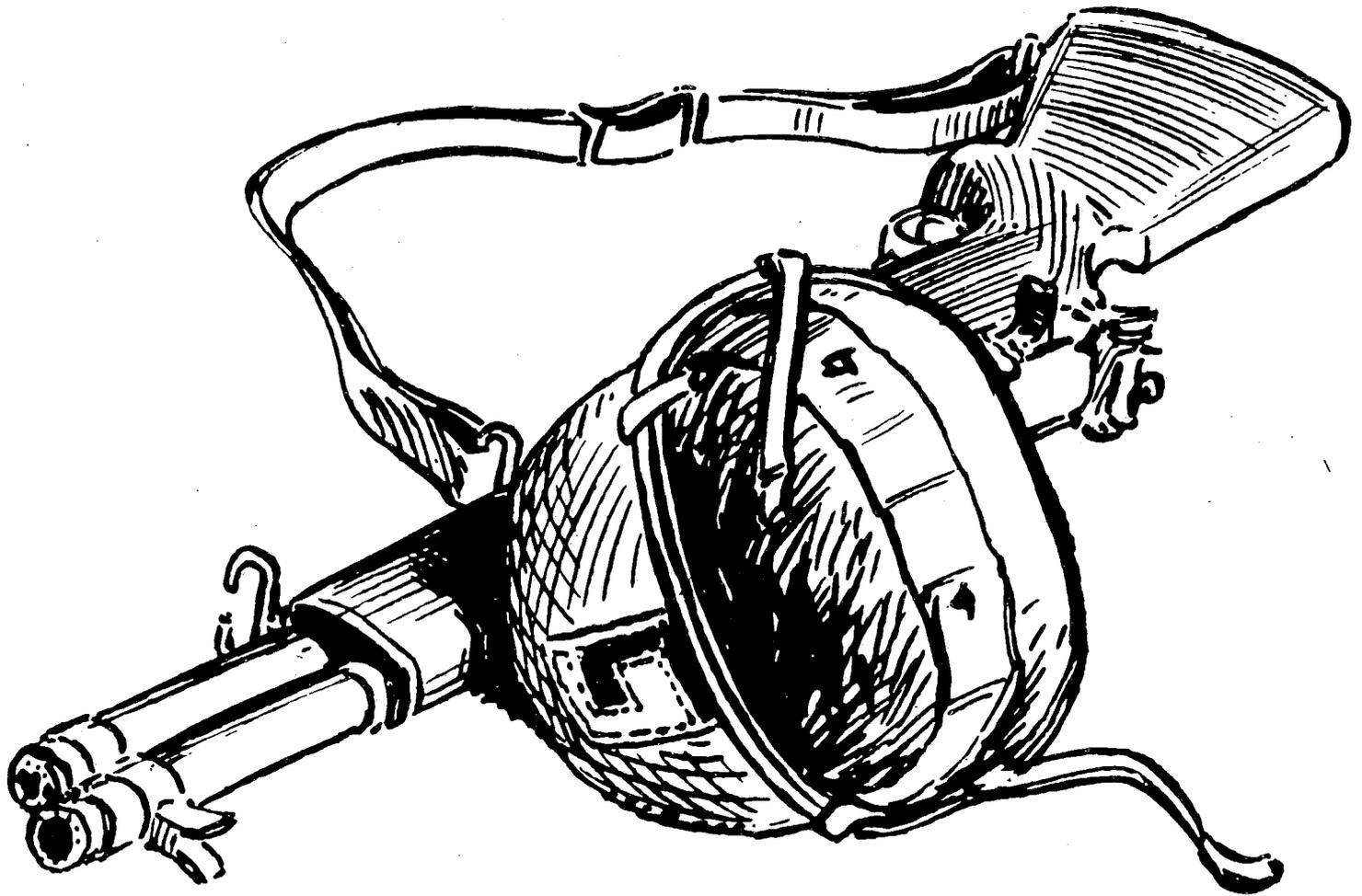


# 69<sup>th</sup> infantry division bulletin



## THE CONVENTION

The third annual Division Reunion is now a part of our history. To all those whom we were disappointed not to see we can only extend the hope that they will repair the omission next year, but there is no altering the fact that they missed a heartwarming event this year.

No more fitting location could have been chosen than Washington, whose famous landmarks are the symbols of those ideas whose assertion brought the division, as they did the whole army, into being. The splendor of the background these monuments provided kept in view the higher aspect of our service, which a nostalgic glee in revived camaraderie threatened to obscure.

The immediate site of the festivities was a credit to the convention committee's judgment. The last word in sumptuousness, it almost seemed unsuited as a place for a lot of old infantry soldiers to stir up memories of good times in the mud. The hotel, the Shoreham, was so extensive and complete, a lot of the members never left it for the whole three days, though many squeezed in as much sightseeing as could be managed between the events of the reunion.

A handsome, elegant room was the scene of the business meeting; an even more impressive one, of the banquet. The banquet itself was faultlessly tendered; its feature a fine talk by Bill Shadel, the well-known C.B.S. Washington correspondent. There were, of course, countless private parties, the details of which will not be chronicled in these pages.

But the chief note of all, the very raison-detre, above all the foregoing, of the whole reunion, was of course the individual meetings between old friends, the great pleasure of which was independent of the brilliance of the capital, the beauty of the hotel, or the most hectic efforts of the convention and banquet committees. And that is what, if your attendance was prevented, you mostly missed.

## THE BUSINESS MEETING

The business meeting, conducted by the president, Lester Milich, was opened with the singing of the National Anthem and an invocation by Clifford Ewing, of the Ordnance Company. Telegrams from a number of members unable to be present were read.

Two disabled buddies, Richard Cross, who with Cliff Ewing represented the Atlanta chapter, and Clarence Marshall of the M.P. platoon, who lost his sight in Germany, were introduced.

Bill Lillian, G Co. 272d speaking for the resolution committee, placed before the convention a motion that there be an official inquiry into the provisions made for disabled veterans. This was passed.

Herman Gutowitz, 1st Bn Hq 271st, made the welfare report. He told of the inquiry directed to all of the veterans' hospitals in the country in an effort to discover 69ers possibly still hospitalized. Happily, none of our buddies were listed. A hundred dollars of the Association's funds was spent in its name by the Metropolitan chapter to provide some pleasure for veterans generally in local hospitals. The money went for radios, headphones and PX books. That this activity was conducted very largely by himself was made anything but clear in Herman's moving talk.

An award, which will be described below, was presented General Reinhardt, and accepted in his name by President Milich.

Resolutions were offered commending the efforts of several officers and directors, whose modesty will preclude their being mentioned further here.

An extremely entertaining interlude in the solemn proceedings was provided by the antics of the chairman of the nominating committee, Sol Rosenblitt, H Co., whose comic talents gave no hint of the seriousness of his task in providing a state of candidates who have manifested by their work to date, a deep

interest in the Association. He proposed first, and saw seconded and elected as President, Hy Goldstein, Sv Co. 272d, a Vice-President for the preceding year, and for the three annual reunions, chairman of the Banquet Committee, a task of Herculean proportions.

For Vice-Presidents, Sol nominated Clifford Ewing, of the Ordnance Company, Albert Robinson, Signal Co., and Herman Gutowitz to fill the three vacancies provided for in the constitution. Pierce Rice, A Co. 273d, was nominated from the floor. This was a fourth name, but amiability was so much the order of the day, that it was moved to amend the constitution to include an extra vice-president, and so elect everybody.

At this point a further amendment was voted to make the office of secretary-treasurer a secretariat to consist of four officers, the work connected with this position having proved entirely too great to be handled any longer by an individual. For this office, Lester Milich, the outgoing president, Larry Kolarik, F Co. 273d, Don Meyer, I Co. 272d, and Abe Sterman, I Co. 273d were chosen.

To complete a term of one year as a director made vacant by Pierce Rice's election as vice-president, Hy Kurfurst, I Co. 271st, was elected a director.

For similar positions of two years, Henry Madison, Hq Co. 272d, Leonard King, Cn, 272d, John Deoues, Div. Hq, Murray Yegelwell, H Co. 271st, Sam Wolfe, F Co. 273d, and Curtis Straus of the Medical Battalion, the outgoing Secretary-Treasurer, were elected.

The installation of the officers and directors followed.

Cliff Ewing, one of the newly-elected Vice-Presidents came to the rostrum to speak for the Atlanta chapter, who are engaged on a program of aid and encouragement to all nearby veterans, along the lines indicated in Herman Gutowitz's welfare report.

For the Metropolitan chapter, that embraces New York and all outlying suburbs, Sherman Lawrence, B Co. 272d, that chapter's president, gave a short account of its inception and growth within the past year.

Bob Silberg, AT Co. 272d, thanked the members for their selection of his city for this year's reunion, and for our attendance there.

In a move to make the annual get-togethers increasingly accessible to all members, when the nomination of cities for 1951 was called for it was voted to omit New York, the scene of two previous conventions.

The nomination of five cities, to be voted on by the membership, and which will be listed and discussed in an accompanying article, concluded the business meeting.

## CARDS

Membership cards for 1951 have been printed. They will be in the mail shortly to all those who re-newed their membership at the reunion, and to all others as payment for the coming year's dues arrive. On that line, all dues received will now be considered as for 1951, which, in effect, means that if you have neglected your dues up to this time, the past year you enjoyed not exactly free, but at the expense of the regular members, a treat the Association can ill afford. In this Association a single year's dues are the most ever billed a member, no matter how far behind; an easy-going system, but one that increases the moral obligation to keep up to date.

## VISITORS

Distance unfortunately prevents the complete roster of officers and directors from attending the National Association's monthly meetings. It was very gratifying therefore, to have two out-of-towners at the September conference. Al Robertson, the newly elected vice-president came to New York from Washington, D.C., and Bernard Abrams, director, drove down from Boston, Mass. Both these trips entail considerable trouble and expense. Nevertheless, Al and Bernard intend to be present, whenever possible, at all ensuing meetings. Some thought is being given to the establishment of a procedure by which all officers and directors, no matter how far, seemingly, out of reach, can participate regularly, in making decisions on those matters which come before the board.

## A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Buddies:-

Those of you who attended our Third Annual Reunion can attest to the success of that gala event! The mere mention of THE SHOREHAM...WASHINGTON...1950...should bring to your minds the heartfelt hand-shakes.. the warm greetings.. the pleasant exchanges of "remember when" ..the pride and pleasure in introducing wives, sisters, parents and friends.

To those of you who communicated with me to say that you had received no information about our reunion and would have liked to attend had you known sooner, I can only say that I shall make every endeavor, with your cooperation, of course, to see that such is not the case this coming year... I say "with your cooperation" because it is you who must determine the time and place of our next Convention, and when you do, the information shall be promulgated and publicized not only through the mails, but by word of mouth, by each and every one, as often as we meet our buddies. Toward this end, it would help if you would each give notice to every man of your Company of our next reunion. Write us for the address of the particular buddy you want to meet.

SHALL OUR FOURTH REUNION BE AT

ATLANTA? ..

Capitol City of Georgia; Southern Hospitality and all that that implies; and CLIFF EWING, INCORPORATED!

OR ATLANTIC CITY?

The 'CONVENTION CITY BY THE SEA! ..

The world's most compact arrangement of major convention facilities - all located on one vehicle-less thoroughfare-THE BOARDWALK...

OR PITTSBURG?

Overnight from 90 million people.

OR SALT LAKE CITY?

Close to California, anyhow!

OR CLEVELAND?

'The Best Location in the Nation! Centrally located for all major cities of the United States.

This Bulletin is our way of saying 'hello' and bringing to you news of your buddies... and more than that, the Bulletin is our means of reminding you that you are an important part of a terrific organization that is packed with SIXTY-NINERS from all over the Country. Getting out this Bulletin entails a lot of work and expense. May I therefore remind those of you who have not yet paid your dues to do so now? Let us make this a record year by having a One-hundred percent paid-up MEMBERSHIP ...

We invite your comment, your suggestions, your inquiries, your letters... and above all, your friendly membership!

If you've got a gripe..if you've got a groan..  
We will never know till you make it known..  
On the other hand, we'll be pleased to hear  
If you've got a smile.. or a hearty cheer!

Sincerely,

Hyman E. Goldstein.

CONVENTIONALLY SPEAKING....(as I saw it)  
by Sol Rosenblitt, H Co. 271st

Bill Shadel of Columbia Broadcasting made a swell speech, and lots of his inside stuff became headlines days after he told us, but the President of the NY Chapter didn't hear a word..he was too busy trying to make time with the beautiful Mrs. Shadel..but he never got to first base....too bad Sherman...I don't blame you..but I wish I was on that dais....Signal company reunion dinner on Friday prior to convention must have been some shindig, from all reports...GRATIFYING there were no complaints from the hotel against any of our members..all drinking and noise was confined to rooms...RUMOR I hear the Ohio and Indiana boys are ganging up to put over Cleveland as the 51 convention city..well, it's a nice town, a real convention city, and we couldn't miss having a good time there..aside to that swimmer in Signal company..I understand they have a wonderful lake in Cleveland, much bigger than the Shoreham Pool, but of course, alas, no gold fish....speaking of SIGNAL COMPANY..they had the biggest turnout at the convention, and I lost a bet..I thought that Co. H 271 would have the biggest company turnout...anyhow we didn't lose by much, and I say like my favorite ball team always says..wait till next year....however the H Co. boys sure won distance attendance championship, I think...what with Brieland (and his beautiful doll wife) from No. Dakota, Buie from Alabama, and Cliff Ewing of Atlanta, to name a few... but speaking of boys that came from far and wide how about Johnny Vaughan from Monroe, La. and William Leong from Oakland, California....that's not exactly a hop skip or jump....nice to see Kinney of Sv Co. and his side kick and my pal, Rockhold, 271 Sgt. Major..leading the Ohio delegation... I bet you fellows are hot for Cleveland...isn't Pres. elect, Goldstein, a super kootch dancer..but somehow, I still like the girl better .... NICE GESTURE the convention committee refused to accept reservation payments from Clarence Marshal and Richard Cross but insisted they were honored guests of the assoc....it made me feel extra good, and I'm sure every 69er felt a little better for it....and now to conclude with A STANDING ROUND OF APPLAUSE for HY GOLDSTEIN, for directing the convention, for heading all the arrangements, and making this convention one very very difficult to top....for CLIFF EWING the old rebel...for officiating as chaplain..for JOHNNY DEOUDES...for taking care of the music and entertainment....There are so many many men that deserve mention, like Larry Kolarik, who took care of a million other things... Hap Hazard, who got us Shadel as speaker and a million dollars worth of publicity....Gutowitz, for the General's plaque, to Les Milich for the beautifully clear and concise conduct of meeting...but I could go on for pages....those I left out...please forgive...we love you for your efforts...SO LONG....SR...

## SIGNAL COMPANY

Another get-to-gether of the Division Signal Company is in the works. Not all details had been determined as these lines were prepared, but the date will be some time in December. Drop a line to Howard Bayerle, 1728 Second Avenue, New York City and he'll let you know the date, time, place, uniform and equipment the minute they have been decided.

## ATTENTION!

Please note that the National Association's Headquarters has a new mailing address:

135 Broadway  
New York, N. Y.

Previously it was Post Office Box 68, Bowling Green, New York. Mail addressed there by error or from those benighted ones not reached by the Bulletin will doubtless still reach the Association. The Broadway address is that of the offices of the Association's new president.

Along this line, for those curious about such matters, most Association business is transacted at meetings of the Board of Directors held at the Great Northern Hotel in New York at the offices of the Secretary, Larry Kolarik, F Co. 273d. Here, too, the Bulletin is prepared.

The president is anxious that Association members brought to New York on business or pleasure make a point of calling at 135 Broadway. An eager welcome will be extended.

## TROPHY

The members who found time to see a little of the capital in what time the reunion left them, doubtless, as veterans themselves, gave some notice to the tributes paid those who served in earlier and smaller wars. Of the abundant monuments, one

phenomenon can be observed; that is, that it was the practice of a bygone age to celebrate an army by lauding its leader, the member of the army who achieved the greatest distinction, whatever his merits. Thus, the bulk of the statues in evidence are of generals of the Union Army, the most spectacular that of Grant, at the head of the Mall, with a quantity of imposing equestrian figures distributed throughout the capital, representing the lesser army commanders.

That this inclination did not persist is made evident by the few carvings put up after the great struggle, the First World War. Their scarcity may arise from the fact that plastic memorials are fast going out of fashion, but of the two the writer came across, one was the column erected to the First Division, the other, the golden sword of the Second. This difference in emphasis is a sign of the change of the spirit of the times. It is sufficient to note this here, not inquire how great an advance this attention to the mass represents.

A shade of the old-fashioned impulse was shown by ourselves. Decidedly the part of the business meeting most moving to the members was the presentation of a memento of his connection with the division to our old commander.

An award had been voted the general at the 1948 convention. In the press of less attractive but more intrusive business, its execution was delayed till this year. The type of the award was determined by the directors and its preparation entrusted to Herman Gutowitz who produced the inscribed silver plaque brought to the reunion.

As the general was prevented from reaching Washington, when the presentation was made by Sherman Lawrence, it was accepted in the general's name by Lester Milich. The tray was inscribed:

To

"Major-General Emil F. Reinhardt, U.S.A., in appreciation of his unwavering efforts in founding and furtherance of the aims of the 69th Infantry Division Association."

On its reception, the general wrote the following note:

337 Garraty Road  
San Antonio 9, Texas  
September 20, 1950

Mr. Sherman S. Lawrence  
69th Infantry Division Association  
654 Madison Avenue,  
New York 21, NY

Dear Lawrence,

I was delightfully surprised yesterday to receive the beautiful silver tray with its engraved expression of appreciation for such efforts as I may have made in organization of the 69th Infantry Division Association.

It is a tangible expression of friendship by the members of the Division Association toward a grateful former Division Commanding General. I look with the greatest of pride upon a great organization of fighting American soldiers whose deeds and accomplishments have fully measured up to the highest traditions of our armed forces. My command of the Fighting Sixty Ninth Infantry Division was the brightest period in my forty years of service in the United States Army.

To the members of our association, may I express my most profound thanks. This wonderful gift will always remain my most treasured possession.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed)

E. F. Reinhardt  
Major General, U. S. Army  
(Retired)

RESERVES

Word of some Association members, who were in the reserve, and have been called into active duty, has reached the Association. We are anxious to be in touch with all those who go back into service, to see what we can do to make their time a little more pleasant. It is a splendid thing to be willing to take up the burden again, so soon after relinquishing it, and every credit is due those who have so

chosen. The last thing needed here is to tell anyone of the tedium, the laboriousness, the discomfort, to say nothing of the peril, of the life on which the reservists find themselves re-embarked. A word of adulation in these columns is little help, nor, as well we know, is there much outsiders can do. Nevertheless, we would like to know the names of those once again with the colors, so, if you are "in" yourself, or know of any who are, will you write the Association.

## FAME

The Association is always greedy for publicity. Little enough of it do we attract. Around convention time each year, by might and main we squeeze a mention of ourselves into a newspaper column or a broadcast here and there. This meagre attention is the result of the combined efforts of a whole committee. And these results would be even more modest but for the presence on that committee of Hap (W. Eldon) Hazard, an insider, specifically a Columbia Broadcasting System sahib (famous in these parts as the commander of I Co. 271st). But such slight notice requiring the struggle that it does, it was all the more gratifying to hear, second hand, of a gratuitous mention we received the other day.

Tommy Bartlett on his Welcome Traveler radio show asked an arriver or departer what the pin was he wore. Now we hesitate to confess our listener failed to learn the journeyer's name, but the handsome pin, all the world was informed, was the emblem of your own division.

Of course a regular pin wearer is a regular Bulletin reader, so this unknown member will learn his words did not quite vanish completely into the ether, but survived to cheer us all, and to serve as a lesson that the best way, really, to keep the Association before the public eye, in particular that portion of the public with whom we served, is to wear the pin.

## DUES

The inclusion of an envelope for the payment of dues will be a regular practice from now on. Dues received from this time forward will be credited against 1951. If you've yet to join, the envelope will make it easy for you to become a member. We are anxious to keep the Association in touch with its members as frequently as possible; that possibility is governed by our income.

New people joining are a great help, but an unpaid-up old member nullifies the advantage of gaining a new one. Bear in mind, membership in the Sixty-Ninth Infantry Division Association costs only four cents a week!

## SOUVENIRS

The response to the offer of Convention souvenirs made in the previous issue was very gratifying. As we warned, for a dollar, a lot less than a dollar's worth of mentos went to those who sent in requests. The difference went into the Association's welfare fund. The items of which the packet was made up were the large Convention delegate's button, the Banquet menu, and a Sixty-Ninth Division pennant, especially suitable for your wall.

For those of you who weren't able to get to Washington, plenty of these things are still on hand, if you send a note and a dollar to 135 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

## NEW LOCAL CHAPTERS

At the reunion a great deal of enthusiasm was stirred up over the prospect of starting local chapters of the Association in the many areas where none now exist. Much of this resulted from the fine talk given by the president of the Metropolitan Chapter, Sherman Lawrence, on the experiences shared by himself and the other New York Sixty-niners who aided him in getting their branch of the Association under way.

If you are in one of the cities where a Chapter is planned, you should hear fairly soon from those organizing it, who probably have received your name from the National Association. If you want to take the initiative yourself in starting a chapter, the National Association is ready to provide you with a charter, a suggested program, and a list of members in your locality. The latter is the best bet, because if the Association hears from you and a chapter is already contemplated, they'll put you in touch with the bunch at work on it, and you can lend a hand.