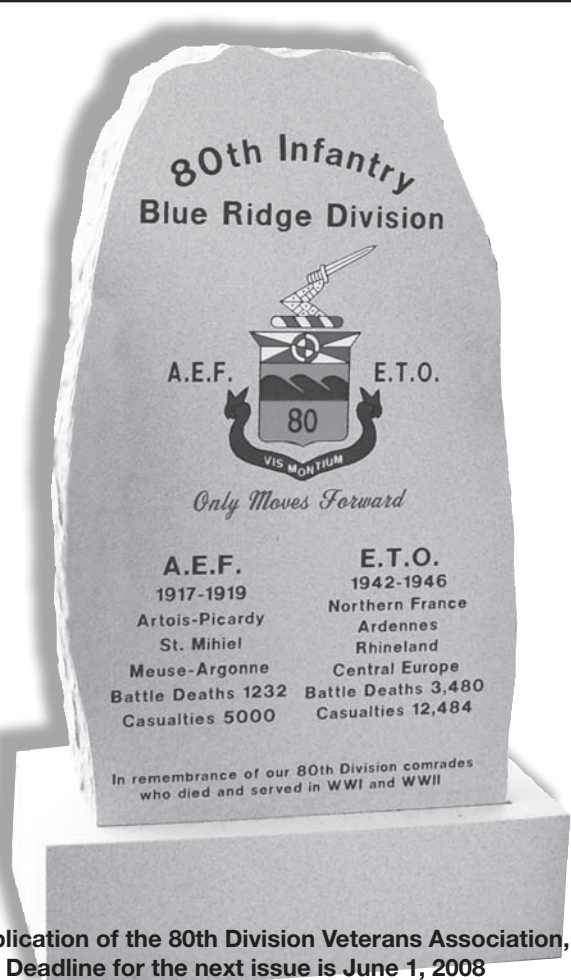


# BLUE RIDGE

The Service Magazine  
Volume 89, Number 357

Spring 2008  
Issue 1



80th Infantry  
Blue Ridge Division



*Only Moves Forward*

<b>A.E.F.</b> 1917-1919 Artois-Picardy St. Mihiel Meuse-Argonne Battle Deaths 1232 Casualties 5000	<b>E.T.O.</b> 1942-1946 Northern France Ardenes 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 June 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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dues remittances and death notices should be addressed to the Secretary/Editor.*

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Service Officer	<b>Felix J. Cistolo (G-317)</b>
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Color Sergeant	
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Public Affairs Officer	<b>HNC George V. West (C-318)</b>
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*\* Deceased*

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## COMMANDER'S CORNER

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### *A Short note from the Commander*

The 88th reunion (2007) is behind us. From letters, calls, and e-mails, I know it was a good one. I enjoyed it. It was a lot of work and I would do it again.

Thanks to all the wonderful people who helped me. A big thanks to my daughters, for without them it would not have happened.

A special thanks to Major General David Evans and his wife Pat, Major General Robert Stall and the 80th IT group who helped where I need it most.

Looking back, last year we came together with the Descendants of the 80th Division Veterans Association. This year we welcome the 80th IT. What's next?

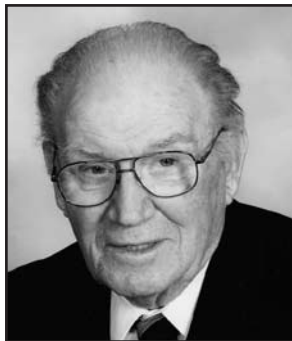
All the things that happened in the last two years make me proud to be a member of the 80th Infantry Division Veterans Association. The dedication of our new memorial at Dillingen, Luxembourg in June became a dream come true. This is where I crossed the Sauer River into Germany in February 1945. It brought back many memories to me, some good and some bad. Three days later after crossing and re-crossing the river, the war was over for me. I didn't know it at the time.

Let's see what we can do to promote the 80th Infantry Division Motto, "THE 80th ONLY MOVES FORWARD"

I look forward to seeing all of you in the coming year. I will do my best as your commander. I came to serve.

*Elmer E. Dorsten Commander*

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## MEMORABILIA

In conjunction with several military reunions in Carlisle this summer, including the 80th Division Reunion, the personnel at the Army Heritage and Education Center are planning special exhibits, beginning June 1st. Any Veteran is invited to donate memorabilia, but for this display, they are particularly looking for artifacts and photos of the drive into Germany. These materials would become the property of AHEC, with recognition going to the donor. If you have such items that you wish to place in perpetuity at AHEC, contact John Giblin, Director of Visitor and Education Services. 950 Soldiers Drive, Carlisle, PA 17913 Telephone 717-245-3472 or E-mail jack.giblin@us.army.mil

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## LIFE PLUS CLUB 2008-2009

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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 1 March 2008

Clouser, Paul J.	80th Recon Troop
Becker, Myron	C-318

Mascuch, John	B-305 Med Bn
Mc Donald, Robert	J.C-319
Rehling, Arthur	80th Recon
Yost, Leroy	B-305 Med Bn
Parker, Charles	A-317

## **Subject: Financial status of the Association and decreasing membership.**

The ravages of illness and death have rapidly reduced the number of dues paying members of the 80th Division Veterans Association. Those who opted years ago to subscribe to a Life Membership have continued to participate in the organization's activities without a need to financially support those activities on an annual basis. The once lucrative bank accounts have been reduced in recent years to help fund the added expenses of reunions and projects. As the numbers of our members decreased, the overall cost of sponsoring the reunions increased dramatically. The organization will surely face financial failure, and the possibility of being disbanded in a short time, unless there is an infusion of funds from our members, particularly those who hold Life Memberships.

The age and health of our members has been of great concern and the prospects of the 80th Division Veterans Association becoming extinct was something most of the Veterans recognized. When the young men and women of the current 80th Division volunteered for active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, they became combat veterans and last year, our members voted to invite these Soldiers to become a part of our 88-year old organization. They will be the 80th Division Veterans Association going forward, and their service is being acknowledged and membership extended to them, just as ours was when we returned from the European battlefields after WW II.

We have to remember that the numbers of our WW I Veterans was sufficient to carry the organization until such time as those of us who served in WW II were ready to assume the offices and manage the Association. The time differential from WW I to WW II" was a much shorter one than the period between WW II " and the Global War on Terrorism. Likewise the age differential in the Soldiers of the current conflict is much greater than the one we experienced with our WW I Veterans. There are now fewer of us to bridge the gap than there were when we assumed command of the Association.

It is incumbent upon our current members, therefore, to continue to support the Association until such time as the younger Soldiers are in a position to assume the responsibilities of the various Offices and to become fully associated. We are fortunate that CSM Donald Stewart volunteered to become our Second Vice Commander this year, and we look to him to encourage his Soldiers to also join us as members, as soon as possible.

It was thought for a long time and the thinking was right, that we had so much money in the money in our Reserves. As most of you know that is no longer true as we have depleted that money by several hundred dollars for operating the association. In the last two or three years we have cashed \$20,000.00 to keep the General Account active.

It was thought by opening the membership to the 80th (IT) Division we recognized their duty to our country as Combat Veterans and gain in our membership, and thus give us a bit more to carry the association into years to come. Our thinking was off somewhat, for the newer generation did not respond to our invitation into our Association as expected they might, and help us to gain in membership numbers so as to carry the association into the years to come.

As a result of not gaining the expected financial help, we now face no more than two years before we have to disband, unless we can convince our mem-

bers to help with this request for an increase in the annual dues and an assessment of the life members.

So you may see what is happening, our membership is as follows: 606 Life Members. 449 Regular Dues paying members, with 44 Widows and exchanges. As one may see, 449 regular paying dues are carrying the financial load.

I propose to the Executive Council, we raise the Annual Dues to \$20, which would include all the Widows, and the Associates to be raised to \$15, and Assess the Life members \$75 each.

*Robert T. Murrell, Sect/Editor/Historian*

---

Camille P. KOHN, President of CEBA  
1, rue Grande-Duchesse Charlotte  
L-7430 Fischbach, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg  
Fax: 320 320 E-Mail: kohncam@pt.lu  
To: Honourable Mr. Elmer G. Dorsten  
A Co-318th Regiment-80th Division-3rd Army  
National Commander 80th Division Association

Commander,

I was pleasantly surprised to get your admirable letter and that superb "Certificate of Appreciation" which excited admiration and feelings of deepest gratitude in my heart. The question is, if I really deserve such a great honor from American veterans, who belong to our beloved and brave liberators 1944-45! Worst, that those men are going on to die out. We are shocked!

What you old boys did for my country during those dark years can never be repaid. Not by words and not by most beautiful flowers, not by letters of thanks, not by receptions and dinners, not by deep friendships and not by most magnificent monuments!

What I have done for you dear Blue Ridgers, I mean those small thinks, and what I shall do for you, should the occasion arise in the future, is not more than a drop in the ocean by comparison with all the numerous and great sacrifices you made about 63 years ago! It is hard to describe!

I feel hopeless indebted to you! The Luxembourg people will remain your debtor beyond your graves! Beyond the coming centuries!

Anyhow, very dear Mr. Dorsten, I thank you and the honourable Mr. Robert Burrows (PNC) most sincerely, from the bottom of my heart, for the great honour you granted me! I would like to extend my most warm thanks also to all those fine people who signed my "Certificate of Appreciation", among them two gentlemen and buddies, Bob Murrell (M-318) and Virgil Myers (G-317) acquainted with me since decades! Please give my best regards to all of them! I am deeply moved, believe it, and bow in deep respect! Reading your letter and looking at my "Co A", I take pride, my heart froth over with gratitude and affection!

Wish you all a good health and still a long, long life! God bless you all!

Yours truly, Camille P. KOHN

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## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

PLEASE NOTE You will no longer get the Newsletter if you haven't sent in your change of address. If you want an issue of the Newsletter, please send \$1.50 to the Editor for postage and handling.

## TAPS

Chuiiko, Charles B-318  
 317 Moffit Road  
 Dilliner, PA 15327-9651  
 12/18/07 Obit Rptd By Naomi Brockman

Detmore, James A F-317  
 3813 Lirope Street  
 Canal Winchester, OH  
 3/22/05 Rptd by Jamie Detmore

Graham, Curtis Clarkson K-319  
 Ulla, NC  
 10/07 Rptd by Daughter

Hefler, Loren C. E-319  
 437 Southdale Road  
 Toledo, OH 43612-3643 5/2006  
 Rptd by Daughter Jane

Hogan, Elmer P. B-313-FA Bn  
 32 Mountain Lane  
 Levittown, PA 19057  
 11/07 Rptd by Lou. Shirey

Ideus, Preston A.  
 RR2 Box 3A  
 Henndy, TX 78119-9402  
 Rptd by Jerry Spellman

Kimmel, Eugene L. L-318  
 229 Mountain Road  
 Dillsburg, PA 17019-1514  
 12/16/07 News Obit Rptd by James Phillips

Laybarger, Earl R. L-319  
 Address unknown Death Unknown  
 Rptd by Hank Einolf

Leonard, Frank B-305 Medics  
 1015 E. Diamond Avenue  
 Hazelton, PA 18201-3501  
 1/7/08 Rptd By Angelo Barone

Leonard, Henry G. Jr. H-317  
 724 Greenwood Road  
 Norway, ME 04268  
 10/6/07 Rptd by wife Marie

Moore, Borders G. Sv-319  
 5993 Menokin Road  
 Warsaw, VA 22572-2819  
 11/22/07 Rptd by son Joe.

Rutchauskas, Joseph J. I-318/MP's  
 434 McLean Street  
 Wilkes Barre, PA 18702-6049  
 Rptd by son

Soloninka, Frank F. L-319  
 4570 Pinebrook Circle Apt 602  
 Bradenton, FL 34209-8019  
 Unknown Rptd by Hank Einolf

Sturgis, Ellis P. A-317  
 522 E. Main Street  
 Fruitland, MD 21826-2116  
 11/28/07 Rptd by Marleen Reck

Allen, Eleanor, PNP Wife of PNC James Allen  
 PO Box 322, Minneola, FL 34755  
 1/8/08

## MEMORIAL FUND

*Please let me know if you have sent money so I may give you credit. Last entry: 1 March 2008.*

In Memory of Eleanor Allen, PNP  
 1/8/2008 By the Ladies Auxiliary

## McBRIDE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*Please let me know if you have sent money so I may give you credit. Last entry: 1 March 2008.*

Mascuch, John B-305 Med Bn

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 Answers the Call in WWII”  
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Robert T. Murrell  
 630 Pennsylvania Ave  
 Oakmont, PA 15139-1574  
 E-mail: divinf801@verizon.net

**To Milt McCormick, Mine Platoon AT-319 ETO 1944-45  
Valentines Day 2008 A.D.**

Milt:

I enjoyed our conversation a few days ago, when I called you upon February 7, the date marking the 63d Anniversary of the night the 319th Infantry began its attack across the river OUR...

For me, the attack was made up river (The River 'Our') at Hoesdorf where I was with the 2d Battalion. While you were down stream about a mile or so, at the bridge leading to Wallendorf.

We have spoken of that night and of the days following, before, but something you said on this February 7th of 2008, struck me particularly hard.

You have spoken of that night and the days following, before, but something you said on this February 7th 2008, struck me particularly hard.

You have spoken of the difficulties and dangers at Wallendorf, in the past, but never with such simple eloquence: you said that when you looked down from the Luxembourg side of the OUR Valley on the morning of 8 February, and watched the German mortar, machine gun, and artillery fire shattering the area, and anyone who moved near that bridge (I quote you)

"I am looking into HELL. That's what hell looks like." And, then later, sooner or later, you and your squad and Sgt. Peyton went down there, and crossed the river, and did your job (removing "a hasty mine-field". (as I recall, plus assorted other chores...)) and somehow, survived, your words, about that battlefield, and about those days and nights, are the most moving I have ever heard from any of us who crossed the OUR RIVER and went on up into the West wall (Siegfried line) Forts.

I was reminded of the English Poet-Siegfried Sassoon, who fought as a young (and often-decorated) Infantry officer in the French and Belgian mud in the First World war...

You smug-faced crowds with kindling eye  
Who cheer when soldier Lads march by,  
Sneak home and pray you'll never know  
The Hell where youth and laughter go.

With my deepest respect B.H, 319th Infantry

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Lee S. Anthony, Ph.D., Commander

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# POST NEWS

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## **3rd Battalion 317th Post # 36**

Not much news this time, however, I want to refresh your memory for the Carlisle Reunion to be held in Carlisle, PA on August 13-16, 2008.

We are sorry to report the passing of Eleanor Allen on Thursday, January 8th. Burial was on January 10th in the Florida National Cemetery in Withacoochee State Forest, near Tampa. She is survived by her husband, Jim and children Mark and Patricia. Jim joined K Company in September 1944 and was an excellent soldier. Eleanor was active in the Auxiliary having served as a Past President and was involved in the affairs of the Auxiliary. Having visited their home several times, we will miss her friendly personality.

At this time I wish to thank my many friends who sent me birthday cards on my 90th birthday. My daughter, Pat, made them up in an album over 2 inches thick, which will be a reminder for me of all the friends who sent me their good wishes.

Had a nice card from Rose Nathason, who sent me a thank you for the pictures I sent her of the Auxiliary ladies who attended the last reunion in Dayton.

Received a phone call from Abe Barone, who advised that he and Kay were leaving for the Florida Post get-together in February. They also intend to visit their son and Abe's sister who both reside in Florida.

I would appreciate any news you have to forward to me so we can keep the rest of our group aware of your activities.

Bob Smith

61 Broad St. #108, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405 / 805-545-7815

## **Co H 319th Infantry Post 33**

So far this winter has been a lion. Lots of roaring winds, much needed rains and oh yes a seven inch snow storm. The temperature is up and down. Some days the temperature is in the 70s and then the next thing you know the following day it is in the 30s and 40s. No comparison to the Bulge for you who remember Luxemburg 1944-1945.

It seems as if we may have a good turn out for the 2008 reunion.

Have talked to Beebes, both are OK and settled in for the winter. Bill McKinzie has been working with his first love!! (Uh Oh) Model trains that is. Wilma is glad he does, if you know what I mean. Orin Ledbetter says it has been so dry in Texas that he fears for his wheat crop. Just 40,000 bushel so what! Orin plans to be in Carlisle.

Nick and Ginny haven't started packing but are watching the date. Lois Kudrna is soaking in the rays of Florida, must be tough for her. She keeps out the welcome mat for family and friends. Karol and Reggie are just enjoying retirement and giving advice.

Haven't heard from Irv and Hilda so I do not know how they have been. God Bless and see you all in Carlisle.

Ohly

## **Florida Post #47**

The next meeting of the Florida Post will be held October 30-31 and November 1, 2008 in Ocala, Florida at the Hampton Inn on College Ave.



## **Company M-318 Post # 44**

I wish to thank Allan Waller of Company "M" and Richard Hiller Company I 318th for answering my questions of that transpired on Hill 351. Waller filled me in that he was one of the men who had been assigned to me that night. Hiller filled me in on what happened with the men of one squad of Company "I". A 21 German Patrol came on the hill that night and seems the shot my man fired was the first of many more that followed. Hiller tells a similar story of the Germans coming into his foxhole and his Buddy unlike mine was snoring. He told of three Germans that were killed and the one I was telling of, on leaving the hill. Hiller was wounded slightly when a Potato Masher was thrown into his foxhole.

I'm in hopes of getting more information of what happened on that hill the night of 23-24 September 1944.

Bob Murrell

## **Lane Hall Post # 42**

Well I am writing this all over. I had had it all written and somehow I deleted it in error and naturally do not have an inkling of what I had written previously.

This is the first time this has happened to me, and I apologize for it to all of you. I do hope that you all had a nice holiday, and that you are all feeling fine. I had a great one thanks to my sons, and am looking forward to the spring weather, since it has been so cold this month so far. I have been very busy since my sister has been ill, and now her husband who had been taking care of her, was found to have lymphoma, and is given just a few months to live. So I really have not been able to concentrate too much on anything else. I am still volunteering at the hospital, and hope to continue with that until I am unable to perform my duties there.

I heard from so many of our friends over the holidays and had written about them in the write-up that I mistakenly destroyed so you will have to bare with me.

I have spoken to Dom Abbruzzese and he is doing fine and keeping himself busy. Also to Audrey Blocker and she was not feeling very well at the time we spoke and I am hoping that she is feeling better. Mary Brinker has kept in touch and I was so happy to hear that Jim is doing well. Paul Burgio calls frequently and is doing as well as expected. Paul and I are feeling the loneliness of our lives and it is good to speak to someone who is in the same boat. Since there are several of us, that are now alone, our families try to fill in the space and sometimes it does work and of course sometimes it doesn't.

Sophie Ellenberger called today, January 21, and she is doing well. Still keeping busy with her volunteering and feeling fine. Alice Noxon called a few times and it was so nice hearing from her. I am so happy to get these calls; it usually makes my day a happier one. Received many cards this year from many of our friends and loved the notes that came with them. Hilda Latusek is still visiting her daughters now and then and that keeps her busy.

I had sent out a new address listing to everyone, and I hope it is up to date for all of your addresses. If not please call me or write me so that I may correct it.

I heard from many Gonzalez and his wife. They also are trying to keep busy around their place, and do what they can there when they can. Of course we don't expect to do some of the things that we were used to doing but we try and that always gives us uplift.

Has anyone heard from Marjorie Gay? I do not have a phone number for her and if anyone has her phone number, would you please send it to me.

Received many nice cards at Christmas time, in fact Ed Hargraves sent me

a adorable picture of his grand son Ethan, and it was great, naturally it is in my album already. Thanks Ed.

Being that the reunion is going to be in Carlisle, Pa this year, it would be nice if more of us could attend and get to be with each other, talk about things we are doing and just being together I am going to try very hard to get there even if I have to drive myself but I am hoping that one of my sons will be able to take me and join us for this one.

I am still getting contributions for the reunions, so if you would like to send something in, I will add it to what we have and be able to obtain a meeting room for us at the reunion.

If you know of any changes of addresses, or anything at all about any of our members, please either call me or write me a note.

Frances Poletti

28 Arnold Lane Rowayton, CT. 06853 / 203-855-1928

## **Company L 319**

Information again is as scarce as hen's teeth. Company L members are reluctant to talk about themselves.

I begin on a sad note as I have to report the death of Frank F. Soloninka, Earl R. Lybarger and Marie Hill the wife of Marshall Hill. Our heartfelt sympathy, love and prayers go out to the families of these individuals for their great loss.

On a happier note, Rick Hodes, the son of Betts Flynn was a finalist in the CNN Heroes Contest and although he didn't win, he earned \$10,000 as a finalist.

Bill Siebert told me he participated in his 125th Military Funeral Service where he serves as a member of the firing squad.

Bill and Billie Krehbiel have a new great granddaughter and are as proud as Peacocks. Lou and Rich Blatz are well and Lou said they are living day to day.

Glad to report that Fred Eckelmann is out of the Hospital and in Long Term Care at Schuylkill Haven. Get well quick Fred. Rudy Berman e-mailed me and told me that he and Carol have nothing exciting going on but are content. Rudy is experiencing some Thyroid problems.

I suppose that some of you reading this article wonder why I write about the same people in most issues. These are the people who keep in touch with me. If you have some news that you would like included in these articles, call me at 410-792-4895, e-mail me at HMeinolf@verizon.net or snail mail me at 9218 Twin Hill Lane, Laurel, Md. 20708 and I will be happy to oblige.

While I sit and write this article, I think of all of the nice things that the past year has brought. High on the list of things I treasure and have given me hours of pleasure, I place your friendship. All of you are special friends and I wish for you and yours, a New year that brings a happy assortment of life's finest things, Good Health, Happiness, Joy and Good Luck.

Hank Einolf

## **New York Post # 43**

Going to Florida for a couple weeks vacation and for what was thought to be a good time didn't turn out that way. While there Barbara Marsh had a stroke and was hospitalized. It is my understanding she has had a second stroke. Burt being in Florida with his wife has no time to think of a report. Burt, Our Prayers are with you.

(Editor)

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## OUT OF THE PAST... conclusion

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### The Last Offensive-Goetterdaemmerung

On 6 May men of the 2d and 976th Divisions and a new unit, the 16th Armored Division (Brig. General John L. Pierce), came upon an entirely new scene. Early in the day the armor began unsuspectingly to pass through the infantry along the highway leading to Pilsen. Past silent, undefended forts of Czechoslovakia's western fortifications, the "Little Maginot Line," again untested in battle as it was after the Munich Pact, the troops burst suddenly from the Sudetenland with its apathetic, sometimes sullen German sympathizers into a riotous land of colorful flags and cheering citizenry.

As if they had stepped across some unseen barrier, the men found themselves in a new land of frenzy and delight. War and nonfraternization lay behind. It was Paris all over again, on a lesser scale and with different flags, but with the same jubilant faces, the same delirium of liberation. Past abandoned antiaircraft guns that had protected the big Skoda industrial complex on the outskirts of the city, the armor raced into Pilsen. "Nazadar, Nazdar!" the people shouted. Except for the 1st Division, advancing on Karlsbad, the V Corps had joined the growing list of American units for which the shooting war was over. It was almost over for the 1st division as well. Karlsbad had surrendered by telephone early the next afternoon, the staff of the opposing Seventh Army the day after that.

In the Tirol, in the meantime, the Alpine terrain restricted the forces the Seventh Army could employ in drives on Innsbruck and Landeck to two divisions. Although only a few Germans resisted they drew added strength from their positions in the precipitous, narrow Alpine passes. Snow mixed with freezing rain and great drifts of the preceding winter's snow also slowed the advance. Nor were the men and their commanders eager, in view of the approaching end of the war, to take undue chances.

Relieving the armor of the VI Corps before the Mittenwald Pass leading to Innsbruck, the 103rd Division during 1 May established telephone contact with the German garrison in the Tirolean capital, but the lines went out before surrender negotiations could be completed. Further negotiations were under way when, during the afternoon and evening of 2 May, Austrians partisans seized control of Innsbruck. Although the partisans begged for American entry lest SS troops counterattack, the 103rd Division still had to fight through occasional German delaying groups to get to the city. During midmorning of 4 May, in a driving snowstorm, the Americans entered.

From Innsbruck, General McAuliffe sent his 411th Infantry hurrying southward in trucks to gain the Brenner Pass. In hope of speeding the advance over the treacherous Alpine Road, Mc Auliffe sent his convoy forward the night of 3 May with headlights blazing. Without firing a shot, the 411th took the town of Brenner just before 0200, 4 May, while a mounted patrol continued through the pass and across the Italian frontier to Vipiteno, there making contact at 1051 with reconnaissance troops of the 88th Infantry Division. A Seventh Army that had invaded Sicily long months before, then had left the fighting in the Mediterranean to the Fifth Army while detour by way of southern France to Germany, joined hands with those men who had fought up the long, mountainous spine of Italy. That the troops belonged to the VI Corps was appropriate, for long ago the VI Corps had

fought in Italy in a besieged beach-head at Anzio.

At the Fern Pass, where men of the 44th Division relieved other contingents of the armor of the VI Corps, a 300-man German detachment staunchly defended a serpentine highway blocked by deep craters and a landslide. A battalion of the 71st Infantry began to attack the position early on 1 May. Anticipating difficulty getting through the pass, the division commander, General Dean, at the same time sent a reinforced company on a circuitous 40-mile out-flanking maneuver, back almost to the Oberjoch Pass, then southwestward up the valley of the Lech River to another route, more a trail than a road, leading across a high mountainous range to the vicinity of Imst, some eight miles behind the Fern Pass.

The company was still bucking fresh snow and old drifts when around mid-day on 2 May the commander of the 71st Infantry sent a second battalion to help in reducing the defenses at the Fern Pass. As the battalion was moving up, five Austrian partisans appeared with an offering to guide the men along a little known secondary road that would put them in the rear of the Pass. Led by the Austrians, the battalion moved swiftly along a road that cut through forests and over a steep crest south of the Fern Pass. The men seized the town of Fernstein behind the Pass, then before dark, came upon the Germans at the Pass from the rear. Resistance collapsed.

The next day men of the 44th Division pushed on foot toward Imst, to make contact there with the reinforced company that two days before had begun the wide outflanking maneuver; but resumption of a full scale advance to Landeck and the Resia Pass beyond had to await repair of the road through the Fern Pass and coming of tanks and other vehicles. It was this delay that prompted the commander of the First French Army, General de Lattre, to try to beat the Americans into Landeck by way of the Arlberg Pass.

Unaware that de Lattre had begun a race for Landeck, the 44th Division was in no rush, particularly not in view of other developments on 4 May. Through the division's lines at Imst that day passed emissaries of General Brandenberger's Nineteenth Army on their way to open negotiations for surrender. Not far away, other emissaries on the night of 4 May approached troops of the 3rd Division of the XV Corps to begin arrangements for capitulation of General Schulz's Army Group G.

The Nineteenth Army surrendered in keeping with a detailed scenario worked out at headquarters of the VI Corps. The enemy commander, Brandenberger, was to present himself at the Landsrat in Innsbruck at a special time on 5 May. The scenario spelled out how Brandenberger was to be met, that no salutes or handshakes were to be exchanged, even the times when conferees would stand and when they would be seated.

Except that Brandenberger reached the scene some minutes late, all went according to plan. Shortly before 1500 the VI Corps commander, General Brooks, afforded Brandenberger and his staff a brief period in which to confer privately upon condition that they return to the conference room at 1500. At that time the Nineteenth Army surrendered unconditionally, effective at 1800 the same day.

A regiment of the 44th Division meanwhile had resumed the advance on the Landeck when in mid-morning of the 5th; the German commander in the region suggested a truce pending the outcome of Brandenberger's negotiations. On the condition that the arrangement include evacuation of Landeck, General Dean agreed, and a battalion of the 44th Division occupied the town that afternoon, in the process unwittingly thwarting General de Lattre's effort to reach Landeck first.

Not until two days later, on the 7th, would anyone bother to proceed to the Resia Pass, which de Lattre so earnestly wanted to attain. At 1900, 7 May, the 44th Division established contact there with contingents of the 10th Mountain Division.

In the broader surrender of Army Group G, an element of surprise was present in that General Devers had anticipated, on the basis of Field Marshall Kesserling's query as to whom he would surrender, that Kesserling would be surrendering his entire command. Kesserling had intended to do just that, but the new German government had granted authority only for Army Group G, not for those troops opposing the Russians in Austria and the Balkans, which by Hitler's order of 24 April were at that point under Kesserling's command.

Thus it was that the commander of the First Army, General Foertsch, representing the commander of Army Group G, General Schulz, appeared the night of 4 May before troops of the XV Corps. The 3d Division commander, General O'Daniel, accompanied the delegation to an estate at Haar, near Munich, where negotiations begun on the rainy fifth day of May. Among those present, in addition to Devers, were Patch of the Seventh Army and Haislip of the XV Corps. No representative of the First French Army was included.

Although General Foertsch made no objection to terms, he felt impelled to point out that even with the best of intentions, it would be difficult for the Germans to comply with some of the provisions in the time allowed. Such was the state of German communications, for example, that many hours might pass before all German troops receive word of the surrender. He also asked if the Allies would hand over prisoners to the Russians.

With these points answered, usually noncommittally, General Devers stated firmly that General Foertsch's action was no mistake; it was unconditional surrender.

Do you understand that? He asked. Foertsch stiffen. After nearly a full minute, he responded.

"I can assure you, sir," he said, "that no power is left to your disposal to prevent it."

At approximately 1430, representatives of both sides signed the terms to become effective at noon the next day, 6 May.

The surrender affected all German troops between Army Group G's eastern boundary near the Austro-Czech border and the western border of Switzerland, thus excluding General von Obstfelder's Seventh Army in Czechoslovakia, which a week earlier had been subordinated directly to OB West, but including Brandenberger's Nintheen Army could continue to fight.

Hostilities ostensibly were continuing in the French sector when late on 6 May General Devers sent a liaison officer to explain to de Lattre how, even as negotiations had been underway with Brandenberger, a delegation from Army Group would continue to fight.

Hostilities ostensibly were continuing in the French sector when late on 6 May General Devers sent a liaison officer to explain to de Lattre how, even as negotiations had been underway with Brandenberger, a delegation from Army Group G had arrived to surrender the entire command. De Lattre was still not to be placated. Ignoring the fact that the Twenty-fourth Army bore the name of an army command purely for purposes of deception, he pointed out that neither in the surrender of Army Group G had arrived to surrender the entire command. De Lattre was still not to be placated. Ignoring the fact that the Twenty-fourth Army bore the name of an army command purely for purposes of deception, he pointed out that neither in the surrender of Army.

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