

BLUE RIDGE



THE SERVICE MAGAZINE
SPRING/SUMMER 2021

Volume 102 • Number 401 • Issue 1

A 95th to Remember

By: Burt Marsh

A DAY I'LL ALWAYS remember my 95th Birthday 4-3-21. My two daughters, Tammi and Tina, put together a fabulous party to celebrate my birthday. Due to COVID-19, we partied at home. With a room full of balloons and decorations, as evening arrived, we all tipped our cocktails in unison. Shortly thereafter, we assembled at the table for our tasty surf and turf feast, delicious. To top things off, out came the decorated cake (no candles, not room for 95) and ice cream with amaretto.

It's time to relax, we all retreated to the living room and watched my open my gifts, ranging from several boxes of candy, jigsaw puzzles, seeds for my garden, books, a bottle of spirits, and 116 Birthday cards, all with a message, thanks for your service, stay healthy, hope you have many more and etc. The cards came from many states, and overseas, Hawaii, California, Germany, France and Maria Kohl's family in Luxembourg. I spent better than four hours opening and reading the cards.

My granddaughter Lindsay, posted my Birthday on social media resulting in all the cards.

So ends a Birthday, I'll remember for the rest of my life. I must say I was surprised with all the hoopla and having all my family here.



Commander's Message

PNC Bill Black

AS I WRITE THIS message today, I'm struck by the fact that we have all endured a crazy 15 months during this "pandemic period". We all had to adapt to new things in so many areas of our lives. Perhaps, the most disappointing part of the past year was missing out on our annual reunion.

The good news is we're back on for this August in Richmond! I hope to see many of you there, August 5-7, 2021. Doug and Sally Knorr have planned a fabulous reunion and have worked tirelessly to make sure everything is just perfect. A big thank you to both of them for all the planning, starts and stops and completely planning two reunions over the past two years. They've done an outstanding job! Look for all the details about the reunion here in the Blue Ridge Magazine, or on-line at www.80thdivision.com.

For me, I didn't plan to be the National Commander for two years, but the pandemic had other plans. It has been a high honor for me, personally. I simply hope to have honored the memory of my father (SSGT William Black, 319-G) and all the veterans – past and present – of the 80th Division.

But as I wind down this "tour", I know the Association is in great hands with Doug Knorr and Burt Marsh taking



the reigns over the next two years. I do hope many of you plan to attend the reunion and the business meetings. We have important decisions to make about the future of the Association. We value everyone's thoughts and ideas.

Recently, I ran across some old photographs of my father and his buddies at various reunions in the 1960s and 70s. I remember dad going to those reunions. He would wait until the absolute last minute to decide if he was going to attend. Many times, he never pre-registered. He would just show up and hope he could find a hotel. It always worked out. I'm sure he wasn't

the only one to do that. It had to drive the reunion chairmen crazy. Ha! But, the hundreds – sometime in excess of a thousand – attendees made those reunions a major event in the lives of those veterans and their families. I'm sure they planned family vacations around the reunions. Tears stream down my face as I think about what those days and nights meant to those men (and their families).

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as National Commander. I will always cherish this as long as I live. It will be a highlight of my life.

God bless you all!

Bill

Editor's Notes

CSM(R) Doris Wollett

WELL, COVID SEEMS to be burying its ugly head more and more. It's not totally gone but at least we are on the road to a little more normalcy. Many have gotten the vaccine and hopefully those that have not are still being cautious.

Warmer weather is here which means lots and lots of yard work and being able to get outside and get fresh air. I hope everyone doesn't overdo it when outside working. Watch out for those no necks. I've seen a couple around and they give me the willies!!

Memorial Day will be already celebrated when you receive this magazine but the 4th of July will be here soon. Always, remember all Veterans and enjoy some family time if you are able. Celebrate being able to live in a country where you can practically do anything you want when you want as long as you are not breaking the law.

Our Reunion is fast approaching and all the information is just a few pages away in this magazine. You should have received a mailing also with all the details.

I'm struggling to get enough stories and information to publish a magazine. I need your help. This is YOUR magazine. Tell me about the time you served or what you are now doing. Let's stay connected.

Check your mailing label on the back of this edition of the magazine. It will tell you the date your dues are paid through. If it is a year other than 2022 or further out than you owe dues. Annual dues are \$20 per year. If your label shows Life, then you are good to go forever.

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

Eightieth Division Veterans Association

A.E.F. (1917-1919)
ARTOIS-PICARDY SECTOR
ST. MIHIEL OFFENSIVE
MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE
FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD PHASES

Only Moves Forward
GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SINCE 09-11-2001
KUWAIT • AFGHANISTAN • IRAQ

E.T.O. (1942-1946)
FALAISE GAP • LORRAINE • ST. AVOLD
MAGINOT LINE • LUXEMBOURG • BASTOGNE
SIEGFRIED LINE • RHINE RIVER • WIESBADEN
KASSEL • ERFURT • JENA • AUSTRIA

CALL TO THE REUNION

To all 80th Division Veterans, Families, Descendants, and Friends,

It is my distinct pleasure to cordially invite each of you to attend the 102nd Annual Reunion of the 80th Division Veterans Association to be held in Richmond, VA., **August 5-8, 2021**. The Doubletree by Hilton Richmond Midlothian located at 1021 Koger Center Blvd Richmond, VA 23235 will be our host hotel.

Hotel reservations need to be made prior to July 12, 2021 to assure you are able to get a room. You can reserve your hotel room by calling the hotel directly at (804) 379-3800

NOTE: Please book early and identify yourself as being with the 80th Division Veterans Association when making your reservation in order to get the special room rate of \$109 + tax. Specify your room type (handicap accessible if desired). Wi-Fi and parking are free.

This year marks the 76th Year Anniversary of the End of WWII. Celebrations abroad and here at home took place in 2019 and throughout 2020. In keeping with this 76th Year Anniversary celebration, **a commemorative edition of the reunion program is being planned.** We want to fill the pages of our reunion program with as many photos of our 80th Division WWII veterans as possible and that's where we need your help!

Please send your photos (300 dpi minimum) with name and unit affiliation by June 30th to my email at dougk@knormmarketing.com or send a copy of the photo to my home address listed below. (Let us know if you need your photo returned and we will be happy to do so.)

Our trip this year will be on Friday to the American Civil War Museum Historic Tredegar - one of the nation's most significant Civil War sites and National Historic Landmark. Following the Annual Business Meeting in the morning, we will board the chartered bus and head to the Visitor's Center for lunch. From there we go to the American Civil War Museum for a guided tour. The Museum also has a gift shop.

Speakers this year include Michael Rauhut with a special 80th presentation at the Friday Night Dinner and on Saturday night Speaker Bernard L. Marie, International Consultant, Officer of the French Order of Merit & 2016 Recipient of the American Legion Patriot Award will focus on a celebration of 76 years since the end of WWII. **Note: Saturday Night Dinner will be a Dress up Evening with the 80th Division Training Command.**



If anyone has any questions, I can be reached at my mail address below, by phone or text at 231-218-1747, or by email at dougk@knormmarketing.com.

I look forward to receiving your WWII veteran photos and celebrating with you the 76th Anniversary of the End of WWII!

See you all this August in Richmond!
Doug & Sally Knorr, Reunion Chairmen
1609 Dracka Road Traverse City, MI 49685

Eightieth Division Veterans Association 102nd Annual Reunion

AUGUST 5 – 8, 2021

Doubletree by Hilton Richmond Midlothian • 1021 Koger Center Blvd • Richmond, VA 23235

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY AND RETURN BY JUNE 30, 2021

FIRST REUNION: Yes No

Name of Veteran or Attendee: _____

Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____

Name of Spouse or Guests: _____

Unit Affiliation: _____ Period: _____ Handicap: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____

NOTE: ALL MEAL PRICES INCLUDE TAXES & GRATUITIES.

Registration Fee: _____ x **\$45 per person** \$ _____

Prize Tickets (\$2 each or all 12 for \$20): _____ x \$2 per ticket \$ _____

Thursday Night Commander's Reception: _____ x \$35 per person \$ _____

Friday Trip - American Civil War Museum, general admission: _____ x \$60 per person \$ _____

Friday Trip - U.S. Veteran Discounted Price: _____ x \$48 per veteran \$ _____

Museum trip, lunch included: _____ x Turkey _____ x Ham _____ x Veggie

Friday Night Buffet Dinner: _____ x \$35 per person \$ _____

Saturday Night Dinner: (indicate choice for each person) _____ x \$50 per person \$ _____

_____ x Herb Crusted Chicken Breast _____ x Sliced Tri-Tip of Beef

Program Listing: (PRINT NAMES) _____ x \$5 per name \$ _____

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

PROGRAM BOOK ADS:

Check Desired Size **Note Ads Reduced 25%!** \$ _____

1"H x 3.5"W: \$10 2"H x 3.5"W: \$20 4"H x 3.5"W: \$30

2"H x 7.5"W: \$30 4"H x 7.5"W: \$60 10"H x 7.5"W: \$95 (full page)

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

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Mail Form and Check payable to 80th Division Veterans Association

80th Division Veterans Association c/o Doug Knorr

1609 Dracka Rd. • Traverse City, MI 49685

— PHOTOCOPY PAGE IF NEEDED —

**Eightieth Division Veterans Association
102nd Annual Reunion
Richmond, VA • August 5-7**

\$150 CASH PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN

If you are unable to attend, awards will be mailed.
(Affix mailing labels or print below on each ticket).

\$2.00 DONATION PER TICKET

**Eightieth Division Veterans Association
102nd Annual Reunion
Richmond, VA • August 5-7**

\$150 CASH PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN

If you are unable to attend, awards will be mailed.
(Affix mailing labels or print below on each ticket).

\$2.00 DONATION PER TICKET

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

— PHOTOCOPY PAGE IF NEEDED —

Challenge Coin Order Form

80th Division Veterans Association 102nd Annual Reunion

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail _____

Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____

Challenge Coins: _____ x \$10 each \$ _____

Shipping: _____ x \$5 per order \$ _____

- Please mail to address listed above. Coins will be shipped once received from the distributor in August.
- I will pick up my order at American Civil War Museum – Historic Tredegar 6 August 2021
- I will pick up my order at Registration Table Saturday Night Dining-Out 7 August 2021

***NOTE: Pre-order not required. Coins will be available.
Coins will be available for purchase during the reunion while supplies last.***

Make checks payable to: **Soldiers of the Blue Ridge**

Mail this form (please make a copy for your records) and checks to:

Blue Ridge Association • ATTN: Robert D. Ingram • 6700 Strathmore Rd. • N. Chesterfield, VA 232237

For more information contact: Robert D. Ingram • 484-560-5933 • bowobob@aol.com

Note: The Challenge Coin below is the draft version. The coin will be stamped, gold in color, 2.5” diameter, with a decorative boarder, the symbols will be similar in color as shown:

Side 1



Side 2



— PHOTOCOPY PAGE IF NEEDED —

Training Building Named for Paul J. Wiedorfer

By Bill Black, National Commander

ON MAY 15, 2021, at Fort Hunter Liggett near Jolon, California, a new training facility was named for 80th Division veteran, and Medal of Honor recipient, Paul J. Wiedorfer. The building will be called “Wiedorfer Hall” and will serve as an important facility to train new and existing soldiers for decades to come.

Prior to his retirement in early 2020, then commander of the 80th Training Command, MG Bruce E. Hackett (Retired), contacted me to let me know they were planning to name this facility after Mr. Wiedorfer. He asked if I could contact the family to grant permission for this honor. Of course, the family was ecstatic and honored that the Army would be recognizing their father for the naming of this facility.

MG Hackett (Ret), and his staff, went to work to make this happen. In one of the many texts we sent to each other over the past year, MG Hackett wrote, “I so desperately wanted Pvt. Wiedorfer to be honored with an 80th structure to continue his and the Division’s legacy”.

The ceremony took place on a cool Saturday morning that just happened to be Armed Forces Day and the 80th anniversary of Fort Hunter Liggett. An entire day of celebration was planned with many events, activities and speeches.

The naming ceremony was the very first event of the day. It was highlighted by the reading of Mr. Wiedorfer’s Medal of Honor citation. Nearly 100 attendees – civilian and military - all stood respectfully while the citation was read:

“He alone made it possible for his company to advance until its objective was seized. Company G had cleared a wooded area of snipers, and one platoon was advancing across an open clearing toward another wood when it was met by heavy machine-gun fire from two German positions dug in at the edge of the second wood. These positions were flanked by enemy riflemen. The platoon took cover behind a small ridge approximately 40 yards from the enemy position. There was no other available protection and the entire platoon was pinned down by the German fire. It was about noon and the day was clear, but the terrain extremely difficult due to a three-inch snowfall the night before over ice-covered ground. Pvt. Wiedorfer, realizing that the platoon advance could not continue until the two enemy machine-

gun nests were destroyed, voluntarily charged alone across the slippery open ground with no protecting cover of any kind. Running in a crouched position, under a hail of enemy fire, he slipped and fell in the snow, but quickly rose and continued forward with the enemy concentrating automatic and small-arms fire on him as he advanced. Miraculously escaping injury, Pvt. Wiedorfer reached a point some 10 yards from the first machine-gun emplacement and hurled a hand grenade into it. With his rifle he killed the remaining Germans, and, without hesitation, wheeled to the right and attacked the second emplacement. One of the enemy was wounded by his fire and the other six immediately surrendered. This heroic action by one man enabled the platoon to advance from behind its protecting ridge and continue successfully to reach its objective. A few minutes later, when both the platoon leader and the platoon sergeant were wounded, Pvt. Wiedorfer assumed command of the platoon, leading it forward with inspired energy until the mission was accomplished.”

Following the reading of the citation, current commanding general, Maj. Gen. Tripp Bowles of the 80th Training Command (The Army School System), gave an inspirational speech about the courage exhibited by Pvt. Wiedorfer on that cold Christmas Day in 1944 near Chaumont, Belgium.

“This was a very special day here at Fort Hunter Liggett for both the 80th Training Command and me. We were able to honor one of our true heroes by officially naming this training facility Wiedorfer Hall,” said Maj. Gen. Tripp Bowles, commanding general of the 80th Training Command (The Army School System). “Paul’s courage and heroism will be on full display for all future Soldiers both instructing and training here. They can turn to his legacy as a source inspiration, providing them an example of true warrior ethos to emulate in their future missions.”

The strength of the mountains was on proud display out in California on this day. I was honored to represent the 80th Division Veterans Association and the Wiedorfer family at this very special event.

The 80th only moves forward!



80th Infantry Division Research – Facebook Resources

by Andy Adkins

OVER THE PAST 15 years, I've added a plethora of resources to the 80th Division Veterans Association website: www.80thdivision.com. I lost count of the number of pages I've scanned and placed online... somewhere in the vicinity of 150,000. It is a labor of love and I continue to add materials pertinent to the 80th Division as they become available. And yes, many of these resources have been provided by others with an equal passion of keeping these memories alive.

Several WWI resources and collections are also now online in addition to a few Post-WWII 80th Division resources.

When someone requests information about their 80th Division family member, these are the first resources I research. I mean, why not?

But there are other resources available in social media and that's what I want to focus on in this article. In particular, Facebook Groups & Pages.

Many people shun Facebook for various reasons and to be honest, I can't blame them. There are times when I have a love/hate relationship with Facebook. However, having said that, Facebook is a social media platform and, at times, can provide you with useful and valuable information.

I've compiled a few Facebook Groups and Pages that are either devoted to the 80th Infantry Division, or have periodic posts that included 80th information. I offer these with no recommendations, biases, or opinion other than I often find them useful to not only look for information, but equally important... to ask for help.

They are similar, but the main difference between a Facebook "Group" and a Facebook "Page" can be thought of as the following:

- A "Page" is a public profile that allows companies, brands, and organizations to introduce their services and activities.
- A "Group" is a community-based feature that gathers people with the same interests to discuss topics and share their opinions.

Basically, Facebook Pages are "business-oriented" while Facebook Groups are "interest-oriented."

Here are a few Pages and Groups with information pertaining to the 80th Infantry Division:

1. 80th Division Veterans Association (Public Group)

This site is intended to be an outreach effort to locate as many past and present members of the 80th Division, family members, and other interested parties, in the interest of continuing the work of the Association, now in its 95th year. I would encourage anyone with such a connection to join the site and share as much of your history as you'd care to, and become more actively involved if you wish.

Founded: July 2014; 141 members

Admin: Jeff Wignall (North Shore Community College)

2. WWII Battlefield Researchers & Enthusiasts (Public Group)

A group for discussions about WWII and relatives of veterans who fought during the war. Share your ideas, questions, pictures, research, and any other things that are related to the battlefields!

Founded: January 2020; 3,100+ members

Admin: Benjamin Mack-Jackson (Founder at WWII Veterans History Project)

Admin: Cynthia Chong (Washington University, St. Louis)

Admin: Joey van Meesen (Eigenaar at SNAFU DOCS)

Admin: Myra Miller (Co-founder at Footsteps Battlefield Tours)

3. Keepingww2alive (Public Group)

A Belgian woman who's passionate about WW2. We can not forget! Let's keep WW2 alive together.

Founded: October 2019; 1,800+ members

Admin: Dominique Van de Straete

4. Battle of the Bulge 1944-1945 (Private Group)

We share everything regarding The Battle of The Bulge!

Founded: August 2016; 12,300+ members

Admin: Joey van Meesen (Eigenaar at SNAFU DOCS)

Admin: Marco Eradus (European Liaison at WWII Veterans History Project)

Admin: Bob Konings (Owner at Battle of the bulge Tour-guide)

5. 4th ARMORED DIVISION... deactivated (Private Group)

1st AD "Old Ironside". 2nd AD "Hell on Wheels" and 3rd AD "Spearhead" is common knowledge - but besides that is also the 4th ARMORED DIVISION !!!!

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO POST ANYTHING REGARDING THE 4th ARMORED DIVISION.

Founded: May 2012

Admin: Derek Mueck (Verrenberg, Baden-Wurrtemberg, Germany)

6. Remember The Battle Of The Bulge, Dec.16,1944, 75th Anniversary Special (Public Group)

On Dec. 16th 1944, it was winter time, the Germans now fighting a losing war decided to launch a major offensive known as Wacht am Rhein "Watch on the Rhine" or the Ardennes Offensive. Its purpose was to split the US-British lines in the Ardennes region and capturing Antwerp, From Dec. 16th 1944 to Jan. 25 1945 was known as the Battle of the Bulge in which was one of Nazi Germany's last major offensive. From Dec. 16th to Dec.23rd German offensive cut through Northern Luxembourg and Central Belgium via Panzers, Airborne and Commando forces smashing weakly held sectors. Without allied airpower (due to winter storms) and the

elements of surprise the German offensive almost achieved their objective until dogged defensive rear guard actions of the US 28th Infantry Division at St. Vith to the 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne and 2nd and 99th Infantry Division Lanzerath and Elsenborn Ridge. Then came the dreaded massacres of Malmedy and Wereth 11, the aftermath strengthened American forces resolve to stand and fight on. After Dec. 23 Allied airpower along with Patton's 3rd Army and the British 30th Corps launch counter offensive that lasted until Jan 7 1945 when Hitler order his forces to withdraw and By Jan.25 1945 the Allies have driven what's left German forces out of the Ardennes.

This board is dedicated to heroes of The Battle of the Bulge the survivors and the fallen. Also welcome are people who have relatives who were at the battle of the Bulge and to those who are interested into the history of the battle.

Founded: December 2020; 3,700+ members

Admin: Theodore Macris (Volunteer work at Library Public Main Branch Library)

7. Veterans of The Battle of The Bulge (Private Group)

The Veterans of The Battle of The Bulge 1944-1945. This Group is for people who are interested in The Battle Of The Bulge. I am glad to say we have a lot of family and veterans who joined or group. Thanks to everybody who joined this nice group... For respect for all the soldiers who fought in this battle.

Founded: December 2009; 5,600+ members

Admin: Ralph Peters (Program Director at Best Defence Foundation)

8. Chaumont Ardennes Belgium (Private Group)

The OBJECTIVE of this Page is to gather and publish Information on this little Village, 10 kms south of Bastogne, in the context of its role in the dark Winter Days of the "Battle of the Bulge", December 22 - 26, 1944. Veterans, Family of Veterans, Historians and Visitors are welcome to submit Information, Pictures, Stories etc.

The MISSION is to Remember the Heroic Deeds and the High Sacrifices of so Many and to Inform current and future Generations that Freedom doesn't come for granted.

NEUTRALITY: Since this Chaumont page means so much to so many who want to learn more about the experiences of those who fought, and although I respect each communication because we live in a democratic environment that was returned to us by so many Liberators, any message that is politically oriented / colored regarding the US Presidency / Government or our Enemies of the Past will no longer be accepted. We should keep this page politically "neutral" in respect of all those who gave their highest sacrifice for our freedom and liberty.

We do not allow solicitations or advertisements. This includes promotion or endorsement of any financial, commercial or non-governmental agency. Similarly, we do not allow attempts to defame or defraud any financial, commercial or non-governmental agency.

My goal is to keep on my journey to expand our knowledge of the war in Europe and the ongoing efforts by the people of Europe to keep alive the memories of all who were affected by it.

Founded: September 2010; 1,000+ members

Admin: Ivan Steenkiste (Works at Vice President "Ardennes Breakthrough Association")

9. 80th Division Blue Ridge Veterans Association (Page)

We exist to further awareness and support of the 80th Division Veterans Association, Training Command, its Soldiers, Civilian employees and their Families.

Created: May 2010

Admin: azadkinsiii@gmail.com

10. 317th Infantry Regiment in WWII (Page)

This page is about the 317th Infantry Regiment of the 80th Infantry Division in WWII. The history books do not say a great deal about the 317th Infantry Regiment of the 80th Infantry Division in WWII. However, it was a regiment that accomplished rather startling results: first bridgehead across the Moselle, cleared out La Grande Couronne de Nancy, participated in the capture of Metz -- the first time in history that the fort had ever fallen to an assault, and, of course, participated in the Battle of the Bulge as one of the first regiments to arrive in the area after the German assault had broken the line. It suffered extremely severe casualties and contained some of the best men ever known.

Created: May 2014

Admin: info@woundedwarriorpublications.com

11. 319th Regiment - Patton's 80th Infantry Division (Page)

To honor the men who served in WW2 and fought in France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany and Austria.

Created: August 2013

Admin: www.80thdivision.com

12. Patton's Vanguard - The United States Army Fourth Armored Division (Page)

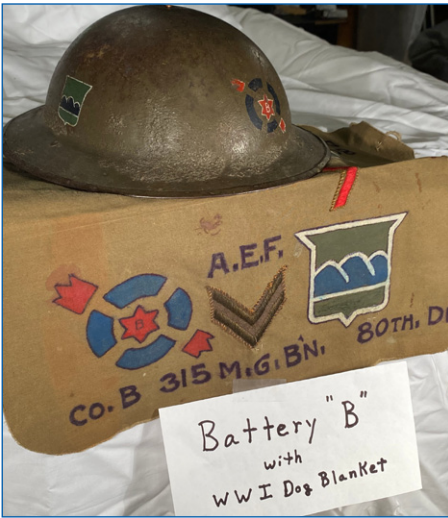
Unit history of the U.S. Fourth Armored Division, published in two volumes: "Patton's Vanguard (2003) and "Final Battles of Patton's Vanguard" (2020).

Created: October 2009

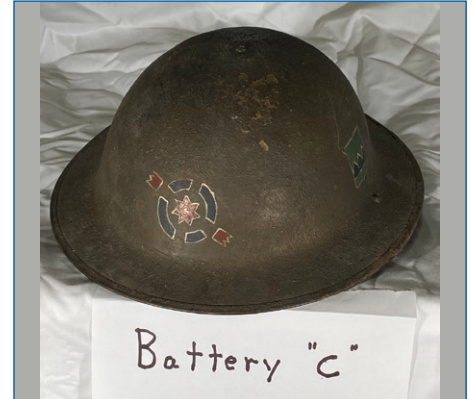
Admin: donmfox@aol.com

If there are other Facebook groups that could be added to this list, please let me know by sending an email to adkins@80thdivision.com.

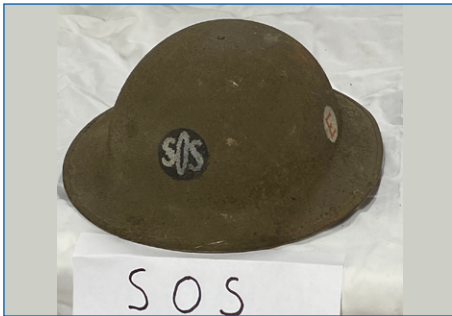
80th Division Helmet Logos



Capt. William E. McCain
Dental Surgeon
315th F. A. Medical Dep



Battery "C"



SOS



Field Artillery
Battery C



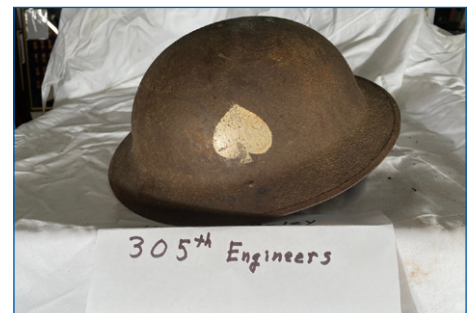
HQ, 305th Eng.



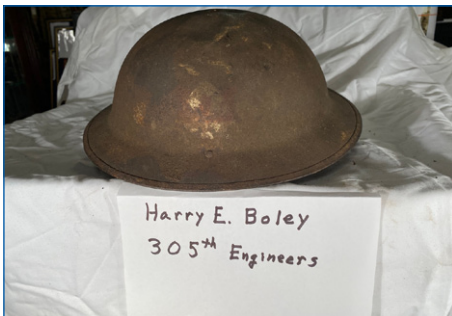
Field Artillery
Battery B



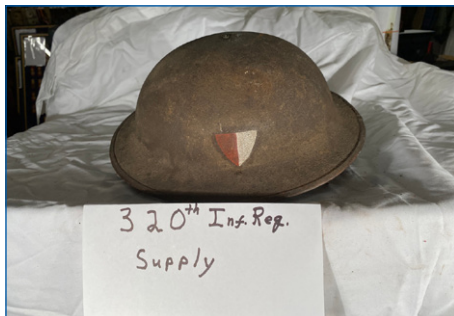
305th Engineers



305th Engineers



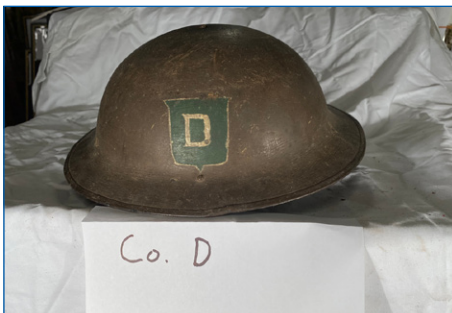
Harry E. Boley
305th Engineers



320th Inf. Reg.
Supply



Co. E



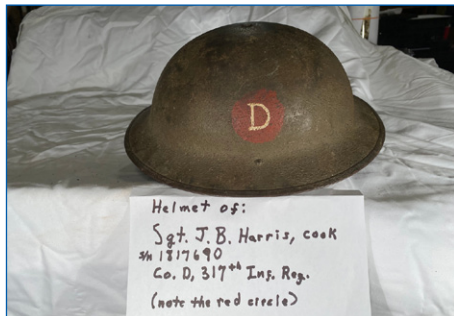
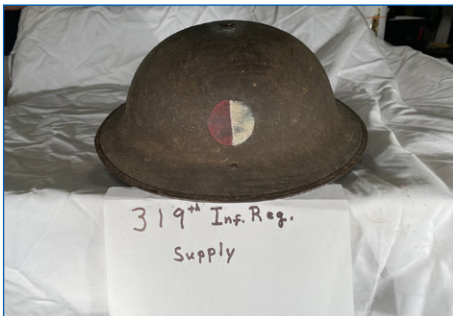
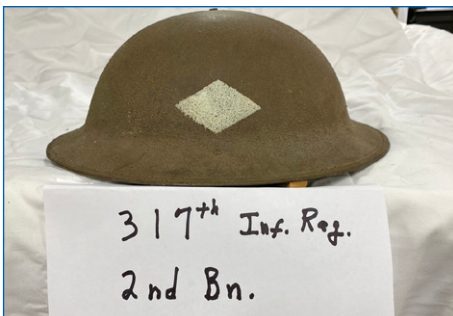
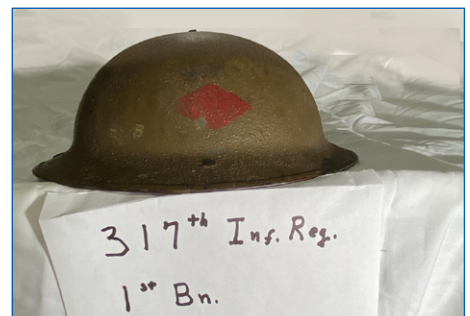
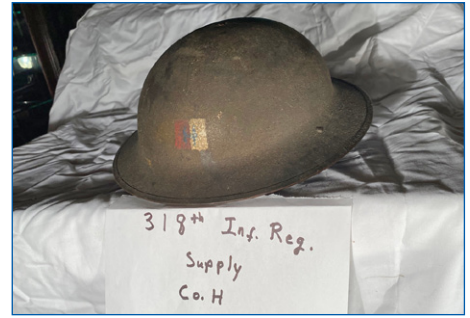
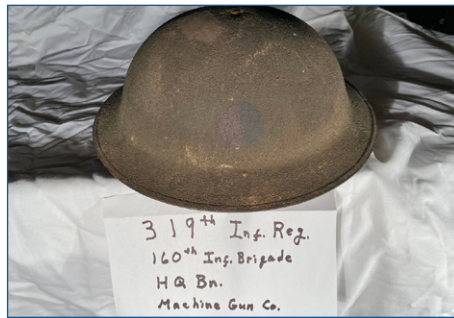
Co. D



Co. K,
320th Inf. Reg.



Helmet of John Hussar
2nd Bn.
320th Inf. Reg.



The 80th Only Moves Forward!

John Vonada: “He was there.”

by Richard “Dick” Evans

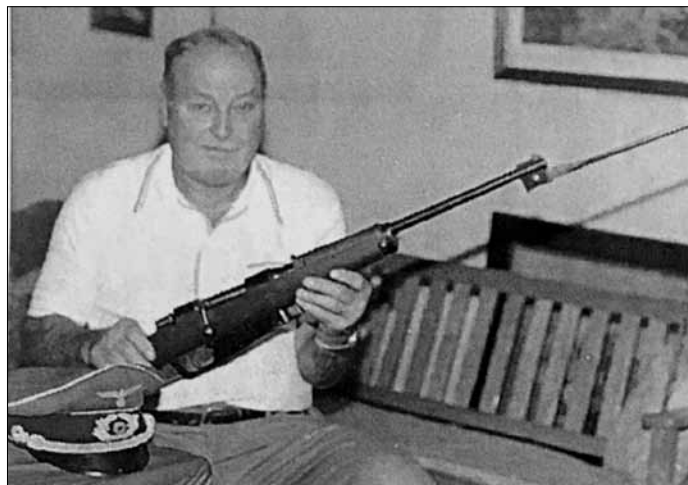
JOHN VONADA OF Annville, Pa., serving with the 80th Infantry Division, 318th Regiment, Company F, won a Silver Star for gallantry, a Bronze Star for distinguished service, a Presidential Unit Citation, a citation from Charles DeGaulle when his company liberated a French village, and two Purple Hearts. While all this was going on he stood 5 ft. 6 inches tall, weighed 140 pounds and somewhere in the middle of it passed his 20th birthday.

He earned his Silver Star in an action when his platoon, of which he was the acting sergeant with no superior officers at the time, was pinned down by German machine gun fire. Vonada ordered the rest of the company to stay down while he crawled up to where he could throw hand grenades into knock out the position. But then he found that they were within range of another machinegun. He needed a grenade launcher to get this one so he crawled back to his men, got a launcher, crawled back up to the position of the first gun, and knocked out the second.

He won his Bronze Star at a later engagement when a nearly company was pinned down by enemy fire and several wounded men were trapped in a river. He led his men into the water to rescue the wounded and take them back to an aid station. His men also took a German prisoner and it was information from him that let them know where to attack the German position, wiping it out. He doesn't remember exactly which river this was and “believes” he was a PFC at the time.

Prior to this episode and much to the way across France he had served primarily as the “First Scout” for his platoon. This meant he walked a couple of hundred yards in front of the next nearest man trying to spot German positions. On many occasions he would walk by German foxholes and could see the eyes of the enemy soldiers watching him. He pretended not to see them and they, in turn, did not wish to give their positions away so they let him pass and waited for the main company before they attacked. He made arrangements with his men that he would scratch his ear on the side where they should look for the enemy. This worked fine until the occasion when, somewhere near the Seine River, he walked between foxholes.

On one of these episodes a French civilian motioned for him to follow when he was shot at and jumped into a pile of straw outside a barn. A few minutes later the civilian gave another signal and this time he was led into a church cellar crowded with civilians and four wounded German soldiers. He ordered them to take the clips out of their guns, put them in his pocket and went outside to look for the rest of his platoon. Now he came under the fire of more German soldiers and ran to the barn where he —“using my boyhood experience as a farm boy” — climbed into a hayloft and dug deep down into the pile. He laid there motionless while he heard the Germans jabbing bayonets down into the straw trying to find him. They finally gave up and left. It was now 9:30 in the morning and Vonada remained quiet for another hour and then crawled to a nearby window where he could see that the area was completely surrounded by enemy troops. He stayed there for two and a half days eating straw and sipping his water until his company—who were amazed to find him alive, rescued him. By now all of his superiors had been knocked out in the



battle and Vonada, still a PFC, became the Acting Platoon Leader and the men all called him Sergeant.

He received his first wound on the outskirts of Mt. Saint Jean in France. At the time, he was commanding a company that was down to eleven men rather than the forty plus that were expected. As they approached the top of a hill they came under machine gun fire and he was hit in the left leg with a bullet that passed through and hit the man behind him. He walked a half-mile away from the fighting where a Jeep picked him up and took him to the medics. He was 19 years old. The field hospital was a tent with no heat and “I thought my feet were freezing.” Then it was back to the general hospital in Paris, followed by three weeks in a convalescent hospital and then back to his company at the end of November. Here he found that he was officially a Tech Sergeant and Platoon Commander in the absence of any commissioned officer.

At this time, the 80th was reorganizing and were thrown into the fight to relieve Bastogne in the Battle of the Bulge. Here they came under fire and Vonada noticed that his hand was getting cold. Blood from a shoulder wound was running down his arm. The medics wanted to send him back to a field hospital but he told them to patch it up and stayed with his men. The main battle moved away from then and on December 27, 1944 they were served a full-fledged Christmas dinner. Says Vonada, “Everybody got sick and threw it up.” Why? “It was the first cooked meal we had in months and everybody stuffed themselves.” The 80th completed its reorganization and then pursued the retreating German army. It was during this drive that they were moving so fast their supplies couldn't keep up. With no ammunition, no food, and no gas, they dug in across the river from the Germans for a month and a half and just watched. Says Vonada, “At times we waved to each other.” Most of the duty at that time was to take prisoners for interrogation. This was done by sneaking across the river in pitch darkness where the old farm boy would distract men in their foxholes by herding cows near them, and then his men would grab one, knock him out with chloroform, and carry him back across the river.

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Alt Aussee – Art in Austrian Salt Mines?

by Andy Adkins

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE is from Col. Ralph E. Pearson's book, *Enroute to the Redoubt: A Soldier's Report As a Regiment Goes to War*.

Tuesday 8 May: Schwanenstadt, Austria.

At 1000 I was alerted by the S3 of the 318th, for a trip to Alt Aussee, in charge of "Task Force Pearson," to seize the town and bring back the crown jewels. Mission to find the Hungarian crown jewels and Rembrandt paintings. Military government will take the necessary action to recover property.

Alt Aussee was located some distance from where we had any troops. Very little was known of what the situation there might be (certainly no one anticipated what would actually happen there) and it was thought at the time that they had only to send a military government officer there to get the loot and bring it back—the same day. But they did decide that some troops should be sent.

At 080945B F Msg # 12 was issued by the 318th at Schwanenstadt. "TF Pearson will seize the town of Alt Aussee TFP will leave the CP of the 2nd battalion, 318th Infantry 081030B May 1945. TF Pearson included:

- a. One (1) plat MG motorized in jeeps.
- b. One (1) one-and-one-half (1 1/2) ton truck with infantry troops, from the 2nd battalion.
- c. One (1) plat TDs, Co B 811th TD battalion.
- d. MGO Major Pearson (in charge).
- e. PW representative (who didn't go).
- f. One (1) officer from the 2nd battalion.

We left the White CP at 1130. Enroute we encountered many troops and vehicles coming from the opposite direction as a result of Major General H. L. McBride Division CG, taking the surrender of the Sixth German Army farther E.

There was quite a gathering of people when we arrived in Alt Aussee. Dr. Opalski said: "We've been waiting for you (the Americans) for days." They were concerned that the Nazis might take some action against the local people. The Nazis had threatened to several times for different reasons.

They finally got enough supplies to push into Chemnitz where they met the Russians and were then diverted to block attempts to build a Nazi stronghold in the Black Forest. It was during this action that Vonada went through the worst experience of his time in Germany—the liberation of Buchenwald Concentration Camp. They had received no warning to expect anything unusual and stumbled into the camp where they found piles of bodies, some covered with lime and bulldozed into ditches, other still alive but starving. He and his men gave all of their food—"down to the last cracker"—and water to the prisoners. He will share many pictures of the camp—taken against orders—but don't ask him to talk about the men, women, and children who approached them. Even after fifty years, Vonada is overcome with emotions and leaves the room.

The 80th moved on into Austria where they were on VE day. They first heard it was on commercial radio and couldn't believe

I learned later that as we came into town from the S, Adolph Eichman went out the N side, on the mountain road to Lauffern mine (Bad Ischl). He couldn't get through, according to the story, and had to bury a heap of gold and valuables that he had with him, in the forest, and go on without them. He was a much wanted man. Many persons have since wanted to find this treasure and frequently people go to the Alt Aussee area, even now, to look for the buried treasure. The treasure I was looking for was also buried ... but in a salt mine. According to reports, nothing was heard of Eichman after February 1945. He was born in Palestine and went to Germany at the age of 20, in 1932. As a reporter for Streicher's "Der Sturmer," he was put in charge of the Jewish section of the Gestapo in 1933.

Austria contains great salt deposits. The area is principally devoted to tourists, and is noted for its picturesque scenery, lakes, mountains, most notable of which is Dachstein, and many of its small towns, especially Hallstatt, across the lake from Obertraun, which is noted for its cultural remains.

I met some of the prominent citizens of Alt Aussee, a beautiful little resort village, snug between Steinberg and the lake. Prinz Chlowig Hohenlohe-Schillingsfurth, whose cousin was once married to Barbara Hutton; Dr. Victor F. Opolski, operator of the Heller Chocolate Company in Vienna; and Hans Unterkircher, who in 1955 was playing the part of an American captain in "Tea House of the August Moon," in Vienna. They were among the first, and most helpful, of those I met. They told me how the art treasures had been brought to Alt Aussee (up to now I had only heard about some rumored crown jewels and a few paintings), of their tremendous value, and of their storage in the salt mine on Steinberg.

We then went to the home of Gauleiter "Grave digger" Eigruiber and accepted the surrender of the officer and the nine men who were guarding the house. The officer said that was all the men he commanded. I told him that as of now he commanded all

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it until it was confirmed by their officers and they began "a small celebration." A short time later they were sent to occupation duty in Kempton, Germany where they were on VJ Day.

By now all of his men had enough points to get discharged and at Le Havre he was put in charge of 333 men who were sent to Camp Kilmer and on to Indiantown Gap and shortly after his 21st birthday in October, 1945, he was discharged. After several jobs he went to work for Palmyra Borough where he worked until his retirement in 1986.

One can readily understand why the Colonel he had served under throughout the European War once described him as "The craziest sergeant there ever was." On his side, Vonada says, "I couldn't have had a better group of men."

Send comments or questions to:
pa_veterans@comcast.net

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Austrian Salt Mines... continued

the Nazi troops in this area and to see that they surrendered. We put them all in the local jail. The men gathered up the weapons in the one truck we had brought with us. The commander gave me his word that there were no more soldiers in the town. I saw many SS troops in the town and the civilians reported that there were both SS and members of the Gestapo in Alt Aussee.

Eigruber's wife and five children, aged 4 to 15, were in the house. The civilians reported that several people had taken off from in rear of the house when we arrived. I think that probably if Eigruber was not one of them, that they were going to report to him. According to Dr. Hottl, Eigruber stayed in Linz (capital of the gau) until the 8th. Since American troops were in Linz on the 6th, I think it more likely that Eigruber returned on the 7th.

I then went north to the mine, at 1740, leaving the TDs in the village. I met Dr. Hermann Wilhelm Michel, Director of the Museum of Natural History of Vienna, and Dr. Max Eder, chemical engineer, who were in charge of the mine. I replaced the German soldiers at the mine with guards from our own group. I then viewed the closed entrances to the galleys where the art was stored. The interior approaches are a honeycomb of passageways. The mine area involved was one km long and 300 meters wide. Four sectors of the mine had been used and the six entrances to that area of the mine were closed. Dr. Michel started preparing a plan of mine area, and making a list of what was there, and what had been removed.

Dr. Michel told me about the art, which he estimated to be worth \$500,000,000, although he said that much of what was here was priceless. Later I talked with some of the workers in the mine, who had been there during the entire period. They reported that all six entrances to the area where the art was stored had been closed by explosions planned by the workmen, after they had had an opportunity to remove the bombs placed in the mine at the direction of Eigruber.

The mine was high above the small village of Alt Aussee, in the spectacularly mountainous country about 75 miles east of Salzburg. Deep in the mountainside, it turned out, was located one of the greatest collections of art ever assembled in one place. The looters working for Hitler and Goering had done a big job. The art, collected from at least fourteen countries, occupied by the Nazis, had been scheduled for destruction by the Nazis to prevent its "desecration" by the American forces. On orders from the gauleiter of Ober-Donau, SS troops had transported to the mine eight boxes, marked marble don't drop. Had their contents been detonated, as planned, the art not only would have been destroyed, but the resulting explosion would have wrecked the seven huge works (in which reposed among other things 10,000 paintings) by rendering them inaccessible and flooding them with water, but would also have made the mining of salt impossible for a long time. This was of great importance in the minds of those who worked in the mine, as their fathers and grandfathers had before them. It was their life.

Fortunately for the individuals and countries to whom the art treasures belonged, the workers figured out a way to get Kaltenbrunner, to stall the gauleiter, until they could remove the detonators (and eventually the bombs). Eigruber who threatened to have the culprits shot had to flee before he could have his order carried out.

Aside from the art which the repository contained, the mine itself was found to be an extraordinary place. Its one entrance

gives access to a horizontal tunnel burrowed for a considerable distance inside the mountain (the other salt mines in Germany and Austria used as repositories are accessible by vertical shafts, one of which is 3,000 feet deep.)

The art repository could be reached by a small eighteen-inch wide track, mounting a tiny engine capable of dragging six or eight dollies. It consists of seven "werke," each of which is a series of vaulted chambers. The origin of these salt works is lost in antiquity. It is known that they were active a thousand years ago, although legend claims that they are 3,000 years old. For the last five hundred years, they have been worked by the same families, in which inbreeding has produced a curious kind of salt mine clan, generally smaller than the average and speaking a pronounced dialect, unique to the tribe.

The chambers of the mine, which are all electrically illuminated, were practically perfect repositories for paintings. The summer temperature is a steady 40 degrees Fahrenheit (rising oddly enough to 47 in inter). Constant temperature and practically ideal humidity meant that the pictures suffered little, whereas the fine collection of renaissance armor, including gold and silver inlay dress armor (which had belonged to Franz Ferdinand of Sarajevo fame) had to be kept heavily coated with grease because of the tendency of metal to oxidize. The chambers were also equipped with facilities for the restoration racks for 14,000 paintings, and adequate flooring. Plans were completed for the reception of still more treasure. In addition to the 10,000 paintings brought to Alt Aussee, in the last two years of the war, the Nazis had assembled masses of sculpture in the form of altar pieces, religious statues and hundreds of eighteenth century French and Italian furniture, rugs, tapestries, etc. There was so much in that mine that later it took two and a half months to clear it out through the single tunnel available.

The last great repository, Alt Aussee, was said to contain 6,577 paintings, 230 sketches and water colors, 934 prints, 137 pieces of sculpture, 128 pieces of arms and armor, 79 baskets of objects, 484 cases of archives, 78 pieces of furniture, 122 tapestries, 181 cases of books, 1,700 cases of historic manuscripts, the Van Eyck altarpieces from the Church of St. Bavon in Ghent, the Bouts altarpiece from Louvain and Michelangelo's "Madonna and Child," from Bruges.

Never had a nation pursued such a systematic program of loot and plunder as Germany under its Nazi leaders. In the Declaration of London, 5 January 1943, the Allied Nations had served warning to the German people that they could not expect to retain the loot. Cultural objects were found in huge lots, of which the Goering collection was one of the largest, and in many places; in salt mines where they were placed for safe keeping; and in old castles throughout Germany. Our zone (American) the area in which the majority of the holdings had been placed, contained some 1,500 repositories. While some cultural objects were still being found in 1949, the vast majority, estimated at more than 2,000,000 in number, had been returned to fourteen nations. The monetary value is difficult to estimate but was conservatively in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Moreover this looting was glorified by Rosenberg. At Nurnberg the court was shown 39 leather-bound tabulated volumes of his inventory, which in due time were offered in evidence. One cannot but admire the artistry of this Rosenberg report. The Nazi was cosmopolitan. Of the 9,455 articles inventoried there were

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Austrian Salt Mines... continued

5,255 paintings, 297 sculptures, 1,372 pieces of antique furniture, 307 textiles, and 2,224 small objects of art. Rosenberg observed that there were approximately 10,000 more objects still to be inventoried. Rosenberg himself estimated the values would come close to a billion dollars. Total numbers of pieces 21,903.

Looting and destruction of works of art: The Museum of Nantes, Old Marseilles were looted. Private collections of great value were stolen. In this way the Raphaels, Vermeers, Van Dycks, and the works of Rubens, Holbein, Rembrandt, Watteau, and Boucher disappeared. Germany compelled France to give up "The Mystic Lamb," by Van Eyck, which the Belgians had entrusted to her for safety during the war.

In Norway and other occupied countries decrees were made by which the property of many civilians, societies etc., were confiscated. An immense amount of property of every kind was plundered from France, Belgium, Norway, Holland, Luxembourg and even Italy.

In connection with the photograph later at Alt Aussee showing the evacuation from the salt mine of Michelangelo's "Madonna and the Child," an early work, the following story was related. The painting was brought from Bruges in the spring of the year. "To save it from the barbarity of the Americans," this treasured possession of the Belgians was dumped into a mattress and brought across the breadth of Germany over roads which were constantly being strafed by the Allies. Fortunately the art was undamaged, and was returned to Belgium early as a token restitution.

Dr. Michel reported that the collection in the mine included Hitler's library. His private library contained scores of completed architectural renderings for the Linz project, of which the Fuhrermuseum was to be a single edifice, related to the whole comprising a great library (with an initial quota of 250,000 volumes) a theater, and a separate collection of armor.

The Fuhrermuseum, with a colonaded façade about 500 feet long, the design paralleling that of the great Haus fur Deutsche Kunst already erected in Munich, which would stand on the site of the present Linz railroad station which was to be moved 4 km to the south.

In the mine also was Goering's personal collection of paintings and articles stolen by the Germans all over the world. Dr. Michel stated that this is the largest Nazi cache; a unique collection of private property that could not be bought."

At the time Dr. Michel reported six other caches: 1. Gaming, Neider Austria, in the area occupied by the Russians; 2. Kirchstelten, Neider Austria; 3. Schloss Hoflein, Neider Austria; 4. Schloss Mi Hersith, 178 pictures etc., Salzburg," (what is there and some other places was taken from Steinberg mine. Ancient gold coins were taken 1 May); 5. Lauffern Austrian national art and probably some jewels. (Entrances there were also closed). Dr. Michel offered to conduct us to the place. 6. Contact the "Wanderer," 39 Gratser Str., An Inn, Bad Ischl. Important treasures and probably property of the Catholic Church.

As we went back down the mountain the workers showed us the six tons of bombs, each one weighing 750 kilos. I have a copy of the picture of these bombs on the hillside where the workers had hidden them after sabotaging them, which appeared in "The National Geographic," in 1946. Since the use of the bombs could have ruined the place of employment of the workers who depended on the mine for their livelihood, as well as the art, the workers were very much interested in avoiding any damage to the mine. If

they stood by while the bombs were used, water would be let into the mine and ruin the mine as well as the art. In return for a promise to guide Kaltenbrunner to a hideout in the mountains (where we found him later with the help of civilian guides) they gained time to take off the detonators and move the bombs outside and away from the mine where they concealed them with branches.

I then started for the nearest radio where I could report on what I had found and request supplies and reinforcements. We had come to Alt Aussee with the intention of returning the same day. The Monuments and Fine Arts officer (Capt. Posey) who had the data on what might be found in Alt Aussee, according to his story, sent the information to another corps which he thought was going to seize this area. I believed what I heard about Alt Aussee and decided that I was warranted in staying and asking for supplies and reinforcements.

I stopped at Bad Aussee, about 4 km south of Alt Aussee, where there had reportedly been some trouble. "George" reported that he was busy getting things in order. General Major Karl Fabriunkn, a veteran of 34 years in the German Army, who had been in the hospital, was the senior officer in the area.

Fabriunkn said he had received his instructions by telephone from an officer in Salzburg to send German soldiers home. First he named another city considerably E of Alt Aussee. He said that Field Marshal Kesselring was there and had arranged the details (Actually Kesselring was in Saalfelden, almost due south of Berchtesgaden and W and S of Alt Aussee). I questioned his arrangement as the 3rd Cavalry had orders to turn back all Germans coming up the road N through the valley from Bad Aussee. (This was changed after the 80th came down that way and the PW camp was established at Moosbach.) There were many German vehicles and men just N of Bad Ischl when we came through.

I decided to take General Fabriunkn with me. After relieving him of his P-38, we proceeded to 4523 (map), where the 2nd platoon, A Troop, 3rd Cavalry was located. I contacted Lt. Larson and started sending messages to General McBride, hoping that he would realize that I had found what I had, and that even though the war was to end before the night was over, that they would move to help me in, what to me, was the most interesting activity of the war. The messages:

082030 CG 80th Att: G3 "Priceless art Steinberg 505125; another Austrian collection 414140. 150 Nazi leaders and 1,000 SS 5155. Task Force guarding 505125 need reinforcements, rations, gas for 60 men, reply."

082100 CG 80th Att G3 : "Have German general with me. He states that he was to send soldiers home in groups of 250 any vehicles. Germans still armed. Hundreds of soldiers and vehicles on the roads." (Actually many were returning as a result of surrendering to General McBride farther E but I didn't know that.)

Task Force Smythe (Major General, then Colonel, G. W. Smythe) moved SE to Purgg and Liezen and east to Hiefiau. There were 2,000 Elite Guard troops ready to fight to the death in the mountain passes. General McBride accepted the surrender of the Sixth German Army, Lt. Gen. Balch commanding, at 1945, including all of the elements north and west of the Enns River.

According to the New York Times: "The 80th was the last in full contact with the enemy. This was near Scharnstein, thirty miles SE of Linz. There the 80th came up against an estimated 2,000 Elite Guard troops who were ready to fight to the death in the mountain passes. Thunderbolts of the XIX TAC were sent for

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Historians Report

by Lee S. Anthony, PNC & Historian

The activities covered during this last reporting period include:

- (1) Responses to requests for information regarding the WWI military history of loved ones.
- (2) Assistance to families trying to assemble shadow boxes for their loved ones.
- (3) Assembling duplicate artifacts for possible loan to the 80th TASS museum.
- (4) Continues inventory and assembling in order the various collections, including tunics, helmets, web gear, gas masks, foot lockers/boxes of personal effects, pictures, posters, documents, etc. These are located in "The Barn".
- (5) Production of a set of helmet logos, depicting many different unit markings.
- (6) Preparation for "The Biggie" dedication of the Memorial Plaque at the Argonne Circle in Roanoke, VA on 5 June 2021, following an "Open House" at the Barn (3725 Carvin's Cove Road, Salem, VA)

FURTHER COMMENTS:

- (1) In so many cases the requestor relates that there were missed opportunities to either communicate with the now-departed loved one, or that "All that stuff got thrown away many years ago". Nevertheless, it is usually possible to obtain information from the reference books listed on the 80th web site, and through NARA. Access to NARA and the Army Heritage Center at Carlisle, PA has been very limited over the past year.

- (2) Recent shadow box projects included one for a WWI 80th Division veteran's family, and for a WWII Navy veteran's family.
- (3) We have extended an offer to the 80th TASS museum group to visit the barn in order to assemble a "care package" of artifacts on loan, but so far, no follow-up.
- (4) The inventories are proceeding, although hampered by lack of web connection. This connection is supposed to be accomplished as soon as Comcast can run a line from the pole to the barn.
- (5) The pictures of helmet logos are being sent along with this report, (see pages 10 & 11). This entry should bring about some interesting comments and discussions. We have seen in the past, disagreements among the "Experts" regarding the interpretation of a given logo.
- (6) The events at the barn and at the Argonne Circle may be the apex of years of the 80th DVA activities in the Roanoke area. Invitations have been sent to the 80th TASS to the CG via COL(R) Singleton; members of the 80th DVA are hereby invited; the DAR will be the convening society; the City of Roanoke is hoped to be in attendance; the 29th Division, our brother Virginia Division, will also be in attendance.

In other words, we are "up to our eyeballs" in preparation for a 1000 "Open House" at the barn, and a 1300 Dedication of the Meuse-Argonne Plaque on King George Avenue, "Old Southwest" on 5 June 2021. "Y'all Come!"

Austrian Salt Mines... continued

to deal with the SS concentration but had to be called off to avoid violating the truce. As the German Army passed into oblivion, carrying its wake the Nazi party, there were no real mourners for the Nazis."

The AP reported: "The last shot on the western front was fired in Czechoslovakia by TF Smythe of the 80th Division, the last to remain in action. Patton issued the cease fire order at 0800 today. (0200 Eastern War Time.)

Today R. E. Matteson, CIC, arrested Mrs. Kaltenbrunner at Strobl.

Since 22 April: 187,655 PWs. The 80th lost 5,600 killed, 16,000 wounded. General Eisenhower said: "Midnight end." General Bradley said: "War ended."

For the Allies there was a total of 7,000,000 PWs. More than 5,000,000 were discharged by our forces, 1,500,000 were being held in France, England and the U.S. There were 6,500,000 DPs. As of this date General Bradley wrote:

"Not until after the campaign was ended were we to learn that this Redoubt existed largely in the imagination of a few fanatical Nazis. It grew into so exaggerated a scheme that I am as-

tonished that we could have believed it as innocently as we did, but while it persisted this legend of the Redoubt was too ominous a threat to be ignored and in consequence it shaped our tactical thinking during the closing weeks of the war."

Mr. A. W. Dulles finished his OSS work in Switzerland. He had been there since October 1942.

The 2nd Infantry Division relieved the 16th Armored NW of Pilsen. The night of 8-9 May it was reported that 100,000 fugitives from Croatia were in Cilli (see 6 May).

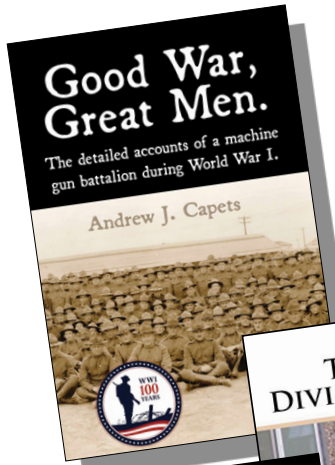
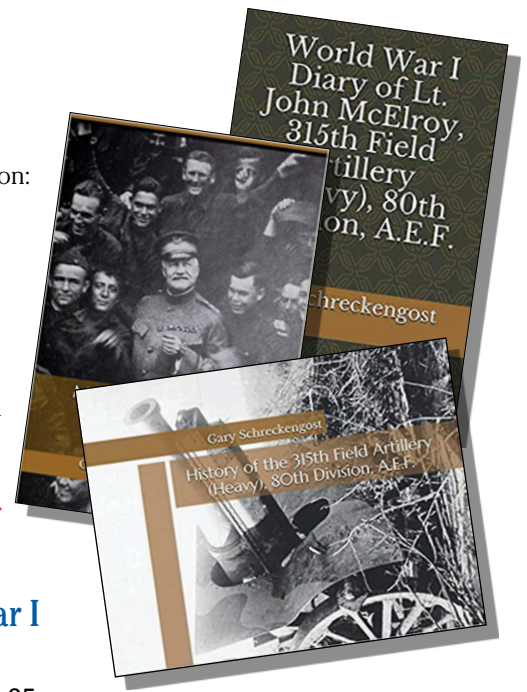
With the first Red tanks to roll into Dresden on 8 May 1945 were carloads of Russian art experts. Outside the city a favor-seeking Nazi handed them a master list of art treasures and their hiding places. The Russians offered him a drink and then shot him. Three months later they took the art away and the disposition has been a secret for a decade. Some 750 paintings were put on show in Moscow in September 1955. As to the missing 987 paintings, statues etc. the East Germans blame Hitler and the Anglo-Americans. The collection exhibited in 1955 was valued at \$17,000,000.

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."



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The 313th Machine Gun Battalion of World War I

by Andrew J. Capets

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Iraqi Army Advisors in Action, 2005-06

by Gary Schreckengost and John McLaren

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

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

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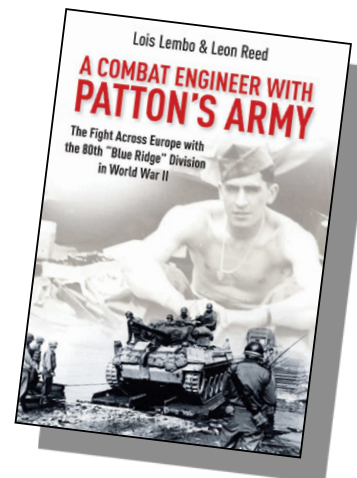
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A Combat Engineer with Patton's Army

by Lois Lembo & Leon Reed

205 Old Mill Rd. • Gettysburg, PA 17325 • Special 80th Division price: \$25, FREE shipping

A Combat Engineer with Patton's Army describes the deadly river crossings at the Moselle, Seille, and Sauer, all conducted under enemy fire, and the frustrating pauses when supplies were diverted elsewhere. Lembo participated in the mid-December sprint to Luxembourg and the relief column that liberated Bastogne during the Bulge, the liberation of concentration camps once the Third Army had charged into Germany, and their postwar occupation duty in Bavaria. Frank's letters go beyond his direct combat experiences to include the camaraderie among the GIs, difficult living conditions, and the hijinks that helped keep the constant threat of death at bay. His letters also helped to fill Betty with hopeful dreams for their future together.



TAPS

Adams, Harry 317
Great Bend, KS
DOD: Apr 6, 2021
Rptd by: Aldobrandino D'Marais

Alder, MSG(R) Leon 3-319
19358 Stirrup Dr
Abingdon, VA 24211
DOD: Jan 3, 2021
Rptd by: MSG(R) Terry Moore

Caramucci, MSG(R) Salvatore 80th G3
Ashland, VA
DOD: Jan 3, 2021
Rptd by: Richmond Times Dispatch

Castrichini, Armond A-318
DOD: Dec 2020
Rptd by: Richard Castrichini, Grandson

Foran, SFC(R) William 3-319
Abingdon, VA
DOD: Apr 18, 2021
Rptd by: MSG(R) Terry Moore

Fort, SPC® Curtis 2-319
Roanoke, VA
DOD: Jul 29, 2020
Rptd by: Sara Morgan

Gentry, James F-317
914 Beaverbank Cir
Towson, MD 21286
DOD: Mar 3, 2021
Rptd by: Aldobrandino D'Marais

Goldberg, PFC Albert 315 FA Btry B
DOD: Jan 20, 2021
Rptd by: Cary Klivan, Nephew

Gough, MSG(R) Thomas L-319
134 Grist Mill Road
Lynchburg, VA 24501
DOD: Jan 16, 2021
Rptd by: SGM(R) William Wilson

Heldreth, SFC (R) Charles 3-319
Bristol, VA
DOD: Dec 29, 2020
Rptd by: MSG (R) Janet Torbett

Hester, SGM(R) Samuel HQ 80th Div
G3 Test
Montpelier, VA
DOD: May 22, 2021
Rptd by: Richmond Times Dispatch

Hunigan, SFC(R) Dwight 2-319
766 Shipley Ferry Road
Blountville, TN
DOD: Dec 19, 2020
Rptd by: MSG(R) Terry Moore

Johnson, SFC(R) Harold 2-319/2079th
16137 Baytree Road
Bristol, VA 24202
DOD: Dec 12, 2020
Rptd by: MSG(R) Terry Moore

Lelito, Edmund 305 EN
2233 Whispering Oaks Ct
Highland, IN 46322
DOD: Mar 1, 2021
Rptd by: Mrs Lelito, Wife

McFarland, Arnold
Greenville, OH
DOD: Feb 23, 2021
Rptd by: Aldobrandino D'Marais

Polonitza, COL (R) Edmund HQ, 80th
Div Chief of Staff
Charlottesville, VA
DOD: Dec 21, 2020
Rptd by: Richmond Times Dispatch

Seay, MSG® David 2nd Bde
DOD: Jan 16, 2021
Rptd by: COL(R) Rick Littleton

Siebert, William L-319
4649 W Schilling Rd
Salina, KS 67401
DOD: Nov 29, 2020
Rptd by: Cynthia Tubbs, Daughter

Sprouse, Curtis E-318
Dothan, GA
DOD: April 2, 2021
Rptd by: Aldobrandino D'Marais

Strickler, MSG(R) Gene 2174th
Fincastle, VA
DOD: Mar 7, 2021
Rptd by: SSG(R) James Kincannon

Wampler, 1SG(R) Nelson 3-319/1-320
16283 Worthing Way
Abingdon, VA 2421-
DOD: Dec 22, 2020
Rptd by: MSG (R) Terry Moore

Washington, Joel 80th MTC
N. Chesterfield, VA
DOD: Jan 27, 2021
Rptd by: Richmond Times Dispatch

Wilson, SFC(R) Terry 1-319
Lynchburg, VA
DOD: Jan 9, 2021
Rptd by SFC(R) William Wilson

The last date I have entered a name is May 31, 2021

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Morgan, Sara – HQ 80th TC G1
Popolis, Rudy – Annual to Life

ANNUAL MEMBERS

None At This Time

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Bezjak, Judy – In Memory of PVT Tony Ruzich L-317
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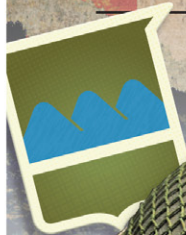
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