

BLUE RIDGE



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The Blue Ridge Family Has Lost Two Beloved Members



CLARENCE H. BROCKMAN

Clarence Brockman, 95, of McDonald, passed away peacefully Tuesday, November 17, 2015, in his home, surrounded by his many World War II, Steelers, Pirates and Penguins items, his dog, Beni, and his daughter, Barbara, by his side.

He was born June 26, 1920, in Midway, a son of the late Clarence and Ruth Welch Brockman.

Mr. Brockman was a 1940 graduate of Midway High School. He entered the U.S. Army in July 1942, where he served in the 80th Infantry Division, 317th Regimental HQ Company, Communications Team and received an honorable discharge in October 1945. During World War II, he received the first of two Bronze Stars for valor for holding his position during the Moselle River Crossing, he fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and on April 11, 1945, he was part of the liberation of Buchenwald Concentration Camp.

In January 1946, he began a 38-year career with Consolidation Coal Co., Preparation Plant, in McDonald.

On April 11, 1947, he married Naomi Jackson, who died March 24, 2014. They enjoyed traveling to Europe with other World War couples, attending 80th Division Veterans Association functions and Caribbean Cruises.

Besides being an avid photographer and attending Jamboree in the Hills for 30-plus years, he was a life member of American Legion Ernest Philips Post 485, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 520 of Midway, United Mine Workers of America District 2, McDonald Presbyterian Church, Teutonia Mannerchor Club in Pittsburgh and 80th Division Veterans Association, where during his 57-year membership, he served three times as national reunion chairman and twice as national commander.

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ROBERT T. MURRELL

Robert Murrell, 99, of Lewistown, PA and formerly of Oakmont, PA was born May 19, 1916 in Louisville, KY. He died at 1:30 p.m., Friday, January 29, 2016.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 71 years, Doris E. Murrell, of Lewistown, his daughter, Gayle C. Murrell, of

Oakmont, his parents, Robert and Anne (Horn) Murrell; and his two sisters and a brother.

Bob was the National Secretary, Blue Ridge Editor and Divisional Historian of the 80th Infantry Division Association for eighteen years. He was National Commander of the 80th Association in 1982-83. He published several books on the 80th Division and was an Honorary Colonel of the 318th and 319th Infantry as well as a Kentucky Colonel. He enjoyed helping the children of the 80th men whose fathers were killed in action.

He was a long-time member of Rolling Hills Baptist Church, Penn Hills, PA where he served as a Trustee and led the singing for a number of years, and upon moving from Oakmont, PA to Lewistown became a member of the First Baptist Church, of Mifflintown, PA.

He is survived by his son, Robert J. Murrell, of Lewistown; his nieces, Barbara Norwood, of Louisville, KY, Connie Murphy, of Fla., Debora Murrell of Louisville, KY; granddaughter, Amy Cook, of Lewistown; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Memorial services were held in Lewistown and Oakmont PA. He was interred, with full military honors, next to his beloved wife, Doris, on February 5, 2016.

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AS I SIT HERE WRITING my notes for the 80th Division Service Magazine and look out the windows all I see is snow. And guess what?!! They are calling for more snow tomorrow! I have always heard that we need at least one good snow each year to get rid of germs and also to get rid of fleas and ticks in our yards. Well we should be germ free and I shouldn't see any ticks or fleas for several years.

For those of you that did get and are still getting snow, be very careful as you clear your walks and driveways. Take several breaks and remember to stay hydrated. Dress in layers so that you do not get over heated and you can peel off a layer at a time. Remember to take your broom and brush off your shrubs around the house so that the weight of the snow does not break the limbs. Another suggestion is to not park your vehicle under trees just in case a limb decides to break and fall down. We have had several folks with car ports that have already collapsed so be mindful of what is under them.

February 2 was Groundhog Day. Phil did NOT see his shadow. I'm ready for warmer weather as I'm sure most of you are.

In a couple of months the weather will be warmer which means you can start planning for the Annual Re-

union. Sr. Vice Bill Black is hard at work getting everything coordinated for us to have a wonderful time. If you have not been recently please plan to attend this year. We will be in the Alexandria, VA area and there is so much to see and do. It makes for great family vacation time especially for those of you that don't live nearby. You will have the opportunity to see the monuments and sites in the Washington, DC area. Take advantage of it. For those that are able to come every year I also look forward to seeing you.

There are several individual Soldiers from 80th Units that have been deployed to different locations. Please keep these men and women in your prayers as they defend this great country.

Continue to send updates to your personal information such as address, phone numbers, email address. As you know we no longer have AKO and if you have a military USAR email address they have also changed.

Annual Members—You can mail me your 2016 dues any time now. I will make sure that all records are updated so that your mailing label is correct.

GOD bless each of you and remember the 80th

“Only Moves Forward”!!

See You in Extraordinary Alexandria!

Bill Black, Reunion Chair



IT IS MY PLEASURE to invite each of you to the 97th Annual Reunion of the 80th Division Veterans Association, August 17 – 20, 2016 in beautiful Alexandria, Virginia. This year, the Holiday Inn and Suites Alexandria Historic District, will be our host hotel for the reunion. We invite all veterans and friends and descendants of veterans to join us for this year's reunion.

We are planning a fantastic reunion this year and invite you to participate in as much—or as little—as you would like. There will be two optional bus tours this year, one each on Thursday and Friday. Thursday will take us just a short drive from the hotel to the Mount Vernon home of our first President, George Washington. We will plan to have lunch and spend the afternoon at Mount Vernon.

On Friday, we have a packed day as we will be boarding our bus and enjoying lunch at the Fort Myers Officers Club and then a memorable visit to the World War II Memorial. Time permitting; we are planning some additional stops and a windshield tour of the National Mall. We will return to the hotel for our Friday night family buffet and then

head back out for an evening of honors and festivities at the Marine Corps Barracks, hosted by the Command Sergeant Major. An evening U.S. Marine Corps parade is also planned.

We are thrilled to announce some fantastic guest speakers this year. On Friday, World War II researcher, historian and author, Jennifer Holik, will be speaking. Jennifer is an expert on researching veteran records and has helped countless family members trace the steps of their loved ones. She has written numerous books on how to do this, along with recounting some of the greatest stories she has discovered in her research. Jennifer will be with us throughout the week and happy to answer any questions you might have. She has recently made two trips to Europe and walked many of the battlefields where the 80th walked. You will be very impressed with her knowledge and research ability.

Saturday night, we will have international guests for our Commander's Reception and dinner. Erny Kohn, President and Tom Scholtes, Secretary, of the Luxembourg-based

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Commanders Message



DOUGLAS KNORR
National Commander

THESE PAST FEW MONTHS as your 2015-2016 National Commander, I have had the privilege of speaking with several persons who have called or sent letters seeking information about the 80th Division Veterans Association, as well as requesting information about parents and grandparents who served in the 80th Division.

And I was recently reminded just how much the people of France appreciate all that the 80th Division did for them in the world wars. In December, I received an invitation to be a part of an official ceremony being held in memory of the soldiers of the 80th US Infantry Division who fell for the liberation of Argentan. This coming August a commemorative plaque will be unveiled, in the honor, of all the American soldiers who died during the liberation.

A new look for the Blue Ridge magazine. This past fall we made a major change to the Blue Ridge magazine and are now able to use four-color process printing. We are pleased

that we have received so many favorable responses. And, I would be remiss if I did not thank so many of you for your additions to the Blue Ridge which keeps us all up to date on what is going on with the entire 80th Division family.

The 80th continues to move forward online. If you haven't spent time on the 80th Divisions website, <http://www.80thdivision.com/> I would also like to encourage you to check it out. Andy Atkins has done a remarkable service to the veterans of the 80th Division and their families by making an incredible amount of history and information available online. In addition, the 80th division's Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/blueridgeassociation> is a great way to keep up with what's going on with so many of our friends.

Again, I would like to remind you that if you have not yet purchased a memorial brick to remember your families veteran, I encourage you to consider making this lasting memorial and at the same time helping to fund the 80th Division Veterans Association.

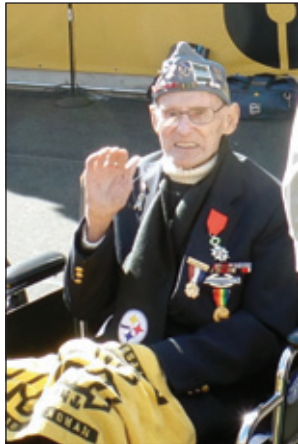
I look forward to seeing you all this coming August in Alexandria, VA as we come together for the 97th Annual Reunion of the 80th Division Veterans Association.

May God Bless You and May God Bless America!



French Legion of Honor Awarded to Odell "Jack" Plylar

On November 9, 2015 at a ceremony in Denver, CO Jack Plylar received the French Legion of Honor. Presentation was made by The Honorable Jeffery Richards, Esq., Honorary Consul General of France. COL Wesley West was the Master of Ceremonies and also represents the French Consular Office for the Colorado Region. Many of Jacks family were in attendance for the momentous moment.



“IT WAS THE BEST of times, it was the worst of times.” A line that we have all seen or read in our lifetime from *A Tale of Two Cities*.

The end of October through Veterans Day it was the best of times for my Dad and then suddenly on Tuesday, November 17, with Beni at his right cheek and me holding his hand, my Dad died very peacefully.

He was a “Great Steward” of the 80th Infantry Division and the Association. There was no prouder Past National Commander than BROCK, always making sure everyone he met for whatever honors he received, it just wasn’t about him or for him but for all he served proudly with.

October 29, PA House Representatives, Jason Ortity held a Veterans Recognition Breakfast at Fort Cherry Golf Club. Dad & I were in attendance along with over 100 Veterans and their guest. The delicious buffet breakfast was enjoyed by everyone then, Rep. Ortity introduced the Adjutant of the PA Veterans Affairs, BG Jerry Beck, Jr, He gave

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Mr. Brockman received the French Legion of Honor Knighthood at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C., March 2015. He also received another honor from the Washington County Commissioners and was honored in 2010 by Covenant Life Fellowship.

Mr. Brockman leaves behind a son, James (Lynn) Brockman, and a daughter, Barbara Brockman, both of McDonald; a granddaughter, Jennifer (Rob) Guidice of New Brighton; three nephews, Scott (Carol) Albertini of McDonald, John (Kay) Covode of Hayesville, N.C., and Robert (Trish) Covode of Cincinnati, Ohio; four great-nephews; five great-nieces; and eight great-great-nephews and nieces.

Deceased are two sisters, Mary Brockman Covode and Ruth Brockman; a brother, Staff Sgt. Robert J. Brockman, KID, May 10, 1945; and a niece, Mary Covode Berry.

a terrific speech and was a wealth of knowledge for many of us there. Then Commonwealth Certificates and American Flag Lapel Pins were given to thank each veteran.

November 1, Dad and I attended the “Hall of Valor” service at the Covenant Life Fellowship, where Dad was an inductee in 2010, at the end former inductees are asked to come forward and be recognized, then we stand to sing “God Bless America.” Dad was standing next to PA House Representative Brandon Neuman and in “Mitch Miller” style they lead this attending.

November 7, “Meet Your Local Veteran,” a gathering sponsored by the McDonald VFW Ladies Auxiliary,

November 8, NFL/Pittsburgh Steelers, “Salute to Service” began with Dad and his Military Escort, former United States Marine, Dan Clamage being escorted to the VIP Tent where they were introduced to the 5 other honorees.

Just before 1 pm, everyone’s attention was drawn to the Steelers 50 yard line as the Honorees were introduced after meeting Steeler President, Art Rooney, Jr. Dad being the eldest was the first one. A brief but concise military biography of Dad was given before announcing that it was his first Steeler game and the crowd went wild!

November 11 was Pittsburgh Penguins “Military Appreciation” game. Dad, and I were treated like Penguin Royalty. Julie Klausner had such love and appreciation for Dad.

We had VIP parking passes along with sharing a Club Box with a 97 year old Airman, who was a Tuskegee Airman in WWII. Both he and Dad were honored on the Jumbotron.

We left the hockey game and went home, both exhausted from a busy but happy day and headed to bed. Then it happened.

I found my Dad on the hallway floor complaining his right elbow and bottom hurt. I called 911, EMS arrived and we all headed to the ER.

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When I left Dad early Thursday morning, we had been talking about the chocolate chip cookie waiting for him at home that Julie had given to him. I took his hand, we said our nightly prayer, I kissed him on his cheek and I drove home.

As I stood at the foot of his bed later on Thursday, something was terribly wrong, I questioned the nurse but I never did receive any answers.

November 14, Dad came home under Hospice Care, he was just as I saw him in the hospital. The nurse said he was only going to live 1-2 weeks then on Monday, I was told 24 hours or less.

November 17, 10:55 AM, he drew one last breath and then joined his 80th Band of Brothers, Mom, his sisters & brother and all who ever loved him in Heaven.

He lived a joyful life right up to the very end.

Preparing for Dad's funeral was something he and I had talked about several times including being laid to rest in the "Infantry" blue casket he had picked out in 2014 for Mom.

Draping his casket was his brother's 48 Star American Flag that he received when Uncle Bob, KID, was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

80th Division Veterans Association Flag Sergeant Roger Nelson and his wife, Martha drove to McDonald with the 80th Flag to stand at the foot, and attend the service and committal.

During the Thursday viewing the McDonald American Legion and VFW Post held their Funeral Rite. At the service on Friday morning, most of the attention was paid to his time in the 80th, an opening quote by General George S Patton was recited by District Justice Anthony Saveikis then, Rep. Ortity read a poem about "Veterans" and both the Pastor and the Rabbi gave exceptional eulogies. At the end we all sang "Silent Night" in memory of his Christmas Eve spent fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. I was the last person to say goodbye, it was the most difficult thing I ever had to do. I removed his one of two National Commanders Cap and his French Legion of Honor Medal and held them close to me all day.

Besides those I have mentioned other dignitaries where McDonald Mayor, Terry Bennett, McDonald Police Chief, Mark Dorsey, McDonald VFD Chief, Scott Albertini.

Chief Dorsey led the processional to the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies.

Arriving at the cemetery the Brentwood VFW Post 1810 saluted Dad, this Post had a longtime connection with Brett Post.

The solemnness of those 20 minutes gave so much meaning to Dad's life and I was never more proud to be his daughter. Taps were played, the flag folded and presented to my brother Jim, a 3-shot volley was fired, then time for once last moment with Dad before he goes and joins Mom.

The Nation Funeral Home proceeded with a Dove release, everyone got to touch him, I was last and I sent my "Bedtime" prayer on it's wings, Josh Groban's "You Raise Me Up" was played during the release. After the committal service 30 of us went to Hart's for a luncheon. US Congressman Tim Murphy's Field Rep., John Stinner, presented me with an American Flag that had flown over the Capitol the day after Dad had died, I also received a citation from Representative Jason Ortity PA House of Representatives.

As I end there is so much more I could tell you about Dad, many of you have known him 50+ years, some briefly but I can tell you this, nothing meant more to him or I than how proudly he served our Nation and the years of service he gladly gave to the 80th.

General George S. Patton once said, "We should not mourn that such men have died. Instead, we should thank God that such men lived!"

Tribute to PNC Robert “Bob” Murrell



HOW DOES ONE say good-bye to a cherished friend and associate? In earlier times, many of the 80th Division Veterans would gather in tribute to their Comrade. The traditional service for the departed is a time-honored ritual performed at the casket of the deceased. Sadly, too few of Bob Murrell’s WW II surviving comrades are able to participate in such a service for him. We offer, instead, the following quote from the 80th Division Veterans Association Funeral Rites:

“Another Comrade has been called to the High Command. He has gone to report to the Commander of All. We observe a last tribute of respect to our departed Comrade, Robert T. Murrell, Company M, 318th Infantry, 80th Division, ETO.

“He went forward when the call of our Country was heard. This Comrade answered for the greater good. Like a brave man, he marched away, and like a strong man, he turned to the statutes of the Army, with abiding faith in his God, his Country and our Flag.

“The red in Our Country’s Flag is made redder still by his heroism; the white more stainless pure in the starry field of Our Nation’s Banner; the blue has been glorified by the service he has given for American ideals.”

All too often in recent years, this sad scenario of saying good-bye has become a necessary part of our lives, especially as we mourn the loss of members of the 80th Division Veterans Association. So it is that we must remember Bob Murrell, Past National Commander, Secretary, Historian,

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Editor of the *Blue Ridge Magazine*, noted author of many books about the 80th Division in WW II. Bob was a one-of-a-kind and larger-than-life figure, and because of his accomplishments, a comprehensive tribute is made that much more difficult to compose. Although he was also a loving husband, a devoted father and grandfather; an especially devout Christian, an active citizen in his community, the legacy Bob leaves with the Association is his Company M 318 Regiment status and the diligence with which he supported his fellow Veterans. Those of his friends and associates, comrades or families, will long remember his kindness, his compassion and generosity, and particularly his dedication to the task of promoting and preserving the history of the 80th Division and its Veterans Association.

Countless individuals and families, who sought information about their specific Veterans, were the recipients of Bob's guidance to sources of information. He followed through, even long after those inquiring folks had been satisfied with what was learned about their Soldier. Bob's commitment to providing details about the service record of the Division was unsurpassed, and because of his diligence in preserving as much information as possible, there is recorded data available for future generations. One would be hard-pressed to make reference to the 80th Division, or the Association, without mention of Bob Murrell's name. Donations of much of his material to the Army Heritage and Education Center at Carlisle will assure that his writings are safe-guarded and available for future reference.

Bob always looked forward to the Annual Association Reunions and the opportunity to reminisce with his buddies. He considered his membership as a PNC to be a very special honor and he especially enjoyed the camaraderie of the private PNC dinners. He often commented that his induction into that unique club afforded a different kind of rapport with some 20-25 fellow PNCs, his comrades of the 80th during WW II. At the most recent reunion, Bob was the oldest survivor and longest standing PNC there, one of very few of his contemporaries still living. Since that 2015 meeting, friends PNC Brockman, and now PNC Murrell, are deceased. The future of the 80th Division Veterans Association has been passed to a new generation of 80th Veterans and/or family members of Bob's fellow Soldiers. We can anticipate that their oversight of the Association will reflect the same values that Bob so determinedly espoused for so many years. Bob packed a lot of good deeds into his nearly 100 years; he would have reached that milestone in May.

With sad hearts, while treasuring very warm memories, we must bid farewell to Bob. This is not easy but we are assured that he is now in the presence of God, with his wonderful wife, Doris, their cherished daughter, Gayle, and their grandchildren who predeceased him. Go, and

rest in peace, good and faithful Servant. Your battles on earth are ended. Thanks for the privilege of allowing us to be included among your acquaintances, if not on the battlefields of Europe, or within the membership of the Association, then as a very important part of our everyday relationships.



Remembering Bob

Martha & Jim Wasik

I started working with Bob on the *Blue Ridge* back in the mid-1990s. Over the years, Bob, Doris and Gayle (and their cats) became our friends. Working on the newsletter gave me the opportunity to not only learn more about Bob, but also about an important time in our history.

Bob dedicated his later years researching the movements of the 80th during World War II and connecting families with the actions of the valiant warriors who may not have come home. I always eager to read the excerpts Bob included in the 'Out of the Past' section of the *Blue Ridge* from his histories.

Bob never gave up exploring new technologies. At the age of over 70, he took on the challenge of learning how to use a computer. Sometimes there were frantic phone calls: "Jim, can you help me, I can't find my files."

It was a sad for us when Bob and Doris moved to Lewistown. We will miss the times spent with the Murrells when they lived in Oakmont, and our dinners when Bob came back to visit friends.

We miss you Bob.

CONTINUE CORRESPONDENCE with a number of people regarding the histories of members of the 80th during all of its wars. At this time, I am greatly assisted by Andy Adkins (WWI), Gary Schreckengost (Post WWII), and Ben Jarratt (WWI). These gentlemen are serving as Associate Historians, with their specialties indicated. Their reports of their activities have been included as part of the "Historian's Report." I have not received any inquiries regarding reunion badges. Also, there have been no comments regarding Doughboy statues.

The big project which is now underway is the procurement and movement of the Walter Reed "Gray Ladies" chapel from the old Walter Reed campus to the D-Day Memorial site in Bedford, VA. The next step in this process is to obtain title to the chapel from the Department of State. In order to have DOS release the chapel, we are following several paths. We are asking that a petition with thousands of signatures be sent to the Department of State. Signatures may be placed on the petition by accessing the website <http://www.roanoke8thairforce.com/#!/c1g1u>.

I have received information about actual WWI maps of the Bois des Ogons battle. I look forward to working up a description of this battle within the foreseeable future.

WWI

Our *Blue Ridge Service Magazine*, Summer 2015 (Vol. 96, No. 386, Issue 2) included a newspaper article on the "Life of Pvt. Jarratt Shared Nearly 100 Years Later." The story covered a speech on the 80th Division made by Ben Jarratt, a member (descendant) of our 80th Veterans Association, about Private Cary F. Jarratt (his great uncle) and his service in Company A, 318th Infantry, AEF. The article detailed Ben's presentation to the Sussex County, VA, Historical Society, where Private Jarratt grew up.

Ben has since made additional presentations to Middle School grades. Ben worked with the Potomac School's history department (McLean, VA) to coordinate his remarks as a supplement to their World War I history curriculum. This presentation was made before his son's 8th grade classmates, so Ben tailored his remarks to reflect the genealogical relationship between his son and Private Jarratt (son's great-great-uncle). Potomac's teachers also tasked their students to follow a doughboy through the war in a follow-up essay; several students found Ben's presentation to be a good outline to follow. Ben is scheduled to give a similar presentation to Flint Hill School (Oakton, VA) before their 7th Grade class. Ben's niece is a student here, so his remarks will reflect the genealogy between his niece

and her great-great-uncle. Ben is also meeting with other local schools about the educational benefits of combining their World War 1 centennial studies with his historical, military and genealogical research about the 80th Division.

Ben Jarratt, 703-408-6101, bfjarratt2@gmail.com

WWII

I've completed two major projects. First, I've edited the following Bob Murrell's WWII books and they are now available "Print on Demand" via Amazon:

317th Infantry Regiment History – WWII

318th Infantry Regiment History – WWII

319th Infantry Regiment History – WWII

Stories of the Men of the 80th Division – WWII

The Blue Ridge Division Answers the Call in WWII

Search for "Robert T. Murrell" or "Andrew Adkins" on Amazon. List price is \$24.95 each, plus S&H. Note that ALL proceeds go to the 80th Division Veterans Association.

Second, I received the 80th Infantry Division Operational History volumes from Bob Murrell via Lee Anthony; these cover the 80th Division from August 1944 through May 1945. I've digitized these documents and placed them onto the 80th Division Web site: www.80thdivision.com, under 80th Archives—80th Operational History. From these volumes, I've also been able to update all General Orders (also on the web site) from August 1944 through May 1945. As always, these are free and available for everyone to download.

Andy Adkins, adkins@lticonsult.com

Post WWII

For the reunion, I'll have copies of the following four books on WWI: *The 80th Division Always Moves Forward! A Combat Chronicle of America's Blue Ridge Infantry Division During the Great War for Civilization, 1917-19. Volume 1: Camp Lee to Saint-Mihiel.*

This is the historically accurate story of a notional 80th "Blue Ridge" Infantry Division soldier who fought in France during World War I: Automatic Rifleman Joe Riddle of Company B, 318th Infantry Regiment, A.E.F. In Volume 1, read how Joe and his fellow draftees were turned into soldiers and prepared for intense combat at Camp Lee, Virginia, and in Picardy, France. In Volume 2, read not only what Joe and the 80th Division did during the grueling Meuse-Argonne Offensive, but also HOW THEY DID IT, setting this book apart from other histories of the war. (444 pp.)

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The 80th Division Always Moves Forward! A Combat Chronicle of America's Blue Ridge Infantry Division During the Great War for Civilization, 1917-19. Volume 2: Meuse-Argonne to Homecoming.

This is the historically accurate story of a notional 80th "Blue Ridge" Infantry Division soldier who fought in France during World War I: Automatic Rifleman Joe Riddle of Company B, 318th Infantry Regiment, A.E.F. In Volume 1, read how Joe and his fellow draftees were turned into soldiers and prepared for intense combat at Camp Lee, Virginia, and in Picardy, France. In Volume 2, read not only what Joe and the 80th Division did during the grueling Meuse-Argonne Offensive, but also HOW THEY DID IT, setting this book apart from other histories of the war. (444 pp.)

The 80th Division Always Moves Forward! America's Blue Ridge Infantry Division in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, 1918. This is the historically accurate story of a notional 80th Blue Ridge Infantry Division soldier who fought in the bloody Meuse-Argonne Offensive of 1918: Automatic Rifleman Joe Riddle of Company B, 318th Infantry Regiment, 80th Division, A.E.F. Read not only what he and the 80th Division did during the war-ending and bone-crushing offensive, but also HOW THEY DID IT, setting this book apart from other histories of the war. (444 pp.)

The 80th Division Always Moves Forward! America's Blue Ridge Infantry Division in the battle for Bois d'Ogons, Oct. 4-6, 1918. This is the historically accurate story of a notional 80th Blue Ridge Infantry Division soldier who fought in the bloody Meuse-Argonne Offensive of 1918: Automatic Rifleman Joe Riddle of Company F, 319th Infantry Regiment, 80th Division, A.E.F. Read not only what he and the 80th Division did during the bloody and bone-crushing fight for the woods, but also HOW THEY DID IT, setting this book apart from other histories of the war. (200 pp.)

They'll be listed on Amazon.com.

General McLaren and I are also halfway finished with our work on the 80th Division, 1946-2006, with emphasis on our experiences in Iraq. At the reunion, I'll give a brief explanation of each book and will present what it was like to be an Iraqi Infantry Brigade combat advisor in Fallujah from 2005-06.

Gary Schreckengost, schreck@ptd.net

Liberation of the Ebensee Concentration Camp

I'M LOOKING FOR VETERANS of the 80th Division who participated in the liberation of the Ebensee Concentration Camp, as we would like to introduce to you a survivor of the camp. Interested parties please email Joseph Adler at jadler@hofferadler.com.

See You in Alexandria... continued from page 2

CEBA organization will be our speakers. The CEBA organization has been instrumental in helping erect numerous 80th Division monuments across Luxembourg, including the latest one in Nocher, Luxembourg in January, 2015. They were instrumental in the very first 80th monument that was unveiled in 1975 near Heiderscheid, Luxembourg.

CEBA is dedicated to ensuring future generations of Luxembourgers never forget the sacrifices made by the United States to secure their liberation (twice) from Nazi Germany. Most specifically, they focus on the actions from the Battle of the Bulge (Dec. 16, 1944 – Jan. 25, 1945). In addition, they welcome U.S. veterans and their families and provide services such as battlefield tours, memorial and museum visits and red carpet hospitality. Erny and Tom will bring greetings from the people of Luxembourg and share some of their favorite 80th Division stories.

OK, what do you need to know?

1. Make your plans to attend and complete the registration form printed in this issue of the Blue Ridge magazine, and send payment to the address on the form.

2. Reserve your room at the hotel. You can do this by calling the hotel at 703-548-6300 and tell them your attending the 80th Division Veterans reunion. The reunion rate for this year is \$105.00 plus tax. That rate includes breakfast buffet for two each morning. You must secure your hotel reservation before Friday, July 22, 2016 to insure you can use the group rate.

3. For those of you flying to the reunion, Alexandria is just minutes from the Washington-Reagan National Airport. The hotel offers complimentary shuttle every half hour.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Bill Black, Reunion Chairman, at 404-493-6601 (call or text); or via email at williamrblack@gmail.com

See you this August in Alexandria!

SEE REUNION REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 21

Inquiry

INTERNATIONAL MEMBER SIMON PETITOT, of Bambiderstroff, France, is seeking contact with any 80th Division Veterans who were on duty during the last two weeks of November 1944 as the Division approached St. Avold and the Maginot Line after crossing the flooded Seille River.

If you have recollections of this particular period, please contact him at petitot.simon@orange.fr. 80th actions during this period occurred in Laudrefang, Teting Woods, Bambesch, Zimming, and Faulquemont, in addition to his town of Bambiderstroff. Members of I Co. may recall the death of company Commander Doan on 25 November.

Argentan Monument Proposal

PLANS ARE MOVING FORWARD with the local officials in Argentan, France, to produce and dedicate a monument commemorating the liberation of the town by the 80th Division in August of 1944.

Final arrangements and dates have not been set, but it appears the event will take place on or about August 20, 2016. The originator of the plan, Tristan Rondeau, who some will know as the author of a recent series of articles about the 80th participation in the battle there, is hopeful of representation by members of the Association, and of course, Veterans in particular.

Tristan has been advised of the complications for us; mainly that any remaining Veterans of that battle are of such ages that travel there will be extremely difficult, so unlikely. Secondly, the proposed time—intended to coincide with the date of the liberation—conflicts with the dates of our annual reunion.

However, if anyone—Veteran or Family Member—has an interest in (re)visiting Argentan, please let me know, and if possible when you feel would be the best time to travel. I will see that Tristan is informed against the possibility that they may wish to reschedule in the interest of having representation from the Division.


US Veterans, Friends, Luxembourg

Many of you—I would hope most—are aware of the annual event in Luxembourg known as US Veterans Friends Week. This event has been hosted for several years by the USVFL, and for much of the time was coordinated here by Virgil Myers. This is not exclusively an 80th event, but is open to all units involved in the Battle of the Bulge, although recently expanded to include Veterans and/or Family Members whose service was anywhere in the area. It has in the past been well represented by 80th people, mainly through Virgil's direct connection to the Association.

Virgil's unfortunate passing came at a time when fewer Veterans were attending, mainly due to the complications of age, and fewer Family Members having the interest. In attempting to get someone to serve in Virgil's place, some decisions were made that worked against the interests of the USVF and resulted in the cancellation of the event this past year (2015) due to inadequate participation.

The group is hoping to re-start the program in the year 2016. Final details will not become available until later in the year, but the general outline of the program would be the period 6/21 to 6/27 in Luxembourg, with daily excursions originating at the hotel in Contern. I believe the

bN/Réf : 045/15/PP/PO
V/Réf :
Affaire suivie par :
Assélie TILLION
Cabinet du Maire (02.33.36.40.11)



Monsieur Douglas KNORR
National Commander
80th Division Veterans Association
1609 Dracka Road
Traverse City, MI 49685-8817

UNITED STATES

November 10th, 2015

Mister President,

We would be honored to invite you to the official ceremony in honor of the memory of soldiers of the 80th US Infantry Division who fell for the liberation of ARGENTAN August 20, 1944.

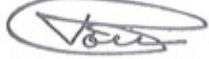
This ceremony will be held:

Saturday, August 27, 2016.

On this occasion, a commemorative plaque will be unveiled in honor of the American soldiers died.

I beg you to believe, Mister President, the assurances of my best sentiments

Pierre PAVIS
Maire
Conseiller général honoraire



Hôtel de Ville d'Argentan - Place du Docteur Couinaud - BP 60203 - 61201 ARGENTAN cedex
Tél. 02 33 36 40 00 - Fax 02 33 36 52 07 - www.argentan.fr - n° Siret : 216/100/065/00012

limit of 50 people will remain in place, but it will be necessary that 50, or very near that number, attend, if the program is to move forward. Participants will be required to cover their own transportation to Luxembourg City, their hotel expenses, and an amount to be determined that will apply to such things as meals and bus transportation during the week.

I would ask that anyone interested in taking part this coming year to contact me at your earliest convenience regarding your intention, or any other questions you might have. Hopefully I will be able to provide needed information, but if not immediately available, can see that you get it.

PNC Jeff Wignall, member9219@aol.com

Nazi Gold Train Site Being Prepped for Excavation

Tuesday, November 24, 2015

Submitted by: Judy Bezjak

THE POLISH CITY OF WALBRZYCH has a local legend of a train that was buried by the Nazis toward the close of World War II, laden with looted treasure, to hide it from the advancing Russian army. Last August, two treasure hunters announced that they may have uncovered the resting place of this legendary locomotive, and now engineers are preparing to excavate the site.

Acting on the deathbed confession of a man who claims to have witnessed the loading of the train, treasure hunters Piotr Koper and Andreas Richter used ground-penetrating radar equipment in the indicated area near the city of Walbrzych. They indeed found a train-shaped object in an embankment, near the existing rail line that runs near the city.

“The Nazis dug out the embankment, created a junction and laid track to divert the train off to the side. Then they parked the train, which is 90 metres long, removed the rails and put back the soil,” explains Koper.



Before the excavation begins, military engineers will be using magnetic field detectors, ground-penetrating radar, and thermal imaging cameras to search for possible booby-traps that Nazi workers may have left behind to protect the cache.

While the train’s actual contents are unknown, there has been no end to the speculation made as to what was being transported on it. Walbrzych is the reputed site of the underground laboratories of Hitler’s Project Riese, where Nazi Wunderwaffe, their secret weapons, were being developed. While it is not known if the buried train was connected with the secret weapon projects, local tunnel explorer and tour guide Krzysztof Szpakowski believes that top-secret equipment will be found on board.

“This was a closed military area—first Russian, then Polish—until 1991. The soldiers were looking for something. When I was a teenager we knew something had gone on here. But there was no one to ask because all the [German] residents were shipped out of the area and replaced by Poles after the Potsdam agreement,” Szpakowski explains, of whom has been using dowsing as a method to locate hidden tunnels.

Continued 

From January 1931 Service Magazine:

What the Papers Say: A DEBT OF HONOR

Payment of Bonus Would Provide Needed Assistance to War Veterans.

JUSTICE, NOT CHARITY, demands the payment of the veterans’ bonus now.

Now is the time the veterans urgently need the assistance which the immediate settlement of this just debt would give them.

And the dictates of common sense reinforce the demands of justice. Now is the time when the whole country would benefit by the large amount of money which the payment of the veterans’ bonus would quickly put into circulation.

Legislation passed seven years ago provided adjusted service certificates for all veterans of the great war below the rank of major in the Army. Certificates constitute 20 year endowment policies that vary in amount according to the veterans’ ages, length of service, and service overseas or at home. The average amount is \$1,012. Holders can make annual loans upon them.

How badly veterans need the assistance is shown by the fact that most veterans are taking cash for the certificates instead of holding them for final redemption value. Some 2.5 million policy loans were made by the Veterans’ Bureau through the previous November, and it is unknown how many other loans were made against the certificates through private banks.

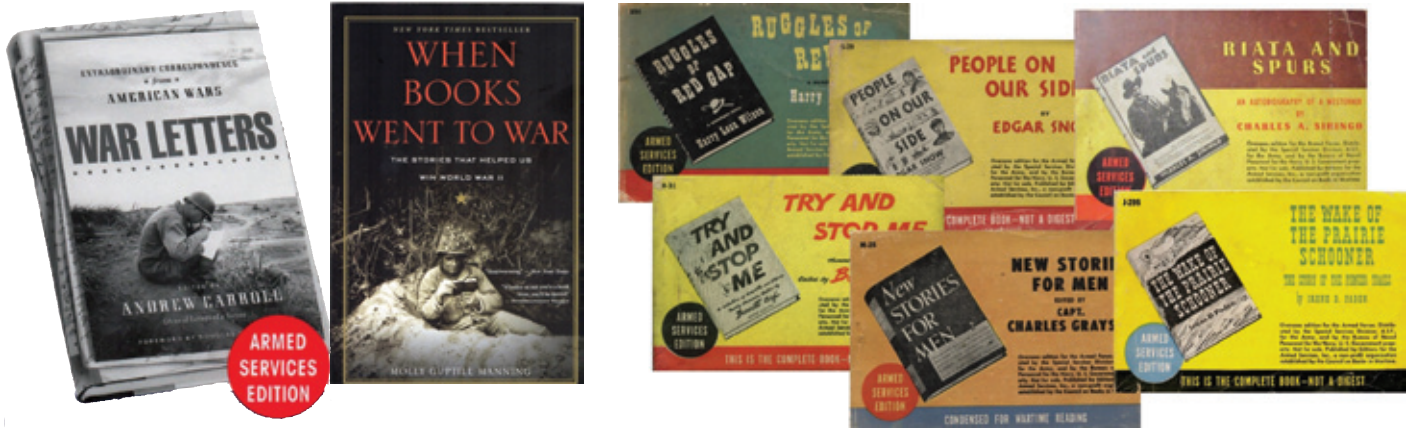
Washington servants have admitted the economic wisdom of large expenditures for public works to reduce unemployment, increase consumption, stabilize production and encourage a general revival of business. As its contribution, the federal government is participating in the greatest program of waterway, harbor, flood-control, public building, highway and airway improvement. State and municipal governments are supplementing the federal expenditures with similar projects. Public works are needed. Equally needed is the immediate assistance which payment of a veterans’ bonus would provide for our defenders of our colors in the Great War.

Printed in *Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph*.

“The Nazis wanted to develop an atomic bomb. They were working on anti-gravity propulsion. There is something on that train that was intended for Riese. We only know 5% of what went on in this part of the world,” he said.

Image Credit: Komplex Riese w Górach Sowich, Walim - Rzeczka, korytarz z widocznymi dwoma poziomami

News Source: theguardian.com. Read the original source: <http://www.unknowncountry.com/news/nazi-gold-train-site-being-prepped-excavation#ixzz3sww1xigI>



BOOKS IN WAR SERVICE in the 80th in WWII is usually thought of in terms of “the front,” but for many of the men that time followed many months of stateside training. As busy as that was, there were inevitable slack times that required diversion to maintain sanity. Even the later replacements whose training was abbreviated to the barest essentials faced periods of boredom during transport and waiting for assignments, and many of these “low point” men continued in service as occupation troops after the fighting stopped.

One proven remedy was to provide reading material wherever it might be of use, and the first approach to doing so was to put out a call to the public for book donations as it had been done very effectively during WWI. Initially, the appeal worked well, but since it often involved unwanted volumes, it soon became overloaded with old textbooks and such that were of no particular interest. Additionally, since even the worthwhile volumes were hardcovers, the books were difficult to transport, both for initial distribution and carrying by individual soldiers in the field, and the matter of sorting to attempt to balance material for each destination was virtually impossible.

The solution turned out to be—primarily—a series of books called the *Armed Service Editions*. For an in-depth history of how the program was developed, I’m going to refer anyone interested to an excellent book by Molly Guptill Manning entitled *When Books Went to War* (Mariner Books, 2014) and currently available. Space here will not allow it, and she does a far better job of it in her book than anything I could attempt. Similarly, there is a lot about these books online at the University of Virginia web site that derives from an exhibit there around 2007 bearing the same name as the book, although with no apparent connection.

This is one of a vast number of seemingly insignificant sidelights that combine to make up the full story of WWII. Like many of the larger programs that were developed with what in today’s climate would be impossible speed—war

production graphs for 1942-3 were almost straight up! It serves as a great example of what we are capable of doing when we have to—or want to.

The target was to produce books small and light enough to truly carry in a pocket unlike the relatively then-new Pocket Books (and others) that were a tad large for the purpose, light, yet durable enough to be passed through six or seven hands. The result was exactly that: a book format (in two slightly different sizes—which remains a mystery to me) roughly 2/3 the size of the paperbacks, about half the thickness, with a uniform cover design picturing the original hardcover book, a paragraph about the book’s source, and the designation “Armed Service Edition.” The back cover carried a review of the content and, inside, a list of other titles printed in the same month.

About 30 titles were produced each month during the life of the program—ultimately 1332 titles! Print runs of each ranged up to a million copies, and they were sorted into a predetermined mix and boxed for shipment to nearly every place in the world where US Servicemen and women were stationed—including all the ships at sea. Each book was a complete version of the original, and titles represented a wide cross section of readable material from popular to classic—some flying in the faces of OLPs in various departments, agencies, boards, and even congress, demanding oversight of what our servicemen and women should be allowed to read. I doubt I’d have voted for Robert Taft anyway even if I had been old enough. Several books “Banned in Boston” made the list despite the raised eyebrows.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the program was the willingness of authors and (competing) publishers to forego copyrights and accept greatly reduced royalties to make it all work, just one more justification for the title “Greatest Generation.”

Continued on page 13

Operation SOS (Save Our Sanctuary)



“The Gray Ladies Chapel is Very, Very Unique.”

ARTIST BILL HARRAH, WOLF RUN STUDIO

*Memorial Chapel at Walter Reed Hospital
Opened to the public in 1931, Washington, DC*

The chapel serves as a memorial to the men and women who gave their lives in the service of their country—and as a living memorial to the Gray Ladies of the Red Cross Volunteer Hospital Service. Named after the gray dress or apron and gray veil they were instructed to wear, the Gray Ladies deserve nearly all the credit for a decade of planning and fund-raising required to build the chapel.

Upon signing the bill that authorized the chapel in February 1929, President Calvin Coolidge said, “This is the finest thing I have ever done.” Treasury Secretary Andrew Mellon set the cornerstone in May 1930, and a year later the chapel was officially dedicated. The first religious ceremony performed within the new chapel was a wedding.

The gray stone “Church of All Faiths” is reminiscent of those found in the English countryside. Indeed, the five-lance stained glass window above the marble altar was made in England. The sections each have themes relevant to both religion and the military. Ten other memorial win-

dows also grace the chapel. Four gargoyles (two holding rectors, representing Science, and two holding scrolls, representing Religion) gaze out over the entire Army Medical Center from the tower. Sharing that view are four gargoyles of Gray Ladies. Everything in the chapel, from the foundation to the tower, is a memorial.

To Order Gray Ladies Chapel Cards:
Wolf Run Studio
P.O. Box 444, Clifton, VA 20124-0444
703-250-6711 / www.wolfrunstudio.com

MISSION STATEMENT: To petition our Representatives, and Secretary of State John Kerry, for the release and transfer of the former Gray Ladies War Memorial Chapel, to the National D-Day Memorial Foundation. The Friends of The Gray Ladies Chapel will be tasked with raising the millions of dollars to deconstruct, move, and rededicate the chapel at the Bedford D-Day site on November 11, 2018. This national effort will be completed without expense to the U.S. Government, or the National D-Day Foundation. Our desire is to commemorate the one hundred year conclusion of World War One by keeping the Gray Ladies Chapel on active duty.

BACKGROUND: The former Walter Reed Army Hospital closed in 2011. The property was then divided, with a 33 acre tract going to the State Department. The Gray Ladies Chapel is now situated in an area where chancelleries are to be built.

We are urging all interested Americans to contact their Representatives and Secretary of State John Kerry, to release the chapel to D-Day. The Gray Ladies Chapel must only be utilized as a sanctuary to honor our wartime dead; any other use would be sacrilegious. Required Action: Contact your representatives. Please write and call:

Mr. John Kerry, U.S. Department of State
2201 C. Street NW, Washington, DC 20520
202-647-4000

Books... continued from page 12

Several national magazines and newspapers also provided reduced-size versions of their publications—with all advertising stripped out to save space. *Time* magazine produced a “pony” edition, and many others did the same. A micro-version of the *Boston Herald* was mailed to New England men in the service every Monday by the Jordan Marsh Company, Boston’s landmark department store. The text was a mite small, but a nice gesture all the same.

Through programs like these, men were able to maintain and improve their academic capabilities to the extent that many of those who pursued the educational opportunities afforded by the GI Bill were referred to as “DARs” (Damned Average Raisers!) by the struggling civilian students.

The program continued into 1947 to accommodate the large number of men who remained stationed around the world. The format of the post-conflict books was changed to vertical to distinguish them. In 2002 the VFW resurrected it briefly with 100,000 condensations of each of seven current titles for distribution during Desert Storm.



On a recent sudden and fast-paced trip to England and France, PNC Jeff Wignall was received at the Sandiway Golf Club in Cheshire—where the Division was encamped for about three weeks in 1944 while waiting to cross into France—by the three gentlemen above, Club President Steve Watson, Club Captain, RN Cmdr. (Ret.) Tom Cunningham, and the originator of the project, club member Tom Carroll. An introductory chat—in which it was learned that Tom Cunningham had also lost his father to the war in a sinking off Cape Hatteras in 1940—was followed by a tour of the grounds to view the two markers placed there, the trees in which many of the men carved their names still visible today, and the bunker created as a backstop for firing practice that has been retained as an obstacle course. Lunch at the clubhouse followed the tour.

ONE HELL of A WAR

NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

The authors MAJ Dean Dominique, USA (Ret) and COL James Hayes, USA (Ret), have given a special 30% discount for members of the 80th Division Veterans Association if you buy the book directly from the printer.

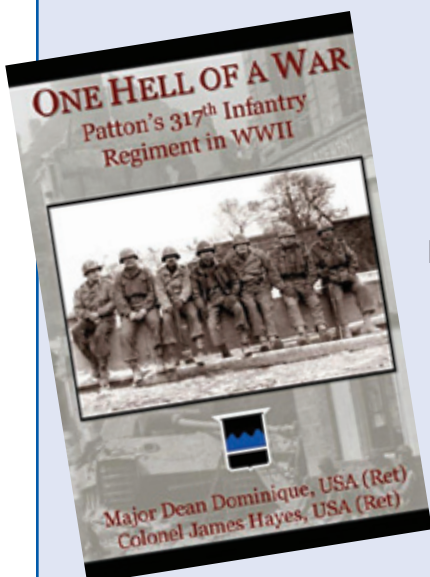
Simply go to www.createpace.com/4789517 and apply Discount Code XPC47KYZ to receive 30% off of the cover price.

The book can also be purchased online from Amazon at

www.tinyurl.com/317WWII

More information about the book can be found at

www.WoundedWarriorPublications.com.





Typical carvings in trees from 1944 still visible at Sandiway.



Visit to the US Military Cemetery at St. Avold, France.



Re-enactors portraying the GIs of the 95th Division, with whom we rode through several French towns in their restored vehicles. The parade included a stop at their repair facility at an abandoned coal mine to view their extensive collection of vehicles undergoing restoration, and concluded with a camp lunch at the Maginot Line fort at Bam-biderstorff.

Information on Liberation of Bambiderstroff

MY NAME IS SIMON PETITOT. I am 22 and I live in France, in the small village of Bambiderstroff. I am currently doing research on the liberation of my area by the 80th Infantry Division during November 1944 and the relations between US troops and the civilian population.

This research is part of an academic work; I am preparing my master thesis (second year) at the University of History of Nancy (France). I want to publish (in 1-2 year) my research so that people in my area (and elsewhere) know the history of these battles and the men who fought and died for freedom in the area.

I've read through the 80th Division After Action Reports, the Morning Reports and other reports of the 80th concerning the month of November 1944. I have some pictures and biographies of soldiers of the division Killed in Action between 18 - 28 November and a few letters. I've drawn maps of all the actions of the regiments of the division.

I am looking for testimonies and anecdotes of Veterans who took part of the fighting between November 18 and 28, 1944, against the Maginot Line on November 25 and



Photo: <http://www.museumsyndicate.com/images/6/56682.jpg>
American Soldier Playing Accordion, Argentan, France 1944 AD

26, 1944, who liberated the towns of Herry, Many, Holecourt, Chemery, Adelonge, Faulquemont, Bambiderstroff, Zimming, Longeville-les-St-Avoid, Laudrefang, Tritteling, Haute-Vigneulles, Saint-Avoid, Valmont, and Farebersviller. Also, who captures Fort Kerfent, Fort Bambiderstroff, Fort Bambesch, Fort Einseling, Forts Quatre-Vents, and Fort Laudrefang on November 25, 1944.

I am looking for testimonies of Veterans of the 317th, 318th and 319th Infantry Regiments about these battles, about feelings during the battles, and about relations with the civilian population they helped to liberate. Any personal information about this period covering 11 days.

If you have any information, pictures, or letters related to these events, please contact me. Thank you very much for your help. My email is: petitot.simon@orange.fr



All is Not Gold

Printed in the *Pittsburgh Press*

THE FEAR THAT DEMANDS for immediate cash payment of more than three billion dollars worth of veterans' cash bonus certificates would threaten the government's regular financing operations is a known fact. Serious market decline in governmental bonds represents the worst break in years. With those bonds in such a state, it is easy to see what would happen if the bonus certificates were dumped on the market.

Veterans who like to believe that the government's financial woes have nothing to do with them are overlooking the fact that unemployed veterans cannot get jobs until there is

a business revival. Chances for a quick return to prosperity are none too bright.

The cash value of an individual bonus certificate is so small that it can't possibly compensate the unemployed veteran who would thereby ruin a chance of getting a job if the bond market prevents industry from initiating new business projects.

It is easy enough to make an appeal for cash for the veteran. But the veteran who stops to think twice will have time to remember the ancient wisecrack that "all is not gold that glitters."

French Republic/Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs Application

For the rank of Knight in the Order of the Legion of Honor / Military facts and details related to the Second World War

NOTE: Applications take at least several months to be processed. No information about the advancement of the applications can be given by phone. When more information is needed, the Consulate contacts the applicants. Only Veterans whose application has been approved are informed, usually by mail.

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST: _____ MIDDLE: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ COUNTRY OF BIRTH: _____ NATIONALITY: _____

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: _____

PHONE (HOME): _____ (CELL): _____

FAX: _____ EMAIL: _____

1. Professional civilian occupation (before retirement): _____

2. Military Career during the Second World War: _____

Incorporation date: _____ Separation date _____ From the: _____

Total duration of Services during WWII: _____ Years _____ Months Last rank Obtained: _____

Military Unit/Corp: _____ Military Specialty: _____

3. French official decorations already bestowed (when applying): _____

4. American and foreign official decorations/citations bestowed: _____

5. Wound(s) received in action? Yes ___ No ___ Details, Place and Date: _____

6. Duration and place of captivity as Prisoner of War (when applying): _____

7. Chronological progress of your military career during the Second World War: _____

8. Battles and campaigns: _____

9. Specific heroic actions, participation in battles/combat/missions, during the Second World War (Please give accurate details): _____

10. Documents enclosed with application form: _____

(NOTE: The Honorable Discharge papers and the Military records are necessary to process the file):

11. Chronological progress of your professional career (before retirement): _____

Education/University/College degrees: _____

12. Elective functions, missions in France and abroad: _____

13. Activities in Veterans' Associations or in the social/community field: _____

14. Works and publications: _____

15. Relative: (spouse, children, grandchildren): _____

PLEASE INCLUDE NAME AND ADDRESS, AND PHONE OF TWO CHARACTER REFERENCES ON A SEPARATE SHEET.

PHOTOCOPIES ACCEPTED, ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES FOR ANSWERS REQUIRING MORE SPACE.

Embassy of France, Defense Mission, 4101 Reservoir Rd. NW, Washington, DC 20007



Luxembourg-American Friendship Week

June 20 – 27, 2016

Registration, Cost, Conditions & Other Information:

TOUR COST:

\$2,100 per person in a double room / \$2,500 in a single room. (Availability of single rooms is limited.) Reduced price for WW II Veterans: \$1,350

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

7 nights in hotel, breakfast, lunch, and dinner (including drinks provided at the meals), bus, all entrance fees, guide fees, tips, and taxes.

NOT INCLUDED:

Flight tickets, excess baggage charges, optional sightseeing fees, extra hotel services, meals and drinks other than those shown in the itineraries.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS:

For US Citizens, a passport valid for three months beyond the length of stay A Visa is not required.

RESTRICTIONS:

Handicapped participants requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a qualified helper who assumes total responsibility for the handicapped participant's well-being. Should a wheelchair or other special equipment, care, maintenance or services be required at any time, all arrangements shall be made and all costs and obligations will be borne by the tour member. All tour members must be able to make their way on and off the bus, or with no more than minimal assistance by their care person.

RESPONSIBILITY:

The US Veterans Friends, Luxembourg is a non-profit association hosting US Veterans, their families and friends during their stay in Luxembourg and act only in the capacity of liaison-agent for the hotels, bus companies and other suppliers of services, and cannot be held responsible for any injury, loss, or damage caused by accidents or other events.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

It is strongly recommended that each participant is covered by a private Travel Insurance that usually covers issues such as:

- Trip Cancellation & Interruption
- Travel Delay
- Baggage Loss or Delay
- Medical Expenses
- Emergency Medical Transportation

TIPPING:

We recommend booking a flight to and from the airport at Luxembourg. Be sure to furnish the coordinator with your flight arrangements so that local transportation can be arranged, and advise us of any alternate schedule arrangements.

DEPOSITS AND FINAL PAYMENTS:

Reservations may be secured with a deposit of \$100 per person at any time prior to May 14th, 2016, with the total amount due by that date. Space is limited so reserving early is recommended. Requests received after the May 14th deadline will be accepted on a space-available basis only. Cancellations: A refund of payments, less a \$100 per person service charge, will be made for cancellations made after the registration date. In the event of cancellation of the tour by the USVF due to insufficient participation, a full refund of all payments will be made.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESERVATION
APPLICATION CONTACT:**

Jeff Wignall
27 Martinack Ave
Peabody, MA 01960-6448
Phone: 978-532-0741
Email: member9219@aol.com

Luxembourg-American Friendship Week, June 20 – 27, 2016



THE US VETERANS FRIENDS of Luxembourg warmly invite all American WW II Veterans, their families and friends to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for the Luxembourg-American Friendship Week.

Hotel accommodation are at the Best Western Euro Hotel in Gonderange located a few minutes from Luxembourg City. Rooms are equipped with television, radio, mini-bar, telephone and free internet. The restaurant is renowned for its excellent French and Luxembourgish cuisine. The tour in Luxembourg will be via deluxe motorcoach. Wheelchairs are available upon request.

TOUR ITINERARY

MONDAY: Arrival at the airport in Luxembourg or railway station. Individual shuttle service by members of the US-VFL to the hotel for check in. Welcome reception at the hotel followed by common dinner in the evening.

TUESDAY: Free time in the morning, lunch at the hotel. Visit to the Pescatore Foundation, a historical building in Luxembourg City, former General Patton's HQ during the Battle of the Bulge. Visit of the American Military Cemetery in Hamm with wreath laying. In the evening, presentation of the Chapel of 4 Chaplains and dinner in the Cultural Center of Oetrange.

WEDNESDAY: Visit to the National Museum of Military History in Diekirch, one of the most impressive museums about the Battle of the Bulge. Free time in Diekirch. After lunch, visit the Château de Vianden, a restored medieval castle near the Our River. Dinner at the hotel. Optionally, you may take part in the festivities with fireworks on the eve of the Luxembourgish National Holiday in Luxembourg City.

THURSDAY: National Holiday in Luxembourg. In the morning, Mass with "Te Deum" at the Parish Church in Dahl, ceremony at the Day G. Turner Memorial at the Astert Farmhouse in Dahl. Day G. Turner was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery and actions at that farm. Barbecue at Michi's Taverne. In the afternoon, visit the former 80th Infantry Division battlefields and wreath laying at their memorials in Heiderscheid and Mertzig. Dinner at the hotel.

FRIDAY: Visit Battle of the Bulge sites in Luxembourg or Belgium, lunch included. In the evening, wine tasting and dinner at the Schmitt-Fohl winery in Ahn, on the Moselle River.

SATURDAY: Visit the former battlefields and memorials in the area of Bastogne, including Bastogne War Museum, Mardasson, Belgium. After lunch, free time in Bastogne. Dinner at the hotel.

SUNDAY: Visit the Maginot Line fortress, the Hackenberg, lunch included. Farewell dinner at the hotel. End of Friendship Week.

MONDAY: Individual departure to return to the states.

NOTE: Individual requests for visits to special places within range will be considered. Small changes in the program are possible.



The last date I have entered a name is February 1, 2016

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Hanna, Phyllis – Annual to Life
Velasquez, Albert, D-317

ANNUAL MEMBERS

Archer, MG(R) James, HQ 80th TC ADC
Bozeman, BG(R) Michael, 2nd Bde
Sensabaugh, MSG Carter, 3-317

DONATIONS

Bryan Basden – In Memory of Robert Kepler M-319
John Eckrich – General Fund
Jan Evin – In Memory of Paul Fate F-318
Sheldon Kelley – General Fund
William Lawrence – In Memory of Belford Lawrence,
Father
COL(R) Tony Leketa – General Fund
Burl Mansberger – General Fund
PNCs – In Memory of PNC Clarence Brockman
Grace Viviano – In Memory of Dr Paul Viviano, Husband,
313FA Medical

MURRELL MATCH

Anonymous
PNC Lee Anthony
Arlin Barden – In Memory of Carl Miller A-318 KIA 4/2/45
Kassel, Germany
Bill Black
Joseph Coscia
Ed Hargraves – Battery A 313 FA
Burt Marsh – In Memory of Wife, Barbara
Donna McCuish
Victor Muller - In Memory of PFC Joseph Muller A-317 KIA
2/26/45 Germany
PNC Jim Phillips
Judy Shoemaker – In Memory of Howard Shoemaker

Check Your Address Label

Doris M. Wollett
5101 Hurop Road
Sandston, VA 23150-5406

PAID 2016

*Membership
Expiration Date*

*You have paid
through Dec of the
year indicated.*

Check your name and address

(Apt., Bldg., Lot No.). Notify the Secretary if you find an error.

TAPS

Bloedorn, John L-318
700 Welsh Rd #202
Watertown, WI 53098
DOD: Sep 17, 2015
Rptd by: Wife Lois

Brockman, PNC Clarence HQ 317
334 Fannie St
McDonald, PA 15057
DOD: Nov 17, 2015
Rptd by: Daughter, Barbara

Flood, SFC Henry "Hal" HQ 80th Div
Richmond, VA
DOD: Oct 23, 2015
Rptd by: COL(R) David Gallagher

Johnson, John T. L-318
12205 Colony Preserve Dr
Boynton, FL 33436
DOD: Apr 21, 2015
Rptd by: Son, Dean

McCarthy, COL(R) Thomas 2174th USAG
Roanoke, VA
DOD: Nov 1, 2015
Rptd by: COL(R) John Brown

Murrell, PNC Robert M-318
166 Cambridge Ln
Lewistown, PA 17044
DOD: Jan 29, 2016
Rptd by: Son, Bob

Washington, Beverly HQ 80th TC
Chesterfield, VA
DOD: Dec 22, 2015
Rptd by: COL(R) David Gallagher



Only Moves Forward

Eightieth Division Veterans Association 97th Annual Reunion

Holiday Inn and Suites Alexandria – Historic District • August 17 – 21, 2016
625 First Street / Alexandria, Virginia 22314 / 703-548-6300
Please PRINT CLEARLY all information and return by June 30, 2016

First Reunion: Yes No

Name of Veteran or Attendee: _____

Phone: _____

Name of Spouse or Guests: _____

Unit Affiliation: _____ Period: _____ Handicap: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address if available: _____

Registration Fee:	_____ x \$40 per person	\$ _____
Prize Tickets (\$2 each or all 12 for \$20):	_____ x \$2 per ticket	\$ _____
Wednesday Night Commander's Reception (Aug. 17):	_____ x \$25 per person	\$ _____
George Washington's Home Mount Vernon Tour (Aug 18): (Light lunch included)	_____ x \$45 per person	\$ _____
Thursday Night Dugout Party (Aug. 18):	_____ x \$35 per person	\$ _____
WW2 Memorial Visit (Aug. 19): Windshield Tour of National Mall & Evening Honors	_____ x \$50 per person	\$ _____
Friday Night Buffet:	_____ x \$35 per person	\$ _____
Saturday Night Dinner: (indicate choice for each person)	_____ x \$39 per person	\$ _____
Program Listing: (PRINT NAMES)	_____ x \$5 per name	\$ _____

Ad rates are based on single-column width (3.625" wide) at \$15. Double-width ads (7.5" wide) are \$25 per inch with a 2" minimum height; half-page ads are \$85; full page ads are \$130. Please provide the copy for your ad as you wish to have it appear on a separate sheet. Any artwork or photographs to be included should be submitted as 300 dpi scans for best results in production. Any original photos submitted will be returned to the owner after printing at the reunion registration or my mail if you are unable to attend. If the ad consists of simple text message, it will be appropriately fitted to the ad size selected.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1"H x 3.5"W: \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2"H x 3.5"W: \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4"H x 3.5"W: \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2"H x 7.5"W: \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4"H x 7.5"W: \$85 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10"H x 7.5"W: \$130 (full page) |

Program Ads: Ad size: _____ \$ _____

Program Book (mailed to address above): _____ x \$7.50 \$ _____

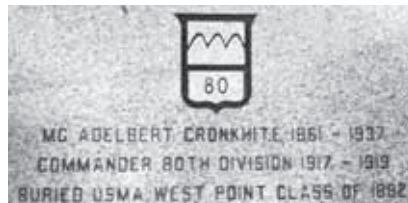
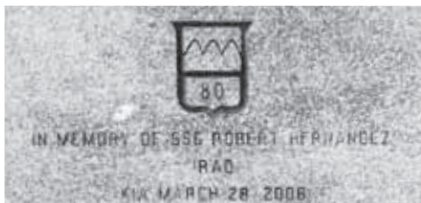
NOTE: ALL MEAL PRICES INCLUDE TAXES & GRATUITIES.

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Mail Form and Check payable to 80th Division Veterans Association to:
80TH DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
c/o Bill Black, Senior Vice Commander
P.O. Box 4343
Suwanee, GA 30024

80TH DIVISION MEMORIAL BRICKS

HONOR OUR VETERANS AND HELP THE ASSOCIATION RAISE NEEDED FUNDS!



80th Division Veterans Association Memorial Brick Paver Program

The purpose of the brick program is to help the overall financial status of our organization and help it to remain viable for the future. It is a fantastic way to honor our veterans. The bricks (also called "pavers") are approximately 5" tall x 11" wide x 4" thick. The bricks will be placed at the 80th Training Command Headquarters in Richmond, Virginia, adjacent to our 80th Division monument.

There are two types of bricks to choose from:

1. Standard Granite \$195 Quantity: _____
2. Virginia "Hokie" Stone \$295 Quantity: _____ (Hokie Stone has metal colored 80th Patch)

Prices include brick cutting, surface smoothing, three lines of inscription, shipping and installation.

You may inscribe whatever you wish as it can fit on the three lines. If you're interested, please fill in the following information:

NAME (FIRST / LAST) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ COUNTRY _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Three lines of inscription: _____

If you would prefer to have your brick shipped to an alternate address, please provide: _____

Please Make Check Payable to: 80th Division Veterans Association. You can mail check and completed information to:

Bill Black / 80th Division Veterans Association • 1031 Overlook Park Lane • Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Phone: 404-493-6601 • E-mail: williamrblack@gmail.com



Only Moves Forward

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

*Desiring to maintain liaison and comradeship with
Veterans and soldiers of the 80th Division, and receive
the Blue Ridge Service Magazine.*

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:

CURRENT MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING (Dues paid to date)

80TH DIVISION WWII VETERAN

- NEW/ANNUAL DUES: \$20/YEAR
- LIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$50

80TH DIVISION FAMILY / FRIEND / ASSOCIATE

- NEW/ANNUAL DUES: \$20/YEAR
- LIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$150

POST #50 80TH BLUE RIDGE ASSOCIATION

**DO NOT USE THIS FORM
CONTACT POST SECRETARY**

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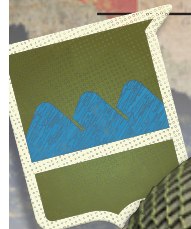
Blue Ridge 80th Division The Service Magazine

80TH DIV VETERANS ASSN

Doris M. Wollett
5101 Hurop Road
Sandston, VA 23150-5406

THE
80TH DIVISION
VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Needs Your **HELP!**



We find that we are in a financial crisis and need financial support to remain viable for the future. Please consider a gift for Veterans Day in the name of a loved one or a friend.

YOUR DONATION WILL BE APPRECIATED!

\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

Make Check Payable to: 80th Division Veterans Association
5101 Hurop Rd. Sandston, VA 23150

**IN THE
NAME OF:** _____

Name of your loved one or friend

**FROM
UNIT:** _____

Unit of your loved one or friend

