



THE SERVICE MAGAZINE

FALL / WINTER 2021

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The 2021 Reunion Met In Richmond, Virginia

By: Doug Knorr PNC, 2021 Reunion Chair

GREAT TIME was had by all at the 102nd Annual Reunion of the 80th Division Veterans Assn., which was held in Richmond, VA., August 5-8 at the Doubletree by Hilton Richmond Midlothian in Richmond, VA.

This year marked the 76th Anniversary of the End of WWII. Thursday began with the boards Business meeting and was followed by a great time together at a buffet dinner.

Friday, started with the Annual Business Meeting, and when finished we all boarded a chartered bus and headed to the Richmond Visitor's Center where we enjoyed a catered lunch, great conversation with lots of laughter.

After lunch, we again boarded the bus which took us to the American Civil War Museum Historic Tredegar—one of the nation's most significant Civil War sites and National Historic Landmarks. We learned much from the guided tour and after visiting the gift shop we again climbed into the bus and headed back to our hotel.

The week included a couple of great Speakers. Friday dinner speaker was Michael Rauhut, Assistant Professor, Army War College, Department of Military Strategy, Planning, and Operations, who made a special 80th presentation focusing on the 319th. And we enjoyed a Celebration Cake honoring 76 years since the end of WW ll.

Saturday, we held our annual Memorial Service and took time to honor all those who gave their all to maintain our Freedom. Then on Saturday night the veterans and their families enjoyed a special dinner with the 80th Division Training Command. Our speaker was Bernard L. Marie, International Consultant, Officer of the French Order of Merit & 2016 Recipient of the American Legion Patriot who focused on a celebration of 76 years since the end of WWll.

Plans are being made for the 2022 80th Division Veterans Association Reunion, which will again be held in Richmond VA. We will provide you the updates after the first of the year.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!

More photos on page 3

A visit to the American Civil War Museum in Historic Tredegar



Editor's Notes CSM(R) Doris Wollett

WINTER IS HERE for a lot of us. It certainly got colder in a hurry. With that being said remember to close those vents around the foundation of your house and disconnect the water hoses so they don't freeze. Change out the filters of your heating system and make sure you seal any drafty areas you make have. I love wood heat but with it comes a mess and also chance of a chimney/house fire. Think safety and be safe.

Hopefully you were able to get out to a Veterans Day Program in your area. I conducted a Program at my VFW Post where I serve as Commander. The Program was followed by a delicious bar-b-q lunch. We had a good turn out and shared in comradeship and just had a great time.

Thanksgiving will have come and gone when you receive this edition of the Blue Ridge Service Magazine. I pray that you had a wonderful time with family and friends. I also hope you took time to thank about all that we as Americans have to be thankful for. Sometimes we seem to dwell on the negative instead of all the positive.

Christmas is just around the corner. Children all around will be on the lookout for that new toy they want Santa to bring them. As adults we need to teach children the real reason we

celebrate Christmas - the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Blessings to you all. Hug your family and friends tightly as we never know when they will not be around for the next hug. Remember our Military and their families as many of them will not be able to be together. Do whatever your heart leads you to do to be supportive to someone less fortunate than yourself.

Post 50 aka Blue Ridge Association. There is very important information pertaining to the continuation of the Post later in this edition. Read it and give your input.

I need articles for the magazine. No input equals no magazine!

Dues for 2022 should be sent in as soon as possible. If you are three or more years in arrears you most likely will be dropped from membership. Don't let that happen. Contact me if you aren't sure or simply look on the back of the magazine at your address label. It shows the year you are paid through.

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

Historians Report

by Lee S. Anthony, PNC & Historian

WE CONTINUE, with our fellow historian Andy Adkins, to respond to inquiries from the families of deceased veterans regarding the military history of their ancestor. Fortunately, there is more information available on the website today; unfortunately, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is still restricted in availability.

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Bob Burrows. However, we are fortunate to have a copy of Bob's memoirs, to which we will be referring. Our sincere condolances to his family.

Activities continue in the Roanoke, VA area. The DAR sponsored another memorial service on 11 November, 2021 at the Argonne Circle in Roanoke. The DAV Honor Guard rendered military activities, and the new 80th Division plaque looks great on the large granite memorial stone. I have given thought to replacing the vandalized story-board, and have even gotten a quote for a "Charging Doughboy" life-sized statue. (Very costly, though.)

We also note the passing of Bernard Marie, who engineered the awards of many French medals to our WWII veterans.

The holdings of the "80th Division Museum in the Barn"

still increase, but we need more 'Hands on Deck' for the inventory of the artifacts.

We are beginning to work with the 116th/29th Division museum which is located in Verona, Virginia. They appreciate the extent and quality of our "barn artifacts," and have invited a proposal for joint future support between the two museums. We have already made available our collection of !!I Victory Medals, which have been taken to Verona for display.

We recently had the opportunity of a significant display to the Natural Bridge Elementary School. Our two-table (16 ft.) display was seen by all the students (6 to 10 at a time), for approximately 6 minutes each per lecture, for a four-hour period. Fortunately, I had a friend, Tommy Harris, who worked with me on the project.

I would encourage you to set up an appointment to see our artifacts, and to receive the 'lecture' regarding the history of these artifacts. Also keep in mind that if there are veterans' artifacts which are no longer needed or wanted, we almost never turn down donations of artifacts, particularly if they are related to the 80th Division.

"The 80th only moves forward," but we also need to pass on the history to those who follow us.





Bernard Marie signs a program at the reunion.

Brian Faulconer and Bernard.

The American Civil War Museum











Joy To The World!

A Christmas Message from the Chaplain: Doug Knorr PNC

Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King.

[N 1719 ISAAC WATTS wrote Joy to the World. Since then, every Christmas season, carolers cast those words into the air like a lifeline out into the ocean of humanity. The thrill of hope within the message spools out to touch a weary world with anticipation of tasting something truly good!

Joy came to the world because God, our great Creator, loved His creation so much that He sent His Son to reveal His story, so that over time, His character and ultimate good-will toward mankind would be recognized. The impact on earth of Christ's birth will never diminish despite every enemies' attempts to stop it.

Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year, When we celebrate the birth of Jesus the son of God, the Christ Child. The wonderful promise that God gave to Adam and Eve while in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3 is the greatest gift of all! God became Man, Immanuel, God with Us.

The beloved scripture of John 3:16-17 says it best, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the

Corrie Ten Boom said this about Christmas, "Who can add to Christmas? The perfect world through him." motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life."

This is what I would like to leave with you, God is With You... God is With All of Us! For that reason, you can know that He Loves You, He Cares for You and Seeks to have a relationship with You.

May this Truth create a "Heart of Thankfulness" for each of us as we celebrate God's Greatest Gift of Love, His Son Jesus Christ!

Wishing each of you a very Merry Christmas! Doug

Recognition of WWII Women Code Breakers



NONGRESS AND PRESIDENT Trump passed Public Law 116-218 to rename the U.S. Post Office in Sycamore Square in honor of Dorothy Braden Bruce, a top-secret World War II code breaker and former Midlothian, VA resident. Dorothy Bruce passed at age 99 in 2019 and was the mother-in-law of Ret Col William (Bill) Robertson.

Thousands of women code breakers were sworn to secrecy during and after the war not to reveal their roles or else they could receive severe consequences. It wasn't until Dorothy Bruce was 96 years old that she was told that the National Security Agency (NSA) top-secret documents had recently been declassified and the role of women code breakers could be revealed. Due to her remarkable memory, she was able to share her story with Liza Mundy who validated information through the NSA and became the author of Code Girls - The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of WWII.

Recruited in 1942, Bruce broke Japanese codes for the U.S. Army Signal Corps' Signal Intelligence Service as a cryptanalyst. During the war, she worked at Arlington Hall near Washington, D.C., and was assigned to decipher the codes sent to Japanese supply ships in an effort to pinpoint the location of those ships and disrupt food, fuel and other provisions for the Japanese forces. Knowing their location, our Navy was able to intercept the Japanese ships. As a result, the thousands of women code breakers who worked in secret during World War II helped to end the war two years early and saved thousands of American lives.

Dorothy and the other women code breakers focused on serving during the war to help their country, family, and friends. Dorothy's two brothers entered the service when they graduated from high school. Her brother Boyd E. Braden served as a member of the Army Air Forces in WWII from 1942 through 1946, as a radio technician for B-17s. Her youngest brother John A. Braden served in the 112 Infantry Regiment of the Twenty-Eighth Infantry Division, a Pennsylvania unit from 1943 to 1946. John survived the Battle of the Bulge. Dorothy married James T. Bruce Jr when the war ended in 1945. During World War II, Jim, an officer in the Army Air Corps, served as a meteorologist in the Middle East and Africa.

Nancy Robertson provided this information to Doris Wollett

Keeping the Memories Alive

by Anthony Guerin



S A GESTURE OF GOODWILL and to help keep the memo-Aries alive, the Association called Mémoire de Guerres en Lorraine (Memory of the Wars in Lorraine) of Toul (Lorraine, France) paid tribute to the men who served with the 80th Infantry Division on the symbolic date of May 8th. These re-enactors dressed as 80th Infantry Division soldiers and walked 14 kilometers from Toul to Villey Saint Etienne, then took part in a ceremony with Mr. Jean Lohner, the last member of the French Resistance to have helped during those battles, 76 years ago.

Why Toul and Villey St Etienne?

The battles of Toul and Villey St Etienne are not as highlighted as others during the war, but they were very significant to the unit's campaign. The soldiers of the 80th Division arrived from the north on September 4th, 1944 at 11:44. First, a reconnaissance Jeep, followed by another one with men. The inhabitants of Toul rushed to greet, hug, and kiss them. The GIs asked for information and discretion, since they were only present as scouts. However, this didn't prevent them from handing out cigarettes, chocolate bars, and chewing gum.

The Resistance members had chased the Germans out of Toul, but only to the other side of the Moselle River across from the bridge, located in Dommartin-les-Toul, which obviously no longer existed. The Germans didn't hesitate to fire at any figure they could see from their location.

In the afternoon, what was left of the troops arrived from Commercy and Saint Mihiel. The FFI (Force Française de l'intérieur (la résistance) / French Forces of the Interior) fought the Germans without a break, which forced a withdrawal towards Gondreville and the Villey le Sec fort. At the same time, the FFI organized and marched toward Villey St Etienne.

Lieutenant Colonel Elliott B. Cheston (319th Infantry Regiment, Company I) led the 80th soldiers to retake the Toul side of the river. They knew they needed to establish a bridgehead and cross. Captain Alferge E. Wrenn (305th Combat Engineer Battalion) used their own materials and floats to build a bridge. Meanwhile, some of the soldiers commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John W. Browning tried to cross with the help of rubber floats, but quickly heard bursts of gunfire. The Germans were still there and firmly established. Hopefully, they hadn't seen the first group of men who had managed to reach the other side of the River Moselle.

Once they arrived, the men from the 80th discovered six posts of German machine guns manned by infantry troops and paratroopers. The GIs took advantage of the surprise to attack the six posts located on two small hills between Dommartinles-Toul and Chaudeney-sur-Moselle. The operation, led by the First Lieutenant Ruby Gottlieb, proved successful and General Patton's Third Army was able to establish a bridgehead at his command on the River Moselle! Unfortunately, Adcock Caleb Jr. was killed in action and six others were wounded, three of which were taken to a local hospital. Among them was First Lieutenant Ruby Gottlieb, who was sent to the 106th Evacuation Hospital. Furthermore, seven German soldiers were captured as Prisoners of War.

Thirty minutes after this attack, the first convoy crossed the temporary bridge!

The following day, all the battalions crossed the bridge, along with their Jeeps, ambulances, trucks, ammunitions and the food rations, including two motorized ferries. The bridge between Toul and Dommartin-les-Toul was partially put to use thanks to the American ingenuity with a provisional bridge. The first bridgehead was now firmly established in Toul.

The streets of Toul were flooded with joy. Red, white, and blue—the colors of both nations—could be seen everywhere. The citizens were smiling and happy to meet the GIs, many of whom they took pictures. The American soldiers were kind and gave the town everything they could. The city of Toul was free again; the people ready to lift up their heads and start over.

However, soldiers from Companies I and G had to continue to fight in the surrounding villages such as Gondreville, Villey-le-Sec and Villey St Etienne. Once again, troops from the 80th Division assisted the Resistance fighters who had already begun to fight the German troops. The street fighting lasted up for hours, trying to rid the Germans and to free the citizens from enduring suffering as the German soldiers retreated.

Anthony Guerin

"As I was born in Toulon and now live in Villey St Etienne, it seemed obvious to me to highlight these little-known events and to make this tribute between the two towns. In the morning, our unit was to join a couple of Resistants through the woods so that they could show us the positions of the German soldiers and enable us to attack them from the rear. We ate

only what was given to the soldiers at that time, we found our way on the map, we walked and moved as if we were at war, staging a fight against the Germans in order to free the Resistants who had just been made prisoners. At the end of the day, we organized a ceremony to give an honor diploma to the last living Resistant of this fighting, Mr. Jean Lohner, and we mentioned the names of the soldiers who were injured or who died in this area, thanks to all the information I could find, I am available to exchange information or hear stories of the men of the 80th Infantry Division who fought in Lorraine," said the president of the association, Anthony Guerin.

"I will do my best to honor those men of the 80th Infantry Division and to keep them alive as long as I will be able to so that nobody forgets the self-sacrifices of these heroes," so declared Anthony Guerin, the President of the Association.

The following names were mentioned during the ceremony:

80th Division 319th Infantry Regiment Company I:

ADCOCK Jr., Caleb 34525074

ALLEN Jr., Ralph 35659103

BOWERS, William 35621900

LEJEUNE, Dupré A. 38489277

80th Division, 319th Infantry Regiment, Company G:

HUNTER, Clarence 35297123

MURPHY. James 33282364

GREENE William E. 20402751



The presentation of the diploma to Jean Lohner

more photos on pages 8, 9, & 10



The boys who represented the 80th Infantry Division for the event.

The different extras of the day.

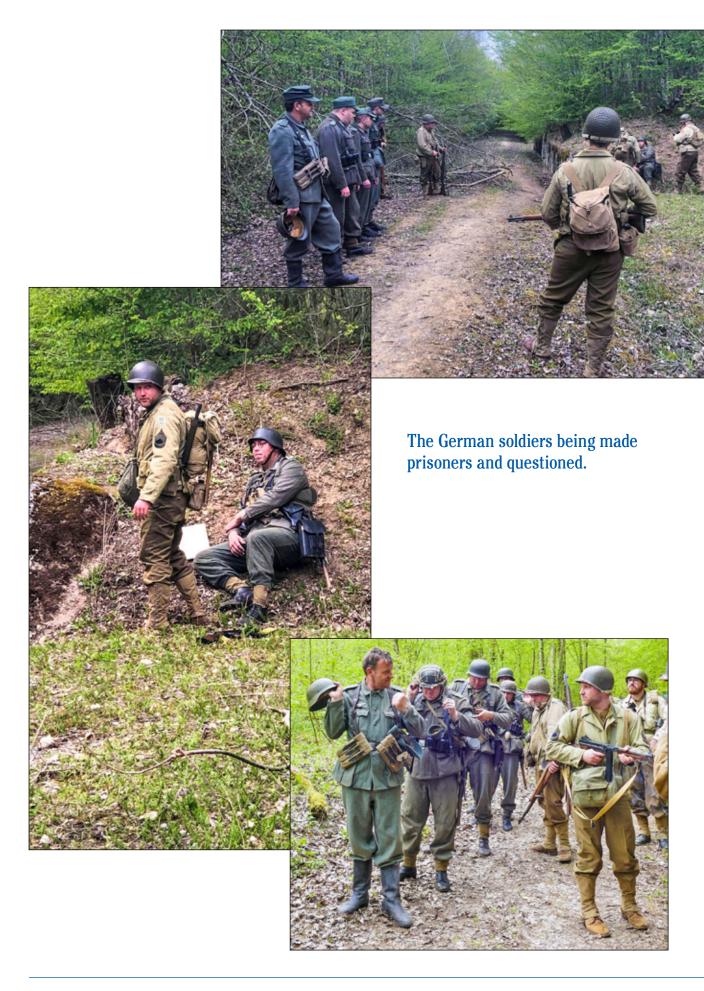






A fighting scene with the German soldiers and the liberation of the Resistants.





Bernard L. Marie

By Alison Graham

It comes with great sadness to announce the passing of Bernard L. Marie. Bernard was a guest speaker at our last reunion in August and I enjoyed hearing him talk about how the US troops liberated his town in France when he was just a child. He was a true friend to all world war II veterans and spent most of his adult life hosting an annual appreciation dinner in their honor. He helped many veterans, including my father, attain the French Legion of Honour medal. He will be dearly missed.

ERNARD MARIE WAS JUST 5 years old when his grandfa- \mathbf{D} ther and mother rushed him into their basement at 2 a.m. For 16 hours, they waited in the dark with no food or water. His grandfather covered his ears while the shelling roared outside and they waited for an all-clear.

In the early evening of June 6, 1944, Marie remembers his mother rushing from the cellar to hug an American GI. Their village in Normandy was finally liberated from German occupation.

Witnessing the D-Day invasion instilled in Marie a lifelong respect for World War II veterans, especially those who fought for the liberation of his country. When he later moved to Roanoke, he became known for the annual luncheon he created to honor local World War II veterans and his support of them and their families.

Marie, 82, died Friday morning in Roanoke.

"It's hard to put into words how much he meant to these veterans," said April Cheek-Messier, National D-Day Memorial Foundation president. "He experienced that liberation and he understood what that liberation meant for them. He had that direct connection to those veterans and their stories."

After the liberation of Marie's village, Luc-Sur-Mer, his mother told him a secret she had been keeping for years: his father was alive and working with the French Resistance in England. Marie's father had been conscripted to join the German labor force when Marie was just a baby. His father later escaped to Spain and then to England, but couldn't return home.

To protect the family, Marie's mother told everyone her husband had died. She secretly communicated through their church's priest, also a member of the resistance, to keep tabs on her husband's safety.

Once the Americans had driven out German troops, Marie's father could return home.

Marie grew up to be an international businessman. He moved to Indianapolis and was surprised by how little the United States seemed to honor D-Day. At the time, there was no memorial in Bedford and no World War II memorial in Washington, D.C.





Bernard Marie was a 5-year-old boy living just 8 miles from the D-Day landings on June 6, 1944. His experience there lead to a lifelong devotion to World War II veterans. Marie died Friday (Nov. 5) at age 82. (The Roanoke Times, File 2018)

He began to host his luncheon in the 1980s and more than 500 World War II veterans attended the first event. As Marie moved around the country — to North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia — he brought the luncheon with him.

The annual event began in Roanoke in 2001.

Cheek-Messier said Marie recognized the need for the veterans to tell their stories before it was too late. The luncheon became an important event for veterans to come together and share their experiences — some for the first time.

"The luncheon felt like a safe space," Cheek-Messier said. "I think it was very cathartic for veterans to do that, and the luncheons were really some of the most important things that Bernard did."

Marie helped raise money for the founding of the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford. He also connected with many World War II families and sat by their bedsides as they became ill, spoke at their funerals and consoled their families.

He also worked with the French embassy to award about 150 veterans with the French Legion of Honor medal.

In an interview with The Roanoke Times in 2014. Marie made his devotion clear.

"My goal is not only to honor these guys, but my biggest problem is to be sure nobody is going to forget them," he said in the article. "They gave me back my freedom, my father, my life."

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Back to the Front

November 21, 1944-December 14, 1944 by A.Z. Adkins, Jr. and Andy Adkins III

Lt. A.Z. Adkins, Jr. was a .81mm mortar section leader with Company H, 317th Infantry Regiment. This is his story, an excerpt from our book, *You Can't Get Much Closer Than This – Combat with the 80th 'Blue Ridge' Division WWII Europe*, published by Casemate Publishers (2005).

IWAS WOUNDED IN Sivry, France in early October and ended up in a rehab hospital in England. After six weeks, I left the 216th General Hospital on November 21, 1944 and transferred to the 10th Replacement Pool. Our train had a four-hour stopover at Bristol, so I took some time to do a little sightseeing. I stayed at the 10th Replacement Pool until November 23 and then went to another branch of the 10th at Phesy Farms, right on the outskirts of Birmingham.

Birmingham was only a ten-minute bus ride away from Phesy Farms. It was truly a soldier's paradise. There were very few American troops stationed there, but girls flooded the place. Another buddy of mine, named James, and I went in together. It was our last fling before we started back to France.

At Phesy Farms, we were able to fully resupply our equipment, supplies, and ODs. We also got all our back pay and a 24-hour pass. We went to the British Red Cross Club and were assigned to a room. After cleaning up, James and I went downstairs to eat. We found a nice, quiet table in the corner. In a few minutes, a quaint, pretty voice with a distinct British accent said, "What would you like?" I looked up and saw the most beautiful sight I'd seen in months.

The young lady took our order and then walked away. When she brought our food, I asked her in a roundabout soft sort of way, "How about a date tonight?" She told me that she was a volunteer worker in the club and was not supposed to talk to the men in the club. But she was getting off from work in a few minutes and if I cared to meet her in front, she would think about it.

I gobbled down my food. She gave me her name, address, and directions on how to get to her place. At 7:00 P.M., I started out with ulterior motives. When I reached her home, she introduced me to her mother, father, and aunt, all who lived with her. On a table in the corner, I noticed sandwiches and cakes. She had changed clothes and looked like a million bucks.

Their house was very comfortable and made me homesick. Her father turned to me and said, "Our daughter is a volunteer worker in the club, you know. We like for her to invite some homesick American soldiers to visit with us in our home. We haven't very much, but we like to share what little we have with you American boys who aren't able to be in your own homes."

Then, as if talking to himself, he said in a quiet voice, "We lost our two boys at Dunkerque." I felt like a first-class heel. Here was this nice English family that wanted to share what little they had with a total stranger, and I wanted to take their

daughter out. I looked at Jean apologetically. How could I have ever thought of such a thing? Had this man's war turned me into a barbarian?" "Forgive me," I thought, "Forgive me."

Our casual company at Phesy Farms was quite an affair. All of the men in it had been wounded and knew they were going back to France to be either killed or wounded again. As a result they didn't particularly give a damn about anything. They all knew what war was about and weren't in too big a hurry to get back.

On November 28, we started loading on our ship at Southampton to take us to Le Havre, France.

We arrived at Le Havre on November 29. The heart of Le Havre, around the harbor, had been completely wiped out. Not even the walls of buildings were standing. They claim ten thousand civilians were killed when the city was bombed. I guess that's why the remaining Frenchmen weren't too friendly. We walked about five miles uphill to a tent city and stayed there overnight.

On November 30 they loaded us on the small French "forty and eight" cars. Printed in French on each of these cars were the words, "This car will hold 40 men or 8 horses." So this was the "40 and 8s" I'd always heard about! I looked inside my car and saw a five-gallon can of water, a box of C-rations, and a roll of toilet paper. Forty of us with full gear crammed into that little square-wheeled icebox. What a contrast to those nice comfortable hospital beds.

During our second night on the train, we stopped longer than usual. I looked out the door and saw we were in a big freight yard. A Frenchman came by. I asked him where we were. "Paree," he said. All I could see was freight yards, miles and miles of freight yards. The men got out to stretch, relieve themselves, and, as always, look around.

One of the men found a huge wooden cask on a flat car on our train. He punched a hole in it with his bayonet. A liquid came streaming out of it. He tasted it. It was wine. The word spread quickly. One of the men came up to me and said, "Lieutenant, I know we aren't supposed to drink, but it's awful cold in that square-wheeled icebox, so why don't you give me your canteen while you take a little walk up the other way?" Every container imaginable was filled with wine—canteens, canteen cups, empty C-rations cans, and helmets. The remainder of our ride wasn't as cold as the first part had been.

Finally we reached the 9th Replacement Pool at Fontainebleau on December 2 and stayed there until the sixth.

continued on page 13

Back to the Front... continued

We traveled further and arrived at the 17th Replacement Pool at Neaufchateau on December 7 and stayed until the eleventh. Before going back to the Company, I stopped off at the division reinforcement company. They didn't call new troops "replacements" anymore; they were "reinforcements." Lieutenant Doug Brown was in charge of the company. He had been hit when we first tried to cross the Moselle. He wanted to rejoin his company, but the medics wouldn't let him. I rejoined Company H on December 14.

The division was in army reserve at St. Avold, France, and scheduled for two weeks of rest, training, and reorganization. We had a new battalion commander, Lt Col Bill Boydstun. I went by to see him. He was a big, broad-shouldered man, with a flat nose he had earned as a collegiate boxer. He shook my hand like he meant it and said, "Adkins, I've heard a lot about you and we're mighty glad to have you back."

It was a strange mix of emotions to be back with the company. There were many familiar faces. We had grown close over the months of fighting. But some faces were missing-killed, wounded, or captured. On one hand, I was glad to be back with my buddies. On the other, I knew sooner or later we'd be fighting the Germans and once again be in the middle of blood, guts, and death.

I was also glad to be back with Bill Butz. Same old Bill, only he had acquired a handlebar mustache. I asked Bill how the new battalion CO was. Bill said, "He's a swell guy; you'll like him."

Kad (Lt. Saul Kadison) was still the same. In addition to crossing the Seine and fighting their way through the Maginot Line, the boys had a little fun in a town called Farberswaller. Kad told me about it.

Kad's 81mm mortar platoon was too far behind, so Colonel Boydstun sent word for Kad to move them into Farberswaller. The colonel told Kad that the town had been cleared and for him to just take his men on in and bed them down for the night. Kad woke up the platoon and they sleepily dragged themselves into Farberswaller. There were no American troops in the town, so Kad shrugged his shoulders and thought to himself, "Well, if the colonel says the town has been cleared, guess it's okay."

He found a big house with outside steps leading to the

second floor and put the platoon there. The sleepy men filed into a big room on the second floor to get organized. Kad heard some tanks and thought they were our Shermans coming in to give him a little moral support.

Shortly, Sergeant Joe Pawlak said, "Lieutenant, they don't sound like our tanks to me," and went out to investigate. Pawlak went down the hall to the front door and found a German Tiger Royal tank stopped out in front of the house. He hurried back to the big room in which the platoon was still assembled and told Kad. Kad quickly closed the door leading to the hall and said, "Men, out the back window, and be quiet about it."

Private Ray, one of the ammo bearers, was the first to the window. As he started out the window he saw a squad of German infantry fanning out in the back of the house. There was nothing to do but be quiet and pray. Ray was a great collector. In addition to having several German pistols on his belt, he had on a German sweater and a pair of German socks. It wouldn't do to be captured with any German equipment on him. He got the sweater off okay, but he couldn't get the socks off because his bootlace was broken.

Sergeant Albert Melcolm had his radio, so Kad told him to call the colonel. They heard hobnails coming up the stone steps leading into the house. Melcolm was trying frantically to call the colonel on the radio and be quiet at the same time. "How Three to White Six, How Three to White Six, come in."

The hobnails started down the hall. Pawlak reached in his boot, pulled out his trench knife, and stepped to one side of the door. The boots stopped in front of the door. Kad said he could hear his heart beat, but try as he may it kept pounding. He couldn't understand why the Krauts didn't hear his heart.

The men waited. Silence. The boots started down the front steps and Melcolm finally reached the colonel and told him, "For God's sake, come get us." Finally the colonel came riding in town astride a Sherman tank, "I gotta get my boys." The colonel had several Shermans and some riflemen with him.

The Krauts must have not been looking for a fight that day. They pulled out when the colonel and his crew got to the edge of town. Kad was mad as a wet hen and said, "Colonel, sir, the next damn time you tell me that a town is clear and you want me to move into it, I'm going to tell you to go straight to hell." Colonel Boydstun laughed and said he'd try to do better next time.

POST 50 UPDATE

ue to inactivity for the past few years, Post 50 in Richmond, VA will be dissolved January 2022 unless there is sufficient objection and attempts to revitalize the Post. The post has had no members joining or renewing their membership since 2019 and very little prior to that. There have been no meetings in the past few years and there are no current officers or board members. If you have any objections, please send to MG John McLaren at johnpmclaren@yahoo.com by December 15, 2021.

Life members will continue to be a part of the National

80th Division Veteran's Association and we encourage yearly Post 50 members to stay and participate in that worthy organization.

Your membership in the Post carries over to the 80th Division Veterans Association. If you are not a life or annual member of the national Association dues are \$150 for Life and \$20 for Annual Membership. Checks should be made out to 80th Division Veterans Association and mailed to: 80th Division Veterans Association, 5101 Hurop Road, Sandston, Virginia 23150.

Burt R. Marsh - U.S.Army Report

DORN 4-3-1926 IN SENECA FALLS, NY, graduate of Menderes Academy on 6-27-1944. As I reached my 18th birthday 4-3-1944, I received a letter from our local draft board ordering me to report to the local draft board on 6-6-1944 to have a physical examination in Rochester, NY to determine my draft status. Passing my physical, classified A-1 into the U.S. Army. I graduated 6-27-1944, received my "Greetings" from U.S. War Department requesting me to report to the draft board 8-9-1944 for induction in the U.S. Army at Rochester, NY.

Arriving at Fort Dix, NJ on 8-10-1944 for my introduction to the U.S.Army, more physicals, several orientations, explaining the rules and operations of the army. On 8-20-1944 I was placed on a troop train, destination unknown, for 16 week infantry training for preparation to serve with an army unit at war. Arriving at camp Blanding, FL on 8-23-1944, I was welcomed to the camp by the Commanding Officer, I received my uniform (fatigues) rifle and shown my sleeping quarters, a 12 man wooden structure. The training was touch, the sergeants and instructions were tough and after 16 weeks of tough training, I graduated as a tough infantry soldier. The training was the learning to use all infantry weapons, my specialty was training on heavy weapons, the 30 caliber water-cooled heavy machine gain and the 81 mil. mortar weapon. Basic training ended 12-18-1944. I returned to Ft. Dix and was issued a 10 day (delay in route) furlough with orders to report to Ft. Meade, NY at 1-1-1945. I went home with family for 10 days. At Ft. Meade, I went through more physicals, more shots, etc., preparing me for overseas duty in Europe.

Left Ft. Meade, 1-8-1945 for New York City to board the Queen Elizabeth for our trip to Europe. Leaving NYC on 1-10-1945 with 21,000 troops aboard. Arriving at Liverpool, England 1-14-1945, boarded a troop train for a trip across England to South Hampton, boarded a British ship for the trip across the English Channel arriving in Lahavre France, boarded a French troop train for trip across France arriving in Luxembourg City 1-18-1945. Boarded 2-1/2 ton truck for a trip to a small village, Nocher, Luxembourg, to be assigned to Co. M. 319 Inf. Reg., of the 80th Division as a 30 caliber water cooled heavy machine gunner, 1st squad, 1st platoon. There was a foot of snow on the ground, temperature in the 20's we were in battle the next 5 days, liberations several villages, resistance was light except for some artillery fire the German troops had retreated to their home land and the Siegfried Line (West wall) to set their defense in preparation for our invasion to their home land. On 1-29-1945 the 80th Division was pulled off the front lines for a 6 day (R and R), rest and restoration. We boarded 2-1/2 ton trucks and transported to small village outside of Luxembourg City and placed in private homes. 4 troops to a house, i was in the village of Steinsel meeting the Thoma Family. I made friends with the family twin daughters.

On 2-6-1945, we left Steinsel by truck and back to the front lines and ready to invade Germany and their West Wall (Siegfried Line) But first we had to cross the flooded "Our River".

The 150th Engineering Battalion was trying to build a foot



Burt Marsh and Mike Rauhut

bridge across the Our River, the river was so swift and receiving heavy artillery fire, the bridge wasn't completed until the night of 2-11-1945.

The first and second battalions crossed in assaults boats on 2-7, 8, 9, 10, 1945. Receiving many causalities, due to heavy artillery fire and strong resistance on the German side of the river. Each night the Third Battalion went to the river to cross, but no assault boats were available, (lost many boats due to the swift current) and heavy artillery fire, we were forced to pull back. The night of 2-11-1945, the Engineers completed part of the foot bridge allowing the Third Battalion to cross, however, we had to wade the last thirty yards in knee deep water.

The following night 2-12-1945 we attack the Siegfried Line taking or capturing many pill boxes under heavy artillery fire all night long. The night was pitch black, raining, temperatures near freezing, but we kept moving forward. At daybreak, we ended the attack only to come under mortar fire from a pill box about a quarter mile in front of us. Since we had heavy casualties during the night, we set up a defense line for three days, we attack the pill box that was firing mortars on us on 2-16-1945, only to retreat because of heavy mortar fire and we were undermanned, we never did capture that pill box. Our first gunner was killed during this attack. Another company worked their way around us and captured it, taking 47 prisoners.

On 2-19-1945 the 319th assembled at Wallendorf, Germany to regroup, reorganized, and resupply and receive new replacements.

On 2-20-1945 we went on attack in a Northwest direction toward Bitburg, taking many villages with the fighting very heavy. We reached Bitburg on 3-7-1945.

On 3-9-1945 the 80th Division moved South 40 miles by truck to Merckel, Germany to relieve the 76th Division. On

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80th Infantry Division Books

By Andy Adkins

PLETHORA OF BOOKS have been written about the 80th ${\mathbb A}$ Infantry Division over the years, including World War I (The Great War), World War II, and the Global War on Terrorism. While a few of these books are available on Amazon, most of these books are available to order through the 80th Division Veterans Association internet website: https://80thdivision. com/books.html

Here's a quick rundown on WWI books:

Dr. Lee S. Anthony, one of the 80th Division Veteran Association historians (Dr. Anthony focuses on WWI) maintains quite a collection of World War I books.

History of the 317th Infantry by 1st Lt. Edley Craighill. 96pp. Digital copy of original. (\$65 + \$5 S&H).

Diary of Cpl. John Boden Kinter Diehl, S/N 1819559, Co. A. 317th Inf. Reg. 35 pp, Book One. Digital. Bound. (\$70 + \$5 S&H).

In Memoriam - Till E. Ash, Corporal, S/N 2468050, Co. D. 317th Inf. Reg. 444 pp, Xerox, GBC bound. (\$35 + \$5 S&H).

A Resume of Experiences During the World War, by Frederick S. Frantz, 317th Inf., Co. E. 371 pp, GBC bound. (\$35 + \$5 S&H).

History of the 317th Infantry, Co. F, by Joseph Morris, Suffolk, VA. 33 pp, GBC bound. (\$35 + \$5 S&H).

History of the 318th Infantry Regiment of the 80th Division 1917-1919. Digital copy, rebound hard back, 190 pp. (\$80 + \$5

Over the Top with the 80th by Buck Private Rush S. Young, Co. B, 318th Inf. Reg. Xerox copy, 141 pp, GBC bound. (\$35 + \$5 S&H).

The 319th Infantry, A.E.F. by Captain Josiah C. Peck, Regimental Intelligence Officer. 63 pp, Digital copy, enlarged, bound. (\$45 + \$5 S&H).

The 319th Infantry, A.E.F. by Captain Josiah C. Peck, Regimental Intelligence Officer. 63 pp; same as above, but Xerox copy, GBC bound. (\$35 + \$5 S&H).

Company F History, 319th Infantry. 81 pp, Xerox copy, GBC bound. (\$35 + \$5 S&H).

320th Infantry, 80th Division, 127 pp, Xerox copy, GBC bound. (\$35 + \$5 S&H).

Regimental History 305th Pioneer Engineers 80th Div., 1917-1919. Work of Roger Nelson and Descendants of the 80th Division. 16 pp, Xerox copy, with spiral binding. (\$35 + \$5 S&H).

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Burt Marsh... continued

3-10-1945 we went on attack in an Eastern direction toward Kaiserslautern, Germany, passing through the Siegfried Line again, capturing many village and reaching Kaiserslautern 3-21-1945.

On 3-22-1945, we attack in a Northern directions toward Worms, Germany and then on to Pfeddersheim, Germany on 3-25-1945 to cross the Rhine River, The fighting was spotty, taken many prisoners.

On 3-27-1945, we crossed the Rhine River on a moon light night in assault boats under light artillery fire, little resistance as we landed, continuing on to cross the main river on 3-28-1945 in assault boats, meeting little resistance.

We continued our attack in a Northly direction to Kassel, Germany arriving 4-3-1945 (my 19th Birthday) fighting was very heavy in and around Kassel, by 4-6-1945 the city was declared clear.

On 4-7-1945, we attack in an Eastern direction liberating villages of Gotha, Erfurt, Weimar, Buchenwald, Jena, Gera, Glauchau, Meerane just shy of Chemnitz on 4-16-1945. The resistance was light and spotty in these villages. I do remember passing by Buchenwald concentration camp and seeing its prisoners in their strip prison garb. Since we were on attack, we did not stop, I had no idea of what I saw was a death camp.

On 4-17-1945, the 80th Division was loaded on trucks for an assignment in Austria traveling through Bamberg, Nuremberg, Regensburg arriving in Giessenbach, Austria on 5-1-1945. We met no resistance while in Austria through 5-8-1945. We took a few prisoner on our way to Steyr, Austria. That's where the 319th ended its fighting.

Since I wasn't eligible to return to USA, I spent 13 months of duty as part of the occupation of Germany. When the 80th Division returned to USA in November 1945. I transferred to 102nd Division, when they went to USA in Feb. 1946.

I transferred to the Big Red, 1st Division located in Regensburg, Germany. I really did not have a specific duties because I played baseball in the summer and basketball in the winter.

I received my going home orders 6-6-1946, arrived at La-Harvre, France 6-10-1946, boarded a US Liberty ship, the US West Minster, arriving in New York City 6-20-1946. A train to Fort Dix, NJ and received my honorable discharge 6-27-1946. Thus, ending my army life.

On 11-1-1952 I married Barbara (Stahl) and have two daughters, Tammi and Tina and two granddaughters, Heather and Lindsay. Employed for 37 years with New York State Electric and Gas Corp. retiring in 1991 as a Customer Service Manager. Currently living in Columbus OH with my daughter Tina and her husband Jeff.

Burt R. Marsh, 10-25-2018

War History of 313th Machine Gun Battalion, Co. A, 80th Division. 47 pp, Xerox copy, GBC bound, enlarged. (\$35 + \$5 S&H).

314th Machine Gun Battalion History. 75 pp, plus maps. Digitally copied, reprinted and bound. (\$65 + \$5 S&H).

History of the 318th Field Hospital, by Baron Munchausen, Ph.D., Litt.D. 114 pp, Xerox copy, GBC bound. (\$35 + \$5 S&H).

History of the Eightieth Division, A.E.F., in World War I- "The Blue Ridge Division", by Russell L. Stultz, Division Historian. Edited by Lee S. Anthony, Ph.D. ISBN #0-9759341-7-1. 731 pp, hard cover. (\$90 + \$20 S&H).

Author and historian **MAJ(R) Gary Schreckengost** teaches American history at Lampeter-Strasburg School District in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He is a retired Army infantry major and a Bosnia and Iraq War veteran. Schreck recently published *Only Moves Forward! The 80th Division in World War I* in four volumes, available on Amazon:

Volume I: Mobilization and Training at Camp Lee (639 pages; \$19.99).

Volume II: Friedensturm to St. Mihiel (569 pages; \$14.99). Volume III: Meuse-Argonne 1 (699 pages; \$19.99).

Volume IV: The Meuse-Argonne II to Homecoming (615 pages; \$19.99).

Good War, Great Men, by Andrew J. Capets

Good War, Great Men provides first-hand accounts of more than a dozen soldiers who served together during the Great War. Their stories have been rediscovered by compiling unpublished letters and journals with historical insights to provide a compelling history of the men of the 313th Machine Gun Battalion, 80th Division. This second edition printing includes new maps and illustrations not provided in the first edition. Available on Amazon, \$16.95.

WWII Books:

Robert T. Murrell served with the 318th/Company M in the 80th Division during WWII. He was one of the historians of the 80th Division Veterans Association and compiled several historical books, all available on Amazon.

317th Infantry Regiment History in World War II, \$24.95.

318th Infantry Regiment History in World War II, \$24.95.

319th Infantry Regiment History in World War II, \$24.95.

Stories of the Men of the 80th Infantry Division World War II, \$24.95.

The Blue Ridge Division Answers the Call in World War II, \$24.95.

80th Infantry Division Operational History - WWII E.T.O., \$34.99.

You Can't Get Much Closer Than This: Combat with the 80th "Blue Ridge" Division in World War II Europe. By A.Z. Adkins, Jr. and Andrew Z. Adkins III

This is a story of a young soldier at war, a junior officer's coming of age amid pulse-pounding combat. After the Citadel and Officer Candidate School, Andrew Z. Adkins Jr., was sent to the 80th Infantry Division, then training in the California-Arizona desert. There, he was assigned as an 81mm mortar section leader in Company H, 2nd Battalion, 317th Infantry Regiment. Available on Amazon, \$18.95.

The Box from Braunau: In Search of My Father's War, by Jan Elvin

The Box from Braunau is both a memoir of a father-daughter relationship damaged by the ghosts of war, and a chronicle of a World War II veteran whose return to civilian life was permanently scarred by nightmares of combat and concentration camps. We explore the lives of Bill Elvin and his daughter through excerpts from the diary he kept during the war and private letters, as well as newspaper articles he wrote as a journalist on his return. Available on Amazon, \$17.37.

Farebersviller 1944, by Jeff Wignall

A WWII family story with an extensive history of Company A, 318th Regiment, during the Fall of 1944. Available on Amazon, \$18.99.

One Hell of a War: Patton's 317th Infantry Regiment in WWII, by Major Dean Dominique and Colonel James Hayes

An accurate and historical book from the 317th's (80th Infantry Division) Activation at Camp Forrest, Tennessee: July 15, 1942 through the end of the war May 8, 1945 and beyond. Available on Amazon, \$24.99.

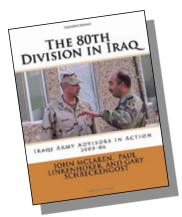
Infantry Lieutenant, by Gid B. Adkisson, III

Gid B. Adkisson, Jr., was one of eight million American men swept into the U.S. Army during the turbulence that was World War II. An earnest West Texas farm boy attending Texas A&M, Gid Jr. found himself vying for a lieutenant's commission a full year before he was scheduled to graduate, and fighting in France, Luxembourg, and Germany as an infantry company officer between August 1944 and the end of the war; 317th Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion Company A. The book chronicles his combat experiences plus those of ten of the men who served with him. Available on Amazon, \$19.95.

A Combat Engineer with Patton's Army: The Fight Across Europe with the 80th "Blue Ridge" Division in World War II, by Lois Lembo & Leon Reed

George Patton is renowned for his daring tank thrusts and rapid movement, but the many rivers and obstacles his Third Army encountered crossing Europe required engineers spearheading his advance. A Combat Engineer with Patton's Army is the untold story of Frank Lembo, one of Patton's men who helped move the American command in the battle of Argentan in the Normandy Campaign, in the high-speed pursuit of the German Wehrmacht eastward across France, and in the brutal battles waged during the Battle of the Bulge and during the final combats along the borders of the collapsing Reich. Available on Amazon, \$11.99.

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Post-World War II

80th Division in Iraq: Iraqi Army Advisors in Action, 2005-06, by Gary Schreckengost (Author), John McLaren (Contributor)

This is a first-hand account of three Army 80th (Blue Ridge) Division Soldiers who were sent to Iraq in 2005-06 as Iraqi Army advisors. Brig. Gen. John McLaren, who commanded the Iraqi Assistance Group in Baghdad, Col. Paul Linkenhoker, who advised the Iraqi base commander for Taji, and Maj. Gary Schreckengost, who was the lead operations advisor for the Iraqi fightin' 4th Brigade, 1st Division, in Fallujah. Read how these Blue Ridge Division Soldiers answered their country's call and what it was like to be combat advisors to a very foreign army in a very foreign land in varied settings and situations. Available on Amazon, \$14.99.

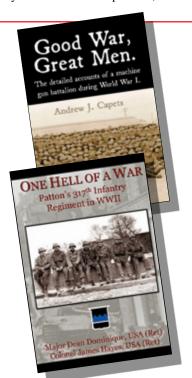
ISBN-10: 1523733640 / Available on Amazon.com hard copy or e-book.

History of the 80th Division Books by MAJ(R) Gary Schreckengost

Three rare, out-of-print books reprinted. Proceeds go to the 80th Division Veterans Association:

- The History of the 315th Artillery (Heavy) / \$9.99
- World War I Diary of Lt. John McElroy, 315th Artillery (Heavy), 80th Division, A.E.F. / \$6.99
- The Memoirs of Hunter Liggett / \$9.99

The 313th Arty (L) has been re-published by Forgotten Books and it's fantastic and the 314th Arty has also been reprinted, although its only strength is its daily "Combat Diary."



Good War, Great Men. The 313th Machine Gun Battalion of World War I

by Andrew J. Capets

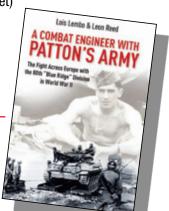
Available on Amazon.com. Paperback: 336 pages. Price \$16.95 ISBN-10:0692951024 ISBN-13:978-0692951026

ONE HELL of a WAR

by MAJ Dean Dominique, USA (Ret) and COL James Hayes, USA (Ret)

From Amazon: www.tinyurl.com/317WWII

More information: www.WoundedWarriorPublications.com 30% discount for 80th Division Veterans Association members: www.createspace.com/4789517 Apply Discount Code XPC47KYZ.



World War I

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