



80th Training Command Commander Maj. Gen. John P. McLaren, Jr., presents a shadowbox of military awards to Emily Allen, who receives them on behalf of her grandfather Jesse Dunnaway, a World War II veteran of the 80th Infantry Division. The 80th Training Command held the awards ceremony at their annual Virginia Beach Leadership Council at Virginia Beach, Va., on Jan. 31. Photo by Staff Sgt. Anne Lewis

WWII Veteran Honored

By Cecelia Smith

MORE THAN SIXTY-FOUR YEARS PASSED, from October 19, 1945 to January 30, 2010, before a World War II Veteran was finally honored with a complete set of the medals he earned while serving with the HQ Company, 2d Battalion, 317th Infantry Regiment of the 80th Infantry Division. In an impressive ceremony in Virginia Beach recently, the family of this Veteran has finally seen their father and grandfather remembered for his patriotic service so long ago.

Jesse M. Dunnaway, Sr. entered active service on October 3, 1942 and served with the 2d Battalion of his unit until just shortly before his discharge in October 1945. He attained the rank of TEC 5, and his service record indicated that he was entitled to a total of eight medals, including both Silver and Bronze Stars, along with various other recognitions. Some of his medals were presented upon separation; however, he never received the full complement of awards he had earned.

Mr. Dunnaway was born in Gladys, Virginia on January 6, 1920. He was married when he entered the service and he and his wife, the former Goldie Hodges, were the parents of three children. After he returned from the War, he had a farm where he raised pigs, and he also worked for Burlington Industries in Brookneal, VA, until he retired. He was an active member of the Kedron Baptist Church in Gladys. Mr. Dunnaway passed away in March 2009.

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2 Year: Laverne J. Schock (F-317)

3 Year: Paul J. Pietsch (AT-318)

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Editor's Notes

By Andy Adkins

I KNOW THAT EVERYONE has had a tough winter. Down here in north central Florida, the temperature has been unseasonably cold. We had thirteen mornings where I woke up to below freezing temperatures. I know most of you Northerners are laughing out loud, but I tell you, it's been playing havoc on our citrus and vegetable crops. I spoke with someone a couple of months ago who lives up North—he's even complaining about the cold. "Andy, I look forward to the day I can move down south where I look forward to the temperature going DOWN to 35, as opposed to looking forward to the temperature going UP to 35."

I typically receive about three to four emails a week from the 80th Division Website asking about a Veteran—usually from a son or daughter or from a grandson or granddaughter. There are three or four of us in the Veterans Association who receive these types of requests and attempt to answer them. I know from experience the first time I saw my dad's name on a Morning Report, then being able to "follow" him through the war. I know the emotions that flow—there's a new connection to my father that will never go away. That's probably why I am so involved in the 80th Division Veterans Association and continue to work on the Website and continue to digitize Morning Reports and After Action Reports. The more I can put online, the more people can find and trace their father's (and grandfather's) footsteps.

This month, we have another great story of a journey—this one is of Emily Allen and her quest to learn more about her grandfather, Jesse Dunnaway. I still have those first few emails from May 2009 when Emily first contacted me. Several of us helped to search through our records, trying to find information about Emily's grandfather. You can read about this more in this month's Blue Ridge—what a great story, too—thanks to Cecelia Smith for another great article.

Since the last issue of the Blue Ridge, I've received several inquiries about publishing memoirs. Jan Elvin joins me this issue in an article about how we published our father's memoirs. Hopefully, this article will give you some insights.

Announcements

If you didn't read about Felix Cistolo in the November 8, 2009 edition of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, you missed a great story. Fortunately, thanks to the wonders of the Internet, you can still read about Felix, Martin Tougher, Francis Culatta, and Ross DiMarco. Their story, "6 Decades Later, French Say 'Merci,'" is fascinating to say the least. Read about it here: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09312/1011736-82.stm>.



A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

Season's Greetings

Greetings, Veterans, Soldiers, Family and Friends. Six months have passed since we gathered in Pittsburgh for the 90th Reunion. In a few short months we will again assemble in Arlington, Virginia for the 91st. PNC/SVC Max Schmidt is working diligently to make the 91st a memorable event. Through Max's efforts, this year's gathering of the membership will include the Descendants Association who, as of last meeting, have deactivated and become full members of the 80th Division Veterans Association. The Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association who, as I write this, have petitioned the Executive Council to be granted a Charter and become a Chapter of the 80th Division Veterans Association, and the 80th Training Command TASS will hold a Commanders Conference on site and in conjunction with the

reunion. Coordinating space and activities for this size venture can be quite challenging and we do appreciate all Max, Cecelia Smith and the Reunion Committee are doing to support this year's reunion.

I am awaiting an update from Columbus Monument Company (CMC) on the construction and movement of the Monument at Fort Benning from Sacrifice Field to the Walk of Honor at newly constructed Patriot Park. Our contract specifies CMC will construct a 15' x 15' reinforced concrete pad 6" thick and a 10' x 5' concrete walkway leading to the pad. Construction and movement of the Monument is scheduled for this spring.

Safe journeys to those who will travel in mid-April to Weimar and Buchenwald for the 65th anniversary remembrance Ceremony. Thanks to the Mitteilbau Dora Memorial Foundation for funding the 80th Division Veterans who took part in the liberation effort.

I will close by saying Thank You to those individual volunteers who do so much behind the scenes working to support this organization. Words cannot express the gratitude we have and the importance of their labors for which we all reap the benefits. Thank you again and may the 80th always "Only Moves Forward".

"Strength of the Mountains"

Donald W. Stewart, National Commander

2010 Reunion Information

by Max Schmidt, 2010 Reunion Chairman

The 91st Annual Reunion of the 80th Division Veterans Association is set to take place August 11-15, 2010 at the Sheraton National Hotel, located in Arlington, Virginia.

Max has been "working" with the hotel staff and has "negotiated" a phenomenal room price of \$89 (plus tax) per night. This includes parking at the hotel, which is located in the hotel garage. The hotel also offers free shuttles to/from Reagan National Airport and to/from the Pentagon City Metro system.

The room rate is good for up to three days before and three days after the reunion, in case you'd like to come early or stay later. Best of all, if you bring the kids or grandkids, up to four people can stay in the same room for no additional charge.

Max is working on the meeting schedule, which will be sent to everyone in the Reunion Registration package, but look for a bus trip to the World War II Memorial and possibly another trip to the Holocaust Museum. We also know that 80th Training Command Commander Maj. Gen. John P. McLaren, Jr. will be attending the reunion.

HERE ARE THE DETAILS:

80th Division Veterans Association

2010 Reunion

August 11-15, 2010

Sheraton National Hotel

900 South Orme Street

Arlington, VA 22204

703-521-1900

Room rate: \$89 per night (plus tax)



Requests for Help

GREG BOWERS, grandson to 1st LT Gerald (Jerry) Bowers 305th Med Co. A, would like to know if any of you remember his grandfather. Please send him a note:

Greg Bowers
233 Arbor Drive NE
Rockford MI 49341
greg.bowers@att.net

Any information would be appreciated.

Respectfully,
Greg Bowers (grandson)

I AM LOOKING FOR anyone who may have known my great uncle. His name was Walter Edward Weeden, Jr. and he was from Selma, AL. He served during World War II in the European Theatre in the Lorraine region of France. I believe the battle or series of battles he was involved in was the Battle of Nancy in the fall of 1944. He served with the 80th Division with the 319th in Co. C. He was wounded in battle on September 16, 1944 and died on September 17, 1944. He is buried in Lorraine American Cemetery in St. Avold, France.

I am trying to learn everything I can about him so I can share the information with my grandfather who is his younger brother. My name is Nikki Foster and I can be reached by phone, e-mail or regular mail.

Any information would be appreciated.

Nikki Foster
732 Tanglewood Avenue
Auburn, AL 36832
334-328-0009 / moore4kevin@yahoo.com

VETERANS OF CZECH OR SLOVAK DESCENT

Dusan Hudec in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, is searching for veterans. Slovak Public Television Bratislava is preparing a documentary film.

Toward the end of WWII, Czechs and Slovaks closely cooperated with the 3rd Army to facilitate the liberation of occupied territories. From archival records, I can identify the following groups:

- 1) Individuals in exile (financed and housed by Britons and Americans) who prepared to take over regional governments.
- 2) Jews who had escaped persecution, and then returned from America as native speakers, serving in intelligence units, as interrogators, translators, etc.
- 3) Military units (up to battalion strength) that were "paraded" ahead of your own troops, to indicate to local residents that this was a "friendly" homecoming, supported by Americans.

4) Czechs and Slovaks (switching back and forth from uniforms to civilian clothes) who served as "guides", more or less spies to lead Americans to troubled spots or keep them away from such.

General Eisenhower was very good at such tactics, and my book *Valhalla Finale* includes photos. To fill in gaps, and include personal experience from participants or eye-witnesses, I also interviewed the navigator of a B-24 bomber, shot down in Czechoslovakia.

Most people, however, are still unaware of this intricate cooperation. With the 65th anniversary of VE-Day fast approaching, we could finally shed more light on this relationship.

If you are a veteran with Czech or Slovak roots who served in Germany, Austria or Czechoslovakia in 1944-1945, I would like to get in touch with you. And if you know of such veterans, would you please tell me? I am looking forward to hearing from you!

Best regards,
Anna E. Rosmus, PhD
passau11@yahoo.com
443-642-9520

80th Legacy Program

GENTLEMEN,

The Soldiers of the 80th Training Command (TASS) would like to build closer relationships with us. If you would like to receive contact from them in person or by letter, phone or email, they would like to contact you.

This offer is pure voluntary and is intended to be information and fun. If you are interested, our new 3rd Vice Commander, LTC Grant Porter, will coordinate to match you up with a Soldier who will contact you. I think this venture can build spirit de corps, promote the 80th legacy, and unite our organizations at the same time. Include the following information: Name, Address, City, State, Zip, Phone, Email, Rank, and Unit.

Please send the information to:

80th Legacy Program
Grant Porter
6730 Manor Gate Drive
Midlothian, VA 23112
gpmailtime@yahoo.com

If you have any questions about this program contact LTC Grant Porter at 804-377-6358.

(Ed note: Several veterans have contacted LTC Porter for this program and we wanted to continue running this announcement for the 80th Legacy Program).

AS MOST OF THE VETERANS ARE AWARE, one of the goals of the Descendants of 80th Division Veterans was to preserve the history and legacy of the Blue Ridge Division. Now that we are all one organization, it is even more important that the goal be expanded. As Historian, I am extending a challenge to anyone who has worn the patch, to tell your personal story, orally or in print.

In the last issue of the *Blue Ridge*, Andy Adkins published a superb outline for Comrades and Families to follow. We can't emphasize enough the importance of recording Veterans' memories before it is too late. We are already seeing attempts to rewrite history in that some will deny that there were the atrocities of the Nazi regime, or that concentration camps and mass murders of the captured citizens existed. ONLY those of you who were witness to these situations can attest to their having occurred, and we urge you to consider sharing your remembrances.

If there are funny anecdotes you remember about your time in uniform, those are very welcome, too. If each Veteran would write only one paragraph, it will be a great start to preserving the legacy that is the 80th Division.

We also urge the Soldiers of the 80th who served in the period after WWII, to provide their personal stories. These are just as important a part of the legacy as the memories of older Veterans.

Several of the Veterans of WW II have already provided copies of their personal memoirs, and we intend to display them during the Annual Reunion in August, when we meet in Arlington, Virginia. Others have been interviewed and we are preparing transcripts of those oral interviews, as well.

On the subject of reunions, while we correctly refer to the upcoming one as the 91st Annual Reunion, in reviewing the Blue Ridge Service Magazines from

the 1920's, we discovered that the very first reunion of 80th Division Soldiers was held in the summer of 1919 in Pittsburgh. It was decided at that time to try to meet every year thereafter, and the 80th Division Veterans Association is probably the second oldest, continuously active organization of all the Army units. The Third Division organized their Association in January of 1919, while the 80th formally adopted a charter of organization in May of that year.

What's New on the Website: www.80thdivision.com

Many of you know that I have been digitizing Morning Reports for the 80th Division for the past few years. I do this on my own time and my own expense, though the expense is minimal and I am happy to provide this information.

The University of Florida Levin College of Law Legal Information Center (the Law Library) has a microfiche reader connected to a computer where I can scan the microfiche reports in and save them as a PDF. I then upload these files to the Internet. There are probably over 30,000 pages between the Morning Reports, After Action Reports, Unit Histories, and many other reports online.

Currently, I've digitized the 317th, 318th, and 319th Rifle Regiments from August 1944 through May 1945. I am in the process of digitizing the 313th, 314th, 905th, and 315th Field Artillery Battalions and should have those done in the next month or so. My next project is to digitize the 305th Engineer Battalion and the 305th Medical Battalion. I should have those done by the reunion in August.

Blue Ridge Magazine - April 1, 2010

The last date I have entered a name is March 1, 2010

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Adkins III, Andrew Z., H-317 (Family)
Bloomer, Robert A., 314th FA Bn (Family)
Cimbaluk, Julian, A-317
Furgiuele, Guy, A-317
Harris, Chris, 305th Med Bn (Family)
Insley, David W., F-318 (Family)
Lowman Sr., John D., F-318 (Post WWII)
Morckell, David O., B-305 Eng Bn
Nutting, Kenneth, I-317 (Family)
Wolf, Burton E., E-318

DONATIONS

Abbruzzese, Dominick, Hq Btry-313th FA Bn
Merritt, Kerry, F-319

NEW MEMBERS

Bloomer, Robert A, 314th FA Bn (Family)
Foster, Nikki, C-319 (Family)
Connor, Robert L, 317th (Family, WWI)
Johnson, Oliver, 80th Training Command
McQuaid, Laura Carrier
Vonk, Sebastiaan
Stanard, James R.
Vayda, Terry, E-318 (Family)

Do You Remember Kilroy?

Thanks to Rick Kendall for sending this along.

KILROY WAS HERE! WHO THE HECK WAS KILROY?

In 1946 the American Transit Association, through its radio program, "Speak to America," sponsored a nationwide contest to find the REAL Kilroy, offering a prize of a real trolley car to the person who could prove himself to be the genuine article.

Almost 40 men stepped forward to make that claim, but only James Kilroy from Halifax, Massachusetts, had evidence of his identity.

Kilroy was a 46-year old shipyard worker during the war who worked as a checker at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy. His job was to go around and check on the number of rivets completed. Riveters were on piece-work and got paid by the rivet.

Kilroy would count a block of rivets and put a check mark in semi-waxed lumber chalk, so the rivets wouldn't be counted twice. When Kilroy went off duty, the riveters would erase the mark. Later on, an off-shift inspector would come through and count the rivets a second time, resulting in double pay for the riveters.

One day Kilroy's boss called him into his office. The foreman was upset about all the wages being paid to riveters, and asked him to investigate. It was then he realized what had been going on.

The tight spaces he had to crawl in to check the rivets didn't lend themselves to lugging around a paint can and brush, so Kilroy decided to stick with the waxy chalk. He continued to put his checkmark on each job he inspected, but added KILROY WAS HERE in king-sized letters next to the check, and eventually added the sketch of the chap with the long nose peering over the fence and that became part of the Kilroy message. Once he did that, the riveters stopped trying to wipe away his marks.

Ordinarily the rivets and chalk marks would have been covered up with paint. With war on, however, ships were leaving the Quincy Yard so fast that there wasn't time to paint them. As a result, Kilroy's inspection "trademark" was seen by thousands of servicemen who boarded the troopships the yard produced. His message apparently rang a bell with the servicemen, because they picked it up and spread it all over Europe and the South Pacific. Before war's end, "Kilroy" had been here, there, and everywhere on the long hauls to Berlin and Tokyo.

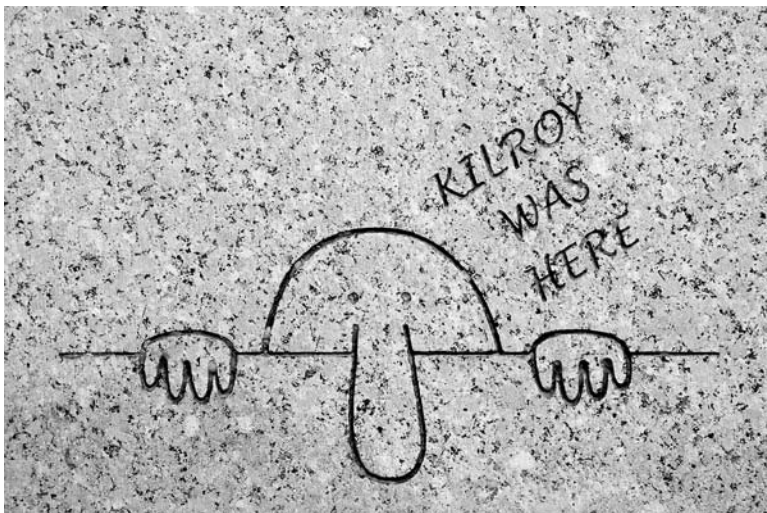
To the troops outbound in those ships, however, he was a complete mystery; all they knew for sure was that some jerk named Kilroy had "been there first." As a joke, U.S. servicemen began placing the graffiti wherever they landed, claiming it was already there when they arrived.

Kilroy became the U.S. super-GI who had always "already been" wherever GIs went. It became a challenge to place the logo in the most unlikely places imaginable (it is said to be atop Mt. Everest, the Statue of Liberty, the underside of l'Arc De Triomphe, and even scrawled in the dust on the moon).

As the war went on, the legend grew. Underwater demolition teams routinely sneaked ashore on Japanese-held islands in the Pacific to map the terrain for coming invasions by U.S. troops (and thus, presumably, were the first GI's there). On one occasion, however, they reported seeing enemy troops painting over the Kilroy logo! In 1945, an outhouse was built for the exclusive use of Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill at the Potsdam conference. Its first occupant was Stalin, who emerged and asked his aide (in Russian), "Who is Kilroy?"

To help prove his authenticity in 1946, James Kilroy brought along officials from the shipyard and some of the riveters. He won the trolley car, which he gave to his nine children as a Christmas gift and set it up as a playhouse in the Kilroy front yard in Halifax, Massachusetts.

So, now you know!



Engraving of Kilroy on the WWII Memorial.

Publishing Your WWII Memoir

by Andy Adkins and Jan Elvin

BOTH OF OUR FATHERS SERVED with the 80th Division during WWII. A.Z. Adkins, Jr. was a Captain with Company H, 317th Infantry Regiment, a heavy weapons company in the 2d Battalion. William Elvin was a 1st Lt with Company E, 318th Infantry Regiment, a rifle company in the 2d Battalion. Both of us have published our fathers' stories—how we did it is a story of its own. For both of us, the journey was long, emotional, but ever so rewarding. We learned a lot about our fathers, but more importantly, we learned how the war shaped them into the men we grew up with.

ANDY'S JOURNEY

My father was a lawyer in Gainesville, Florida, where I still reside. Growing up, I knew he had been in the war and had fought the Germans and I knew he had been in the Battle of the Bulge. He had brought back a few souvenirs, including both GI and German helmets and a couple of German lugers.

I also knew he was awarded the Bronze Star—my mother had put his medals, insignia, and patches into a shadow box that hung on the wall. I never knew the details of the medals and my dad never talked about them. Of course, I heard the occasional war story or two that always seemed to bring a laugh from all of us, but he never really talked about the war—ever.

For Christmas 1984, my dad gave me and my sister a 200-page, three-ring binder titled, "A World War II Diary"—I was thirty years old and my dad was sixty-three. I never knew he had kept a journal of his WWII experiences, nor did I know he had been working on a diary. Only years later did I find out in a chance meeting with one of his legal secretaries that she had been the one who typed it up for him. Apparently, he had written most of this on legal yellow pads over a period of years and finally during a slow time in his law practice, she had typed it up.

Obviously, I was stunned, overwhelmed, and astonished at what I was holding—an historical document, written by my dad 39 years after the war, of the most tumultuous time of his life. I read it straight through, several times. While I now knew a lot of details about his time in the service, I still found it very difficult to talk with him about the war. I don't know why—maybe it's because I know that deep down inside, this was a part of his past life that he didn't want to bring up. I wish I had talked with him more about his time in the war and the 80th Division, but unfortunately my dad passed away in September 1989 after a long battle with cancer.

Fast forward to 1998. A friend and I were talking about WWII—his father had fought in Europe as my father had. He told me about a great book called, *Flags of our Fathers*, written by James Bradley, the son of Scott

Bradley, one of the six men who raised the flag at Iwo Jima for Joe Rosenthal's famous photograph. I bought the book and read it—there were so many parallels with James Bradley and his dad and with me and my dad. I had my father's diary and I knew, right then and there, I needed to share this story.

I'm a computer guy, so I scanned the typed diary into my computer. The only problem was the original diary was just that—page after page of day-to-day events. Other than a few dates scattered throughout, there was no other organization—no chapters and no index. So my first task was to organize his diary. It took a long time, too, because I didn't want to change anything about my dad's diary. But, there were so many names in the book, it was hard to follow who was who. How many "Macs" and "Juniors" and "Smittys" can there be in one outfit?

Over a period of about four or five years, I went through about six revisions, because the more I wrote, the more I wanted to learn. For example, I figured that if I had questions about a particular weapon, others would too. I worked on this steadily for a month or so, then I'd put it away for a few months—I was busy with work and with life and this was a weekend type project. However, the more I worked on the book, the more it became a labor of love. After the sixth (or seventh) revision, I figured I was probably doing more damage than good, so I decided it was time to try to find a publisher.

I bought *The Writer's Market*, a two-inch thick reference book available in most bookstores that lists a ton of publishers and editors. The book also indexes different categories of books, so I looked through the list for publishers of "military books." There were about twenty of them at that time. It also provided contact information and what the publisher wanted, such as a cover letter, an outline, a sample chapter, or the entire manuscript.

I took the shotgun approach—I mailed an inquiry letter along with the recommended material (outline or sample chapter) to them all. About half replied back with a "Thanks, but no thanks." Several others sent a letter indicating they were interested, but they wanted me to pay \$5,000 up front ("print on demand"); I wasn't ready for that. Then, one Sunday night I got a call at home from an editor in California who asked me to send the complete manuscript, which I promptly did.

About a week later, he called back and I heard those magic words, "I think you've got something here." He also added, "You've got a lot of work to do." "No problem," I said. He made several suggestions—I needed to add a couple of chapters at the beginning, since my father's diary started at the Moselle River crossing. He wanted to tell the story of how my dad became a soldier, so I started the book when my dad was at The Citadel and the date was June 6, 1941.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

The editor and I worked on this for a few months, back and forth—mostly by email, some by phone. Then he said he had a couple of publishers in mind and he'd take it from here. He found a publisher that wanted my book—Casemate Publishers, and that they'd be in touch with me. A couple of weeks later, I had a contract and we were on our way. I worked with a layout editor who also had a few more suggestions for writing style.

The magic day arrived on October 26, 2005, when the UPS truck showed up with 300 copies of my new book (I ordered a few extra). Needless to say, I was speechless. I was home alone when I cracked open that first box, took the book in my hands and read my dad's name and my name as co-authors. I won't lie—a tear came to my eye and I was so proud of both of us. I took the first book out to my dad's grave and shared a few, quiet moments with him. It was a very emotional time for me—I missed my dad so much, yet here I was able to present him with the book that started out as his memories of World War II and the 80th Division.

As a footnote, my book (actually, my dad's book), *You Can't Get Much Closer Than This: Combat with Company H, 317th Infantry Regiment, 80th Division*, was selected as the Book of the Month for the Military Book Club for November 2005, only a month after it was published.

JAN'S JOURNEY

My journey to tell my father's story began with the discovery of, or perhaps the re-discovery, of a box that sat on his desk for as long as I can remember. I had no idea where it came from, nor any clue that there was a connection to World War II. Like so many "baby boomers," I'd never heard much about my father's experiences during the war. With modest pride, he'd passed along only the following facts: while serving in Patton's Army, he'd earned a Purple Heart and the Silver Star.

It was mid-2003 before I became curious about the box. I'm glad I did, because he died a year later. Questioning him about it led to discoveries that shocked me. For the first time, I began to understand what this young man had gone through and why he'd been reluctant to talk about it. Parts of our conversations were hard but I knew that time was running out. I needed to get out the tape recorder and make up a list of questions.

Dad shared with me that he'd written an account of part of his time in combat—from July 24, 1944 until he was wounded on November 8. He'd written it up the following summer while his outfit was in Germany during the Occupation. I could see that the journal was a treasure—Dad was a natural-born writer who later became a journalist, and this piece of writing was gripping.

During this time, a German journalist friend asked if she could interview Dad about his memories of the concentration camp at Ebensee. He agreed, in spite of his failing health at that time. The interview, though difficult for him, provided touching details of that experience.

My father passed away in August 2004. Trying to piece together mementos of his wartime days, I found wartime letters from the front, maps he'd penciled prior to leading a dangerous patrol, gas rationing cards, invitations to parties at Camp Croft, ID cards, and newspaper clippings, all of which gave depth and heart to that time. I also found an interview I'd done with him some fifteen years earlier in which he talked about his childhood. My son had interviewed him about the war when he was in high school. Those and the interview with the German journalist provided me with invaluable information.

At first, my plan was just to write a piece for the family, describing Dad's war experiences, expanding on and filling in the gaps in his journal. Since I live in Washington, D.C., I was easily able to easily research institutions such as the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the National Archives. I began to spend time in their libraries and learned more and more about the war and Dad's part in it.

I especially enjoyed going to the Archives and looking up Morning Reports and After Action Reports. Thumb-ing through the worn and ragged pages, written in the midst of the chaos of battle, was a thrill second only to finding my father's name!

But, like Andy, I had to work hard to fill in the gaps in Dad's diary. He'd included names of a few of the small towns they'd fought in, and some dates. So I tried to match those things up with documents—I became a detective searching for clues. I found photos of Dad and his buddies and wondered if I'd be able to identify them. In addition, personal interviews with relatives, members of the 80th ID, and survivors of the concentration camp at Ebensee, Austria filled out the information I was collecting.

I began to edit Dad's journal for size, adding here and there from the research I'd done. I felt a huge responsibility to do a good job with it. My father was a very meticulous reporter, and I knew he would want and expect the same from me. I even dreamed that he told me to "get the grammar and the punctuation right!"

I went on to learn about the concentration camp at Ebensee, Austria that Dad had visited only days after its liberation. In May of 2005, I attended the anniversary of the liberation of the camp, where I met liberators and survivors alike. In that moment I knew I wanted to write a book, not just an article for the family.

Two years later it was time to find a publisher for the book. First, I searched for an agent whose job it would be to find a publisher. I found an excellent one who believed in my dad's story from the beginning and found a wonderful publisher, AMACOM. It was an interesting match, because AMACOM is the publishing arm of the American Management Corporation. They usually chose books about organizational development or man-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

agement issues, but had recently decided to expand. The whole process took a few years—chapters back and forth with my editor, who no doubt made it a better book. It was an emotional as well as an intellectual journey, and one that I occasionally found exhausting, but overall very exciting. I wanted to leave something for later generations, so that they would know the extraordinary man that Bill Elvin was.

Nothing I've done in my life has been as rewarding. I have heard from many, many people who identify with the story I tell of my father and our family.

WHY THIS ARTICLE, HERE & NOW?

We are baby boomers, in our fifties and sixties. Our fathers are no longer with us and World War II veterans are leaving us every day. Our children, in their twenties and thirties, are not as close to WWII as we were, yet we find that there are more veterans' grandchildren attending the 80th Division reunions—there is an interest. There are a couple of 80th Division projects underway to capture Oral Histories of our veterans and to share experiences between WWII veterans and the current 80th Division Training Command soldiers and veterans.

Over the past six months, the 80th Division Veterans Association has received several manuscripts from veterans who have told their story, but they don't want to make it public—at least not yet. There are also several veterans who have written their history, sometimes with the help of their sons and daughters, but are looking to possibly publish their memoir, similar to what we have done.

Besides our books, Bob Murrell has published several operational histories of the 80th, 317th, 318th, and 319th, as well as a couple of other books relating stories of the men of the 80th. These were all self-published by Bob and provide an excellent source of information. Bill Krehbile also wrote and published *The Pride of Willing and Able*, from Company L of 319th. Capt Dean J. Dominique wrote *The Attack Will Go On*, for a Master's Thesis in History for Louisiana State University. Also, Jeff Wignall recently published *Farebersviller 1944*, the story about his father, Pfc William H. Wignall, a machine gunner in Company A of the 318th.

As you can see, there are many different ways to get your memoir published. We wanted to let you know how we did it—share our experience with other 80th Division family members so that you can publish too. Our experiences in writing and publishing were slightly different, but we both attained our goals—sharing our fathers' stories. We think you'll find the writing experience similar—lots of stories, some good, some not so happy, but all experiences that most WWII soldiers shared during the war. The process can be long (like Andy's—six years) or short (like Jan's—one year), but it is still a process.

The publishing industry is changing dramatically every few months. It's becoming harder to publish, but there is still a strong industry for World War II books, including memoirs. Publishers have told us that there really is no definite window of opportunity for WWII books—they will always be published.

If you've got your manuscript done, start looking for a publisher now. Search the Internet for Military Publishers, or go to your local library or bookstore and look for *The Writer's Market*.

If you're just starting to write your story, we suggest you create an outline and then start writing. Our experience has been that you'll find yourself able to write for long periods of time "when it's right." Don't try to force it, because the best writing is done when you're in the mood.

The writing journey has been very rewarding for both of us. We've received, and continue to receive, letters, emails, and phone calls from veteran's children that have read our books and thanking us for sharing the story. While their dads never talked about the war, they now have a much better understanding and appreciation for the many sacrifices these brave men made in order for us to live in a better world. That is our reward.

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New York Post 43

by **Burt Marsh**

It is time to pass along the news from Post 43, which isn't much, since my only source of information comes from Angelo Barone. He reports that our long time member Raymond Patterson's wife, Pearl, passed away January 2, 2010. Post 43 sends our condolences to you, Ray, and your family.

Angelo reports he is snowed in with something like 36 inches of snow. Most streets in Pottsville are one lane. He has a good neighbor that keeps his walks and driveway plowed. My son-in-law Jeff, keeps our walks and driveway cleared with all our snow. I thought I was back in Hamburg NY when I woke up the morning of the storm.

I talked to Elmer Dorsten and he isn't straying from home either, in fact, he and Russell Sick had planned to leave for Florida to attend Post 47 reunion on Tuesday February 16, 2010, but cancelled because of the snow and road conditions all the way to Georgia. They didn't want to risk being stranded on the highway. Smart move, Elmer and Russell.

The Barones, the Spanglers and the Schmidts have also abandoned their usual trip to Florida to attend the Post 47 Reunion. It's a tough winter this year including Florida. Hopefully, all those that missed Post 47 Reunion will come to our Post 43 Reunion from May 17 to May 20 at Geneva, NY—you are all welcomed.

Yours truly is doing well and Barbara, too. She still needs the wheelchair to get around; otherwise, she is doing okay. She tells everybody what a great time she had at last year's reunion in Pittsburgh. She plans on attending our Post 43 Reunion in Geneva.

That's it for this time.

Burt R. Marsh, Commander
614-725-2573

Florida Post #47

by **Kay Rajnicek, Secretary**

Our February meeting was a very congenial one—we missed our snowbirds that were unable to attend. The weather was sunny, but a little on the cool side.

On Thursday, Francis and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary with the group. We toasted our friends with champagne. Then on Friday, we celebrated Vern Schock's 88th birthday.

At our dinner on Saturday evening, we had the pleasure of having with us Dr. Tonya Gibbons and her husband, Hugh. She is the daughter of Jack Sayre, who was killed

in action in December 1944. The story of her journey to learn more about her father was chronicled in the last Blue Ridge magazine.

We missed Gerald and Vera Norry. He could not attend because of back surgery just two days before our reunion. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Our next meeting will be in Ocala, Florida the end of October; details will be in the next issue of the Blue Ridge.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in August at the National Reunion in Arlington, Virginia.

Company L, 319th Infantry Regiment

by **Hank Einolf**

As the saying goes, "This too will pass," and I hope that is true. After Mother Nature dumped 51 inches of snow in my front and back yards and on the community streets, I've had enough. My trees are damaged and my shrubs are destroyed. We went five days without a newspaper and five days without mail. It took six days for the plows to get to Twin Hill Lane and they made one pass and were gone. Thanks to my daughter Michele and her two boys, Aaron and Jared, my driveway was cleared and we were able to keep our doctor appointments. I have a feeling that you who live in the snow belt are smiling about the little bit of snow we had but you're used to it, we are not.

I am sorry to have to report that John Balas passed away on January 31st and I know that you join me in offering our sincere sympathy and prayers to John's family.

I talked to Lou Blatz and he told me that both he and Rich are going blind and no longer drive and will not be going to any more Reunions. Lou said they wouldn't be able to see the sights and wouldn't know what they were eating at the Banquet Dinner.

I was able to make contact with Rudy Berman and he told me he had gotten back from the hospital where Carol had a hip replacement on that day, the 22nd of February. Rudy said that Carol's blood pressure dropped after the operation but the doctor told Rudy she would be OK.

Max Coleman also had a hip replacement and is in need of another one which will be done soon. Max said he is concerned about his wife Eleanor who is not well.

I caught up with Jack Barrett and he is a little frustrated because he can't walk safely in the woods with his prosthesis. However, he can and does fish and he said he catches a lot of fish. Jack still follows his hobby of making one-of-a-kind pocket knives.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Freddy Junior let me know that Big Fred is doing pretty well at 92 years of age and Freddy keeps him in line by telling him he won't take him to the Reunion if he misbehaves. That threat keeps him in good stead with Freddy.

Spoke with Marshall Hills' daughter Mary and she told me that Marshall at 90 is getting a little grouchy (Marshall, behave yourself and "That's an order!").

Received a short note from Bill Siebert and also spoke with him. He told me that compared to other Veterans he knows, he is in pretty good shape.

John Flynn has recently been diagnosed with Sciatica in his right leg which now compounds the problem in his left leg and the on-going problem with his neck. Hang in there John, we're praying for you. Betts let me know that her son Doctor Hodes will be featured on a CNN documentary in April.

If I were to give you a rundown on the travels of the Krehbbiels, you would say that you have heard that before and you would probably be right. They seem to be constantly on the move. Bill has just been inducted into the Halstead Athletic Hall of Fame and Bill and Billie are expecting a new grandson in March. They celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on the 23rd of November. Both are well and are able to get out for church, reunions and family functions. As I guess most of us probably are, they are enjoying the Olympics in the comfort of their home.

I tried numerous times to reach Jim Young but to no avail. I guess we all can be pretty sure that he is being well taken care of by Doctor Vera.

God willing, I hope to see some of you in August in Arlington.

313th Field Artillery

by **Frances E. Poletti**

It seems such a long time since I sent my last write up to Mr. Adkins, so I thought I would start on my next one a little early. I have been busy, writing cards and volunteering at the hospital nearby, and trying to make up my mind about whether I should stay in my home, or get into something smaller. Well, time will tell and I have time to think about it.

I received a very nice note from Angie Hameister. She writes that she enjoys receiving the Blue Ridge and reading it, and I am so happy she told me she has moved into a nice Assisted Living place. She said she is doing well but has been having trouble with Macular degeneration. But she said she uses magnifying glasses and they help her a great deal. She wanted to extend her good wishes to all of you, and I am sending them on.

Also received a letter from Mary Brinker—she told me that Bob's sister passed away and they were busy with the funeral, etc. Also some good news: her son Jim had his 60th birthday. Congratulations to Jim.

Called John and Audrey Ingles and they sounded great. I was so happy to be able to talk with them and they told me they had their family over for Thanksgiving and see them quite often, I love keeping in touch with everyone.

I am in the process of updating the address listing I have and if anyone has any changes, please get in touch with me so that I may not send it out to the wrong addresses or whatever. I will be expecting any changes before I print them up.

I think I informed everyone that Audrey Blocker is now taking care of our banking account and if anyone wants to contribute to our account please get in touch with Audrey.

I received a paper from Jan Elvin of Washington D.C. about *The Box from Braunau*, a book about her father, Lt. Bill Elvin's combat diary covering the moment of arrival on Omaha Beach on D-Day plus 60 to the day he was wounded in France. Visit your library and get a copy.

Received a great update from Cecilia Smith with a copy of their Descendants of 80th Division Veterans, and it was quite informative. Thank you, Cecilia.

Also, the write-up in the newspaper about Lou Shirey and his days as an Army cook was great. It was published in the *Reading Eagle*, and told about the Presidential Unit Citation and other stories about the 313th and about the concentration camp at Ebensee, Austria which the 80th liberated on May 9, 1945. It is estimated that 20,000 prisoners perished in Ebensee. Lou wanted to feed the prisoners, but he was told they could only have fluids and small bits of food at first. As a cook, it hurt Lou not to be able to serve them a big stew pot and make them all well again. That's our Lou; always a big heart.

I would also like to thank Mary Brinker for the article written by Laura Elstro. Very moving and interesting. Laura is active in the Church and has become a Nun.

Dr. Robert C. Sproull sent me a copy of *Early Adventures in Color Matching in Dentistry*. The book tells about the various findings of dentistry, and he was the first recipient of the F. Bruce Clark Award, the highest recognition of the Society for Color and Appearance in Dentistry. Congratulations, Bob. Another communication I had received from Bob—he was telling me about Ebensee and the prisoners that were held there and that he recently met one of the survivors in El Paso, and he was able to have several meals with him before he passed away. When Bob told him he might have met him there, he told Bob he had escaped the day before Bob arrived.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

POST NEWS CONTINUED:

I know that some of you have seen the write-up about Felix Cistolo that was in the Pennsylvania papers. He and three others were honored and received France's highest award, the Legion of Honor, for helping to liberate that country from the Nazis 65 years ago. Felix and three others were ordinary men caught up in the greatest maelstrom of the 20th Century. They rose to the occasion, advancing field by field and house by house across the French countryside, forcing the Germans back to the Fatherland and destroying Hitler's Thousand-Year Reich. The Legion of Honor, designed by Napoleon in 1802, is one of Europe's most prestigious civic decorations. It had previously been given only to some American World War I Veterans who helped France in that conflict.

[Ed note: read the article online at <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09312/1011736-82.stm>]

Talked with Felix and he was very proud and happy to share this information with me. He is doing well.

In January, I received a call from Hilda Latusek and her daughter Patty, letting me know how little Reagan is doing. So far she still has to take a great deal of medications, etc., but we are all hoping and praying that she will be able to live a more normal life of a child and attend school with her friends. Reagan has put up quite a fight and is a strong little girl. We all want the best for her. So at night when you are ready for bed, please say a prayer for her, it would be very much appreciated.

Grace Viviano called me this morning to tell me that Paul had passed away on Saturday the 16th of January. He had not been feeling well for a while. His address is on our 80th address listing. I am sure Grace would appreciate hearing from his friends who were in the service with him.

January 28th, I received a letter from Jim Phillips. Jim had received a letter this month from James Lewis's daughter informing him that Mr. Lewis had passed away on September 27th of last year. She also stated that Mr. Lewis's wife had also passed away some time ago in December of 2006. She expressed to Jim that she waited until after the holidays to write him. If you would like to acknowledge his and his wife's passing to his daughter, I have listed her address on our address listing. Her name is Karen Meyer. Mr. Lewis was a member of the "A" Btry 313th FA Bn, 80th Infantry Division.

I am waiting for your calls or letters on any news you would want me to write about in my report. I have tried to call several of you and find that either the phones have been disconnected or you have a new one, please keep me informed so that I may update our address listing.

Frances E. Poletti
203-855-1928

Oral History Project

In the last issue of the Blue Ridge, I offered a challenge titled, "80th Division – Generational Project #1: Oral History Project." Several people have been in contact with us regarding this project and thought it was an excellent idea. We want to continue encouraging veterans to work with their children and grandchildren to record their experiences during the war. Bruce Smith, Historian for the 80th Division Veterans Association, also issues a challenge in this issue for veterans to preserve history.

Many of you may ask, "Why is this important?" and "Who would want to know?" While it is important to know about the battles and the strategies, those have already been recorded by historians. We read about the Crossing of the Moselle River, the Battle of the Bulge, and the liberation of Buchenwald. But, these are typically written from a historical viewpoint. We're interested in the details of your story – what you did during the war.

I offered a step-by-step procedure for conducting the interview and some sample questions in the article. This should provide you with an outline of writing your story. I thought it would be a good idea to include your son or daughter or grandchild for this project; after all, kids in school often look for history projects, and this is a great start. Let's see how many oral histories we can receive by the annual reunion in August.

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WWII VET HONORED CONTINUED:

Until he was diagnosed with cancer, Mr. Dunnaway never discussed his Army service. His was a typical reaction; not many Veterans talked about the atrocities they witnessed nor the hard times they experienced during the War. At one time when his granddaughter, Emily Smullen Allen, was in grade school, he allowed her to see the medals he had received, so she took them to her school library to research what each meant. When she tried to return the medals, he told her she could keep them, so she placed them in a fireproof safe, and from that early age, was determined to obtain all the others that her grandfather had earned. Emily was told that all the records were destroyed. It wasn't until her grandfather passed away, on her thirtieth birthday, that she renewed her efforts to see that he was officially recognized. Military honors at his funeral spurred her to pursue her objective.

Victor Muller, brother of an 80th Soldier who was KIA, had been successful in having his brother's records reconstructed a few years ago, and since then, he has offered assistance to several other families who have attempted to do the same with their Veterans' records. With Vic's help, Emily was able to obtain the requisite documentation and replacement medals. The 80th Division Veterans Association, through the auspices of Second Vice Commander, Lee S. Anthony, had the medals and other memorabilia mounted in a shadow box for presentation to the Dunnaway family.

The following awards were encased in the shadow box: the Combat Infantryman Badge; the Silver Star Medal for Heroism; the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service; the Good Conduct Medal; the American Campaign Medal; the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four bronze stars for action in Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace (Battle of the Bulge) and Central Europe; the World War II Victory Medal; the Army of Occupation Medal for Germany; the Sharpshooters Badge with Rifle Bar; the Distinguished Unit Badge (currently the Presidential Unit Citation Badge). Other personal memorabilia were also included.

The question of when and where to present the medals was addressed by Headquarters personnel of the 80th Training Command, Richmond, VA. Each year, the organization holds a Leadership Conference for the Command at the Virginia Beach Conference Center, and a special time was reserved during those activities on January 30th, 2010, so that MG John P. McLaren, Jr., Commander of the 80th Training Command (TASS) could make the presentation to the family. The Public Affairs Office of the Command was instrumental in arranging the very special service. MAJ Melissa Tune acted as emcee. She gave a brief overview of Jesse Dunnaway's service and his rank, citing that, although

he was a TEC 5, he accepted the responsibilities of much higher ranking officers in carrying out his duties. She then read the citation for which Mr. Dunnaway received the Silver Star. Nearly 250 soldiers, representing all of the units under the 80th TASS, were brought to attention for the presentation. Also participating in the arrangements were LTC Grant Porter, LTC Kelly Niernberger, SSG Anne Lewis and SGT Travis Edwards.

MG McLaren addressed the audience and indicated that the service of the Soldiers of the 80th should be remembered, and in particular, the extraordinary service of men like TEC 5 Dunnaway. He said it was an honor for the current 80th personnel to recognize someone who was a part of the legacy of the Division.

Emily Allen then moved to the podium, to outline her quest for recognition for her grandfather. Her poised and dignified manner were highly praised by those in attendance, and throughout the remainder of the day as soldiers approached her in the hallways to offer congratulations and thanks for her efforts.

Snow storms in the mid-Atlantic region prevented many of the invitees from attending the service, but on hand to accept the posthumous honors were the Veteran's daughter, Judy Dunnaway Smullen of Gladys, VA, and his granddaughter, Emily Smullen Allen of Rustburg, VA. Also attending were another granddaughter, Tabitha Keatts, her husband, Scott, and son, Nicholas, of Evington, VA. The family members were invited to participate in the evening dinner and awards ceremonies for the Command.

Several members of 80th Division Veterans Association were also scheduled to attend the ceremony. However, the inclement weather forced cancellation of those plans. The Dunnaway family has expressed an interest in attending the Annual Reunion in Arlington in August, so soldier Dunnaway's comrades will have another opportunity to recognize his contributions to the 80th Division.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Anne Lewis

Samuel A. Alle, L-317 Med Det
2300 McKinney Lake Rd, #312
Grand Rapids, MI 55744-4374
DOD: 2/15/2010
Rptd by his wife, Shirley

Balas, John G., L-319
9428 S. Richmond St
Evergreen Park, IL 60805
DOD: 1/31/2010
Rptd by his son, Jack

Brewton, Oneal, B-318
111 Village Way
Crockett, TX 75835
DOD: 12/1/2009
Rptd by his wife, Odessa

Conrad, William, AT-318
PO Box 332
Claude, TX 79019
DOD: 9/18/2009
Rptd by his wife, Treva

Fowler, Keith E., 80th QM
26206 Willow Street
Brooksville, FL 34601
DOD: August 2004
Rptd by his son, Walter

Gould, Jack H., Sv-319
3605 Island Club Drive, Apt 2
North Port, FL 34288
DOD: 1/21/2010
Rptd by his wife, Ira

Greenlee, Joseph C., Maj (ret), I-318
10618 Parkview Circle
El Paso, TX 79935
DOD: 2/13/2009
Rptd by his wife

Guin, Grady R., I-317
1002 Orchard Rd
Jasper, AL 35501
DOD: 12/03/2009
Rptd by his wife, Lois

Hanright, Robert A., K-319
108 Lakeshore Drive #841
North Palm Beach, FL 33408
DOD: 12/21/2009
Rptd by his wife, Mary

Higgins, James J., 80th MP
1101 Main Street, NE, #501
Minneapolis, MN 55413
DOD: 11/14/2009
Rptd by his wife, Helen

Koch, Charles, G-317
2031 Haviland Rd
Columbus, OH 43220
DOD: 10/30/2008
Rptd by his son-in-law, Bob Dotter

Laughlin, Howard J., L-319
PO Box 220
Wausa, NE 68786
DOD: 9/1/2009
Rptd by his daughter, Pat Weberg

Lewis, James F., A-313th FA Bn
31 Kreider Ave
Lancaster, PA 17601
DOD: 9/27/2009
Rptd by his daughter, Karen Meyer

Perkins, Roland G., H-317
21770 Ringgold Southern Road
Circleville, OH 43113
DOD: 9/14/2009
Rptd by Walt Spangler

Popp, George, B-317
Latrobe, PA
DOD: 12/11/2009
Rptd by Albert Cresson

Sandefur, Walter L., F-318
47 Nichols Drive
Fort Valley, GA 31030
DOD: 6/25/2009
Rptd by his daughter,
Deborah Spearman

Singley, Walter H., G-318
DOD: 12/17/2009
Rptd by Abe Barrone

Stepansky, William, MD, 305 Med Bn
11220 Shannondell Drive #220
Audubon, PA 19403-5600
DOD: November 2008
Rptd by his son, Robert

Viviano, Dr. Paul P.,
MedDet-313th FA Bn
4755 39th Pl, Apt 2G
Long Island City, NY 11104-4419
DOD: 1/16/2010
Rptd by his wife, Grace

Weakland, Fred, MedDet-317th
DOD: June 2009
Rptd by his son, Jared

Call for Help – GENERAL ORDERS

We are constantly looking for 80th Division documents, such as *General Orders*, *After Action Reports*, and *Unit Histories*. I have already digitized many of these and placed them on the Internet on the 80th Division website: www.80thdivision.com. I know there are many more out there and yes, I know they are probably located at the National Archives. However, in my research and correspondence, I know that many veterans made copies of their own unit histories and General Orders of their service and their units.

If you have these types of documents in your possession, would you be willing to share such documents with us? Simply make copies of them and mail them to the National Secretary (Andy Adkins) or the 80th Historian (Bruce Smith). We are trying to gather as many of these documents as possible.

I have many of the 80th Division General Orders that list those men who received awards (Silver Star, Bronze Star, Air Medal, Purple Heart), but I am missing many more. Those that I have are on the website and they are invaluable to veterans and their children looking for information. If you have any question about these documents, please do not hesitate to contact either me or Bruce Smith.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

80th Division Veterans Association
ATTN: Andrew Z. Adkins III
2121 NW 54th Terrace
Gainesville, FL 32605-3392

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322 Carolyn Avenue
Latrobe, PA 15650-1012

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3131 Pleasant Avenue
Hamilton, OH 45015-1740

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POST #36**

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4656 McNeil Ave.,
Cincinnati OH 45212-2541
(513) 631-0031

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Secretary*

FLORIDA POST #47

George Bell, COMMANDER

*Francis Rajnicek
SECRETARY*
215 Bill Allen Circle, W
Sebastian, FL 32958

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80TH DIVISION MONUMENTS: Sacrifice Field, Fort Benning, Georgia (left) and Heritage Trail at the Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Care to share your story?

Send it to:

Andrew Z. Adkins III
Secretary/Editor
80th Division Veterans Association
2121 N.W. 54th Terrace
Gainesville, FL 32605-3392

Visit the 80th Division Veterans Association Site on the Internet: www.80thdivision.com

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