

BLUE RIDGE



THE SERVICE MAGAZINE

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Former 80th Division Commander MG(R) James G. Browder, Jr. Passes

BROWDER, James G. Jr. “Jamie,” retired Major General of the 80th Division (TNG), passed away suddenly on October 2, 2013. Jamie received his Bachelor of Science in civil engineering in 1966 from VMI and continued to support VMI as an active alumnus. In 1996, as a professional engineer, he became the chief engineer of the Virginia Department of Transportation. He had 34 years of dedicated service before retiring. Although he retired from the military and VDOT, he continued to work as a principal and member of the Board of Directors for Belstar, Inc., an engineering firm headquartered in Fairfax, Va. After retirement, Jamie and Doma, his wife of 47 years, enjoyed spending their free time with their seven grandchildren and traveling the world with close friends. Jamie also enjoyed hunting and spending time with the Whitetail Rivers Hunt Club where he was recently elected president.

His parents, James G. Browder and Elsie Browder Lassiter, preceded him in death. Jamie is survived by wife, Doma; three children, Danielle McElroy (Russell), Anita Bailie (Brian) and Jim Browder (Erica); and grandchildren, Hunter, Cassidy, Jamie-Marie, Maisie, Wesley, Cole and Gavin. Jamie is also survived by brother, Andy; and sister, Cheryl Pulley; as well as nieces, Shana and Lee-Ann; nephew, Douglas; and many great-nieces and great-nephews. Visitation will be held at Bliley’s-Central, 3801 Augusta Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230 on Saturday, October 5, 2013, from 4 to 8 p.m. Services will be held at Shady Grove United Methodist Church, 4825 Pouncey Tract Road, Glen Allen, Va. 23059 on Monday, October 7, 2013, at 10 a.m. Military interment will occur at Crestview Memorial Park, 18599 Highway One North, Lacrosse, Va. 23950 at 2 p.m. the same day.

The family requests, in lieu of flowers, that donations be made to either of the following organizations: The Clinic for Special Children, 535 Bunker Hill Rd., P.O. Box 128, Strasburg, Penn. 17579 or the Virginia Military Institute KEYDET Club.

It's hard to believe that Christmas is in just a few weeks. Most likely when you receive this edition of the 80th Blue Ridge Service Magazine it will have come and gone and you may already be taking down your decorations. I hope that during your time of celebration that you did not forget the real reason for this season. Jesus Christ was born for all of us regardless of who you are or where you live, the color of your skin or what religion you choose to be. I know that many of you are getting more miles on yourself than others and I pray that you did have some family come by to reflect on all the good times you had while your children were younger and remember family traditions. I also hope that you were able to take time to remember all of our comrades past and present and maybe reconnect with some of them.

Speaking of reconnecting, The 80th Division Veterans Association is a wonderful means to stay connected with each other. If you know of someone that is not a member please encourage them to join. The annual reunions are

a great time to catch up and the quarterly magazine is a way to stay in touch. I want articles from all of you to publish. We love hearing about each other and what we have been doing.

Now that winter is here, be very careful when going outside. Walkways, parking lots, and streets are very slippery at times and I don't want to hear of any of you falling and getting hurt. Also, get someone to clear your walkways and put some salt down. You might also need to get them to cut a low hanging limb or bring plants inside. Whatever it is, ask for help if you need.

Please look at your mailing information on the back of the magazine. If it does not show LIFE or 2014, you are very close to being behind in your dues. The Constitution states that members will be dropped from the mailing if they become three years in arrears with their dues

GOD bless each of you and remember the 80th "Only Moves Forward"!!



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BG Torres



Daniel Kline,
80th Division 315th



The Doolittle Raiders

From Around the Web

Here are some stories we found on the internet that might be of interest to Blue Ridgers:

“Myron Becker Receives French Legion of Honor” by Abby Weingarten, published in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. WWII veteran, Myron Becker (C Company, 318th Infantry Regiment, 80th Infantry Division), was appointed a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor by President Hollande of France in May, 2013. In the article, Becker describes some of his time in France in 1943-44.

Full story at: <http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20130719/ARTICLE/130719593/0/search>

“World War II rifleman’s widow gets his long overdue Purple Heart”

Full story at: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2013/mar/18/world-war-ii-riflemans-widow-gets-his-long-heart/>

“WWII reunions poignant for dwindling veterans” by Dan Sewell | Associated Press, November 11, 2013

Full story at: <http://www.bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2013/11/11/wwii-reunions-poignant-for-dwindling-veterans/uwQVYXVd1R5amCUj4LQCDI/story.html>

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

MG(R) John McLaren, COMMANDER



Members of the 80th Division Veterans Association, welcome to the New Year! The dawn of a new year means a new beginning. The dawn of 2014 marks the start of a momentous year for us all!

Thank you to our veterans, family and friends. Your continued support of the 80th Division Veterans Association can make us one of the premier Veterans Service Organizations in the United States of America. My special thanks to those who have headed the drive to help strengthen our organization with a monetary gift to the cause of rebuilding our treasury!

This year we celebrate the 95th anniversary of our creation as a veteran's organization. The service of our ancestors in WWI was defining for the 80th Division. Our motto changed from being the "Strength of the Mountains" to the being the Division that was known as the unit that "Only Moves Forward!" What a marvelous legacy for any Soldier to emulate. Those first members of the 80th Division set a standard for future generations to live up to that made us all strive to be our best, in peace and in war.

We are about to celebrate the 70th year since the 80th Division Veterans of WWII landed in France. That year in combat raised the bar for heroism and bravery in the United States Army. We must never forget your contribution to liberty and freedom across the globe. Your service was remarkable and is well remembered by the citizens of Europe – those who were liberated from the depths of oppression the likes of which the world had never seen before.

The veterans of the 80th that served during the height of the Cold War can celebrate in the knowledge they kept the world free from the oppression of Communism. The task of defending democracy was daunting, but necessary. Only you stood between the Red Hordes and the free peoples of the world for over fifty years.

Our veterans of today's War on Terror can celebrate the drawdown of combat forces from Afghanistan and over two years since the end of our combat involvement in Iraq. We must never forget the courage and commitment of our brothers who served with distinction in the United States and across the globe in this war unlike any

we have seen in our lifetimes. Your valor and fidelity have not gone unnoticed.

We, all who have served, can never say thank you enough to our family and friends as you stood by us during our deployments. You are the reason for our service. You are each the meaning of our courage and faith in the face of adversity. You helped to define the reasons for our service. Thank you for your steadfast support and understanding of our special challenges as we return from our service.

This is going to be a great year for the 80th Division Veterans Association. We will introduce a program to honor those who have served with memorial bricks to be placed at the monuments at Fort Benning, the 80th Headquarters in Richmond, Virginia and at Carlisle Pennsylvania. Stay tuned for more information on this program to honor our veterans and help our organization flourish in the future.

I am proud to be your national commander! We have a bright future based upon the strength of our past. I can think of no other organization that I would want to lead. Your service and support will ensure that we maintain the motto –Only Moves Forward!

*Holiday Greeting to Blue Ridge friends & family,
and to all those serving overseas and their loved ones.*

A Message from the Senior Vice-Commander



Time marches on. Seems like we only just left Virginia Beach and now we're hoping everyone had a **Merry Christmas** - and if anyone is *offended* by that, well, get over it.

The **95th Reunion** moves closer, and as always you all will be receiving your registration material sometime in the spring.

I would like to alert everyone to a few changes from previous years.

Firstly, the raffle this year will be a 50/50 raffle where in the

past we have offered a set number of prizes - in recent years four tickets would win \$250 each. Ticket sales have declined, and frankly we just can't go in the red on this, so the 50/50 seems like the best solution. The bad news then is that we might not be giving away the \$1000 we have been, but the good news is we *might* be giving away more. It's all up to you. The prize amount will remain \$250, and as many awarded as receipts will allow. Remember, you do not have to be present to win.

Secondly, we have had numerous post-reunion requests lately for copies of the program book. I hope that that will hold true for this year's **70th Anniversary** book, and will be adding a line on the form that will allow anyone who is unable to attend but would like one to place an advance order for it. A single copy will be priced at \$6.50, including mailing, and any number of additional copies at \$5.00 each. All registered attendees will all receive a book at check-in as always. Pre-ordered copies will be mailed immediately after the Reunion.

Thirdly, I would like to encourage as many of you as possible to take advantage of the Patron Listing, particularly those who will be attending. The list is increasingly important for attendees to learn the names of others they may not know, and quickly locate those they do.

Fourth, I am going to ask that **everyone** who receives a packet **reply** whether you **plan to attend or not**, or if you are not otherwise purchasing raffle tickets, programs, listings, or ads, in order to update our member records. I will be asking all of you to confirm your current address, provide a snowbird address if you have one, your email address (or that of someone who can receive email for you if necessary) and your phone number. Things happen, and we want to be sure to have current information on everyone. And, yeah, we might call asking for money.

Fifth, the McBride Fund. The management has discussed and agreed that we will **no longer** receive donations for the McBride Fund, and will ask that any donations or bequests you might wish to make be made instead directly to the 80th Division Veterans Association. Anyone preferring to make a contribution to the McBride Fund may contact us for the address of the bank that administers the fund, and remit directly to the bank.

Sixth, I don't believe it is generally known that as of our last meeting at Virginia Beach the Ladies Auxiliary has ceased to exist. The traditional *Hospital Table* will continue under the oversight of a committee appointed annually, and at present to be chaired by the wife of the reunion chairman. Seems workable for the moment, but there are a couple of caveats that may have to be addressed at some point. Donations of items to be raffled are encouraged and appreciated. The Ladies Luncheon will no longer be a scheduled

event, so there will be some "free time" on Friday and I encourage everyone to get out and see the sights!

Lastly, the matter of registrations for families has been addressed elsewhere, but I don't believe has been resolved, so I propose to resolve it if only temporarily for the 2014 Reunion: minor children in the company of a registered parent or parents will not be charged to register, but we will need identity information on them to provide name tags (and I will say here that they will want a name tag!). Meals and the tour will be charged at the full rate since that is the basis on which we are billed. If that truly presents a problem for anyone, contact me and we can discuss it; young children will be an obvious exception. For anyone wishing to attend *only* the Saturday night dinner, the full registration will be waived, and a fee of \$10 assessed in addition to the cost of the meal.

Enjoy the season; be safe, and don't do anything I wouldn't do, or if you do try not to get caught.

Jeff Wignall, Sr. Vice-Commander



Somehow it seems I was editorially cut from what was to have been my initial appearance in the Fall issue of the Blue Ridge. For those of you who may have wondered who the "little guy" was that you were asked to locate, that would be me, known around Hagerstown as "Little Heiskel."

Once upon a time I was the enemy. A bunch of us Hessians were hired by the British to help them whip George Washington and his ragtag army. Well, we got the whippin' - I guess you know that - and when the smoke cleared, several of us realized that this United States of America had a lot more to offer us than Hess and such places so came out here to the edge of the wilderness to start a new life as Americans. Most all the others are gone now, but they keep me around as a mascot just to keep an eye on things.

And in 200 plus years, I've seen a lot around here. There was that business down to Sharpsburg - that you all will be hearing more about - and later the Rebs came through here and threatened to burn us out. Just south is Harper's Ferry where John Brown tried to start the war by himself a few years earlier.

Just a **hundred years ago**, war broke out in Europe that would inflame the world, and three years later about 24,000 of you Blue Ridgers went off to Europe to help put an end to it. They didn't call it World War I then - nobody imagined there could be another - but **70 years ago** the Blue Ridgers were back in France to do it all again, and we here at home were doing what we could to help.

I understand the Blue Ridgers have been gathering every year since the end of the War to End All Wars to remember those who went off to fight the nation's wars - and those who continue to the present day. Many never returned, and many others returned with injuries, some visible and others not. This year marks the **95th** gathering and will be held here in Hagerstown. Let me be the first to welcome you to our city, and I'll hope you'll take some time to get downtown and look me up for a walking tour.

ff

80th Training Command's Newest General Officer: Brigadier General Richard J. Torres

When the 82nd Airborne Division and Special Forces Soldiers parachuted to the ground at Fort Bragg N.C., Richard J. Torres knew he wanted nothing more than to join the Army.

Torres is part of a military family rich in tradition which started when his grandfather Jesus joined the Army from Puerto Rico during WWII. His dad, now deceased, was a retired master sergeant who served in the Korean War, and his sister Joan Williams is a retired Army colonel.

"You do what you know. A child of a doctor will probably be a doctor, and that was how it was with me," said Torres, who joined the Army in 1981 and received his commission a year later. "All I knew was the Army. It was all around me. It was always there, and I was always impressed by it."

After 30 years of service Torres was transitioning into retirement as a colonel and had given up hopes of becoming a general.

"This past New Year, my wife and I had reluctantly celebrated my retirement," Torres said. "I had accepted my situation and began the New Year as a civilian by packing boxes and throwing out old Army documents and presentations, and my wife began the process of planning for my retirement party."

"I even started working out differently, and believed that this was the start of a new life," he added.

Then he received a call from the Army Reserve telling him that he was recommended for promotion to general. He said he was stunned because he thought the call was to tell him that he was officially being taken off the general officer waiting list. Torres was promoted to brigadier general in the Army Reserve during a ceremony in his home town of Raleigh, N.C., Aug. 24, 2013.

Maj. Gen. Bill Gerety, commander 80th Training Command (TASS), hosted the ceremony and Maj. Gen. John

McLaren, Jr., the former 80th TC commander, administered the oath and issued Torres his special equipment.

"This is the grade where you are asked to make decisions, have vision for your organization, and to make contributions that will affect our nation for many years after your retirement," McLaren said in his speech during the ceremony at the North Carolina National Guard and NC State EOC Joint Facility, Raleigh, N.C.

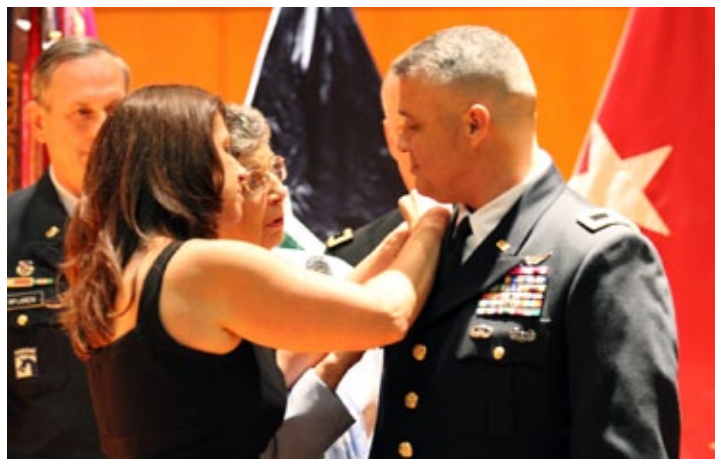
Torres' wife Stacey and his mother Judith Torres, fastened the one-star shoulder boards to his uniform and his daughters Chelsea and Blair, presented him with a general officer's belt and beret. Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Hilliard, Torres's first command sergeant major, and his son, Joseph unfurled a one-star flag which they presented to the new brigadier general whose official promotion date is Aug. 1, 2013.

Williams and Margaret Jones, Torres' sisters, presented him with a framed replica of a general officer pistol. The same framed pistol Torres presented to their father during his retirement ceremony.

"My dad served 20 years in some of the roughest assignments," Torres said. "I got that pistol for him to recognize his service and it is symbolic of him and who he was."

Torres also paid homage during the ceremony to his grandfather who earned a second Purple Heart when he was killed in action during the North African Campaign while serving with the 1st Infantry Division.

"For me personally, it's an opportunity to continue the service that my grandfather started when he joined the Army," said Torres who's been the 80th Training Command's deputy commander since May 25, 2013. "To be able to continue what he gave his life for. To let them know their son, [and] their grandson is doing his part to serve this great country and continue their legacy."



LEFT: MG(R) McLaren administers oath to BG Torres. RIGHT: Torres' wife, Stacey, and his mother, Judith fasten the rank to his uniform.

Photo by: Staff Sgt. Emily Anderson, 80th Training Command Public Affairs

A Son Reflects on His Father

Steve Kline, Norwood, PA 80th Division Member

Daniel Kline T-5 Corporal 80th Division 315th Field Artillery Battery B 3rd Army Battle of The Bulge, was born in Shamokin Pa on March 09 1915. His father, Howard was a coal miner who passed away in his late forties from Black Lung. He grew up in the Shamokin area working different jobs and driving a coal truck. His sisters moved and lived in Prospect Park, PA where one of them worked in a bakery with Agnes Blythe. They invited Dad down and he met my mother Agnes in the Prospect Park Bakery. They were married April 4th 1942. Dad worked different jobs including bread man and rolling mill operator at a wire factory.

He left for the Army in July 1942 from Norwood Train Station and began training at Camp Forrest in Tullahoma, Tennessee, with training stops in Arizona and Fort Dix New Jersey before being deployed to World War II with the 80th Division. He was in south east France with General George Patton's 3rd Army who were pushing the Germans more than 500 miles across France and approaching the Moselle River. Within striking distance of Germany, they ran out of fuel and stalled their advance. At this time the 4th armored division of Patton is forced to sit idle. Using the Moselle River as a defense line, Hitler launches a massive counter attack with tanks, including panzers and tiger tanks of the 5th Panzer Army with 86 Tanks and assault guns of two Armored Brigades against 25 medium Sherman Tanks and 7 tank destroyers. 18 September 1944 the Battle of Arracourt begins. Against German expectations, due in part to poor tactics and the terrain, the Fourth Army and superior fighting by Third Army with tactical air forces defeated two panzer brigades and elements of two panzer divisions on 29 Sept 1944. This was the biggest Tank Battle of WW 2. Fighting continues and on Dec 16th 1944 German tanks roll into The Ardennes Forrest of Belgium and attack American lines in one last desperate attempt to capture Belgium and move onto France and the ports of the North Sea.

Armies have fought here since Roman times and on 16 Dec 1944, it erupts again in the biggest clash of WW 2. Thousands of tanks, men and armored vehicles along an eighty five mile front attack the Americans along German borders, Luxembourg and France. The Germans assemble over 1700 armored vehicles including hundreds of tiger tanks and other armored vehicles secretly mustered over eight weeks and catch the Americans off guard on this foggy cold morning. The Battle of the Bulge begins. Fighting continues as the 3rd Army of General Patton turns north and covers one hundred sixty miles in the fastest movement in the history of war to help with heavy fighting in and around Bastogne.

As they reach Luxembough my father, who pulled a 155 mm Howitzer unit sets up there with his unit guns in Mertzig Luxembourg while helping with the firing of the gun, the recoil caused lanyard to come down on his foot breaking it badly. After recuperating in a field Hospital, 55th GH 4176 USAH. On Jan 12 1945 the Battle of the Bulge, the largest battle on the western front ends which was the turning point of the war in Europe. With heavy casualties, including more than 90,000 German dead or wounded and more than 20,000 Americans die and 50,000 wounded. Dad received a Purple Heart and rejoined his Unit in the Spring of 1945 and entered into Germany in the early summer.

At the end of World War II they helped to liberate many towns along the way. He was honorably discharged in Dec 1945 and came home to raise a family with Mom including Danny who was a corpman in Vietnam who also received a Purple Heart, Kathy, Chuck and me. I joined the marines in 1977. He never ate spam again and didn't want it in house. He worked well into his seventies and he passed away on Sep. 9 2004 at eighty-nine years old. I wanted to share this story because I'm proud of all the soldiers who helped with the peace of our country and like the 80th Division may we always "Only move forward."



Only Moving Forward: Our Stay in the U.K.

Walter Barthold, 80th Signal Company

We who joined the 80th in the States remember the three weeks or so that the division spent in England. It comes back as an period of relative tranquility in preparation for crossing the English Channel and enduring the brutality of combat on the Continent.

The original Queen Mary brought us to Greenoch, the port of Glasgow, Scotland, on or about July 8, 1944. As we disembarked from one end of the ship, German PW's were being loaded on at the other. I recall how strange it felt to walk on firm ground after the stormy last full day of our voyage across the Atlantic.

Trucks took us to the Glasgow railroad station, where we were seated in passenger cars of the London, Scottish and Midlands Railroad. We were given a welcoming speech over a loudspeaker by a British general. We were treated also to a musical march up and down the station platform by a Scottish band, complete with kilts, bagpipes and all.

The train headed south and took us through Scottish and northern English countryside of breathtaking beauty. Our destination was Northwich, a town in the county of Cheshire. The 80th Signal Company, my outfit, was quartered in Pettypool Manor, an estate outside of Northwich. It had previously housed British commandos. I recall that their obstacle course, still standing, made us feel like little boys who had come upon a grown-ups' playground. Its various tests were far beyond our capacity to traverse.

Our principal activity at Pettypool Manor was getting re-outfitted. We were given, new vehicles, new weapons and new equipment, including, for the radio section of the Signal Company, new SCR 193 transmitters and receivers. I recall that the brand-new carbine issued to me had been manufactured by a company that in the civilian economy had made juke boxes. I carried that gun until the end of the war.

We were, in addition, surprised by the issuance of new underwear, olive drab (OD) in color rather than the Army's standard white. It was explained to us that white garments hung up to dry out in the open would be visible to enemy aircraft.

With rare exceptions, our evenings were free. Often I took a walk into Northwich, where there was not much doing. A better time could be had by availing oneself of a truck ride into Chester, a city that in the States would be called the county seat. It had movie theatres, pubs, dance halls and the ruins of a Roman wall. The local population was friendly to us "Yanks," and, with the male population all but unanimously on duty in uniform elsewhere, feminine companionship was not hard to come by.

Our encounters with the British might be called a cultural

shock, but I found nothing shocking about our experiences in England. Money was only a bit of a problem. Great Britain today is long accustomed to decimal currency, but in 1944 the medium of exchange was still pounds, shillings and pence, which we at first found difficult to deal with. A pleasant surprise that stands out in my memory was the deliciousness of British chocolate. We Americans were accustomed to Hershey bars, which were, and still are good, but they did not come close to comparing with what we enjoyed over there.

The roads were something of a problem. Our jeeps and trucks were of course made for driving on the right side of the road, that is, with the steering wheel on the left. This meant that the driver of a U.S. Army vehicle on the left side of the road, as was and still is the practice in Great Britain, could not give a hand signal, the only kind possible back then, before making a right turn. Small signs at the rear of our vehicles warned followers to expect the absence of this indication.

The language, too, had its occasionally puzzling aspects. Just as one of many possible examples, to the English "knocking someone up" meant, at least in those days, giving him or her a phone call. To us, it had quite another meaning. It will be easy for the reader to imagine the misunderstandings and mirth that this distinction gave rise to.

The time came, as we knew it must, to hit the road to the real war. At the end of July, we set out by truck convoy for the Channel. The trip had its complexities. Back in 1940, when the British were preparing for a possible German invasion, road signs had been taken down in order to confuse the enemy. By 1944 they had still not been restored.

For this and other reasons, stops along the way were frequent. I recall that every time our convoy halted for more than a few minutes, out from at least one, usually several house along the road would come a middle-aged or elderly lady carrying a steaming tea kettle. Not many Americans in those days were tea drinkers, but we nevertheless got out our canteen cups and gratefully enjoyed the thoughtful refreshment.

Every such encounter brought a revelation from the server. She invariably had a husband, son or brother on duty somewhere or other. Sad to say, I remember one woman telling me, "I lost my brother in North Africa." These episodes, along with many others, showed how much our part in the struggle against a common foe was appreciated in the United Kingdom.

[continued on page 10](#)

The Jimmy Doolittle Raiders/WWII

An amazing true story of courage and patriotism that all Americans should know about.

Submitted by: Judy Bezjak

On Tuesday (Aug 2013), in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, the surviving Doolittle Raiders gathered publicly for the last time.

They once were among the most universally admired and revered men in the United States. There were 80 of the Raiders in April 1942, when they carried out one of the most courageous and heart-stirring military operations in this nation's history. The mere mention of their unit's name, in those years, would bring tears to the eyes of grateful Americans

Now, only four survive.

After Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, with the United States reeling and wounded something dramatic was needed to turn the war effort around.

Even though there were no friendly airfields close enough to Japan for the United States to launch a retaliation, a daring plan was devised. Sixteen B-25s were modified so that they could take off from the deck of an aircraft carrier. This had never before been tried—sending such big, heavy bombers from a carrier.

The 16 five-man crews, under the command of Lt. Col. James Doolittle, who himself flew the lead plane off the USS Hornet, knew that they would not be able to return to the carrier. They would have to hit Japan and then hope to make it to China for a safe landing.

But on the day of the raid, the Japanese military caught wind of the plan. The Raiders were told that they would have to take off from much farther out in the Pacific Ocean than they had counted on. They were told that because of this they would not have enough fuel to make it to safety.

And those men went anyway.

They bombed Tokyo, and then flew as far as they could. Four planes crash-landed; 11 more crews bailed out, and three of the Raiders died. Eight more were captured; three were executed. Another died of starvation in a Japanese prison camp. One crew made it to Russia

The Doolittle Raid sent a message from the United States to its enemies, and to the rest of the world: We will fight. And, no matter what it takes, we will win.

Of the 80 Raiders, 62 survived the war. They were celebrated as national heroes, models of bravery. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer produced a motion picture based on the raid: *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo*, starring Spencer Tracy and Van Johnson, was a patriotic and emotional box-office hit, and the phrase became part of the national lexicon. In the movie-theater previews for the film, MGM proclaimed



that it was presenting the story “with supreme pride.”

Beginning in 1946, the surviving Raiders have held a reunion each April, to commemorate the mission. The reunion is in a different city each year. In 1959, the city of Tucson, Arizona, as a gesture of respect and gratitude, presented the Doolittle Raiders with a set of 80 silver goblets. Each goblet was engraved with the name of a Raider

Every year, a wooden display case bearing all 80 goblets is transported to the reunion city. Each time a Raider passes away, his goblet is turned upside down in the case at the next reunion, as his old friends bear solemn witness.

Also in the wooden case is a bottle of 1896 Hennessy Very Special cognac. The year is not happenstance: 1896 was when Jimmy Doolittle was born.

There has always been a plan: When there are only two surviving Raiders, they would open the bottle, at last drink from it, and toast their comrades who preceded them in death.

As 2013 began, there were five living Raiders; then, in February, Tom Griffin passed away at age 96.

What a man he was. After bailing out of his plane over a mountainous Chinese forest after the Tokyo raid, he became ill with malaria, and almost died. When he recovered, he was sent to Europe to fly more combat missions. He was shot down, captured, and spent 22 months in a German prisoner of war camp

The selflessness of these men, the sheer guts ... there was a passage in the Cincinnati Enquirer obituary for Mr. Griffin that, on the surface, had nothing to do with the war,

[continued on page 10](#)

From the Historian's Corner

By: Lee S. Anthony, PhD, PNC & Historian

We continue to receive inquiries from family members of WWII veterans. Unfortunately, in many cases, the veteran is deceased and the family does not know which unit their ancestor was attached to. We are in the process of hopefully obtaining a roster of WWII 80th personnel. If successful, this will make the process much easier.

At this point, the nearest of kin of a deceased veteran can contact NARA; a form SF180 would be filled out by the next of kin and sent to NARA for processing. NARA's contact information can be found on the web; they may be contacted by telephone at 1(866)272-6272 or via their website: www.archives.gov.

When the unit affiliation of the veteran is known, the morning reports which are accessible on the 80th Division website, are quite helpful. We have previously mentioned the availability of WWII unit histories as published by Bob Murrell. Bob's address is: divinf801@verizon.net.

For those interested in WWI, a CD of the Stultz/Kreble is available through Terry James' website. In addition, a second printing of the Stultz/Anthony hardcopy is anticipated in the near future.

Recent activities have included luncheons with Post 50 in Richmond and unfortunately funeral services for members of the 80th Division family.

We are still receiving material for the 80th museum. We may follow the lead of the 29th Division as they enhance their modest museum. They are starting a very large fund drive for this purpose.

Our National Commander, MG John McLaren and Bill Black, 3rd Vice Commander are working on a fundraising project regarding the sale of commemorative bricks.

We are still hearing from our friends overseas in France and Luxembourg, I hope that we can get a good attendance at Memorial Day in Luxembourg Friends' Activities this year.

DONATIONS

The last date I have entered a name is December 1, 2013

Arlin Barden – In Memory of Carl R. Miller, Jr
Doug Knorr – General Fund
MG(R) John McLaren – In Memory of MG(R) James Browder
Vic Muller – In Memory of PFC Joseph Muller, Brother
Ruth Phillips – In Honor of PNC James Phillips
David & Fran Poletti – In Memory of Edward Poletti
Robert Westbrook – In Honor of 80th Div Signal Co
CSM(R) Doris Wollett – In Memory of MG(R) James Browder
Paul Zakel – In Honor of L-317

ONLY MOVING FORWARD continued from page 8

We finally reached Southampton, a city on the Channel. I was astonished to see that it had been totally flattened by German bombing and shelling. On the night of August 1 we set sail for Normandy. That terminated our stay on British soil but, at least in my case, did not end the memories of a brief, largely pleasant interlude in the role of the 80th Infantry Division in World War II.

JIMMY DOOLITTLE RAIDERS continued from page 9

but that emblemizes the depth of his sense of duty and devotion: "When his wife became ill and needed to go into a nursing home, he visited her every day. He walked from his house to the nursing home, fed his wife and at the end of the day brought home her clothes. At night, he washed and ironed her clothes. Then he walked them up to her room the next morning. He did that for three years until her death in 2005."

So now, out of the original 80, only four Raiders remain: Dick Cole (Doolittle's co-pilot on the Tokyo raid), Robert Hite, Edward Saylor and David Thatcher. All are in their 90s. They have decided that there are too few of them for the public reunions to continue.

The events in Fort Walton Beach this week will mark the end. It has come full circle; Florida's nearby Eglin Field was where the Raiders trained in secrecy for the Tokyo mission. The town is planning to do all it can to honor the men: a six-day celebration of their valor, including luncheons, a dinner and a parade.

Do the men ever wonder if those of us for whom they helped save the country have tended to it in a way that is worthy of their sacrifice? They don't talk about that, at least not around other people. But if you find yourself near Fort Walton Beach this week, and if you should encounter any of the Raiders, you might want to offer them a word of thanks. I can tell you from first hand observation that they appreciate hearing that they are remembered.

The men have decided that after this final public reunion they will wait until a later date—sometime this year—to get together once more, informally and in absolute privacy. That is when they will open the bottle of brandy. The years are flowing by too swiftly now; they are not going to wait until there are only two of them. They will fill the four remaining upturned goblets.

And raise them in a toast to those who are gone.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The last date I have entered a name is December 1, 2013

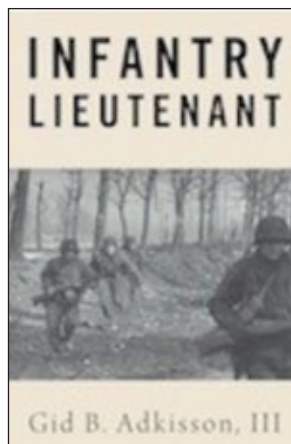
COL(R) William Robertson, HQ, 80th – Annual to Life
MAJ(R) Gary Schreckengost, 319 - Annual to Life

Congratulations to Scholarship Recipients



80th Division Veterans Association, Post # 50 awarded two Continuing Education Scholarships for \$500.00 each for 2013. (Left to Right) Recipients were Jordan Everett, daughter of Lifetime Member MSG Tracey Everett, Post # 50 Vice President CSM (R) Doris Wollett, and Leslie Stephen, son of Lifetime Member COL(R) Tom Stephen. Jordan is attending George Mason University and Leslie is attending Christopher Newport University. The Scholarships were awarded on 8 August 2013 during our Quarterly Luncheon.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Infantry Lieutenant *Gid B. Adkisson III*

This book is a memoir of Lt. Gid B. Adkisson, Jr., platoon leader of Able Co., 317th Regiment, written by his son, Gid B. Adkisson III. Gid III was able to contact and interview ten fellow Able Company soldiers who contributed some fascinating accounts of their own experiences.

The book is available on Kindle (Amazon.com) and Nook (Barnes and Noble). A paperback is forthcoming.

Cecil Allison displays the Purple Heart award awarded Monday to her late husband, Louis Allison, who was wounded in Germany during World War II. Behind her is her daughter, Brenda Lawson.

BOB FOWLER/NEWS SENTINEL



Purple Heart arrives after 68 years

By Bob Fowler

fowlerb@knoxnews.com
865-481-3625

knoxnews.com

Video: World War II
Purple Heart awarded to
veteran's widow

CLINTON—Sixty-eight years after he was shot, 10 years after he died, and almost a year after the effort began, a long-deserved Purple Heart award for a World War II veteran has come home.

Officials in a brief ceremony Monday presented the wounded-in-action medal to a surprised Cecil Allison of Clinton, widow of former Army rifleman Louis M. Allison.

"I'm excited and a little bit sad," she said of the presentation, the culmination of nearly a year's effort by her daughter, Brenda Lawson, also of Clinton.

In helping obtain the award for Allison's family, Anderson County Veteran Services Director Leon G. Jaquet said he uncovered some of Allison's wartime exploits.

Pvt. Allison joined the Army in June 1944 and served in the 80th Infantry Division.

In Germany, Jaquet wrote, Allison "was instrumental in destroying an enemy position and assisted in the capturing and holding of the enemy personnel."

Cecil Allison said the man who would later become her husband was shot in the leg, but she didn't know any of the details of that incident. Jaquet said the soldier was wounded on Feb. 13, 1945.

"He didn't talk about the war much," the widow said Monday. "There are so many things I wish I'd listened closer."

After she moved from Powell to Clinton, Cecil Allison became distraught when she couldn't find two other wartime medals her husband had earned, Brenda Lawson said.

Those awards were reauthorized and received, and during that effort, Lawson said she learned her stepfather was also due the Purple Heart.

Last April, she contacted Jaquet to begin that effort.

"There was a three-page list of people wounded in that battle," Jaquet said.

After working with the National Personnel Records Center, Jaquet said the Army authorized the award in October, and it arrived last week.

During more than five years on the job, Jaquet said he's helped arrange for the awarding of four long-overdue Purple Hearts, including Allison's.

Louis Allison, who worked as an auto mechanic in Knoxville after the war, died at age 80 on Oct. 10, 2003, his widow said.

"He was an awesome man," Brenda Lawson said of her father. "He'd give you the shirt off his back."

Photo copyright Bob Fowler Posted March 18, 2013 at 6:02 p.m.
<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2013/mar/18/world-war-ii-riflemans-widow-gets-his-long-heart/>

POST NEWS

POST 50 News

Our Quarterly Luncheon was held on 6 Nov 2013 at the Holiday Inn on Belles Road. There were 22 members and guests in attendance and after a welcome by CSM (R) Doris Wollett, the opening prayer was offered by COL (R) Barton Campbell.

After some great sandwiches, soups, salads, etc CSM (R) JR White and his wife, Carnel, gave a presentation on their missionary work and how the dozens of shoes we gathered at our Holiday Party were distributed and appreciated.

Newly elected President SGM Giovanni Mejia and his wife, our newly elected Vice-President 1SG (R) Shelia Mejia-Rosario were in attendance and thanked everyone for their support and they looked forward to serving over the next two years. Over 30 folks had already signed up for the Holiday Party scheduled for Sat 14 Dec.

This is our 4th Holiday get together and attendance and fun grow every year; this is a great way to wind up the year with 80th friends during this festive time of the year.



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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IN THE NAME OF: _____

Name of your loved one or friend

FROM UNIT: _____

Unit of your loved one or friend



TAPS

Bottegal, Brunk
New Kensington, PA
DOD: Sep 25, 2013
Rptd by: CSM(R) Don Stewart

Grimm, Noel HQ, 318
510 Torres Place
The Villages, FL 32159
DOD: Oct 4, 2013
Rptd by: Wife, Bessie

Browder, MG(R) James
Commander, 80th Division
17531 Parsons Ridge Road
Beaverdam, VA 23015
DOD: Oct 2, 2013
Rptd by: Wife, Doma

Murrell, Doris, Ladies Auxillary
166 Cambridge Lane
Lewistown, PA 17044
DOD: Oct 9, 2013
Rptd by: Husband, Bob

Doyle, MAJ(R) Mike, TTC FHL
Oregon
DOD: Nov 11, 2013
Rptd by: COL Glen Henc

Oresko, Nicholas 94th Division
Medal of Honor Receipant
Cresskill, NJ
DOD: Oct 4, 2013
Rptd by: Judy Bezjak

Erickson, Nils H-318
118 Kennedy Dr
New Britain, CT 06051
DOD: Oct 9, 2013
Rptd by: Wife, Anne

Tito, Ralph I-318
DOD: Sep 20, 2013
Rptd by: Marlene Dickson



Nicholas Oresko, who received the Medal of Honor from President Harry Truman on Oct. 30, 1945, dies at age 96. Oresko was believed to be the oldest living WWII veteran who received the medal.

RETURNED MAGAZINE

NO FORWARDING ADDRESS

DO YOU KNOW WHERE I AM?

Artino, Sal	Life	2nd Time
Claussen, Ruth	Life	
Coleman, Max	Life	
Conner, Robert	2014	
Cople, William	Life	
Helmuller, Oliver	Life	
Tagmeyer, Nathan	Life	2nd Time
Winter, Paul	Life	

Website Updates

www.thetroubleshooters.com
www.80thdescendants.com
www.abmc.gov
www.80thdivision.com

What you will find at www.80thdivision.com

- General Orders (August 13, 1944 thru October 31, 1945) containing awards for Silver Stars, Bronze Stars, Air Medals, Distinguished Service Cross, Purple Hearts
- Morning Reports for almost all units August 1944 thru May 1945, including rifle regiments, field artillery units, medical battalion, 80th Division headquarters units
- Many After Action Reports and Unit Histories for 80th Division, 317, 318, 319 Infantry Regiments
- Many other Miscellaneous Reports

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

80th Division Veterans Association
Doris M. Wollett
5101 Hurop Road
Sandston, VA 23150-5406

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DATE: _____

SERVICE PERIOD: WWII POST WWII CURRENT ACTIVE

PLEASE SPECIFY BATTLE / CAMPAIGN: _____

NAME: _____ UNIT: _____
IF FAMILY MEMBER, PLEASE ALSO PROVIDE THE NAME AND UNIT OF VETERAN

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP + 4: _____

PHONE(s): _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please make checks payable to the 80th Division Veterans Association. PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX:

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3rd BN., 317th INF. POST #36
Robert Moorhead
Secretary

FLORIDA POST #47
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CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

NEW ADDRESS: _____

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STATE: _____ ZIP: _____



80TH DIVISION MONUMENTS:

Infantry Museum, Fort Benning, Georgia (left), Heritage Trail at the Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, Pennsylvania (center) and HQ 80th Training Command, Richmond, VA (right).



Websites of interest:

- www.thetroubleshooters.com
- www.80thdescendants.com
- www.abmc.gov
- www.80thdivision.com

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