

# FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

## ★★★★ Association, Inc.



VOLUME 44, NO. 2

JANUARY — FEBRUARY — MARCH — APRIL  
1991

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

101 STEPHEN STREET  
NEW KENSINGTON, PA 15068  
412/335-3224

## bulletin

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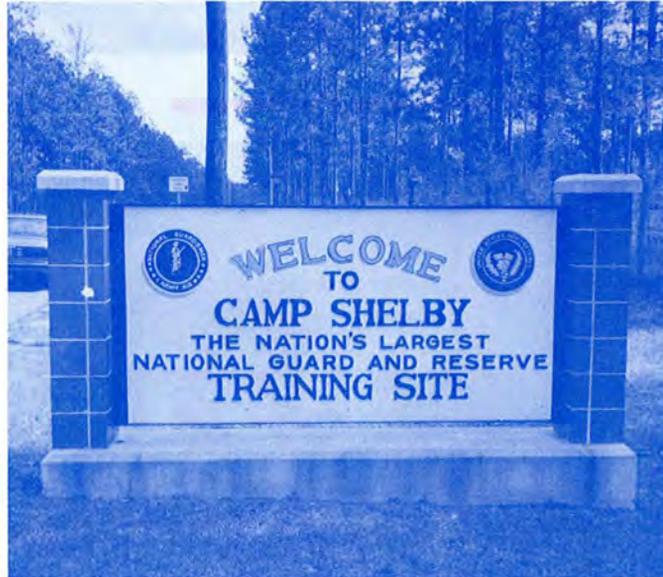
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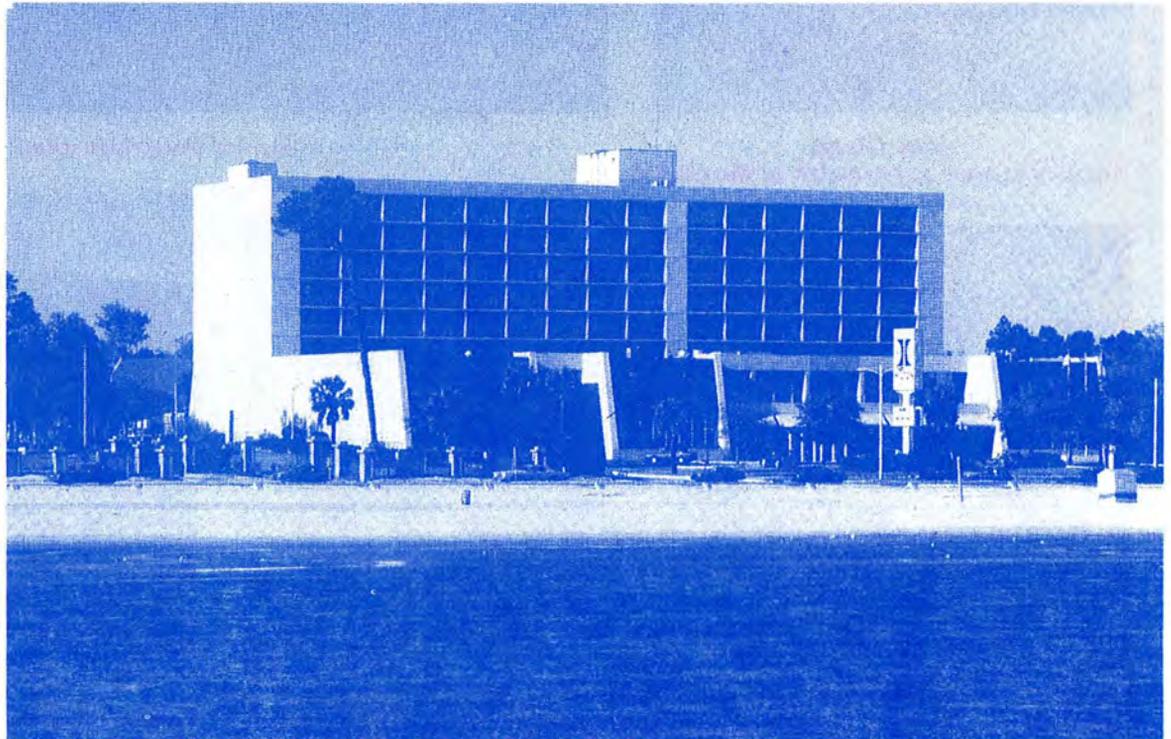
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\*Deceased



**44th Annual Reunion  
of the  
69th Infantry Division  
September 15-22, 1991  
BILOXI  
MISSISSIPPI  
Dedication of 69th  
Division Monument  
CAMP SHELBY  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi**



**REUNION HEADQUARTERS:  
MISSISSIPPI BEACH RESORT HOTEL**

*Formerly The Biloxi Hilton Hotel*

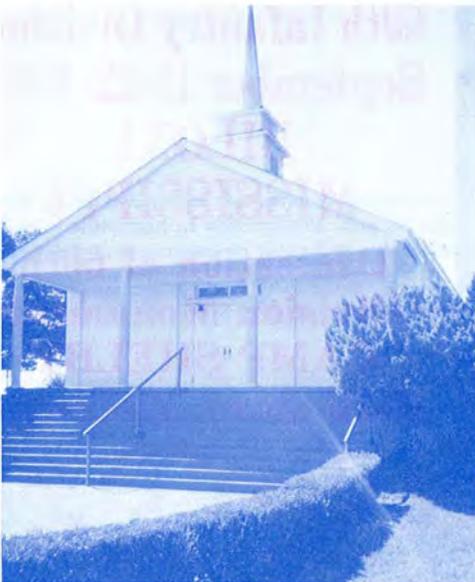
# Pictures of Camp Shelby As It Appears Today

*Photo right:  
Present Day Barracks*

Photo Furnished by  
Robert Kurtzman



Photos below furnished by Sam Rodriguez



*Post Chapel  
Monument Lane is to the left of the chapel.*



*Armed Forces Museum*



*Looking down Monument Lane. Parade grounds to the left (not shown).*



*Monument of the Buckeye Division of Ohio.  
The 37th Infantry Division - trained at Camp  
Shelby in 1942. Dedicated in October 1990.*

# News From The Editor's Desk



by — Clarence Marshall  
Membership Chairman

101 Stephen Street, New Kensington, PA 15068  
Telephone: 412/335-3224

**Murray Zyne**, 58768 Areca Palm Court, Delray Beach, Florida 33484 — Div. Hq.: Can you imagine running across a 69er who doesn't know about the 69th Association? His name is **Bernard Hillman** and his home is here in Delray Beach. He is quite anxious to become a member of our organization. He served with Company A of the 272nd Infantry Regiment. Sorry I missed some of the Reunions. Things happened and I just couldn't make them. Regards to the rest of the B.B.B.s.

**William Taylor, Sr.**, 1019 S.E. 19th Avenue, Cape Coral, Florida 33990 — E-271st: Ran across **James E. Stacy** in a shopping mall in Escondido, California. I was wearing my 69th shirt and he spotted the patch. We talked for a couple of minutes and he told me he was an original 69th cadre. He served in Company M, 271st Infantry. I advised him of our Division Association and he would like to hear more. We were both in a hurry so I did not get any other information.

**Ted Snyder**, 3 Carolyn Court, Syosset, New York 11791 — D-271st: I have located another buddy who at one time was on the Association roster but was lost track of when he moved from New York to Oregon. He is **Robert Mauer** now of Tigard, Oregon which is just outside of Portland. Please send him some of the late copies of the Bulletin. Just spoke to him for the first time in 40 years. He said he hadn't been receiving the Bulletins but that he had been getting cards from our Sunshine Lady. I would appreciate it if you would send me the address for **James Ford**.

**Jacob Stark, Jr.**, 691 Dunkle Street, Enhaut, Steelton, Pennsylvania 17113 — H-273rd: My Company H, 273rd buddy passed away. **Roger Roden** transferred to H-273rd and we were always together for 18 months. We were like brothers and went overseas together. He was getting ready to go hunting and passed away suddenly. I went to the viewing and my wife and I went to the funeral. We would see each other from time to time, as he only lived 5 miles from me. When **Ray Szkudlarek** came to visit, the two of us would visit him. He was just getting ready to retire. Hope this finds you in the best of health.

**David Cohen**, 8801 Eton Avenue, #131, Canoga Park, California 91304 — Hq., 2nd Bn., 271st: I would like to join the 69th Infantry Division Association. I served with Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 271st, until they sent us elsewhere

if we did not have enough points at the time. I would appreciate it if you would send me information about joining, dues, etc.

**Robert I. Bassindale**, 222 Fairfield Avenue, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126 — H-272nd: Enclosed is a check for \$10.00 for my contributory membership dues, and one for \$15.00 which is my donation to the 69th monument fund. I hope this dues payment will get me a copy of the current News Bulletin. I enjoyed our phone chat. No question about it, I & H companies were very close together. Hope everything is going well with you and the Association, and that I'll get to see you at the Mississippi Reunion.

**John Oplt**, 1617 Schobert Drive, Swansea, Illinois 62221 — D-273rd: In the Bulletin, and the article on Leipzig, the author was really on the ball with facts. He mentioned a heavy weapons outfit that came up, which I believe was D-Company. The officer in charge was **Lieutenant Robert McCarty**. Reason I say this is I believe I was the one who was snoring and got my butt kicked several times that night by **Sergeant Casdorff**. He was up in front on our group. I was the third ammo bearer in the back, and I sure caught hell over it. It wasn't funny at the time.

**Raymond L. Johnson**, P.O. Box 129, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee 38578 — Service Co., 272nd: I would like to become a member of the 69th Infantry Division Association. I was a member of Service Company, 272nd Infantry Regiment, during 1943, 1944 and 1945. Please send me a membership application and the quarterly publications.

**James H. Walker**, P.O. Box 457, LaCenter, Kentucky 42056 — A-272nd: I received my 69th Bulletin and have read it from "fore to aft" as usual. I read with much interest the article by **Granger Tripp**, "Near War's End" and "Leipzig." That brought back many memories for I too was there. Alas, the picture of Company A, 272nd Infantry Regiment. I am in the picture but because of the reduced size, I can't find me. I wonder if there is any way that I can get a copy of that picture and a roster.

My wife and I attended the reunion held in Lexington, Kentucky as our first one, and really enjoyed it. We are looking forward to going to Biloxi and Camp Shelby in September. I am retired now and have the opportunity to go as I choose. I am enclosing my dues and some additional for postage.

I am waiting impatiently for the new History Book to be out. I sent pictures and my autobiography in at the beginning. Since it is being published in Paducah, Kentucky, 20 miles from my home, I'll probably be pounding on their door. I would like to find out how to get a copy of the original History Book.

**James P. Chappell**, P.O. Box 423, West Point, Georgia 31833 — E-271st: I am enclosing a check for dues for the next five years and also a donation for the Monument Fund. This is the first time that I hope to be able to attend the Reunion and I am looking forward to seeing a lot of the people that I was in the service with. Enclosed is a transcript from my service records. I would like to have as much information as possible on Company E of the 271st Infantry Regiment. If you have any information at all, please send it to me, as I would like to hear about them.

**Roy C. Smith**, 1182 Monticello Highway, Eatonton, Georgia 31024 — C-879th: Enclosed are my dues for 1990-1991. I am always glad when I receive a Bulletin. They bring back so many memories to me. I entered the Soldiers Monument in Leipzig a few days after it had been secured. An unexploded artillery shell was still hanging in one of the windows. Most of the German soldiers escaped harm by being down in the basement. We began firing on Eilenburg

(Continued on Page 4)

## NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

*(Continued from Page 3)*

early one morning, and what was unusual was we continued firing all day. We only stopped long enough to swab the tube of our 105 with water to keep it from getting too hot. From our gun position we could see several large windmills, the kind one usually associates with Holland. I want to compliment those of you who put out the Bulletin. You are doing a great job.

**Jerome Ghedotti**, 25672 29th South, Kent, Washington 98032 — A-273rd: The last time I heard from you people was in 1985. I served with the 69th in A-Company, 273rd Infantry Regiment and would like to hear what is going on. My new address is in Kent, Washington. I would like to get in touch with former members of my Unit.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: When Mr. Ghedotti moved from Detroit to Kent he did not provide us with a forwarding address and neither did the Post Office.)*

**Richard J. Hopkins, Jr.**, 1511 Waterwheel Drive, Apt. 7, Sacramento, California 95833 — F-273rd: Something told me to write a letter to the Association today. Two months ago we were at Valley Forge with the annual Reunion. Inform all the members who were in charge that it was very professionally handled. One could tell that many years of experience showed through. This was the first Reunion that I and my wife attended. We were overwhelmed by the number in attendance. It was delightful to see after 45 years: **Sam Woolf**, **Tom Graves**, **Walt Scherer**, **Gil Clark**, **Dick Israel**, **Jack Fain** and **Walt Hairpain**. **Bill Ross** appeared briefly one day, but I don't believe he registered. It is amazing the standing bond between Army buddies. We all learned a good lesson together. I often wished that I still had my Army Training Manual. Perhaps someone in the Association still has one. I am proud to feel that my 69th buddies are still a "First Class Group."

**Arthur Lee Hall**, 20140 N.E. Sandy Boulevard, Troutdale, Oregon 97060 — B-273rd: I served with B-Company of the 273rd Infantry Regiment. I would like to join your organization and enclosed is my check for one year's dues. I would like to attend the Reunion in Biloxi, Mississippi coming up in September.

**Phyllis E. Carnes**, 3214 Brookfield Road, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109 — Widow A.T., 272nd: Enclosed is a check for \$100 in memory of my husband, **John**. He had a massive stroke on September 10th which left him paralyzed on the right side and loss of speech. He seemed to do very well until they moved him to a therapy unit. He had two falls and the second one caused his death. He was not strapped in like he should have been. He was buried at Indiantown National Cemetery. We were never able to attend other reunions but I had talked him into attending the one this year. He always felt that he wouldn't get to see anyone that he had served with.

He was with the 69th from activation to deactivation. He had many pictures that I will send along to you sometime. He was so proud of the 69th. He had a small 69th Division tie tac or lapel pin which was on his suit when he was buried. Would there be any chance of getting another one of them? Would you please let me know. Hope you have your largest attendance at Shelby and I'm sorry that we missed them all.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: I don't know if the tie tac or lapel pin is still available. Frank Nemeth of 66 Gaping Rock Road, Levittown, Pennsylvania, is the souvenir custodian and he could let you know.)*

**Samuel M. Talley**, 1911 Princeton Avenue, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011 — M-271st: The enclosed newspaper clipping came to me from a friend of mine who lives in

Clarksdale, Mississippi. He lives on Shelby Drive. He was not a 69er, but knew that I had been at Camp Shelby years ago. It appears that the Camp will be getting more use, until the Mid-East confrontation comes to a conclusion. Just recently a young man from here in Camp Hill died of burns caused by a truck wreck. Thought you might like to see this clipping.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Talley's clipping appears elsewhere in this issue. It was also sent in by Bill Sheavly. Apparently, Mr. Talley also sent it to him and he sent it to us. See the section Division Meetings Across the U.S. under Company M 271st Infantry.)*

**J. N. Conner**, 3171 Dallas Road, S.W., Marietta, Georgia 30064 — C-881st: Just a short note to let you know that I have relocated another former member of our Battery. He is **Pleas Reed Copas** of Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee. Please send him the information that he needs to become a member of the Division Association. Also any information about the Reunion in September at Biloxi, Mississippi.

**Edward Dragositz**, 96 Bellis Road, Milford, New Jersey 08848 — H-273rd: Recently I received a phone call from **Charles Lock** who is a member of your Association. He gave me your address and said that you could give me more information. I am a former member of Company H, 273rd Infantry Regiment from 1943 to 1945. I would appreciate any information that you can send along to me.

**Ralph Becker**, 2695 Edwin Drive, Xenia, Ohio 45385 — 569th Signal Co.: The 569th Signal Company was out in force at the Valley Forge Reunion, with better than 10% participation. The Radio Platoon had over 22%. We have relocated 2 more of our men, namely **Frank Dodd** and **Sanford Hartman**. **Frank** is very ill, but "hanging in there." **Sanford** was a chance meeting in a California restaurant. Our search will continue, and we hope to have more in number at Biloxi.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Becker's pictures of Signal men in attendance appear elsewhere in this issue.)*

**Jack Hartzog**, 204 Ridge Drive, Sikeston, Missouri 63801 — L-273rd: I am a member of the 69th Infantry Division Association and enjoy reading the Bulletins, even though I was only in the 69th for a short time. I was assigned to the 69th only about a month before it left for Camp Kilmer and overseas. I was one of the many who was pulled out after Christmas of 1944 in Basingstroke, England and sent as a replacement to Units that were badly shot up in the Battle of the Bulge.

I need help in finding another 69th Division man who was sent out as a replacement along with me. He is **Cornelius Hinchey**, whom I believe was either a Staff Sergeant or a Tech Sergeant. I do not know what Unit he was in in the 69th. We both ended up in Company F, 310th Infantry Regiment in the 78th Division. He was a fine soldier and received a battlefield commission, which he richly deserved. He was a real leader, showed no fear, thus setting an excellent example for his men.

I have tried to locate him through 78th Division contacts with no success. I have also tried the Order of Battlefield Commissions. He was from Williamsville, New York, just outside of Buffalo. Efforts to find him through relatives there have also failed. I thought perhaps someone from his former 69th Unit might know of his whereabouts.

The reason I want to contact him is that without my knowledge, he recommended me for the Bronze Star Medal which I did not receive until about March of 1946. This was after I was reassigned and I never got to thank him for what he did. Anyone of the Association who might know where I can find him, please contact me at the address above.

*(Continued on Page 5)*

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 4)

Edwin J. Weiss, 2500 Parkview Drive, Apt. 411, Hallandale, Florida 33009 — Hq., 1st Bn., 271st: Thanks for changing your roster to our new Florida address, as I look forward to receiving the Bulletins. I was surprised that your letter said the 69th Division Association has no control of the publishing of the History Book. When the circulars were mailed they used our postage permit with National Headquarters as a return address. The letter was signed by W.R. (Bill) Foster, Jr. Our Division insignia was used. I think it was very misleading and I'm sure others feel the same way waiting so long for the book. I feel something should be done about it.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The latest information that we have received is that everyone is supposed to have the book by the end of August.)

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**THIS MESSAGE IS AN IMPORTANT ONE FOR ALL MEMBERS WHO DESIRE TO CONTINUE RECEIVING OUR MAIL:**

When you make a move, it is imperative that you send National Headquarters a change of address. The Post Office will not hold bulk non-profit mail. They return it to us with a charge of 35¢ per piece, and in most cases, no Address Correction. It is returned with only the phrase, "Temporarily Away." Several returns like this will make our only alternative to remove you from the roster. So the ball is in your court to keep us informed.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MOVING**

Please print your new address below:

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form and your old address label to: National Headquarters, 101 Stephen Street, New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068

Please allow six weeks advance notice.

**John O'Connor Writes:**

Hope this letter finds you in the best of health at this time and you are through with your past miseries. It was nice to see you in Valley Forge and it was nice talking to you and to see you get the award. Congratulations once again.

I was invited by the Secretary of State of the State of Illinois to attend an American-Soviet book fair on September 16th at the State of Illinois building in downtown Chicago and I graciously accepted the invite. Also invited and in attendance were: Joseph Sarna - C Battery, 881st, Alex Glaum - Company E, 271st, and Ralph Plugge - Company G, 271st. We met the Russian representatives and other notables from the State of Illinois including Mr. Jim Edgar who is running for Governor in the coming November election.

It was a nice occasion and my wife Peggy, two of my sons and one daughter also attended. Of course it was a suit type affair but I made sure I brought my 69th jacket and the others had their 69th I.D. tags. For the ribbon cutting ceremony I took off my suit coat and put on the jacket. I was there to advertise the 69th — not books. I am enclosing some pictures and other items which you might be able to use.

One other item to mention to you for the next bulletin: Headquarters Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion will hold a mini-reunion at the Sheraton Hotel in Greensburg, Pennsylvania on July 25, 26, 27 and 28, 1991. For further information contact Stuart McGowan, Route 1, Eagle Bridge, New York 12057 or John O'Connor.

Clarence, we are not forgetting Biloxi in 1991 as there are some of us who will also be going to Biloxi.

Best wishes to Earl and Bob and also to you, Clarence, for the excellent job you do.

Sincerely,  
John O'Connor



American-Soviet Book Fair  
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
September 16, 1990

Left to right: Evgueny Semenkhin, (Russian Representative), Joe Sarna, (881st), John O'Connor, (Headquarters, 880th), Jim Edgar (Secretary of State, Illinois), Ralph Plugge (271st Infantry), Alex Glaum (271st Infantry), Mary Mills (Assistant Secretary).

# Al McMunn and Dave Malchick .... Then and Now



*Al McMunn and Dave Malchick - Camp Shelby 1943  
3rd Battalion, Headquarters Company, 273rd Regiment*



*Dave Malchick and Al McMunn - 1990 Valley Forge Reunion  
Our first meeting in 46 years.*

Pictures furnished by Al McMunn

\*\*\*\*\*

## Company F, 272nd Infantry Regiment at the 1990 King of Prussia, Pennsylvania Reunion



*Seated Left to Right: Jim Henry, Norman Allen, Joe Nunes, Don Fuerst. Standing: Melvin Wardin, Don Rettman, Joe Schaffer, Neil Shields, Charles Boyer, Ed Wade, Bill Herron, Enrico Mercanty, Herb Callaway. Present but not in picture: Lynn Johnson, Frank Cree, Dick Hess.*

Picture furnished by former Company Commander Captain Herb Callaway

# President's Message



Earl E. Witzleb, Jr., *President*  
R. D. #1, Box 477  
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606  
Telephone: 412/455-2901  
Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike

*When passing through the Keystone State, stop and see us. Dottie and me welcome all 69ers in the mountains of Acme-Champion, Pennsylvania "WHERE AMERICA BEGINS."*



*When the flags are waving, (weather permitting), we're home.*

*"Why Cannot Life's Big Problems Come When We Are Twenty And Know Everything????"*

Are you ready for a long note. First let me say before reading any further, stop for a minute of prayer to our Lord and Savior for our forces and allied friends that will be involved in the fast mop up to get it over with for the mad man in Iraq. Shall we pray \_\_\_\_\_ Amen.

Now down to business concerning our 69th Division Association. The reunion will fast approach us with summer coming and September right behind. Remember our reunion dates are September 15 to 22, 1991 at the Mississippi Beach Resort Hotel in Biloxi. It's not a new place, they just changed their name. It used to be the Biloxi Hilton. You should send in your reservations early to the hotel for rooms will become a premium as time gets closer. I might even suggest you double up with a buddy which will save you some expense.

Prices are right this year. You will find near the center of this bulletin all the forms you need. You may tear them out or go have photo copies made if you want to keep your bulletin intact. The events sheet is close by and do send it in early so as not to be left out. A day trip to New Orleans and an afternoon/evening trip is planned but to make sure each of them goes, we must fill at least one bus (46 passengers). That is for each tour or the one short will have to go on the other. Prices are very reasonable for the week.

Maybe right here I should say my poll of officers, directors, and past presidents wishes are that the hospitality room be run for the week at least starting Tuesday with the same set up as other hospitality rooms in previous reunions. That means no charge for beer, soft drinks, or the hard stuff as in the past. Members travel across the country and spend hundreds or even thousands of dollars for this enjoyable week and want to have one with buddies and friends without paying for it.

You will also see a sheet on airline flights which should be sent in with your event sheet. Most of you will have to make one change of airplanes in Memphis, Houston, or Atlanta. I have heard from several members they will make two airplane changes unless they drive, in some cases several hundred miles, to a larger airport. I just hope you all can make the right connections without any trouble or delays so that we do get our large expected attendance.

I am very sorry our reunion week fell in a holiday week (Yom Kippur) which put some stress on our Jewish members. We have tried our best and were able to move the trip to Camp Shelby and the dedication of the monument one day so that they may have a day for travel. I hope this will be of some satisfaction to our Jewish friends and I feel sure it is O.K. as I have heard from many of them who are pleased with the date change. They do want to be with us on dedication day. Once again, this was an oversight since having a reunion in Biloxi had to be out of their summer season and when weather, we hope, will be much cooler for us so that we do not have to be out in the hot sun. Jewish friends and buddies of mine, I am sorry, very sorry this happened.

Now this is what you all want to hear. **HISTORY BOOKS FOR THE 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION SHOULD BE MAILED TO ALL MEMBERS WHO PURCHASED THE BOOK(S) IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST 1991.** You should have your book before our reunion in Biloxi. Crandon Clark, Chairman of the History Book Project, myself, and who else, Dottie, made a trip to Paducah, Kentucky to meet with Turner Publishing Company on January 30th and 31st. We were quite impressed with the set up they have. Dave Turner, President, and Scott Garrett, Editor-Historian, gave us the red carpet treatment. We stayed in the Executive Hotel along the banks of the Ohio River. Turners is the largest Military Publisher in the United States having 20 employees and at least that many more part-time employees doing many phases of their work which is quite a production line. Crandon selected the cover which will show the link-up to end the war in Germany. I picked the color of the book which will be a light blue since other lettering will be of the darker red and blue. A terrific book that should be at least 225 pages.

Our problem was that nothing was done on the book for over a year until my man Crandon got the ball rolling. Scott replaced the original man from Turner who dealt with Past President Bill Foster and signed our agreement at Lexington. I became president and selected Crandon as chairman since in Denver, we made many changes with then Gardner Hatch who has left the company. There are over 900 biographies, 1,000 books sold to date, 1,500 plus pictures including those in the biographies, and at least five maps. Sixteen main units

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*(Continued from Page 7)*

will have space in the book such as the 273rd Infantry, Artillery, 461st AAA, M.P.s and all the others. I am sure when you see this book you will be happy with it and will order more for your children and other friends. I am sure we could have had a book of 500 plus pages but it would have been costly. Turner is doing a fine job on condensing our material. A roster of the members in the 69th as of February 5th will be published with name and unit. No addresses. If you want addresses of any buddy you will have to write either Clarence Marshall, Membership Chairman, Robert Kurtzman, Treasurer, or myself. This roster will be alphabetical by name, last first. Need I say more as Crandon Clark and myself believe it will be the best book published so far by Turner Publishing. Dottie approved the cover and colors.

Due to the lateness of the last bulletin of which I'll take the blame, the deadline was extended to February 15th by Turner. So all I can say is if you didn't do something after you received your last bulletin, sorry, you are too late for our history book. You can still buy history books, as many as you want for the original price and Turner has said it will probably stay at that price for several years, but then it could cost more as time goes by. If you have a copy of the old history book and get this new one, you'll have something that will become priceless in coming years. Each of your children should have a copy of this book from you, daddy. Sign it and date it. Once again, the deadline for the history book has passed so you are too late if you want to do something now. Books will be in the mail in August 1991.

So far I have had almost two exciting years as President. Many events have happened and I only hope they worked out well. I was involved in one. I have had so many letters, notes, post cards, and telephone calls that I was ready to ask the Board of Directors for a secretary in my home town. Dottie has filled the bill perfectly and I do believe we have most everything in order. When we got back from Paducah, I had to go to both post offices with a very big box to get all the mail. Of course, some of it was what you call junk mail. I am still working on some of it at present. I'll catch up with it one of these days.

I was so pleased with all the Christmas cards we received and yearly letters from many. They are enjoyable to read. Our holidays went well as did the New Year. I hope and pray all of yours went the same so we can see each other in Biloxi. Corky and Leonard Halpenny had a most impressive year going on the European trip and meeting over there. They flew across the North Pole both ways and Len was able to pick out his boyhood days area in Canada. Frances and Chuck Yannul keep busy commuting between Virginia and New Jersey. The Ainleys celebrated 41 years of marriage April 15th. Maria and Leroy had a lot going for them workwise but she had to take time caring for her 95 year old mother. Eleanor and Joe Wright keep busy with their usual Ozark activities along with some golf. Barbara and Jim Kidd had to take care of Barb's mother which caused them to miss the Valley Forge Reunion. Now they are in Florida but I guess home now when this arrives. Vernon Tritch sends out his messages to his C-724th Field Artillery members urging them to come to Biloxi in September. He works hard with John Turner to have their mini-reunion with the 69th reunion. Francis Breyette sends out nice letters to his members. Hope you will get them to a 69th reunion some day. He also has a most interesting article starting in this bulletin which will also go in the next two until conclusion. George and Dorothy Hepp had a most exciting year traveling in their home on wheels. One of their highlights was attending the Tri-State weekend in Elyria, Ohio. Lowell and Marjorie find retirement great and are doing some traveling to C-880th members helping one of their

couples celebrate 50 years of marriage. Many, many more. Lowell and Margie are the McFarlians. I could go on and on but I better stop for now.

Sick call finds us with two knee injuries. Bill Beswick has had a knee operation which isn't turning out so good at the present. He hopes he will have it in shape for Biloxi. Anne D'Angelo has had better luck with her knee operation but is still going to therapy three times a week. John Mowrey is getting himself back in shape after heart surgery and plans on being in Biloxi with Arylene. Don Newman from Grantsville, Maryland had a trip to the hospital but haven't heard his results yet. We'll find out in April. Another West Virginian, Vernon Hanlin, is recovering from his heart operation and hopes to be 99% come spring time. Just talked to Jane and she says Jim Lynch is holding his own but she does see him failing slowly. My dad is in a Care Facility holding his own as well as Dottie's dad who is now in a wheel chair with leg problems. For Dottie she is improving nicely and only goes to the chiropractor once a week now. She should be much better for Biloxi as the test going to Paducah proved O.K. except we stopped every two hours for at least a half hour rest. I am fine working hard on the bulletin and trying to be a good President along with my many other gratis duties. We would like to hear from all members when you care to drop us a few lines. I know we are all getting older and sickness is hard to shake at our ages.

Earl Richardson writes they are looking forward to the Tri-State weekend in April and to Biloxi since they missed the Valley Forge reunion when Gertrude fell and ended up with a broken knee cap. I hope she is once again well and back in shape.

We are looking forward to seeing all our sick and handicapped at Biloxi and mini-weekends. REMEMBER OUR NATIONAL WEEK-LONG REUNION THIS SEPTEMBER IN BILOXI SHOULD HAVE PREFERENCE AND FIRST PRIORITY OVER MINI-WEEKENDS. I hope many of you with homes paid for and children married can find yourselves attending both the reunion and a mini-weekend or two. They are all nice to go to. 69ers are all good friendly people in most cases.

Got a note from Chalmer and Reita Pearson, our Vice President, who says he is feeling much better now. Last I heard he went to California to visit his son with Reita in San Francisco. While there, he expected to see our 1993 reunion site at the Airport Marriott with Bob Pierce. Bob is the Reunion Chairman for San Francisco. Then they plan on visiting Chalmer's brother in Texas for several weeks. They probably will be home some time in March.

Direct Mailing Service which sends out our bulletins and dues notices informs Clarence and myself that they made a holiday contribution in the name of the 69th to help develop the cultural district in downtown Pittsburgh. This is the second year they have done this.

I haven't heard from my Ross University committee chairman since literature was mailed out to them and going to all the Past Presidents who is that committee. I wonder where the literature is held up. I hope Bill Matlach and George Gallagher get together soon and make some follow-ups. We need a report for Biloxi. I did hear from Sherman Lawrence, a Past President, on this subject plus my legal advisor, Eugene Butterfield, but will hold releasing their thoughts until I get more information from that committee. I am sure Bill and George heard from these two members also.

I also have letters out to my directors concerning the monument Bill Beswick brought up late at the meeting in Valley Forge. The monument being planned is to be erected in Strela, Germany. They are asking the 69th for \$2,000.00

*(Continued on Page 9)*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
(Continued from Page 8)

to \$8,000.00 to help defray the cost. Bill also sent letters out to Board Members. I too have sent similar letters to our Past Presidents who can just advise me on their thoughts. So far letters are coming in slowly from both Board Members and Past Presidents. The few that I have I'll hold comment until I hear from more and then will get back to Bill Beswick first. Talked to Crandon Clark on this subject when we had a little time at Paducah one evening late expressing my feelings and heard his. We about agree on our thoughts. I will say again Crandon and I did a lot of homework in Paducah with results that pleased both of us.

With the forms sent me from Robert Kurtzman plus his letters, I know all is going well in Biloxi for our reunion in September. I hope to hear from Guy Rogers very soon on the plans for Camp Shelby. I also hope that Jack Duffy has the monument under control and that it will be ready for the dedication. Jack Duffy, Crandon Clark, Guy Rogers and Robert Kurtzman have kept me very busy from Denver to date. Soon I'll become a Past President.

I soon hope to hear from Ray Fahrner concerning the small monument or plaque plus plans on a new dogwood tree at the site in Valley Forge. Ray will get in touch with the Freedoms Foundation as soon as spring arrives in eastern Pennsylvania. My feelings of what I have heard from both the Freedoms Foundation and Ray is that their funds are limited which in time will find that they cannot keep up with the up-keep of that beautiful area of Valley Forge. Ray has said to me several times it would be nice if the 69th could make some kind of a donation to them to help out in a small way. This I am taking under consideration, too.

I have had some inquiries in recent months concerning Life Membership for 69th members. My belief now at this time of our life, life membership would be too costly to ask a member to pay. Even now I feel we would have to ask over \$100.00 which is ten years of a \$10.00 contributory dues. Each time this has been brought up in past years, our membership more or less tabled it as not wanting it. May I say too that a \$5.00 regular dues today doesn't begin to pay for our expenses. Bulletins are bigger which members want and if everyone only paid \$5.00, it would see us only getting one bulletin a year. The membership who pays \$10.00 contributing dues are those who are keeping us going and that just gets us by for three bulletins a year. It's the members who pay extra for bulletins and postage that is keeping our heads above water. I would hate to suggest we raise dues for the increasing cost we are now paying but I would ask and suggest those members of our association who are business people or professional people pay a little more in extra donations. We do and are blessed with a good percentage of those kinds of members and a \$50.00 or \$100.00 donation would mean nothing to them and you know it can be written off on your business.

Bob Pierce writes that he is looking forward to Biloxi and that through the paper he reads that a gambling ship sails from Biloxi. I think this ship is still operating but with our schedule I can't see how we could fit it in as it is an all day trip which is a little costly and goes way out into the Gulf. I think our committee did look into this and didn't think it should be put in our events. They could check it out again but I believe if the ship is still operating members should go to the reunion early and take it on our free day of Monday which has you on your own.

Well members, I have told you a lot as they are doing in Desert Storm on TV. Back our Armed Forces and fly your flags along with the yellow ribbons. When you get time read my letter to each of you through the bulletin several times and let me hear from you as members, your thoughts to my

letter. I always like to keep my members informed which I am doing and also send at least three letters per year to my Directors and Past Presidents plus other key members such as Committee Chairmen and my Legal Advisor. Soon they will be getting number three letter from me as they will have received number two before this bulletin gets in your hands.

Take care, plan for Biloxi, check with buddies of your units, and stay well.

Your President,  
1989 - 1991

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## Thank You Alden 461st AAA Members and 69th Members, Too

Dear President Witzleb,

Even though I have no official capacity to represent the 461st Anti-Aircraft Battalion, (I don't know anyone else who does either), I am writing to make sure that you are aware of our deepest appreciation for your decision to include the name of our battalion on your beautiful Division Monument to be erected at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and to be dedicated Friday, September 20, 1991. One thing I am sure of. I would wager that every single man of the 461st feels just as I do. We are proud indeed to be included with your great division.

I was one of those who was most fortunate in being included in the initial small group who were a part of the group standing on the Elbe, Germany River at Torgau as the Russians came over into the city. The two Russian officers with me were as diverse as you could find. One had arrived from Outer Mongolia, the other from Eastern Russia. Actually, they could understand each other no better than I could understand either of them.

The 461st was an old front line outfit that began its combat that first week of June, 1944 at Omaha Beach. We were attached to a number of fine groups during the days ahead, including the 1st Division. However, no experience was like being attached to the Fighting 69th.

Battery D of the 461st will hold its bi-annual reunion this year at Asheville, North Carolina, June 20, 21,22, meeting at First Baptist Church there. Don't be surprised to see a number of us at Camp Shelby September 20th.

Sincerely,  
(Sergeant) Alden Angline  
5th Gun Section, 2nd Platoon, Battery D  
461st AAA (Aw) Battalion  
34 Forest View Drive  
Asheville, North Carolina 28804



Alden with 2 Russian Officers when we met at Torgau on the Elbe River, Germany, April 25, 1945.

# Former Members of the 569th Signal Company at the Valley Forge Reunion

Pictures Furnished by  
Ralph Becker



*Willard Lantz, Ralph Becker, John Wilson, Carl Fritch, Jack Wilhoit, Frank Fisher*



*First Timer, Julius Tivald - Radio Platoon*



*Joe Kotsko - Construction Platoon*



*George Hepp*



*Don Pierce and Ed Hoskins*

# Treasurer's Message



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

So far 1990-1991 has been a record year for those paying dues and we have surpassed last year's record of 2,168 by 46 as 2,214 have made some kind of contribution, but we still have a ways to go to beat last year's record of 2,541. Perhaps the second dues notice going out the first of February will accomplish this feat. 740 have made contributions to the postage and bulletin fund and with the postage rates taking another jump, it will be needed. The First Timer rate has dropped off from 247 to 126, but perhaps the second notice will shake them up a little.

The 1991 reunion at Biloxi has been taken care of and we're looking for a good turnout. I will not go into the details as other columns have taken care of that.

Vivian and I plan on making a trip to Biloxi in February to tie up all loose ends and will also stop in Hattiesburg and check on the Monument.

Hope this finds you all in the best of health and that you have put a little cash away and are packing your bags and tuning up the old Flivver for the trip to Biloxi and Camp Shelby.

Do get your reservations for the Hotel and activities in EARLY.

**Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.**  
*Treasurer*

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## "A Word to the Wise Should be Sufficient"

The 1991 Biloxi Reunion site was selected as the closest and nicest facility we could obtain at a reasonable price and also to keep from traveling a longer distance to Camp Shelby.

We have been told that no one wants to go to Biloxi as there's nothing there. We feel that you will have a joyful time and the accommodations are fine and we have over 425 rooms at the Headquarters Hotel and we're right across the road from the beach and also have a pool in the rear.

We do have one drawback and that is, **WE CAN ONLY SEAT 750 AT THE BANQUET ON SATURDAY EVENING** which would be the largest ever since only 730 were at Valley Forge.

**THEREFORE** we suggest you make your reservations early as you could be **SHUT OUT**.

Reservations will be on a first come basis and once the 750 total is reached, late reservations will have the option of a refund in full or no seat at the banquet. This policy will be strictly adhered to once the 750 has been attained.

Once the 750 banquet seats are sold, a waiting list will be kept and you will be notified. We therefore ask you to **GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN EARLY** for both the activities and the Hotel as the deadline is August 15th, 1991.

Other Military Units adhere to a strict deadline and do not give a refund if you cancel out. We have been very generous in giving refunds, but find that most don't even bother to inform us at all.

This year we will continue to give refunds, **BUT ONLY IF WE ARE NOTIFIED ONE WEEK BEFORE** September 15th, 1991. If you do not notify us before that date, 30% will be **DEDUCTED** from your refund.

Last year there were 66 guests at Valley Forge. Since this is strictly a 69th Association affair, we may restrict guests from attending the banquet if the 750 total is reached and we have members on the waiting list.

**Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.**  
**Merle E. Douglas**  
*Reunion Chairpersons*

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## Bob Myers Receives Letter from "Beemer" Herring

For those of you who attended our annual reunions prior to 1981, you should remember the **Chuck Herring Family** who were in attendance every year. **Beemer** is their son. He is now a Captain in the U.S. Army and stationed in Saudi Arabia. He passes along the following comments.

It is starting to get real busy now that other Corps are coming in. I never knew how much fuel helicopters and M-1 tanks burned till I got here. They drink jet fuel like it is water. Believe it or not fuel is cheaper than water here. I wanted to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I will miss my family greatly during this season, but I am a dedicated soldier, ready for any sacrifice to be made. Many others have come before me and there will be many after I am gone. I salute all soldiers, past - present - and future. Have a great holiday.

Anyone wishing to write to **Beemer**, his address is as follows:

**Captain Curtis W. Herring**  
245-13-7478  
4th MMC, 13th Cos Com (Cement City)  
APO New York, New York 09657

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**NOTICE:**  
**DO NOT SEND XEROX COPIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS.**  
If you send the originals, they will be returned to you after publication. If you are afraid to send us your originals, go to your local printer and ask him to make you a velox or some form of the original that is printable. If you send us Xerox copies of your photos, we cannot guarantee that they will be in the Bulletin. They do not reproduce well at all.

# Important Notice to All 1991 Biloxi Reunion Attendees

Due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control we have lost 120 rooms at the Mississippi Beach Resort Hotel.

The new owners in the process of renovating the Hotel Complex and the required removal of ASBESTOS found slight structural damage in the six Cabanas surrounding the pool area and rather than repair, they decided it would be cheaper to tear them down and rebuild. This meant a loss of 120 rooms.

They have procured 120 rooms a block away thus bringing our total rooms back to the 425 we originally had contracted for.

All reservations will still be sent to the Mississippi Beach Resort Hotel as your reservation form shows. This means that the first 180 reservations received will be staying in the Headquarters Hotel, the next 125 will be staying at the Days Inn next door and the remaining 120 will be assigned to either the Travel Lodge or the Royal D'Iberville, so you can see that the first 305 reservations will be in the immediate area and the rest will be within walking distance, but about a block away.

IT'S UP TO YOU TO DECIDE WHERE YOU WANT TO STAY BY GETTING YOUR RESERVATIONS IN EARLY.

We are sorry for this inconvenience to those of you registering late.

**Bob Kurtzman**  
**Merle Douglas**  
*Chairpersons*

**Earl's Note:** A wise decision would be to reserve your hotel room before you set this bulletin aside. Either tear out the proper page or go get a photo copy, fill it in immediately, make a check out for the first night, put a 29¢ stamp on the envelope and mail it to the Mississippi Beach Resort Hotel before day's end. This way you will be one of the first to register and remember, you always get a refund if an emergency happens so it's easier to cancel than to be too late and left out.

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# Golfers, Duffers and Goofers Take Notice

We have made arrangements for you to hold the annual "Chuck Herring Golf Tournament" at the Sunkist Country Club in Biloxi.

Realizing that we also have our Executive Board Meeting in the morning and the Early Bird Buffet in the evening we have set up 12 tee times starting at 11:30 a.m. with the last one at 12:36 p.m.

Please make a note on your activities reservation to me that you wish to participate and if the count exceeds, we will advise the Sunkist Country Club for additional tee times.

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# Clarence Marshall Receives a Cheerful Visit from Some of his 69th Buddies



Clarence Marshall, our Membership Chairman received a visit from some of his 69th buddies during a recent stay in Citizens General Hospital in New Kensington, Pennsylvania.

From left to right: Lowell McFarlin, Robert Williams, Alex Kormas, Clarence Marshall and Enrico D'Angelo.

\*\*\*\*\*



"This must be the joint."

**LADIES AUXILIARY BULLETIN MATERIAL AND PICTURES SHOULD BE MAILED TO: DOROTHY (DOTTIE) A. WITZLEB**  
**P.O. Box 69 Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069**  
**or R.D. 1, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606**  
**Telephone: 412/455-2901 should you need information in a hurry.**

# THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE



by — Dottie Witzleb  
Ladies Auxiliary Editor  
P.O. Box 69

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Virginia Weston, *Chaplain*  
173 Tanglewood East  
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Auxiliary Officers, will you please complete your address by sending me your telephone number and also please send me a picture of yourself for publication since this is the new angle Earl wants to install. He, as well as others, would like to see what you look like. He is now asking everyone who sends in a write up to send a picture of themselves or even the family.

\* \* \* \* \*

## THANK YOU,

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks and deep gratitude to our many friends of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division for their phone calls, floral tributes, cards, and other expressions of sympathy at the loss of our loving husband and father, Clifford C. Blank.

Wife Dolly, Daughter Janelle  
and Son, Clifford, Jr.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Hi Ladies,

Amid all the hustle and bustle and preparation we hope you all enjoyed a wonderful holiday with family and friends. Our wish for you in 1991 is that it will be one filled with good health and prosperity and that your fondest wish comes true.

We had a wonderful holiday with all the children and the grandchildren celebrating with us. We stay busy with family, church and community activities.

In my last letter I did not report on the excellent participation of you ladies at our annual meeting. There were 170, a record for attendance. Let's try to do even better in '91. Several of you ladies expressed an interest in being an officer of the Auxiliary. Send me your name and the office you are interested in serving. Also if you have any suggestions in regard to the meeting, please send those. Thanks to Bob Kurtzman for taking care of our finances. He does a great job for the Association.

With winter here I hope all you ladies are busy with your bibs, robes, bedroom shoes and etc. Our vets always are so appreciative of these personal articles.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in September at Biloxi, Mississippi. Take care.

God Bless,  
Ellen Snidow

Ladies Auxiliary President

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Dottie,

I just learned of the 69th Infantry Division "retirees" last year by a gentleman with whom I grew up and went to the service with on the same day in 1943. This gentleman is Galen W. Carney of R.D. #1, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. I was placed in the 724th Field Artillery Headquarters and Galen was put into the Infantry. I do not know which Infantry Battalion he was with.

It is very difficult for me to attend any of the reunions for several reasons. My wife, Elsie, had nine strokes, five heart attacks and is epileptic. I personally have some medical problems as most of us do. I also am the President of the Greater Johnstown Chapter Morality in Media, an organization that is very much involved with the battle to remove pornography from our midst. I also have been involved with the missing children program for some eight years now. I did forget to mention that I have been with the Morality in Media for perhaps eighteen years. Sorry to say it, but our organization is working on no budget, moneys come from our own pockets.

I had to leave work in the Bethlehem Steel Corporation in 1975 because of my health.

We did live through the 1977 flood here in Johnstown. If you have never seen a flood, it is some traumatic experience, believe me. We had water clear up to our ceilings on the first floor and we spent the night on our second floor with the water just about six inches from coming into the second floor.

We will send a contribution as soon as possible. One reason I cannot attend any of the reunions is, the last week of October is Pornography Awareness Week and we are disseminating White Ribbons throughout the community. Incidentally, the White Ribbon campaign started in Butler, Pennsylvania a short time again, four years, by a lady by the name of Norma Norris. This program has grown to the magnitude that it encompasses the entire United States, Canada, and Australia this past year. There were millions of White Ribbons flying this past year.

(Continued on Page 14)

**THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE**

*(Continued from Page 13)*

Yes, I still do many of the functions of the ministry, this I will not give up.

Thank you and may God richly bless you.

Yours truly,  
Rev. Harry D. Michaels, Sr.  
Rev. H. Dean Michaels, Sr.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Hi Gals,**

At this time of unrest with our troops (Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force along with the Coast Guard, I do believe) joined with Allied Forces in carrying out an order of the United Nations, I should hope that all 69th members and families are flying the United States of America flag each day weather permitting. If you fly it at night make sure a light shines on it. We are 100% behind our troops in the Persian Gulf. Why not display the yellow ribbons at the same time showing our concern. Myself, I would like you all to really display three ribbons, yellow, red and white. Yellow is for our troops overseas, red is for mothers against drunk drivers and white is for cleaning up pornography. I hope all you mothers even though your children are grown, along with your husbands, will support and back these three ribbons. At least you now have grandchildren that you should be concerned about in these days of troubled America.

Earl and I got through a very nice holiday season including Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year of 1991. We do hope and pray that yours was the same and that 1991 will be nice to all of us with good health and happiness. We too hope that it brings all of us some success in being able to save a few dollars so that we might all be together at the Mississippi Beach Resort Hotel (The Old Biloxi Hilton) for time is passing by quickly and I am sure all the men in particular would like to see each other another time and hopefully many, many more times before death do us part. It would be nice to see more first timers than regulars and I do want to see all regulars attending 100%.

Those of you who have been to reunions and had the time to pick up buddies names from your units out of the 69th roster that is displayed at the registration room, please do write them and urge them to come to the southern reunion at Biloxi. I am sure if they come once, they'll be back again and again. In fact, it really takes two or three reunions for everyone to find their way around meeting buddy members from your unit and also meeting new friends from other units.

May I suggest if finances are getting tight, you do have friends now that you could double up with. Most rooms have two double or queen size beds in them and the cost would be cut in half except for the activities that you plan on taking in. In the past I have seen several couples sharing and again too, room rates are low this year, \$55.00 plus 8% tax which equals \$59.40 per night. If you can share with a friend, cut that in half and you can be with us all week. I am sure that at the end as reunion time draws near, rooms will be at a premium so I am sure our officers will not care if you do double up this year in Biloxi.

The activity events sheet looks real good and the prices are right. You do have a choice of going to New Orleans on Wednesday as a day trip or you can go as an afternoon/evening trip. You'll see some of the night life on the latter. In this bulletin are the forms you need near the centerfold with the hotel sheet going to the hotel in Biloxi, the event sheet going to our or should I say your Treasurer, and the airline sheet going to the Treasurer. You can send the last two together. You will note on the airlines sheet you will probably have to make one change in flying to Gulfport and then take

the van to Biloxi. This is one spot on our reunion week that could be troublesome to some of you members. Earl has already heard from several who will have to make at least two changes of planes unless they drive a considerable distance to a larger airport to start their trip. This I know is the best that could be done flying to Biloxi but I am sure it won't be all that bad.

I do hope our Jewish friends and members will be able to take advantage of the extra day in going back to Camp Shelby for the dedication of the 69th monument so that they may be present for it. We are sorry that reunion week was picked on one of your holy holidays (Yom Kippur) but wanting to go when the weather wasn't too hot and the summer season over in Biloxi, this was the best that could be done. Earl has received many notes and telephone calls from our Jewish members thanking him that this was done so that they could make it to the reunion. In most cases, I am sure you'll have to fly but you'll be with us for the dedication.

We were so happy to receive so many Christmas cards from members, many of them we have never seen at a reunion with notes and some with letters with how 1990 went for them. I do hope this will be our year to meet and especially all you southerners coming to Biloxi in full strength. We were somewhat disappointed in the easterners on their showing at Valley Forge last year. Remember, this could be the last time a reunion will be held in your area for how many more are there especially for members, not auxiliary members. Next year it will be in San Francisco and in 1993 at Rochester, New York. If you take all the other areas of the United States it may never get back in the area of where you live. Earl has a member working on Nashville, Tennessee which could be in 1994 and hopes to have a member work on a reunion in Asheville, North Carolina for a future reunion. So you see this year, I do stress southerners from Florida, the Carolinas, Georgia, Texas and all the southern mid-west states, make your best efforts to attend Biloxi. So many letters have come to Earl saying we had planned to come to a reunion but decided to wait one more year and one more year never came because John and Joe and Bill and Ed and Steve and Mike and many more didn't make next year.

Ladies, I don't know how your winter was but ours has been great. You could almost say we have had Florida weather this winter but we are getting the rain that Florida isn't. I hope it hasn't stopped many of you from making lap robes and other items for our Veterans that are in a veterans hospital in the Biloxi-Hattiesburg-Jackson area of Mississippi. If you didn't start, it's time to get making them because last year over 50 of them plus other items were distributed at the veterans hospital in Coatsville, Pennsylvania. Let's keep doing more and more for our disabled Veterans as many of them don't even have family any more.

Well, may I just say have a nice summer, enjoy yourselves, and do make plans for coming to Biloxi and Hattiesburg. I'll have another message in the next bulletin so I better save some talk for it. Remember to remember our armed and allied forces over in the Gulf. Looking forward to seeing you all in September and make sure your husband pays your dues. They are only \$2.00, so it's a bargain.

Dottie

\*\*\*\*\*



*Proud to be  
an American  
Veteran!*

# HOWITZER AL, YOUR SUPPLY SERGEANT SEZ NOW IS THE TIME TO "WEAR OUR 69th COLORS." *Back Our Boys Over There Now.*

**HERE IS YOUR ORDER FORM, USE IT, OR MAKE A COPY,  
AND GET YOUR CHECK INTO THE MAIL ASAP.**

NYLON COACH JACKETS - Blue or Red ..... Quantity \_\_\_\_ \$16.00 \_\_\_\_  
Circle One: Blue Red Sizes: S M L XL XXL

GOLF SHIFTS - Short sleeves w/pocket - White Only ... Quantity \_\_\_\_ \$10.00 \_\_\_\_  
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CAPS — Blue or Red (Adjustable) ..... Quantity \_\_\_\_ \$ 5.00 \_\_\_\_  
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GOLF CAPS — With "Scrambled Eggs" - White Only ... Quantity \_\_\_\_ \$ 7.00 \_\_\_\_

All orders shipped with a U.P.S. charge of ..... \$ 3.00 \_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_

**ALL MERCHANDISE SCREEN PRINTED WITH OUR LOGO**

**Mail Your Orders To Your Supply Sergeant: HOWITZER AL KORMAS**

Headquarters Battery, 879th Field Artillery Battalion

12500 Edgewater Drive, #503, Lakewood, Ohio 44107

Phone: 216/228-2084

Your Supply Sergeant just got a TWX from Ernie P. Lewis, 269th Engineer, shouting I need new merchandise, mine is all worn out. In all your service days, have you ever found a supply sergeant begging for orders from you for merchandise. Just got a TWX again from John O'Connor, Headquarters, 880th, demanding two new shirts - his are worn out. These are my kind of GIs. I told the first sergeant, give these two a 3 day pass.

We thought ours was the last war, but this is the third one since. Wear the 69th colors, back our boys over there. And all turn out at Camp Shelby for the monument dedication, which will be our heritage for the future. We are all in this association for the camaraderie and hardships, blood, sweat and tears that we who lived through it were fortunate. Again, it is very important now to wear our colors to show our support, and may God watch over our Troops.

**GET THAT ORDER IN NOW!**



## How Correct Is Vernon Hanlin? Headquarters, 271st

*This picture was taken in Kassel, Germany, the year 1945. The picture shows two Red Cross girls. On the left is Al Carbonari, in the middle is Freuhauffer, and on the right is Bradford.*

*Any comments from any of you buddies of Hanlin would be appreciated.*

# Colonel Louie Rogers (Ret.) Sent Us These Old Shots

99 North Main 609 — Memphis, Tennessee 38103



*General Reinhardt awards the Bronze Star Medal to Pfc. William McDonald of the 273rd Regiment. First medal issued while the Division C.P. was at Murringin.*



*February 1945. 461st AAA machine gun emplacement at Murringin, Belgium.*



*February 1945. Division C.P. at Murringin, Belgium. Division Artillery 105 Section in their initial firing position.*



*February 1945. Division Artillery 155 Howitzer section of the 724th Field Artillery in firing position at Murringin.*



*Red Cross donut girls serve in reserve area of the 272nd Infantry Regiment at Murringin, Belgium.*



*Honor Platoon of 69th Division at Parade Rest during flag raising ceremonies, Ft. Ehrenbreitstein, Germany.*

# Annual Meeting of Officers and Board of Directors 69th Infantry Division Assn. August 15, 1990 Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

President Witzleb called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with 27 Board members present. Invocation was given by President Witzleb. Pledge of Allegiance by all Board members. In the absence of Joe Wright, the Parliamentarian, President Witzleb appointed George Gallagher to the position. He also appointed John Moriarty to Sergeant of Arms in the absence of Carl Miller. Board members were asked to stand and it was noted 10 were present, enough for a quorum. Past Presidents were asked to stand; there were 3 present.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT** — Minutes of the 1989 Denver meeting were read. Since there were no questions, they were approved as read.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** — Bob Kurtzman issued the financial report to the members and explained same; approved as read.

**AUDITOR'S REPORT** — Tony Keller was not present.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** — President Witzleb stated that he had sent out 3 letters to the Board members to keep them up to date plus his letters in the Bulletin.

**COMMITTEE'S REPORT** — Living Tree and Monument at Valley Forge Freedoms Foundation - Chairman Ray Fahrner gave a fine report on the dogwood tree and 69th monument.

**CAMP SHELBY MONUMENT MEMORIAL** — Chairman Jack Duffy gave a thorough report and passed out sheets with a detailed drawing shown of the monument. After a long discussion of the wording on the monument, a motion was made to bring this before the membership for the changes on the monument; seconded and so carried. Motion by Bob Kurtzman if any overage of monies from the monument, it be given to the Camp Shelby Museum; seconded Alex Kormas and so carried.

**OVERSEAS FLOWER FUND** — Secretary reported on all the 69ers and attached units buried overseas. After this year's decorations, there will be \$371.68 left in the fund. John Moriarty will look into establishing a perpetual fund.

**REUNION REPORT** — Co-Chairman Frank Nemeth reported on the membership in attendance at that time and on the one tour which was conducted.

**GOLF TOURNAMENT** — Chalmer Pearson reported everything is set and the members were still signing up.

**HISTORY BOOK** — Chairman Crandon Clark reported that the book will be published shortly, around January or February, 1991. Each member will get another last chance to send photos and write-ins. So far, 472 members have sent in.

**RESOLUTIONS - BY-LAWS** — No Report.

**BULLETIN REPORT** — Co-Editor Clarence Marshall reported they plan to publish 3 more issues in the next 12 months.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT** — Chairman Clarence Marshall reported the membership stayed the same at 5,700. We replaced all those in Taps with new members.

Motion by Frank See to make General Bolte's children Associate Members; seconded Jack Duffy and so carried.

Motion by Jack Duffy to present to Camp Shelby Museum the 4 Star Flag of General Bolte in 1991; seconded Joe Loudon.

Motion by Bob Kurtzman to put 3 Regimental Plaques, 271st, 272nd, 273rd in Camp Shelby Museum if approved by membership; seconded Jake Stark and so carried.

**SOUVENIRS** — Alex Kormas reported on Jacket and Shirt sales and said the mail orders are still coming in and being taken care of. Frank Nemeth reported on being the new souvenir man and expects some new items.

**BILOXI REUNION** — Chairman Bob Kurtzman stated he has 437 rooms for September 15th to 22nd at \$55.00 and tours are in place and all set.

**FUTURE REUNION SITES** — Vice-President Chalmer Pearson reported that two sites are being considered. They are Rochester, New York by Jack Duffy and San Francisco, California by Bob Pierce. Both members gave a fine presentation of their sites. Motion by Frank See to go with the recommendations of the site committee; seconded Boyd Ellsworth and so carried.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** — Joseph Nunes reported in the absence of Chairman Fred Collet and stated his report will be given to the General Meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE** — None.

**OLD BUSINESS** — None.

**NEW BUSINESS** — None.

**GOOD OF THE DIVISION ASSOCIATION** — Nothing.

**HONORARIUM REPORT** — Chairman Frank See reported that everything is set to present Clarence Marshall with his special plaque at the banquet. He also stated that it should be done in the proper manner.

Motion to adjourn by Alex Kormas, seconded Jim Eibling and so carried at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Frank C. Nemeth  
Executive Secretary

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# Annual Meeting of the General Membership 69th Infantry Division Assn. August 18, 1990 Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

President Witzleb called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Invocation was given by Co-Chaplain William Snidow. Pledge of Allegiance by the membership.

Introduction of Vice-President Chalmer Pearson, All First Timers, The Board of Directors, All Past Presidents in Attendance, Parliamentarian, Joe Wright, Legal Advisor, Eugene Butterfield, Sergeants-of-Arms, Carl Miller and James Moody, Photographer, Chester Yastrzemski.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT** — Minutes of the 1989 Denver meeting were read. Stand as read and approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** — Bob Kurtzman reported on monies collected and spent, no questions, stands as read and approved.

**AUDITOR'S REPORT** — Tony Keller reported that all monies collected are in the proper place and the books are

(Continued on Page 18)

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
AUGUST 18, 1990, VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA  
(Continued from Page 17)**

all correct. Motion by **Walt Doernbach** to give a nice round of applause to **Treasurer Bob Kurtzman** for a job well done. Seconded **Alex Kormas**, so carried.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** — **President Witzleb** stated that he had sent out three letters, plus a special letter to all Board Members, to keep them well informed. He also stated that his write-ups in the Bulletin to the membership kept everyone informed.

**Introduction of David Bolte**, son of **General Bolte**, who was with us at this reunion.

**CAMP SHELBY MONUMENT MEMORIAL** — **Chairman Jack Duffy** gave a fine report on the monument and thanked all who worked on this committee. Passed out copies of what the monument will look like. Motion by **Irv Gotkin** that the wreath remain around the 69th Insignia, seconded **Bill Sheavly** and so carried. Motion by **Joe Giglietta** to leave the words "Fighting" 69th Infantry Division Association on the monument, seconded **Walt Doernbach**, so carried. Motion by **Joe Giglietta**, we do not specify ourselves as "BBB's," seconded **Gaylord Thomas** and so carried. Motion by **Bill Beswick**, with the corrections as made and being the one that had the money appropriated of \$8,000.00, we accept it as presented now, seconded **John Fox** and so carried.

**OVERSEAS FLOWER FUND** — **Secretary** reported on all the overseas graves and the decorations that are made. Motion by **Bill Beswick**, seconded **George Gallagher** and so carried.

**REUNION SITE REPORT** — **Co-Chairman Dan Evers** gave a fine report on the Tours and Shows.

**GOLF REPORT** — **Chairman Chalmer Pearson** thanked **Jim Boris** for all his help in running the golf tournament. A record of 49 golfers, men and women played and prizes were awarded to the winners.

**HONORARIUM** — **Chairman Frank See** reported everything is in place for the presentation to **Clarence Marshall** at the banquet and thanks all for their help on the committee.

**HISTORY BOOK** — **Chairman Crandon Clark** reported that the book will be out in January or February, 1991, and so far we have 463 biographies turned in and we ordered 472 books. The new deadline will be December 1, 1991, and anyone with unit histories, please send them in.

**RESOLUTIONS AND BY-LAWS** — **Chairman Pat Lushbaugh** proposed these changes to the Constitution and By-Laws in the form of a motion.

**ARTICLE IV**

The management of the Association shall be a **President**, **Vice-President**, **Secretary**, **Treasurer**, and a **Board of Directors** not to exceed thirty (30).

**ARTICLE I, SECTION V**

The **Board of Directors** shall consist of the **President**, **Vice-President**, **Secretary**, **Treasurer**, and those members not to exceed thirty (30), elected by the membership, with ten (10) being elected each year to serve a three year term. Membership shall include a representative from each unit as outlined in **ARTICLE II, SECTION II**. The **Board of Directors** during intervals between reunions, shall carry out the policies adapted by the Association. The **Board** shall have the authority to designate the time place of each **Annual Reunion** (subject to the approval of the **General Membership** at the annual reunion). The **Board** shall have the authority to set the amount of membership dues. Motion seconded by **Walt Doernbach** and so carried.

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE** — **Chairman Bob Kurtzman** reported that we have one more payment to make and it will be closed out. One girl did drop out this past year.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** — **Chairman Clarence Marshall** reported we still have 5,700 members, lost 100 to taps but all 100 were replaced with new members on the roster.

**SOUVENIRS** — **Alex Kormas** reported he had jackets and shirts and is waiting for mail orders to come in so the members will be dressed in 69th shirts at the reunion. **Frank Nemeth** reported he will have a new line of 69th souvenirs at the **Biloxi** reunion.

**BILOXI REUNION, 1991** — **Chairman Bob Kurtzman** reported that things are lined up for the **Biloxi Hilton** on **September 15th to 22nd** and tour and trip to **Camp Shelby** is set up.

**FUTURE REUNION SITES** — **Chairman Chalmer Pearson** reported two sites were presented to the committee at their meeting, one from **San Francisco** and one from **Rochester, New York**. Motion by **John Fox** to go to **San Francisco** in 1992 and **Rochester, New York** in 1993, seconded **Frank See** and so carried.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** — **Chairman Joseph Nunes**, 272nd Infantry, presented the following slate for **Directors** for 1992-1993:

- 271st Infantry ..... **Frank Carey**
- 272nd Infantry ..... **Joseph Shaffer**
- 273rd Infantry ..... **Edward Lucci**
- Divarty ..... **Phil Colombo**
- Division Headquarters ..... **Clarence Marshall**
- 269th Engineers ..... **Walter Holmlin**
- 661st Tank Destroyers ..... **Joseph Jennie**
- 369th Medical Battalion ..... **None**
- 461st AAA ..... **None**

Motion by **Walt Doernbach**, seconded **Bill Sheavly** and so carried.

**OLD BUSINESS** — **None.**

**NEW BUSINESS** — **None.**

Motion by **Ernie Rowe** that the record show the appreciation of the Association for all those who, over the years, made possible this remarkable achievement of 43 consecutive annual reunions, seconded and so carried.

**Bill Beswick** spoke of a statue to be erected below **Torgau** showing a **GI/RED Soldier** meeting on the banks of the **Elbe River**. Motion to leave it up to management on the statue, seconded and so carried.

Motion to adjourn **Irv Gotkin**, seconded **Dan Evers** and so carried.

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

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**HAVE A NEW MEMBER?  
HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?**

This should be mailed to:  
**CLARENCE MARSHALL**  
101 Stephen Street  
New Kensington, PA 15068

# Troop Linkup Recalled By Former Councilman

THE CUMBERLAND NEWS, CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

Thursday, April 25, 1985

By J. Suter Kegg, Contributing Writer

April 25, 1945 is remembered as the day on which American and Russian armies fulfilled a date with destiny in the days of World War II. That was the day on which the Soviet forces linked up with American troops at Torgau on the outskirts of Berlin, thus cutting Germany in half. Two weeks later (May 8) the long and bloody conflict in Europe was over.

Today's 40th anniversary of that historic meeting of world military powers has a significant meaning for R. Donald Shaffer, former Cumberland police commissioner. He was there.



Shaffer was a rifle platoon sergeant with the famous "Fighting 69th" when the armies came together at the Elbe River. A veteran then of almost four and one-half years of Army Service, Tech Sergeant Shaffer had already been through campaigns in Africa and Sicily as well as the Battle of the Bulge.

Events leading up to the junction at Torgau remain vivid in the recollections of the local 68-year-old veteran. "It was a time of jubilation," he said, "because both the Russians and Americans knew the end of the war was at last in sight."

Few soldiers on either side could speak the other's language, Shaffer recalled, "but we had no trouble understanding each other. The smiles on the faces of everybody told the story of our elation, and for the next couple of days we drank vodka toasts together. Little did we realize then, though, that Berlin soon would be separated by a wall, the beginning of the despicable Iron Curtain."

Shaffer, who resides at 418 Fayette Street with his wife, the former Mary Frances Seymour, was in the Army when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, thus plunging the United States into World War II. He was inducted December 17, 1940 at Fort George W. Meade and remained in uniform through two more wars, Korean and Vietnam.

While a member of Company C, 1st Battalion of the 273rd Regiment in the 69th Infantry Division which had captured Leipzig prior to the hookup with the Soviets, he also served during his World War II career with the 1st and 75th Infantry Divisions.

During the Korean conflict he served with the 19th Infantry Regiment of the 24th Division. A multi-decorated career GI, his role during the Vietnam Era, defined by the Veterans Administration as August 15, 1964 through May 7, 1975, was that of a military adviser.

Shaffer, who later became a topkick (first sergeant) in an infantry company, reflects with patriotic pride on having been privileged to fight with the distinguished Fighting 69th. "I also feel extremely fortunate in having survived a horrible nightmarish time in our country's military history," he said. "Approximately 300,000 of my fellow Americans made the supreme sacrifice in World War II."

One of those was Lieutenant Charles Roberdean Shaffer, no relation but a Fayette Street neighbor and a classmate of Robert Donald Shaffer at LaSalle High School. Known more familiarly among his friends as "Bob," Lieutenant Shaffer was the pilot on a B-24 which crashed at sea during the war in the Pacific. Neither his body, nor any of his crew, was recovered.

A telegram from the War Department breaking the tragic news was delivered by mistake to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Shaffer, Sergeant Shaffer's parents at 418 Fayette Street. Mrs. Shaffer, understandably unnerved, contacted Red Cross officials who verified that the wire should have gone instead to Mr. and Mrs. Elzie A. Shaffer in the next block, 515 Fayette.

The ill-fated mission occurred May 27, 1944 during a bombing raid over Biak with the 13th Air Force, based on the Admiralty Islands. Lieutenant Shaffer had celebrated his 27th birthday just three weeks before that.

Ex-Sergeant Shaffer served on the City Council during the 1978-82 term and was Cumberland's last elected police commissioner.

After his separation from the military he worked as a salesman for Schenley Distillers and from 1975 to 1978 was chief inspector for the Allegheny County Liquor Control Board.

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## Battery B, 724th Field Artillery Battalion

In September of 1990, Baker Battery had another reunion on the eastside of Cleveland, Ohio. Needless to say, it was a very enjoyable weekend. Even the weather was nice. We were surprised to have two "First Timers," members of the Battery who we haven't seen since the 69th Division departed from Germany. They were Bert Fishman and his wife, Marjorie, from Boca Raton, Florida; and Joe Vicidomina and his wife, Lucy, from Metairie, Louisiana. They looked great, neither have changed much. Others who were at the reunion:

- Jack and Ida Adams ..... North Port, Florida
- Dean and Janet Allen ..... Woodson, Illinois
- Sidney and Carole Apfelbaum ..... Sunbury, Pennsylvania
- Charles and Edith Becker ..... Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- George and Maureen Bosnich ..... Hammond, Indiana
- Al and Millie Cagno ..... Tampa, Florida
- Rick and Jo Cagno ..... Tampa, Florida
- David and Betty Coons ..... Lowell, Michigan
- Victor and Norma Ferrone ..... Brooklyn, Ohio
- Kenneth and Margare Fredrehsen ..... Atlantic, Iowa
- Phillip Hawkins ..... Rancho Palos Verdes, California
- Thomas and Helen Heath ..... Brockport, New York
- Jack Houston and "Squeek" ..... Cincinnati, Ohio
- Victor Losco ..... New York City, New York
- Mike and Evelyn Losh ..... Lorain, Ohio
- Ralph Nuckolls ..... Ridgecrest, California
- John and Priscilla Oesch ..... Salineville, Ohio
- John Pierce ..... Reading, Pennsylvania
- Con D. Retherford ..... Salem, Oregon
- Bud and Juanita Rector ..... Maumee, Ohio
- Larry and Jo Whelan ..... Covington, Kentucky
- Henry and Ruth Wietmarschen ..... Cincinnati, Ohio
- Al and Gladys Bukovec ..... Euclid, Ohio

We missed those who were unable to be with us. We sincerely hope you will be with the group when we get together again. Until then, Good Health and Happy Holidays.

Al Bukovec  
146 East 272nd Street  
Euclid, Ohio 44132

# European Tour of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division April 19th to May 7th, 1990

Pictures furnished by  
William Matlach



*Jim Carroll (A-273) poses with Nikolai and another Russian Veteran in front of the City Hall in Torgau, East Germany.*



*Art Knudsen (H-273), his wife Christie and Tom Hoffman (H-273) in Red Square, Moscow on May Day.*



*Bill Robertson and the Soviet Lieutenant with whom he performed the 1945 Link-Up Observe ceremonies at the Soviet Soldiers Monument in East Berlin.*



*Leonard Addorisio (B-661st) meets Soviet Veterans in the Central Square at Torgau on April 25, 1990.*



*Bill Robertson (1st Bn.-273rd), Bill Matlach (E-273rd), and Ruth and Roger West (E-272nd), take a break at a Railroad Station on the way to Helinski.*



*Kim Packard (A-269th), Ray Olson (A-272nd), and Ed Lucci (A-273rd) cruising down the Rhine River together in Germany.*

# European Tour of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division April 19th to May 7th, 1990

Pictures furnished by  
William Matlach



*Bill Beswick (B-661st) walks with Soviet Officials through the streets of Torgau.*



*Soviet Honor Guard bears wreath for ceremonies taking place in East Berlin.*



*Crandon Clark (B-273rd), Bill Matlach (E-273rd), Tom Heath and Bill Snidow (B-661st) after placing wreath at American Henri-Chapelle Cemetery in Belgium.*



*At Magaraten Cemetery, Netherlands, Bud Parsons (A-272nd) and Bill Matlach (E-273rd) visit the grave of Edward Karp (3rd Bn.-273rd), their classmate at Ft. Benning, OCS.*



*Del Philpott (A-271st), Frank See (Hq.-777th) and a Soviet War Veteran at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow.*



*Soviet War Veterans making a toast during the banquet in Leipzig.*

# Number of 69th Members in Each State

Total number of membership as of this bulletin is 5,700. Following is the number of members in each state. The list has been compiled by Direct Mailing Service who addresses our bulletins and dues notices.

STATE	NUMBER OF MEMBERS
Alaska	3
Alabama	68
Arkansas	32
Arizona	80
California	280
Canada	1
Colorado	49
Connecticut	84
Washington, D.C.	11
Delaware	27
Florida	352
Georgia	92
Hawaii	12
Iowa	65
Idaho	7
Illinois	202
Indiana	156
Kansas	42
Kentucky	84
Louisiana	44
Massachusetts	126
Maryland	167
Maine	26
Michigan	169
Minnesota	82
Missouri	68
Mississippi	66
Montana	18
North Carolina	206
North Dakota	11
Nebraska	42
New Hampshire	32
New Jersey	312
New Mexico	15
Nevada	15
New York	478
Ohio	367
Oklahoma	52
Oregon	30
Pennsylvania	850
Puerto Rico	4
Rhode Island	22
South Carolina	48
South Dakota	18
Tennessee	71
Texas	183
Utah	20
Virginia	276
Virgin Islands	1
Vermont	10
Washington State	51
Wisconsin	96
West Virginia	69
Wyoming	7

# New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

- Foster Hibbard — M-271st  
614 LaCorso Drive, Walnut Creek, California 94598
- Nick Turik — Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd  
540 Graham Street, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania 15012
- Robert D. Eicher  
Route 7, Box 1115, Elizabethton, Tennessee 37643
- Thomas W. Moose — K-272nd  
241 North Oak Street, Statesville, North Carolina 28677
- Marsh Mussay — H-272nd  
936 Raleigh Road, Glenview, Illinois 60025
- Don H. Schoessler — B-269th  
66 Jackson Road Extension, Penfield, New York 14526
- Robert Maurer — D-271st  
13965 S.W. 158th Terrace, Tigard, Oregon 97224
- Howard B. Gardner — K-273rd  
R.F.D. Route 1, Box 51-C8, Ashdown, Arkansas 71822
- Homer H. Reynolds — 273rd  
512 Douglas Way, Tipp City, Ohio 45371
- George Boyd — Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd  
340 Ambleside Road, Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
- Carl Decker — Division Headquarters  
P.O. Box 712, Middletown, New York 10940
- Jerry H. Holmes — B-271st  
R.R. #2, Social Circle, Georgia 30279
- David Cohen — Hq., 2nd Bn., 271st  
8801 Eton Avenue, #131, Canoga Park, California 91304
- Lt. Col. Louie N. Rodgers, Retired — Division Headquarters  
99 North Main Street, Apt. 609, Memphis, Tennessee 38103
- Robert I. Bassindale — H-272nd  
222 Fairfield Avenue, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126
- James P. Chappell — E-271st  
P.O. Box 423, West Point, Georgia 31833
- Jim Lennox  
555 Mohmoth Avenue  
Spring Lake Heights, New Jersey 07762
- Norman E. White — Hq., 2nd Bn., 273rd  
538 South Lakewood, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74112-3150
- George Leylock — 271st  
704 Westfield Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208
- Walter J. Scott — 369th Medics  
1082 Jason Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44314
- Raymond L. Johnson — Service, 272nd  
P.O. Box 129, Pleasant Hills, Tennessee 38578
- Pleas R. Copas — C-881st  
Route #4, Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee 37150
- Edward Dragositz — H-273rd  
96 Bellis Road, Milford, New Jersey 08848
- William Weigl — Hq., 879th  
1124 Bell Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035
- Sanford H. Hartman — 569th Signal  
60 Waters Edge, Rye, New York 10580
- Frank W. Dodd — 569th Signal  
511 W Street, Dardanelle, Arkansas 72834
- Don Daley — C-271st  
131 Ellington Road, Dayton, Ohio 45431

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# Bulletin - European Tour - Christmas Cards - Poster, East Meets West

**Victor Ostrow expresses feelings  
on many subjects**



*Victor Ostrow  
Age 18*



*Victor Ostrow  
Taken in Borna, Germany*

The latest bulletin has just arrived, and I want to commend you and your editorial staff for an outstanding job. It was unlike any other previous bulletin. The color and inscription of the new monument fulfills the committee and membership desires for a dedication ceremony at Camp Shelby, Mississippi during the month of September.

On another note - your report of "Dottie's" back problems brings to mind that mending takes time. Glad to hear she is back on the right track. Many years ago I had the same problem, but after a year slowly recuperated. My wife and I wish her a speedy recovery.

Bill Beswick did an extraordinary summary of the recent 45th Anniversary Tour of Europe. I think he covered all the details.

I think I would be remiss if I didn't personally thank Chet Yastrzemski for my request of the VCR tape of the 45th Anniversary of the 69th tour of Europe and celebration in Moscow, Russia. The retaping is excellent and similar to that which "Chet" had shown in the hospitality room in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Just received a Christmas card from Chet and Barbara who were vacationing in Hawaii and California. "What a life." Received holiday greetings from Frank and Gloria See, Leo and Margaret Moore, Bob and Grace Glaum, Bob and Elsie Hespenshide, Chet and Barbara Yastrzemski, Alex and Florence Lasseigne, Paul and Josephine Molinari, Garnet and Florence Whitley, Bill and Catherine McCall and Ray Fahrner. The years roll by quickly so how many more reunions can we make? Don't let any of these good times slip away.

I am commander of my local Jewish War Veterans Post, and have shown the tape of the 69th Anniversary tour of Europe. The response was very enthusiastic since many of our Jewish comrades fought in the areas shown. Plan to have another viewing at our State of Maryland Department meeting.

Keep up the good work on the bulletins.  
Your ole buddie,  
**Victor Ostrow**  
1612 Lemontree Lane  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

P.S. During the men's meeting in Valley Forge, discussion on the poster reprint of the "East Meets the West" beautifully drawn by a member of the 69th. No mention in the latest bulletin about the cost of the reprint. If it is feasible to make a reprint, I would like to purchase a copy.

**Earl's Note:** Are there any reprints made on this poster? Whoever the 69er may be, will you please drop me a line on reprints of the poster and costs. Thanks very much as I have had several requests to this effect.

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## Central Pennsylvania Winners

F Company, 271st Infantry captured honors at the Tri-State Weekend in Elyria, Ohio and repeated at Lebanon, Pennsylvania in 1990.



*Left to Right: Frank Carey, Vaughn Woomer, Cecil Cottle and Ash Fuller.*



*Some of the bosses at Lebanon preparing for the next move. Left to Right: Dorothy "Dottie" Witzleb, Arlene Carey and Alene Cottle.*

Vaughn and Betty Woomer will head up the Tri-State weekend in 1992 at Altoona, Pennsylvania.

# Newly Relocated Man Colonel James E. Stacy (Ret.) Sends Along this Letter

28255 Faircrest Way  
Escondido, California 92026

Enclosed is my dues for membership in the 69th Infantry Division Association. I have apparently lost the formal application for membership but believe the dues are \$5.00 per year, donations for the Memorial at Camp Shelby some \$10.00, so I am enclosing my check in the amount of \$15.00. If this is incorrect, please advise.

I was assigned as cadre to the then being formed 69th Infantry Division at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. I was being interviewed by then **Brigadier General Lloyd Parks**, assistant Division Commander, for assignment when he noticed that I had listed golf as one of my hobbies. Could you believe that on my first duty day with the Division, my duty was to play golf with the Assistant Division Commander. Having determined my lack of ability with the sticks, he was a low, single digit golfer - I was assigned as Personnel Officer of the 271st Infantry Regiment.

Have you ever wondered why the members of the 271st are spread throughout our country? It was intentional. **Colonel Harmony**, **Jumping John**, the Regimental Commander directed that each company would have an equal number of so called mental groups, religious beliefs, state of record and that balance would be achieved across the board. He also directed that brothers or close relatives would be assigned to different battalions. **Personnel Sergeant Major Rockwell**, **T/5 Martin Riggs** and I worked many long hours in attempting to achieve this mandate. Since the regiment was to conduct both basic and advanced Infantry training, he further directed that all would first become riflemen before any specialist training.

Next I became the Regimental Adjutant, a duty I disliked on one hand because it was more paper work and also appreciated because I was closely associated with two fine officers, **Colonel Harmony** and the Executive Officer, **Lieutenant Colonel Shady Lane**. They were very competent, efficient and professional officers with the highest standards of honesty and integrity. I tried to emulate these fine men throughout my career.

Although I appreciated this association, I desperately wanted to command a company - any company. After about six months as the Adjutant, I would slip a request for assignment to a company in with the official papers requiring the Regimental CO's signature hoping that he would sign without looking at it closely. Unfortunately he never did but was very considerate - he did not tear up the request but saved me the trouble of doing it over as he returned it unsigned.

Finally on 17 May 1944 I received my command - Company M, 271st. I relieved **Captain Jack Rooney**. I retained command throughout the war until, along with other Division personnel selected for Occupation Duty, was assigned to the 29th Infantry Division.

Since being located, I have heard from **Bill Sheavly**, **E.M. Hough**, both of M Company and **Merrill Embick**, Company B. It's nice to hear from former comrades.

Best Regards,  
**Jim Stacy**

\*\*\*\*\*

# Al Kormas Sends These Two Pix, One of Newly Relocated Earl Ramsey



*Earl Ramsey and Al Kormas at Earl's home in Youngstown, Ohio.*

After 45 years, Earl just learned of our Association. Anyone wanting to write him, his address is as follows:

**Earl Ramsey**  
11341 Jeff Avenue, Lake View Terrace, California 91342



*Juggy Powers, Al Kormas and Dale Kizer cleaning the stove at Camp Shelby, Powers was the "house mother."*

# A History of the 461st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion

Written by: *Pete Bouis, Colonel U.S.A. Retired*  
and *Mr. Francis H. Breyette*  
1137 Okrla Drive  
Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427

On the 11th of March 1945 in the area of Blankenheim, Germany the 461st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion was attached to the Fighting 69th Infantry Division with the mission of giving air and ground protection to the Divisional Field Artillery Battalions.

In the ensuing months, attached to the Division, we crossed central Germany to a meeting with the Russians on the Elbe River at Torgau, Germany. Our rapport with the 69th was excellent and upon the cessation of the fighting our mission with the Division was terminated.

When we returned to the States we were pleased and proud to learn that the Fighting 69th had adopted us into their organization, allowing us to participate in their annual reunions, publishing articles in their bulletin and keeping in contact with comrades of WWII.

This series of articles is to acquaint the members of the 69th, and there are a great many who remember us, with the background of the 461st, acknowledged to be among the finest in the ETO.

At the beginning of the hostilities of WWII the Anti-Aircraft defense was almost nonexistent. Realizing this inadequacy, the Department of Defense put into motion an accelerated program to remedy the condition.

Many of the existing National Guard Units, such as the Infantry Regiments, Horse Cavalry, etc. were redesignated to Coast Artillery Units, Anti-Aircraft Gun Battalions (for high-flying bombers) and Automatic Weapons Battalions (for dive bombers and low-flying, strafing aircraft).

This article will be a thumb-nail sketch of the organization, equipment and missions of the AW Battalions.

The battalions consisted of approximately 700 officers and men comprised of Headquarters, Headquarters Battery and four firing Batteries, A-B-C and D. The firing Batteries consisted of a Battery Headquarters and two (2) gun platoons. The gun platoons consisted of a Platoon Headquarters and four (4) gun sections each.

In the year prior to Pearl Harbor the equipment including the guns and fire control was continually upgraded to meet the eventual needs. No sooner had units mastered the issued equipment when a complete new concept of equipment and tactics were introduced.

The missions of the AW Battalions were numerous. In combat the Field Artillery Battalions, in order to perform their missions, were exposed to low strafing bombing aircraft and ground attack. The AW gun batteries spent most of their time protecting the Field Artillery Battalions. Other missions, to name a few, were friendly airfields, harbors, cities, factories, heavily traveled roadways, radio transmitters, bivouac areas and heavy troop concentration and any target that was vital to the supreme effort.

The 461st Coast Artillery Battalion (AW) (AAA) was activated at Camp Haan, California on September 1, 1942, originally designated as the 382nd Coast Artillery Battalion. This order was amended to read the 461st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion (AW), commanded by Lieutenant Colonel

Chrysler. The senior officers of the battalion were from the regular army, some reservists and members of WWI. The Battery officers were R.O.T.C., battlefield commissioned Second Lieutenants, National Guard Officers and OCS graduates. The enlisted cadre were selected from the 216th Coast Artillery (AA) Regiment of the Minnesota National Guard.

There are many facets to the makeup of an outstanding unit, not the least of which would be the caliber of the officers, cadre and the good fortune of being supplied with men who would make outstanding soldiers. Our officers were drawn from a number of units around the country and were a fine group of men. The enlisted cadre was exceptional. Drawn from the 216th CA AAA Regiment, a little history is in order.

By order from the War Department, the 216th Coast Artillery Anti-Aircraft Regiment of the 101st Brigade came into being on the 1st day of July, 1940. It was converted from the old 205th and 206th Infantry Regiments of the 92nd Brigade, Minnesota National Guard.

The enormous problem of reorganization and re-education necessitated by the transformation from one entirely different branch of the service to another was met and surmounted almost entirely within the few months from conversion to induction. Within two weeks after conversion date, the regiment was encamped at Camp Ripley for its annual summer maneuvers. There were just three weeks to acquire a basic understanding of the duties and requirements of this utterly new and foreign phase of soldiering. The complex and technical aspects of this particular branch of the artillery had to be learned the hard way, studied long into the night, to make for a complete and efficient unit by men who, from years of experience, both under fire and with the National Guard, knew every angle of Infantry combat.

The day was at hand. Just another day - a cold one in January at that - to the rest of the world; but a day of new life for many of the 1,300 who answered that first reveille and marched off, strangely silent to the St. Paul Depot. Three trains - many authoritatively discussed but as yet unknown routes - a regiment pulling out - St. Paul in the distance - across prairie, wasteland, desert, mountains. California!

Waiting was over. Wonder no longer. Reality - at hand.

A week of orientation. A thirteen-week preliminary training period. The year of "intensive training" was underway.

With the early arrival of equipment sufficient to train with, the serious problem of fashioning an Anti-Aircraft Regiment began in earnest. A morning's venture onto the drill field by an outsider would have presented an almost fantastic pattern to his eyes. In groups, small and large, spread all over the three-hundred acre field immediately west of the 216th area would have evidenced activities of every conceivable nature. A big 3" gun sweeping the sky; another being unlimbered. Trucks crawling over the unseen ground like huge monsters. Great search light lenses catching the rays of the sun, blazing suddenly and dying. Unknown, peculiar looking instruments pointing their three pronged faces at the sky, following the distant drone of a March Field trainer. Stumpy little boxes protruding from the ground with intent denimed men crouching over them, a network of wires leading away. A military band, practice marching, blaring into the brilliant morning air. An entire battery performing calisthenics in perfect precision and cadence. Automatic weapons pointing their snouts up, down, sweeping the terrain - the cradle holding the reclining but very business-like form of a soldier intent upon his mission.

And during the quiet, off-duty hours . . . A row of lighted tents; soldiers studying. A swing band jiving from one tent;

*(Continued on Page 26)*

**A HISTORY OF THE 461st ANTI-AIRCRAFT  
ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION**  
*(Continued from Page 25)*

the immortal classics from another. The athletic field jammed until the last rays of the day are gone - lights for night play just going up. In the evenings, after the last meal of the day . . . a crazy quilt pattern of khaki over the lawns, shaded walks, theaters, cocktail lounges, ice-cream parlors, of hospitable and friendly Riverside, Colton, San Bernardino, Redlands, and even to Los Angeles and San Diego. Yes, peacetime service had some rewards.

September of 1941 found another feather in the cap of the Regiment. We were to be involved in Washington Maneuvers, a part of the "war games" under the 4th Army Group and to that date the largest of the army war games. In these war games this regiment made the first extended and longest motor march in military history.

This Regiment made a forced march from Camp Haan, California to Vancouver, Washington where we became involved in maneuvers from there to Ft. Lewis, Washington. Following a victory parade at the Fort we returned to Camp Haan without incident. In all this travel through desert and mountains we had a total of eight cripples, but which were able to return under their own power. This exploit gave credence to Hitler that a North African campaign was feasible.

The latter part of November, 1941 the Regiment was ordered to San Francisco. Arriving about December 1st we set up defensive positions around all principal military targets and to our surprise on the 5th of December we were issued live ammo for all arms down to and including side-arms.

For us the war was on, and December 7th was not the surprise it could have been.

From that point on the 216th was destined, not to go to war but to furnish cadres for new AAA units. By war's end nearly every man of the original regiment had been commissioned or had made the top three grades. An enviable record, indeed.

August of 1942 a cadre was formed and moved to Camp Haan and activated the 461st AAA AW BN.

The enlisted cadre was from Minnesota, nearly all our new men were from the Central States and Eastern Seaboard regions, many from Virginia, the Carolinas and with a few from nearly all of the other States.

Training was hard and we drove our men. We were determined to have one of the finest units possible, not for honor and glory, but because we knew the sharper these men were, the better chance of their coming home from whatever battlefields we were destined for.

On January 4, 1943 the Battalion commenced its M.T.P. training. The Battalion was under Lieutenant Colonel (then Major) J.B. Gegan who had assumed command on January 2, 1943. Upon starting the MTP training the Battalion was over-strength in officers and enlisted personnel. The reason being that on completion of our training we were to leave behind a cadre to form a new Battalion.

The first week of our training was an orientation of our mission, equipment and personnel. The Battery and Platoon Officers spent hours at night going over records and making recommendations to fill various positions within the units. These recommendations were based on a man's physical ability, education, attitude and leadership, not necessarily in this order. A very important MOS were the gun crew section chiefs and as important as we thought they were, in combat they far surpassed our expectations and were the real heroes of the Battalion.

During the first week of training we selected men to fill the various positions. We reviewed and tested basic subjects

learned in Boot Camp making sure all were qualified at that level. Satisfied, we began our MTP training.

The principle mission of Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) is to protect given areas from low-flying enemy planes and to deny the air above to enemy reconnaissance planes seeking information of our troops and installations. To accomplish this our gun crews must have early warning through wire and radio communication in order to engage the enemy at the gun's maximum range. This early warning in combat position is not always possible so the gun crew must also depend upon their own spotters at their gun positions.

The average engagement (WWII) of Anti-Aircraft (AW) were from six (6) to ten (10) seconds. During this time the chief of section had to select a target in his primary area, identify as enemy and give the command "Fire." With such a short time of engagement the crew members must act instinctively. They must be quick and alert and capable of making flash decisions.

Artillerymen must be fully trained in all phases of ground defense as front line troops. They must take protective measures against small arms, artillery fire, parachutists and enemy armor. The men are fully trained in ground tactics, rifle, bayonet, hand grenades, bazookas and camouflage. They must be able to read maps, define coordinates and have knowledge in laying field wire, using field telephones, manning switchboards, operating field radios and in the use of flares and panels. In addition to all this training, the guns must be kept in top shape in all kinds of weather and ground conditions. The men must be up-to-date on the identification of all planes, both friendly and enemy.

During our training from January to late February we lived with the guns day and night. The men learned their primary duties as section chiefs, gunners, trackers, ammunition group, communication specialists on the 40MM Bofors. As our training progressed and the men became proficient in their primary missions we began cross training so that each crew member could handle all positions in operation of the gun. At this point we began "casualty drills." As a man was declared a casualty another member of the crew stepped in and filled his position. We continued to declare casualties until there were only four (4) remaining members. These four (4) were capable of engaging the enemy. Our dead area behind the Bofors was protected by a 50 caliber water cooled machine gun. The five (5) man machine gun crew was trained and cross trained on their gun and the Bofor.

During this period of training behind every tree, bush or building were monitors from the Camp Haan operation section with their clipboards and check sheets grading our progress. At the conclusion of a subject we were tested. If we completed a subject before the allotted time specified, we were immediately ordered to start another phase of our training. Because of "A" Battery's outstanding record, the Battery Commander was promoted and moved to Camp Haan's training section much to his chagrin. He preferred to stay with the unit.

In late February the Battalion moved out to the Mojave Desert at the Desert Training Center, Camp Irwin, some 50 miles from the town of Barstow.

Training was rugged. Days were unbearably hot, temperatures were over 120° F. Nights were bedroll and blanket cool. As the day began to cool around four in the afternoon, a brisk wind brought in a daily sand storm with wind velocity strong enough to sandblast the paint off the trucks and other equipment.

The desert was covered with Mesquite bushes which harbored sidewinders (rattlesnakes), jack rabbits and rodents.

*(Continued on Page 27)*

**A HISTORY OF THE 461st ANTI-AIRCRAFT  
ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION**  
(Continued from Page 26)

Our training at Camp Irwin was two phased, the first, firing at targets towed behind aircraft and the second, extensive maneuvering.

As we completed our firing of allotted ammunition in less time than other units and with top scores, we advanced to the second phase of desert maneuvers.

This training consisted of SOP (selection and occupation of positions). For example, a Battery was given a simulated mission of protecting a bridge, factory, airport, etc. A time frame of two or three hours was allowed to complete the mission which was to reconnoiter, select gun positions, bring up the unit in convoy, secure the area, dig in the guns (including ground protection and camouflage) establish wire communications to all elements of the defense. During this entire maneuver our "old clipboard friends" were with us grading every phase of our problem.

We completed our desert training with top grades and two weeks earlier than time allotted for this training. Camp Haan had not anticipated the unit completing this training in such a short time, they failed to have space for the Battalion.

As a result we were ordered to maneuver in Death Valley until such time as Camp Haan could house us.

During the two weeks of being on our own we continued our training at a more leisurely pace and enjoyed the surrounding sights. Officers and men visited the Borax Mines and Scotty's Death Valley Castle.

Although our training was hard and rugged, there were moments on the lighter side. One incident at Death Valley, while spreading my bedroll I (Pete Bouis) encountered a sidewinder about eighteen inches long entering my tent. With an entrenching tool I killed the snake and unintentionally flipped it into a Lieutenant's tent nearby. When he returned and laid out his sleeping bag to retire for the night there was a loud commotion which awakened the entire Battery. With his rifle butt the officer began to beat the already dead snake, collapsed his tent and pulled his bedroll from the area. Flashlights discovered the snake, the culprit apologized for throwing the snake in his direction, but to no avail. The Lieutenant was positive it had been alive and then upon opening his bedroll, out ran two field mice dragging a half eaten chocolate bar in its wrapper. For a long while the enlisted men, in their own circles, referred to the Lieutenant as "Old Sidewinder" or "Lt. Snake."

On our return to Camp Haan, we had a mammoth job of cleaning and painting our guns, trucks and other equipment, also cleaning and repairing our personal equipment.

By now we were not just a Battalion skilled in it's trade but a family as well, with a close rapport between officers and men as well as between all gun sections and batteries. In the future this would stand us in good stead as from "D Day" to Torgau on the Elbe, not just our Batteries but our gun sections would be alone for weeks and months without seeing others of their battery mates except possibly during quick movements from one sector to another and many times not even then, due to night-time convoys.

Very shortly before overseas orders came, someone in supply must have convinced someone that we were headed for the frigid regions, as a special requisition of beautiful Air Corp eiderdown bedrolls from Alaska came through the PX system. The Battalion PX fund was used to purchase these for the men in their near entirety. As I remember, if we had to pay anything at all individually, it could not have been more than a very few dollars.

The bedrolls turned out to be a Godsend. We were one of the only units in WWII to have these outside of the cold weather units which were able to obtain them and which we firmly believe contributed to the fact that we had no sick calls in the ETO above what would be normal, and almost no men

in the hospitals other than wounded.

Near the end of May, with our Battalion in tiptop shape, both men and equipment, we received orders for an overseas assignment. We were one of the first Battalions to leave Camp Haan for overseas.

On the 12th of June we left by rail for Camp Shanks, New York arriving five days later. All shortages of equipment were filled, inoculations were given and final preparations were made for sailing.

During our training at Camp Haan and Camp Irwin, over a six month period, there were no leaves granted and very few emergency leaves taken.

Our Battalion CO was continually encouraging the men to work hard and achieve fine grades with a promise that upon completion of our training each officer and man would receive two weeks home leave. Many of our members had not received leave in over two years.

The enlisted men, as a group, selected a spokesman and marched as a Battalion to the Headquarters building and requested that the CO meet with them on the building steps. The spokesman reminded the CO of his promise of leave for each man. The Colonel readily admitted to this and that he would do what he could and would meet with them at reveille the next morning. Through higher Headquarters he learned that the ship scheduled to take us to Europe had been delayed in England and would not arrive for at least ten days. Each man was given a three and one-half day leave. Fifty percent of the battalion at one time and upon their return the balance of the men would take leave. There were no restrictions as to distance. The only requirement was that the men return on time. The men traveled from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Canadian border to the Mexican border. Except for a few stragglers, late by a few hours, due to transportation problems beyond their control, the entire Battalion returned and were ready to ship out.

One last problem - what to do with our bedrolls. We found that they were excess baggage and we were not supposed to have them. Officers and men got together and found places to hide them for the trip to England. We hid them in everything available. They were stuffed in vehicle tool boxes, medical supply boxes wherever there was room, every kitchen stove had its ovens stuffed tight along with every large cooking pot, all with their covers tied down. Any place a bedroll would fit, found one. We wound up with a full set when we arrived in England. Thank God for officers who were willing to go the extra mile for their men. It paid handsome dividends.

The evening of July 7th, 1943, the entire Battalion boarded the liner "Aquitania" and on the following morning said goodbye to New York and the U.S.A., for how long we had no idea. Everybody was quiet as the ship passed out of the harbor and passed the Lady with the torch.

*To Be Continued in the Next Bulletin*

**\*\*Pete Bouis, Colonel U.S.A. Retired**

**Francis Breyette**

**\*\*The authors above were in attendance at the yearly reunion of Headquarters Btry. and the Medical Detachment this past October 12th, 13th and 14th in Salem, Virginia. Upon returning home to Florida Colonel Bouis suffered a massive heart attack and passed away before a hospital could be reached. Pete remained active in the Service and served with distinction until retirement a short while ago. HE WILL BE MISSED.**

**Francis was First Sergeant of Headquarters Battery and in September of 1944 transferred to "C" Battery as Assistant Platoon Leader of the 2nd Platoon and Pete became Battery Commander of "C" Battery at nearly the same time. In the Battle of the Bulge Breyette received a Battlefield Commission and these two officers served together for approximately one year before civilian life intervened. He will complete the future articles to appear in this publication.**

# U.S. Army Operations in the Vicinity of Leipzig, Germany April - June 1945

Dear Sirs,

I should very much like to hear from anyone who participated in, or has any information related to the capture of towns, villages and airfields in the area between Leipzig and the Mulde River in April 1945 and the occupation of the area by the U.S. Army in the period up to the end of June 1945.

I am particularly interested in events concerning the airfield near the town of Brandis. This airfield was used by the German Air Force for training aircrew and by the Junkers Aircraft Company for flight testing new aircraft. I wish to locate reports and photographs and obtain eye-witness accounts of what was discovered at Brandis airfield and to know what happened to the aircraft found there.

This information will help me with research I am doing in regard to the history of the development of the Junkers Ju 287 forward-swept-winged, jet-propelled bomber prototypes. Two of these aircraft were built, the first of which was tested at Brandis. The second aircraft was not flown. It was found damaged on the eastern perimeter of the airfield and was photographed and examined by U.S. troops.

My research at the Washington National Records Center has revealed that infantry regiments of both the 2nd and 69th Infantry Divisions were in action in this area between April

18th and 23rd. These attacks appear to have been spear-headed by units of the 9th Armored Division, which reached the Mulde River and held the area until relieved by regiments of the 2nd and 69th Divisions. It is not clear from the war journals whether the attacks were supported by Allied aircraft. I have not, however, been able to identify with certainty who first attacked and captured Brandis airfield. The accompanying chart shows the movements of the regiments as stated in the Divisions' war journals. Brandis was later occupied by the Blue Battalion of the 273rd Regiment of the 69th Infantry Division and either the town itself or the airfield was used as a hospital and transit camp for the Allied prisoners-of-war, who were with the thousands of German troops who surrendered to the 273rd Regiment at Wurzen on April 23rd.

I shall be grateful for any help you can provide that will enable me to piece together the events in and around Brandis in the period April-June 1945 and to find out what happened to the Ju 287 prototypes. All responses to my request will be acknowledged.

Yours sincerely,  
**Stephen Ranson**  
Kiewbitzstrasse 31  
W-2805 Stuhr 1  
Germany



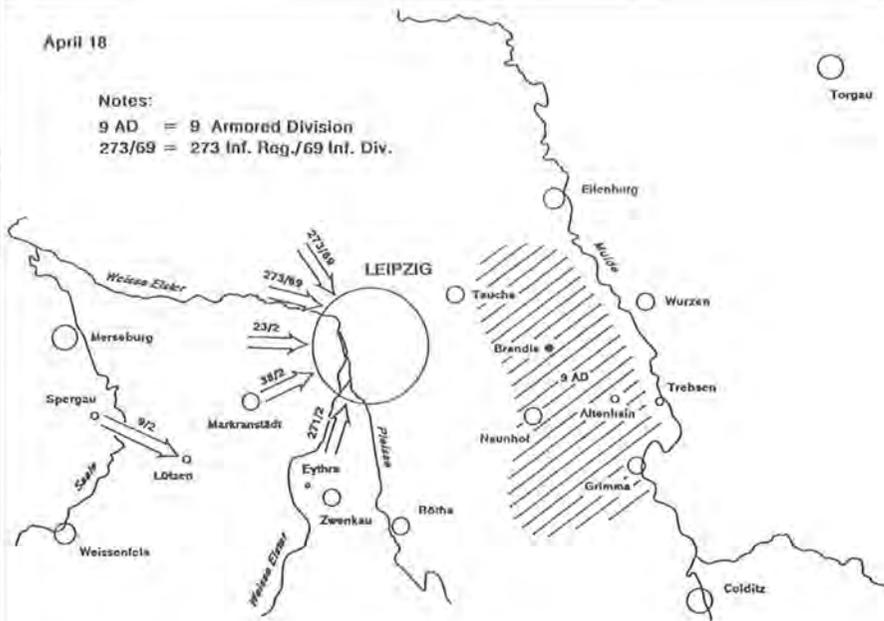
The second prototype Junkers Ju 287 at Brandis ca. April; 1945

April 18

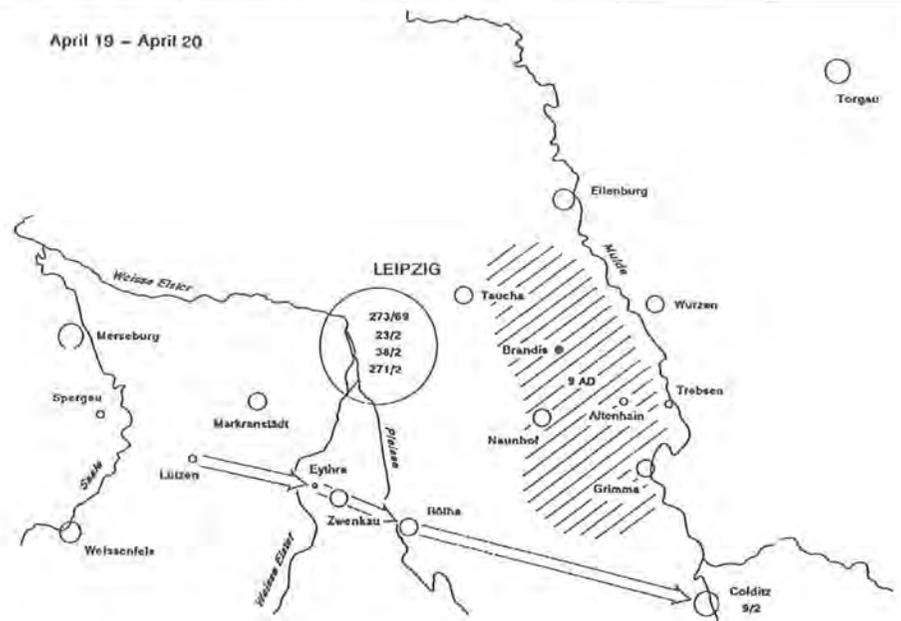
Notes:

9 AD = 9 Armored Division

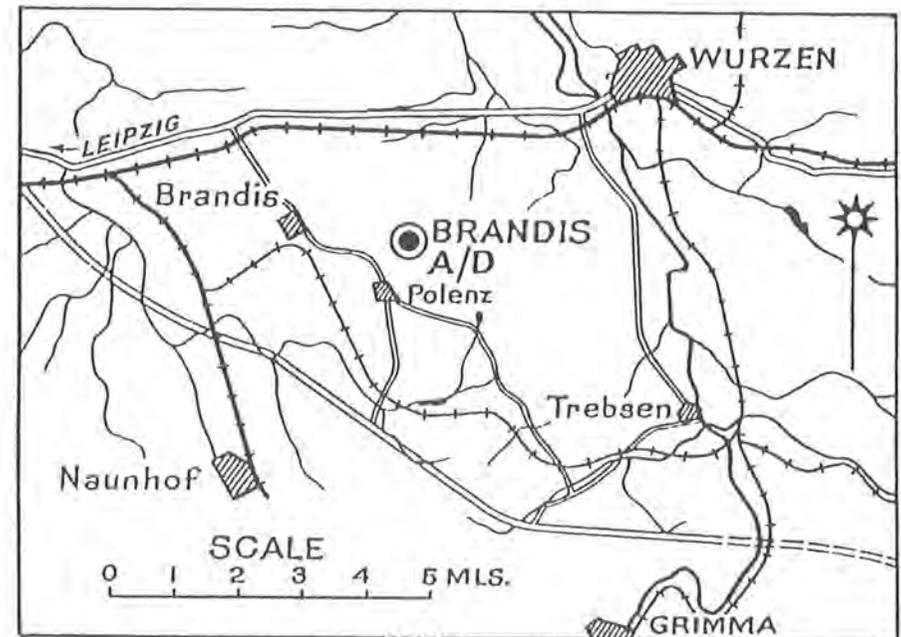
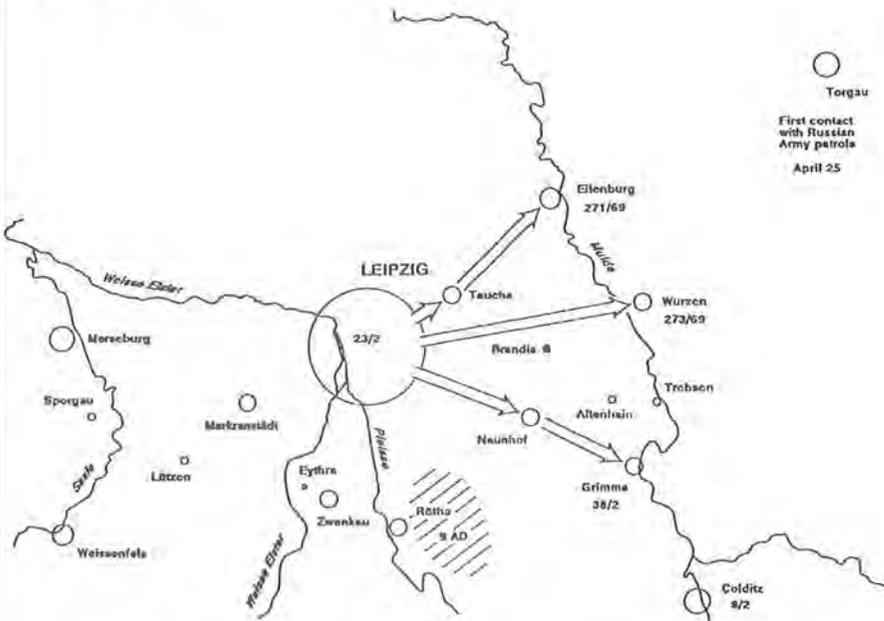
273/69 = 273 Inf. Reg./69 Inf. Div.



April 19 - April 20



April 21 - April 23



# C Battery, 881st Field Artillery

Photos sent by Harold J. Early  
6530 Hamden Road, Parma Heights, Ohio 44130



*Lester Hart, Harold Early, Joseph Conner, Paul Molinari, Eugene Schollenberger and Joe Sarna*



*From left to right: Joe Conner, Joe Sarna, Eugene Schollenberger, Harold Early, Mary Ann Early, Paul Molinari, Josephine Molinari, Sybil Conner, Joe Conner, visitors Faye and Jim Barkley (Joe Conner's sister and brother-in-law).*



*Having a great time at the Banquet Dinner Dance Mary Ann Early and Harold J. Early*



*Lily Langtry and Harold J. Early  
Harold was telling her what a great show it was.*



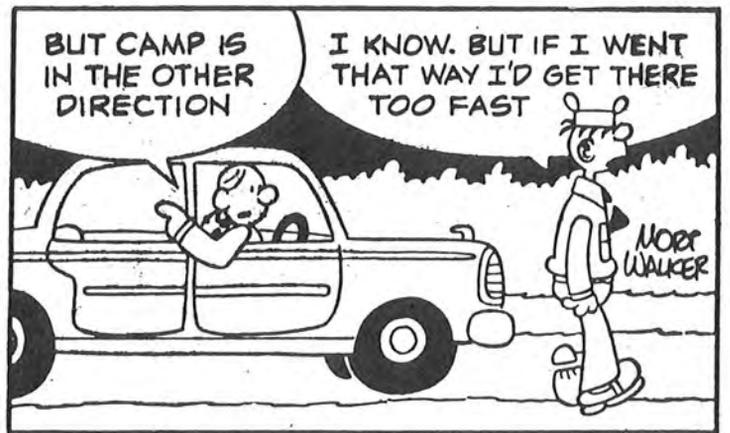
*Gettysburg Tower  
Gettysburg National Cemetery*



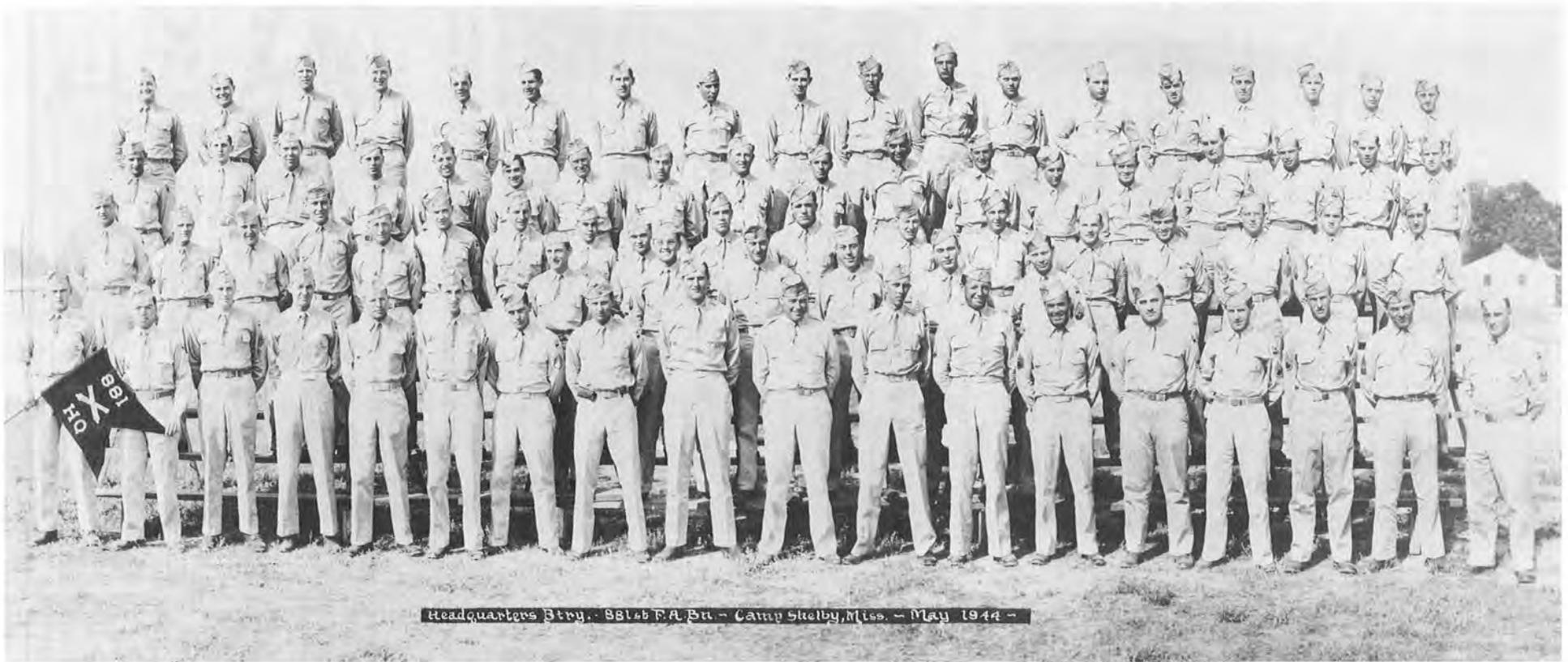
*From left to right: Lester Hart, Harold J. Early, Mary Ann Early, Paul Molinari, Josephine Molinar, Eugene Schollenberger, Joe Sarna, Sybil Conner and Joe Conner*



*Mary Ann Early, wife of Harold J. Early of C-Battery, overlooking the good work that Ted Nemeth and ?? are doing with the planning.*



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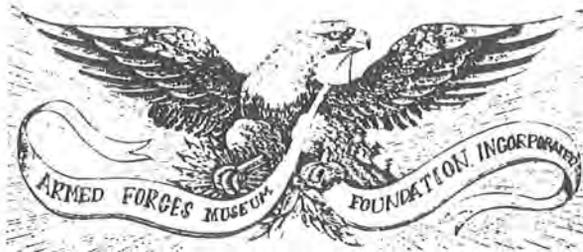


**Headquarters Battery, 881st Field Artillery Battalion  
Camp Shelby, Mississippi — May 1944**

Picture Furnished by Godfrey Slimmer, Jr.

**1991 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
44th ANNUAL REUNION**

**Dedication of 69th Monument at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi  
September 15-22, 1991 - Mississippi Beach Hotel, Biloxi, Mississippi**



# ARMED FORCES MUSEUM FOUNDATION, INC.

POST OFFICE BOX 5027    ATTN: MS-PA  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39296-5027

## An Invitation

You are cordially invited to become a charter member of the Armed Forces Museum Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving our military heritage. This Foundation will maintain a facility to collect and display military items of equipment, artifacts and memorabilia from all of the services. The purpose is to recognize the efforts of all veterans and honor them by providing this permanent museum; to inform, educate and perpetuate the heritage of contributions made in the defense of the United States.

The museum is located south of Hattiesburg, Mississippi at Camp Shelby, exit US 49 at the South Gate. In addition to the museum, a Memorial Drive is being built and will be dedicated to all units that have trained in Mississippi. This Memorial Drive is located adjacent to the Post Chapel and across the parade field from the "White House."

Help us preserve our military heritage; become a Charter Member, show your patriotism and love for freedom. Simply complete the following application form and mail along with your check for the membership you desire. Membership is open to any individual, organization or group.

- Annual Membership ..... \$ 10.00
- Life Membership ..... \$200.00
- Benefactors\*:
- Sponsors ..... \$500.00
- Sustaining ..... \$ 501.00-\$1000.00
- Patron ..... \$1001.00-\$10,000

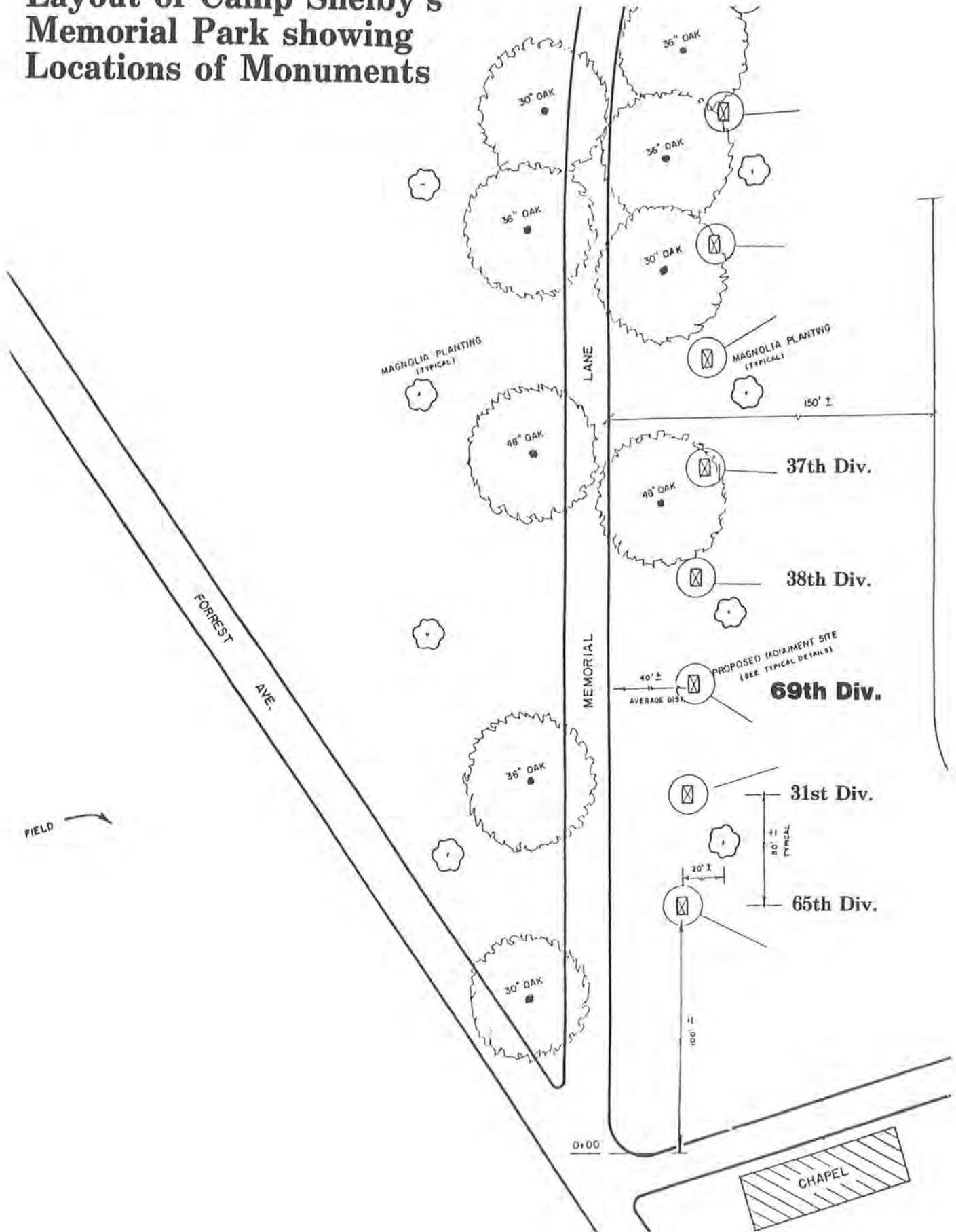
\*Will receive a certificate of recognition

(Return this portion)

MEMBER: 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION			
Name		Membership/Benefactor Desired	
Address		Telephone Number	
City	State	Zip	Home _____
			Work _____

Mail check and application to: Armed Forces Museum Foundation  
ATTN: MS-PA  
Post Office Box 5027  
Jackson, MS 39296-5027

# Layout of Camp Shelby's Memorial Park showing Locations of Monuments



# Former Members of the 777th Tank Battalion at Lily Langtry's, Valley Forge Reunion

Pictures Furnished by Jack Louden



*777th Tank Battalion Members and Wives*



*Ray Olsen and Jack Louden with Waitress*



*Jack Louden with Waitress*



*Bob Hollister with Lily Langtry*



*Ray Fahrner on stage*



*Jack Louden with Lily Langtry*

**69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 1991 REUNION  
 44th ANNUAL REUNION  
 461st AAA BN. - 661st T.D. BN. - 777th TANK BN.  
 BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI  
 SEPTEMBER 15th to 22nd, 1991**

**Reservations:**

**MISSISSIPPI BEACH RESORT HOTEL**  
 2060 Beach Boulevard  
 Biloxi, Mississippi 39531  
 Telephone: 1-800/325-9384

**HOUSING: Please reserve one of the following:**

\$55.00 + Single \_\_\_\_\_ \$55.00 + Double - 2 persons \_\_\_\_\_ \$55.00 + Triple - 3 persons \_\_\_\_\_

\$55.00 + Quad - 4 persons \_\_\_\_\_ ALL REGULAR ROOMS - \$55.00 + 8% TAX

Alcove Suite 2 persons \_\_\_\_\_ \$115.00 + Tax

Corporate Suite facing pool - 1 Bedroom \$130.00 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Bedrooms \$200.00 \_\_\_\_\_ + Tax

Executive Suite - 1 Bedroom \$205.00 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Bedrooms \$295.00 \_\_\_\_\_ + Tax

I / We plan to arrive (day) \_\_\_\_\_, September \_\_\_\_\_, 1991. (Check in after 3:00 P.M.)

I / We plan to depart (day) \_\_\_\_\_, September \_\_\_\_\_, 1991. (Check out time - 12:00 Noon)

I/We will be bringing guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children

I/We wish to be quartered in the same area as: Unit \_\_\_\_\_

**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 Mississippi Beach Resort Hotel, or Major Credit Card Number and Date of Expiration.

The following Credit Cards are accepted: American Express, Master Card, Visa Card, Diner's Club, Carte Blanche and Discover.

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

I authorize Mississippi Beach Resort Hotel to make charges on my Credit Card.

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_

If this form has been filled out by anyone other than the person for whom this reservation has been made, give the name, address and telephone number of the person filling out the form.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Reservations must be received not later than **August 15 1991**. If a particular type of room is unavailable, the next most suitable room will be assigned. No particular room, room type, or location can be guaranteed. Deposit returnable on 72 hours cancellation notice, before September 15, 1991.

# 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 1991 REUNION

## 461st AAA BN. - 661st T.D. BN. - 777th TANK BN.

### MISSISSIPPI BEACH RESORT HOTEL - BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

#### SEPTEMBER 15th to 22nd, 1991

Registration form to be mailed to: **Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.**  
P.O. Box 178, Wilmot, Ohio 44689 • Phone: 216/359-5487

I/we will attend the 69th Infantry Division Association Reunion at Biloxi, Mississippi from September 15th to September 22nd and will attend the following activities.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street / R.D. / P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_  
City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone / Area Code: \_\_\_\_\_ First Timer  Second Timer  Old Timer   
Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Wife's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

	* * * * *	Per Person	Number Persons	Amount
<b>Weekly Events</b>				
Registrations: Monday, September 16th - Thursday, September 19th, 1991				
9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Check Bulletin Board for Friday and Saturday Times .....				NO CHARGE
<b>Sunday, September 15th</b> — Early Arrivals on your own.				
<b>Monday, September 16th</b> — Registration 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.				
<b>Tuesday, September 17th</b> — Mississippi Gulf Coast Tour with lunch at Mary Mahoneys. Leave Hotel at 9:00 A.M. ....		\$ 30.00	_____	\$ _____
<b>Wednesday, September 18th</b> — New Orleans Tour, DAYTIME HOURS Leave Hotel at 9:00 A.M. — 7-8 Hours .....		\$ 30.00	_____	\$ _____
New Orleans NITE LIFE TOUR Leave Hotel at 2:00 P.M. — 8 + Hours .....		\$ 50.00	_____	\$ _____
<b>Thursday, September 19th</b> — Executive Board Meeting at 9:00 A.M. Golf Tournament (Information at Desk) Early Bird Dinner 7:00 P.M. Cash Bar 6:30 P.M. ....		\$ 25.00	_____	\$ _____
<b>Friday, September 20th</b> — Camp Shelby Monument Dedication Leave Hotel 9:00 A.M. Ticket required for lunch .....		\$ 20.00	_____	\$ _____
PX Beer Party - 9:00 P.M. till ? Ticket Required .....		\$ 5.00	_____	\$ _____
<b>Saturday, September 21st</b> — Men's and Ladies General Meetings, 9:00 A.M. till ? Coffee and Danish served. Banquet Dinner Dance - 7:00 P.M. Cash Bar 6:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. ....		\$ 25.00	_____	\$ _____
<b>Sunday, September 22nd</b> — Farewell Breakfast Buffet - 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.....		\$ 11.00	_____	\$ _____
Replacement Cost for Lost or Broken Permanent Badges .....		\$ 3.00	_____	\$ _____
Farewells and Departures - See you all next year.				
			Reunion Sub-Total	\$ _____

### DUES

<b>New Dues Year - August 1, 1991 to July 31, 1992</b>				
Regular Membership .....		\$ 5.00	_____	\$ _____
Contributory Dues .....		\$10.00	_____	\$ _____
Ladies Auxiliary .....		\$ 2.00	_____	\$ _____
Postage and Bulletin Donation (up to you) .....			_____	\$ _____
			Dues Sub-Total	\$ _____
			<b>Total Amount Paid</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Make Check or Money Order Payable to: **69th Infantry Division Association**  
**ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENT IN FULL — IF NOT — YOUR RESERVATION WILL BE LAID ASIDE UNTIL PAYMENT IS MADE AND THIS COULD RESULT IN YOUR REQUEST FOR SEATING AND FUNCTIONS BEING DENIED.**

If you do not have a plastic badge from earlier Reunions, please check box.   
Permanent badges will only be made if your request is accompanied by an advance prepaid Reservation. Failure to attend Reunion will result in a \$3.00 charge for each badge and will be deducted from your refund. Please fill out this form and mail them in with your check 30 days prior to the Reunion. If you do this, it will make our job much easier and save you time at the Registration Desk.

**69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 1991 REUNION  
44th ANNUAL REUNION  
461st AAA BN. - 661st T.D. BN. - 777th TANK BN.  
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI  
SEPTEMBER 15th to 22nd, 1991**

**AIR TRAVEL TO BILOXI**

**AS WE MENTIONED IN THE LAST BULLETIN, THERE ARE  
TEN FLIGHTS DAILY ARRIVING AND DEPARTING AT THE GULFPORT AIRPORT.**

Northwest Airlines has four flights from Houston to Gulfport and Gulfport to Houston.

Continental Airlines has four flights from Houston to Gulfport and Gulfport to Houston.

\*Eastern Airlines has three flights from Atlanta to Gulfport and Gulfport to Atlanta.

At the present time there is no Limo service from the Airport to the Mississippi Beach Resort Hotel. We have arranged for a private van to transport you to and from the Hotel at a cost of \$10.00 per person.

If you would like to use this mode of transportation, please fill out the form below and be sure you send it along with your activities registration form located on the other side of this form. If you make a copy of this and do not use your bulletin form, PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT SEND IT TO THE HOTEL.

**Yes/I We wish to use the private van as transportation to and from the Hotel.**

Arrival Flight # \_\_\_\_\_ Airline \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Time \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Persons \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Flight # \_\_\_\_\_ Airline \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Time \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Persons \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I must pay the Driver \$10.00 as I board the van.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this along with your activities registration form to:

**Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr., P.O. Box 178, Wilmot, Ohio 44698**

\*Since Eastern Airlines is defunct

Delta Airlines has three flights from Atlanta to Gulfport and Gulfport to Atlanta on ASA Shuttle.

# Former Members of Company B, 272nd Infantry Regiment

Pictures furnished by Harold Capps



*Harold Capps*



*Claude Case*



*Vincent Bellantese and James Arnold*

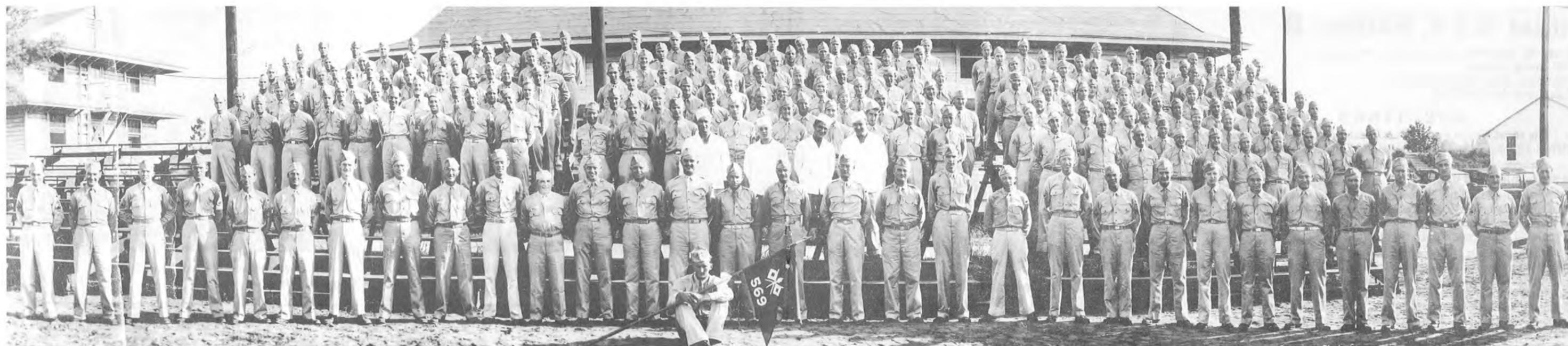


*Loy Martin, Harry Morrow, Don Kukelski, Claude Rice,  
Corporal Petrzelka*

**1991 69th INFANTRY DIVISION 44th ANNUAL REUNION**  
**Dedication of 69th Monument at Camp Shelby**  
**HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI**  
**September 1991 - Mississippi Beach Resort Hotel, Biloxi, Mississippi**



**Reconnaissance Company of the 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion**  
Picture furnished by Herbert J. McEntee



**569th Signal Company - Camp Shelby, Mississippi - June 30, 1944**  
Picture furnished by Carl A. Stetler

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# Division Association Chapters, Units, and Group Mini-Weekends Across the United States

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We are interested in all news from Chapters, Groups, Branches, Companies, Battalions, Regiments, Recon, Artillery, AAA, T.D.'s 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 or R.D. #1, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606, as early as possible. Then follow through with a write-up immediately after the event(s).

By now everyone should know where news material, article and pictures should be mailed. Your Coordinating Manager and Editor will do a superb job of handling it for you, our members.

**"WHY CANNOT LIFE'S BIG PROBLEMS COME WHEN WE ARE TWENTY AND KNOW EVERYTHING?"**

## DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE FOR 1990-1991

**Mail to:**

**Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr. Treasurer**  
Post Office Box 178  
Wilmot Ohio, 44689

**Dues:**

Regular Membership ..... \$ 5.00  
Contributory Membership ..... \$10.00  
Ladies' Auxiliary Membership .. \$ 2.00

**Dues Year:**

August 1, 1990 to July 31, 1991.  
Postage and Bulletin Donations Accepted.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 461st AAA, Battery B

Larry W. and Milly Brown, *News Reporters*  
538 Burns Avenue  
Clarkston, Washington 99403  
Telephone: 509/758-2180

### GREETINGS

The 461st Anti-Aircraft West Coast Reunion will be held JUNE 11, 12, 13, in Reno, Nevada at Circus Circus.

We hope everyone will come and have a good time. There is much to see and do.

There is a Harrah's Automobile Museum, Harold's Club Gun Collection, Dinner and Cocktail shows for entertainment and gambling. Also a trip to the Ponderosa Ranch (of TV fame) is planned. Let's not forget the good food and buffets.

The rooms are \$32.00 a night plus 8 percent tax for 1-2 people with two queen size beds. Reservations should be made as soon as possible. They are reserving a block of rooms for us, either on the fifth or sixth floor. When making your reservations please mention "Battery B." The toll free number is 1-800-648-5010. The rates for rooms are \$10.00 higher on Friday and Saturday. Circus Circus has a free shuttle bus that goes every half hour to and from the airport. For a room guarantee you must send one night's deposit.

There will be a meeting to discuss the next reunion. Everyone is invited to attend, Ladies and Men.

We hope to see all of you in Reno in June. Come and enjoy yourselves!!!

For more information call or write to Larry and Milly Brown. It would be helpful to let us know if you are planning to attend.

\* \* \* \* \*

The 461st, B Battery, has lost another good buddy. I. C. Davis passed away due to a heart attack, at his home in Leesburg, Florida on December 6th. He always had a smile on his face and he will be missed by all of us.

The East Coast Reunion for Battery B will be in September of 1992. Ed and Jo Gergerich and Bill and Jo Byler will be the hosts. It will be in Pittsburgh or Erie.

We did not get to go to Allentown to the Reunion. The Chairpersons, Donald and Wife Detwiler and Bernard and Wife Uhler, all from Nazareth, Pennsylvania, did a terrific job. There were 36 people present.

We enjoy the Bulletin very much. Thanks for doing a good job.

**Earl's Note:** Larry, I wish you could give us the names, cities and states of your members who attend the mini-weekends. We would like wives and guests names too. We almost made Allentown but Pittsburgh or Erie should be no problem.

We would like to have seen the Bylers when my Tri-State Group was in Erie in 1989. Also we would appreciate having the Bylers and Gergerichs attend a Tri-State weekend plus we hope to see a lot of your B Battery at future 69th Infantry Division Association Annual reunions. The 69th will be in San Francisco in 1992 at the Airport Marriott. See you all their, Lord willing.

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## 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion



William R. Beswick  
P.O. Box 576  
West Point, Virginia 23181

### 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion, LET'S RETURN TO CAMP SHELBY

Dear Fellow 661ers:

When we returned from Europe in 1945 and had our thirty day furloughs, most of us went to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, as our duty station.

The members of the 69th Infantry Division received their training at Camp Shelby, prior to going to Europe.

(Continued on Page 43)

**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS,  
UNITS, AND GROUP MINI-WEEKENDS  
ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**  
(Continued from Page 42)

A Memorial Monument is going to be erected at Camp Shelby on September 20th, 1991, in Honor and Memory of the members of the 69th and attached units.

Let's all return to Shelby and join in with what I'm sure will be a very momentous occasion for all of us.

If you have felt that you have never had an occasion to visit Camp Shelby and surrounding areas, this is an excellent opportunity to take advantage of it.

Come on and join us. It's later than you think.

Best Regards, Bill

\*\*\*\*\*

## 269th Engineers

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



Hope you all had a Merry Christmas and really enjoyed the holidays. I hope 1991 is the best year yet!

Don't have too much to write about, but from all the guys who wrote at Christmas, we should have a nice turnout at Biloxi and maybe a few new faces.

I'm work ing on getting B-Company out so if some of you guys from H&S, A, and C-Company write to a few guys, we could have a record turnout. It is in Biloxi, right on the Gulf Coast; cross the road and you're on the beach. A lot of good eating spots and all within walking distance. The golf course is really close so that won't be a problem, so bring your clubs and extra balls. Also, the trip back to Camp Shelby should be a real nice treat although it has changed a lot since we marched all over it and it seems what we didn't march over, we crawled over on those day and night problems.

I located another B-Company man. I tried to call him when we were in Elyria at the Tri-State but I got his mom who gave me his address in Missouri. But all in good time we got a hold of each other and **Fred Young**, who worked in the mess hall as a cook, will be in Biloxi. Fred stayed in the Army and retired in 1966. Enclosed is a photo of Fred taken while we were waiting for the boat to come to Bremmerhaven (I think) and take us stateside in 1946. If any of you guys have photos of the 269th, please send them in to the Bulletin, or send them to me and I will send them on. All photos are returned. The other two photos were loaned to me and are of Company-A men, I think. Let me know if you know their names, O.K.

You all take care and try to make it to the Central Pennsylvania, Tri-State and 69th Division Reunion. It's getting later than ya think!!

Your "Ole" Buddie, Frank



*Fred Young — Company B, 269th Engineers*



*Company A, 269th Engineers — Identity of men not known.*



*Company A, 269th Engineers — Unknown Soldier*

(Continued on Page 44)

**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS,  
UNITS, AND GROUP MINI-WEEKENDS  
ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**

*(Continued from Page 43)*

## Company H, 273rd Infantry

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

COMPANY H, 273rd INFANTRY had 18 at the Valley Forge Reunion. It was the most ever to attend a Reunion. Two more would have come but were in hospitals. Edward Huff, Jr. from New Jersey and our Company Commander, Retired Colonel Charles Burtyk, Jr. The Comrades attending Valley Forge were:

Robert and Roberta Andrew, *First Timer* .... Pennsylvania  
Bert and Rhoda Eckert ..... New York  
Charles and Ruth Green ..... Michigan  
Robert and Maxine Haag ..... Indiana  
Thomas Hoffman ..... Florida  
Leland and Lola Jones ..... Kansas  
Howard and Jane Keysar ..... Pennsylvania  
Arthur and Christie Knudsen ..... Florida  
Charles and Agnes Leskus ..... Pennsylvania  
Charles and Doris Locke ..... New Jersey  
John and Arylene Mowrey ..... West Virginia  
Anthony Mruk ..... New York  
Richard Parent ..... New Jersey  
E. R. and Jacqueline Sams ..... North Carolina  
Murry and Helen Schulman ..... New York  
Bernard and Sally Shimanowitz ..... New Jersey  
Raymond Szkudlarek ..... Ohio  
Violet and Jake Stark, Jr. .... Pennsylvania

There were 27 of us who went to a nearby restaurant for a get-together which was enjoyed by all. There is no better time than when you meet your old buddies that you fought with in the War. Company H also had a good showing on the last trip to Russia and Europe. They sent me a postcard from Leipzig, all signing it. It was a picture of the Napoleon Monument. Those who signed it were: Charles and Doris Locke, Leland and Lola Jones, Bert and Rhoda Eckert, Art and Christie Knudsen and Tom Hoffman.

Another Company H, 273rd buddy, Donald Cole, was with another group trip similar to the one the group took.



*Ray Szkudlarek, Howard Hoover and Jake Stark, Jr.*

*Picture taken when Ray Szkudlarek visited Jake Stark and the two of them got together and went to see Howard Hoover, Medics-273rd Infantry, in Halifax, Pennsylvania.*



*Company H, 273rd Infantry, Camp Shelby  
Front Row, Squatting: Jake Stark, Jr. and Irving Rosenfeld  
Rear, Standing: Eddie Conn, Cleo Register*

I have a report that Roger S. "Jack" Roden passed away suddenly on November 25, 1990. He was getting ready to go hunting. He would have retired in April, 1991. He transferred from Company G, 273rd to Company H, 273rd, and he and I were together for 18 months every day until we were split up in Germany.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Company E, 273rd Infantry



**Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.**  
*President, 69th Division Association*

*Coordinator and News Reporters*  
R.D. No. 1, Box 477  
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

or  
P.O. Box 69  
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069  
Home Telephone: 412/455-2901  
(Call anytime, day or night; weekends or holidays)  
Dottie's Work Telephone: 412/433-1713  
Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

*(Continued on Page 45)*

**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS,  
UNITS, AND GROUP MINI-WEEKENDS  
ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**

*(Continued from Page 44)*

**"THE FAMILY WITH TWO ADDRESSES — BUT ONE HOME, WHEN THE FLAGS ARE WAVING (WEATHER PERMITTING) WE'RE HOME — WELCOME TO ALL 69ers — STOP IN, CALL, OR WRITE." Exit 9 — Pennsylvania Turnpike.**



*We're home when the flags are waving.*

**Davisson F. Dunlap, CO**  
1601 CNA Building  
Orlando, Florida 32802  
Telephone: 305/849-0300 (Office)  
or  
795 McIntyre Avenue  
Winter Park, Florida 32789  
Telephone: 305/645-0154 (Home)

*"When in Florida or Orlando Area - Visit the Dunlaps"*

Let this be my personal letter and invitation to each of you Company E, 273rd members to visit with me at Biloxi, Mississippi and take the trip back to Camp Shelby for a dedication of a monument the 69th will be proud of for the rest of our lives and beyond. We are all getting older, I'm 65, and what a reunion this would be if 65 of us plus wives enjoyed most of the week together. It will be the first time in many, many years that many of us would have seen each other.

Room prices are right, \$55.00 plus 8% tax=\$59.40 per day. Send in your reservation from the sheet near the center of your bulletin to the Mississippi Beach Resort Hotel now, for rooms will get scarce as time draws near. This hotel is the old Biloxi Hilton, so don't let it throw you. They just recently changed their name. Just look over a page and see the schedule of events for the week. Isn't it reasonable and attractive. So let's go members and make a week of it together. If you let me know you are coming, I'll put your name in the next bulletin so others can see who will be there from Company E. I'll start it right now and let's see who will be next to be recognized.

1. Earl E. and Dorothy "Dottie" A. Witzleb, Jr.  
Champion, Pennsylvania.

Have a good summer and end it right by visiting with many old buddies from 45 years ago at Biloxi and Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Dottie and I wish you all the best of health and remember, we were soldiers once, pray for our Armed Forces for a speedy end and victory in the Persian Gulf.

## 461st AAA, Battery D

Guy Stamey, News Reporter  
Route 5, Box 73  
Candler, North Carolina 28715  
Telephone: 704/667-9526

Dear Battery D Guys and Families:

Just because we have not written recently does not mean we have forgotten you. It's just that we have not been hearing or getting much news lately. Maybe no news is good news, but we're anxious to hear from you. So get on a stick and tell us about yourself.

Also, remember your promise to keep Edwin Whitaker informed about deaths and illness. His address is 534 Rose Hill Road, Asheville, North Carolina 28803.

Here are the reunion dates: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, June 20-21-22. You can count on this. We will let you know soon if it will still be at First Baptist Church. Alden has retired from his work there, but he hopes they will still allow us to meet there. We will know real soon.

Here is the news we have received since we last wrote. There are three deaths as far as we know. They are Orvil Korte, Luther R. Needham, and Jack R. Whitt. Family members are Earnest Brown's wife, Louise and Lonnie Israel's wife, Margaret. These are the only ones we are aware of.

Floyd Locklear and members of his family came by in July. We enjoyed them a great deal. Floyd got in touch with Louis Bock, who answered to say that both he and his wife have had operations, but are doing very well, considering the two have had six operations between them the past few years. The Bocks are determined to be with us the next time.

As you write Edwin to give information, please be sure to use the the very latest addresses for those you mention. Some are sending in old addresses. You are supposed to have a more recent list than some are using. We will be giving you a new update at the next reunion. Edwin is faithful at keeping up just as completely as possible.

We are getting this date to you with the hope you will get busy and make your reservations now so you can be with us in June. We don't want to miss you.

Gilbert McIlvain tells us he is taking treatment for cancer. Carl Mosher reports that his doctor now says he is free from cancer. They expect to be here in June, for the first time.

Johnny and Hazel Rhymer had a bad fire at home on Halloween. They are rebuilding. John English has had eye surgery and is now doing well. Verna is doing quite well. By May we will send a card on which you can indicate your intentions to attend the reunion. Best wishes.

Yours Sincerely,  
Guy Stamey, Edwin Whitaker  
and Alden Angline

\*\*\*\*\*

## Headquarters Battery and Medical Detachment 461st AAA Battalion

Francis H. and Eleanor Breyette, News Reporters  
1137 Orkla Drive  
Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427  
Telephone: 612/545-281

*(Continued on Page 46)*

**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS,  
UNITS, AND GROUP MINI-WEEKENDS  
ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**

*(Continued from Page 45)*

Mac, Treasurer and Madge Morris, News Reporters  
630 North Oakland Street

or

3901 North Fairfax Drive  
Arlington, Virginia 22203  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**6th REUNION  
461st AAA BATTALION**

October 12, 13, 14, 1990 - Holiday Inn, Salem, Virginia

Attending were: John and Connie Lane, Ed and Belle Moore, Mac and Madge Morris, Ed and Joyce Hales, Wallace and Betty Ullery, Charlie Griffin and his daughter Cindy and Steve Lucas, Joe and Margaret Bryson, J.D. and Phyllis Blackwell, Ralph and Isabel Yingling, Filmore Cassell, John and Elsie Chambliss, Paul and Bertha Kowalchek, Cecil and Hilda Moore, Louis and Ruth Jones, Sherman and Irma Twigg, Francis and Eleanor Breyette, Roy and Ethel Currier, Paul and Ethel Lovelace, Allen and Dorothy Whitley and Carrie Scott (Dorothy's aunt), Pierre and Catherine Bouis, Tom Musselwhite, Ben and Linda Bryson Truitt, Katherine Trail.

**Friday — October 12, 1990:** We met at the Holiday Inn, Salem, Virginia. In the evening Roy Currier played his guitar and some of us sang with him. Thanks, Roy!

**Saturday — October 13, 1990:** Our bus tour was cancelled due to rain. We met in the conference room during the day Saturday to visit and talk, talk, talk! In the afternoon, Charlie Griffin showed slides of his trip to France this summer. Thanks, Charlie!

We gathered for dinner at 6:30. Ed Moore led in prayer, and then we enjoyed a delicious buffet. Louis Jones presided at the business meeting. He announced we had 44 present (including 5 guests). Lou had some opening remarks and jokes. The minutes from last year were read with no additions. There being no old business we went to new business - paying for the dinner - \$691.99. This included the dinner, use of the conference room and coffee and tea during the day on Saturday. There was discussion and a motion made and seconded that we pay Tom Musselwhite for the cancellation fee due to the bus not being used. Also, motion made and passed that the guests would only pay for their dinner, \$16.00. Motion was made and passed that we pay Sherman Twigg for the pictures he takes and develops. Frenchy mentioned that he had enough money from last year for his postage and other materials. A motion was made that our members pay for the guests, but it did not pass.

The final motion made and passed was to add up all expenses: pictures \$200.00, dinner \$691.99, and bus \$100.00 — total of \$991.99 and charge each person \$24.00, except the guests who would pay \$16.00.

The next item of business was the meeting for next year - who will arrange it? Nominations were made for Mac Morris, Frenchy and Joe Bryson, but they all withdrew their names. Allen Whitley agreed to negotiate for 1991 again. As Mac Morris does not plan to attend next year, a new secretary will be needed. Ruth Jones declined and Ethel Lovelace accepted.

Frenchy then had a few remarks and read a letter from Lisa Fong in California. Margaret Bryson had arranged for several door prizes for the ladies and they were drawn. Thanks, Margaret. Thanks also to Linda Bryson Truitt for the ladies' favors.

A time of silence and prayer ended the meeting for the death of Bill Pennington.

Earl's Note: Allen, it would be nice for 1991 if you took your group a little further south in Rebel country to Biloxi, Mississippi and join the 69th Infantry Division Association at our 44th Annual Reunion. We will be dedicating a monument at Camp Shelby, September 20, 1991 and we would like to see some 461st AAA members present. I thought I might have seen Mac and Madge Morris at our Valley Forge reunion. We did have one couple from the 461st AAA at Valley Forge from Battery D in the persons of Aaron and Barbara Mills.

\* \* \* \* \*

**2nd Report  
Headquarters Battery & Medical Detachment  
461st AAA Battalion**

From Francis H. and Eleanor Breyette, News Reporters  
1137 Orkla Drive  
Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427  
Telephone: 612/545-2281

The weekend of October 12, 13 and 14, 1990, our 6th Reunion started with a bang. The writer and his wife, Eleanor arrived at the Holiday Inn, Salem, Virginia, early Friday afternoon and found to their surprise that some couples had arrived on Thursday.

How can one express one's feelings while embracing people like John and Connie Lane, Erma and Cecil Twigg, Joe and Margaret Bryson, all such absolute wonderful couples as are all the others to come. It begins a period of smiling and happiness that will last throughout the coming year till our next gathering.

Johnny said, "Heck, I've had my suitcase packed since the 1st of September," and Connie added, "He really did!" It is beginning to appear that three days together is not enough at all. In '89 we had 13 stay over for an extra day, and believe me, it was a great one. In a few minutes in came Roy and Ethel Currie and Louis Jones, wonderful people and so good to see. Ruth Jones was in their room and came in shortly. Now there was no time to talk, just greet these wonderful people who were streaming in. Mac and Madge Morris who so graciously and capably have handled the task of Reunion Secretaries for a number of years, Allen and Dorothy Whitley and her aunt, Carrie Scott. What can I say about Allen, we all owe him a great debt of thanks and gratitude for all his work and dedication to our Reunions. Here comes Ed and Joyce Hales, Ed and Belle Moore, Eddie Griffin with his lovely daughter Cindy and her husband Steve Lucas.

All this talking makes one hungry so we paired to the dining room, pushed a group of tables together and had a full and satisfying meal. To this day I cannot remember what I had. I was too interested in the people around me and the desire was to savor every moment of being together.

Following that we retired to our meeting room which was spacious and throughout Saturday, would also have a constant supply of coffee and tea. I had brought a set of maps, all oversize, of the British Isles, one official map of the Normandy Campaign plus two oversize maps of Europe, one of France and the low countries and Luxumberg and the last of Germany. I had a copy of all our moves from the morning reports available and had marked out our path from rounding the north coast of Ireland, our trails through our year of work and training in England and from Omaha Red Beach, Normandy through the five major campaigns in Europe till the meeting with the Russians at Torgau, Germany. These were arranged in a line along one wall and made an impressive hanging. This was accomplished for the benefit of all as most had never really seen large scale maps with our movements and also for the ladies who really had no idea of just where we had been.

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS,  
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Earlier we had greeted Pete and Catherine Bouis. Pete and I have a project we are working on together so we were not too far apart at any time during this reunion. Filmore Cassell arrived but without Marie. We missed you, Marie. Enter John and Elsie Chambliss, what can I say about this couple and Ralph and Isabel Yingling and the Kowalcheks, Paul and Bertha. Good Tom Musselwhite is still working on his goal to fence the State of Virginia in. It has been a grand day.

Friday evening it was talk, talk, talk and checking and explaining our route on the maps adorning the wall when Roy Currier began strumming his guitar and people began a sing-along which included some of us who can't.

Saturday was heavy with cloud and rain so a planned bus tour was cancelled so we had another long coffee klatch. Saturday morning also saw the arrival of J.D. Blackwell and Phyllis, Paul and Ethel Lovelace, Cecil and Hilda Moore and late but so good to see, Wallace and Betty Ullery, Ben and Linda Truitt and later Katherine Trail, resplendent in blue. J.D. had an arm in a sling but hopefully everything is turning out alright. So now the gathering is complete.

Eddie Griffin along with Cindy and Steve had taken a tour of France in September covering Paris, a number of large cities throughout the country ending up on the Normandy beaches and the military cemeteries. They took good advantage of their cameras and showed their slides in the early afternoon. The rain may have stopped one tour but we had a good one via their beautiful slides. Thanks loads, Eddie, Cindy and Steve. A surprise, Allen had brought in a full box with three kinds of Virginia apples and Paul Lovelace had picked a sack of chestnuts. We do not know them in the Midwest so they were really a treat and the apples were hand picked and delicious. Thanks fellows.

Saturday evening we had our banquet with good food, well set tables, but of course I was so interested in people that I could have been eating tofu, a completely and utterly tasteless Japanese bean curd, without being aware of it not being steak. The dinner was preceded by our business program and presided over by Louis Jones, of course at his humorous best. Allen was coerced into another year of handling our reunion location and with Mac and Madge Morris not being with us next year, their task as Secretary went to Ethel Lovelace. Several door prizes and favors for the ladies were provided by Margaret Bryson and daughter Linda Truitt. Thanks loads to both of you. A moment of silence and prayer for the passing of Bill Pennington ended the meeting.

After the tables were cleared, our annual photo session began. We were pictured in groups large and small with most of our people wielding cameras. In addition, one of our men, Cecil Twigg, since the beginning, has been our designated official photographer who takes a full set of prints and gets them to us. A dandy idea that is greatly appreciated. Later when things were breaking up the fellows taking pics asked where Pete was as they wanted pics of the four of us. I tracked them down and caught them just as they were entering their room so we all returned and had a number of snaps of Pete, Catherine, Eleanor and I. Little did I realize how very valuable these shots were to become.

Early Sunday afternoon our people began drifting towards home and the Twiggs, Breyettes, Ed Griffin with Cindy and Steve, the Ullerys and Katherine Trail joined forces and had a grand dinner at a place called the Cracker Barrel some 17 miles down the pike. Later in the day Katherine and the Ullerys had to head home. The rest of us stayed over for some close talk and parted company a little past noon on Monday.

Another reunion, another glorious time that none of us shall ever forget. Entering Tennessee we ran into rain again and stayed in it all the way to Wisconsin where the land became white with an overnight snowstorm and home to Minnesota, the Land of Sky Blue Waters and I might mention a lot of bright, warm sunshine after two weeks of rain.

We arrived home late Thursday afternoon, October 18th. Saturday evening we received a call from Florida from Catherine Bouis telling us she had lost Pierre "Pete" Bouis on the way home from a massive heart attack. Now you can see why those pictures were of such importance. Not only had I lost a person very important in writing our history but a friend whom I loved, respected and admired. Time however long, will never dim my memory of him. May God rest his soul and give his wonderful wife, Catherine, peace and comfort.

Earl's Note: Francis, how about talking to Allen and have a one time change. Salem has been visited several times and I am sure you would be welcome back to the Holiday Inn after a one year lapse. I would like to see Headquarters and Medical Detachment join the 69th Infantry Division Association at its dedication of the 69th monument September 20, 1991 at Camp Shelby with our reunion headquarters at the Hilton, Biloxi, Mississippi. September is almost October so the earlier date shouldn't hurt anyone. We are anxiously awaiting an invasion of the 461st AAA Members to our 69th reunion and Biloxi would be the place. We did have one couple of your members from Battery D observe our functions at Valley Forge this past reunion. We were most happy to have them. How about some pictures.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 69th Cavalry Recon Troop

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### AN OPEN LETTER TO HAROLD GARDNER

Sorry you were unable to attend another Troop reunion. You and Jeanne were missed.

The 69th Recon Troop reunion was held from October 10th through October 14th, 1990 in New Orleans, Louisiana. For many of us the reunion trip to New Orleans was the first time since 1943 and 1944 before we departed for combat to the European Theatre of Operations. It was very reminiscent to revisit the French Quarter, Lake Ponchartrain, the many old buildings and to see the new skyscrapers and Superdome.

Charlie and Bobbie Fox did a terrific job setting up the hotel reservations and the activities such as the 4½ hour bus tour of the old and new New Orleans and also the cruise up the Mississippi River on the sternwheeler Natchez. We also had a tour of the Superdome which was very interesting.

Breakfast was set up each day in our own "dining room." Every morning we had a buffet breakfast of plain croissants and/or croissants filled with ham and cheese, muffins, fruit juices, sliced pineapple, cantaloupe, honeydew, strawberries and grapes. Of course, all the coffee, tea or milk you desired. It was all excellently displayed.

Many of the Troopers arrived one, two and three days ahead of our reunion date and many stayed on several days after it was over. Everything was so interesting to see that

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we would forget to take a break to rest our weary feet. We of course would wind up in our hospitality room every night. (We had two rooms set up.)

The cruise on the Mississippi River was scheduled for Saturday morning. It was a beautiful sunny day. There was also a Jazz band on board and when they started playing "The Rampart Street Parade" we knew we were in New Orleans. On our return many of us stopped in the French Quarter to a lunch of Creole or Cajun cooking. Freddie Wohlers and his fiance Fran, decided to try Italian food.

After breakfast on Friday morning, Charlie Fox had the men assemble for our annual business meeting primarily to pick a location for the 1991 reunion.

Ralph "Ole Buddy" Riggs put in a strong pitch for Columbus, Ohio. Jim Haight wanted to take the troop reunion to San Francisco. After much discussion, the vote went to Columbus, Ohio. The time and place will be announced as soon as a hotel is located. Maybe we can make San Francisco in 1992. Okay Jim?

Prior to sitting down for our formal dinner on Saturday night, Charlie Fox arranged for us to take a Troop picture. The dinner was from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. You had your choice of fish or prime rib. We had 24 Troopers present. With our wives, family, friends and fiances, we had over 60 people for dinner.

After our prayer and a few comments from Paul Fowler (who attended against his doctor's advice), and Boyd Ellsworth, Charlie had a very nice surprise for us. He contracted a three piece New Orleans jazz band and they played for over an hour. Before each selection the leader of the band gave an explanation of the beginning of jazz and ragtime and interpreted each song. Rampart Street came to us this evening. It was just great listening. Thanks Charlie, that surely was a nice surprise for us all.

Another surprise was the appearance of Mary Paradine, wife of our buddy Rodney. Rodney wished he could have been with us, but we all know he is in a nursing home and sadly missed. Thanks for coming Mary. It was great to see you again.

The Troopers present at this reunion were:

- Boyd and Stella Ellsworth ..... Ohio
- Robert and Marguerite Dalton, *2nd Timers* ..... California
- George and Mrs. Dinkelacker, *2nd Timers* ..... Mississippi
- Gordon and Fern Ewing ..... Florida
- Paul Fowler ..... Florida
- Charlie and Bobbi Fox ..... Maryland
- Getty and Lucy Glotfelty ..... Washington State
- Al and Esther Gold ..... Massachusetts
- Jim and Mary Haight ..... California
- Lewis and Janice Hill, *First Timers* ..... Texas
- Tony Ingrassellino ..... New York
- Morris and Gertrude Kaiserman ..... Illinois
- Jerry Leib and friend Judy, *2nd Timer* ..... California
- Michael and Mary Moscaritolo ..... Florida & New Jersey
- Marshall and Delphine Ney ..... Indiana
- Clair and Eileene Norman ..... Colorado
- Mary Paradine ..... Michigan
- Ralph Riggs ..... Ohio
- Edward "Doc" and Margaret Schlotter ..... Florida
- Robert and Mabel Schueler ..... Ohio
- Arthur and Lemke Treible, *First Timers* ..... Ohio

- Lewis "Cowboy" and Janet Vaughan ..... Virginia
- Henry and Lillian Weiman ..... New Jersey
- Robert and Jean West ..... Ohio
- Fred Wohlers and fiance Fran ..... Oklahoma

Ellsworth, Fox, Dinkelacker, Ewing and Moscaritolo all had friends and family attending this reunion.

And now for the Troopers who said, "maybe they will come next year," you must remember the sands of time in the hour glass are almost to the bottom. For those who are unaware of it, we lost two more of our Troopers this year; Lieutenant George Viguet and Harry Hallahan. MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

To Hap and Maxine Stambaugh, you were missed.

Until next time, stay well. See you all soon.

Best Wishes to you Harold and Jeanne from Mary and myself.

Your Buddy,  
Michael Moscaritolo  
575 Sherman Avenue  
Roselle, New Jersey 07203  
and  
19 Trotters Circle  
Kissimme, Florida 34743

Mike,

I appreciate your letter very much. This will also give all the Troopers a report on the New Orleans reunion. It appears Charlie and Bobbie did their usual sterling job of arranging a great reunion for the Troopers. Jeanne and I missed very much being with our "Recon Family" and God willing, we will see all of you in Columbus, Ohio.

We are in the process of sending out copies of the Troop Roster to the other fellows who did not make the reunion. Maybe we can stir up a few of the "no shows" and they will be with us next year.

Harold L. Gardner

Earl's Note: Boyd, Harold, Charlie, Ralph, Michael and all you other Recon Troopers, LET'S GET TOGETHER. You mention 1992 as a Recon weekend in San Francisco. Read your bulletin and you'll find out under CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE that the 69th Infantry Division Association will hold its 1992 reunion at the Airport Marriott in San Francisco. Wouldn't it be nice if you members, lovely wives, and guests join the Association once again as you did several years ago. We would greatly appreciate having you all. Jim Haight, your California representative, might get in touch with our San Francisco reunion chairman Robert L. Pierce, 144 Nashua Court, San Jose, California 95139, for some preliminary discussions on this subject. Yes, let's get together in San Francisco in '92.

Remember too, our dedication of the 69th Monument September 20, 1991 at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi and our reunion at the Biloxi Hilton in Biloxi, Mississippi. Join the growing list of units that hold their mini-weekends in conjunction with the parent Unit, the 69th Infantry Division Association. It would be nice to have many of you Troopers in Biloxi and Camp Shelby that week. I am sure Boyd and Stella Ellsworth will be in attendance. Remember too, you are all welcome at my Tri-State Group 69th Division weekend any time. For details read the bulletin. We will be at the Maple Festival in Meyersdale, Pennsylvania early in April 1991. Welcome and remember, any 69th member should be welcome at any unit weekend.

How about some pictures.

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**Central Pennsylvania Branch**

**EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, NEW JERSEY,  
DELAWARE, EASTERN MARYLAND, EASTERN  
NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, D.C., AND THE  
NEW ENGLAND STATES TOO**

**Frank and Arlene Carey, Chairpersons**  
4 Dennis Drive  
Reinholds, Pennsylvania 17569  
Telephone: 215/484-4974

Our 1990 weekend in Lebanon, Pennsylvania is now history. We were very gratified with the attendance and pleased to see that everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The hotel did an excellent job, the entertainment was good and the price was right. Thank you very much, all of you folks who attended and helped to make our meeting a success. To those of you who couldn't make it, try again in 1991.

We have two sites in mind for 1991, either York or Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The tentative dates are the last weekend in October or the first weekend in November. We sure were blessed with good weather at Lebanon in mid-November. However, we don't want to press our luck too far.

Our goal in 1991 is to double our membership of 224 active members. This is not unrealistic.

First: We are going to send out another mailing to approximately 300 people who did not respond to our first mailing in March 1990. By using our charm and persuasion we might pick up another 100 people.

Second: We have been informed that Eastern New York and New England might be opened up to us. We have no idea how many people are in this area until we get a listing from National Headquarters.

Our present geographical area is:

- (A) Central and Eastern Pennsylvania
- (B) New Jersey and Delaware
- (C) Eastern Maryland and Washington, D.C.

Now, if we are allowed to expand to Eastern New York and New England, we should change our name. If we get permission, we propose the name of "Northeastern Chapter 69th Infantry Division."

We would appreciate any comments and suggestions from any of you. Let us hear from you folks in Eastern New York and New England. If we get to be Northeast Chapter 69th Division, we will move our meeting sites any place we can get a committee to help. We could move up and down the East Coast.

Now, my personal note. I realize all of this sounds energetic. But, as a Director of the Association, I would like to see every group, Chapter or whatever, strengthen themselves for the day when we all, in our own groups can meet and fellowship within a reasonable distance. Unfortunately, we are not getting any younger, just better.

Hope you are all well and enjoyed the holidays. Sure wish you folks would write or call to give us ideas and comments. Better yet, stop in to see us. We certainly love ya all.

**Frank and Arlene**

**CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA 1990 WEEKEND ATTENDEES  
DIVISION HEADQUARTERS**

Clarence Marshall ..... New Kensington, PA

**271st INFANTRY**

Ray and Bertie Jones, Hq. Co. .... Perkasie, PA

Lee Wah, Hq. Co. .... Princeton, NJ  
Paul and Margie McCombs, Co. D ..... West Chester, PA  
Frank and Arlene Carey, Co. F ..... Reinholds, PA  
Cecil and Alene Cottle, Co. F ..... Portsmouth, OH  
Ash Fuller, Co. F ..... Jackson, MS  
Vaughn Woomer, Co. F ..... Tyrone, PA  
George and Ursula Vlad, Co. I ..... Yonkers, NY  
Rolland and Florence Correll, Co. L ..... Allentown, PA  
Bill and Reba Sheavly, Co. M ..... Reisterstown, MD  
George and Lina West, AT Co. .... Allentown, PA

**272nd INFANTRY**

Anees and Barbara Barakat, Co. G ..... Dallas, PA  
Michael and Mary Kertis, Co. G ..... Millsboro, DE  
Bob and Vivian Kurtzman, Co. I ..... Wilmot, OH  
Charles and Esther Brown, Hq., 2nd Bn. ... Harrisburg, PA

**273rd INFANTRY**

Rocco and Rosalie Campagna, Hq., 1st Bn. ... Dunmore, PA  
Charles and Lorraine Goodhart, Hq., 1st Bn. ... Lancaster, PA  
Ray Fahrner, Co. A ..... Lansdale, PA  
Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Co. E ..... Acme, PA  
Jacob and Violet Stark, Co. H ..... Steelton, PA  
Carl and Bernice Macknair, Co. I ..... McClure, PA  
Anthony and Genevieve Plasic, Co. L ..... Steelton, PA  
Albert and Elvira Francavilla, Co. M ..... Harrisburg, PA  
Earl and Anna Walters, Hq., 3rd Bn. .... Landisville, PA

**724th FIELD ARTILLERY**

Paul and Mayreta Kitner, Co. A ..... West Lawn, PA  
Melvin Baer and Ginny Bickto, Co. C ... Wyomissing, PA  
Harold Wepler and Henrietta Cashem, Co. C .. Genoa, OH

**879th FIELD ARTILLERY**

Dell and Mary Balzano, Service Co. ... Highland Hgts., OH  
Grandson Chipper

**880th FIELD ARTILLERY**

Frank and Joan Alfiero, Co. B ..... Bridgewater, NJ

**881st FIELD ARTILLERY**

Jim and Matilda Boris, Hq. Co. .... Philadelphia, PA  
Robert and Lena Davenport, Co. A ..... Stroudsburg, PA  
Daniel and Margie Sparks, Co. B ..... Dallastown, PA  
Lester Hart, Co. C ..... Williamsfield, OH

**269th ENGINEERS**

John and Elizabeth Hawley, H&S Co. .. Shippensburg, PA  
Dan and Helen Evers, Co. A ..... Brookhaven, PA  
Frank and Teddie Nemeth, Co. B ..... Levittown, PA  
Ward and Marion Peterson, Co. B ..... Glen Mills, PA  
Bill and Betty Foster, H&S Co. .... New Cumberland, PA

**369th MEDICS**

Marvin and June Slichter, Co. B ..... Mohnton, PA

**569th SIGNAL COMPANY**

Willard and Jean Lantz ..... Leesport, PA  
Carl and Mildred Stetler ..... Reading, PA

**661st TANK DESTROYERS**

James Binder and Libby Chudyk, Hq. Co. ... Bethlehem, PA  
Jacob and Betty Inch, Co. A ..... Liverpool, PA  
Joseph and Helen Purnell, Co. C ..... Lebanon, PA

\*\*\*\*\*

**Company M, 271st Infantry**

William "Bill" and Reba Sheavly, *News Reporters*  
218 Sacred Heart Lane  
Reistertown, Maryland 21136  
Telephone: 301/833-2771

Enclosed is a clipping sent to me by Sam Talley who was in Company M, 271st with me. From the article it looks like

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we might just see a full blown military camp similar to that which we knew back about 1944. You will note that this camp is the largest National Guard Camp training post in the United States.

With the action in the Middle East now becoming a full blown operation in the form of Desert Storm, this could be a big training area. I am wondering if we might run into any restrictions when we go there to dedicate the 69th Memorial Monument? I presume that someone has been in touch with the headquarters to be sure of adequate greetings, etc.

I was particularly interested in seeing my former CO's address in California. I have written to him but as yet have had no response. I have wondered many times what happened to him, and finally I have an answer.

Following is the article:

## **Camp Shelby could host many other units**

**THE CLARKSDALE PRESS REGISTER**

HATTIESBURG (AP) — Mississippi's 155th Armored Brigade arrived at Camp Shelby December 7th, but officials say the base's mobilization has been so successful it's possible other units will arrive also.

"There's a possibility other units will be moved here," Brigadier General Denver Brackeen said Friday. Brackeen is special advisor to the governor for military affairs and has day-to-day control of the Mississippi National Guard since Governor Ray Mabus stripped Adjutant General Arthur Farmer of his duties.

"I would hope that Camp Shelby would be used by other units," Brackeen said.

The presence of the Army personnel from across the United States at Camp Shelby, the largest National Guard training post in the country, could increase the chance of its continued use. Lieutenant Colonel Bob Johnson, Camp Shelby's executive officer, told a tri-county community support committee last week that the pace has been amazing.

"It has been extremely busy, to say the least," Johnson said. "It's been almost miraculous. We've literally got Army personnel in there from all over the country. The Army wanted to make Camp Shelby work so they've given us the resources we need."

Among the resources are military police from Fort Riley, Kansas, a team from Fort Knox, Kentucky, to test the 155th's common task proficiency, and personnel from Fort Carson, Colorado, who are testing more specialized skills such as tank gunnery. The 155th, which is expected to ship out to Fort Hood, Texas, around the first of the year, has been attached to the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson.

While Army personnel are working with the brigade, Camp Shelby itself is being run by the Installation Support Unit, approximately 250 troops from the Hattiesburg area. The unit, along with the 210th Finance Detachment from Jackson, was activated last month.

"We didn't quite expect the intensity," Johnson said.

Brackeen said the activation of the post for the first time since World War II went well.

"We've had a mobilization plan for years," he said. "We

implemented it. It wasn't exactly as we planned, but it worked well."

Brackeen spent much of the past week shuttling back and forth between his Jackson office and Camp Shelby to greet dignitaries.

General James W. Crysel, commander of 2nd Army, was on post Sunday and Monday. The 2nd Army is responsible for the Army Reserve and National Guard units in eight southeastern states as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Army Chief of Staff Carl E. Vuono toured Camp Shelby Thursday with an entourage that included 3rd District Congressman Sonny Montgomery.

"It's great to come back to Shelby," Vuono said. "You can't help just feeling so absolutely proud of the young men and women that we've seen throughout the day. To watch these soldiers of the 155th Brigade today, their morale, their quiet determination, their capability, their sense of responsibility of what they're doing, just makes you proud. Not just to be a soldier. It makes you proud to be an American."

\* \* \* \* \*

Another letter from Bill and Reba Sheavly reads:

I received the copy of the 69th Bulletin and must say that the color added to the front page added "class" to the Bulletin. To all of those responsible you did a great job, or as they say in Baltimore, "you done good."

There is one slight error in the Bulletin, Page 24, you have us listed as M-272nd, this is incorrect as it should have been M-271st.

I think you missed one name on "New Men Located Since the Last Bulletin." The name of Foster Hibbard, Company M, 271st, was turned over to Clarence Marshall at the mini-reunion in Lebanon, Pennsylvania in October. It is possible it was misplaced. The address was 614 LaCorso Drive, Walnut Creek, California 94598. I recently talked with him on the phone and we had not talked since 1945 as we went our separate ways when the Division was broken up. Hope you get the address in the next bulletin as there may be others who wish to have it.

The reunion was good and those who did not come missed a very fine time of fellowship and lots and lots of conversation. Time is running out and we are hoping that some of these fellows who have said they would "try" to make the next one, just decide "they will do it." Having attended the last 16 of 18 reunions both my wife and I find that it is a big social club, no one would go away not having met a lot of new, fine people. So what do you say guys? Will you be in Biloxi?

Best Regards,  
Bill Sheavly

Earl's Note: Sorry Bill, you are now back in M Company, 271st Infantry. Yes, we do hope many new first timer faces will show in Biloxi as this could be your last chance to see an old buddy of many, many years ago, say 45 or more.

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**REMEMBER GROUPS: Send in your information early so that it can appear in at least 2 issues of the Bulletin to give everyone time to plan and prepare to attend your mini-reunions.**

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**Company D,  
273rd Infantry**

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*Southern States News Reporter*  
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Melbourne, Florida 37294  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Please send to Earl.

**Allan F. Blackmar**  
*Northeastern States News Reporter*  
Post Office Box 118  
Pine Plains, New York 12567-0118  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Please send to Earl.

**1990 Annual Reunion  
King of Prussia, PA**



*69th Division Members. The bus trip to Philadelphia on Tuesday. On the return trip to Valley Forge we had the bus driver stop at the Freedom Foundation where this picture was taken.*



*Company D, 273rd Infantry  
Banquet Night  
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania*

*1st Row, Left to Right: Arthur Ayers,  
Robert McCarty, Henry Kaminski, Edward  
Case, Seth Mohr*

*2nd Row: Dan McHugh, George  
Johnson, Paul Gornbein, Charles Hoefer,  
Ken Sawyer, Allan Blackmar*

*Ladies of Company D, 273rd Infantry  
Saturday Night Banquet  
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania*

*1st Row, Left to Right: Julia Kaminski,  
Kathy Ayers, Betty Jo McCarty, Bertha  
Hoefer*

*2nd Row: Barbara Johnson, Kathy  
McHugh, Mary Blackmar, Elaine Gornbein,  
Mary Case, Fran Collard, Joan Mohr*



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**Tri-State Group**

**TRI-STATE BLUE IS THE FAMILY GROUP**

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

*(Other States Invited Too)*



**Earl E. and Dottie Witzleb, Jr., Coordinators & News Reporter**  
R.D. No. 1, Box 477

Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

or

P.O. Box 69

Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069

Home Telephone: 412/455-2901

(Call anytime, day or night; weekends or holidays)

Dottie's Work Telephone: 412/433-1713

(Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike

*"The Family With Two Addresses — But One Home — When the flags are waving, (weather permitting) we're home — Welcome To All 69ers — Stop In, Call, or Write."*

**When passing through the Keystone State, stop and see us. Dottie and me welcome all 69ers in the mountains of Acme-Champion, Pennsylvania "WHERE AMERICA BEGINS."**



*When the flags are waving, (weather permitting), we're home.*

April 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 1991 is the big weekend for Tri-State this year. It's a little early but when you go to the Maple Festival it has to be early. The sap stops flowing early in April. This message may get to you all too late for I have no control just when our bulletins get delivered. The postal service arranges that. If you get this bulletin in time and did not get a flyer of the Tri-State, don't hesitate to call George Murphy, chairman of the committee, at 301/689-3222 and tell him you want to register for our festival weekend. I am sure he will give you all the details and the price is right for a good weekend of top 69th members. You'll find all 69th members are nice people to know. I'll not waste any space in this message since I am almost sure this bulletin will get to homes in late April.

One thing I do want to bring out for many members to read is the following. First, all members of the 69th Infantry Division Association are welcome to attend Tri-State weekends. Plus all members who attend mini-weekends of other units are welcome to attend our Tri-State weekends. We feel we have good weekends all the time and our hospitality room is usually top rated. Our ladies usually bring their favorite dish or dessert so we always have plenty to eat and with our members bringing their favorite beverage, there is plenty to enjoy all weekend. So you all come to a Tri-State weekend. We hope to have some tapes to show in the hospitality room.

Second, with the southeastern states group out of business at the present time, I, as coordinator of the Tri-State group, extend an invitation to you all to join us for the present time if not forever. We do not want you to sit around not meeting fellow buddy members and new ones, too. Life is too short not to enjoy the great fellowship of 69th people (husbands, wives, children, and their families). So I now extend a welcome to our friends from the south of which I'll include the following states of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and the southeastern corner of Louisiana which includes the areas of Lafayette, Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

Naturally we hope to see all these members this year at Biloxi and Camp Shelby in September. Yes, we're not omitting any member for all of you living in the 50 states and some in foreign countries are ALWAYS WELCOME TO 69th FUNCTIONS OF THE TRI-STATE GROUP OF OUR GREAT 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION. We are the friends who wish to make new friends.

Lastly, support our troops of all branches in the Persian Gulf area and fly your U.S. flags and yellow ribbons. See you all in Grantsville, Maryland in early April.

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**69th INFANTRY  
DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
44th ANNUAL REUNION  
September 15-22, 1991  
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI  
Dedication of the 69th Division  
Monument at Camp Shelby  
September 20, 1991  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi**

# 69th Cavalry Recon Troop 1991 40th Reunion

The 40th Annual Recon Troop Reunion will be held Thursday, September 5th to Sunday, September 8th, in Columbus, Ohio, The Heart of It All! Our headquarters will be the Embassy Suites Hotel, which is conveniently located on the north side of Columbus, within easy access to I-270 at the Cleveland Avenue exit. Near I-71, it is just 15 minutes from Port Columbus International Airport. They offer complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport. The hotel address is: 2700 Corporate Exchange Drive, in the Corporate Exchange Park at I-270 and Cleveland Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43231.

The following are the arrangements made:

HOTEL RATES:	NO. OF GUESTS	RATES
Plus 15.75% Tax	1	\$79.00
	2	\$79.00
	3	\$89.00

**YOU GET:** Spacious living rooms including sofa and armchair, phone, color TV and dining/work space. **PLUS** all two room suites are open onto the sunny courtyard atrium. **PLUS** private bedrooms provide king size or two double beds, phone and color TV. **PLUS** complimentary full cooked-to-order breakfast served daily in the spectacular atrium. **PLUS** two hours of early evening cocktails in the atrium are included with the price of your suite. **PLUS** wet bars in every suite equipped with refrigerator and microwave oven. **PLUS** take advantage of the indoor/outdoor heated pool featuring water falls and a lush environment. **PLUS** unwind in the whirlpool and sauna. **PLUS** enjoy the outdoor jogging path. **PLUS** free spacious parking lot **PLUS** hospitality suite #829 that will be

\*\*\*\*\*

## Former Members of Company H, 271st Infantry Regiment



Ed Hill is the first one squatting on the left. Others unknown.

Picture sent by Ed Hill

open daily from 3:00 p.m. on - **PLUS** Free shuttle service to and from the airport.

**OTHER FEATURES:** There will be a grand buffet with entertainment (extra cost) on Saturday night, September 7th. Tours are being planned - for example: 3-7 mile tour of the Ohio State University campus (includes the horseshoe stadium), Anheuser Busch Brewery, Wyandotte Winery, German Village with a stop at the Golden Hobby Shop. Wonderful shopping at "City Center Mall" in downtown Columbus. As these are finalized, the details will be mailed to Recon Roster Members including Embassy Suites Hotel reservation cards.

**COME TO COLUMBUS  
"THE HEART OF IT ALL" IN 1991.**

**Committee:**

**Lewis "Boyd" and Stella Ellsworth, Coordinators**  
R.D. #1, Knoxville Road  
Steubenville, Ohio 43952  
Telephone: 614/282-2327

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

**Robert and Jean West**  
18520 Laurel Street, Box 234  
Laurelville, Ohio 43135  
Telephone: 614/332-3341

**Ralph "Ole Buddy" and Millie Riggs**  
2790 Fairfax Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43220  
Telephone: 614/451-3088

**NOTE:** Any questions or other information, Contact Riggs.

# THE COMPANY

## The Story of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion 273rd Infantry In Europe

Alan H. Murphey  
1339 Hemlock Drive  
Fairborn, Ohio 45324

Article and Pictures furnished by Alan Murphey

The men of Headquarters Company realized they were entering a war zone when the SS Santa Maria's sirens blared and they were ordered topside. It was the morning of November 25, 1944, and the huge convoy was entering the western approach to the English Channel. As they lined up on deck, they could see the British Sutherland circling off the starboard bow. Far out on the perimeter of the convoy, escort destroyers zigzagged defensively. Suddenly, the ship's sides shuddered with the aftershock from a distant exploding depth charge. All three troop ships, the Marine Panther, the John Erikson and the Santa Maria, went to full speed. Once out of range of the sighted submarine, the troop ships slowed to allow the slower ships in the convoy to catch up.

When the company reached Southampton aboard the Santa Maria the following day, it consisted of 112 enlisted men and 9 officers. They came from every section of the States and ranged in age from nineteen to thirty-eight. However, they were predominantly Northeasterners as half of them came from an area east of Ohio and north of Maryland. Of these, nineteen were from New York and fifteen from Pennsylvania.

On the night of November 27 the company boarded a troop train and arrived at Basingstoke at 0115 the next morning. Rather than the precise rows of wooden barracks they had known at Camp Shelby, the men were housed in an assortment of Quonset huts and dilapidated brick buildings randomly scattered on a mushroom farm.

The company barely had time to adjust to its new surroundings when, eighteen days later, the Germans launched their winter offensive in the Ardennes. The effects of the offensive hit close to home on Christmas morning when seventeen men were alerted to leave as replacements to the 78th Infantry Division on the Continent. Among those selected were Sergeant 'Doug' Roper, the Message Center Chief and Wireman T/5 David Malchick. Also chosen were Pfc. William Wrench, Spencer Shapiro, Robert Freeman and Stanley Seitzinger, all from the Ammunition and Pioneer Platoon.

Less than a month later, on January 22, 1945, the company left Basingstoke for the Continent. Most of the men traveled by train to Southampton and boarded the Monowai, a 10,600-ton British troop ship. A smaller group arrived at Southampton by organic transportation and loaded on LST 527.

The Channel crossing was long but uneventful. Those aboard LST 527 were treated to plentiful American Navy chow, including flapjacks for breakfast. Those on the Monowai were not as fortunate. Their two daily meals consisted of beans and bread, washed down with horrible tasting coffee. Many of the men on the Monowai, like S/Sgt. Jack Shadburn of Anti-Tank Platoon, decided it was too hot in the troop compartment and joined a group playing black jack in a small mess room. Bets were being made with English money and recently distributed French Francs. Trying to mentally convert two foreign currencies into dollars was too much for Shadburn. When it came his turn to bet, he threw in a wad of bills saying, "I bet this much, how much is it?"

At Le Havre the heat of the troop ship was replaced by an icy cold wind and freezing rain. Boarding open Transportation Corp vans, the men of the company, along with the rest of the Battalion, moved out in a long convoy. Many hours



Left to Right: T/5 R. Douglas Roper, T/5 Edward Bernfeld, Sergeant Lewis Eakle and T/5 Albert McMunn from the Communications Platoon. Camp Shelby - 1944.

later the convoy stopped. A few minutes later Lieutenant Colonel Leo Shaughnessey, the Battalion Commander, passed a van loaded with shivering men from the A&P Platoon. They realized the convoy was lost when they heard Shaughnessey's angry voice shouting for the convoy commander. "Where is that SOB? I'll kill him!" roared the Colonel. Pfc. Fred Koeller, jammed up against the van's slatted guard rail, noticed that the red-faced colonel had his hand on his pistol. The convoy commander, whoever he was, managed to evade the Colonel. But on arrival at Forges-les-Eaux the next morning, the consensus among the members of the frozen battalion was that the convoy commander deserved to be shot.

On February 1, the company arrived at a mud-sodden tent city outside of Sissonne, France. The first night the men broke open bales of hay and heaped it on the half-frozen ground and unrolled their sleeping bags. The next morning they discovered that the warmth of their bodies had thawed the ground and they had sunk below ground level in a sea of oozing mud.

At Sissonne the company received replacements for the men lost in England during the Bulge. Among the new arrivals were Pfc. Duane Munds, Robert Morris and Steve Zmyslo, all assigned to the A&P Platoon. Other replacements included Pfc. Robert Arbitello and John Postell to AT Platoon and Edward Rothstein, Veikko "Arnold" Mackey and Lisle Dare to the Communications Platoon.

After a long, slow trek across northern France in straw filled 40-and-8 boxcars and a ride in First Army trucks, the company reached Heppenbach, Belgium, fifteen miles from the front lines on February 11th. At Heppenbach, the men were told to discard anything that would not fit in a full field pack. Everything else would be stored in the village.

(Continued on Page 55)

## THE STORY OF HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION, 273rd INFANTRY IN EUROPE

(Continued from Page 54)

Pfc. Lloyd Smith of A&P knew he had no use for summer underwear and tossed them in his duffle bag along with his diary and two extra pipes he had purchased in England. He never saw any of the items again. The next afternoon Smith noticed a wire section jeep from the 99th Infantry Division drive up the village road with a stove lashed to its side. He watched an unshaven, mud-spattered linesman with hollow eyes unravel wire from the jeep's rear-mounted spool. The GI was the toughest looking soldier Smith had ever seen.

On the evening of February 12, the company moved up to the Siegfried Line. The front line was an irregular line of pillboxes, wrecked houses, dugouts and fox holes running just east of Udenbreth, a farm village a mile inside Germany. The Company was scattered along a 2,400 meter perpendicular line running to the front. The Battalion Rear CP was set up in the dense woods just west of the Belgian-German frontier. Here were the battalion trains and kitchens, the Medical Detachment and the A&P Platoon. About 1200 meters to the east, near the cross-road hamlet of Neuhoef, was the Message Center in a bombed out farmhouse. Close by were the 57mm guns of the Anti-Tank Platoon. About 500 meters to the northeast, along side the Udenbreth road, was the Forward CP in a concrete bunker. Another 600 meters to the northeast, the I&R section had an observation post in a farmhouse attic.

At daybreak on February 13th, the A&P Platoon was ordered to clear an area for the battalion aid station and make sure the perimeter was free of booby traps and mines. The selected site was adjacent to the frontier road where the previous tenants from the 99th had left a stack of shells and a number of dead GIs and Germans covered by a tarp. The bodies were quickly loaded on a 2½-ton truck. The men then proceeded to clear the perimeter, cautiously probing with their bayonets. Pfc. Fred Koeller tackled the shells. Finding the casings had frozen together, he slipped his bayonet carefully under a shell and gently pried. With a sharp cracking noise, the casing broke away from the ice. At the sound, the remainder of the detail made a dash for cover. Koeller had to smile as the sheepish faces of his buddies appeared from behind the safety of thick Belgian fir trees.



Left to Right: Captain Oren McFarland, Headquarters Company Commander and Lieutenant Norman Kent, A&P Platoon Commander. Altenhain - May 1945.

The following weeks were bitterly cold but relatively quiet. Each day Cannon Company shelled the crossroads connecting Kamberg, Reschied and Schnorrenberg. The Germans retaliated with short dawn and dusk artillery, mortar and rocket barrages.

Finally on March 1st, Third Battalion launched an attack. Rauher B, a hill 1000 meters to the northeast of Udenbreth, was stormed by I Company. Before noon other elements of the battalion captured pillboxes 82 and 83 and seized high ground on the outskirts of Schnorrenberg. Within a few days the battalion was relieved and took over positions near Hellenthal, but was pinched out of contact with the Germans on March 8th. The following day the company moved to Hecken. Soon a Quartermaster portable shower unit arrived. For the first time in over three weeks the men shed their mud stained ODS and showered in warm water.

Nine days later, on March 18, the company reached Oberdrees. During the following week, sixty enlisted men were trucked each day to the main supply road leading to the Remagen bridge. There, along with others from the battalion, they assisted Engineer troops widening and repairing the road. The first morning that he arrived at the work site, Pfc. Robert Miller of I&R could not believe his eyes. Leaning on his shovel in the spring sunshine, he watched in awe as the bumper-to-bumper procession of vehicles, tanks and guns streamed eastward. Suddenly Miller realized the war in Europe was coming to an end. He wondered how long it would be before he returned to Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania.

The company's next to last stop before crossing the Rhine was Bad Neuenahr which was reached March 24th. That evening many from the company had their first taste of Rhine wine liberated from a local winery. The next morning T/4 Luther Grogan, who was preparing cake batter, decided that there was no point in wasting a 5-gallon water can of wine that someone had left in the company kitchen. He added a healthy portion to the batter. He was rewarded at mealtime to see the men return for second and third servings of his 'Rhine cake.'

The Rhine was reached on the evening of March 27th at St. Sebastian. Loaded onto Navy LCIs, the men were ferried across to Bendorf where they bivouacked within sight of the river. The company, along with the rest of the battalion, departed Bendorf in motor convoy early the next morning. The convoy followed the west bank of the Lahn River until about noon when it was stopped by a collapsed bridge that blocked the road. The men dismounted and hiked ten miles to the village of Horhausen. Later that day Corporal Charles Nolin and Pfc. Lloyd Smith, Ronald Penick, Lester Harbaugh, Robert Morris and Steve Zmyslo of A&P went on patrol looking for German soldiers hiding in the surrounding woods. They saw four deer and two wild boar, but no Germans. The next morning Pfc. John Postell of AT returned to the woods and shot a deer. It was loaded on the A&P 1½-ton weapons carrier and taken to Aumenau the next day where it provided a tasty meal of venison for the men of both A&P and AT Platoons.

At Aumenau Pfc. Smith and Lieutenant Norman Kent, the A&P Platoon Commander, found cameras in the house of a well-to-do Nazi family. Others in the company found keepsakes that day. S/Sgt. Earl Walters of AT located a German flag with the inscription "AUMENAU a.d. LAHN." He tucked it away as a souvenir to take home to Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

During the first week of April the battalion moved slowly through the hilly country west of the Fulda River. On April 5th the battalion encountered stiff resistance after it crossed the Fulda at Speele and climbed to flat ground on the east bank. German resistance continued through the day until

(Continued on Page 56)

**THE STORY OF HEADQUARTERS COMPANY,  
3rd BATTALION, 273rd INFANTRY IN EUROPE**  
(Continued from Page 55)



*Anti-Tank Platoon Members – April 1945*  
Left to Right: Pfc. Charles Hoffman and Pfc. Joseph Gawek. Front: Pfc. John McDonough.

Lutterberg was seized. Pfc. Alan Murphey of I&R was among a few of those ordered to escort about twenty German POWs back to the Rear CP at Speele. The Germans looked fresh and marched in perfect unison. Looking at his tired GI companions, Murphey was reminded of a Bill Mauldin cartoon depicting an almost identical scene. The humor of the situation made him forget that he had not eaten since he had a D-bar for breakfast.

After crossing the Werra River, the battalion was detached to Combat Command R, 9th Armored Division. Augmented with tanks and designated as Task Force Shaughnessey, the battalion moved east at daybreak on April 10th. At the head of the column, line company riflemen crouched atop Shermans as the tanks rumbled under archways of trees bursting with spring blossoms. Ahead of them, disorganized German units fought short rear-guard actions and then faded away to the east. Three days later, strung out on the valley road leading to Altengroitzsch, the convoy came under heavy 88mm gun fire. Before the guns were captured and the town taken, the battalion lost ten men killed and ten wounded.

On April 15th, the battalion engaged the German army for the last time at Colditz on the Mulde River. Although all four line companies were involved in the operation, I Company

suffered the majority of the seventeen battle casualties. During the late afternoon, Lieutenant Colonel Shaughnessey, accompanied by his radio operator T/5 Francis Blais, directed harrasing artillery fire on Colditz from the upper story of a house on the west bank of the river. About dusk the colonel handed the map he was using to Blais. He told him to pick targets at random from the chart and call in the coordinates to the howitzer battery. Blais spent the remainder of the night alone directing sporadic fire on Colditz. He was unsure if the shells were hitting the targets he selected, but was heartened on one occasion to see a factory catch fire after requesting a phosphorous shell.

The next move was to a 30-acre chemical weapons ammo dump at Altenhain. For the first time since it crossed the Rhine, a semblance of normalcy returned to the company. It was a time to write letters, take snapshots and visit friends. The principal task assigned the battalion was to house and feed large numbers of liberated Allied POWs. German barracks at the ammo dump were allocated to house the ex-prisoners and Major Manlio Delfini, the Battalion Exec, was made the camp commander. He selected a number of Headquarters Company enlisted men to administer the camp. Included among these were S/Sgt. William Nystrom and T/5 Morton Keiser from Headquarters Section.

Altenhain became the company's home away from home, as it remained there longer than at any other single location in Europe. Following VE Day a few 'high point' men with long service departed for the States, including Lieutenant Kent. More men left for the 29th Division on June 29th, among these Corporal Nolin and Pfc. John Sneary from A&P and Pfc. Walter Burrows and Francis Giegans from I&R.

On July 1st, the entire Division moved back south of Kassel and Headquarters Company was assigned to the village of Raboldshausen. The final breakup of the company was swift. Twenty-four hours after Japan surrendered, the 69th was alerted to return to the States within thirty days. The men of the company were quickly shipped to other units. GIs with over 85 'points' from other outfits arrived to take their place.



*Message Center Section - Camp Shelby 1944*  
Left to Right - Rear: Pfc. George Decker, Pfc. Douglas Midwood, Pfc. Francis Hogerty and Pfc. Eldon Weaver.  
Front: Pvt. Kearny and Pfc. Mosiman

(Continued on Page 57)

**THE STORY OF HEADQUARTERS COMPANY,  
3rd BATTALION, 273rd INFANTRY IN EUROPE**  
(Continued from Page 56)

When Pfc. Koeller returned to Raboldshausen the third week of August from a ten day furlough to the Riviera, he found the company had been taken over by strangers. He could not find a single familiar face. Looking down the dusty road leading out of the village, Koeller wondered where they had all gone. For a moment, he could visualize the men of the company crowded along the railing of a troop ship as it steamed past the Statue of Liberty. He felt cheated — they would never make that final sentimental journey together.

But suddenly Koeller realized that the sentimental journey would never end. He had the memories of the days they had spent together in Europe — some sad, some happy, some humorous. They were memories that would travel with him wherever he went.



May 1945

Left to Right: Pfc. Everette Patterson (A&P), Pfc. Donald Penny (AT) and Pfc. Lester Harbaugh (A&P).

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<p><b>69th INFANTRY 1992 REUNION</b> <b>San Francisco, California</b></p>
<p><b>69th INFANTRY 1993 REUNION</b> <b>Rochester, New York</b></p>

# Company G, 271st Infantry at Valley Forge Reunion



Former Members of G-271st with wives and guests.



G-271st at Lily Langtry's



Colonel David Bolte speaking at the 1990 Reunion.

Pictures furnished by Joe Giglietta

# Otto J. DeBruyn from 69th Division Headquarters sends along the following letter and photos

3553 Whispering Brook Court  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49508-3779

First, let me compliment you and all those who put together the Bulletin for the 69th Division. You are all doing a superior job.

For a long time I have been planning to write and send in pictures that I have in my collection but somehow I just didn't sit down and do it. Now with the history book coming out I had an additional incentive to get going.

One thing I have noticed is that there hasn't been much coverage of the Division Headquarters and I keep wondering what has happened to the guys I soldiered with. I have a big box full of pictures that I took all the way from Camp Shelby

to our return home. I picked a handful out and enclosed them with this letter thinking that perhaps you might like to use some of them sometime. On the back of each picture is written a description and names of people on them.

We have a vivid recollection of the training days at Camp Shelby, the trip to England, the stay at Winchester. That's when they took some of our troops away from us to fill the Bulge, delaying our going over to France. Then on across to Remagen and I remember watching as the last attempt was made to destroy the bridge before the U.S. forces took it. Then down to the Rhine, across to Kassel and on to Leipzig. I have been back there a couple of times, rented a car and drove the route that we traveled back in 1945. Now that we can travel all of Germany I hope to go back and visit Leipzig and Naunhof, where we set up headquarters for the last time in Germany before moving into the staging area in France and headed back home.

We have a lot of good memories and are really looking forward to the History Book on the 69th.

Thanks again for a terrific job on the Newsletters. I am also sending a biography and a couple of pictures to Turner Publishing Company for the History Book.



*Part of the A.G. Section  
Naunhof, Germany — May, 1945*

*Standing, Left to Right: Manz, Bradley, Christian, Derganc, Young, Reid, Speranza, Argenbright, Hinman, Bell, Benson.*

*Kneeling: Lund, Winehouse, Dennis, Birnero, Riley, Johnson, Davis, Brooke.*



*Taken in front of the office in Naunhof, Germany, May 12th.*

*Left to Right: Winehouse, Bradley, Manz, Speranza, Captain Mahoney, Hinman, DeBruyn*

*Hinman is holding the "It's All Over" issue of the sentinel. I am pointing at a South Pacific ribbon which I was wearing - trying to kid the fellows into believing that we were already being issued them.*



*A.G. Office — Naunhof, Germany — May 1945*

*Left to Right: Lund, Ball, Schmidt, Derganc, Riley, Bell, Payne, Ursel.*



*In front of the office at Naunhof, Germany about May 12th.*

*Left to right: Bradley, Speranza, Manz, Hinman, DeBruyn, Mahoney, Trimble.*



*Our kitchen at Naunhof.  
Sergeant Lund being served.*



*From the bedroom window at Naunhof. A truck convoy  
of prisoners after the capture of Leipzig.*



*A.G. Headquarters — Naunhof, Germany*



*Leipzig, Germany near the railroad station.*



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*Augustus Platz, Leipzig*



*Leipzig: Note, St. Thomas church to right undamaged  
except for a bit of concussion, surrounded by total wreckage.*



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*Leipzig, The National Monument. Also known as Napoleon Tower. Before and after we got there. We had quite a fight here.*

*Leipzig Police*



*Our Russian friends at Torgau. These are meetings of our division and the 1st Army who met these Russians.*

*The group of Russians at the bridge near Torgau. The fourth from the left is a young lady M.P.*



*Lt. Colonel Pengelly and Major Damron*



*Boy how we miss the tables and chairs.  
Lund and Payne*



*Lt. Colonel Pengelly, my boss.*



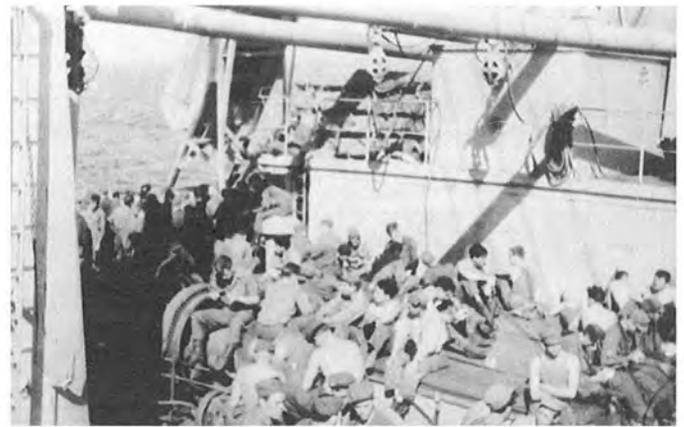
*Duren, Germany*



*Lunch time, A.G. Dept - Somewhere in Germany.*



*69th Division aboard ship on the way home, 1945.*



*69th Division on the Atlantic*



*German P.O.W.s building our ballfield.*



*Sergeant Bradley at bat.*



*Bell, Argenbright, Lund, DeBruyn, Benson, Bradley*



*Sergeant Lund ready for "the big one."*

*Sergeant Schmidt*



*Lay it out there boy!*

# Wartime Letters from Germany and Some Thoughts from Today

By Robert Easton

I reached B Company of the 272nd Infantry Regiment, 69th Division, on July 28, 1945, with a sense of relief. It was my first step homeward after more than a year overseas, spent mostly as rifle platoon leader with the 29th Infantry Division. The war in Germany had been over for nearly three months but the invasion of Japan loomed ahead. Meanwhile there might be leave-time to spend with my wife and two small daughters in California, followed by stateside duty for the duration, or I might move on toward the Pacific for the big finale with Japan as several hundred thousand E.T.O. GIs were already doing.

I found that all of B Company's original officers were being transferred out and replaced by just two of us from the 29th, and since the other fellow was a second lieutenant and I had a silver bar, I became acting C.O. There wasn't much to do besides sign a report now and then and wait. Like nearly everyone else I continued to write letters home, never dreaming that in 1991 they would become part of a book - along with those my wife was writing me - in a volume we call *Love and War*.

Here are a couple of letters that may bring back memories to some Fighting '69ers, as may the selection dealing with the black volunteers whose existence I also never dreamed of till I met them as fellow members of B Company.

## Friedlos, Germany - 29 July '45

Several hundred of us - all 90 to 95 pointers - arrived late last night after 12 hours in trucks from Bremerhaven, joining many 29th Division men already hereabouts. Friedlos is a village near the town of Bebra which in turn is somewhat southeast of the city of Kassel in south-central Germany, and I'm now a member of Company B, 272nd Infantry Regiment, 69th Division.

Our situation - that of the 69th - is odd. We have no duty but to wait. We're simply a holding unit for men waiting shipment home. Many high-pointers have already gone and more are scheduled to leave in quotas even before the 69th does. As for the 69th, it was originally scheduled to sail the first of the year. But dates have been revised and the best rumor now places ours at about November 1st. Still other rumors I like to listen to move the date absurdly near, but whenever it is it promises good, far better than I ever hoped . . .

I wait hungrily for the mail to be forwarded, which was misbehaving so before I left, and to see your red-and-blue envelopes and your stout scrawl reach me here as everywhere else on the earth's face except at home, where I should be.

## Friedlos, Germany - 4 August 1945

It is seven o'clock on a heavenly August evening. The sun is warm in this golden valley between wooded hills. Contented sounds rise from the village below - most of them of the barnyard type - and come in my open window. Radios are playing and G.I.s are out in the dirt street playing catch.

I've just walked over the hill beyond the house, west, toward the sunset, as I've walked a good many times since being separated from you. This particular hill is striped gold and green with wheat and barley and clover and patches of potato plants and cabbages, cut by occasional grassy gullies lined with apple trees.

Part-way up I stopped and sat a while among some newly shocked-up oats, watching the sun go down and listening to the sound of the peasants at work not far away with scythes and wooden rakes and pitchforks. I hoped to see a deer

venture out into the shadow at the edge of the woods that crown the hilltop. These woods are man-made, carefully cared for, of pine and fir and elm, and very dense along the crests of the hills. You see deer in them and the wrecks of the Wehrmacht's abandoned vehicles, propped up on logs, their wheels removed. And now and then along the valley roads, usually at a curve, you come upon a burned-out German tank, rolled over on its back like a big dead bug, and sometimes one of ours likewise. Not far from here, the spearheads of the First Army joined with those of the Third, last April.

My first few days have been pleasant enough, if somewhat tinged with homesickness for K Company (of the 29th Division). As you see, I've brought my German typewriter along - embarrassingly large as it made my bed-roll and I mean to bring it home. Can you really believe I might be home by Christmas? At least be in the States?

This division, though not this company, made the original link-up with the Russians on the Elbe, but you hear little about it. It's already ancient history.

## Next Evening:

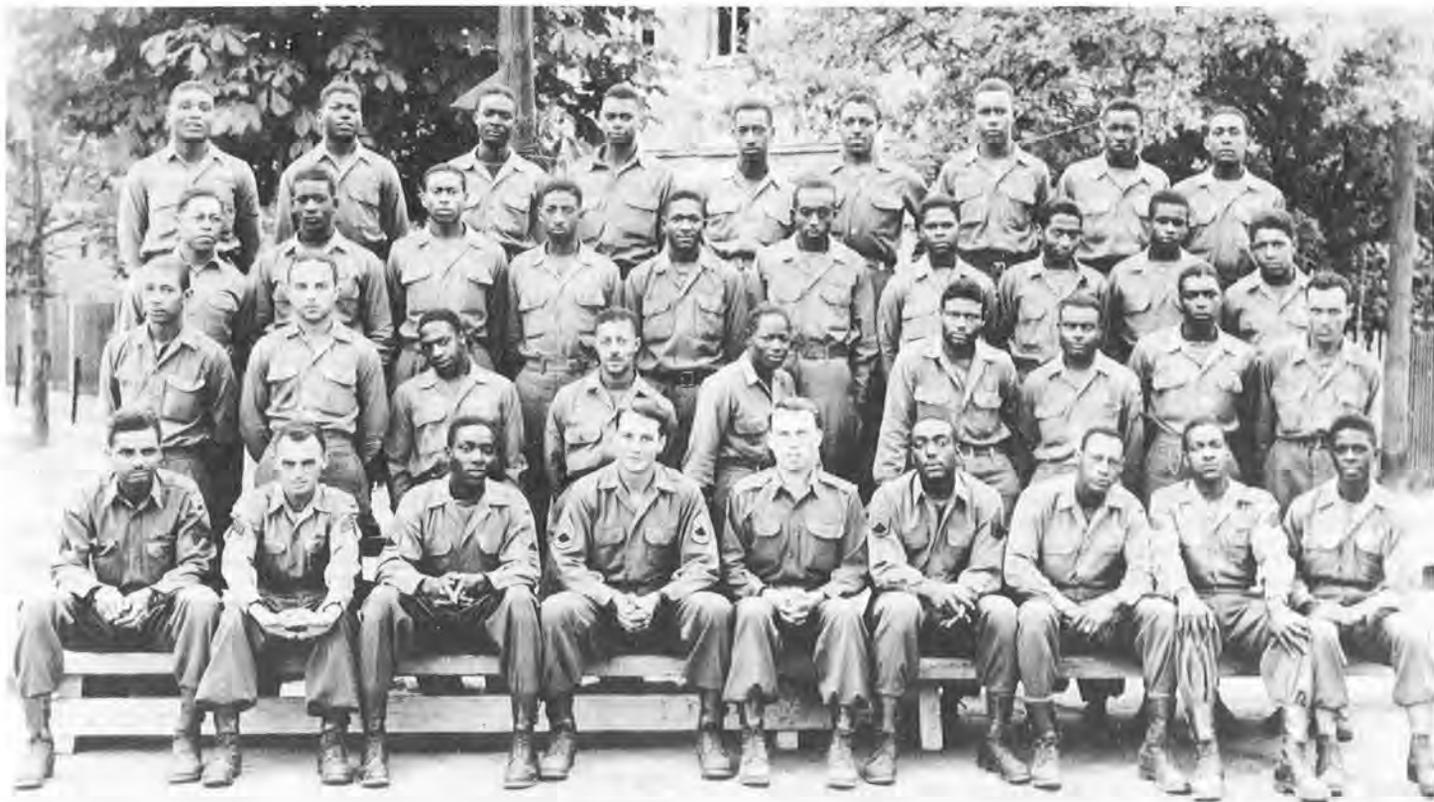
This afternoon we all went to a great gathering on an open hillside a few miles away - about 10,000 of us - to hear Jack Benny and some fellow entertainers crack jokes. Unfortunately Jack had a cold and couldn't appear but his second-in-command, Larry Adler, carried on. A blonder specimen called Martha Tilton sang - screeched, I should say - and joined with Adler in suggestive jokes. Then somebody appeared I really was glad to see. Ingrid Bergman. She's a beautiful lady and a hefty one, almost as tall as you. I inspected her through field glasses at two hundred yards and was quite smitten. She can't compete with Rita Hayworth or Betty Grable for the title of champion pin-up girl. But she has something else. Call it elegance and grace. She says she's going to appear on the stage soon in Maxwell Anderson's new play about Joan of Arc and told us some of Joan's story, enacting a scene or two as her narrative went along; and then, afterwards, felt obliged to show herself one of the girls by going through some clowning with Adler. Then good old Larry played the harmonica for us, which he should have been doing all along, for he's good at it - did the "Minuet in G," the "Hungarian Rhapsody," and finally the "St. Louis Blues."

On the hill behind us, scores of frauleins and fraus with children, all in their Sunday best, were standing and I wondered what they thought of the St. Louis Blues.

Otherwise my days are uneventful. One hundred of our 143 men go to classes all morning: History, Business Arithmetic, Blueprint Reading, Business English, etc. The rest go through the motions of a drill schedule. My only duty at the moment is V.D. officer, which means I have charge of venereal disease control, investigate each new case, try and pick up the girl and send her to a hospital where she is examined - released if she has no V.D., cured if she has. And most of them have. As the boys say: "This is a clapped-up goddamn country" - among other things. Prostitution is the rule - the frauleins having been so well indoctrinated on the subject by Hitler they don't seem able to get out of the habit. And with time hanging heavy on everybody's hands, the health of the men is a problem. So think of your modest husband careening around corners in a jeep after some elusive V.D. case.

(Continued on Page 64)

**WARTIME LETTERS FROM GERMANY  
AND SOME THOUGHTS FROM TODAY**  
(Continued from Page 63)



**69th DIVISION — 5th PLATOON**  
*272nd Infantry Regiment Company B*  
*Reichartswerben, Germany - June 1945*

*Names for photo incomplete: 1st Row - Jones, Burgoyne, Foster, Peklinsky, Van Schoick, Davis, Kirkland, Sims, Richardson  
2nd Row - Watts, Parris, Brown, Jackson, King, Swain. 3rd Row - Miles, Brown, Moses Jackson, Easley, Hopkins, Barthell, Jackson,  
Aldridge, Grice, Mayo. 4th Row - Nunn, Dubose, Tucker, Rhynns, Stewart, Brown, Windley.*

Have I written about our 5th platoon, colored? Normally each infantry rifle company has four platoons but in the 69th an experimental fifth platoon composed of Negroes who volunteered for combat has been added. Its noncoms, like all its enlisted men, are black; its officer white. They are said to have performed very well in combat and for the most part are as fine a group of boys as I've ever seen. They keep their quarters clean, are not too bad about V.D., play on the company baseball team the same as anybody, and generally get along without friction. Maybe sharing combat has been a leveler here, too, eliminating racial prejudice as far as it ever can be.

\* \* \* \* \*

The 69th Division's 5th platoons - called "J platoons" in the 271st - were among the Army's first moves toward racial integration, which was fully achieved throughout the armed services by President Truman's Executive Order 9981 and 1948. The black volunteers of 1945 thus were true pioneers. Those I knew in B Company were originally with K Company and were transferred as a unit during the summer of '45. There were also black platoons in F Company of the 272nd, in K of the 271st, and in F of the 273rd.

While putting together our book my wife and I were struck again by the unique significance of the black volunteers. With help from Clarence Marshall, Membership Chairman; Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr., Treasurer of the 69th Division

Association; Crandon Clark, former C.O. of B Company, 272nd, now spearheading the new division history committee; Lynn C. Johnson, C.O. of the 5th Platoon of K Company, 271st; John A. Stanhope, F Company, 272nd, and Mrs. Stanhope; Gerald K. Davolt, Company G, 273rd; Ford McAuliffe, 272nd; Carl Christol, Assistant G-3, 69th Division; Professor Jerome H. Long of Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut; Morris J. MacGregor, Jr., Chief Historian, U.S. Army Center of Military History; and others, we wrote the following appendix to our book.

### THE BLACK VOLUNTEERS

The "integrated volunteers," as the pioneer black infantrymen serving with white divisions on the Western Front were called, began assembling at Noyon near Paris in early January, 1945, for a refresher course in infantry tactics.

They'd come from non-combat rear-area units in response to an invitation issued by the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, General Dwight D. Eisenhower. Eisenhower's statement read in part: "It is planned to assign you without regard to color or race to the units where assistance is most needed, and give you the opportunity of fighting shoulder to shoulder to bring about victory. Your comrades at the front are anxious to share the glory of victory with you."

(Continued on Page 65)

## WARTIME LETTERS FROM GERMANY AND SOME THOUGHTS FROM TODAY

(Continued from Page 64)

Eisenhower's invitation was caused by a shortage of infantrymen in the fall of 1944 as a result of mounting casualties and was accentuated by the Battle of the Bulge beginning in December. Not only black but white volunteers were called for and many of both races responded.

Thus the black volunteers exchanged the safety of non-combat assignments for the risks of frontline experience, many of them taking reduction in rank and pay to do so, since private first class was the highest rank offered them. Their motives were mixed. Some were moved by simple patriotism. Some were looking for excitement. Some wanted to escape current situations. Some heard about the "bad time Americans were having in the Battle of the Bulge and wanted to help out." Some hoped combat would offer an opportunity to prove themselves and their race in their own eyes and the world's and help reduce racial prejudice in their native land and elsewhere. Some were also motivated by Hitler's often declared belief that the "Aryan race" was superior to all others and by his hatred of blacks. In all nearly 5000 volunteered, according to official figures (one independent source puts the figure nearer 30,000), but only 2800 were accepted.

By early March they were joining eleven divisions in the 1st and 7th Armies and soon were in action, usually with rifle companies as "fifth" or additional platoons, invariably with a white platoon commander and usually a white platoon sergeant. Sometimes they were designated as "J" platoons, there being no "J" company in infantry tables of organization.

Though I didn't experience combat with them, white officers and enlisted men who did expressed admiration and respect to me for the way they performed. "They took no prisoners," Lynn Johnson, formerly of F Company, 272nd Regiment, 69th Infantry Division says. "They were tough." His comment is typical of what I heard in 1945 and hear today. But when whites and blacks first mingled there was some friction. "Some of our white boys made the mistake of picking on a black volunteer," Johnson says. "After he won both fights, there was no more trouble. And this was especially true after we got into combat and the boys of both colors fought and bled side by side."

There was considerable bleeding. The black platoon of Company K of the 69th's 271st Regiment suffered nearly one third casualties in the battle for Leipzig, remembers Wilfred Strange, one of its sergeants and squad leaders, now a successful Washington, D.C. businessman. Other accounts confirm his. After the war was over in Europe a survey conducted by Eisenhower's headquarters of white officers and platoon sergeants of black platoons revealed that eighty percent of those interviewed thought blacks had performed very well in combat. Nearly as many saw no reason why black infantrymen should not perform as well as white if they had the same training and experience. Most reported getting along very well with black volunteers - the harder the fighting, the closer the bonding.

A number of white enlisted men were similarly queried and gave similar responses, most admitting they at first disliked the idea of soldiering with blacks, and most declaring their mistrust had turned to trust and friendship after shared combat experience.

But the official survey was discounted by high authority including Generals Bradley and Marshall as dealing with an atypical or elite sample composed entirely of volunteers who scored higher than average on the Army General Classification Test and were in other ways more highly motivated than the average black soldier. Though both Marshall and Bradley thought the possibility of integrating black units into white

units should be followed up, the survey was not made public. No Negroes were interviewed during the survey.

For these and other reasons some bitterness developed among black volunteers. Some resented the fact that though Eisenhower's invitation indicated they would be integrated as individuals in the same units as whites, they were segregated into separate platoons. Some resented the fact that while much was made of the 69th Division being the first American unit to link up with the advancing Russians, no mention was made of its black members. Some volunteers felt discriminated against when some regimental and division histories made no mention of them and did not print photographs of them. Some felt discriminated against when, soon after the war was over, they were ordered to return to the rear area units from which they'd come. They wanted to remain with the units they'd fought with and come home proudly as members of combat divisions. Protests and outright resistance to this order seem to have resulted in some cases.

Some white G.I.s supported these protests. "If they were good enough to fight with us, they're good enough to come home with us." In some cases volunteers remained with their divisions and did come home with them. Yet even today some of their white comrades in arms are still indignant about the unfair way they were treated. The full story of what happened to the volunteers during and after the war remains to be told and needs telling. You can look in vain for mention of them in most books about World War II and most newspapers and magazines of the time.

On the whole I sense a feeling of pride among those I talk to today as I did in Germany in 1945 - pride in having served themselves, their race, and nation and the cause of freedom well despite difficulties, unfairness, despite risk and cost - in a process, however incomplete, of liberty and justice for all. I find their general lack of bitterness as moving as the example they set by their wartime conduct.

Some like Robert Matthews made the Army their career. Some like Wilfred Strange made their mark in civilian life. Some became lawyers, doctors, ministers. One is a judge. A number share membership in veterans organizations with white x-G.I.s

For further information see Morris J. MacGregor, Jr., *Integration of the Armed Forces: 1940-1965; The Employment of Negro Troops* by Ulysses Lee in *The United States Army in World War II* series; and Professor Jerome H. Long's ongoing studies at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut aimed at telling the full story of the black volunteers of 1944-45.

\* \* \* \* \*

After our book went to press I made contact with Frank Barbee of the 5th platoon of G Company, 273rd. Frank took a bust from buck sergeant in the Quartermaster Corps in response to Eisenhower's call for black infantry volunteers. He was wounded during the push toward Leipzig but recovered in time to rejoin George Company and eventually regain his three stripes.

Frank is not bitter but a bit miffed that the publicity about the link-up with the Russians at the Elbe included no mention or pictures of G Company's 5th platoon members who were right there. He's also a bit unhappy that after the war in Europe was over he went back to the Quartermaster's unit he volunteered from, and it took him twelve years to have his service record corrected to show that he'd ever served as a combat infantryman with the 69th. Several other 5th platooners apparently had similar difficulty with their records.

(Continued on Page 66)

**WARTIME LETTERS FROM GERMANY  
AND SOME THOUGHTS FROM TODAY**

*(Continued from Page 65)*

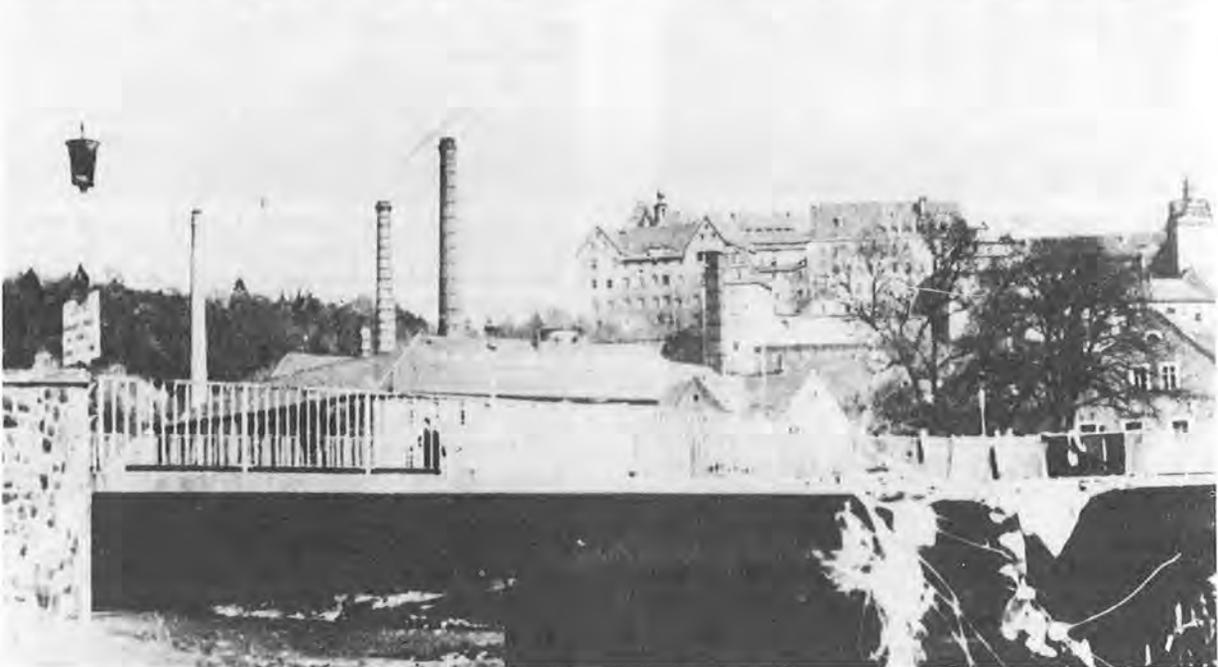
Like several other black 69ers, Frank continued in service after the war, re-enlisting in the Air Force as a member of its unique all-black airborne parachute battalion, the only one of its kind in the world. Frank saw action in Korea and Vietnam, retired as a much decorated top-sergeant, and now lives in Oakland, California. He has a daughter in the service in Japan. He is a member of the association and is on the lookout for more 5th platooners who may join.

My thanks to Frank and all who helped with this article.

\* \* \* \* \*

Bob and Jane Easton's book, *Love And War: Pearl Harbor Through V-J Day*, is available at bookstores or direct from the University of Oklahoma Press, call toll-free 1-800-627-7377. Selections are printed here with permission of the publisher. Bob reports that the book has thirty-six stateside and overseas photos of wartime days, plus an index that makes its contents more readily available. It is Bob's fifteenth book, Jane's second. He says it is his best so far "because I experienced so much of it so intimately, and the same can be said for my wife." It has 400 pages and is priced at \$24.95, hardback.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Alan Murphey of 3rd Battalion, 273rd Sent These Shots**



*Colditz Castle from the west bank of the Mulde. Housed Allied POWs in background.*



*Everette Patterson, Samuel Harris, Lloyd Smith, Robert Morris, T/Sergeant Leroy Eacret from A&P Platoon, Headquarters, 3rd Battalion, 273rd.*

**Late Entry for the Calendar  
of Coming Events and  
Communication Schedule**

JULY 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th, 1991  
HEADQUARTERS BATTERY  
880th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

The Sheraton  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania

**Committee:**

Mr. and Mrs. John J. O'Connor  
4512 South Maple Avenue  
Brookfield, Illinois 60517

Mr. and Mrs. Emil A. Paoletta  
54 Skyview Drive  
Brunswick, Ohio 44212

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart McGowan  
R.D. #1, Box 402  
Eagle Bridge, New York 12057

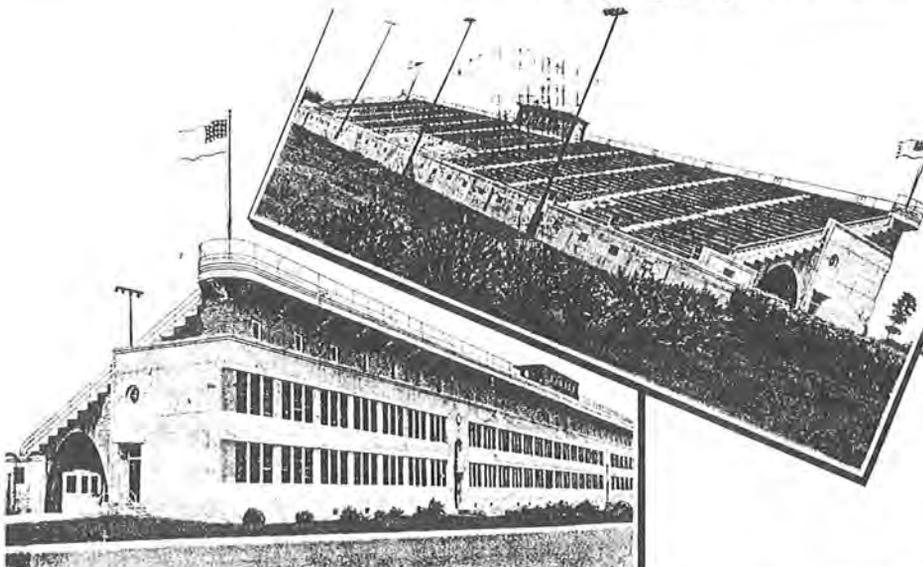
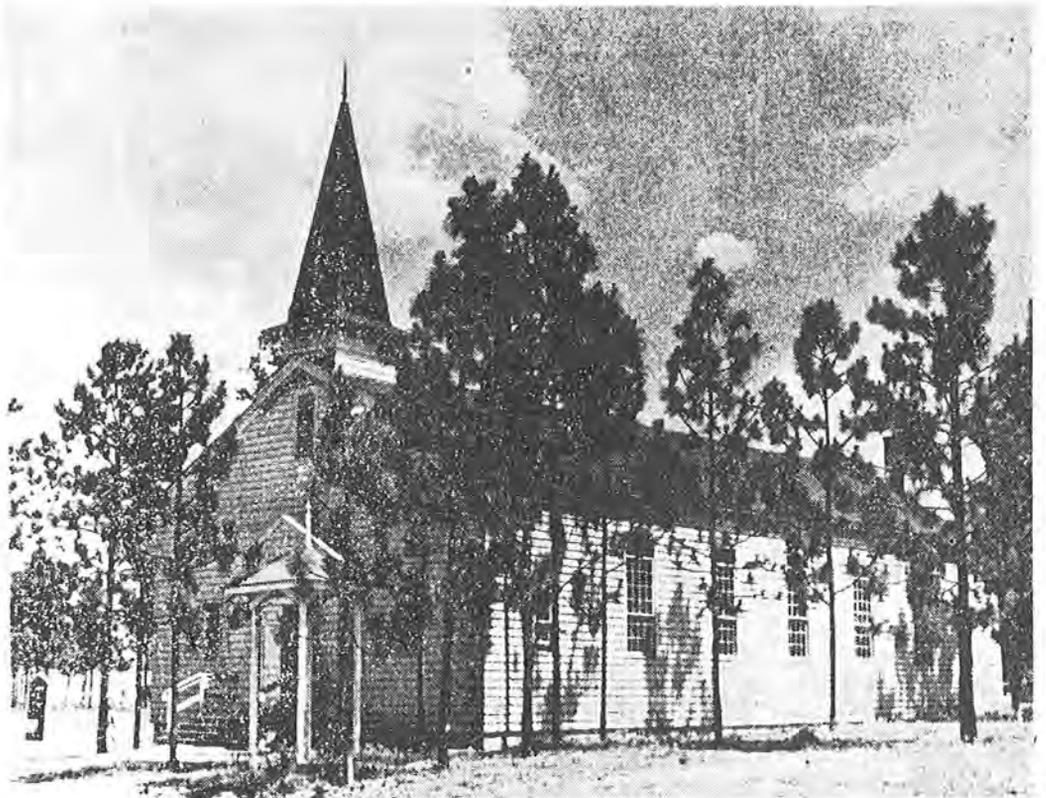
*Get your notices in early folks, so people can plan ahead.*

**Chapel No. 17  
69th Infantry  
Division  
A.P.O. No. 417  
Camp Shelby,  
Mississippi**

Sanctify, O Lord, Both Our Coming  
In and Our Going Forth;  
And Grant That When We Leave  
Thy House We May Not Forget  
Thy Presence. Amen.

*Editor's Note: I believe this was a  
picture from a church bulletin cover.  
The above wording appeared on the  
bulletin.*

Pictures furnished by  
**Marshall Norden**



*Ball Stadium and Dormitory  
Mississippi Southern College  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi*

*Motorized Transportation  
Ready to Enter  
Camp Shelby, Mississippi*



# To Fellow Soldiers and Members of Company K

DEAR Oliver D. Coker, Jr.  
Walter Hajdamacha  
Andrew O. Mahlum  
Vito J. Narducci

Gerald Sheehan  
J. Tutt Snodgrass  
Irvin G. Tarlow  
James D. Telenko

It has been forty-six years since we were soldiers at Camp Shelby. Let's not forget the chiggers and mosquitoes in our little old camp outs. We were having so much fun! How can one forget the memorable train ride from Camp Shelby to Camp Kilmer . . . then we were placed on a wonderful cruise, stacked like sardines with limited eating spaces, before landing in South Hampton, England.

Then we had a tour guide to take us on the train from South Hampton to Basingstoke mushroom farm with their dirt floor and straw mattresses. Who could forget the honey bucket facilities.

I remember that Irvin Tarlow was a furrier from Baltimore and Andrew Mahlum, I thought, was from Minneapolis because he spoke with a Norwegian brogue. I thought Gerald Sheehan spoke Irish Gaelic.

I have enclosed correspondence to Clarence Marshall as to members of Company K and another letter of inquiry regarding Captain Wilson, our Commander who was a graduate of Rutgers. It is my understanding that our First Sergeant Bunny and Al Moyers have since passed away.

I am sorry that I can't remember all the names of Mr. Marshall's correspondence of January 8th but if we were to reminisce, I am sure our memories would be jogged because we had a great bunch.

Let's try to get together at the Biloxi, Mississippi reunion.

Sincerely,  
Jim Mynes  
1411 Regency Boulevard, S.E.  
Decatur, Alabama 35601

\* \* \* \* \*

## To All Those Mentioned in Jim Mynes' letter of February 1, 1991

From: J. Tutt Snodgrass (James T. Snodgrass, 35732739)

I was glad to receive some correspondence after forty-six years. My intent is to answer Jim's letter with thoughts and comments of my own and be perfectly candid concerning those comments.

Let me begin with some personal information. I returned to the states with the division and landed in New York on September 16, 1945, my 21st birthday. I returned to my hometown, Bowling Green, Kentucky, and went to college there at the Bowling Green College of Commerce (now a part of Western Kentucky University). I graduated in early 1949 with a BS in Accounting and moved to Louisville in 1951. I married in 1954 to Edna Watson of Louisville and our son, J. Tutt III was born in November of 1955. Our daughter, Gwen was born in May, 1957. Jim got a Phd. in Math from Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tennessee and teaches at Xavier University in Cincinnati. Gwen went through U. of L. and took a Masters in Library Science from Kentucky. She is now librarian at the U. of L. School of Medicine. I retired in 1989 from Amick & Helm, a regional CPA firm in Louisville.

Let me reminisce about the eight other addressees.

**Oliver Coker** — Unfortunately, I have no recollection of this man.

**Jim Mynes** — Ditto. I am sure there will be some recognition when we meet again. I've passed through Decatur many

times on my way to and from Birmingham to visit a sister-in-law and her family. Liz Erickson Carter, a good friend of ours, is the organist at First Baptist Church in Decatur. In the 60's I have stopped many times to eat at the Tower Restaurant.

**Water Hajdamacha** — (Boy, am I glad my name's Snodgrass!) Red is a friend for life. He carried my rifle for me on a long hike at Shelby. I had been in the hospital with the mumps and was about to pass out. He was a Sergeant for a while. He and Johnny Hahn of Baltimore were section leaders in the machine gun section under Sergeant Woodrow Thompkins. Red got busted. I don't remember what happened but I think he had a misunderstanding with an Italian Captain we had for a while before we got Albert E. "HOT POOP" Wilson. I thought a lot of Red and hope he's O.K.

**Andrew Mahlum** — He was a 2nd Platoon Sergeant. He got shot through the mouth and was evacuated the same day that Lieutenant Bob Currie won the Silver Star. I received a letter from him in 1988. He's doing O.K. but must be more than 80 years old. I remember that he was in his 40's in Europe. He had a Thompson machine gun he picked up somewhere. When he came back down the line that day, blood streaming down his face, he handed the Thompson to Harry Williams. It was the same day that Beck and Audette got killed. The medic assisting him was a terrific guy named "MINGS" or something like that. We had two terrific medics - him and Johnny Malazzo.

**Vito Narducci** — He was in the 4th Platoon. I used to kid him about being a hit man for the Mafia. He was a big guy with a great Brooklyn accent. He used to sing a song about "Give my regards to Mayor Lagartz today." I remember that he threatened to take me apart one day at the mushroom farm. I was lying on the top bunk at the time. I made some kidding remark and he just resented it. He's probably over it by now anyhow.

**Gerald Sheehan** — I saw his name on the list of attendees at one of the reunions. I went to the one in Harrisburg in the early 80's. They had one in Lexington but I missed it. Sheehan was a youngster. I think he came into the outfit at Basingstoke as a replacement. He was blond, real fair and his face looked like the map of Ireland. Sergeant Donovan liked him because he was a nice kid and also because he was an Irishman. Donovan wasn't too fond of Tarlow, Altman and Weingast. I recall that Sheehan was a good soldier.

**Irvin Tarlow** — Sure, I remember Tarlow. He was bucking for a Sergeant's job in the mortar section. I think he made it. Tarlow was a nice looking, dark haired young fellow with a pleasing personality. I recall his telling me that if he was captured he would throw his dog tags away. He felt the Krauts might persecute him for religious reasons.

**James Telenko** — Yes, I remember Telenko. We went on R&R to Valkenberg, Holland. I can't remember who else went but it was some experience. Jim will probably remember some of the weird things that happened on the trip. On the way back the driver got to going too fast and a Sergeant with us had to take over the convoy. Telenko was a nice guy and I hope he comes to Shelby for the big deal.

I'll try to help you all with some of what I remember about the others on Clarence Marshall's list in his January 8th letter to Mynes.

**Carl Colpean** — A blond, neat looking fellow. He was always spit and polish!

**Hurley Dawes** — Have not heard from him since the war. He's from Paducah, Kentucky.

**Mark Dunkerson** — A prince of a fellow. A gentleman. A bit older than most of us.

(Continued on Page 69)

**TO FELLOW SOLDIERS AND MEMBERS OF COMPANY K**

*(Continued from Page 68)*

**Mark Guho** — A Sergeant. A BIG guy. I always felt we might have won the war because the Germans knew he was on our side. With Guho and God we had to win.

**Robert Hoffman** — One of my best friends. He was from Hawthorne, New Jersey. I've not heard from him since 1945.

**Paul Keesacker** — He was a cook. Not a good cook. A nice guy - but not a good cook.

**J. C. McCabe** — Wasn't he a young officer?

**Robert Robbins** — He, Hurley Dawes and I were on pass to New York from Kilmer before we went overseas.

**John Stefan** — Not much recollection. Just the name.

**Harry Williams** — He was a big redheaded guy from LaPorte, Indiana.

**Larry Smith** — He was a jeep driver. Wasn't scared of the devil. He called me in early 1989 from Crossville, Tennessee. Said he would get back to me but I've not heard anything.

The others do not ring a bell with me. I seem to remember the names of **Derenak** and **Lippman** but can't put a face with either. I thought I saw **Herb Altman's** name on a list at Harrisburg. I think he lives in Cherry Hills, New Jersey.

I had heard or read that **Leo W. H. Shaughnessy, Jr.** was deceased. I had written **Captain Al Wilson** a few years ago in Montclair, New Jersey. He responded but there was no continuance. Maybe I can find his letter somewhere and send out his address. Does anyone have any addresses on any of the following: **Lieutenant Ross Miller** - Pennsylvania, **Sergeant John Hahn** - Maryland, **James Steinhilber** - Massachusetts, **Lieutenant Robert Currie** - West Virginia, **Frank Barriero** - New York, **Emile Rellstab** - New York.

The only contacts I've had with K-273rd people are:

1. **Harold Price** was from my hometown. I assume he still lives in Bowling Green.
2. **Boyd K. Scott** of the 3rd Platoon is from Cleveland, Tennessee. He came to see **Price** in about 1950 and we had an evening together.
3. **Sergeant Jim Davis** (a cook) came by to see me in Bowling Green in 1952. I was visiting my mother at the time. He became career and was stationed at Fort Campbell in Kentucky at the time. He and I went out and had a lot of memories to discuss. He had served a recent tour in Germany and had visited the spot where **Currie** threw the grenade in the vehicle carrying away a load of Krauts. This was near the place **Mahlem** was wounded. **Davis** said the old car or personnel carrier was still there with the graves nearby. (This is the action for which **Currie** got the Silver Star.)
4. I called **Jack Weigast** in New York in 1964 when we went to the World's Fair. He told me that **Thoma** and **Donovan** were dead.
5. The exchange of letters with **Captain Wilson**. Incidentally, he was in some kind of advertising business. He did mention that he had heard from **Yeary** (a little Sergeant from Pennsylvania) a couple of times.
6. The phone call from **Larry Smith**.
7. The exchange of letters with **Mahlem**.

As it stands right now, **Edna** and I are going to Biloxi for the 1991 reunion. I don't know if something will take place to rob us of that trip, but, as we say in Kentucky — The good Lord willing and the creek don't rise. We'll see you!

Sincere thanks to **Jim Mynes** for starting all this.

**J. Tutt Snodgrass**  
1723 Applewood Lane  
Louisville, Kentucky 40222

# Edward J. Giacomucci, Jr. Writes Regarding his Father, Edward N. Giacomucci

1357 Harrington Road, Havertown, Pennsylvania 19083

Dear Sir,

As the son of **Edward N. Giacomucci**, I am proud to write you today on behalf of his pride and dignity to the "69th Infantry."

Unfortunately, he has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease approximately six years ago. His condition has exceeded home care possibilities and with the assistance from the "Veterans Administration" his care is now handled professionally at the Coatsville, Pennsylvania hospital.

Being a United States citizen my father served his country with pride. Along with that responsibility also came some rugged and unforgettable memories. Even though his speech has been reduced to several words, he still manages to remember and say "69th."

With much pride I send his dues, as I know he would! Please continue his mailings so that I may read them to him.

Sincerely Yours,  
**Edward J. Giacomucci, Jr.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Wire Section, Headquarters 3rd Battalion, 271st Infantry



*Charles Woolery, McConnell, Drexal and Ackerman*

Picture furnished by **Charles Woolery**

\*\*\*\*\*

**HAVE A NEW MEMBER?  
HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?**

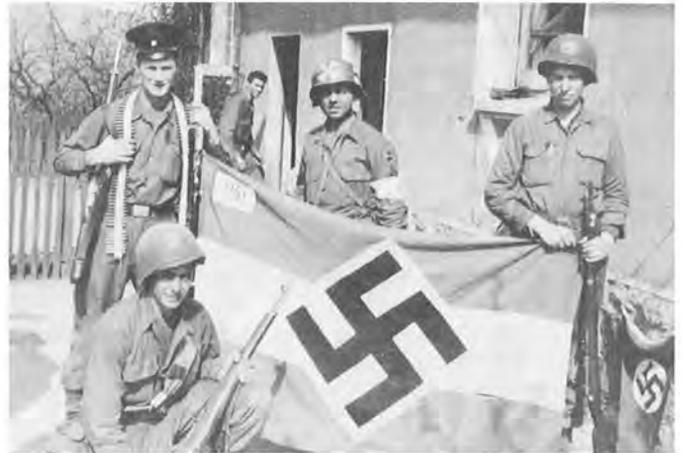
This should be mailed to:  
**CLARENCE MARSHALL**  
101 Stephen Street  
New Kensington, PA 15068

# World War II with Company G, 273rd Infantry

Photos sent by Truett Thompson  
1012 Locust Street, Box 555, Merkel, Texas 79536



*Four Jerks: Sergeant James Sublette - Kentucky, Pfc. James Ussery - Oklahoma, Pfc. E. Truett Thompson - Texas, and Private Peter Calicoine - California.*



*U. Sandolio - New York, James Kane - Pennsylvania, C. Beecher - New York, Charles J. Boyd - Mississippi and James Sublette - Kentucky.*



*Standing: Pop Moloney - New York (now dead), Bill McDowell - Colorado, James Sublette - Kentucky, E. Truett Thompson - Texas. Kneeling: James Kane - Pennsylvania, James Ussery - Oklahoma - U. Sandolio - New York, J.P. Thomas - Mississippi, Alfred Aronson - New York, Robert Rutt - Pennsylvania. Taken somewhere in Germany.*



*This is our squad somewhere in Germany. Sergeant James Sublette, Pfc. Dean Young, Pfc. Truett Thompson, Private Peter Calicoine, S/Sgt. Alfred R. Aronson, Private Leadloff, Pfc. John W. Sopher, Pfc. J.P. Thomas, Pfc. James W. Ussery, Pfc. Gilbert Loopsilverio, Pfc. James Kane.*



*Lt. Albert Kotzebue, U. Sandolio, James Sublette*



*James Kane - Germany*



*This is where we kept the prisoners.  
On Patrol to meet the Russians.*



*In Leipzig, Germany*



*These are the jeeps that we went on  
patrol in to meet the Russians.*



*These are Russians in these wagons.*



*Russian Officers coming to meet us.  
They came in the row boat behind the sail  
boat. Strella, Germany.*



*A Russian WAC Officer and two  
Russian Officers. You can see in the  
background they are building a bridge.*



*Joseph Kane, Truett Thompson and Jim  
Sublette in Germany.*



*Bill McDowell, U. Sandolio,  
and James Ussery*



*Joseph Kane, James-Sublette, Truett  
Thompson and Lester Rutt.*



*This is just after we had taken Leipzig.  
Lester Rutt and Truett Thompson.*



*Ralph Savino and U. Sandolio*



*Germany  
Robert Rutt and Truett Thompson*



*Truett Thompson in middle.  
Lt. Albert Kotzebue on right.*



*Fred W. Johnston of Pennsylvania  
My Platoon Sergeant*



*J.P. Thompson  
Germany*



*James W. Sublette*



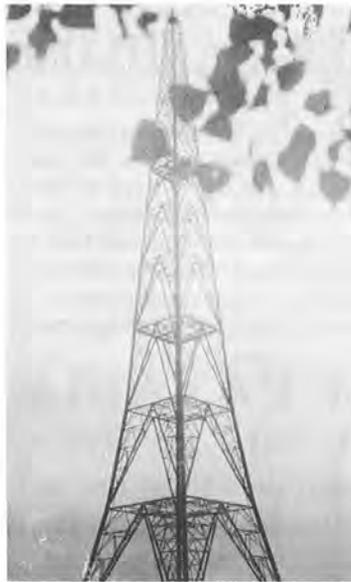
*James W. Kane*



*Truett Thompson*



*Truett Thompson*



*Leipzig Radio Tower*



*Ed Brown*

\*\*\*\*\*

## 271st Infantry Regiment

Pictures furnished by  
Harold May



*271st Regiment Baseball Team - Harold May is 2nd man, center row.*



*1st Row: Brusard and Smith  
2nd Row: Tayler, May and Stanwood*



*Harold May and Glenn Fox*



*C-271st, Sergeant May and Sergeant Parker*

\*\*\*\*\*

# CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE

\*\*\*\*\*

May I just make note to all Leaders of Chapters, Groups, Branches, Companies, Battalions, Regiments, Recon, Artillery, AAA, and T.D.'s to get your Activities Schedules to Earl E. Witzleb Jr., Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069 or R.D. #1, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606, 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. Then bring them to a National Reunion to meet a-l-l-l-l of the gang.

By now everyone should know where news material, articles and pictures should be mailed to. Your Coordinating Manager and Editor will do a superb job of handling it along with Dottie who takes care of the ladies mail. Thanks for getting it in on time.

## DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE FOR 1990-1991

Dues Year: August 1, 1990 to July 31, 1991. Postage and Bulletin Donations Accepted

69th Monument Fund donations are now being accepted.

Monument will be dedicated at Camp Shelby, Mississippi September 20, 1991 during the Biloxi Reunion.

Mail dues checks and donations for monument and bulletin postage to:

**ROBERT KURTZMAN, SR., TREASURER**  
Post Office Drawer 178, Wilmot, Ohio 44689

"WHY CANNOT LIFE'S BIG PROBLEMS COME WHEN WE ARE TWENTY AND KNOW EVERYTHING???"

## 1991

APRIL 6, 1991

Deadline for news material and pictures  
Bulletin Volume 44, Number 3  
May, June, July, August, 1991  
Bulletin due out in June 1991

\* \* \* \* \*

APRIL 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 1991

TRI-STATE SPRING WEEKEND

*TRI-STATE BLUE IS THE FAMILY GROUP*

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

*(Other States Invited Too)*

Earl E. and Dottie Witzleb, Jr., Coordinators  
R.D. No. 1, Box 477  
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

or

P.O. Box 69  
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069  
Telephone: 412/455-2901  
(Call anytime, day or night; weekends or holidays)

Dottie's Emergency  
U.S. Steel Work Telephone: 412/433-1713 or 1701 or 1702

Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike

*"The Family With Two Addresses — But One Home — Welcome All 69ers — When The Flags Are Waving (Weather Permitting) — Stop In, Call, or Write."*

**Holiday Inn**

Route 48 and U.S. Route 219 in Maryland  
East of Grantsville, Maryland

**Featuring Maple Festival**

(Come see how maple syrup is made from the tree to the jar or can.)

Meyersdale, Pennsylvania

Hospitality Room (Open from arrival day until ????)

Good, no business to discuss.

Indoor pool, Banquet, Sunday Goodbyes and Breakfast

Committee:

Mr. and Mrs. George Murphy, 272nd Infantry  
Route 2, Box 87  
Frostburg, Maryland 21532  
Telephone: 301/689-3222

Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Newman, 272nd Infantry  
Box 267  
Grantsville, Maryland 21536  
Telephone: 301/895-5188

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Yutzey, 272nd Infantry  
Lincoln Avenue Extension  
Box 153  
Meyersdale, Pennsylvania 15552  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Come on 272nd and members living in Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Western Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina, support your committee.*

\* \* \* \* \*

APRIL 25, 26, 27, 1991

MIDWEST GROUP SPRING MEETING

**PHEASANT RUN:** The Mid-West's largest resort and convention center, located near St. Charles, Illinois on State Route 64, three miles west of State Route 59.

Rate: \$80.00 per night, plus tax

**PROGRAM**

**Thursday, April 25:** Check in after 4:00 p.m. Hospitality Room. Dinner at the resort.

**Friday, April 26:** Golf. Outing for non-golfers. Dinner Show at Pheasant Run Theatre: "Little Shop of Horrors." Cost of \$39.00 per person includes dinner, play, tax, and gratuity. Hospitality Room.

**Saturday, April 27:** On your own.  
Check-out time is 12:00 Noon.

**RESERVATIONS:** Call the Resort directly, (708) 584-6300, to make reservations for room, golf, and the dinner show. A deposit for one night (or a credit card number) is required. The Resort will hold a block of rooms for the Midwest Group until March 26, 1991. Late callers may not be located near the Group.

*(Continued on Page 75)*

**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS  
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE**

*(Continued from Page 74)*

For answers to questions about the meeting, contact:

Fred or Mavis Butenhoff  
3217 South 55th Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53219  
Telephone: 414/541-1584

\* \* \* \* \*

**JUNE 6, 7, 8, 9, 1991**

**661st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**

**Holiday Inn**

I-85 and 58 East  
South Hills, Virginia  
Telephone: 804/447-3123

Agenda: To follow in flyers to members.

**Committee:**

Ralph and Chris Bragg  
831 North Main Street  
Chase City, Virginia 23924  
Telephone: 804/372-3221

\* \* \* \* \*

**JUNE 11, 12, 13, 1991**

**461st AAA BATTERY B WEST COAST WEEKEND**

**Circus Hotel Casino  
Reno, Nevada**

Room rates are \$34.56 including tax.  
2 Adults and 2 Children in a room.

June 12th, Hay Wagon Breakfast.

Other plans to follow in a letter to members.

**Committee:**

Larry W. and Milly Brown, *Chairpersons & News Reporters*  
538 Burns Avenue  
Clarkston, Washington 99403  
Telephone: 509/758-2180

\* \* \* \* \*

**JUNE 14, 15, 16, 1991**

**COMPANY D, 272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT**

**Best Western Motel  
New Iberia, Louisiana  
Telephone: 318/364-3030**

Agenda to be mailed to members.

**Committee:**

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Geoffroy, *Chairpersons*  
R.D. #2, Box 78  
Erath, Louisiana 70533  
Telephone: 318/937-6152

\* \* \* \* \*

**JUNE 20, 21, 22, 1991**

**BATTERY D, 461st AAA**

**First Baptist Church  
Asheville, North Carolina**

Agenda to be mailed to members in the near future.

**Committee:**

Guy Stamey  
Route 5, Box 73  
Candler, North Carolina 28715  
Telephone: 704/667-9526

Edwin Whitaker  
534 Rose Hill Road  
Asheville, North Carolina 28803  
Telephone: 704/298-4740

Alden Angline  
34 Forest View Drive  
Asheville, North Carolina 28804

**AUGUST 31, 1991**

Deadline for news material and pictures for this bulletin.  
Bulletin Volume 45, Number 1  
September - October - November - December 1991  
Bulletin due out in November 1991

**PLEASE NOTE:** Deadline for this bulletin is before our 1991 Annual Reunion at Biloxi, Mississippi and Camp Shelby Monument Dedication September 20, 1991. Please note that our Monument date has been changed from September 19th to September 20th so that our Jewish members will be able to use Thursday as a travel day. They have a holiday on September 18th "Yom Kippur" and many of them want to be at the dedication.

\* \* \* \* \*

**SEPTEMBER 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 1991**

Mini weekends scheduled in conjunction with the 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION'S REUNION at Biloxi Hilton Hotel, Biloxi, Mississippi and Camp Shelby for the dedication of the 69th Monument. These units are as follows:

**69th DIVISION HEADQUARTERS  
AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY**

Contact: Eugene Butterfield, 216/333-5723; Clarence Marshall, 412/335-3224 and Robert "Bob" Myers.

**69th M.P.s (MILITARY POLICE)**

Contact: John J. Moriarty, 508/867-6004; Carl Miller, 419/562-7029; and James "Jim" Moody.

**69th QUARTERMASTERS**

Contact: George Gallagher, 813/788-5924 and Victor Woo, 415/261-0523.

**569th SIGNAL COMPANY**

Contact: George Hepp

**769th ORDNANCE COMPANY**

**269th ENGINEER BATTALION**

Contact: Frank Nemeth, 215/945-3809

**COMPANY E, 271st INFANTRY**

Contact: Paul N. Shadle, 412/335-9980

**COMPANY E, 272nd INFANTRY**

Contact: Chester "Chet" Yastrzemski, 516/283-3875 or December through March 31st, 619/485-6165

**COMPANY G, 272nd INFANTRY**

**COMPANY I, 272nd INFANTRY**

Contact: Chalmer Pearson and Robert "Bob" Kurtzman, Sr., 216/359-5487

**COMPANY A, 273rd INFANTRY**

Contact: Edward Lucci, 516/593-6592 and H. Ray Fahrner, 215/855-9696

**COMPANY D, 273rd INFANTRY**

**COMPANY E, 273rd INFANTRY**

Contact: William "Bill" Matlach, 516/669-8077 and Earl E. "Skip" Witzleb, Jr., 412/455-2901

**COMPANY H, 273rd Infantry**

Contact: Jacob "Jake" Stark, Jr., 717/939-4802

**COMPANY I, 273rd INFANTRY**

**724th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**

Contact: John W. Turner, 404/378-3543 and Vernon E. Tritch, Jr., 717/944-9080

**777th TANK BATTALION**

Contact: Joseph "Joe" Loudon, 419/475-0770 and Frank See, 602/866-6992

If your unit gets together with the 69th Infantry Division's Annual Reunion and you want listed, please contact Earl E. Witzleb, Jr., 69th President, at R.D. 1, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606 or telephone 412/455-2901. We do not want to miss any unit that holds a so-to-speak mini with the 69th Annual Reunion. See you all at Biloxi.

*(Continued on Page 76)*

# SEPTEMBER 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 1991 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 44th ANNUAL REUNION

## Dedication of 69th Division Monument at Camp Shelby September 20, 1991 - Hattiesburg, Mississippi

### REUNION HEADQUARTERS: Mississippi Beach Resort Hotel, Biloxi, Mississippi

#### Schedule of Events:

**Sunday-Monday** — On Your Own.

**Tuesday** — A tour of the Gulf Coast with a visit to Jeff Davis' home, Mardi Gras Museum, and Lunch at Mary Mahoney's - six hours.

**Wednesday** — A trip to New Orleans with visits to various places. Lunch will be on your own - seven hours.

**Thursday** — Board of Directors Meeting from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Golf Tournament in the afternoon. Then on to the Early Bird Buffet.

**Friday** — We will spend the day going to Camp Shelby with a tour of the Camp, lunch and then the Monument Dedication in the afternoon and more touring of the camp and Museum if time permits. Then our famous PX Beer Party night after we have all met with our groups for dinner.

**Saturday** — Regular Agenda

**Sunday** — Breakfast Buffet

There are ten flights into Biloxi each day, 3 Northwest that come in from Memphis, 3 Eastern Metro from Atlanta and 4 Continental that come from Houston. The hotel as yet does not have a limousine service but we have made arrangements for a van that will cost \$10.00 each. We will have a place on the registration for plane arrival and departure times if they want picked up.

#### COMMITTEE:

**Robert Kurtzman, Sr., Chairman**  
610 West Maple Street  
Wilmot, Ohio 44689  
Telephone: 216/359-5487

**Guy N. Rogers, Co-Assistant Chairman**  
607 Hampton Circle  
Jackson, Mississippi 39211  
Telephone: 601/956-4026

**Merle E. Douglas, Co-Assistant Chairman**  
Post Office Box 1465  
Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564-1465  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Jack Duffy, Monument Advisor Chairman**  
28 Cypress Street  
Rochester, New York 14620-2306  
Telephone: 716/271-4194

Donation gifts are being accepted from members by our Treasurer.  
Please mark them Monument Fund.

**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS  
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE**

*(Continued from Page 76)*

**SEPTEMBER 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 1991  
C BATTERY, 880th FIELD ARTILLERY**

Motel Unknown  
Cape May, New Jersey  
Agenda to follow in a later letter.

**Committee:**

Marvel "Bud" Henson  
108 Glenwood Avenue  
Somerdale, New Jersey 08083

\* \* \* \* \*

**SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1991**

First Dues Notice should be mailed to all members on record except those who attended and paid dues at the Biloxi, Hilton Reunion. Thanks for paying your 1991-1992 dues at the reunion or as early as possible after receiving the dues notice.

\* \* \* \* \*

**OCTOBER 11, 12, 13, 1991**

Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Leave Sunday or stay over.

**461st AAA, HEADQUARTERS BATTERY  
AND MEDICAL DETACHMENT WEEKEND**

Quality Inn (Note change, formerly a Sheraton)  
Salem, Virginia 24153  
Telephone: 1-800-553-3407 or 703/562-1912

Leave I-81 at Exit 41 and go south on SR-419 to Motel. You will remember this as the motel we used for our first two reunions.

We will have a block of rooms reserved. Rates should be \$45.00 for single or double occupancy plus 8.5% tax. Meeting room will be the Montgomery/Franklin Room. More information later.

**Committee:**

Allen H. Whitley, *Chairman*  
Route 6, Box 70  
Marion, Virginia 24354  
Telephone: Office: 703/783-5566  
Home: 703/783-5515

Francis H. Breyette, *News Reporter*  
1137 Orkla Drive  
Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427  
Telephone: 612/545-2281

\* \* \* \* \*

**DECEMBER 1991**

Deadline for news material and pictures for this bulletin. Bulletin Volume 45, Number 2  
January - February - March - April, 1992  
Bulletin due out in March 1992  
All material for the San Francisco Airport Marriott due this bulletin. Robert "Bob" Pierce, Reunion Chairman, please take note.

\* \* \* \* \*

**1992**

**MAY-JUNE 1992**

**TRI-STATE SPRING WEEKEND**

*TRI-STATE BLUE IS THE FAMILY GROUP*  
Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Western Maryland, Western New York, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

*(Other States Invited Too)*

Earl E. and Dottie Witzleb, Jr., *Coordinators*  
R.D. No. 1, Box 477  
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

or

P.O. Box 69  
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069  
Telephone: 412/455-2901  
(Call anytime, day or night; weekends or holidays)  
Dottie's Emergency  
U.S. Steel Work Telephone: 412/433-1713 or 1701 or 1702  
Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike

*"The Family With Two Addresses - But One Home - Welcome All 69ers - When The Flags Are Waving (Weather Permitting) - Stop In, Call, or Write."*

Hotel/Motel: Details Not Complete  
Location: Altoona, Pennsylvania  
Tours: Being planned at present time.  
Featuring famous horseshoe curve of Conrail and Amtrak.

**Committee:**

L. Vaughn and Betty Woome, *Chairpersons*  
Company F, 272nd Infantry  
813 Highland Drive  
Tyrone, Pennsylvania 16686  
Telephone: 814/684-0185

**August 23, 24, 25, 26,  
27, 28, 29, 30, 1992**

**69th INFANTRY  
DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
45th ANNUAL REUNION**

**San Francisco Airport Marriott**

1800 Old Bayshore Highway  
Burlingame, California 94010  
Telephone: 415/692-9100

Close to International Airport  
and U.S. Interstate Highways

**350 ROOMS AND SEVERAL SUITES**

Singles and Doubles: \$70.00  
plus 8% State and City Taxes=\$75.60  
Suite: 65% off the published 1992 rates  
Rates are good for 3 days prior and after  
reunion week dates.

HOSPITALITY ROOM - TOURS - EARLY BIRD  
PX BEER PARTY - BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AND  
AUXILIARY MEETING - MEMORIAL SERVICE  
- BANQUET DINNER DANCE - SUNDAY GOING  
HOME BREAKFAST

**Committee:**

Robert "Bob" Pierce, Company I, 272nd Infantry  
144 Nashua Court, San Jose, California 95139  
Telephone: 408/226-8040

*(Continued on Page 78)*

**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS  
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE**

*(Continued from Page 77)*

**SEPTEMBER 1992**

**461st AAA, BATTERY-B, EAST COAST WEEKEND**

Location Pittsburgh or Erie, Pennsylvania

Details are in the planning stages with more to follow in future bulletins.

**Committee:**

Edward "Ed" and Jo Gergerich  
318 Hawthorne Road  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15209  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

William "Bill" and Jo Byler  
2625 Post Avenue  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16508  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

**1993**

WE ONLY PUBLISH THREE BULLETINS A YEAR, ONE EVERY FOUR MONTHS SO GET YOUR NEWS MATERIAL, PICTURES, AND MINI WEEKENDS IN EARLY AND EARLY IS AT LEAST ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE OF YOUR EVENT DATES. WE CAN HELP YOU WITH MINI WEEKENDS: HOW ABOUT MINIS SUPPORTING OUR 69th ANNUAL REUNIONS.

\* \* \* \* \*

**JUNE 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 1993**

**TRI-STATE SPRING WEEKEND**

*TRI-STATE BLUE IS THE FAMILY GROUP*

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

*(Other States Invited Too)*

Earl E. and Dottie Witzleb, Jr., *Coordinators*  
R.D. No. 1, Box 477  
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

or

P.O. Box 69  
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069  
Telephone: 412/455-2901  
(Call anytime, day or night; weekends or holidays)  
Dottie's Emergency  
U.S. Steel Work Telephone: 412/433-1713 or 1701 or 1702  
Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike  
*"The Family With Two Addresses - But One Home -  
Welcome All 69ers - When The Flags Are Waving  
(Weather Permitting) - Stop In, Call, or Write."*

**By Popular Request**

**CANAAN VALLEY RESORT**

Route 1, Box 330  
Davis, West Virginia 26260  
Telephone: Call West Virginia information and ask for  
Canaan Valley

Only 52 rooms - DEER LODGE

Sign up early, NOW - Cancel later if emergency arises  
SWIM IN THE POOL (Indoor or Outdoor) - MINIATURE  
GOLF - RIDE THE CHAIR LIFT - WALK THE MANY  
TRAILS - FEED THE DEER - TOURS - HOSPITALITY  
ROOM - FINE FOOD - FUN ALL THE TIME - NO  
BUSINESS TO DISCUSS - RELAX IN THE COOL  
VALLEY AIR - SLEEP WELL - GOLF - FELLOWSHIP  
WITH FRIENDS OF THE 69th DIVISION ASSOCIA-  
TION - BANQUET - ENTERTAINMENT - GOING  
HOME SUNDAY BREAKFAST

**Committee:**

Vernon and Norma Hanlin, Headquarters Company, 271st  
Box 118  
Mt. Storm, West Virginia 26739  
Telephone: 304/693-7658  
Earl and Dorothy Witzleb, Jr., Company E, 273rd  
R.D. 1, Box 477  
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606  
Telephone: 412/455-2901

**August 16 thru 21, 1993  
69th INFANTRY  
DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
46th ANNUAL REUNION**

**Holiday Inn,  
Rochester, New York  
(TENTATIVE)**

Program and details  
being worked out at present time.

HOSPITALITY ROOM - TOURS - EARLY BIRD  
PX BEER PARTY - MEMORIAL SERVICE -  
BANQUET DINNER DANCE - SUNDAY GOING  
HOME BREAKFAST

MUCH MUCH MORE TO COME  
IN LATER BULLETINS

**Committee:**

John "Jack" Duffy, *Chairperson*  
Division Headquarters  
28 Cypress Street  
Rochester, New York 14620  
Telephone: 716/271-4194

**Get Your News in Early!**

**FOUND A NEW MEMBER?  
HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS?**

**THIS SHOULD BE  
MAILED IMMEDIATELY TO:**

**Clarence Marshall  
101 Stephen Street  
New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068  
Telephone: 412/335-3224**

**Line Logic:**

*Getting old is when it takes you longer to  
rest than it did to get tired.*

\*\*\*\*\*



**Alfred L. Musson**  
715 Sixth Avenue  
Brookings, South Dakota  
Hq., 271st

**William R. Hawthorne**  
4305 Fernbrook Terrace  
Marshall, Texas  
H-273rd

**Pierre J. Bouis**  
1225 Gillespie Drive N.  
Palm Harbor, Florida  
D-461st

**Donald Knaus**  
66 East Avenue  
Wellsboro, Pennsylvania  
D-777th

**Andrew F. Both**  
21365 Campbell Drive  
Brooksville, Florida  
Div. Hq.

**Sherman Wilson**  
318 Reade Drive  
Roxboro, North Carolina  
B-881st

**Charles Kaercher**  
705 Seventh Avenue  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania  
Hq. Divarty

**Fred E. Purchase**  
3817 Farnam Street  
Omaha, Nebraska  
M-273rd

## "Taps"

**William T. McConnell**  
44 Aylesboro Street  
Newark, Delaware  
Service 880th

**Albin N. Cegelski**  
5726 North Major Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois  
AT-271st

**John E. Carnes**  
3214 Brookfield Road  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
AT-272nd

**William T. Jones**  
Route 3, Box 49  
Halifax, Virginia  
A-661st

**George W. Corbit**  
118 Delwood Circle  
Rochester, New York  
Cannon-271st

**Albert Anderson**  
15490 Pine Avenue  
Fontana, California  
69th Q.M.

**Raymond J. Lynch**  
9 Timothy Avenue  
North Warren, Pennsylvania  
Cannon-271st

**O. J. Potter**  
Route 2, Box 274  
Wartburg, Tennessee  
C-777th

**Richard Boyce**  
Route 8, Box 835  
Winchester, Virginia

## "TAPS"

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!

**Edward P. Ruff, Jr.**  
13 Little Avenue  
Riverside, New Jersey  
H-273rd

**Raymond J. Zielaskowski**  
4618 288th Street  
Toledo, Ohio  
C-880th

**Milton W. Halainen**  
P.O. Box 201  
Troy, New Hampshire  
769th Ordnance

**I. C. Davis**  
3351 East Dale Street  
Leesburg, Florida  
B-461st

**Elvy B. Neer**  
5640 Guide Meridian Road  
Bellingham, Washington  
C-879th

**Warren J. Richard**  
881 48th Avenue  
Vero Beach, Florida  
I-273rd





the 69th

INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

101 stephen st., new kensington, pa. 15068

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NON-PROFIT ORG.

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JEROMESVILLE, OH 44840

This is a solicitation for the order of goods and/or services and not a bill, invoice or statement of account due. You are under no obligation to make any payments on account of this offer unless you accept this offer.



From left to right: Frank Nemeth, Katherine Henninger and Anna Walters

## Donations to Veterans Hospital Accepted with Much Thanks

Anna Walters and Frank C. Nemeth presenting a check for \$500.00 to Ms. Katherine Henninger, Chief of Volunteer Services at the Coatesville Veterans Hospital, along with 72 handmade quilts and lap robes, 53 pair of booties, made by the women of the Ladies Auxiliary, and many sundry toilet articles.

Presentation of the above was done after our reunion in Valley Forge on September 10, 1990.

Anna and Earl Walters donate much of their time to the Veterans Hospital. A newcomer to this service is Jim Riley of Company B, 269th Engineers.

Ms. Henninger wishes to convey her thanks for such a generous contribution.