

BLUE RIDGE



Only Moves Forward

THE SERVICE MAGAZINE

FALL 2013

Volume 94 • Number 379 • Issue 3

94th Annual Reunion

THE 94TH ANNUAL REUNION of the 80th Division Veterans Association was held in Virginia Beach Virginia from 4 to 7 September 2013.

During the reunion there were Executive and General Membership meetings held to discuss the following topics:

- 1) Recruitment of Iraq 80th Division Veterans,
- 2) Review printing cost for the Blue Ridge publication and determine cost cutting options for the future. Some things discussed were: Publishing 3 times a year instead of 4 times, e-mail options to save postage and reviewing options to lower layout/printing costs,
- 3) Funding Options: Raffles? Buy a Brick? Others? to increase revenues,
- 4) Registration Fee adjustments for those who want to bring children or large families,
- 5) Funding for Camp Forest TN monument,
- 6) Annual Meeting Re-Structure 2015 Friday-Sunday instead of Wednesday through Sunday, and
- 7) Funding Flowers in Europe cemeteries. A determination was made to create an AD-HOC committee of Dr. Lee Anthony, Mr. Doug Knorr and Mr. John McLaren to study these areas and report back to the general membership on proposed solutions and ways ahead for the Association.

[continued on page 5](#)



80th Division Veterans Association, 94th Annual Reunion, Virginia Beach, VA

WELL, FALL IS JUST around the corner. The nights and early mornings are much cooler than just a few weeks ago. It's time to start thinking about how you will get those leaves up and hopefully not too long before the last of the grass cutting.

Remember when cleaning up that snakes, small rodents, and spiders are still around and love dark cool spots to lie in. We have killed several small snakes at my house that were in the leaves. Also there seems to be many more spiders than usual.

I love to watch the birds come and go from the feeders. There are many cardinals and blue jays as well as those

little finches. They are so colorful and pretty. On the downside of that is we have skunks that come around to eat what has fallen on the ground. So we must be very careful when taking the dog out at night. I usually do not take her to the back since that is where those skunks seem to want to hang around. Now for the upside, we have a herd of deer that come down by the pond every late afternoon. Normally there is anywhere from eight to over a dozen. One is hurt and has a hard time walking. She cannot put one of her front legs all the way down. It appears that something is wrong with her foot. But she has a little one and continues to take care of it. I hope she makes it through hunting season which starts up soon.

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Eightieth Division Veterans Association BLUE RIDGE The Service Magazine. The official quarterly publication by the 80th Division Veterans Association. Incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in the State of Pennsylvania.

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2-VACANT POSITIONS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER 3 YEAR

3-VACANT POSITIONS

COMMANDERS MESSAGE



*MG(R) John McLaren,
COMMANDER*

IT IS WITH GREAT HUMILITY and sincere thanks to the members of the 80th Division Veterans Association for their trust and confidence in me as the National Commander for 2013-2014. Many of our members helped in planning and running the reunion in Virginia Beach. Thanks to everyone who provided time and resources to make our recent reunion a success.

In the future, we must continue to remember our veterans from WWI and WWII for their diligence and shared sacrifice. We need to increase the attendance of our families and the Veterans from the Cold War, the Persian Gulf War and the current Global War on Terrorism from the 80th Division Training, Institutional Training, and Training Command. We need to assure the financial viability of the 80th Division Veterans Association.

The members of the 80th Division Veterans Association are the strength that will ensure our continued existence. Our Veterans are the strength of our Nation – the sacrifices of our service cannot be forgotten by our country. Freedom is painful; it is paid for in the blood of our comrades in arms and the sweat of our collective efforts. We must continue to always move forward for the protection of our way of life.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve the 80th Division Veterans Association. God Bless each of you, our families for their collective support and understanding as we have served across the world, our Veterans from the 80th Division, no matter the era, as they continue to deploy in this Long War, and every Soldier in uniform that protects our way of life, and the United States of America – may she always remain free.

MG(R) John McLaren
National Commander

Editor's notes... continued from page 2

You don't have to look any further than your backdoor to see God's wonder all around you. He really has given us a beautiful world to live in. It is up to each of us to make it a peaceful one. Most of us have done our part in serving our military but we must continue to stay active in making decisions that make our country the best in the world.

If you did not make it to the 94th Reunion you really missed a great time. The afternoon trip to the McArthur Museum was a real treat followed by going over to the USS Wisconsin. I think everyone that went will agree that it was a great time had by all.

I hope each of you are able to celebrate Veterans Day and remember all our Service Members and their families. Thanksgiving will be here as well as Christmas before you can turn around.

At the Executive Meeting and later in the General Meeting we made a change to our dues. Starting with 2014, annual dues will be \$20.00. Also, we have decided to stop mailing Membership Cards. Only new Members will receive a card and that will be the initial one only which comes with a Welcome Letter.

Please look at your mailing information on the back of the magazine. If it does not show LIFE or 2013, you are 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. Also, 2014 is fast approaching so send those dues in if possible.

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



CSM(R) Doris Wollett and Ard Wollett at the 94th Annual Reunion

Another 80th Veteran Receives French Legion of Honor Award

THIS PAST JUNE 27TH the Consul General of France in Los Angeles, CA, pinned the elegant French Legion of Honor pin on the lapel of Paul (Jim) Pietsch (right) making him a 'knight' among the prestigious group of people like Generals Eisenhower and Patton.

Jim said he easily qualified for the award as he landed with the 80th on Aug. 6, 1944 at Utah Beach as the Division entered combat in the Hedge Row area of France. With the St. Lo Break Through we were a part of Patton's 3rd Army which crossed France in record time and then met severe resistance at the Moselle River with many casualties. It was then east through France to the German border preparing to cross the Rhine River when the Battle of the Bulge diverted us to Luxembourg. After crossing the Saur River into Germany we returned to France near Strasbourg, crossed the Rhine and helped take numerous German cities.

During nine months of combat with the 80th without becoming a casualty (or with hardly a scratch) I became more and more conscious that there was someone higher than I who was watching after me. This consciousness led to my wife and I spending 40 years of our lives as overseas missionaries. After retirement we have lived in California on property with our oldest son and had frequent visits with our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

So, it is with pride that I wear the French Legion of Honor for helping to liberate France from Nazi aggression and tyranny including its spread throughout the world.



Only Moving Forward: Fun and Games at Kilmer

by Walter Barthold, 80th Signal Company

80TH VETERANS WHO JOINED the division in the States will remember the week or two that we spent at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, in June, 1944, just before boarding the old Queen Mary for the voyage to the ETO. It was called a port of embarkation, commonly abbreviated P.O.E.

Camp Kilmer was shrouded in secrecy, or so we were told. We were instructed, for example, in our letters home not to mention our location by name but only to say that we were stationed on the East Coast and expected to go overseas in the near future.

The same instructions were given us when we were issued passes to New York City. We were, moreover, told when and where to meet the bus back to camp, but warned that it would not be identified in any way.

How well I recall my one pass from Kilmer to New York. I conscientiously obeyed the admonition of secrecy in my few contacts with civilians. When the time came to return to camp, I showed up on time at the place specified to meet the bus. There, as promised, the vehicle waited. On the sign above its windshield stood, in large block letters: CAMP KILMER.

The Army had ruled that before going overseas, every man should pass a swimming test and qualify on the M1 rifle. Because I had spent my boyhood and teen years in a lakefront suburb of Chicago, the swimming test for me

was a snap.

Qualifying on the M1 was a different matter. I had undergone basic training in the Air Corps at Clearwater, Florida. The weapons we trained with were British Enfield rifles, left over from World War I. In my subsequent year and a half in the Army, I had attended several lectures on "the care and cleaning" of the M1 but had never once fired it. As a radio operator, I was armed not with a rifle but with a carbine.

It was Lieutenant B. who took me, alone as I remember, to the rifle range at Kilmer for purposes of qualifying on the M1. Barely twenty years old, I was eager to see overseas duty. I feared that now, at almost the last minute, my hopes in that direction would be dashed.

I explained to Lieutenant B., therefore, that the M1 rifle was new to me. While still on my feet, I asked him for permission to fire a few practice shots before shooting for the record.

Lieutenant B. held up the writing implement in his hand and replied, "See this, Barthold? It's the M1 pencil, and I'm pretty good with it. You're going to qualify. Now get down there and start shooting."

Camp Kilmer has long since vanished from the face of the earth. It has left memories, however, of a chapter, if only a brief one, in the history of the 80th Infantry Division. I, for one, have no difficulty recalling my days there.

A Message from the Senior Vice-Commander:

My congratulations go to MG (Ret) John McLaren for the success of his Virginia Beach Reunion

by Jeff Wignall, Sr. Vice Commander and Reunion Chairman 2014

ONE OF THE SIDE benefits I've always enjoyed in going to the reunions—and this next will be my 20th—is seeing America. Traveling to, and spending a few days in, cities I (and perhaps most people) would otherwise never have been likely to visit has over the past two decades greatly expanded my appreciation for this great country and the sacrifices of so many who left those places to defend it.

Most of you—I hope—are familiar with the motto on the 80th crest, “Vis Montium,”—“the Strength of Mountains.” I cannot cross the state of Pennsylvania—as I often must to reach a reunion location since Pennsylvania sits between New England and everywhere else—without sensing that strength in the land. I've crossed all of our great eastern rivers, compared to which the great rivers of Europe that our troops paid so dearly to cross in the two world wars are little more than creeks when not in flood. And this year I crossed – not for the first time – the engineering marvel that is the Chesapeake Bridge and Tunnel.

That much at least can be seen from the Interstates, otherwise a tedious few hours spent in a car, trying to get from here to there as quickly as the speed limits allow.

But eventually one has to leave the highway and follow lesser roads to the hotel selected as the reunion site. Usually there is nothing particularly striking in that. The hotel looks like hotels everywhere; there's an Arby's across the street, and a shopping center about a half mile away that looks nearly identical to the one “back home”—just a couple of store names that might be unfamiliar. Everything looks pretty much the same these days since we've been mallified.

Nearby though there is always the “old section” with its unique character and history waiting to be discovered.

Next year—August 13 to 16, so mark your calendars!—I'll be taking you folks to Hagerstown, Maryland for our 95th Annual Reunion. It is also significantly the 70th an-

niversary of the 80th Division first going into action in France at the town of Argentan, and, it might also be noted, the 100th anniversary of the start of WWI, although three years would pass before we became actively involved in bringing it to a close.

Hagerstown was founded nearly 300 years ago by Jonathan Hager (whose home is still there and awaiting your visit)

back when there was nothing much to the west of him but seemingly endless forests and the Shawnee of the Ohio River country who had made it painfully clear that they planned to stay there.

There are many other local points of interest that the folks from the Welcome Center plan to make you aware of, and I hope you all will take advantage of their suggestions.

It's not Disney World; it's America, changing, moving forward, but still much as many of us remember it from “back when.” And it has its stories. Visit “downtown” Hagerstown and locate this little guy. Follow him around and see what he has to tell you.



Constitution Update

All members please note: The proposed revision to the Association's Constitution and By-Laws was approved by a unanimous vote at the General Meeting on September 6, 2013. Any constitutional issues that may be brought before the Executive Council subsequent to that date will be governed by the provisions of the revision.

Jeff Wignall, Revision Committee Chairman

Reunion... continued from front page

During the reunion members, families and friends enjoyed the views and beaches of the Chesapeake Bay from the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center. Those that chose to visit the MacArthur Memorial and Nauticus learned about the Hampton Roads communities and the rich military heritage of the region.

The hospital table raffles were a big success this year. A few of the members took part in the annual Post 50 golf outing, enjoying the fellowship of past members of

the Division from the Richmond and Hampton Roads area at Joint Base Little Creek's Eagle Haven Golf Club. Almost all members attending the reunion took part in the moving memorial service with support by the color guard from Fort Eustis and a wonderful soloist, piano accompaniment, and bugler from the 380th Band. Dinner on Saturday was a grand and gala affair with raffle prize baskets, raffle tickets and the investiture of our new National Commander, John McLaren.

Everyone is looking forward to our 95th reunion in Hagerstown, Maryland in August 2014.



ABOVE:

*The Color Guard with the flags of the 80th Division
Blue Ridge*

RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM:

380th Band performs for the opening ceremonies.

Chaplain Combee gives the invocation

*National Commander presents opening remarks and
welcomes attendees*



LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM:

Commander John McLaren and PNC Grant Porter

Commander John McLaren and 80th CXO Mike Bland

PNC Elmer Dorsten and CSM(R) Doris Wollett

ABOVE, TOP TO BOTTOM:

Burt Marsh and PNC Walt Spangler present the Memorial Wreath

Burt Marsh waiting to present the Memorial Wreath



PNC Dinner Attendees: seated: PNC Archer Futch and PNC Elmer Dorsten. standing: PNC's Lee Anthony, Grant Porter, Commander John McLaren, PNC's Max Schmidt and Walt Spangler



LEFT: Raffle Winner Paul Hanna



RIGHT: PNC Elmer Dorsten presents Appreciation Plaques to Bruce and Cecelia Smith



THIS PAGE, ABOVE TOP TO BOTTOM:

MSG(R) Pete Herbert, CSM(R) Doris Wollett, Ard Wollett, Donna Herbert

COL(R) Buddy Deverell, COL(R) Paul Linkenhoker, MG(R) Bruce Robinson, MG(R) John Knapp, Brenda Linkenhoker

RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM:

CSM(R) Doris Wollett pulling another Raffle Winner Ticket

Raffle Winner PNC Elmer Dorsten

Joe DeBoer with Golf Team



Foundation United Adopters American War Graves

BY: Sebastiaan Vonk

MANY OF YOU may have heard of me before, for having adopted the graves of three American World War Two servicemen, including two who have served in the 80th Infantry Division, who have been buried in overseas American war cemeteries in Belgium and the Netherlands. Other than that, I am the founder and the chairman of the Stichting Verenigde Adoptanten Amerikaanse Oorlogsgraven (Foundation United Adopters American War Graves), a Dutch non-profit organization that honors and conducts research on the men and women who have been buried or memorialized on the three American World War Two cemeteries in Belgium and the Netherlands. While we observed the Memorial Day ceremonies on the cemeteries together, past national commander Mr. Anthony asked me to tell you more about the work of the foundation, which I happily will do.

However, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for the support for what I do and the work that the foundation does. We were honored by the token of recognition that we received on Memorial Day last year and I am extremely grateful for the two scholarships that I have received from the 80th Division Veterans Association. I feel blessed to be part of this association of people, of whom I consider many to be my friends. I will continue to be actively part of the association in any way that I can in the years to come.

Moving on to the work of my foundation, there is a large history that should be told, going back to September 1944, when the first American soldier was buried in Margraten, the Netherlands. More than 17,000 soldiers would be buried there. Already in 1945, all graves were adopted by grateful local citizens. Also today, the graves of the

remaining 8,301 soldiers buried there have been adopted by citizens who want to pay their respect to the men and women who gave their lives for the freedom of Europe. They regularly visit the graves they have adopted to bring flowers. Over the years, Adopt-A-Grave programs have also been set up for other American cemeteries, including those in Belgium and Normandy. Throughout Europe, grateful citizens visit regularly visit the graves of American soldiers buried there to show their everlasting respects.

The Stichting Verenigde Adoptanten Amerikaanse Oorlogsgaven, however, does not maintain any of the Adopt-A-Grave programs. Our non-profit organization, which consists of about 25 volunteers who all have adopted one or more graves, mainly focuses on doing research to the men and women buried in the American War Cemeteries Ardennes, Henri-Chapelle, and Netherlands. We not only try to help other adopters with their research on the soldiers whose graves they have adopted, we also actively conduct research ourselves for our online database, the Fields of Honor – Database. In this online database we hope to collect information and photos of the about 24,000 men and women who have been buried in or are memorialized on the earlier mentioned cemeteries. Currently, we have gathered information about approximately 14,000 soldiers through our own research, but also with help of adopters, relatives, and veterans. Hopefully, we will be able to create a personal page for each soldier in our database, helping in a modest way to preserve the memories to these soldiers and to honor their sacrifices.

As soon as we have completed conducting research on the soldiers buried in or memorialized on these cemeteries, we will expand our focus to the Luxembourg Cem-



American War Graves... continued from page 8

etery, where General Patton of the Third Army has been buried as well. However, for now we will continue to focus on the aforementioned cemeteries. If you happen to have any information or photos of any of the soldiers buried in these three cemeteries, we would appreciate hearing from you! You can contact us by sending an email to info@adoptiegraven-database.nl. If you are interested in learning more about the soldiers buried there, our database can be visited at www.fieldsofhonor-database.com. The search function in our database will allow you to easily look for any particular soldier.

We highly appreciate your support for the work we do. However, this is not so much about our foundation, but about the many men and women who sacrificed their lives for freedom and about those who luckily still are with us. Therefore, I would like to express a heartfelt thanks on behalf of all the volunteers to the men and women who fought with the 80th Infantry Division and the 80th Training Command for their service. Thank you!



Spangler to Serve as Grand Marshal

By T. Bennett, Circleville Hearld

Circleville – Walton W. Spangler will serve as Grand Marshal for the Memorial Day Parade set for 9 a.m. Monday in downtown Circleville.

Spangler's service during World War II began at age 19, when he was inducted into the Army on Aug 26, 1944. He attended basic training at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD, trained as a small arms repairman.

He was transferred to Camp Gordon, GA for advanced infantry training, and on Feb 10, 1945, he sailed from Boston aboard the USS West Point for Europe, assigned to the 80th Infantry Division as a Browning automatic rifleman and entered combat at the Luxembourg-German border. When the war ended, his division was located in Austria.

Spangler was later transferred to the First Infantry Division at Nurnberg where the war crimes trials were being held. His company was responsible for security of the homes, of all the judges at the trials. Spangler said he actually attended a session of court one day, and a dial located on the arm of each seat allowed spectators to listen to an interpreter of each of the languages represented, as judges came from the United States, Great Britain, France and Russia.

He returned to the United States in June of 1946 with decorations and citations including the Combat Infantry Badge, first Bronze Star for Heroism in ground combat,

second Bronze Star for Meritorious Achievement in ground operations against the enemy, Army Good Conduct Medal, European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with two battle stars, Army of Occupation Medal (Germany) and the World War II Victory Medal.

Since returning to civilian life, Spangler has worked jobs in employment service and has been a full-time farmer. He was elected Pickaway County Sheriff from 1961-1964; was the county executive director of Agriculture Stabilization & Conservation Service administering the farm program in Pickaway County for 22 years; and continues to operate a small farm with his son.

Spangler remains active in the Circleville Rotary Club, where he served as past president; the board of directors of The Saving Bank; WWII 80th Division Veterans Association, where he served as national commander from 2005-2006 and 2013 trustee; and Ringgold United Methodist Church, where he has served as lay leader, Sunday School superintendent and teacher. He also remains an active member of Gideons.



http://www.circlevilletoday.com/news/spangler-to-serve-as-grand-marshal/article_c2c9777e-26ea-529f-895c-9e5b3b07db97.html?mode=story

From the Historian's Corner

By: Lee S. Anthony, Ph.D., PNC & Historian, 80th Division Veterans' Association

I AM VERY HAPPY to have had the opportunity over the past year to serve as the Historian of the 80th Division Veterans' Association. Together with my Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Terry Francisco, we have been able to respond to approximately 1 inquiry per week in the last year. In addition to these, which are based on our case files, we have also been able to answer many inquiries during a telephone conversation.

Without question, the 80th Division website has been very useful to those seeking information regarding organizations, personnel, and events, thanks largely to Andy Adkins. We have also relied on input from Bruce & Cecilia Smith, who are undoubtedly the most knowledgeable persons regarding the history of the 80th.

We do encourage people who are seeking information to go to the website and to use the information found there, particularly the Morning Reports. For questions relating to WWII, we often refer them to Bob Murrell, who has written a number of books relating to WWII organization and events (see previous newsletter).

Other sources of information include the Russell Stultz papers, as edited and published by Bill Krehbiel and by me. The book published by the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) on WWI activities is another good source for the researcher.

The greatest problem occurs when the researcher does not know anything other than the name of the individual whose history is sought. In about 95% of the cases for WWI, we are able to tie the inquiry into the roster from the Service Magazine of 1920. It is much more difficult with WWII.

We continue to accumulate artifacts of all sorts relating to the 80th Division. I often purchase these, but do accept donations. There are also a number of museums, particularly those located in Pennsylvania & Virginia who will receive some donations. Most museums are now becoming selective regarding what they will accept.

This past May/June was a wonderful time for the history of the 80th. Sebastiaan Vonk & I participated in Memorial Day services, representing the 80th Division Veterans' Association (without cost to the Association) at the American Military Cemeteries: Ardennes, near Liege Belgium, Henri-Chappelle in Belgium and Margraten in the Netherlands. I would note that the \$500 scholarship authorized by the Executive Council was presented to Mr. Vonk on Memorial weekend.

Following the Memorial weekend, we had the pleasure of visiting many battlefields, including "the Bridge at Remagen", the area of the Somme, Alsace-Lorraine (where Audie Murphy earned his Congressional Medal of Honor, near the birthplace of the designer & builder of the Statue of Liberty). This area is part of the WWII "Colmar Pocket".

I also had the pleasure of revisiting the Huard farm, La Ferme de L'Etanges, in the Nantillois-Brieulle area, where the 80th "went over the top" on the morning of the 4th of October 1918.

I have been fortunate enough to have friends who are professional battlefield archeologists with whom I spend time in the field. Unfortunately, the European countries have now decided to ban metal detecting unless you obtain a permit. As of the end of June, no permits have been issued. Therefore, the acquisition of artifacts is accomplished by "walking & looking" and by accumulating artifacts which have been discovered previously.

A very profound document has been developed which depicts the 4 October 1918 battlefield, using Google Maps and noting trench lines, crater impacts, locations of machine guns and artillery pieces, as well as artifacts such as pistols, rifles, and helmets. A paper on this subject, utilizing a DVD will be presented at the September 4-8 reunion.

We look forward to continuing this very interesting and rewarding experience.

DONATIONS

The last date I have entered a name is September 1, 2013
PNC Lee Anthony – General Fund
Cara Lee Davis – In Memory of Virgil Myers
McBride Scholarship Fund
Cara Lee Davis – In Memory of Margaret Schock
McBride Scholarship Fund
Cara Lee Davis – In Memory of PNC Russell Sick
McBride Scholarship Fund
PNC Elmer Dorsten – General Fund
PNC Archer Futch – General Fund
Bob Harmon – In Memory of Virgil Myers

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The last date I have entered a name is September 1, 2013
COL® George Evans, (Son of Oliver Evans, WWI)
CPT Andrew Washington, 80th TC G7

NEW MEMBERS

The last date I have entered a name is September 1, 2013
SFC Fouad Atway, 2/318
Steven Kline, (Son of Daniel Kline, 315 FA)
2LT Charle Harris, 1st Bde
Zangerle, Karl, C-317

POST NEWS

80th Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association's
Post # 50 80th Veterans Association
13th Annual Meeting Minutes
Virginia Beach, VA September 8, 2013

1. Opening Remarks: At 0950 President Grant Porter welcomed all members and guests to the Annual Meeting and thanked all that had attended the Veterans Reunion.

2. Vice President's Report: Doris Wollett reported we held four Quarterly Luncheons during the past year and attendance was between 20-25 members and guests. The luncheons are a great way for members to stay in touch and get updates on happenings at the 80th Tng Command. The 2012 Annual Holiday Party was attended by forty five members and guests and a raffle raised over \$320.00 for our awards program. Dozens of shoes were also donated by members and guests so J.R. White and his wife Carnell could take them on a mission to Belize and donate them to needy children.

3. Secretary's Report: Pete Herbert reported we currently have 127 active members (dues are up to date). This compares with 125 at this time last year. We currently have 90 lifetime members and 37 Annual members from 17 states. 84 members are retired military or civilians and 43 are Active Reserve, etc. Membership for 2014 will open 1 October 2013. He also reported we raised \$260.00 on a raffle during the Veterans Reunion and sold \$180.00 in merchandise during the Reunion.

4. Treasurer's Report: Doris Wollett read the following report for Treasurer Ed Polonitza who could not attend the meeting:

Money Market Balance: \$10,563.48 Year End 2012 Balance

Checking Balance: 5,993.15 Year End 2012 Balance

Total 16,555.63 Year End 2012 Balance

Money Market Balance: \$10,563.48 as of 8 Sep 2013

Checking Balance: 6,594.91 as of 8 Sep 2013

Total 17,157.94 as of 8 Sep 2013.09.11

Receipts Year to Date: \$3,508.00 (Dues & Misc)

Expenses Year to Date: \$3,700.24 (Dues to Veterans=\$2,115.00, Purchase of Ink Pens and Buttons=\$585.24 and \$1,000 for two Scholarships

5. Old Business:

a. Awards Program: Our awards program for 80th Soldiers and Civilians remains suspended until a proper venue to present the awards can be established. CSM Wills is aware of the Association's concerns.

b. Scholarship Fund: We awarded two Continuing Education Scholarships for \$500.00 each this year. Recipients were Jordan Everett, daughter of Lifetime Member MSG Tracey Everett and Leslie Stephen, son of Lifetime Member COL @ Tom Stephen. Jordan is attending George Mason University and Leslie is attending Christopher Newport University. The Scholarships were awarded on 8 August during our Quarterly Luncheon.

c. Annual Golf Tournament: Grant Porter and John McLaren reported our 4th Blue Ridge Golf Tournament, on 6 Sep, was a great success. We had twelve golfers, including one WWII Veteran, at the 18 hole event held at Eagle Haven Golf Course at Little Creek Amphibious Base here in VA Beach. Blue Ridge Merchandise was awarded to all participants and approximately \$100.00 was raised for the Association (final tally soon).

6. New Business:

a. The following slate of Officers and Board of Directors were nominated and elected:

President: SGM Giovanni A. Mejia,
serving at the 94th Division

Vice- President: 1SG (R) Shelia A. Mejia-Rosario,
former 80th HHC 1SG

Board of Directors: COL Erik E. Imajo, Internal Review,
80th Tng Cmd

Board of Directors: COL Brydon D. Jackson,
1st Bde, QM, Charleston, WV

Board of Directors: SFC (R) Coretta K. Lankford

Board of Directors: COL Terry W. Singleton, G1
80th Tng Cmd

Board of Directors: CSM (R) J.R. White

b. Doris Wollett announced that we have scheduled our 4rd Annual Holiday Party at the Holiday Inn on Belles Road in Richmond on Saturday, 14. Dec 2013. A flyer will be published and distributed soon. She is also working on a quarterly luncheon schedule with the next luncheon to be announced for Oct 2013.

c. A motion was made, seconded, and after discussion passed unanimously to award two \$500.00 scholarships in 2014 to any first year or already enrolled college student and to rename the Scholarship Awards the "80th Blue Ridge Fallen Comrade Scholarship Program.

d. A motion was made, seconded and after discussion passed unanimously to create an Ad Hoc Committee to make a recommendation for the date and location of the 2014 Annual Meeting; COL @ Jim Brown will chair the committee and will be joined by members MG @ McLaren and Dr. Lee Anthony. The Committee will report to the Board of Directors during the Oct 2103 Teleconference.

e. A reminder to all about the Oct 19-20 Staff Ride in Fredericksburg, VA being organized by COL @ Rick Littleton and MG @ McLaren. Contact Rick, by 1 Oct if you are interested.

f. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to purchase 150 2014 Calendars to be distributed to members and potential members . Cost will not exceed \$250.00.

7. A motion was made, seconded and after discussion passed unanimously to continue with quarterly teleconferences for the remainder of 2013 and 2014 on the 4th Tuesday of Oct, Jan, Apr and Jul. (Oct 22, 2013, Jan 28, 2014, Apr 22, 2014 and Jul 22, 2014).

Adjournment: A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn at 1100.

Remembering Robert J. McDonald

MY SISTER CALLED me on Saturday, January 19, 2013 and told me that she had taken our father to the emergency room. We grew up in a modest home on the west side of Greenville, Pennsylvania, and the hospital is on the east side. My father was diagnosed with diverticulitis, and they started giving him antibiotics via IV. I talked to my father the next day, Sunday. He was somewhat hopeful about his recovery, but he was skeptical as well. He had a sense that the end was near. Two days later, on Tuesday afternoon, my sister called. She was crying. My father had received a colonoscopy and had lost a lot of blood. She said that the nurses were working on him, but he was in dire straits. I spent the evening thinking that we had lost our father. Then, around 9 pm, my sister called and put my dad on the telephone. It was wonderful to hear his voice. I told my wife that he was a very strong man. Although he sounded weak, there was hope. The hospital had ordered two units of blood, and they were due to be delivered in the wee hours of the morning. There was a chance that he would do much better after this, and he did. As the next few days passed, the hope grew.

Then, my sister called me on Friday morning, January 25, 2013. My father had started bleeding, and the doctor said that he thought he was going to pass. I was in Dallas for some training and immediately went to the airport. My dad spent the day with some close family members. My sister sent me a text message while the plane was in the air and said that he was growing weaker. I changed planes in Nashville and had my last conversation with my dad. We reminisced about the good times we had traveling each year to the 80th Infantry Division New York Post meetings in Albany, New York and Geneva, New York.

I arrived at the hospital in Greenville around 8 pm that evening. My father was truly on his deathbed. He was

medicated and only spoke an occasional word or two. He was mostly answering yes or no. My sister was giving him ice. My mother was extremely tired. Shortly after 10 pm, we decided that it was time for her to go home. My dad woke up and gave my mom a goodbye kiss for the last time. I held his left arm and told him "I'm going to take mom home." He said, "OK," and I got the sense that this gave him some comfort.

Robert J. McDonald died at 2:25 am on Saturday, January 26, 2013. We spent the day with family (mostly close cousins) picking out old photographs for a digital display at the funeral home. In fact, some extended family members were with us almost all of the time until after his funeral on Wednesday. Everyone just stopped what they were doing, did not go to work, and remembered our father. Many friends and relatives came by the funeral home on Tuesday. I asked the funeral director on Wednesday morning if this was a typical turnout. He said that there were many more mourners than usual.

The weather had been very cold the previous week. It was 3° F in Greenville the night that my dad had the colonoscopy. When I arrived on Friday evening, it was not quite as cold, but there was a lot of snow. Then, the weather warmed up. In fact, we did not even need jackets or overcoats for the funeral on Wednesday. Everything went well. Many people were very sad, but it was good to have a funeral with military honors on a very mild foggy day in January.

Half of my immediate family had traveled to Pennsylvania from Texas. My two sons, one of my granddaughters, my wife, my sister, and my mother all slept in our parent's house on Wednesday night. The weather took a turn, and it became very windy. We had to get up at 3 am and prepare for our trip to the airport. My eldest son was sleeping with



A Time of Fear and Euphoria

BY: Travis Williams, *Roanoke Times*

DOUGLAS FLICK CAN describe many vivid details from 1944 and 1945, when he went as a high school student to help save Europe from the Nazis.

Shawsville, Virginia – Entering the fall of 1943, Douglas Flick said, his only real objective was to complete his senior year in high school.

Little did the 18-year-old from Pulaski know, the journey to reach that goal would include crossing the Atlantic, traveling along the front lines of the Second Great War and being wounded twice in an effort to help liberate Europe from Nazi control.

It was a journey that resulted in Flick rising to the rank of corporal and being awarded a Purple Heart for his wounds, one Bronze Star for helping fellow wounded soldiers, another for active combat and Battle Stars for the campaigns in the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe.

Flick's daughter, Reva Flick, said she remembered sitting on her father's lap as a child and watching footage from the war as he scanned the scenes looking for himself and pointed out the places he'd been. Other than this faint memory, however, she said her father kept most of his service history to himself until more recently.

In February, the now 87-year-old Flick was thanked by France for his time as a member of the 317th Infantry Regiment of the 80th Division of the United States Army and was awarded the French Legion of Honor, class of Chevalier.



photo copyright, Roanoke Times.

find the full story here:

<http://www.roanoke.com/news/nrv/2003409-12/shawsville-world-war-ii-veteran-recalls-fear-euphoria.html>



McDonald... continued from page 14

his daughter in the living room. He said that he thought the wind had blown the flagpole in the front yard down. We looked outside, and sure enough, the flagpole was on the ground. My father had erected this flagpole over 40 years ago. The base was very well built, and I remember him using three-pound coffee cans as a cement form. This was back when the cans actually contained three pounds of coffee. This event with the flagpole created a very eerie feeling indeed. I had a strong sense of his presence as we prepared to depart for the Cleveland airport. My youngest son still had his fancy cellular telephone giving him Cleveland weather reports when he arrived in Houston. The flights in Cleveland were being cancelled.

I had the opportunity to put the flagpole back up temporarily in March with the help of a boyhood friend from next door. The old flag was looking rather faded, but my dad had a new flag in a closet. We put the new flag up. Then, in July, I worked on a new more permanent solution. At first, I thought about installing a longer aluminum

flagpole. However, the old flagpole was still in good shape with only spots of surface rust. It appears to be painted galvanized steel. I decided to put Robert J. McDonald's flagpole back up and gave it a fresh coat of white Rust-Oleum. The thick black iron support pipe at the base had rusted through. The strange thing is that there was no evidence of any metal that was not rusted. There was no evidence of the wind breaking it. Since the thick black iron pipe had rusted through at the very base, it was necessary to bust up the old cement. There was enough cement in the ground to support a radio or television tower. Extracting the final chunk at a depth of about four feet was an arduous task to say the least. However, I suspect that I used even more cement, and someone forty years from now will be thinking the same thing.

I wanted to share this story with my father's 80th Infantry Division friends. I was very fortunate to be able to travel with my parents nine times to the New York Post meetings. We traveled first to Albany and later to Geneva. I met many very wonderful people. Many of them are gone now. However, to all, I would like to say that it is wonderful to know you. All of the times in New York were the best of times.

Clair Campbell

August 3, 1920 – August 24, 2012

Clair Campbell, 92, of Sugarcreek Station in Franklin formerly of the Kennerdell, passed away August 24, 2012 at UPMC Seneca. Born August 3, 1920 in Boyers he was the son of Ralph Campbell and Vinney Rumbaugh Campbell. Clair received his education in the Boyers area. Clair married Eva J. Kohlmeyer on April 3, 1943, she passed away in 1991. Clair retired from Witherup Fabrication and Erection as a crane operator. He previously worked in various local strip mines as a drag operator and also for the State Highway running heavy equipment. Clair was enlisted in the US Army during WWII where he was involved in the Battle of the Bulge and was also in the Third Wave upon Omaha Beach. Clair received many medals and awards one being the Purple Heart. His passion was horses having trained many race horses and pacer horses. He loved to travel the United States and visiting family. Surviving are his two children Kurt A. Campbell of Kennerdell and his daughter Joyce E. Alworth of Georgia. 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. He was the last surviving member of his immediate family. Preceded by his parents and his wife, 2 brothers Marion Campbell and DeWayne Campbell and 2 sisters Hazel May Daughtery and Helen Aiken. A private family funeral took place at the funeral home on Sunday. Interment took place at the Rockland Cemetery. The Larry E. McKinley Funeral Home in Clintonville was in charge of the arrangements. Friends can also email condolences by visiting www.mckinleyfuneralhome.net.

Reflections of SGT Myers

Gary,

Your marvelous Father is rarely far from my thoughts
Never more so than now, in May, as Memorial Day
approaches

And memory reminds me of his virtues as

A fellow traveler on the special roads of 1944 and 1945

Elegant Raconteur

Easy Companion

Wise Man

Merry, and, because of that, a source of frequent fun

A sturdy American Citizen

A gracious gentleman

A splendid Soldier

Gerald V. Myers was everything men mean when they
say of another "He was a good Man".

We served in the same Division.

We met when we were, already, well into old age: I think
of him, often, and recall the advice of Sophocles:

*Sometimes, One must wait until the sunset to know
how glorious the day has been.*

*With affection and respect, Bob Harmon,
319th Infantry Regiment 80th Division, WWII*

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Unit of your loved one or friend





1st LT “Joe” Dean Born 7/7/23 — Deceased 5/31/13

IT IS WITH A heavy heart that I regretfully inform you that my Dad, Clarence Joseph Dean, Jr., passed away in the early morning of May 31, 2013, at the age of 89 years old. Dad, known to everyone as “Joe”, was a First Lieutenant, in command of Company “C”, 318th Infantry Regiment, 80th Infantry Division, during World War II. He landed on Omaha Beach in October of 1944, and fought his way across the north of France to join Patton’s 3rd Army in December of 1944, south of Bastogne, where he participated in the “Battle of the Bulge”.

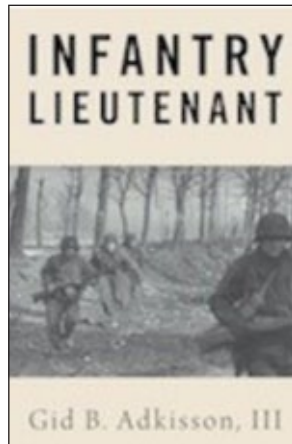
In recognition of his brave accomplishments and service to his country, he received the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC), two Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart. He was most proud of his Combat Infantry Badge (CIB).

Dad was a life member of the 80th Division “Blue Ridge” Veterans Association. I was fortunate to find one of your publications, which has allowed me the opportunity to send this information to you, in the event any of your other members might have known Dad.

Joe supported the Wounded Warriors Project and was a life member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The MOPH honored Dad with a brief ceremony during visiting hours at the funeral home. An Army Chaplain conducted a beautiful memorial service, followed by the burial services with Full Military Honors, on June 4, 2013. Although Dad was qualified to be interred at Arlington National Cemetery or the local Veterans Cemetery in Dayton, Ohio, our family decided to lay him to rest with our Mother, at Ferncliff Cemetery in Springfield, Ohio. May God Bless his soul.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael J. Dean (Son)

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.

TAPS

Bedient, Francis "Pete"
Dundee, NY
DOD: Jun 21, 2013
Rptd by: Internet

Moberg, Jack I-319
314 6th St
Marietta, OH
DOD: Jan 25, 2012
Rptd by: Son, Jack

Brooks, Thomas D-317
43 Parkway Dr
Olmsted Falls, OH 44138
DOD: Feb 2, 2013
Rptd by: Daughter, Laura

Moses, CSM® Henry 2nd Bde
Christiansburg, VA
DOD: Aug 2, 2013
Rptd by: CSM® Mike Phoenix

Campbell, Clair C-318
2677 W Pine Grove Rd
PA Furnace, PA 16865
DOD: Aug 24, 2012
Rptd by: Niece, Judy Hess

Parks, Pauline, Ladies Auxillary
Rptd by: Kay Barone

Conder, Charles A-314 FA
Rptd by: Returned Magazine

Reber, Sydney 80th Div HQ Sp
Tp
1 Buehrle Ctr
Topton, PA 19562
DOD: Nov 14, 2012
Rptd by: Mrs Heintzleman and
Herman Lutz

Dean, Clarence "Joe" C-318
1190 Bimini Ln
West Palm Beach, FL 33404
DOD: May 31, 2013
Rptd by: Son, Michael

Richards, Donald F-317
900 SW 31st St Apt220
Topeka, KS 66611
DOD: Jan 29, 2013
Rptd by: Roger Aeschliman

Falvey, Charles Sr A-305
Hyattsville, MD
DOD: Feb 9, 2013
Rptd by: Internet

Ridgers, David Medic
Johnstown, PA
DOD: Apr 19, 2013
Rptd by: Internet

Kollar, George
Johnstown, PA
DOD: Aug 5, 2013
Rptd by: Internet

Southworth, James, Jr
Rptd by: Jim Brown

Litchfield, Anna, Ladies Auxillary
DOD: May 14, 2013
Rptd by: Son, Greg Litchfield

West, Helen Ladies Auxillary
DOD: Jul 29, 2013
Rptd by: Barbara Brockman

Marshall, Mary Ladies Auxillary
DOD: Nov 13, 2012
Rptd by: Son, David Marshall

RETURNED MAGAZINE NO FORWARDING ADDRESS

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Coleman, Max	Life
Destaffany, Sandra	2011
Hacker, Carl	Life
Johnson, Gustave	Life
Tagmeyer, Nathan	Life

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

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- 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

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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