek
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