

# FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

## ★★★★ Association, Inc.



VOLUME 40, NO. 2

JANUARY — FEBRUARY — MARCH — APRIL  
1987

"THE THREE B's"  
BOLTE'S BIVOUACING BASTARDS

101 STEPHEN STREET  
NEW KENSINGTON, PA 15068  
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# bulletin

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## 1987 Annual Reunion - Niagara Falls, New York



*This is a view of the American Falls from Canada and the building in the center background with the silver domes on top is the Hotel Niagara.*



*Close-up view of the Niagara Hotel where the 69th Divisions's 40th Annual Reunion will be held.*

*Attractions Nearby: Within walking distance: Niagara Falls, Maid of the Mist Boat, Native American Center, Aquarium, Rainbow Bridge to Canada, Indoor Shopping Mall, Cave of the Winds, Wintergarden.*



*CONVENTION AND CIVIC CENTER WHERE BANQUET WILL BE HELD.*



## News From The Editor's Desk

by — Clarence Marshall

**John W. McGolerick, Jr.**, Route 2, Box 47, Knoxville, Maryland 21758: Enclosed are my dues for 1986-1987. I am glad to be a part of this great organization, even though I had to leave it in the States in April of 1944. I was in Combt in Germany with **General Patton's** Third Army from November of 1944 till the War ended in Austria in May of 1945. I was wounded on March 17th, and back in action on May 1st. I was discharged in January of 1946 at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. My basic training in Camp Shelby from May 1943 to April 1944 was outstanding by good Officers and men.

**Arthur Shinder**, 11 Bristol Road, Windsor Locks, Connecticut 06096 — F-273rd: Enclosed is my check for membership dues, postage donation, a Division History Book and two shoulder patches. I would like to take you up on your offer, and receive the names and addresses of the men of Company F-273rd. I am interested in information on a **Robert Sipes**, and a guy named **Piskor**. So far I have received 3 issues of the Bulletin and would like to congratulate all concerned on a job well done. I'm just mad at myself for not becoming a member sooner, as I feel I have missed out on a very important part of my life. My sincere wish is that you have an enjoyable Holiday Season, and the best of Health and Luck for the New Year.

**John F. Murphy**, 18 Court Street, Cromwell, Connecticut 06416 — H-272nd: I heard about the organization from **Howard Carlton**, and would like to know how to apply for membership. I was in Company H-272nd Infantry, and would like to know about others from my Unit in the Association. I am also interested in the 1987 Reunion at Niagara Falls.

**Carl F. Kaiser**, 22330 Homestead Road, #222, Cupertino, California 95014 — E-271st: I'd like to thank you for sending me the roster of E-271st people to help me plan a special dinner at the Reunion in Pittsburgh. As a result of these efforts, as well as the overall Reunion planning, our Company showed an attendance of 16, which was better than previous years. The greater number made the affair more fun for all of us. I have the address of a new member for you. He is **Jerry Fine** of Los Angeles, California. I don't know his Unit designation.

**Kyle Ellison**, 110 Olympia Drive, Beckley, West Virginia 25801 — L-272nd: I recently was in touch with a former 69er who was unaware that there was a 69th Division Association. Would you please send the necessary information to him in order than he may become a member. He was a member of Hq. Co., 2nd Bn., 272nd Infantry Regiment, and he is **Russell E. Rakestraw** of Findlay, Ohio.

**Howard Carlton**, 125 Bolton Street, Manchester, Connecticut 06040 — Hq. 880th: I appreciated your letter, and also the News Bulletin that you sent me. I apologize for not giving you my complete Unit. Can you tell me how many from my Battery are in the Association? Please send me a dues envelope for joining the Association.

**Warren J. Richards**, 881 48th Avenue, Vero Beach, Florida 32960 — I-273rd: I joined the 69th in Tent City in France, and remained with it till the end of the War. I was one of the many who was transferred to the 29th, and then to the 78th in Berlin. In the 69th I was a Pfc. in either the first or third platoon of Company I-273rd. Before the battle of Leipzig I was a machine gunner with the 4th squad under a **Sergeant Smith**.

**Glenn B. Vanderlaan**, 2215 March Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001 — AT-273rd: I am enclosing a picture with 3 69ers on it. The one in the middle is me. The one on the right is **Robert Lehmann**, who lived in Massachusetts, and his parents owned a greenhouse. The one on the left was called "Big Red." He was from Texas, was a jeep driver, and would bring us mail and hot meals. I would like to find their current addresses. I am in better health than when I saw you in Pittsburgh. I move around 50% better, and my arthritis pain is down by 80%. Therefore I am back to playing the pipes again. I plan to attend the 1987 Reunion at Niagara Falls. At the Reunion in Pittsburgh I reminisced with **General Bolte** how I piped for him several times in 1978 at the Greentree Marriott. I hope that I can get permission to pipe the Color Guard and play Taps for the Memorial Service.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Vanderlaan's picture appears elsewhere in this issue).*

**John M. Fleming**, Box 404, Rockhollow Road, R.D. #1, Birdsboro, Pennsylvania 19508 — D-271st: **Mr. Fleming** was a former S/Sgt. in his Unit. Wife's name is **Shirley**, and they have 4 children. All children are away from home, and **Kevin** is not married. There are 7 grandchildren. I worked for Birdsboro Corporation Machine Shop for 44 years, 23 as a machinist and assembler, and 21 years in Supervision. I retired in 1966 as superintendent of 2 shops. I am presently operating a small machine shop of my own.

**Robert Ericksen**, Route 9, Box 86, Canal Drive, Florence, South Carolina 29501 — 569th Sig.: I am a member of the 69th Infantry Division Association, and have corresponded with **Bob Kurtzman** about information on the 69th Division History Book. He told me to contact you in reference to the same. I was with the 569th Signal Company from April 1943 till August 1944, and have often wondered how the old Company made out. **Bob** sent me a roster, but so many names were missing that I remember. I wonder if they got back O.K., or transferred like I did. I served the rest of my time till 12-7-45 in the South Pacific. I have enclosed a check to cover the book, and any other info about the 569th that you might have. Hope to get to a Reunion sometime.

**Richard K. Witmer**, 119 Mussetta Street, Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331 — B-272nd: It has been a long time since the link-up, but I remember it well. About 6 years ago a fire in our house destroyed my History Books. They were the History of the 69th Division and the History of the 272nd Infantry Regiment. I would like to replace these books if you still have them on hand.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Witmer was sent a new Division History Book, and advised that there are no 272nd Regiment History Books available).*

**Harold Hendrix**, 3017 Johnson Road, Box 28, Stevensville, Michigan 49127 — E-271st: Enclosed is the address of another former 69er who lives near me. He is **William H. Sommers**, who was the former Supply Sergeant for Company E-271st. I sent him some pictures taken at the Reunion in Pittsburgh. He claims he has not heard from anyone from the 69th since his discharge. Please send him the latest Bulletin and a membership application. **Bill** is a little older than most of us, and his health is not the best, but I am sure he would like to join and keep in touch with us.

**John T. Mihm**, 916 Pittsburgh Street, Scottdale, Pennsylvania 15683: I did not make the Reunion in Pittsburgh last year, but would like to belong to the Association. I received the notice for dues, but misplaced it, and would like to have another one to send in. I guess I am eligible to belong, having only been with the 69th from June 1943 till May 1944. I went through basic training with the 69th, and then was

*(Continued on Page 3)*

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK  
(Continued from Page 2)

shipped out as a replacement. I was assigned to the 79th Division, and spent the rest of the War with them, except for 2 months that I spent in the hospital from wounds I received in November of 1944. I rejoined my outfit in January of 1945 and was still with them on V.E. Day.

**Wiley Blair III**, 723 Via Manana Montecito, California 93108 — Hq. 879th: I am planning a trip to Germany this year, and want to visit some of the places that our Division, and more particularly, my Artillery Battalion, went through. Do you have a map or list of names that might be helpful?

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Blair was furnished a Division History Book which we hope helped him in his efforts).

**Mrs. Maria G. Keller**, 8221 Galway Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23228: The ladies of the Auxiliary join me in expressing our appreciation to you for the fine work you are doing and have done for our Organization. We think the Bulletin is one of the best published anywhere. There were over 130 ladies present at our meeting in Pittsburgh. Our meeting was interesting and the program excellent. I sent the minutes to **Anna Walters** today. I just hope that she and **Dottie** can get them in the next Bulletin. **Leroy** got two broken ribs while we visited the **Greentree Marriott**, but we are pleased to say that they are now healed, and he is doing fine. He retired July 1st, but he is on a retainer and reports to work each day, unless we have a trip to make. He celebrated his 50th year with **Richmond Dry Goods Company** in June of 1986.

**James M. Carroll**, 207 Tanglewood, Levelland, Texas 79336 — A-273rd: I called **Mr. E. C. Payne, Jr.** and have furnished you his correct mailing address in this letter. I plan on talking to him as soon as I am able to mix with the public. I want to thank you for sending me **Conrad Hooton's** address, as I want to write him and see if he was my Sergeant in Company A. Thanks also for putting my pictures in the Bulletin.

**Edwin G. Lansford**, 432 East First Street, P.O. Box 41, Crossville, Tennessee 38555 — Hq. 271st: Many thanks for your letter, 69th Bulletin, decal, etc. The Association certainly is well organized, and with a lot of tradition behind it. I will appreciate addresses from Hq. 271st: **Galen Carney**, **William Duncan**, **Herbert Garber**, **Melville Liverance**, **Walter Mueller**, **Peter Mayer**, and of course, the I & R platoon's 2nd Lieutenant at Shelby, **James Gibson**.

**William H. Jackson**, 5821 North Dearborn Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46220 — I-271st: Enclosed is a check for \$20 to use as necessary for the Association. I enjoy the publication very much. I have also enclosed a copy of "I am the Infantry" from a Fort Benning publication. I think this says what the Infantry was, is, and will be. I am not biased against any other branches, particularly those who helped and supported us so well. Nobody was unimportant. We could not have done the job without them, but at the same time, an infantryman was unique and under rated. Since I am infantry, it probably sounds like I am blowing my own horn. Maybe so, but what I am saying is it is hard to appreciate what the Infantry did, unless you have been there. I was impressed with and am eternally grateful to the combat-wise non-coms who took the trouble to teach a green (and scared) lieutenant the ropes. I was also impressed by the characters who griped "why me" as they saddled up but went ahead anyway and did a great job. I am in touch with some of those characters. You ought to hear their opinion of that green Lieutenant.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Jackson's article, "I am the Infantry," appears elsewhere in this issue).

**Robert E. Harris**, 600 Main, Roanoke, Texas 76262 — D-273rd: I receive the Bulletin, and enjoy reading it very much. Keep up the good work. I have enclosed a picture of the

members of Company D-273rd taken at Camp Shelby, Mississippi just before we left for overseas duty. The other picture is a railroad gun in Germany.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Harris's pictures appear elsewhere in this issue).

**A. J. Wrigley**, 1751 Cameo Drive, #201-B, New Port Richey, Florida 33552 — A & D-271st: Thank you for your thoughtfulness in reminding me of the Tri-state group activities. We reside in Springfield, Ohio in the summer, and in Florida during the winter season. Both locations are detached from your group area activities. We also have now reached the stage where our travel activities are curtailed, except to family weddings, etc.

Did get down to the Division Reunion in Pittsburgh last August. Happened to be in Youngstown, Ohio for a family occasion, and took the opportunity to drive the 60 miles to Pittsburgh. Saw my closest 69th Infantry buddy, **Al Haag**, 1st Sergeant of D-Company, 271st, and also **Paul and Marge McCombs**. Had a very pleasant and nostalgic visit. Was hoping to see **John Jones** of Orange, Virginia, a close buddy from A-271st. **Mrs. McCombs** suggested that I place a 69th decal on the wagon. So far I have not crossed paths with other members, but I am sure that we will down here in Florida.

While I'm at it, maybe your curiosity would like to have some background information. I was in D-Company 271st from activation 10 May, 43 until August 1944, at which time I began Officer training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Was commissioned in December of 44, and was granted my request to be assigned to the 69th Division overseas. I joined the Division at the Rhine and was assigned to A-Company 271st. Had many good friends in the 1st Battalion from my E.M. days, which made my job very pleasant. Made the "Stars & Stripes," a dubious honor, as being the first enlisted man of the 69th Division to return to duty as an Officer after completing O.C.S. At the end of the War I was assigned to 7th Army Headquarters at Heidelberg, Germany as area exchange officer. Quite a few B.B.B.'s were assigned to 7th Headquarters. **John Jones** and **Jim Richardson**, both of A-Company, and myself shared an apartment. We all returned to the States in July of 46. Yours truly returned to his former employment in clothing chain management until February, 1951, when I accepted employment as a civilian in Air Force procurement at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. It was a very interesting and challenging career. Retired in 1979.

I remember meeting **Earl** and **Dottie** in Roanoke, and also at an earlier Reunion in Pittsburgh. Although I may not be able to attend your activities, you surely can stop by and visit me in Florida when you are down this way. There is always a warm spot for an original 3-B's and spouse. Also, if you should wander over to Central Ohio; Springfield in between Columbus, and Dayton, stop in and spend a day or two, and bring your golf clubs.

**Carl Stetler**, 1704 North Third Street, Reading, Pennsylvania 19601 — 569th Sig.: I have enclosed a picture that you may want to use in a future issue of the Bulletin. After the Reunion in Pittsburgh, **Charles Hunt** and his Wife and my Wife and I traveled to Hubbard, Ohio to the home of **John Antenucci**. **Charles** and his Wife arranged a Reunion there with three other members of the 569th Signal construction section. We hadn't seen each other for 41 years, and needless to say, not one of us will ever forget that day. It was really great. In attendance were: **John Antenucci**, **Charles Hunt**, **Henry Babcock**, **Donald Pierce**, **Clifford Flick**, and myself. I thought this might be of interest to other former 569th Signal men.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Stetler's picture appears elsewhere in this issue).

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NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK  
(Continued from Page 3)

**William J. Graham**, 1811 Golfview Drive, 9, Essexville, Michigan 48732 — Can.-272nd: I would sure like to find the men in the photos that I have sent. They were all taken in Drozssig, Germany in 1945. I like your Bulletin, and it is very interesting to read. I wish I would have joined the Association sooner. We went to Atlantic City in 1956, but they had our reservations mixed up, and we couldn't stay. We are planning now to attend the Niagara Falls Reunion.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Graham's pictures appear elsewhere in this issue).*

**Mrs. Woodrow Welch**, Box 28, Smithfield, Illinois 61477: It is indeed with sorrow that I write to tell you of the death of **Woodrow Welch** on October 3rd. He was a former member of Company M-273rd. The two of us had attended the Reunions for the last seven years, and had such wonderful fellowship with his Company buddies. We were looking forward to attending the Reunion in Niagara Falls. **Woody** had just recuperated from a bout with pneumonia in July, but was able to attend the Reunion in Pittsburgh. However, he again contacted pneumonia and died of a pulmonary cardiac arrest due to congestive heart failure. I wanted to pass this information along to you, so that you could list his name under Taps.

**James E. Boris**, 6800 Henry Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19128 — Hq. 881st: Found some old pictures from Camp Shelby, which may stir some interest in some old 69ers. I know it took some time to get me moving, and if I am physically able, I will never miss another Reunion. Pittsburgh was great. I wish some old Hq. Battery guys could be contacted before it gets too late. The passing of **Harry Greenwood** is what really pushed me into action. **Harry** was one of the nicest men I ever met, besides being a good soldier, and doing a good job. Since Pittsburgh, I have written to several Hqs. men in the hopes of bringing them to the next Reunion.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Boris's pictures appear elsewhere in this issue).*

**William A. Lawrence**, 420 North Chestnut Street, Apt. 307, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15202 — Hq. 1st Bn.-273rd: Thank you for inviting me to the Tri-State weekend in Greensburg. I have never attended any of the National Reunions, or the Tri-State events.

I served with Hq. 1st Bn., 273rd from May 15, 1943 until sometime in April, 1944, when all of the Privates and Pfc's were pulled out. When we left Shelby we went to Fort Meade, and were given all tropic equipment for the Pacific. Then we went to Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, where all of that was taken away, and we were issued O.D.'s and other cold weather equipment. I was separated from all of the men from Shelby but one. We went to England and then to France, shortly after D-Day as infantry replacements. I was assigned to Company-B, 137th Infantry of the 35th Division. I was wounded in action crossing the Moselle River near Nancy, France. After the hospital stay, I was reclassified as unfit for combat duty and assigned to the 726th M.P. Bn. as a clerk. Saw service in France and Belgium, and after the fighting stopped in Europe I was shipped to the South Pacific and Okinawa. I hope this explains why I have never attended any of the 69th events.

I have scanned the lists published in the Bulletin, and have not been able to find one man from my old Company. A great many of the original members of the Division were from the Tri-State area, and Pittsburgh in particular. I know only one man at this time who served with the 69th and lives nearby. Best wishes for your Tri-State get-together.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: If any of our readers remember Mr. Lawrence, drop him a line. Also Mr. Lawrence, is the 69er that you know near you a member of our Association?)*

**Rudy Leyrer**, 32345 Sage Road, Hemet, California 92343 — H-273rd: I would appreciate it if you would mail membership applications to me, and to a friend of mine, **Harry Thompson**, of Waco, Texas. Since we are both interested in attending the upcoming Reunion in Niagara Falls, send us whatever information you have on the event.

**Bruno Maj**, 2901 Walnut Avenue, Niagara Falls, New York 14301 — B-881st: I am sending you a picture of **Joe Brady** and myself for your Bulletin. This picture was taken at Leipzig, Germany in the back of one of the big buildings that we were staying in, about May of 1945. **Joe** is now living in New Jersey. I believe we were the two youngest G.I.'s at Camp Shelby, as we are both 61 now.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Maj's picture appears elsewhere in this issue).*

**John J. Moriarty**, P.O. Box 393, Holden, Massachusetts 01520 — 69 M.P.: This past Christmas I learned of the passing of **John Hansen**. He was a good Man, a good Soldier, and a good Buddy. We shared many Traffic Outposts together, under very difficult conditions and it was always good to have him by my side. We had exchanged Greetings and Notes every Christmas since 1946.

**John J. Hare**, 1035 West Main Street, Somerset, Pennsylvania 15501 — C-271st: I received a phone call from a former 69er who lives in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He was wounded near the Siegfried Line. It was a surprise to hear from him, as I had last talked to him in 1945. He, like many others, did not know about the 69th Infantry Division Association. He also knows of others in his area. He is **Walter Kopicki** formerly of C-271st.

**Jack Ritchie**, 920 Mannering Road, Eastlake, Ohio 44094: I am trying to retrace my Father's footsteps during World War 2. He was attached to the 881st Artillery Battalion toward the end of the War. During the first three years of the War, I believe he was with the 433 CA Anti-Aircraft Unit. I'm hoping you can provide me with some History of the 881st and 69th Division, and perhaps tell me what Division the 433 was attached to before coming into the 881st. I'm not sure if he was a replacement, or his entire Unit was transferred. His cousins who were in an Infantry Regiment were transferred into the 272nd about the same time as he joined the 881st. I am also trying to locate his Captain, **J. C. Herstod**, of C-Battery of the 433rd.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Ritchie's Son did not provide me with his Father's full name, but sent me a copy of his discharge which just had him listed as J. C. Ritchie. Anyone from the 881st who might remember him, please contact National Headquarters.)*

**John J. O'Connor**, 4804 South LeClaire Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60638 — Hq. 880th: It has been a long time since I corresponded with you, and I believe it was about the article in the Chicago Tribune regarding our 69th Comrade who was buried at the Elbe. Having been an original member of the 69th Division Cadre in 1943, I harbor a deep affection for the 69th Division and the Association, and especially for the former members of Hq. Battery, 880th F.A. They served so ably in World War 2 under the leadership of the late **George Landis**, who was a very aggressive and respected C.O. I had an inquiry from **Donald Ray**, a former member of our Unit, regarding the 1987 Reunion in Niagara Falls. He wanted to know if there would be enough former members of our Unit to have a little get-together at that Reunion. Those that would be interested could either advise me or **Donald Ray** at Park Hill, Box 205, Westmoreland, New Hampshire 03467. Now that I am semi-retired after raising nine children, and working 30 some years with two major insurance companies, maybe this is the year I will be able to go to the Reunion, Lord willing. I really enjoyed the articles about the "LeJeune" and I had often wondered about the ship that I went overseas on. It was a very interesting article, and I thank whomever put it in the Bulletin.

# President's Message



William R. Beswick, *President*  
P.O. Box 576  
West Point, Virginia 23181  
Telephone: 804/843-2696

Dear Fellow 69ers:

We are into the New Year, 1987. I hope that the year 1986 was a HAPPY and PROSPEROUS year for you and that 1987 will be even more so.

I want to urge all of you to attend some of our Reunions. I am going to direct this message to those of you that have never attended. You would be surprised at the letters I've received from Widows telling me their husbands always wanted to attend, **BUT DIDN'T HAVE TIME** or **I WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR. BUT**, before next year rolls around, their names are on the "TAPS" page. I have also received letters from Widows telling me **HOW MUCH** their husbands enjoyed the Reunions, especially after **PUTTING OFF** attending.

As odd as it seems, we are still getting letters from Members of the 69th, after forty years, that didn't even know that we have such a great Association.

Now, for EVERYONE, I hope that you are thinking **POSITIVE** and **MAKING PLANS TO ATTEND NIAGARA FALLS** this September. Just remember, it isn't **TOO LATE** for a second **HONEYMOON**. It is supposed to be the Honeymoon Capital of the world. It is truly a magnificent area. Plenty to see and do.

I would like to hear from as many of you that will take time from your own busy schedule to write me a note. Please give me your views on "RETURNING VETERANS DAY" to the VETERANS of WWI, WWII, Korean War and the Vietnam War (POLICE ACTION, BE DARNED). Do this today. Thanks.

Since my retirement, I don't know how I every found time to go to work.

Yours for a successful New Year,  
Bill Beswick

\*\*\*\*\*  
**THANKS TO OUR VETERANS  
AMERICA IS NUMBER ONE!!**

# Veterans

Veterans 65 years or older, not working, who have limited financial resources are eligible for U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) nonservice-connected pension. Pension is never granted automatically, it must be applied for, and failure to file a claim will deprive an eligible veteran of financial aid.

In addition to the limited income provision, a veteran must have served at least 90 days, part of which was in a war period. A supplementary allowance is provided for the spouse of a veteran receiving pension.

A veteran who is a patient in a nursing home or otherwise determined to be in need of the regular aid and attendance of another person, or is permanently housebound, may be entitled to higher income limitations or additional benefits, according to the type of pension received.

There are over 130,000 wartime veterans 65 years or older who may be eligible to apply for a VA nonservice-connected pension, according to the latest VA population report.

A personalized evaluation of entitlement to pension is the best possible assurance that a veteran in financial need will not miss out on this form of monetary help. Detailed information on all facts of veterans' pension together with professional guidance in filing claims may be obtained by contacting the nearest Division of War Veterans' Claims office.

(Members, if interested, write your nearest VA office. Our President, **Bill Beswick**, thought that some of us might just qualify for the pension).

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# Paid Up Dues

FIGHTING 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOC., INC.  
**Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.**  
P.O. Drawer 178  
Wilmot, Ohio 44689

Dear Sir:

I have been a member of the association since it was founded under **General Reinhardt**. I have been unable to attend a Reunion because of my work and my wife, **Esther**, has been ill for many years.

I joined the 69th on cadre as a Sergeant from the 96th at Camp Adair, Oregon. I was then assigned to Battery-B, 879th Field Artillery. In Germany, I was made First Sergeant after early occupation. When the 69th was sent home, I was transferred to the 29th until discharge, November 1945.

I am now retired from a structural steel firm where I worked as a plant foreman for 35 years. I have two children, **Marilyn** and **Michael**, which are doing very well on their own. I also have two grandchildren, **Wendy**, 17 and **Chad**, 13.

Please find enclosed a check for \$200.00, my back dues for the past forty years. I hope this will bring me up to date, if not please let me know. I have truly enjoyed the Bulletin for all these years and I thank you for keeping me on the mailing list.

God bless you all, you have done a great job.

Sincerely,  
**Mr. & Mrs. Walter A. Werth**

P.S. I have newspaper pictures and clippings from a reprint of the Stars and Stripes, a copy of the Fighting 69th Sentinel, and more which all depict the 69th link up with Russians. I don't know if there is any interest in them or if the 69th has any place to preserve them.

# Treasurer and Scholarship Report



**Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.**  
Post Office Drawer 178  
Wilmot, Ohio 44689  
Telephone: 216/359-5487

1986 is in the past and we're already three months into 1987 and looking forward to the 40th Annual Reunion at Niagara Falls. Look for my "Honeymoon" report in another section of the Bulletin for a complete run down on the 1987 Reunion.

The Dues response has been slightly better than last year as I have receive contributions from about 1,900 so far and if we can get a good response from the 750 that paid last year, but have not sent in their Dues so far this year, we will break our record of 2,200 of last year. The second notice was sent out the first of February to all that have not paid up so far, as I have again removed the names of all who have paid and you should not receive the second notice.

My Special Thanks to the 530 who included a postage and Bulletin donation, as you show that you enjoy the fine work that Clarence and Earl are doing on the Bulletins. I have also received Dues from 240 that are either "First Timers" or just neglected to send anything in. I was especially surprised to receive a letter from a member who lives in Michigan from B-879th who claims he has been on the roster from the start and never got around to sending in any Dues. His check was for \$200.00. Thanks Walt, we love you and hope to see you at a Reunion soon.

Sorry to say that we have nothing to report on Scholarship applications as none have been asked for except from a member interested in seeing that his granddaughter receive one, and since grandchildren have not as yet been included, his request was turned down. We still have hopes that there are still three or four eligible children left to receive Scholarship Awards as that many more will deplete the Scholarship Fund. Please drop me a line if you are interested as the deadline for this year is fast approaching and applications must be returned by June 15th.

Please get your reservations for the 1987 Niagara Falls Reunion in early or you could be shut out at the Hotel of your choice and since the Activities reservation forms will be sent to me, please get them in early also and save yourself time at the reservation desk and make our job much easier by paying in advance. We will also be making permanent badges for those who do not have them, and again, I must have your reservation at least thirty days in advance to get them made for the Reunion and again, they will not be made unless your

request is accompanied by a pre-paid reservation.

Save your money, pack your bags, and we'll see you all in Niagara Falls, September 13th to 20th, 1987. You won't be sorry you came.

We'll also be looking forward to seeing all you Tri-Staters at the Greensburg Sheraton in May.

**Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.**  
Treasurer/Scholarship Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*



*Company D-273rd men taken at Camp Shelby in 1944. Bobbie Jones, Robert Harris, David Arnold, Louie Shafer, J. Cante*



*Railroad Gun in Germany*

Pictures furnished by Robert Harris

# Dottie and Me



*Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.*

Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.  
*Bulletin Co-ordinating Manager*  
 Post Office Box 69  
 Champion, Pennsylvania 15622

or  
 R.D. #1, Box 477  
 Acme, Pennsylvania 15610  
 Telephone: 412/455-2901  
 (Evenings after 7:00 P.M. and Weekends)

**"THE FAMILY WITH TWO ADDRESSES — BUT ONE HOME — WELCOME ALL 69'ers — STOP IN, CALL, OR WRITE." Exit 9 — Pennsylvania Turnpike**

Hello again and are we thinking Niagara Falls — Niagara Falls! Hope so. We will probably be in three hotels and three motels but they are all close by. Make sure you know the headquarters hotel for that is where all the activities will originate from. Registration and hospitality rooms will be there also. Now is the time to get that address book out and write your buddies inviting them to the "Honeymoon Capital" and our Reunion.

\* \* \* \* \*

You will see a photo quiz in this issue. I hope I can get all the blanks filled in by next Bulletin time so that the answers will be printed. It will cost you a stamp and envelope but you can send a note with it. I hope everyone has their dues paid up by now and remember to send in two extra dollars for your wife's membership. Scholarship time is here so if your son or daughter is going to apply for an award, you better get moving fast as deadline time is just about upon us. This could be our last year for the scholarship program. Send both dues and scholarship applications to **Robert Kurtzman**, Post Office Drawer 178, Wilmot, Ohio 44689. If you haven't paid your dues, an envelope should be on your desk now, as they were mailed out in February.

If you have a mini Reunion or a weekend, please do get your notices to me at least one year in advance so that it can be published two or three times before the event. Then send a nice write-up about it after your event. Remember, mini Reunions and weekends by groups, units, companies, or whatever, should have a purpose of not only seeing old buddies and their wives, but to stir up interest in coming to the main 69th Annual Reunion, usually held in August. This way you could come by bus, train, or fly if you don't come separately. With prices still on the increase, it would be a good idea to start traveling with another buddy. **Jake Stark** and **Ray Szkudlarek** have been doing this for years. We should know each other well enough after these many years to give it a try.

See you in Niagara Falls.  
**Earl**

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Earl and Dottie:

Just a short note to answer your questions. Yes, I would like to remain on the Tri-State mailing list. Although I haven't been able to make it to any yet, I still haven't given up that some year I'll be feeling good enough to make it. Last year's Reunion in Pittsburgh had to be the greatest Reunion I ever attended. Seeing so many of the guys from my old Company brought back memories I'll never forget. I held up pretty good all week, but when we got home Sunday night, my legs were really red and swollen. I had to go to bed and stay off of them for about a week, but it was worth it.

We can not thank you and Dottie enough for all the work you two put into it to make it such a success year after year. Your idea of all the "E" Companies getting together sounds good. Let's see how many we can get together next year. Another group, Earl, that I would like to see get together, would be all former B.A.R. men. Being a kid as I was back then, I felt proud to be given the responsibility to carry the most important weapon in a rifle platoon. I know we can't break our Reunion down in groups, but I have often wondered how many B.A.R. men do attend.

Bye for now. See you in Niagara Falls or sooner,

Love and Good Health,  
**Chuck and Kathy**

\*\*\*\*\*



*Members of the construction section of the 569th Signal Company meet in Hubbard, Ohio.*

*Left to Right: Carl Stetler, John Antenucci, Charles Hunt, Henry Babcock, Donald Pierce, Clifford Flick.*

Picture furnished by Carl Stetler

\*\*\*\*\*

## Company-M Is Making Progress

It was especially rewarding to find that Company-M, 271st in the last three years has tripled our attendance. Who else can make that statement.

In attendance this year again was **Paul Wright** and his wife, **Maxine**, attending for the first time was **John Boyle** from North Madison, Ohio. Also in attendance was **Bill** and **Reba Sheavly**. So you see, our attendance has tripled.

The purpose of this letter is once again, to invite all former members of M-271st to attend the Reunion in Niagara Falls. It looks like a great time, a good time to activate old acquaintances and relive some old memories. There are lots of former members who receive the Bulletin and have never attended a Reunion. This year you are AGAIN invited to partake in the social activities of the Reunion. So ... set aside time this year to attend and I know that you will be very welcome. Don't wait - next year may be too late.

# Former Members of Cannon Company, 272nd

William J. Graham, 1822 Golfview Drive 9, Essexville, Michigan 48732, sent in these photos of former members of Cannon Company 272nd.



*William Graham, Bernard Wilson, and Harvey Heller*



*William Graham, Allen Feild, Richard Hornberger, Carry Pollitt*



*Harvey Heller, Allen Feild, Leonard Laszewski*

Four of these men are not on our Association roster namely: Wilson, Laszewski, Hornberger, Pollitt.

Mr. Graham would like to know their whereabouts. If you can help please contact him personally at the above address, or contact National Headquarters. These pictures were taken in Drozssig, Germany in 1945.



## SOUVENIRS BY MAIL

### Anniversary Trays (Gold or Silver)

Commemorate the 40th Anniversary of founding of 69th Division, tray has 69th Logo with the dates 1943-1983.  
(Please specify choice of color) ..... \$ 5.00 postpaid  
or  
2 for \$8.00 postpaid

### Official 69th Division Shoulder Patches

(U.S. Army issue made in 1955) ... \$ 1.00 postpaid

### Set of Four Coasters

Each has the 69th Logo. Very good quality. (Coasters are white) ..... \$ 3.50 postpaid

### Zippo Cigarette Lighter with 69th Logo

(regular or slim) ..... \$ 5.00 postpaid

### 69th Lapel Pins

(small size - correct size for lapel) . \$ 5.50 postpaid

### Luggage Tags with 69th Logo imprinted

(business card will insert easily on reverse side) ..... \$ 1.00 postpaid

### Men's Bolo with large 69th Logo

(available in either red or blue cord)  
(please specify color desired) ..... \$11.00 postpaid

### Ladies Heart Locket with 69th Logo

Locket will hold small photo.  
(available only in gold) ..... \$12.00 postpaid

To order any of the above items send your check  
**PAYABLE TO THE 69th DIVISION ASSOCIATION to:**

Bill and Reba Sheavly  
218 Sacred Heart Lane  
Reistertown, MD 21136



*Div. Hq. & Hq. Company men at the Pittsburgh Reunion in 1986.*

*Standing: Gene Butterfield and Fred Avery.*

*Seated: Clarence Marshall, Bob Myers, Jack Duffey and Wife.*

## The following letter from Paul B. Karelson

Paul B. Karelson

1030 Crane Road, N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30324

I've enjoyed reading through each issue of "The Bulletin," despite the fact that almost never do I recognize the name of a past buddy. It still brings back old memories.

In the last issue I found the story of the Flagship "Lejeune" to be most interesting. I don't really remember her. I may have been in a different convoy; we left Camp Kilmer in mid-November. I was on a ship that was the largest in the convoy. It was the former "John Ericksen" (not sure about the spelling). It was the lead ship and could have sailed much faster than it did, but it had to go at the pace of the slowest ship. I believe it had been a Swedish luxury liner before the war.

There were no luxuries for us, however. We slept on hammock-like cots stacked four or five high down in the belly of the ship. There were two shifts, of course, using the cots. Some of us, like myself, spent most of our time on the decks, totally seasick, and wanting to die. I finally got my sealegs after about the eighth or ninth day — and had a great Thanksgiving dinner aboard ship. I also remember having "boat drill" one day in the midst of a storm. Waves were coming over the deck, men were doing all they could to just hang on. But the agenda for that day said "boat drill" — so we had it. I also recall a British Aircraft Carrier as being the second ship in the convoy right behind us. There were times when we would look back and see that carrier a hundred feet above us and, a few seconds later, a hundred feet below us. That was a trip! I was never so happy to see land. We came into Southampton — but we wouldn't have cared if it had been the middle of Germany, as long as it was solid land. I recall reading after the war ended that the John Ericksen caught fire in New York harbor and was destroyed.

I joined the 69th at Camp Shelby in July, 1944, after infantry basic at Camp Wheeler, Georgia. (I was from New York at the time and I remember saying after Camp Wheeler that I would never go to Georgia again. So I've been living in Atlanta for the past 23 years — and have grown to love Georgia.) I was always in C-Company, 271st Infantry Regiment. I was in Winchester, getting ready to go over to the continent. I recall those nights looking up to the sky and watching the rocket-bombs on their way to the London area. And that beautiful Winchester Cathedral of King Arthur.

Then suddenly, during the Battle of the Bulge, I was one of those pulled out of the 69th to ship over to Belgium as a replacement. That was my last involvement with the 69th. I joined the 83rd Division near Liege, got into the snow and the action, was awarded a Bronze Star for action in the Ardennes.

Later I was hospitalized and found myself back in England. I celebrated VE Day in London. When I went back to the continent, I rejoined the 83rd Division. Later, I was transferred to 3rd Army Headquarters - G-2. I was stationed in Bad Tolz, Germany, in the Bavarian Alps, 20 miles south of Munich, until the time I was sent back home and discharged in 1946.

If anyone remembers me, I would love to hear from them. I've often wondered what ever happened to the people I knew at that time. Who were the ones who made it back — and who didn't.

Sincerely,

Paul B. Karelson

# THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE



by — Dottie Witzleb  
*Ladies Auxiliary Editor*

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8221 Galway Lane  
Richmond, Virginia 23228

**Margie McCombs, Sunshine Lady**  
1184 Thorndale Road  
West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380  
215/269-0810

## Ladies' Auxiliary Minutes GREENTREE MARRIOTT PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA AUGUST 16, 1986

The Fighting 69th Infantry Division Auxiliary's Annual Meeting was called to order by President **Anna K. Walters** at 9:12 a.m. The President opened the meeting with warm greetings to over 130 ladies present, 22 of them being "first timers." Vice President **Vivian Kurtzman** and **Marian Shadle** were on duty in the Registration Room. The first timers were given a hearty welcome. **Chaplain Virginia Weston** opened with prayer.

**Bill Beswick**, President of the Fighting 69th Association, dropped by to bring greetings and express appreciation to the ladies for their good works. The minutes of the August 24, 1985 meeting, taken by **Anna Walters**, for the Fort Magruder meeting, were read and approved. A treasurer's report from **Robert Kurtzman** showed \$1224 collected in dues, for 612 members of the Auxiliary. A letter from Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Hospital in Richmond was read, expressing appreciation for the 34 lap robes and nine pair of slippers delivered last August by **Barbara Johnson** and **Maria Keller**. Pictures of the presentation were on display. **Mark Wilson** was the veteran in the pictures.

**President Walters** explained the theft of the locked file of 69th Auxiliary minutes from the motel room in Williamsburg last August. An ad in the Williamsburg paper did not locate the file. The officers are reassembling the minutes from printed copies of the News Bulletin.

Committee reports were given. 1. **Reba Sheavly** reported on the sale of souvenirs and the many new items that are available. The sales desk will be open Saturday afternoon. Profit from sales goes to the Association. 2. **Sunshine Lady, Margie McCombs**, reported sending over 2,000 birthday and anniversary cards. Her supply of cards was exhausted and when her supply is replenished, other cards will be mailed. She requested birth dates and anniversary dates for new members not on her mailing list. 3. **Valerie Ike** reported \$327.75 spent for sundry items for Veterans Hospitals, with \$89.25 now on hand. **Sunshine Lady McCombs** was presented with a gift of appreciation, which she acknowledged with appropriate thanks.

Under new business, it was reported that the Executive Board recommended that a free will collection not be taken for V.A. items, and a motion was made by **Virginia Weston** "That \$200 be drawn from the treasury for the necessary V.A. items." Motion seconded and passed.

**President Walters** thanked the Pennsylvania Reunion Committee for their work in hosting this Reunion. She especially noted the work of **Anne D'Angelo**, **Marian Shadle**, **Reba Sheavly** and **Dottie Witzleb**, as well as **Vivian Kurtzman**. The 1987 Reunion will be in Niagara Falls and a lot of help will be needed.

A request was made for volunteers to deliver the 50 lap robes, 24 bibs and 3 pair of slippers to local Veterans Administration Hospitals.

The Grand Lady of our Auxiliary, **Mrs. Bolte**, was welcomed, along with her daughter-in-law from Burke, Virginia. A gift was presented to **Mrs. Bolte**. Her greetings to us warmed our hearts.

**Virginia Weston** and **Anna Walters**, with many helpers, conducted a gift exchange. Several ladies brought extra gifts which added to the excitement of the event. (earrings, necklaces, etc.)

**Anne D'Angelo** introduced **Joe Bucclero**, from Delmont, Pennsylvania, as "The Strolling Mandolinist." **Joe** says he owes a great deal to his mother, who scraped 25 cents together each week to pay for his violin lessons. That early introduction to music and its pleasure led **Joe** to try his hand at the mandolin. He has a fantastic collection of songs which run from ballads to jazz to the classics. He feels the songs of today may have a good temp but they are not in the class of the old favorites that will live as long as people have voices. He strolled, played and sang to an appreciative audience and when the program closed, he had completely charmed all of us. We know now why he said that music is his life. A letter of appreciation will be sent to **Joe**.

**Assistant Chaplain Ellen Snidow** closed with prayer. Thus ended a morning of business, pleasure and entertainment for the ladies of the 69th Auxiliary.

**Maria G. Keller**  
*Secretary*

(Continued on Page 11)

## Auxiliary President's Message

Bits and pieces for Auxiliary News. By the time you read this article, Christmas will be long gone and three months of this New Year, 1987, will have whizzed by. I hope this New Year will find all of you in good health and much happiness to override the bad times.

I especially hope that by now our Secretary, **Maria Keller's** fractured back is all healed and that she is performing her many duties without discomfort, and to **Bill Foster**, **Dottie Witzleb**, **George Gallagher**, **Bob Shaffer** — hope you are all feeling much, much better.

Ladies, I'm looking forward to Niagara Falls, September, 1987 and seeing many of you at our ladies meeting. It will be election time and change of command. Two years sounds like a lot of time but not really, the time passes quickly.

Come support your Auxiliary and officers — don't forget to bring a 1 to 2 dollar gift for exchange.

See you at Niagara Falls!

**Anna K. Walters**  
*President, Ladies Auxiliary*

\* \* \* \* \*

## Hi Ladies:

Doesn't that week of activities in the "Honeymoon Capital Report" sound good. It looks like the Niagara Falls Reunion should be a good one with activities going on all the time. Guess since it is the Honeymoon Capital all we girls should make sure our husbands get us to the Falls in September. This would be a good time for a lot of new first timers. I am sure if you go to this Reunion, you'll say you're not going to miss another one. So bring your husband, family, and guests to Niagara Falls, along with lap robes you have been making over the winter months. They are for a good cause going to the Veterans who are in a V.A. hospital in the Niagara Falls area. These men really appreciate them and it gives them the idea that someone cares for them. I'm sure it was that way in Pittsburgh at the two V.A. hospitals. So if you haven't made a lap robe yet, it's time to get started on a couple.

**Earl** talked to **Bill Foster** a few weeks ago on the telephone and he says he is doing O.K. now. He is getting around well in his electric wheel chair and has even visited a shopping mall. By the time Reunion week comes, **Bill** will be back to his old self. **George Gallagher** is well again and back at his security job a few days a week. **George** reports that **Al Faison's** wife, **Ann**, is back home from the hospital. She fell and hurt her hip. Just before Christmas **Anne D'Angelo** fell and did a good job on her wrist. She broke it pretty good having to get a pin put in it. This accident, along with **Enrico's** back, gave that family fits over the holidays. **Marie Suprano** had surgery before the holidays and is recovering well. Another 69er, **John Roth** from Michigan, had to cut his winter stay in Florida short when he became ill and the doctor's there said he needed exploratory surgery. He didn't believe this, came back home to Bay City and is doing much better now. Both **Leroy** and **Maria Keller** have been ill since the Pittsburgh Reunion. **Leroy** broke two ribs but I just can't remember what **Maria's** troubles were. I mislaid **Anna Walter's** letter on that. **Clarence** is doing good and should be in tip top shape for the Reunion. Guess this is it on my injury list, so if you want to send a card or note, here are some addresses.

**Ann Faison**, 428 Sparrow Drive, Satellite Beach, Florida 32927

**Anne D'Angelo**, 516 Chestnut Street, Saltsburg, Pennsylvania 15681

**Marie Suprano**, 1006 Edgewood Road, New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068

**John Roth**, 2004 South Kiesel, Bay City, Michigan 48706  
**Leroy and Maria Keller**, 8221 Galway Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23228

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Dottie and Earl:

Want to thank you for your Christmas wishes. We are back home now, since **Walt** has retired from the military service. Being back home with dad and mom helps as **Walt** and dad are taking care of each other, but poor mom has all of us to take care of.

**Dottie**, hope you have recovered from your fall. If possible, we will see you in Greensburg and Niagara Falls. You 69ers are too SPECIAL to stay away from.

Love,  
**Walt & Eby**

**Walt and Eby** are son-in-law and daughter to **John and Elizabeth Hawley**, 269th Engineers.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our thanks to **Dorothy Starry** for mailing a copy of all the records she had while President of the Ladies Auxiliary. This is a good start for redoing the Auxiliary minutes and records. Now all you other Presidents, see what you can do in helping to build back our record files. Do write me or **Anna Walters** with anything you might have to help the cause.

\* \* \* \* \*

How close do you read and look at the Bulletins? Did you notice the pictures on page 26 of the last Bulletin? Doesn't **Enrico** still look good in an army outfit even though it was the one **Clarence** wore. **Earl** can still get in his old army shoes and uses them in the winter shoveling snow. Did you know anything about the two pictures at the bottom. They are brother-in-laws and sister-in-laws. **Jo Beswick** and **Ellen Snidow** are sisters, one living in eastern Virginia and the other in the western end making sure it is run right.

In closing, ladies, write me about your husband, bring him to Niagara Falls, and do try to get another buddy of his to be there. I hope you keep the birthdays and anniversary dates in mind that were on page 33 of the last Bulletin, but if not, I'm reprinting it with two more dates. At the appropriate time, do send them a card and note. Until the next Bulletin, take care and stay healthy.

Dottie

## Birthdays - Anniversaries

Just a reminder for you 69'ers and do send a card at the right time. One will be due to send out as you read this Bulletin.

**BIRTHDAY - Adelaide Bolte - December 29th**  
**ANNIVERSARY**

**General and Mrs. Charles Bolte - April 3rd**  
**BIRTHDAY - General Charles Bolte - May 8th**  
Mail to: 6631 Wakefield Drive  
Apartment 903  
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

**BIRTHDAY - Clarence Marshall - July 8th**  
Mail to: 101 Stephen Street  
New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068

**ANNIVERSARY**  
**Paul and Margie McCombs - August 31st**  
**BIRTHDAY - Margie McCombs - December 31st**  
Mail to: 1184 Thorndale Road  
West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380

**Margie** is our Sunshine Lady and **Clarence** is the Membership Chairman; The General is the boss or is it **Adelaide** now.

# I Am The Infantry

I am the Infantry - Queen of Battle! For two centuries I have kept our Nation safe, purchasing freedom with my blood. To tyrants, I am the day of reckoning; to the suppressed, the hope for the future. Where the fighting is thick, there I am . . . I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

I was there from the beginning, meeting the enemy face to face, will to will. My bleeding feet stained the snow at Valley Forge; my frozen hands pulled Washington across the Delaware. At Yorktown, the sunlight glistened from the sword and I, begrimed and battered . . . saw a Nation born.

Hardship . . . and glory I have known. At New Orleans, I fought beyond the hostile hour, showed the fury of my long rifle . . . and came of age. I am the Infantry!

Westward I pushed with the wagon trains . . . moved an empire across the plains . . . extended freedom's borders and tamed the wild frontier. I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

I was with Scott at Vera Cruz . . . hunted guerilla in the mountain passes . . . and scaled the high plateau. The fighting was done when I ended my march many miles from the Alamo.

From Bull Run to Appomattox, I fought and bled. Both Blue and Gray were my colors then. Two masters I served and united them strong . . . proved that this nation could right a wrong . . . and long endure. I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

I led the charge up San Juan Hill . . . scaled the walls of old Tientsin . . . and stalked the Moro in steaming jungle still . . . always the vanguard. I am the Infantry!

At Chateau-Thierry, first over the top, then I stood like a rock on the Marne. It was I who cracked the Hindenburg Line . . . in the Argonne, I broke the Kaiser's spine . . . and didn't come back til it was "Over, over there." I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!

A generation older at Bataan, I briefly bowed, but then I vowed to return. Assaulted the African shore . . . learned the lesson the hard way in the desert sands . . . pressed my buttons into the beach at Anzio . . . and bounced into Rome with determination and resolve. I am the Infantry!

The English Channel, stout beach defenses and the hedgerows could not hold me . . . I broke out at St. Lo, un-bent the Bulge . . . vaulted the Rhine . . . swarmed the Heartland. Hitler's dream and the Third Reich were dead.

In the Pacific, from island to island I hopped . . . hit the beaches and chopped through swamp and jungle . . . I set the Rising Sun. I am the Infantry!

In Korea, I gathered my strength around Pusan . . . swept across the frozen Han . . . outflanked the Reds at Inchon . . . and marched to the Yalu. FOLLOW ME!

Around the world, I stand . . . ever forward. Over Lebanon's sands, my rifle steady aimed . . . and calm returned. At Berlin's gates, I scorned the Wall of Shame. I am the Infantry!

My bayonet . . . on wings of power . . . keeps the peace worldwide. And despots, falsely garbed in freedom's mantle, falter . . . hide. My ally in the paddies and the forest . . . I teach, I aid, I lead. FOLLOW ME!

Where brave men fight . . . there fight I. In freedom's cause . . . I live, I die. From Concord Bridge to Heartbreak Ridge, from the Arctic to the Mekong . . . the Queen of Battle!

Always ready . . . then, now and forever. I am the Infantry! FOLLOW ME!



Former members of Hq. 881st beside the Battery Hut in Camp Shelby. Back Row: D.J. Griffin - Unknown - James Boris. Kneeling: John Suchy - Oliver Primelles - D.J. Jones.



Hq. 881st members on maneuvers in Camp Shelby. Back Row: Unknown, Greenwood, Griffin, Boris. Front Row: Gomolka, Pecker

\* \* \* \* \*



Bruno Maj and Joe Brady display a Nazi Flag in Leipzig, Germany. Picture taken in May 1945 behind a building where troops were quartered.

Picture furnished by Bruno Maj

\*\*\*\*\*  
**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

May I just make note to all Leaders of Chapters, Groups, Branches, Companies, Battalions, Regiments, Recon, Artillery and T.D.'s to get your Activities Schedules to Earl E. Witzleb Jr., Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622, as early as possible. We try to work at least a year ahead, as we only put out three Bulletins a year. When mailing in this information, do send your organization's name, person in charge (Chairman), address, city, state, zip, telephone numbers including area codes, dates, location, and anything else that you feel might be of interest for members to know. This may also bring a few new faces, or two, to your group.

**APRIL 11, 12, 1987**

**CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH**

**Continental Inn**

2285 Lincoln Highway East  
 Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Dinner 7:00 P.M. Roast Prime Rib of Beef  
 \$16.00 per person  
 Cash Bar

Rooms: \$48.00 Single - 6% Pa. Sales Tax  
 \$54.00 Double - 6% Pa. Sales Tax  
 \$50.00 room deposit required

**Committee:**

Daniel and Helen Evers  
 4950 Grant Drive  
 Brookhaven, Pennsylvania 19015  
 Telephone: 215/874-1197

\* \* \* \* \*

**APRIL 24, 25, 26, 1987**

**MIDWEST GROUP WEEKEND**

*The milk and cheese group invites 69ers to:*

**Lake Lawn Lodge**  
 Highway 15 - 5 miles east  
 Delavan, Wisconsin

Room rates \$69.00 Double  
 Make reservations early by dialing 800/338-5253  
 In Wisconsin dial 800/338-5296

Saturday golf reservations should be made with  
 Curt Peterson - Telephone: 608/222-7957

**Committee:**

Curt and Evelyn Peterson  
 4900 Wallace Avenue  
 Madison, Wisconsin 53716

Gaylord and Ruth Thomas  
 432 Doty Street  
 Waupun, Wisconsin 53963  
 Telephone: 414/324-4065

(Gentlemen, please a lot earlier with your material).

\* \* \* \* \*

**APRIL 30 - MAY 1, 2, 3, 1987**

**661st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION WEEKEND**

**Best Western Mount Vernon Motel**  
 Junction Routes 29 and 250 By-Pass  
 Post Office Box 7284  
 Charlottesville, Virginia 22906

**Committee:**

William "Bill" Beswick  
 P.O. Box 576  
 West Point, Virginia 23181  
 Telephone: 804/843-2696

Milton E. Patterson  
 1506 Holly Road  
 Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

(Bill, earlier with your material, thanks)

**MAY 14, 15, 16, 17, 1987**

**TRI-STATE GROUP WEEKEND**

*The Family Group invites one and all to come to:*

**Sheraton Inn, Greensburg**  
 Route 30 East, 100 Sheraton Drive  
 Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601

Friday Tour - Pool Party  
 Saturday Golf - Shop Greengate and Westmoreland Malls  
 Banquet and Entertainment  
 Leisure time swim - Relax and Fellowship in the well  
 stocked hospitality rooms  
 Sunday - Going Home Breakfast. Good-byes and see you at  
 Niagara Falls, New York.

**Committee:**

Enrico and Anne D'Angelo, Chairpersons  
 516 Chestnut Street  
 Saltsburg, Pennsylvania 15681  
 Telephone: 412/639-3037

Earl and Dorothy Witzleb, Jr.  
 R.D. #1, Box 477  
 Acme, Pennsylvania 15610  
 Telephone: 412/455-2901

\* \* \* \* \*

**MAY 23, 1987**

Deadline for material and pictures  
 Bulletin Volume 40, Number 3  
 May - June - July - August  
 Bulletin due out to members in late July

The following weekend has been cancelled as per  
 John English. Please mark your calendar accordingly.

**CANCELLED**

**JUNE 18, 19, 20, 1987**

**461st AAA BATTERY-D WEEKEND REUNION**

Headquarters First Baptist Church  
 5 Oak Street  
 Asheville, North Carolina

Members to stay at:  
**Mountaineer Inn**  
 155 Tunnell Road  
 Asheville, North Carolina  
 Telephone: 704/254-5331

**For Information Write:**

John C. English, Chairman  
 3455 Poplar Street  
 Riverside, California 92501  
 Telephone: 714/686-3335

*(Dottie and I were planning on attending)*

**JUNE 19, 20, 21, 1987**

**COMPANY-D 272nd INFANTRY WEEKEND REUNION**  
 Jacksonville, Illinois

**For Information Write:**

Jack E. Burrus  
 Route 1, Box 99  
 Arenzville, Illinois 62611

(Would have liked to had more information on this weekend).

*(Continued on Page 14)*

**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS  
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE**

*(Continued from Page 13)*

**JUNE 18, 19, 20, 21, 1987**

**461st AAA BATTERY-B WEEKEND**

Marine Memorial Club  
609 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, California 94102

Room Rates: Economy Size \$40.00  
Single \$50.00 to \$65.00  
Double \$55.00 to \$70.00

Make Reservations Within California: 800-3-Marine  
Outside California: 800-5-Marine

Main Attraction: Alcatraz Trip and Tour

**Committee:**

Richard and Helen Esacson, *Chairperson*  
7610 Scenic Court  
Fairoaks, California 95628  
Telephone: 916/967-5389

\* \* \* \* \*

**AUGUST 20, 21, 22, 23, 1987**

**880th FIELD ARTILLERY — C-BATTERY**

More information next Bulletin

**Committee:**

Lee and Betty Meyers  
117 Grantview Road  
St. Mary's, Pennsylvania 15851

\* \* \* \* \*

**SEPTEMBER 11, 12, 13, 1987**

**69th RECON TROOPS**

Radisson Inn of Cincinnati  
Cincinnati, Ohio

36th Annual Weekend

**For Further Information Write:**

Robert and Mable Schueler  
1484 Stahlheber Road  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013  
Telephone: 513/869-6970

**All Roads and Airlines Lead To —**

**SEPTEMBER 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 1987**

**69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL REUNION**

**661st TD. BN. - 777th TK. BN. - 461st AAA**

Hotel Niagara, Headquarters  
Niagara Falls, New York Not Canada

Tours - Early Bird - PX Beer Party - Memorial Service  
- Banquet Dinner - Dance - Fellowship with old buddies  
and new ones too at the hospitality room. Visit the  
Falls on the Canadian side and Welland Canal at various  
points.

**Committee:**

Leo. M. and Rita Martel, *Chairpersons*  
326 74th Street  
Niagara Falls, New York 14304  
Telephone: 716/283-5114

**OUR 40th REUNION - Let's make it a big one. Come  
one, come all; bring the family and friends. Guests  
are welcome.**

**OCTOBER 17, 1987**

Deadline for material and pictures  
Bulletin Volume 41, Number 1  
September - October - November - December  
Bulletin due out to members in late November

\* \* \* \* \*

**JANUARY 2, 1988**

Deadline for material and pictures  
Bulletin Volume 41, Number 2  
January - February - March - April  
Bulletin due out in late February or early March  
Members can schedule their vacations accordingly for the  
Lexington Reunion. Holiday deadline extension due to  
New Year's is January 11, 1988.

\* \* \* \* \*

**JUNE 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 1988**

**TRI-STATE GROUP WEEKEND**

*The Family Group Invites one and all to come to:*

**"THE MOUNTAIN STATE" - WEST VIRGINIA**

We will be Family - Mountain Resort  
Eat Together - Walk Together  
Golf Together - Tour Together  
Relax Together - Swim Together  
Take a train ride together to Whittaker Station for a  
barbecue and entertainment.  
Fellowship in the well stocked hospitality room.  
Visit with we 69ers

Canaan Valley Resorts  
Route 1, Box 39  
West Virginia Route 32  
Davis, West Virginia 26260

Don't be left out, only 100 rooms - 200 members, wives,  
and family. Guests are welcome - Sign up now, cancel  
later if need be.

Package Deal - May be a little higher than normal weekends.

**Committee:**

Earl and Dorothy Witzleb, Jr.  
R.D. #1, Box 477  
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610  
or  
Post Office Box 69  
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622  
Telephone: 412/455-2901  
(Evenings after 7:00 P.M. and Weekends)

Paul and Marian Shadle  
1504 Greensburg Road  
New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068  
Telephone: 412/335-9980

\* \* \* \* \*

**AUGUST 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 1988**

**69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL REUNION**

**661st TD. BN. - 777th TK. BN. - 461st AAA**

Campbell House Inn  
1375 Harrodsburg Road  
Lexington, Kentucky

**IT WILL BE OUR 41st REUNION - How many do we  
have left? Come visit an old buddy or make new friends.  
Bring wife and family - Guests are welcome too.**

**Committee:**

James R. and Barbara Kidd, *Chairpersons*  
222 Al-Fan Court  
Winchester, Kentucky 40391

# New Men Relocated Since Last Bulletin

- Carus Campbell** — Hq. 879th  
6 Loff Avenue, Buckhannon, West Virginia 26201
- Howard Carlton** — Hq. 880th  
125 Bolton Street, Manchester, Connecticut 06040
- Elmer Carter** —  
3565 Otter Road, Toddville, Iowa 52341
- Frank Cavlovic** — A-880th  
6837 Verde Drive, Kansas City, Kansas 66109
- John C. Davis** —  
129 Hilltop Drive, Edinboro, Pennsylvania 16412
- Frank Dillon** —  
356 Weymouth Close, Village of Fearrington  
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
- Jerry Fine** —  
10960 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1900  
Los Angeles, California 90024
- John Fleming** —  
R.D. #1, Box 404, Birdsboro, Pennsylvania 19508
- Lloyd Gerth** — A-880th  
403 South 4th Street, Princeton, Minnesota 55371
- Delmar Jeffries** — A-880th  
915 South Main Street, Bluffton, Indiana 46714
- Herbert Kroenke** — A-880th  
10809 East 47th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64133
- Joseph Miller** — 273rd  
108 Lutheran Drive, Eaton, Ohio 45320
- William Mills** — A-880th  
223 Helen Street, Sikeston, Missouri 63801
- Duffy Redmond** — A-880th  
12215 Dunbar Court, Cumberland, Indiana 46229
- John F. Murphy** — H-272nd  
18 Court Street, Cromwell, Connecticut 06416
- Russell Rakestraw** — Hq. 2nd Bn., 272nd  
1325 Hurd Avenue, Findlay, Ohio 45840
- Clyde Sessoms** — D-461st AAA  
Route 1, Box 224, Laurel Hill, North Carolina 28351
- William F. Shannon, Jr.** — F-273rd  
5703 80th Street, Lubbock Texas 79424
- Arthur Shinder** — F-273rd  
11 Bristol Road, Windsor Locks, Connecticut 06096
- John S. Shumaker** — G-272nd  
1323 East Vernon Avenue, Normal, Illinois 61761
- William H. Sommers** — E-271st  
4929 Ridge Road, Stevensville, Michigan 49127
- Bernard Zaffern** — L-272nd  
22555 Hallcroft, Southfield, Michigan 48034
- John Antenucci** — 569th Sig.  
224 Hillcrest Avenue, Hubbard, Ohio 44425
- Henry Babcock** — 569th Sig.  
Box 301, Oriskany Falls, New York 13425
- Clifford Flick** — 569th Sig.  
Box 499, Rimersburg, Pennsylvania 16428
- Walter Kopicki** — C-271st  
220 Wilbur Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18508
- Warren Martinson** — A-880th  
P.O. Box 181, Hayward, Wisconsin 54843
- Walter E. Berhow** — G-272nd  
1544 South 240th E., Orem, Utah 84057
- George A. Kepler** — G-272nd  
70 Fox Den Road, Glastonbury, Massachusetts 06033
- George A. LaBove** — G-272nd  
M.R. 8, Box 6 C C, Hackberry, Louisiana 70645

- Stanley Shearl** — G-272nd  
11275 Lloyd Street, Canal Fulton, Ohio 44614
- John M. Worman** — G-272nd  
4639 Shull Road, Gahanna, Ohio 43230
- Merrill E. Wysong, Sr.** — G-272nd  
505 East Christy Street, Marion, Indiana 46952
- Russell Doaty** — A-879th  
161 East Baumstown Road, Birdsboro, Pennsylvania 19508
- Charles Ford** — 271st  
3118 Stoney Point Road, Grand Island, New York 14072
- Harry Highbarger** — 13th Ord. Co.  
26½ East Franklin Street, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740
- Rudy Leyrer** — H-273rd  
32345 Sage Road, Hemet, California 92343
- Harry K. Thompson** — H-273rd  
1033 Caron Drive, Waco, Texas 76706
- Tony Spazziano** — 69th Recon  
9077 Dalberg Street, Bellflower, California 90706

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*Seymour and Doris Nash*



*Claudius and Stefan Noelke from Germany*



*Roger West and Kurt Noelke from Germany*

# Meeting of Officers and Board of Directors 69th Infantry Division Association August 14, 1986, Pittsburgh, PA

President Beswick called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Invocation by Vernon Wirth. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Phil Colombo.

**Treasurer's Report** - Bob Kurtzman gave out reports on the financial status of the Division to all the members to follow his report on the monies. Motion to accept, John Hawley, seconded Dutch Hawn.

**Auditor's Report** - President Beswick read a letter from Tony Keller that the books are in good order and all monies accounted for and sorry he couldn't attend.

**Secretary's Report** - Minutes of the Board of Directors held in Williamsburg, Virginia, were read and accepted. Motion to accept Bill Foster, seconded Phil Colombo and so carried.

**Overseas Flower Fund** - Secretary Frank Nemeth reported on the floral decorations on the graves of the 69ers overseas. Motion to send \$300.00 to A.B.M. to maintain the graves. Motion by Phil Colombo, seconded, Gene Butterfield.

**Resolutions Committee** - No Report

**Scholarship Committee** - Bob Kurtzman reported that for the first time he tried something new and sent out the applications to all the Past Presidents by mail. He received 15 answers from the 17 sent out and 11 of those voted to give three scholarships this year. The three recipients were Loretta Wittman, daughter of David K. Wittman, 272nd Infantry, Dean A. Slimmer, son of Donald R. Slimmer, 777th Tank Bn., and Robert J. Sholtis, son of Steve J. Sholtis, 269th Engineers. Chairman Kurtzman asked for a motion that we be allowed to pick 3 next year if we get enough requests and pay the extra we may need from the operating fund, that way the scholarship would end up with a zero balance. After a long discussion, motion by Gene Butterfield, seconded Dan Evers and so carried.

**Reunion Report** - No Report at this time.

**Future Reunion Report** - Bill Foster gave a fine report on Niagara Falls, hotels, convention center and sites in the area in the absence of Leo Martel. He also will highly recommend Lexington, Kentucky to the membership for approval for our 1988 Reunion. They have a committee set up and ready to go. Lots to see and do in the area.

**Nominating Committee** - Chairman Raul Nava stated that he will have a report for the membership committee.

**Membership Committee** - Chairman Clarence Marshall reported that we now have 5, 516 on the rolls, up from 5,505 at last year's Reunion. We lost 115 members and gained 126 new members for a total of 11 gained.

**Old Business** - None

**New Business** - President Beswick read a letter of thanks from the Army Transportation Museum Foundation for our donation and awarded the 69th Infantry Division a certificate and plaque and decal for being members. President Beswick also read reports of the 40th Anniversary of the Soviet-American Elbe River Link-Up 1985, also of the Third Meeting between American and Soviet Veterans of the Elbe, Letter for Veterans for Peace.

Bob Kurtzman asked to remove all sustaining members from the 69th mailing list, motion Raul Nava, seconded John Mowrey.

Motion by Dan Evers to have Bonnie Foster, daughter of Bill Foster, 269th Engineers, and Elizabeth Hawley, daughter of John Hawley, 269th Engineers, to be Associate Members of the 69th Infantry Division. Seconded Bill Sheavly and so carried.

**Souvenir Committee** - Chairman Bill Sheavly reported he is working on a new source for souvenirs for the coming years.

Motion to adjourn by Bill Foster, seconded Bill Sheavly and so carried at 2:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Frank C. Nemeth  
Executive Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*



Harold Gardner on the right, paid a visit to Clarence Marshall's home on his way to the 69th Recon Reunion in 1986.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 777th Tank Battalion History Books

**ATTENTION: All Members of the 69th and Attached Units.**

I am having the 777th Tank Battalion Official History Book reproduced. The book covers the time period from September 20, 1943 when the battalion was formed at Camp Gordon, Georgia, through July 6, 1945 when we entrained from Camp Miles Standish on our journey home and reassembled at Camp San Luis Obispo, California.

References are made of many companies of the three Infantry Regiments of the 69th — 271st, 272nd, 273rd, the 661st Tank Destroyer, the 880th Field Artillery with day by day accounts of each unit during our trip across Europe.

The approximate cost will be \$3.00 plus postage. Anyone interested please contact me immediately to insure getting enough printed.

Gaylord W. Thomas  
432 Doty Street  
Waupun, Wisconsin 53963  
Telephone: 414/324-4065

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# Annual Meeting of General Membership 69th Infantry Division Association August 16, 1986, Pittsburgh, PA

**President Beswick** called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Invocation was given by Co-Chaplain William Snidow. Pledge of Allegiance by the membership, led by **President Beswick**.

**Secretary's Report** - Minutes of the meeting held in Williamsburg, Virginia, were read. Motion by **Chet Yastrzowski**, seconded **Al Francavilla** and so carried.

**Treasurer's Report** - **Bob Kurtzman** gave a fine report on the monies of the Association, and answered all questions. Motion to accept **Phil Colombo**, seconded **Al Carbonari** and so carried.

**Auditor's Report** - **Tony Keller** sent a letter that was read by **President Beswick** that the Treasurer has done a good job and all the books and monies are in order. He stated that he was sorry he couldn't attend, will see us in Niagara Falls.

**Overseas Flower Fund** - Secretary reported on the monies in the fund. Stated that we will need more money in the fund to maintain the service. Motion by **Sam Woolf** to send \$300.00 to the American Battle Commission, seconded by **Bill Lilien** and so carried.

**President Beswick** asked all Past-Presidents to stand and be recognized. A nice ovation was given for the 6 Past Presidents. He asked all First Timers to stand and be recognized. There were 15 men present and these were also given a good ovation.

**Membership Committee** - Chairman **Clarence Marshall** reported that we now have 5,516 on the rolls, up from 5,505 at last year's Reunion. We lost 115 members and gained 126 new members for a total gain of 11 men.

**Scholarship Chairman** - **Bob Kurtzman** reported that for the first time he tried something new and sent out the applications to all the Past Presidents by mail. He received 15 answers from the 17 sent out and 11 of those voted to give three scholarships this year. The three recipients were **Loretta Wittman**, daughter of **David K. Wittman**, 272nd Infantry, **Dean A. Slimmer**, son of **Donald R. Slimmer**, 777th Tank Bn., and **Robert J. Sholtis**, son of **Steve J. Sholtis**, 269th Engineers. **Chairman Kurtzman** asked for a motion that we be allowed to pick three next year if we get enough requests and pay the extra we may need from the Operating Fund, that way the Scholarship would end up with a zero balance. Motion by **Sam Woolf**, seconded and so carried.

**Bulletin Report** - Co-Chairman **Earl Witzleb** gave his report and asked people to send in pictures and letters to help fill the 34 page Bulletin. Members gave **Earl** and **Clarence** a fine ovation in appreciation for their work on the Bulletin.

**Resolutions Committee** - Chairman **Pat Lushbaugh**, No Report

**Future Reunion Sites** - **Leo Martel** gave a fine report on Niagara Falls and the hotels and sights and everything is set for the Reunion. **Bill Foster** reported on Lexington, Kentucky and stated that it's a fine layout, rates are right and lots to see in the area. Membership for Lexington, Kentucky in 1988. Motion by **Frank Carey**, seconded by **Irv Gotkin** and so carried.

**General Bolte** entered and was given a standing ovation by the membership. The General stated he planned to attend the next Reunion in Niagara Falls also.

**Nominating Committee** - Chairman **Raul Nava** stated that his committee recommends for consideration the following members for the Board of Directors for 1988-1989:

- Division Headquarters ..... **Fred Avery**
- 271st Infantry ..... **Irv Gotkin**
- 272nd Infantry ..... **James Herbison**
- 272nd Infantry ..... **Albert Francavilla**
- Divarty ..... **Al Faison**
- 269th Engineers ..... **John Hawley**
- 661st Tank Battalion ..... **Dan Russo**
- 777th Tank Battalion..... **John McCann**

Motion by **Phil Colombo** to close nominations, seconded, **Walt Doernbach** and so carried.

**Old Business** - None

**New Business** - Discussion on whether to keep tours at the Reunions, membership voted to keep tours during the Reunions.

**President Beswick** read a letter of thanks from the Army Transportation Museum Foundation for our donation and awarded the 69th Infantry Division a certificate and plaque and decal for being members. **President Beswick** also read a report of the Third Meeting Between American and Soviet Veterans of the Elbe and asked that it be kept by the secretary and put in the files of the 69th Division.

**President Beswick** also read letters from Veterans for Peace and the 40th Anniversary of the Soviet-American Elbe River Link-up of 1985. After a lengthy discussion on these and the Oath of the Elbe, a motion by **Phil Colombo** to put in the records, seconded **Bill Sheavly** and so carried.

**Souvenir Committee** - Chairman **Bill Sheavly** reported that he has changed his source of souvenirs to better the quality, also, if anyone has any suggestions for items, please let him know.

**Golf Tournament** - Chairman **Chalmers Pearson** reported 31 players competed in the Tournament and we are increasing each year. The winners were awarded nice 69th Division prizes for their fine scores.

Motion to adjourn by **Raul Nava**, seconded **Al Carbonari** and so carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Frank C. Nemeth**  
Executive Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*



*Glenn Vanderlaan of AT-273rd and 2215 March Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001 would like some help with this photo. He is pictured in the center. Robert Lehmann is on the right. Man on left known as "Big Red." Lehmann was from Massachusetts and Big Red from Texas. If you can help, contact either Mr. Vanderlaan or National Headquarters.*

## A REPORT FROM THE HONEYMOON CAPITAL

Your Treasurer made a second trip to Niagara Falls to assist the Committee in finalizing their plans for what we feel will be a Super Reunion and one the Committee can be proud of. Leo and Rita Martel have asked me to inform you of their plans, so here goes. First we have to take into consideration the fact that they had to battle 1,000 Beer Can Collectors, who will be in town the same week and I imagine that some of those cans on display were emptied by 69ers.

This, to my recollection, is the first time that a Reunion has had to split up into several Hotels, but we see no problem arising as the Hotel Niagara, which has been designated as Headquarters, has 175 rooms and will house the Registration room, Hospitality room, souvenirs, Early Bird and Men's Meeting. The Niagara Royale Hotel which is directly across the street, also has 175 rooms and will have the Ladies Auxiliary Meeting. The Quality Inn is about three blocks away and has 75 rooms allotted to us, so with 425 rooms available in town we should have no problems. Both the Hotel Niagara and Niagara Royale Hotel are only about a two or three minute walk to the Falls, so about the only difference between the two is that the Niagara Royale has a small indoor pool and jacuzzi and is next door to the Rainbow Shopping Center. For those of you who do not feel you can afford the \$55.00 room rate, they have listed three Motels that are about three miles out and the price for one double bed starts at \$29.50.

A full week has been planned for you, so come early and enjoy that Second Honeymoon. Monday starts things off with a free bus ride to the Royal Avenue Fire Department, where you will be acquainted with fire response apparatus and equipment demonstration and refreshments will be served. On Tuesday a Special free tour of the New York Power Authority is scheduled and the 69th will be allowed to areas not generally open to the public, this should prove to be very interesting to those who have never seen electricity made by water power. On Wednesday a very Special Package has been put together for the 69th and it can only be offered for this one day at the present time. It is a complete tour of the American and Canadian side of the Niagara Falls Scenic route. Starting at the American Falls with a ride on the breathtaking "Maid of the Mist," which goes only a few feet away from the mighty falls. Back on the bus to Goat Island for the "Cave of the Winds," Terrapin Point, Three Sister's Island, where you can actually touch the water. (Don't forget your cameras). From there on the bus for a ride on the Robert Moses Parkway to Lewiston, where you will have lunch. The restaurant is on the bank of the lower river and the scenery will delight you. From there you will cross on the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge to Canada, where you will see the beautiful Floral Clock, the Spanish Aerial Car, (a basket that crosses the gorge) Table Rock and the Falls on the Canadian side. Crossing the Rainbow Bridge back to the United States and your Hotel. ALL THIS FOR AN UNBELIEVABLE \$22.95. (Tourist rate is around \$35.00 with no lunch.) There will be a limited number for this trip, so be sure to sign up in advance for your seat.

On Thursday we will have the regular Board of Directors Meeting and the Early Bird Dinner at the Hotel Niagara. Leo wouldn't tell me what was on the menu, but assured me it wasn't Niagara River Carp. There will also be a special Fashion Show on Thursday at the Rainbow Shopping Center for both Ladies and Gents at 1:00 P.M. and since the area will probably be open to the public, you are advised to get your seat early.

On Friday, things start with the Golf Tournament at the

Hyde Park Golf Club for all the Duffers or is it Goofers. Chalmers and Joe, get your gang ready, we have made arrangements for you to pay for your Green Fees and Carts at the Registration Desk and will you guys try to have someone else win a prize for a change as it seems like the Nemeth's have their trophy room full. Since time will not allow us to have our annual Memorial Service on Saturday, it has been scheduled for Friday at 2:00 P.M. at the brink of the Falls which is a very pretty site. You all come as it will give you another chance to view the Falls and besides we have ordered the Hospitality room to be closed for an hour.

Them darned Beer Can Collectors shut us out of the Convention Center, so the PX Night will be held at the State Armory and this will involve being bussed. Busses will start leaving the Hotel at 7:30 P.M. and will run continually until everyone is there and back. Rita says she has obtained a very good Band.

On Saturday the General Membership Meeting will be held from 9:00 A.M. until Noon in the Ballroom of the Hotel Niagara and the Ladies Auxiliary Meeting will be held at the same time in the Ballroom at the Niagara Royale Hotel. Understand that Coffee and Rolls will be on hand at both places. The Committee has put together a special surprise for all of you by arranging for a Parade of floats and Military units to Honor the 69th. We are hoping that General Bolte will attend and be in full dress and ride the lead car and then take the place of Honor on the reviewing stand where he can be saluted by the Military units. Let's all turn out for this one as once again the Bar will be closed. It will only be about an hour and a half to two hours long and if anyone wishes to ride a float or car or even march once again, please check the box on the registration form or else contact Rita at the registration desk.

Saturday evening the festivities will come to an end with the Banquet and Dinner Dance at the beautiful Convention and Civic Center which is within walking distance from the Hotels. There will be no shortage of space as they can seat over 1,000 and plenty of room for dancing without having to shove the tables together.

There has been rumors that both Hotels will set up a Breakfast Brunch on Sunday, but don't take my word for it.

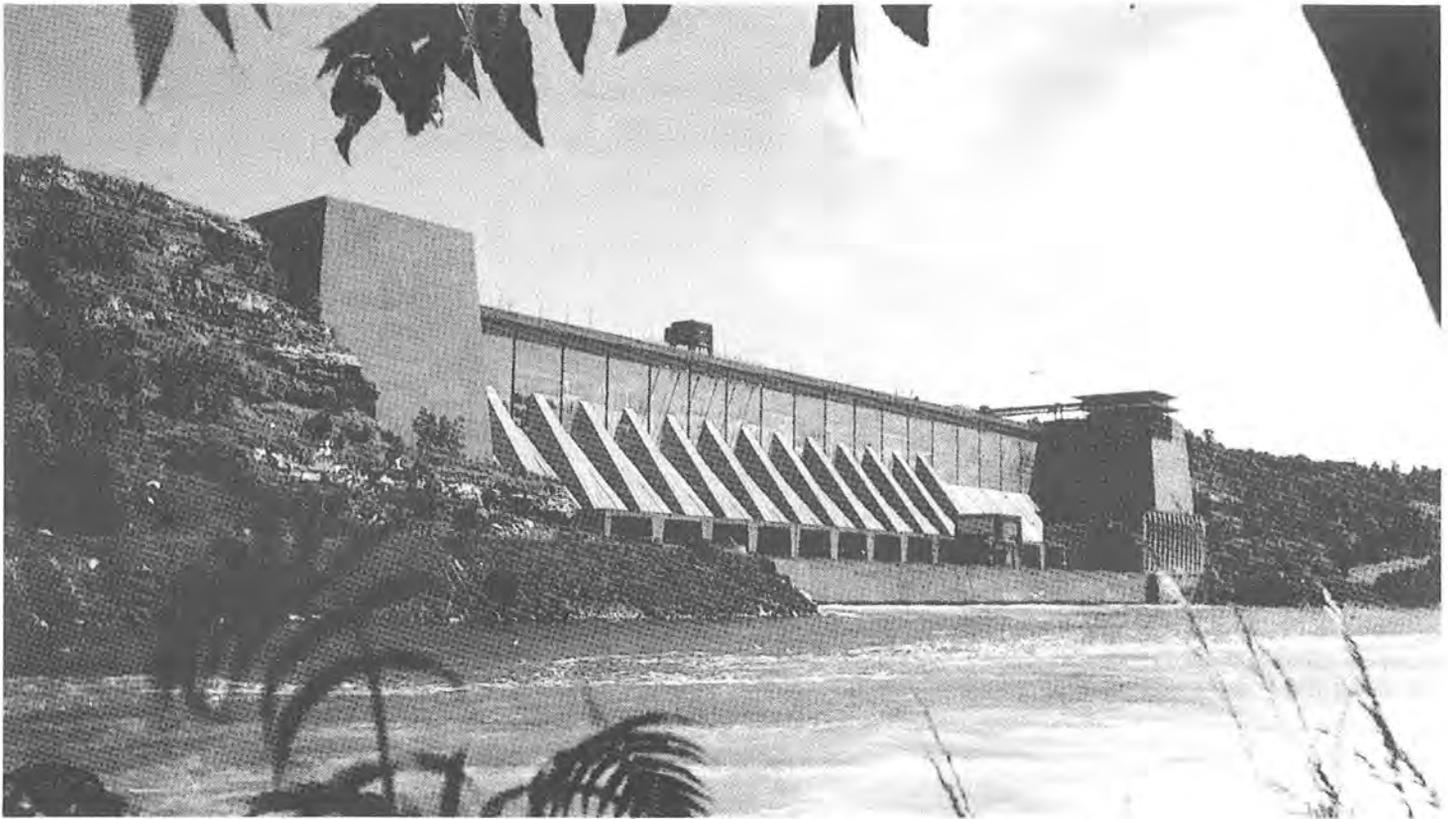
What a week that was! For those of you who can't make it for the Wednesday tour, you will have plenty to see within walking distance of your Hotel and with the Rainbow Shopping Center and Winter Garden next door there is plenty to keep you busy and Rita has informed me that shuttle busses will be run to the outlet center, so bring plenty of money or your charge cards.

**LET'S MAKE THIS THE BIGGEST AND BEST REUNION EVER.**

Last but not least, I have yet to attend a Reunion that I have not heard someone griping about petty things on housing, food or seating, so this year the Committee guarantees that things will be under control, so they have set up a complaint Department to hear your gripes. All you have to do is walk across Rainbow Blvd. to the entrance to Goat Island where you will see a spiral staircase leading down to the ground level, climb down these stairs and walk towards the River where you will see a Committee Member with a leaky canoe and a barrel and he will give you your choice of either trying to paddle 50 feet up stream or going over the Falls and if you complete either feat and survive your complaint will be answered, plus they will pay your entire Reunion bill. ANY COMPLAINTS?

Bob Kurtzman

**1987 69th ANNUAL REUNION  
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
SEPTEMBER 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 1987**

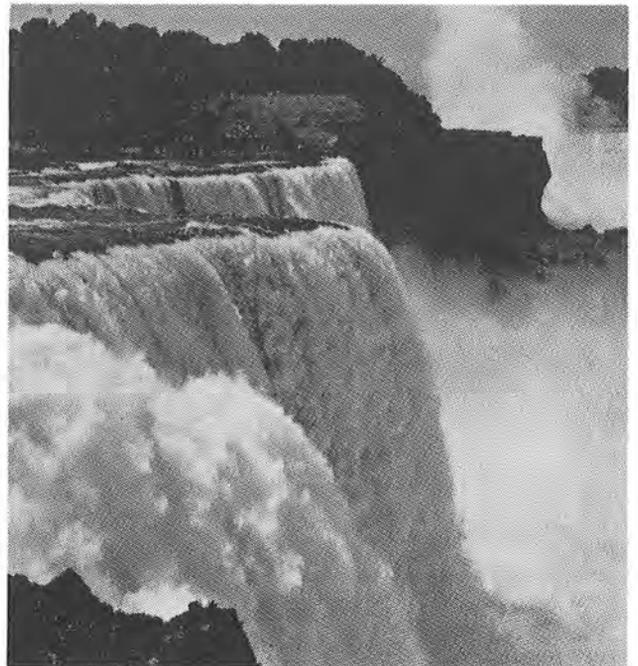


*Niagara Power Project*

This issue of our Bulletin is 44 pages long. Pages 1 thru 18 and pages 27 thru 44 is the actual Bulletin. The pages in between, 19 thru 26, concern the Niagara Falls Reunion. All you have to do is turn to the middle of the Bulletin, open the staples, take out the necessary pages you need for Niagara, push the staples together again, and your Bulletin is still in tack. Otherwise, if you want the complete Bulletin, you must get photo copies of the pages you need for Niagara. One page goes to Bob Kurtzman, page 19. One of the other pages goes to your desired hotel/motel. They are either page 22 or 23 or a part of page 24. Note three motels are on page 24 and you only need one of them so this page can be cut in thirds. Thanks, I hope you understand correctly.



*Maid of the Mist*



*American Falls*

**MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW FOR 1987**  
***69th Infantry Division Association 40th Annual Reunion***  
***Niagara Falls, New York***  
***September 13-20, 1987***

Complete this form or send legible copy to:

Niagara Royale Hotel  
Attn.: Robert Mackie  
240 Rainbow Boulevard  
Niagara Falls, New York 14303  
Phone: 716/282-1212

Please reserve the following:

Single (1 person) @ \$55.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Double (2 persons) @ \$55.00 \_\_\_\_\_

I / We plan to arrive (day) \_\_\_\_\_, September \_\_\_\_\_, 1987. (Check in time - 3:00 P.M.)

I / We plan to depart (day) \_\_\_\_\_, September \_\_\_\_\_, 1987. (Check out time - 12:00 P.M.)

Send Confirmation to: *(Please Type or Print)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street / R.D. / P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone / Area Code: \_\_\_\_\_

In order to confirm reservation, one of the following must accompany this form:

Check or money order (one night's lodging) payable to the Niagara Royale Hotel, or Major Credit Card Number and date of expiration.

I wish to confirm my reservation by:

Credit Card Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR ADVANCE DEPOSIT ONLY.**

Room block held until 30 days Prior to scheduled arrival. Therefore, you must send in your reservation and advance deposit so it can be received no later than August 13, 1987. Any forms received after that date are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

*Special Note:* Some rooms have one (1) King size bed.

Only the following Credit Cards will be accepted. American Express, Master Card, Visa Card, Diner's Club and Carte Blanche.

**MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW FOR 1987**  
**69th Infantry Division Association 40th Annual Reunion**  
**Niagara Falls, New York**  
**September 13-20, 1987**

Complete this form or send legible copy to:

**Hotel Niagara/Quality Inn Intown**  
Ms. Myrt Hannam  
Box 300, Falls Station  
Niagara Falls, New York 14303  
Phone: 716/285-9321

Please reserve the following at: \_\_\_\_\_ Hotel Niagara \_\_\_\_\_ Quality Inn Intown

Single (1 person in room) \_\_\_\_\_ Double (2 persons in room) \_\_\_\_\_

I / We plan to arrive (day) \_\_\_\_\_, September \_\_\_\_\_, 1987. (Check in time - 2:00 P.M.)

I / We plan to depart (day) \_\_\_\_\_, September \_\_\_\_\_, 1987. (Check out time - 12:00 P.M.)

Single and double rate at both Hotels is \$55.00 per night.

**Send Confirmation to: (Please Type or Print)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street / R.D. / P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone / Area Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**In order to confirm reservation, one of the following must accompany this form:**

Check or money order (one night's lodging) payable to the Hotel Niagara, or Major Credit Card **Number** and date of expiration.

**I wish to confirm my reservation by:**

Credit Card Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR ADVANCE DEPOSIT ONLY.**

Room block held until **30 days** Prior to scheduled arrival. Therefore, you must send in your reservation and advance deposit so it can be received no later than August 13, 1987. Any forms received after that date are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

*Special Note:* Some rooms have one (1) King size bed.

Only the following Credit Cards will be accepted. American Express, Master Card, Visa Card, Diner's Club and Carte Blanche.

**The following Motels are reserved for those wishing a more modest rate.**

All have the same rate and are about three or four miles east of the Falls.

To confirm reservations, one night's lodging fee must accompany your reservation thirty days prior to the event.

**Holiday Motel**

6650 Niagara Falls Blvd.  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Mr. Shalala  
Phone: 716/283-8974

I / We plan to arrive (day) \_\_\_\_\_, September \_\_\_\_\_, 1987. Check in time is 2:00 P.M.

I / We plan to depart (day) \_\_\_\_\_, September \_\_\_\_\_, 1987. Check out time is 12:00 P.M.

Please reserve the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ One double bed @ \$29.50      \_\_\_\_\_ Two double beds @ \$37.50      \_\_\_\_\_ Three double beds @ \$46.50

Send Confirmation to: *(Please Type or Print)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street / R.D. / P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thruway Inn**

6115 Niagara Falls Blvd.  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Mr. Tony Basile  
Phone: 716/283-3444

I / We plan to arrive (day) \_\_\_\_\_, September \_\_\_\_\_, 1987. Check in time is 2:00 P.M.

I / We plan to depart (day) \_\_\_\_\_, September \_\_\_\_\_, 1987. Check out time is 12:00 P.M.

Please reserve the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ One double bed @ \$29.50      \_\_\_\_\_ Two double beds @ \$37.50      \_\_\_\_\_ Three double beds @ \$46.50

Send Confirmation to: *(Please Type or Print)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street / R.D. / P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunrise Inn**

6225 Niagara Falls Blvd.  
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

Mr. Latif  
Phone: 716/283-9952

I / We plan to arrive (day) \_\_\_\_\_, September \_\_\_\_\_, 1987. Check in time is 2:00 P.M.

I / We plan to depart (day) \_\_\_\_\_, September \_\_\_\_\_, 1987. Check out time is 12:00 P.M.

Please reserve the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ One double bed @ \$29.50      \_\_\_\_\_ Two double beds @ \$37.50      \_\_\_\_\_ Three double beds @ \$46.50

Send Confirmation to: *(Please Type or Print)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street / R.D. / P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

# Memories of the 1986 Pittsburgh Reunion



*Entrance to the river boat dock downtown Pittsburgh in the background.*



*Three Rivers Stadium, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*



*Gene Pierron - Fred Butenhoff*



*Ted Schiffner - Ursula Schiffner (Note: 1st Timers)*



*McComb's and Weston's (Paul, Margie, George and Virginia)*



*Barbara Yastrzemski - Joe Selb - Ray Fahrner*

**1988 69th ANNUAL REUNION  
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY  
AUGUST 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 1988**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Division Association Chapter (Group) Meetings Across the United States**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

We are interested in all news from Chapters, Groups, Branches, Companies, Battalions, Regiments, and whatever, for this column, as it may help build up your events. Mail your date(s), location, banquet cost, and room rates, plus a good write-up, to Earl E. Witzleb, Jr., Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069, as early as possible. Then follow through with a write-up immediately after the event(s).

## Tri-State Group

### THE FAMILY GROUP

Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Western Maryland, Western New York, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky and Virginia, and now North Carolina and Tennessee

**Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.**

*Coordinating Managers*

R.D. No. 1, Box 477

Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

Exit 9, Pennsylvania Turnpike

Telephone: 412/455-2901

(Evenings after 7:00 P.M. and Weekends)



What a nice way to start off the Tri-State report with a letter from **Homer Rager**. Do note his fancy envelope. He says the weather has been fine, sunny and 38 degrees. Thanks for your Christmas card along with the others I received from **Bob and Vivian, Marshall, Stagg, and Strick**. The last two are G-273rd infantry men.

The reason I haven't been to all the late activities is that I just can't do the walking as the "knees" want to buckle. I can't hear too well even with a hearing aid so keep the news coming.

I was back to the old homestead near state college "Milroy" on route 322 for spring and fall turkey and deer season. My brothers get together and all five of us are veterans who served in World War II. We had quite a time as I was cook. We do the same as the 69ers: talk about the same things, drink a few beers, and have a long B.S. session.

\* \* \* \* \*

Letters have been mailed out to Tri-State members plus potential members of the Tri-State group. We are getting a good return and are finding out many are now retired and having health problems.

Our 1987 weekend will be held May 14, 15, 16, and 17 at the Sheraton Inn, Route 30 East, 100 Sheraton Drive, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. This will be chaired by **Enrico and Anne D'Angelo** with **Dorothy and Earl Witzleb** as assistants. We like to have two couples run a weekend just in case an emergency comes up for one couple, the other can jump right in and take over. For this four day weekend, we will arrive

on Thursday and depart for home on Sunday. In between, we will have a tour, pool party, golf (both men and women), swim, shop at Greengate and Westmoreland Mall, a Saturday evening banquet, a Sunday morning breakfast, and a well stocked hospitality room for your enjoyment and fellowship. Why don't you all plan on attending and bring family and guest along.

Then listen to this, as you don't want to miss this great five day weekend in the mountains of West Virginia. Our 1988 weekend will be June 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 at the famous well known Canaan Valley Ski Resort, Davis, West Virginia. This will be chaired by **Earl and Dottie Witzleb** with **Paul and Marian Shadle** being assistants. Don't be late for this one as our usual well stocked hospitality room will be open for your enjoyment, relaxation, and fellowship. Our feature will be a train ride to Whittaker Station for a barbecue dinner and live entertainment on the Cass Scenic Railroad, Friday, June 10. The rest of your time you are on your own to visit Blackwater Falls, Seneca Caverns, Seneca Rocks, Spruce Knob and Spruce Knob Lake, Dolly Sods Wilderness area, ride the scenic chairlift, play miniature golf, swim in the huge heated pool, take a bicycle ride, take a trail walk from a half mile to eight miles, check out the deer and wildlife, and golf (men and women). We hope to have **Chalmers Pearson** run a golf tournament on the eighteenth hole championship golf course with a first round on Thursday and a final round on Saturday. You'll even have deer in your foursome. Come see our main attraction where **Dottie** will feed deer out of her hand and walk within ten feet of a skunk without getting sprayed. Oh yes, we will have our Saturday evening banquet with entertainment and going home Sunday breakfast. Prices will be right so sign up early, cancel later if an emergency happens.

For more information on both weekends, write the Tri-State group address which is at the beginning of this article.

If you received a Tri-State letter, please do return it. You should show that kind of courtesy. If you returned your letter stating you do not want to be on the Tri-State roster, you will probably never receive another letter, so if you decide you want on the roster, you will have to let us know this. Those on the roster, we would like you to at least attend one out of four weekends. If you show no interest in five years, your name will be taken off the list unless you notify us differently.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Mid-West Group

**Gaylord and Ruth Thomas**

432 Doty Street

Waupun, Wisconsin

Telephone: 412/324-4065

**Curt and Evelyn Peterson**

4900 Wallace Avenue

Madison, Wisconsin 53716

Telephone: 608/222-7957

On Saturday, November 1, 1986, a group of Midwest 69ers met at **Gaylord and Ruth Thomas'** home in Waupun, Wisconsin. Everyone stated that they saw thousands of Canadian

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTER (GROUP)  
MEETINGS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**  
(Continued from Page 28)

geese on the way into Waupun. Ray Lehman from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was a first-timer to the group meeting and promised us that it would not be his last. A short film on the Horicon Marsh was shown before all journeyed to the Pyramid Supper Club for our evening meal. Most returned to Waupun for more talk, talk, talk. Those who stayed overnight were invited back to the 'Thomas' for breakfast.

Those in attendance were: Fran and Zita Enright, Gene and Ethel Pierron, Fred and Mavis Butenhoff, Dale and Bonnie Scott, Phil and Harriet Sparacino, Earl and Jean Abel, Curt and Evie Peterson, Vern Wirth, Ray Lehman, John Barrett, Gay and Ruth Thomas.



*Dale Scott, Fred Butenhoff, Curt Peterson,  
Mavis Butenhoff, Evelyn Peterson  
— Mid-West 69ers from Wisconsin —*

All Midwest 69ers are invited to meet at the Lake Lawn Lodge, located on Highway #15 - 5 miles east of Delavan, Wisconsin from Friday, April 24th to Sunday, April 26th, 1987.

The lodge has an 18-hole golf course, horseback riding, bicycling, a marina, two swimming pools, sauna, tennis, game rooms, live entertainment nightly and several shops. A banquet has been arranged for Saturday night.

Total cost for a room with 2 double beds is \$69.00 per day. Room reservations should be made through the Lodge - BE SURE to mention you are a member of the 69th group. Early arrivals and those who wish to stay longer may do so at the same rate. Reservations may be made by telephone: 1-800-338-5253, or in Wisconsin 1-800-338-5296.

To be sure of a room in the same area with other Midwest members, reservations should be made before March 20th. One day's deposit is also required.

Reservations for Saturday golf and Saturday evening banquet should be sent to: Curt Peterson, 4900 Wallace Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53716 — Telephone: 1/608-222-7957.

EARLY, EARLY reservations are required for all.

NOTE: Talking to Gaylord Thomas over the telephone, Wednesday, November 19th, he told me the Midwest group would like to expand and that all 69ers are welcome to their weekends. I suggest the Midwest group consider the following states as their area. Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, and the northern part of Michigan with consideration to include North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. This would cover a nice area and would border the Tri-State group as we consider Indiana and the southern half of Michigan as our area. Earl Witzleb

## 461st AAA Battery B

Larry W. Brown  
538 Burns Avenue  
Clarkston, Washington 99403

OPERATION: San Francisco, 1987 8, January '87

CODE NAME: REAR\* (No smart remarks)

PLACE: Marine Memorial Club  
609 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, California 94102

DATES: 18, June '87 - Check-In  
21, June '87 - Check-Out

1. This is the first "Operation Order" to be mailed regarding the Battery "B" San Francisco 1987 Reunion.
2. Make your reservations as early as possible with the Marine Memorial Club, since the club will be loaded during June, 1987.
3. Call Toll-Free:  
Within California: 1-800-3-MARINE  
Outside California: 1-800-5-MARINE  
In the event you want to stay longer, make your reservations for the desired length of stay.
4. The garage is one block from the club and is \$8.00 per day. Discount chits are available at the club.
5. For those flying in, an airporter (Lorri Vans) is available and the cost is \$6.50 per person.  
\*Richard Esaacson Army Reunion
6. You may also want to order a copy of "The San Francisco Book" by mailing \$1.00 to:  
The San Francisco Convention & Visitor Bureau  
P.O. Box 697  
San Francisco, California 94101
7. Room Rates: Single: \$50.00-\$65.00  
Economy Single: \$40.00  
Double Occupancy: \$55.00-\$70.00  
Note: You may request a room at the rate you like and if it is available, you got it.  
When making reservations, refer to code name. Your reservation will be guaranteed by the Marine Memorial Club, upon receipt of \$30.00.
8. It is contemplated at this time, that we will follow the schedule enumerated below —  
19, June '87 — Alcatraz Trip & Whatever  
20, June '87 — Presidio, Fort Scott, Golden Gate Bridge and Fort Point
9. If you have any questions call me: 916/967-5389

God Bless,  
Helen, Eileen, Dick & Allen

P.S. Marine Memorial Club is on the corner of Mason and Sutter and is centrally located in downtown San Francisco. Union Square and Chinatown are within walking distance. Cable Car to Fisherman's Wharf is one block from the Club.

Larry Brown writes that he wasn't at the Virginia Reunion so he has nothing to report on it. Dean Ludeman could help out on a report from there. (If you have anything to report, do send it to us). Post Office Box 69, Champion, Pa 15622.

Larry says that 29 did attend the Virginia weekend.

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTER (GROUP)  
MEETINGS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**  
(Continued from Page 29)

The 1988 Reunion will be held in Canton, Ohio with Fred and Helen Fisher, 933 Park Avenue, S.W., Canton, Ohio 44706, as hosts. It should be the 3rd weekend in September.

Sam Russell, 21 St. Leo Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15203, has had several knee operations and is now retired as a good finishing carpenter. All you B-Battery 461st AAA GI's drop Sam a note. Since Sam lives in Pittsburgh, we invite him and wife to attend the Tri-State weekend at the Sheraton Inn, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, in May. He can set a record in being the first AAA member to attend a Tri-State weekend which is a function of the 69th Division Association. You are all invited and urged to attend the Division Association Reunion in Niagara Falls this year in September.

Larry says see you all in San Francisco June 18 to 21, 1987.

Dear Earl,

Would you please insert the following in your next issue of the Bulletin. My home town is Warren, Pennsylvania 16365. Many Thanks, Karl Petersen, 805/259-5829

Having started combat in June 1944, it was March 11, 1945 that the 461st AAA Battalion was attached to the 69th Division in Germany. Memorial Day of 1945 was really a Memorial Day for our Battalion when at the Leipzig Airfield, the 69th Division Band played and marched at our services.

Our postwar Reunions for B-Battery started in the late 1950's when the following met at Conneaut Lake, Pennsylvania: the Harry Booker's, the Bill Byler's, the Ed Gergerich's, the Clarence Winton's, the Karl Petersen's, the Sam Russell's, Joe Fields and Harry Segall.

The first Reunion was in 1974 at Seven Springs near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1976 in Lakeland, Florida, 1978 at Seven Springs, 1980 at Wheaton, Maryland, 1981 at Riverside, California, 1982 at Allentown, Pennsylvania, 1983 at Sacramento, California, 1984 at Erie, Pennsylvania, 1985 at Pocatella, Idaho, and 1986 at Leesburg, Virginia.

The 1987 Reunion will be at San Francisco in June 18-21. For information, call Richard Esaacson at 916/967-5389.

The 1988 Reunion will be at Canton, Ohio.

Karl Petersen, B-Battery 461st AAA Historian  
P.O. Box 643  
Saugus, California 91350

Karl — You were only a few miles from my home in 1974 when you fellows and girls met at Seven Springs Ski Resort. I wish I would have known of it. Maybe you should have another one there soon. The sküing is great right now (January) with about 50 inches of snow, mostly machine made. We are having a good cold winter with very little snow so far. I judge 10 to 12 inches so far.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 661st Tank Destroyer Bn.

William "Bill" Beswick and Jo Beswick, Chairpersons  
P.O. Box 576  
West Point, Virginia 23181  
Telephone: 804/843-2696

Dear Fellow 661ers:

The annual Get-To-Gether of the "661st Tank Destroyer Battalion" will be held at the Best Western Mount Vernon Motel, at the junctions of Routes 29 & 250 Bypass, Charlottesville, Virginia, on April 30th, May 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1987.

Please make your reservations early. The motel wants

a cut-off date by March 30th. I have requested April 15th. I have also requested them to accept reservations up to Reunion time, space available. So don't be late.

Come, join us for a few days of relaxation and good times. We will visit Monticello, the home of one of our Presidents, Thomas Jefferson. See YOU there.

My best to you,  
William R. Beswick

\* \* \* \* \*

## Central Pennsylvania Branch

Daniel and Helen Evers  
4950 Grant Drive  
Brookhaven, Pennsylvania 19015  
Telephone: 215/874-1197

The Central Pennsylvania Branch of the 69th Division Association is now directed by Dan and Helen Evers.

The spring dinner (weekend) will be held April 11 and those wanting to stay until April 12 can do so but you must reserve your room early. Rooms are \$48.00 single and \$54.00 double plus a 6% Pa. sale tax. A deposit of \$50.00 is required. Write to: Continental Inn, 2285 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17602 or Telephone: 717/299-0421 telling them you want to reserve a room for the Central Pennsylvania Branch dinner. Dinner will be \$16.00 per person at 7:00 P.M. Roast Prime Rib of Beef plus the works is the menu with a cash bar beginning two hours earlier.

Dan and Helen invite all members of the 69th and in particular, those living in eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. Dan would like to build the roster of the Central Pennsylvania Branch.

(Sorry, this notice might be late for your spring dinner).

\* \* \* \* \*

## Company H 273rd Infantry

Jacob "Jake" Stark, Jr.  
691 Dunkle Street  
Enhaut  
Steelton, Pennsylvania 17113  
Telephone: 717/939-4802

Company H, 273rd Infantry, had its biggest get-together at the Reunion in Pittsburgh this year. We had 11 men present who were:

1. Charles E. Locke, Oaklyn, New Jersey
2. Charles G. Attara, Clifton, New Jersey
3. Anthony T. Mruk, Elmira Heights, New York
4. Eli R. Sams, Jr., Pinnacle, North Carolina
5. Ray T. Szkudlarek, Toledo, Ohio
6. Charles Leskus, Bethel Park, Pennsylvania
7. Sam J. Grubbs, Allison Park, Pennsylvania
8. Mike Masullo, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
9. Jake Stark, Jr., Enhaut, Steelton, Pennsylvania
10. John W. Mowrey, Jr., Charleston, West Virginia
11. Robert Haag, Indianapolis, Indiana

I hope ALL of you Company H, 273rd men read this and try to make Niagara Falls next year and make us have the biggest Reunion yet. You don't know what you are missing when you see a buddy after 41 years. We are slowly declining. Some say next year and have passed away. So you see, it is later than you think. We are so anxious to see you. I want a favor from you guys, please write to: William R. Hawthorne, 4305 Fernbrook Terrace, Marshall, Texas 75670

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTER (GROUP)  
MEETINGS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**  
*(Continued from Page 30)*

Bill was in my squad and I saw him for the first time in Orlando, Florida after 39 years. Bill had a severe stroke and has been a wheelchair almost 2 years. Pray for him for a speedy recovery that he will walk again. With God's help and our prayers, he can make it. I thank ALL of you. Last year when the 69th men met with the Russians at Torgau, we had FOUR Company H men present:

- Eli R. Sams, Jr., North Carolina
- Donald W. Cole, Ohio
- Robert Haag, Indiana
- Murray Schulman, New York

God willing, we will be at the Tri-State, Greensburg in June and Niagara Falls in September.

Jake Stark

\* \* \* \* \*

## 880th Field Artillery C-Battery

Lowell McFarlin, *Co-Chairman*  
89 North High Street  
Box 236  
Jeromesville, Ohio 44840  
Telephone: 419/368-7363

Lewis G. Pugh, *Co-Chairman*  
Route 4, Grant Street  
Cadiz, Ohio 43907  
Telephone: 614/942-3721

C-Battery will hold its weekend in St. Marys, Pennsylvania, August 20 to 23, 1987. Lee and Betty Meyers will be in charge for this weekend. More information will be published in the next Bulletin. All members should plan on attending, so plan your vacation accordingly.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 269th Engineers

Frank Nemeth  
66 Gaping Rock Road  
Levittown, Pennsylvania 19057  
Telephone: 215/945-3809

Hi Ya'll,

Another fine Reunion has gone by and it sure was just great seeing everyone again. It's funny how we don't look any different than we did from last year, in fact, we all look better. I guess it's like fine wine!! Sure was surprised to see Harold Thomas ("B" Company), standing in the hall while Dan Evers and I were taking a stroll back to the 269th Engineers hospitality room. Retirement sure does agree with him. Sorry that Mary, his wife, couldn't make it. Maybe this fall would be a fine time to attend "NIAGARA FALLS!!" We also had another nice surprise when Bill Foust from the 69th Division stopped in to say hello. Bill was in "Company B" back in basic training and shipped out to the 65th Division before we went overseas. Hope your feeling good as new again, Bill, from your auto mishap. Wishing a speedy recovery for Bill Foster "H&S Company," and Johnnie Jones from "Company B" and Bill (B.V.) Blackburn from "Company B," so hope you guys are up and about and I'm looking forward to seeing you all!!

I'm planning on sending a page of old photos to the Bulletin from the 269th Engineers for most issues and hope that I get enough photos from each company so that everyone

will be represented all the time. I've sure got plenty of "B Company" photos and so how about you other guys in "H&S" and "A" Companies send some to me so I can mail them in. We will return them if so desired!

Let's try to have a nice turn out of 269th Engineers at the Tri-State in Greensburg, Pennsylvania in May. Check the Bulletin for time and place. After all, most of the guys were from the Tri-State area, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. So you all take care and hope to see you at one of the Chapter Reunions or at the Falls.

Your Ole Buddie,  
Frank



Harold Thomas and Bill Foust

*(See Page 35 for old photos of 269th Engineers)*

\* \* \* \* \*

## 69th Cavalry Recon Troop

Michael P. Moscaritolo, *Chairman*  
575 Sherman Avenue  
Roselle, New Jersey 07203  
Telephone: 201/245-8159

Harold E. Stambaugh  
52 South Duke Street  
York, Pennsylvania 17401  
Telephone: 717/843-9831

The following material of the Cavalry Recon Troops was submitted by Charles Fox of the recon troops. We need to know your dates, location, chairperson(s), and any other material for your next weekend. If it is in September, you'll only have one other Bulletin to get it in. This is why we ask that you plan a year or more ahead so that it will be in at least two Bulletins. Deadlines for Bulletins are listed on the "Calendar of Coming Events And Communication Schedule" page.

The 69th Recon Troop held our Reunion September 12, 13, and 14, just outside of Washington - in Bethesda, Maryland, in The Manor Inn. This motel provided us convenience, cleanliness, quiet, and indoor plumbing. This was Recon's 35th consecutive annual Reunion.

This Reunion included some innovations, and yet was quite similar, in fun and companionship, to those of preceding years. We innovated by holding our business meeting Friday evening after supper - the purpose was to leave Saturday completely free for everyone to enjoy sightseeing in the Nation's Capital or shopping or just sitting around and being sociable; we innovated by holding our Saturday evening dinner 2 1/2

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTER (GROUP)  
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blocks, easy walk away from our residence motel - at a restaurant which provided us our own attractive, private dinner room, excellent restaurant food, and a choice of 5 different main courses (roast beef was the selection of a plurality of those attending in this election year, but significant numbers of us voted with our stomachs for the alternates of crab, chicken, flounder, and stuffed shrimp); and we displayed in our hospitality rooms a series of almost-tactical-size maps of our former operational areas of Belgium and Germany, so that those of us with either long memories or short memories or just memories of any kind could once again read right up about the details of our Glory Days.

Those attending included **Howard Carpenter** and his wife **Dot**, **Boyd Ellsworth** and **Stella**, the undersigned (as host and hostess), **Hugh Bob Fuller**, **Harold Gardner** and **Jeanne**, **Doyal George** and **Betty**, **Al Gold** and **Esther**, **Jim Haight** and **Mary**, **Harry Hallahan** and **Alice**, **Evelyn Karavedas**, **Dick Kreiser** and son **Chris**, **Jim Logue**, **George Makris** and **Nancy Lou**, **Frank Morris** and **Jo**, **Herb Norman** and **Eileene**, **Lewis Pickett** and **Lucille**, **Charlie Rice**, **Murray Schmieder**, **Bob Schueler**, **Barry Shelton** and **Bettye**, **Hap Stambaugh** and **Maxine**, **Harold Vance** and **Velma**, **Cowboy Vaughan** and **Cowgirl**, **Lloyd Walker** and **Ruth**, **Hank Weiman** and **Lill**, **Nick Zins** and **Kathryn**; also **Bill** and **Betty Foster** of the 269th Engineers. 25 ex-Recons: (1) not bad for a unit which had a T/O of 149 EM and 6 O's; (2) statistically, almost a complete line Recon platoon (which was 3 teams of 10 persons each) - on some days, more than a complete Recon platoon, if you deduct for KP's and latrine orderlies and other such valid people.

Respectfully, and accurately, though smilingly submitted - host **Charlie Fox** (former Recon PFC) and his hostess/wife **Barbara Fox** (former USAF sergeant).

Recon lost four of our stalwarts during 1986 - all wonderful persons and each a distinct personality in his own way. Chronologically as well as alphabetically - **Joe George**, **Tom Mayberry**, **Bill Saville**, and **Nick Zins**.

**Joe George**, was the fellow everyone knew. In Recon he had been an armored car driver in our Second Platoon. In civilian life he worked for years for the Pittsburgh transit company - first as a bus driver, later as what he laughingly described as a "gong-stomper" (streetcar operator). Outwardly he was known to everyone by his innately smiling face, his cheerful gravel voice, his common sense. And maybe above all everyone thinks of **Joe's** sense of inane and ridiculous humor - which entertained us all but never was mean or nasty. His life was a triumph over difficulties, even to his final months, when he and **Zola** hosted the Recon Reunion in Pittsburgh in September of 1985 - he showed everyone a great (and reasonably priced) time and appeared at the height of his usual hilarity and conviviality - even while he felt physically very sick with the cancer which brought about his death only 14 weeks later. **Joe** and **Zola** had been married only six years when he died January 29, 1986, a few weeks short of his 66th birthday.

**Tom Mayberry** struck you immediately as a huge fellow. Our Second Platoon medic. Always cheerful, witty, concerned. In Mississippi he had told me that he hoped the War ended during the summer days, because as a bank employee he had to work from Independence Day to Labor Day without a bank holiday, and a new holiday for the end of World War II would provide a good break. It didn't happen - but the Japanese did ask a cease-fire in early August, as we remember. In our Army days he looked just like another huge guy, in his shapeless, sweaty fatigues in Shelby or in his snow-flecked horse-blanket overcoat in Belgium and Germany. But when you saw him as a civilian after the War, standing at the Broad Street entrance to the Fidelity Bank, in his nattily-peaked dark blue

cap and his immaculately-pressed dark blue uniform, looking over the busy world from his height of possibly 6 feet 6 inches, answering questions courteously and directly, you knew - and all the passing Philadelphia world knew - that **Mayberry** was **Mr. Bank Guard**, In Charge at his post.

**Bill Saville** could have been one of our outstanding achievers if fate had dealt with him more kindly. Armored car driver in our First Platoon. **Bill** was intelligent, educated, physically well-coordinated, mannerly, well-bred, serious. But way back in 1954 **Bill** was the front-seat passenger in a car which was struck head-on by another auto which crossed the center line, and when **Bill** finally regained consciousness, he had lost some of his memory and some of his eyesight and was physically badly impaired. **Bill** was a regular attender of our Reunions, he always remained cheerful and a loyal friend, and he worked steadily at jobs which he could successfully handle. He had retired shortly after reaching his 62nd birthday, but only weeks later fell over of a sudden heart attack after breakfast in his house on the morning of April 22, 1986.

**Nick Zins** died at age 71, only six weeks after our recent Recon Reunion. He and **Kathryn** had been married 45 years and have three grown children who live not far from the **Zins** house outside of Baltimore. **Nick** and **Kathryn** had been regular attenders of our Reunions ever since we located **Nick** some 8 years ago. Second Platoon jeep driver while at Shelby, **Nick** worked for the Armour meat firm for 42 years up to his retirement several years ago. A fine conversationalist with an incredible straight-faced sense of humor, **Nick** was a volunteer active in the Franciscan Center, which provides food and emotional support for elderly. He was a member of the Knights of Columbia, and he was for many years an usher at his neighborhood Saint Marks Church, in Catonsville, where his funeral was held on October 30.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Company-I, 273rd Infantry

**Robert L. Pierce**  
144 Nashua Court  
San Jose, California 95139  
Telephone: 408/266-8040

This is a challenge to all other companies in the Division to beat I-Company, 273rd Infantry's attendance at the 40th Reunion in Niagara Falls! For the past two Reunions, we have had thirteen different members attend. This year we expect twenty. Let this also be an appeal to all you I-Company guys out there who have always contemplated attending the Reunions but have been putting it off. Make this the "BIG ONE" and come to Niagara Falls and rejoin your old buddies.



Standing left to right: **George Pursey**, **Dale Lincoln**, **Erwin Sanborn**, **Robert Pierce**, **Chester Ritchie**.  
Sitting left to right: **Carl Macknair**, **Anthony Rende**, **Paul Michiewicz**, **William Armstrong**, **George Houseal**. **George Harper** attended but not in photo.

*(Continued on Page 33)*

**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTER (GROUP)  
MEETINGS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**  
*(Continued from Page 32)*



*Standing left to right: Bernice Macknair, Jo Ann Rende, Frances Pursey, Carmen Sanborn, Theresa Pierce, Wanda Lincoln, Janet Houseal.*

*Sitting left to right: Beverly Armstrong, Aldonna Michiewicz, Olive Ritchie, Edna Harper attended but not in photo.*

**Earl E. Witzleb, Jr.**  
Bulletin Co-ordinating Manager  
P.O. Box 69  
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622

Dear Earl:

The growing success of the 69th Division Association and attendance at the annual Reunions are a credit to the officers of the Association. For the past three years I have scrounged every available source to locate I-Company, 273rd survivors and encourage them to attend the 69th Division Reunions. This year I am making a more concentrated effort because Niagara Falls is such a desirous place to vacation as an added bonus to attending the Reunion.

The lengthy article regarding Victory Troopship conversions and the "Lejeune" was interesting but has little significance to many of us. There is no mention of the "Liberty" ships that were in the convoy when the 69th Division crossed the Atlantic Ocean. Our Third Battalion crossed on the "Santa Maria" Liberty Ship. I remember as we were going down the dock to our ship assignments, we approached a large ship and all hopes were high until we passed it. Bill Armstrong laughed and hollered out, "We're probably going to get Columbus's old ship, the Santa Maria." To our amazement, it was the Santa Maria!

Robert L. Pierce

\* \* \* \* \*

## Company-E, 273rd Infantry

Earl E. "Skip" and Dorothy A. "Dottie" Witzleb, Jr.  
R.D. No. 1, Box 477  
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606  
or  
P.O. Box 69  
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069  
Telephone: 412/455-2901 (Evenings after 7:00 P.M. and Weekends)  
Exit 9 - Pennsylvania Turnpike

*"The Family With Two Addresses — But One Home —  
Welcome All 69ers — Stop In, Call, or Write."*

Dear Earl,

The Bulletin Volume 40, No. 1, arrived about a week ago and I read your epistle to Company-E, 273rd Infantry on pages 29 and 30. You listed E-Company members present and I quote: "I was under the impression that four from our company were in attendance . . ."

You are correct - I was the fourth Company-E, 273rd member present and thereby hangs a tale about which only Paul Shadle can explain. If you are interested, I suggest you contact him for possible details about how we were there but not listed as attending.

You should know that I was in the Kane, Pennsylvania area and I planned to take in the Saturday part of the Reunion if various things worked out. When it was evident that my wife, Sonya, and I could attend, I called Paul Shadle to see if tickets were still available. He told me to send a check for the banquet costs to him at the Marriott. So I did. Through the cooperation of the Postal Service and the Marriott managers either singly or together - Paul never got my letter and check. Considerable delay was caused getting into the banquet hall because we had to purchase new tickets. We joined a group of about six couples, introduced ourselves and enjoyed the meal and conversation. I did see Bill Matlach and visited with him. Paul Shadle eventually received the check and returned it to me.

So Earl, that accounts for your fourth Company-E, 273rd member. Should I ever be within traveling distance of another Reunion, I may plan to attend at the spur of the moment with the optimistic prospect that history would not repeat itself. However, the future is speculative and I'll just have to see what turns up.

I do know that you and your wife have labored long in the support and furtherance of the 69th Infantry Division Association because I have seen your names in the Bulletin over the past years. I commend you for your diligence.

May this brief letter find you and your wife enjoying the holiday season and looking forward to a most happy New Year.

Sincerely,

**Paul E. Peterson**  
4725 Cornell Drive  
Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74006

What a beautiful hand writer you are Paul. You must be a hand writer instructor at a high school, community college, junior college, or college. Thanks for your letter. I knew we had four in attendance even if you couldn't be there all the time. So we must put in the records Paul E. and Sonya Peterson from Oklahoma attended the Pittsburgh Reunion. Must also make apologies to Lotti Shires who was with her husband Al at the Reunion but I failed to mention her in my write up. Sorry Lotti and do forgive me.

I hope by now all good E-Company members did send a card to Frank Reemsnyder, an E-Company member. His address was listed twice in the last Bulletin; on the Auxiliary Page and in the Tri-State Group write up. Frank had a severe stroke but is able to read and understand so do send him a card and note. You might think of him at Easter Time and send a card to: **Frank Reemsnyder**  
Care of Meadow Wind Health Care Center  
300 23rd Street, N.E.  
Massillon, Ohio 44646

Anyone else having health problems, do let us know so that we can send a card. We want all E-Company members and 69th members all in good health so stay healthy.

I would like to follow the pattern Frank Nemeth of the

*(Continued on Page 34)*

**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTER (GROUP)  
MEETINGS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**  
(Continued from Page 33)

269th Engineers has started in asking everyone to send in a picture of themselves and wife and family. I too would like E-Company to send in pictures so we can publish some at times just to get a good look at you once again with your wife. If you have any old army pictures, they would help also. They'll be returned after publishing.

I too at this time want to ask each member and wife to try and make an effort to attend the 69th Reunion week at Niagara Falls, New York this coming September 13th to 20th, 1987. Let's have a big turn out like we should have had at Pittsburgh. I want to see all members there that week and will name a few who should be there: The Matlach's, the Shires, the Peterson's, the Beshore's, the Dicke's, the Dionne's, the Dunlap's, the Farris's, the Gleason's, the Hume's, the Huston's, the Leitzman's, the Madderson's, the Mehner's, the Meilwe's, the Maticak's, the Orlovski's, the Poole's, the Stewart's, the Thompson's, the Tripp's, the William's, and for sure the Witzleb's. He better be there. I'll try to name more in the next Bulletin but you all come to Niagara Falls. Time is short, it's later than you think so let's get together to see each other once again.

At this time I would like to invite all E-Company members to join us in May at the Sheraton Inn in Greensburg, Pennsylvania for a Tri-State Weekend and a Mini E-Company Reunion. All you fellows from Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York should attend. You will never miss another one. So do write me a post card that you'll see Dottie and me in Greensburg, Pennsylvania and for sure at Niagara Falls, New York. Thanks, it will be good to see you once again.

\*\*\*\*\*

## The "Inside Story" of the Picture Frame

Thank you Charles Fox of the 69th Recon Troops for the following write up on the picture frame presented to General Charles L. Bolte on his 90th Birthday.

On May 8, 1985 - the 40th Anniversary of V-E day and the 90th anniversary of Charles L. Bolte's birth - we presented General Bolte at his home, an 8-inch by 10-inch sterling silver picture frame with the inscriptions: (at the top) ON YOUR 90th BIRTHDAY, (along the left side) WITH CONGRATULATIONS, (along the right side) IN ADMIRATION AND GRATITUDE, and (along the base) FROM OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE BBB'S (with the 69th Division insignia on either side of it). You have seen the frame itself, those of us who attended the 1985 Division Reunion in Williamsburg, and you have seen pictures of it - those of us who read the Association Bulletin.

Off and on since then, people have asked us to tell them the "inside story" of certain aspects of this birthday observance or to recount in a coordinated fashion the story from beginning to end. Let us do so here, because it reflects credit on ourselves as well as renewing honor on the fine gentleman whom we greeted and honored.

The beginning was late in March of 1985. We were discussing that General Bolte would be 90 years of age on May 8 and shouldn't we appropriately observe the occasion. 3 opinions surfaced: (1) not enough time - only 6 weeks; (2) what worthwhile can you give a 90-year-old General who has received all sorts of honors and whose career has attained heights that few people in the entire world can even dream of; (3) great, let's do it!

Next a little birdie told us what the General might like. First, our staff created some ideas of our own, and then we signaled the Bolte family (without the General observing our actions) that we intended to honor THE 90th birthday and would appreciate their ideas as to what sort of gift might be appropriate. In a few days our message center received the Bolte family's appreciative signal that (1) a donation in the General's honor to Army Emergency Relief would be a nice honor, but that "this is sort of amorphous" and would be relevant for any career military man, so (2) a picture frame, with an individualized inscription, would accomplish our mission, because in General Bolte's home he has his "sanctum sanctorum" where he had lined up the numerous honors and the favorite pictures of his great career.

Then another crossroads - shall a few fellows bankroll this and present it in the Division's name?; shall we get the Division Association to adopt this as a project?; or shall we put out the word to as many men as we can and ask for widespread participation? The greatest honor to our General, obviously, would accrue from a broad spontaneous observance.

With time growing short, with imperfect address lists, with few telephone numbers verified, with everyone busy at his job or in his retirement, with some men on vacations or business trips, with the Association's European Tour to Torgau occupying dozens of our most active men, - we moved out to contact, one by one, a man in each of many companies or batteries or other units and asked each man to phone or write whomever he could in his former unit of the Division and, politely and gently, invite each individual to join with us in contributing to our observance of General Bolte's 90th birthday.

The Association's Souvenir Gift Shop said they had no line of supply for a good picture frame. So we contacted J. E. Caldwell Company, a very old and large and reputable jeweler in Philadelphia and Washington, which was able and happy to advise us and meet our requirements.

What was the response to our one-ask-one contacts? A genuine outpouring of respect and affection and honor to our General from his men. From every regiment, from all the artillery, from Special Troops, from the Tank Battalion, from the Tank Destroyer battalion - in short, from every unit that classes itself as one of "BBB's" came birthday cards to the General and contributions toward the gift. We asked for a maximum contribution per man of \$2 to the picture frame (although a few men did exceed this), and we received a total of contributions well in excess of the price of the frame (we later turned the excess money over to the Association postage fund, believing that this would significantly assist the Association which, as the General has said, is "very dear to his heart").

And what of the General's "sanctum sanctorum" - the home quarters of this picture frame (into which Mrs. Bolte inserted a 1944 photo of the General)? The room has a window in its south wall and a door in its north wall; otherwise, 3½ walls are guarded by close-order ranks of honors and pictures and autographed pictures - many of people whom you would think of right off-hand, plus General Collins, General Lemnitzer, Chiang-Kai-Shek, Haile Selassie, bivouac scenes of General Bolte's father's unit in Cuba in 1898, and so on. General Bolte refers to it as his "Rogues Gallery." We like to think that the 90th Birthday frame from the BBB's will hold a prominent place there. But we will have to defer at least to one of the oldest pictures in the "Gallery" - a photo of General Bolte's father standing out in front of - and facing - ranks of men, as he swears his unit into the United States Army for service in the Spanish-American War; and behind the right flank of the unit stands a lady in a long dress and a big hat, and the lady is carrying in her arms a little child - the future four-star general inspecting his first military formation!

# 269th Engineers



*Squad Photo "B-Company" — Front Row from Left to Right: Pfc. Stump, T/5 Herring, Pvt. Williams, Pfc. Jones  
Rear from Left to Right: Cpl. Corpman, T/5 Pszekaza, T/5 Nemeth, T/5 Bijack, Sgt. Orn*



*Sergeant Max Goodman - A&S Company*



*Ray Lottie - A-Company*



*Staus Milewski (Company-B), Webber (Company-C), Francino (Company C)*

Pictures Furnished by  
Frank Nemeth

# QUIZ TIME — 39th Annual Reunion

Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA — August 10th to 17th, 1986

## QUIZ TIME

The following pictures have names missing. If you find your photo fill in the blank or write it on a separate piece of paper and send it to Earl at Post Office Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069. Make sure you give the Photo Number and your name so that the answers can be put in the next Bulletin. We want to know who you are and see you once again in Niagara Falls.

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\_\_\_\_\_ — Jul & Pat Slopek

**1987 69th ANNUAL REUNION  
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
SEPTEMBER 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 1987**

# QUIZ TIME — 39th Annual Reunion

Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA — August 10th to 17th, 1986

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Charles Chapman — Edith Chapman — \_\_\_\_\_

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E. R. Sams — Bob Haag — \_\_\_\_\_

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Jerry Rodelli — Joe Monteleone — \_\_\_\_\_

**1988 69th ANNUAL REUNION  
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY  
AUGUST 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 1988**

# QUIZ TIME — 39th Annual Reunion

*Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA — August 10th to 17th, 1986*

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*- Sam Grubbs — Adam Manz — \_\_\_\_\_*

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*Vickie Gallagher — \_\_\_\_\_ — \_\_\_\_\_*

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## NEWS MATERIAL AND PICTURES FOR THE BULLETIN SHOULD BE MAILED TO:

**EARL E. WITZLEB, P.O. Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069**  
**CLARENCE MARSHALL, 101 Stephen Street, New Kensington, PA 15068**

# QUIZ TIME — 39th Annual Reunion

Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA — August 10th to 17th, 1986

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— Ray Szkudlarek

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Bob Kremin —

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Jake Stark —

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Vernon Wirth —

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—, Our Photographer — Barbara Yastrzemski

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Reba Sheavly —, Our Souvenir Couple

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Betty Foster —

**LADIES AUXILIARY BULLETIN MATERIAL AND PICTURES  
SHOULD BE MAILED TO:**

**DOROTHY A. WITZLEB,  
P.O. Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069**

# Reunion Site/Activities Screening Committee

**William R. Foster, Chairman** (269th Engrs.)  
*Vice President* - 69th Infantry Division Association  
 803 Elkwood Drive  
 New Cumberland, Pennsylvania 17070  
 Telephones: 717/774-2396  
 Office: 717/774-0870

**Gaylord Thomas, Member** (77th Tk. Bn.)  
 432 Doty Street  
 Waupun, Wisconsin 53963  
 Telephone: 414/324-4065

**Robert E. Myers, Member** (Div. Hq.)  
 10453 Cumberland Drive  
 Sun City, Arizona 85351  
 Telephone: 602/977-1952

**John T. Hawley, Member** (269th Engrs.)  
 330 East Fort Street  
 Shippensburg, Pennsylvania 17257  
 Telephone: 717/530-2974

**Earl E. Witzleb, Jr., Member** (Company-E, 273rd)  
 R.D. No. 1, Box 477  
 Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606  
 Telephone: 412/455-2901 (Evenings and Weekends)  
 or  
 Post Office Box 69  
 Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069  
 Exit 9 - Pennsylvania Turnpike

Dear Earl,

As I discussed with you on the phone 1-4-87 concerning future convention sites: First of all, I want to thank every 69er for the many cards and phone calls that I received from them while I was under the weather. I am now working to become more mobile and hopefully will be able to walk again by myself in another four to six weeks.

Now getting back to business of Reunion sites. I have had many calls and correspondence with proposals for our upcoming Reunions. I have a beautiful proposal from Colorado Springs Clarion Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colorado. This sure would not be a return to an old location. Also we can have the 3rd week, August '89.

Also have information from San Antonio, Texas (another beautiful place) with plenty to see and do. Of course, if we should decide on this, we would have to go in early May or late September, because it is hot like Phoenix.

I have letters and information from Toledo, Ohio which also has a lot to see and do.

Also information requesting us to consider Fayetteville, North Carolina which is also a good location, and the home of Fort Bragg.

Also received a proposal from Sheraton Inn, Huntsville, Alabama. I am sure anyone could be kept busy with leisure time, sightseeing. This is the home of the Space Museum and NASA, Marshall Space Flight Center, and plenty more.

Considering transportation, all of these are accessible by nearby Interstate Highways and Major Air Lines. Transportation to any of these should be of no particular problem.

I can no longer see much of a problem getting a chairman and committee out of any of these sites since most of us are retired and have ample time on our hands.

I would appreciate hearing from the members, if they are interested in any of these locations. Also we might like to look at Nashville, Tennessee (Music City, U.S.A.) I am sure everyone could have a wonderful time there, except I am 100% sure that we could not get any decent price on rooms in August.

Looking forward to hearing from our members.  
 W. R. (Bill) Foster

Anyone who would like to have and operate a Reunion in your part of the country (USA) must have a committee of at least 6 or 7 couples. A motel (preferably) or hotel having 300 or more rooms not in the heart of town. We prefer being on the outskirts away from busy districts and miles away from the noisy airports.

One or two tours plus the usual early bird on Thursday, PX Beer Party on Friday, general meeting (both men and women) on Saturday morning, memorial service (either Saturday afternoon or just before the banquet starts Saturday evening), dinner-dance banquet Saturday evening, and something new lately, a Sunday morning going home goodbye until next year breakfast. Some of our members prefer to stay over until Monday to relax some on Sunday. The banquet facilities should be able to handle 600 plus members, wives, families, and guests who are most welcome. The committee should plan for the 2nd or 3rd week of August with activities beginning on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Members interested should apply to the Reunion Site/Activities Screening Committee. Should you want more information, write any of the committee members or telephone the one nearest committee member to your home. He will forward the information to the chairman. Any committee member will be happy to assist you in your efforts of running a Reunion for our membership. A Reunion can be moved forward a month or two plus back a month or two should you be able to get better motel/hotel room prices. We want to do all possible to have large turnouts for the membership as it is getting later than you think. We are all 60 years of age or older and most of us are on fixed incomes (Pensions and Social Security). Thanks for wanting to show your buddies of the 69th Infantry Division Association a wonderful week or part of a week.

\*\*\*\*\*



Tom Poole of Council Bluffs, Iowa brings home a big one from Canada. He displays an over 19 lb. Great Northern Pike.



John Hawley building his "Hideaway" in Central Pennsylvania stands in the just completed & most important building.

# Looking Back A Few Years

Two articles Bob Kurtzman found written by Loar Quickle that might be interesting to some of you. It could bring up old memories of years gone by.

## An excerpt taken from the "March to the Sea" bulletin

Ever walk a hundred miles to go swimming and then not swim? The B.B.B.'s did it.

Ever walk a hundred miles for a steak dinner and then eat six in a row? The B.B.B.'s did it.

Ever walk a hundred miles and then walk back again? The B.B.B.'s did it. Anyway it was better than the "D" Series. Of course, we'd rather have stayed in camp, but maybe those extra muscles we put on will come in handy one of these days chasing Hitler. (Don't let that start a rumor — honest I don't know whether we're going to chase Hitler or Hirohito).

Some of the B's went sailing. Some went fishing. The rest went, "Woo! Woo!" The biggest sales in town were ice cream, steaks, and fresh milk. It's the truth!

We walked two hundred miles, we had a little fun, and we did a little growling. One thing we know — we're rugged, we're ready, and we can take it. How about it, Uncle Sam, got a job for us? A real job!

Found in Loar Quickle's Memoirs.

Bob Kurtzman

\* \* \* \* \*

## Remember the "D" Series?

So we had mud in our ears and lead in our pants.

Sure! It was the "D" Series. Wasn't it!

We had all the comforts of life — straddle trenches with hot and cold running rain — HI MAC bars and more HI MAC BARS. We dug slit trenches in old latrine sites in the dark.

Slit trenches are dug to the count of three. One — push the shovel into the ground. Two — throw the dirt out. Three — look around for an easier place to dig. Every infantryman crawled 125 miles on his hands and knees. You can tell a doughboy a hundred yards away by the worn out knees of his fatigues.

The Reconnaissance Troop drove forty thousand miles. You can tell a trooper a hundred yards away by the worn out seat of his pants and the permanent curvature of the spine acquired in those forty thousand miles.

The Engineers built 515 feet of vehicular bridges and 620 feet of foot bridges. They repaired and reinforced 44 existing bridges. What the Hairy Ears should have done was bridge the whole DeSoto National Forest.

Baloney is spelled "bologna" but what we ate was salami - sometimes. There is still another name for it but we can't go into that. One truck driver from Divarty carried a ruler and proved that he ate fourteen feet of it during the series. Ate fourteen feet of ruler, of course, not that much baloney!

270,867 rations were served in the field. Take away the baloney and that leaves 867 rations. Take away the cheese and that leaves one ration. That was the Joe who ate one of the 281st Signal Pigeon Company's feathered messengers.

We got some sleep, too. That is, we got some sleep when we could locate a place where the lieutenants and sergeants couldn't find us. Of course the gophers didn't like to have us crawling into their burrows all the time.

We know of one member of the M.P. Platoon who became a Section VIII case trying to sort out six motor convoys which

met at a muddy intersection. Seems you can't put six things in the same place at the same time — even convoys.

Rations. 805 tons of them, were issued by the Quartermaster. Ultimately, that meant many yards of earth to dig. Ordinance repaired 227 vehicles, many at night under blackout conditions. Enough knuckle skin was lost on this operation to make a rug for the dayroom floor. The blue smoke from the profanity was bottled by the Chemical Warfare Office for use in emergencies. Signal Company laid better than 500 miles of wire. We suspect that this was not for communication but to enable the signalmen to find their way back to the mess fly in the dark.

We washed our fatigues with hand soap in little pools, we shaved in our helmets and we bathed in them. We cleaned our rifles with field expedients wrapped in small white pieces of prayer. We manhandled the guns when they were hub deep in the mud.

An old sergeant who came to the 69th from a soft job at a Supply Center summed it up when he said, "If I could find the WAC who replaced me for active duty I'd beat her little round butt to a pulp."

Taken from the "D" Series bulletin found in Loar Quickle's Memoirs.

Bob Kurtzman

\*\*\*\*\*



Three former members of Battery-C, 724th Field Artillery  
Left to Right: Charles Martens, Walter Struck, Conrad Bloomer

Picture furnished by Tom Fritscher

## MOVING

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New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068

Please allow six weeks advance notice.



## In Flanders Field

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,*

*In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from fallig hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow*

*In Flanders fields.*

— Col. John McCrae

# Buddy Poppy: A Flower For All Seasons

From Flanders fields to Main Street U.S.A., the poppy has become the symbol of the fallen soldier.

In April of 1915, a battle-weary Canadian soldier stood in sadness as he viewed the grievous aftermath of the second Battle of Ypres in Belgium. Despondently he contemplated the rows of hastily dug graves, each marked by a white cross, that served as the final resting place for thousands of fallen soldiers.

In a sudden revelation, he heard the singing of larks in the sky, and amid the graves he saw gay patches of red — wild poppies, struggling through the battle-scarred soil and clay grave mounds to bring a message of life among death.

Inspired, Col. John McCrae penned the three poignant verses of his famous poem "In Flanders Fields." Published in *Punch* magazine a few months later, the poem brought a message of confidence to millions of people in the dark hours of World War I. It became a symbol of faith and hope in a war-torn world.

Although Col. McCrae never lived to see the end of World War I, his poem survived in print and in the minds and hearts of generations to whom the bloody war is mere history. The poppies which provided his inspiration still bloom in Flanders fields, and their message of hope is transmitted via the VFW Buddy Poppy.

This year the Buddy Poppy has a new look: it is being manufactured from a red silk-like material, giving it a more natural appearance. For the last ten years the poppy flower has been made of cello, heavy paper laminated with cellophane.

The first poppies, inspired by John McCrae's poem, were made in France of silk and were marketed to raise funds to benefit children of post-war France and Belgium. A French woman, Madame Guerin, organized the manufacture and sale of poppies to finance the Franco-American Children's League. When the organization was dissolved in 1922,

Madame Guerin received cooperation from the VFW to coordinate a nation-wide poppy sale prior to Memorial Day.

But the following year, the VFW encountered difficulty in obtaining the French-made poppies. For its second annual sale, the organization used its surplus of French poppies and contracted for additional ones from an artificial flower manufacturer in New York City. It was during the 1923 sale that the idea was conceived to have the poppies made by needy and disabled veterans.

At the 1923 Encampment (convention) of the VFW in Norfolk, Va., members presented a plan to have the poppies made by veterans who would receive financial assistance for their work. A poppy factory was established in Pittsburgh, Pa., where all the poppies for the 1924 sale were made by disabled veterans. It was in Pittsburgh that the name "Buddy Poppy" was conceived. The men who gathered to make the poppies referred to each other as "buddies" — thus the name "Buddy Poppy."

Early in 1924 the VFW registered the name "Buddy Poppy" with the U.S. patent office. Following the 1924 sale, many of the larger Departments believed that local sales of the poppies would increase if the poppies were made by disabled veterans in hospitals within their own jurisdiction, rather than confining the poppy manufacturing to the Pittsburgh area.

Although the VFW is the only veterans organization selling the Buddy Poppy, the American Legion also sells poppies to benefit veterans. The Legion's first poppy sale was launched in 1923, the year after the VFW conducted its first sale.

Although the material used to make the Buddy Poppy has changed during the last 63 years, the purpose of marketing the Poppies, to "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living," remains. The sale is conducted exclusively by volunteers with profits aiding disabled and needy veterans, and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans.



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Bedford, Pennsylvania

**Richard Winner**  
2592 Cole Road  
Wexford, Pennsylvania  
F-273rd

**Donald Fangmeyer**  
Pleasant Glen #86  
Peterborough, New Hampshire  
Hq. 273rd

**Robert R. Baumann**  
2547 Marian Lane  
Wilmette, Illinois  
569th Sig.

**Jennie H. Aasen**  
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**Irvin McClain**  
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**Robert Lee**  
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D-461st AAA

**John T. Hansen**  
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69 M.P.

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There will be a great encampment  
In the land of clouds today.  
A mingling and a merging  
Of our boys who've gone away.  
Though on earth they are disbanding,  
They are very close and near.  
For those brave and honored heroes  
Show no sorrow, shed no tears.  
They have lived a life of glory.  
History pins their medals high.  
Listen to the thunder roaring.  
They are marching in the sky!

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142 Westhampton  
Danville, Virginia  
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**Robert Harrell**  
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E-271st

**Harold J. Johnson**  
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