

# FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★Association, Inc.



Pages 13-14  
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"THE THREE B's"  
BOLTE'S BIVOUACING BASTARDS

VOLUME 44, NO. 3

MAY — JUNE — JULY — AUGUST  
1991

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

# bulletin



Soon to become Immediate Past President, Earl E. Witzleb, Jr., President, looks over his membership and their lovely wives along with guests at the Denver Reunion in 1989. On the left is Immediate Past President, William "Bill" Foster, turning over the bolo and the duties of President to Earl. Two years went like two months but I enjoyed every minute of it. Now I can join the ranks and be one of the gang once again as I take my place with E Company, 273rd Infantry boys at the Dinner Banquet in 1992 at San Francisco Airport Marriott, Burlingame, California. You have all been great to Dottie and me for this tenure as President. Thanks much from the both of us. Earl E. "Skip" and Dorothy A. "Dotie" Witzleb, Jr.

## News From The Editor's Desk



by — Clarence Marshall  
Membership Chairman

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

**John J. O'Connor**, President - Headquarters Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion: Just a few lines to say hello and hope that you are feeling well and getting along okay during this winter season.

Our unit, Headquarters Battery, 880th Field Artillery, enjoyed the reunion at Valley Forge very much and wish to thank the reunion committee for their excellent work and planning. Our unit had their dinner-meeting Friday evening in one of the downstairs banquet rooms of the Sheraton and the service and courtesy of the Sheraton employees were excellent. The food served was also tops.

Sad to report that one of our unit members has passed away. He is **Raymond Pyles** and he died in December of 1990. Our sincere condolences to his widow, **Dorothy**, of Wheelersburg, Ohio.

Congratulations to **Anne and Rico D'Angelo** on their 45th wedding anniversary and many, many more. **Rico** was a "C Battery" member but is also a member of our group.

Clarence, you do an excellent job with the bulletin along with your fine staff of members. It is really nice to receive this bulletin. Again, much thanks.

**Alan H. Murphey**, 1339 Hemlock Drive, Fairborn, Ohio 45324 — Co. H, 3rd Bn., 273rd: Thank you for your letter of May 17th and the names of the two widows from our unit on your roster. Incidentally, Mrs. Shaughnessey is the widow of Lt. Col. Leo W. Shaughnessey, our battalion commander.

I appreciate your promptness in sending the extra copies of the January-April '91 issue of the bulletin. I finally received my personal copy on May 17th and read it cover to cover with great pleasure.

The letter, photo and map on pages 28-29 of the bulletin from **Stephen Ranson** were of particular interest. As I worked at the camp for liberated Allied POWs at Brandis airfield, I am familiar with some of the history. We called Brandis "Polenz airfield," from the name of the small village closest to the airfield. **Mr. Ranson** says "Brandis was later occupied by the Blue Battalion of the 273rd Regiment." He must have gotten the 'Blue' Battalion from our radio call sign TRYHARD BLUE. Third Battalion, 273rd Infantry occupied Brandis (Polenz) airfield from April 21st thru June 30, 1945. According to *Phantom Nine*, a detailed history of the 9th Armored Division by **Dr. Walter E. Reichelt** (1987), the

airfield near Polenz was taken by elements of Combat Command A (CCA), 9th Armored Division on April 16th, 1945, where 250 enemy planes of all types were destroyed, including 40 jets. CCA occupied the area for four days until relieved by 3rd Battalion, 273rd Infantry on April 21st. I have written **Mr. Ranson** and sent him all the information I have.

Recently, during the course of my Colditz research project, I came across a couple of names of 69ers whom I am interested in locating. Could you check to see if either of them is listed on the Association roster?

The first is a **Captain Rose**, a medical officer, who is mentioned on page 148 of *From Colditz in Code* by Julius Green (1971) as having transported about 30 Hungarian Jews, the survivors of a small SS-run slave labor camp at Colditz, in his ambulances. I checked a copy of the 69th Association's 1949 membership directory (sent to me by **Fred Koeller**) and found a **Nicholas J. Rose** living in Brooklyn, New York, listed as a former member of the 271st Infantry Regiment Medical Detachment. Is **Nicholas J. Rose** still a member of the association? If he is, I would like to write him to ascertain if he is the **Captain Rose** described in Green's book.

The other individual is a **Sergeant Dryer**. He is mentioned in a debrief report of Lieutenant Colonel **William H. Schaefer**, an American POW liberated from Colditz. In his report, made to G-2 in Washington, DC on May 10th, 1945, **Colonel Schaefer** mentions that a "Sergeant Dryer of the 69th Division" was among those first to arrive at Colditz castle. As 3rd Battalion, 273rd Infantry was the only 69th unit involved at Colditz, **Sergeant Dryer** must have been a member of one of the line companies (I, K, L or M Company) as he was not in Headquarters Company. Could you check for a — **Dryer** on your roster from 3rd Battalion, 273rd?

Again, thank you for the extra bulletins. They are very much appreciated. I hope my request did not cause you too much bother.

Keep up the great work and stay well.

This is a last minute addition and is not mentioned in my letter. The following is a quote from a portion of an article in the *New York Times*, April 16, 1945:

"WITH THE UNITED STATES FIRST ARMY, in Germany, April 14th (Delayed) — ....

The next morning in Naumburg American soldiers captured a major general who, with 180 men, had put up the defense that had halted us so long. He was utterly disgusted with the war and a bit embarrassed that as a major general in the German army he had only 160 men under his command.

The huge German warehouses at Naumburg yielded tons of cheese, fine Norwegian sardines, bread and oceans of wine, cognac and champagne — all earmarked for the German army.

The citizens of the town knew the stores were there and started looting the warehouses. Soon after they broke into one place the looting assumed the proportions of a riot and our troops had to go in and throw the civilians out.

For several hours, at least until the thing got organized, Staff Sergeant **Jack Weingast** of 46 Clara Street, Brooklyn, **Kenneth Sellers** of Chicago and Private **Donald Batt** of 160 West 77th Street, New York, had complete charge of the gigantic warehouses that spread over several acres of Naumburg proper."

**Clarence: Jack Weingast** is listed on the Association's 1949 membership directory as being from K Company, 273rd Infantry. Is he still on the roster? I assume **Kenneth Sellers** and **Donald Batt** are also from K Company. Do you have any record of them?

(Continued on Page 3)

## NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 2)

M. E. Thorne, Route 1, Box 452, O'Dell Addition, Buffalo, West Virginia 25033-9769 — Co. H-273rd: I ran across one of your Fighting 69th magazines. I would like to receive this book. What are the charges for subscription?

I took Basic Training with the 69th Division, Company H, 273rd Infantry, from May, 1943 to October, 1943 at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and shipped out to Company D, 143rd Infantry, 36th Division in ETO.

I'll be waiting to hear from you.

W. H. Martin, 14825 37th Avenue N.E., Seattle, Washington 98155 — Co. D-272nd: My name is William H. (Bill) Martin and I was a member of the 69th Infantry Division, Company D, 272nd Infantry Regiment.

Much to my surprise our morning paper covered your meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi this coming September 15-22. This is the very first time I had ever heard of a 69th reunion, let alone their 44th.

I won't be able to attend this gathering but would certainly appreciate this note being passed along to any Company D member you might run into. I have heard from very few through the years and would dearly like to "catch up!"

Here are a few members I'd love to hear from. The rank was theirs at the time of my leaving Germany, August or so of 1945: Captain Lowell Jackson, Lieutenant Robles, Lieutenant John Dvorak, Lieutenant Gene Roberts, Sergeant Juran, T/5 Bielawski.

Floyd Nadel, 7805 Marlyn Drive, Des Moines, Iowa — C Btry. and Hq. - 880th FA: I just read a notice of the reunion of the 69th Division. I was in the 880th Field Artillery Battalion in 1944-1945. I've lost touch with everyone I was with then. Could you give me any information of the units involved or coming?

I was in C Battery first then Headquarters Battery. I am interested in contacting fellows in either of the two above outfits, especially if anyone has a list of addresses and names of people in these outfits.

Bruno Campese, 3703 2nd Avenue, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania 15010 — Anti-Tank-272nd: I am requesting through this letter that my name be added to your publication mailing list, and ask you to please read this letter in its entirety.

Last evening (Thursday evening, April 18, 1991) I had one of the few great pleasures one might have in their lifetime. I was reunited with an old army buddy that I had not seen in almost 45 years. My army buddy's name is Anthony L. Ginochi and he presently lives in Lower Burrell, Pennsylvania and reasonably close to your own home town of New Kensington, Pennsylvania.

The story of how we came to meet again after almost 45 years is a most interesting one and a long one, so I will not attempt to relate that to you in this letter, but the meeting itself was a most delightful one giving us the opportunity to renew our acquaintance and recall "the old times" (1945-46).

I brought several books that I had to this meeting, one entitled "69th Infantry Division Pictorial History" and the other entitled "History of the 272nd Infantry." We looked at the pictures, recalled the many happenings, and just had a wonderful time. Tony showed me a publication entitled "Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association, Inc.," which he has been receiving for a number of years, and of which you are the Editor. I had to reluctantly admit that I was not receiving this publication and had never even heard of it. I also had to admit that I was not aware that the 69th has had many reunions and that I had never attended any, in as much

as I was uninformed. Needless to say, I felt disappointed that my "fighting brothers" have somehow or another over the past 45 years not even included me on their roster.

I served in the Anti-Tank Company, 272nd Infantry of the Fighting 69th. I joined my Division somewhere in France in January, perhaps February of 1945 and went into every battle that they engaged in during their tenure overseas, terminating with the meeting of the Russians at Torgau on the Elbe River. As a matter of fact, I was pulling guard duty and having nothing better to do, was listening to the conversation between the Americans and the Russians on that day that the first contact was made. I watched with excitement and dismay as I observed the Russians move past me heading towards the Elbe which was only moments away, in their horse drawn wagons and army trucks which appeared to be American trucks. Later, after we actually met, I was not surprised to see that most of their 5 gallon gasoline cans also seemed to be American made, and I recall saying to one of my comrades, "How in the hell did they beat the Germans with their obsolete equipment and seemingly uncontrollable soldiers?" Having been one of the very first to meet the Russians at the Elbe, I cannot understand why I do not appear in at least one of the pictures of the initial meetings at the Elbe. Apparently, whomever was responsible for selecting the pictures to be used for posterity did not select those I might have been in.

At any rate, I would appreciate it very much if you would see to it that my name gets on the mailing list for your publication and records. I am now 65 years old and a retired school teacher/coach. I believe I still have a few good years remaining. I would love to be informed as to what is happening with the boys from the 69th. I believe you can help me. I would appreciate hearing from you. I live "up river from you" in Beaver Falls, and my phone number is 412/843-7628. Thanks for your concern.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Bruno, the Association has no way of hunting out former members of the Fighting 69th. Most of our members have come to us due to a notice they have seen in a newspaper or magazine, or through another member who already knows of our Association. Also, we print whatever pictures are mailed to us. There is no selecting involved. If you have some photos you would like to see printed in the bulletin, feel free to mail them in and we will publish them.)

Edward A. Schalk, 609 West Water Street, Box 446, Teutopolis, Illinois 62467 — Hq., 272nd: Please excuse me for being so late with my dues, but I have been quite busy just coming off a year as Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer (National Vice-Commander) of the 40/8. Then too, I was also recovering from a heart attack which was followed by a second one, but that's all over now and I am getting around once again. My wife sure had a lot of driving to do last year with me under orders to ease off, but we covered all my assignments and finished the year well.

In 1989, before my first attack, on our way to Baton Rouge, my wife, Norma, and I sidetracked off our direct route and visited Camp Shelby. What a change from our time there. We sure would like to be with you in September, but, due to my getting set up for our top job in the 40/8, I must be in San Diego at almost the same time. In fact, I must be there by September 21st, so you see the time element is too close, and I do not fly, unless I HAVE TO!

It seems that both the 69th and the other division I was overseas with, the 43rd, run your reunions just about the times when I am required to be at conventions of The American Legion, or the 40/8. Well, maybe after I get finished with being the Chef de Chemin de Fer of the 40/8, I will be able to miss one and be with the 69th.

(Continued on Page 4)

## NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 3)

Going through my papers and memoirs, I have looked over and over for any photos I have of my time with the 69th, but I can find none. I have found quite a bit of other material, but no photos or not even my orders to report to Camp Shelby. I was there early in May of 1943 as part of the cadre, just out of officers school at Fort Benning, but I was shipped out to the South Pacific sometime in August of 1943.

We will be looking forward to reading all about Camp Shelby Reunion when we get that bulletin. I look forward to receiving it, and my wife has started to look it over pretty well also.

It was sad to learn of the passing of one of the sergeants of my old company, Bill J. Curley. He lived just about thirty miles from me, and he found me after I had written once to try to find out exactly what company I was with in the 69th. I haven't been over that way to pay my respects, but hope to this spring when the weather breaks. My wife still will not let me out in bad weather (she's a retired nurse).

Thanks for the reminder of my dues, but really, I had the envelope ready, but I wanted to write a note - look at the "note" - to send along with my check. So, anyway, I finally made it, but I promise that next time it will come back after I receive the notice the FIRST time. Stay well.

**Richard W. Cottle**, 2750 Buchanan Street N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418 — Btry. B-880th: Here are my dues and also a picture of Louis Fehner and myself when they visited a couple of years ago. Louie and his wife, Bernice, were married at Camp Shelby.

I liked the Battery B, 880th picture in the last issue. I was away at Fort Sill machine school so I did not get in on it. Keep up the good work.



*Richard Cottle and Louis Fehner*

**Raymond A. Dansereau**, 46 Peyster Street, Albany, NY 12208 — C-272nd: My wife and I intended to make the reunion at Valley Forge but we attended the Passion play in Oberammergau, Germany, which is held at ten year intervals.

As usual, I thoroughly enjoyed reading the September-October-November-December bulletin. Of particular interest was William R. Beswick's account of the European Tour and Eugene D. Butterfield's account of the Battle for Eilenburg. On Page 61 of the Bulletin I saw several familiar names. If my memory serves me correctly, the last I saw Charles Weaver

was the day he left our company to accept an appointment at West Point. Also I believe that Louie Savarese was a Platoon Leader with the rank of Sergeant.

My wife and I are looking forward to the 44th Annual Reunion in Biloxi, Mississippi.

**George Kishbaugh**, 134 Ridge Road, Horseheads, New York 14845 — Service Co.-273rd: I have enjoyed the Fighting 69th bulletin for the last four years. For some reason, I just haven't taken care of the dues. I hope this will help your needs and will keep the dues up and contact with our Fighting 69th.

I am unable to travel much but I like to hear all the news. I sure would like to hear from some of the 273rd Service Company people. I was among the younger group during my Army service. I kept the copy of General Bolte's passing on and one of the monument at Camp Shelby. I'll never forget those special years.

I recognized the name of Julian Pederson in one of the bulletins since I have been receiving the 69th news. He was from North Dakota. I sure would like to hear from the old buddies. Good luck with your bulletin and keep good news coming. I turn 66 on January 31, 1991.

**Adam Kapschock**, 60 Larter Avenue, Newburgh, New York 12550 — B-777th: I want to thank you for sending me the bulletin for quite some time, even though I did not send any dues. I was a patient at Castle Point V.A. Hospital where I lost my left leg, had two bypasses on my right leg, have tubes for veins and also have heart trouble with diabetes.

I joined the service to ride horses and ended up at Fort Myers, Virginia. From there I helped to form the 10th Armored Division. I left for France with the 777th Tank Battalion, and ended up with the 28th Infantry for a while then joined the 69th till the end. I was with the 69th when they met the Russians at the Elbe River. I was a Tank Commander in Company B, 777th Tank Battalion.

I am sending \$25.00 and I hope it helps some. Thanks again and God bless all of you.

**Anthony L. Ginochi**, 102 Madison Drive, Lower Burrell, Pennsylvania 15068 — AT-272nd: I recently was reunited with a fellow 69er whom I had not seen since 1945. He was one of the replacements who came to my squad, Anti-Tank, 272nd Infantry, in France. He is Bruno A. Campese, 3703 2nd Avenue, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania 15010. We got together through a mutual friend from Beaver Falls.

Bruno and I were separated after Torgau. We went to other units in Germany until May, 1946. We met again last week after 46 years. We spent a most enjoyable evening in my home and we plan to see each other again. An interesting note is that Bruno is a retired junior high school teacher and I will retire as a middle school teacher in a few weeks. I was 65 this past February 1st and he will be 65 in May.

Bruno is most anxious to receive the Association Bulletin and other news. Please add his name to the mailing list.

(*EDITOR'S NOTE: Bruno wrote to us also. His letter appears on the previous page.*)

**James L. Mynes**, 2218 6th Avenue S.E., P.O. Box 1513, Decatur, Alabama 35602 — K-273rd: In reply to your letter of May 29th, indeed it has been a long time since those lovely campouts at Camp Shelby and the memorable trip to England, France, Belgium and Germany.

I am sorry I cannot remember the names on your list, however, Mark Guho strikes a bell briefly, but only in name. My name is pronounced "Mines" which we have a lot of in the state of West Virginia.

(Continued on Page 5)

## NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 4)

I will try to jog your memory a little more. I am originally from West Virginia, entered the West Virginia National Guard at age 14 in 1940. I was activated to federal service to Camp Shelby, then to Central and South America, back to Camp Shelby in March 1944, joining the 69th.

My former platoon leaders were Dwight Brooks from California, Sergeant Podlack from Minneapolis (or Ohio), and Andrew Malum from Minnesota. Captain Wilson was the Company Commander on the Siegfried Line.

Hope to see you in Biloxi at Camp Shelby.

**Earl G. Richardson, 650 Pasadena Avenue, Niagara Falls, New York 14304 — K-273rd: REGARDING THE LETTERS OF JIM MYNES AND J. TUTT SNODGRASS APPEARING ON PAGES 68 and 69 ISSUES OF THE JANUARY-APRIL 1991 BULLETINS.**

Both of these letters contained long forgotten names of comrades who were members of Company K. Listed below are some additional members not mentioned in either letter.

### **COMPANY K, 3rd PLATOON, 3rd SQUAD**

Mark Guho, Squad Leader — Woodlawn Hills, California  
Bruce Earnst, Asst. Squad Leader — Kalamazoo, Michigan  
Earl Richardson, 1st Scout — Niagara Falls, New York  
Eugene Pinedo, 2nd Scout — Fresno, California  
Angelo Capone, BAR — Providence, Rhode Island  
Boyd Scott, Rifleman — Cleveland, Tennessee  
Arby — Louisiana  
Fullingham — Tennessee  
Strauwall — California (deceased)  
Lynn Ward, Platoon Leader, 3rd Platoon — Oregon or Washington State  
Stewart, Platoon Leader, 4th Platoon  
John McGregor — 2nd Lieutenant during training at Camp Shelby but I don't think he went overseas with us.

Hopefully, the names mentioned in this letter will prompt other members of Company K to jog their memories.

**Keith Curtis, 1101 South 92nd Street, #586, Mesa, Arizona 85208 — Div. Hq. & Hq. Co.: Frank See, Bob Myers, John Havey and I and Colleen and Gloria got together for lunch earlier in February and before I could get a picture and letter off, Dutch and Jean Hawn came to town and we all got together for lunch February 27th at a Mexican restaurant and a jaw session. We also had lunch with the Harrisons.**

We will leave Arizona March 25th or so for home, but that is not set in cement, as the saying goes. Colleen's dad is in the hospital and my mother wants to enter a nursing home, so all is not good in Iowa.



Keith Curtis, Frank and Reeta Harrison, and Colleen Curtis



Frank See, Keith Curtis, Bob Myers, John Havey, and Dutch Hawn.



Gloria See, Colleen Curtis, Bob Myers, John Havey and Keith Curtis.

This picture sent in by Bob Myers

## MOVING

Please print your new address below:

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

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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.

# 69th Infantry Division 1992 45th Annual Reunion SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT MARRIOTT Burlingame, California



*Bob and Theresa Pierce, Committee Chairpersons*

## COMMITTEE REPORT:

Plans are progressing to assure that the first West Coast Reunion will be a memorable occasion. Rooms have been guaranteed at \$70.00 per night plus tax; a limited number of suites will be available at 65% off the 1992 published rates. To reiterate: The Marriott Hotel sits on the west bank of San Francisco Bay one mile south of the San Francisco Airport and just 12 miles from downtown San Francisco.

The 69th Division Association Vice President, Chalmer Pearson, who is also the Site Selection Chairman, was visiting his son and family in the Bay area over the holidays. He contacted me to arrange a visit to the San Francisco Airport

Marriott Hotel. We toured the Reunion site, escorted by the Marriott Hotel Convention Manager, Owen Leinbach. Chalmer was visually impressed (but tired from the long walk) and gave his "stamp of approval" to the Reunion facility.

The Marriott is located in a major hotel/restaurant row area with a variety of hotels and restaurants of all cultures. Between the Marriott Hotel and the Bay, there is a green belt with a continuous walkway adorned with shrubs, flowers and benches. Great for our morning walkers. The planned Hospitality Room is at ground level with an adjoining large lobby, a seating area, and glass doors that open to the Bayside green belt. This is a very desirable feature that allows the Hospitality area to expand to the outside.

Tours are still in the discussion/planning phase. An overnight gambling tour to Reno, Nevada and South Lake Tahoe is planned for Monday-Tuesday. Arrangements have been made with the Marriott to allow Sunday arrivals, who take the Reno trip, to check their luggage over Monday night and be guaranteed a room on their return Tuesday (considering most will only want to take an overnight bag to Reno). City tours are planned to accommodate several arrival date groups. A Napa Valley Wine Country Tour is planned for Wednesday. Several tour/event options are planned to allow choices to those of you with different interests. A complete menu of options will be announced in the Bulletin after the Biloxi Reunion.

I have also obtained a signed letter of agreement with Delta Airlines for discount prices applicable to the San Francisco 69th Division Reunion attendees. This date will be furnished in the Bulletin along with the Reunion Reservation information next year.

"MORE TO COME."

Committee Chairpersons:  
**BOB and THERESA PIERCE**  
144 Nashua Court  
San Jose, California 95139  
Telephone: 408/226-8040

Earl's Note: Your Airport Marriott picture will appear in a later bulletin after the Biloxi reunion.

## A Footnote on the Monument at Leipzig

On August 1, 1938, following a year of graduate studies in Switzerland, I visited Leipzig. One of the sights to see was the Napoleon Monument, which was also known as the Monument to the Battle of the Nations. It was erected following Napoleon's defeat in 1813 by the combined armed forces of Austria, Prussia, Russia, and Sweden.

As a youthful tourist in 1938 I went into the Monument and even walked up the steps to the top in order to view the surrounding park area, including the adjacent reflecting pond. I was very impressed with the size of the heavy building stone used in the construction of the Monument.

The recent article by Colonel William P. Brooks, Jr., who commanded the 881st Field Artillery Battalion reminded me of a brief but meaningful moment during my service on the G-3 staff of Division Headquarters during the Division's European period of combat. General Maraist had come to Division Headquarters to discuss the artillery's role in the plan of attack on Leipzig with General Reinhardt. General Maraist

reported that the Monument had come under attack by the artillery.

In an unguarded moment, but based on my 1938 inspection of the construction of the Monument, I stated in the presence of General Maraist that I thought the artillery shells would bounce off the edifice "like hailstone off a tin roof."

It took General Maraist less than a second to excoriate my assessment of the striking and damaging power of "his artillery." I was really embarrassed at my flip comment. Yet, in looking at the picture on Page 14 of the September-December, 1990 issue of the Bulletin, I think perhaps we were both right. The top of the Monument seems damaged but not substantially impaired. The rounds which entered the lower portion clearly did heavy damage.

Yours for the Association, and cordially,

Carl Q. Christol, Colonel USAR (Retired)  
1041 Anoka Place  
Pacific Palisades, California 90272

# 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."*

Hi All You Good 69ers and Lovely Wives:

As President this is my last letter to the membership through the bulletin. It's been a good two years. As I told you when I was voted President in Denver, "Dottie and Me" would now start a two year vacation. Well we left Denver, came home, and started our journey to Valley Forge, King Of Prussia, which took a year. We left Valley Forge, came home and now started our journey to Biloxi with a great climax for two good years. That will be the dedication of the 69th Division's monument at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi on Friday, September 20th this year of our Lord 1991. We hope to see a very good turnout for the dedication as well as a good week of reunion where buddy meets buddy, some of us not seeing each other in 46 years.

Truly this is the year we should all join hands and sing the song "Till We Meet Again." For a lot of us it will be the last time. Taps is growing and before long it will take the two pages in the centerfold. I am getting letters of sickness too numerous to mention everyone - plus operations of all kinds. You name it and a member had it, I'm sure. Yes, some of these members we will probably never see again. Others are getting too old to travel as others are in a financial situation which doesn't even give them enough money to pay the normal bills in a month. Doctors, hospitals, attorneys, and you name it, are getting way out of line in fees. But we will have to live with it. I could name others but I really shouldn't - the car industry is one and the school teachers are another. I hope you still are my friends Alene and Marjorie, sorry. Taxes go higher, cars are sky high, and room rates are killing Military Association reunions.

Another climax should come in August of this year when all you screaming mimis will get your new 69th Association history books. Turner Publishing Company has promised Crandon Clark and myself that they will be ready for shipment early in August so you all should have your copy before you leave to go to Biloxi. Maybe you'll want to buy a few more in Biloxi for your children and grandchildren so they can read

about pappy winning World War II. I hope you all will like it for it's going to be a great publishing from Turner.

Clarence had a recent stay in the hospital but he promises to be at the Biloxi Reunion.

Betty Foster called me and said she had some bad news to tell me. She went on to say that Bill is back in the hospital. I think at Camp Hill where he will lose his other good leg. Now Bill has lost both legs up near his knee. Hope you are feeling better now, Bill, and that you get your new leg in time to be in shape to make the trip to Biloxi. I know this will mean some rehabilitation for Bill.

According to Robert "Bob" Kurtzman, the Biloxi reunion chairman, several handicap rooms will be available for those in need of one. If any member coming to Biloxi needs a handicap room I might advise you to get in touch with Robert and tell him your problem, so he can make the necessary arrangements. It might be advisable to also mention this on your reservations sheet to the hotel. By now, I hope all you members have sent in your reservations for the reunion since things might tighten up as time draws near to the reunion.

You can find a reservation sheet to go to the Mississippi Beach Resort Hotel in the center of this bulletin. You can also send your activities sheet to Robert Kurtzman found in the center of the bulletin. Flip it over and you have the page for airline information that goes to Robert also.

Activities seem to be good this year for everyone. Besides the trip back to Camp Shelby for the the dedication of the 69th monument, I like the Nite Life Tour of New Orleans. This should be a good year for first timers so all you old timers show up to greet all the first timers. I hope it all works out well but DO GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN EARLY. In fact they should be gone by now.

I was shocked in hearing of the death of Joseph H. Schaffer early in May. Joe was one of our newly elected directors at Valley Forge with his term running thru the 1992-1993 year. Our sympathy is with the Schaffer family, wife Sally and daughters Janet and Laura. Word really got around Company F, 272nd as I do believe I heard from most of them of Joe's death. I am sure they all cared and loved Joe a lot. Sally Schaffer's letter follows:

To 272nd Infantry Regiment, Company F,

This is to let Company F, 272nd comrades and all 69th Infantry Division friends of Joseph "Joe" Henry Schaffer know that he was laid to rest Monday, May 13, 1991, at Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, Oregon, by his devoted wife, Sally, and 2 daughters, Janet and Laura.

Joe fought his final battle with all the courage and strength he could muster, but suffered too many unknown health complications while in the Critical Care Unit of a Portland hospital for 23 days, and passed away May 5, 1991, with his loving family beside him.

He served as S/Sgt. in Company F, 272nd, from May, 1943 to September, 1945 (approximately) and looked increasingly foward to each 69th Reunion we've attended since our first at Philadelphia in 1976. The last reunion at Valley Forge topped them all for Joe, not only because of the exceptionally large Company F, 272nd Infantry turnout, but also because he was reunited with four company members he's not seen since 1945, as well as his appointment to the 1992-93 Board of Directors.

The 69th Infantry Division affiliation has always been a most positive influence in our lives and I know "Big Joe" will be overseeing the upcoming 44th Annual Reunion in Biloxi

(Continued on Page 8)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 7)

and the dedication of the 69th Division Monument at Camp Shelby, this September. So, have a wonderful time, all you dear 69th friends and know that Joe and I will be right there with you.

Thank you all for our beautiful memories and God bless everyone.

The Family of  
LTC Joseph H. Schaffer, USAR, Ret.  
Sally, Janet and Laura  
1501 S.E. Oar Avenue  
Lincoln City, Oregon 97367  
Telephone: 503/994-2557

\* \* \* \*

With Joe's death I am one director short for the 1992-1993 directors' year. To fill this vacancy I will appoint Neil Shields, another Company F, 272nd member, to the seat of Joseph Schaffer. I will ask the Board of Directors to approve this appointment at the Biloxi reunion.

Ray Fahrner has informed me that the situation at Valley Forge has been corrected concerning the living tree and our plaque. Valley Forge has removed the dead dogwood tree including the stump saying that the tree was diseased. They are moving our plaque about five or so feet to get it away from the diseased area and are planting another young dogwood tree. This should be completed by now at a cost to the 69th Association of \$100.00, which I feel is a just price for what was done. Any member living in the Valley Forge area should stop by and check on the work that was agreed on and the area which it was moved to. What I was told was no big area change was made so you should be able to find the new look in the same area it was in before.

Crandon Clark has informed me that the history book is on schedule and will be ready for shipment to members in August. This is going to be a fine looking book which I believe you all will enjoy reading and having. It doesn't have everything in it, for it will be about 225 pages and would be many more hundreds of pages if everything was in it. This would have caused the cost to be so far out of line, no one could have afforded it. There will be many pictures, maps, and histories of 16 units or more plus many individual biographies. If you like it, more books will be available to members at the same cost.

Jack Duffy has informed me that all is going well with the monument to be dedicated at Camp Shelby on Friday, September 20, 1991. Some minor complaints have been sent to me as well as Jack, plus word really gets around. I do believe what Jack and his committee have come up with will make a very attractive 69th monument and will stand out over the others located on Memorial Lane at Camp Shelby near the chapel. I believe Jack has made one more change if it could be done on the monument by taking out the town of Torgau. That line will probably read, "AT THE ELBE RIVER IN GERMANY," or something close. Some complaints have been registered about the patrols involved, towns, and a few other details. All in all Jack and committee have put a good monument together.

I have had a very busy month of April and am still trying to get caught up with everything. First, Dottie and I went to Nashville to look over that site for a 1994 reunion. Joe and Virginia McMurry, Jr. had a committee of 15 couples or roughly 34 adults to greet us at Opry Land Hotel. If they get everything ironed out, it will be a fine place to go. I am sure this will happen. The biggest hotel rates are either too high or they do not have the room availability. It was decided to probably use two hotels that were reasonable side by side or across the street from each other. This could happen near

the airport which most members like to be close to. Activity prices as well as food are normal with many attractions to visit. We could spend several weeks there. I am waiting now on a reply from Nashville as they hope to be at Biloxi to present this reunion to the site committee.

I then spent the next weekend at Grantsville, Maryland and the Maple Festival at Meyersdale, Pennsylvania with the Tri-State Group. Very nice weekend. Dottie came on Friday since she has to watch her vacation days and really had to be at a meeting Friday morning at work.

The following weekend the Shadles and Witzlebs visited with Jack Duffy, the 1993 Reunion Chairman for Rochester, New York. Paul Shadle, being on the site committee took the place of Chalmer Pearson, Vice President and site committee chairman, who was unable to attend that weekend due to other commitments. We were entertained very well by Jack, the Holiday Inn management, and the Rochester Convention Center staff. Our working arrangements proved that a lot was accomplished and that Rochester will be a good reunion city. One thing I noticed was if we get rain you can walk through covered walkways for blocks to the hotels, convention center, restaurants, fast food shops, and a mall to mention a few of the enclosed area.

The following week we were to go to the Mid-West weekend but cancelled for two reasons. One, Dottie was getting tired of traveling having to watch her back and two, she is running out of vacation days. We hope to be with the Mid-West members next year. Now I am trying to get caught up on letters and get this next bulletin out by July. I do hope you all received Number 2 bulletin and have sent your registration and activities sheets to the proper places, one to the hotel and the other to the Biloxi reunion chairman.

Chalmer Pearson took a trip out west and stopped to see the San Francisco Marriott reunion site with Robert Pierce on his way to visit with his son. I haven't heard anything yet so it must have rated an approval from Chalmer, our Vice President and site committee chairman. Robert Pierce will have at least two letters in this bulletin so read them and maybe you better read them twice. I do hope they open up some eyes.

You have read in the last bulletin what will happen in Biloxi and what to expect. It appears to be a nice agenda, especially the dedication of the 69th monument. Rooms may get tight so I hope you have reservations by now. September should be cool and we should have most of the area to ourselves. Tours appear to be fine and prices are right. I only wish we can all get to Biloxi with a lot of first timers and all the old timers of 2, 5, 10, 20 or more reunions under your belts. It is getting to the point where we are older, some can't travel much anymore, and I do realize we have financial problems in many cases.

I am making one big step forward now in one of my last appointments. I am naming a committee to recommend and handle how we will disburse our finances if any is left when the last of we 69ers have faded away. I have named Eugene Butterfield to be chairman of this committee which can be three, five, seven, or nine members of the 69th. I recommended that Sherman Lawrence and Dillard Powell be on that committee, and Eugene has requested Frank See, which makes a committee of four at present. I feel too that the present president and treasurer should have a part on this committee. I will ask the Board of Directors at the Biloxi reunion to make this committee a permanent committee. If a new chairman is ever needed, the new chairman should be the member who attends most or all of the reunions. I have asked Eugene and his committee to consider the following as funds for

(Continued on Page 9)

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

distribution of our monies in trust if possible where the interest can be used. I asked that the Overseas Flower Fund, the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, and the Historical Museum at Camp Shelby be considered first. I don't think any fund should go over \$10,000.00 some not needing that much so others can be decided upon. Who knows we may have nothing left and again we may have a bundle left. We should be prepared. I also think that the present president and treasurer should never become the chairman since they can and will go out as officers at any reunion election.

I have been getting hell because I don't put news in from other units. I'm not a mind reader and know that you want me to put something in the bulletin. The way this is done, you send in the news or pictures and I'll put it in the bulletin. I am sure Clarence will do the same. I have been getting a going over that Company E, 273rd was in the battle of Leipzig and never a word mentioned about Company F, 273rd. What I do know according to the map in the last bulletin, Page 29, is that the 273rd and 271st plus 9th Armored Division were in the battle for Leipzig. I guess the 272nd was in reserve again.

If you want news in the bulletin once again, send it to me with pictures and it will get in the following issue. Remember too, if you use the bulletin you should have your dues paid and even a little something extra. You should also get all the members in your unit to pay their dues. Our bulletins are big and it really costs to put out three a year. You wouldn't want them to be cut down to one a year and only reunion material put in them. They cost, so members please pay your share. A \$5.00 membership helps, a \$10.00 contributing membership keeps us above water so far, and a little something extra would make the bulletin SMILE. We have a lot of members in business for themselves (furniture stores, grocery stores, doctors, lawyers, dentists, and you name it, we have the businesses) that could send fifty, hundred, or even a thousand dollars to the 69th and write it off as a business expense. **HELP YOUR DIVISION OUT, MEMBERS.** Thanks a lot for your extra effort in funds from your president, Earl.

I still have a few clocks left that were given to couples and singles as table gifts from the committee and association at Valley Forge last year. If you would like one, send \$10.00 to me and I will get one off to you in the mail. I'll use some of the ten for postage and then turn over what is left to the association treasurer. Don't wait to write. Only several remain and they go on a first come basis.

Have a nice summer and we'll see you all in Biloxi soon. Time flies and it's getting late. Have a safe trip.

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## Correction on the Previous Article About Securing Medals

The address which was listed was incorrect and the correct one is listed below. Also if you were already issued medals and lost them or if they were stolen, there is a charge for a reissue.

Correct Address:  
Commander U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center  
9700 Page Boulevard  
St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5200  
Attn: DARP-PAS-EAW

The previous article directed you to The Bureau of Records which has nothing to do with medals.

## 69th Division Association Nominating Committee 1990-1991 Directors

At the last two Division reunions, members of the Association proposed, approved, and subsequently amended the by-laws to add a directorship to the Association for both the 369th Medical and the 461st AAA Battalions. To date, these important positions are vacant. In an attempt to obtain nominees for these vacancies, I contacted 24 card-carrying, dues-paying members. There were a couple of responses from the 369th Medics but nothing from the 461st AAA.

The purpose of this article is to advise the 117 members of the 369th Medics and the 244 members of the 461st AAA that this is your chance to become an active member. You can participate in the decisions that shape the future and success of the 69th Division Association. This will be the first year your units will have a director. There will also be directorships available at the 1992 and 1993 reunions. Term of a director is three years; i.e., the present nominations are for 1993-1994; however, actual term commences with elections this September (1991) and continues through the reunion in 1994.

Interested members of these units should contact **Bob Pierce**, the chairman of the 1990-1991 Nominating Committee, at least 30 days prior to the Biloxi Reunion. Selected nominees should plan to attend the Biloxi reunion in order to accept the nomination. Members of these units interested in future directorships should also contact **Bob**. Your name will be passed to the next Nominating Committee Chairman.

### "REMINDER TO THE 1990-1991 DIRECTORS"

Please be sure you have your nominees for directors for 1993-1994 finalized prior to the Biloxi reunion. If you cannot make the reunion, send me the names of your confirmed nominees at least 30 days before.

Robert "Bob" Pierce  
Chairman, Nominating Committee  
for 1993-1994 Directors and Staff Officers  
144 Nashua Court  
San Jose, California 95139  
Telephone: 408/226-8040

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## Facts from the Front

### 2 APRIL, 1945

69th ... Fresh from the piney woods of Camp Shelby, Mississippi, the battlegreen doughs of this division crashed into their first offensive, captured six towns and took more than 200 prisoners on the first day. Commanded by M/General E. F. Reinhardt, they slugged their way through pillboxes to take Rescheid, Giescheid, Jamberg, Dickeerscheid, Buschem and Honningen. Two regiments, the 271st and 273rd, were committed to this action ... Pfc. William McDonald, Detroit, a 273rd machinegun squad leader, became the first man in the division to be decorated. He received the Bronze Star.

### 16 APRIL, 1945

The 69th successfully launched their first offensive by slugging their way through 2000 yards of the Siegfried Line. The 271st and 273rd Regiments were in this initial engagement.

*(Taken from the OUTFIT, a newsletter which was distributed without charge to hospitalized U.S. Army personnel during World War II.)*

# Treasurer's Message



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

With the 1991 Reunion getting closer and the 1990-91 dues year near its end, I am happy to report that another dues paying record has been set. With an increase of 120 from last year we have reached the total of 2661 dues paying members, 840 have made a contribution to the postage and bulletin fund which is an increase of 35 from last year. I attribute the increase to 110 First Timers who paid for the first time plus 94 Old Timers who contributed for the first time in the past seven years, however, 2413 have still made no contribution in the past seven years.

The 1991 Reunion at Biloxi is coming along fine and as of May 23rd I have received 42 reservations and the early influx leads me to believe that we will have the biggest reunion so far.

We're not getting any younger and if you haven't made plans yet you may be too late. I recently received the address changes from Clarence along with 42 removals. Looks like two pages will be needed for the "Taps" list in the next bulletin.

I hope to see you all in Biloxi and Camp Shelby for the Memorial Dedication and don't forget San Francisco in 1992.

Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.  
Treasurer

## Scholarship Awardee writes to thank us

Dear Mr. Kurtzman:

As I look forward to graduating (on June 15th) from Montana State University's College of Nursing, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the members of the 69th Fighting Infantry for helping me achieve my goal through your scholarship program. I will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

I feel very fortunate to be entering the job market when nurses, especially Registered Nurses, are in such great demand. I realize that most other graduates do not enjoy the same optimistic future as nursing graduates in immediately finding employment.

I plan to work on a medical-surgical floor at Sweetwater Memorial Hospital in Rock Springs, Wyoming. I am particularly interested in these types of patients. Medical-surgical

nursing is a great stepping stone to other areas in nursing and also provides an excellent learning environment. I feel it is the backbone of all nursing.

I sincerely appreciate the scholarship. I know that I will be an important, needed asset to my community — thanks to the assistance of individuals and groups like the 69th Fighting Infantry. Thank you,

Sincerely  
Loretta (Wittman) McClintock  
1750 Idaho Street #6  
Green River, Wyoming 82935

P.S. I would like to thank you personally for the words of support that you gave to me as I struggled academically during my first two years of college.

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## Widow of Robert Glaum writes about her husband's love for the Fighting 69th

My husband, Robert (Bob) Paul Glaum, Company E, 271st, would have been happy to see his picture along with John O'Connor's letter on Page 5 of the last Bulletin. He was mistakenly named Alex Glaum in both the letter and picture, but that can easily happen. Bob was confined to a wheel chair at that time, refused to be pictured in it, and insisted on standing for the ribbon cutting ceremony. He was so very pleased to represent the 69th, meet with the other 69ers and to meet the dignitaries.

Bob passed away May 13th, 1991. He had Myelo Dystrophic Syndrome for about 18 months and became leukemic in April. Some might remember that he was the one who had the heart attack in Denver, Colorado the same day we arrived and then he couldn't participate in any of the activities. Everyone was so kind and gracious to us at that time and we were ever so grateful. Bob was so happy that he was able to get reacquainted with others in Company E and always looked forward to any news about them and the 69th.

Bob had a military funeral with services by the V.F.W. Post #2235 and the American Legion Post #485. I received the flag from his coffin along with the discharged bullets from the volley.

Today I learned that Bob's sergeant, Alexander Waichulis just passed away on June 14, 1991. He was known as "Big Al" and well liked by all. He will also be missed.

Keep up the good work of getting veterans together and building friendships. Hope your reunions continue to be successful. You are all doing a great job!

Sincerely,  
Grace H. Glaum (Mrs. Robert)  
327 Mohawk Street  
Park Forest, Illinois 60466

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**1991 69th INFANTRY DIVISION  
44th ANNUAL REUNION  
Dedication of 69th Monument  
at Camp Shelby  
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI  
SEPTEMBER 15-22, 1991**

## SYMPATHY

It is with deep sorrow that I must notify the membership of the 69th Infantry Division Association of the death of Chalmer Pearson from Van Dalia, Michigan our Vice President for the term of 1989 to 1991.

As Vice President Chalmer was the Ladies Auxiliary Liaison, chairman of the Reunion Activities Site Screening committee, and chairman of the "Charles Herring Memorial Golf Tournament." He will be missed by each and all members of our 69th Association. Our sympathy to Reita, wife of Chalmer, as our sorrows will be shared with her.

If you wish to send a card, note, or letter you may do so by writing:

Reita Pearson  
15530 Joseph Road  
Van Dalia, Michigan 49095-9785

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## 1989-1991

### Appointed Committees

The President is on all committees. Please keep him informed.

To fill the vacancy of Vice President until the general membership meeting of the Association at the Mississippi Beach Resort Hotel in Biloxi on Saturday, September 21, 1991 will be Joseph Nunes of Cranston, Rhode Island who was the last chairman of the nominating committee at Valley Forge. He will be the Ladies Auxiliary Liaison for the Association.

Filling the chairmanship of the Reunion Activities Site Screening Committee will be Gaylord Thomas from Waupun, Wisconsin assisted by Paul Shadle of New Kensington, Pennsylvania. Any members wanting to hold a reunion in your area or ask for information should write: Gaylord Thomas, 432 Doty Street, Waupun, Wisconsin 53963.

The committee from Nashville, Tennessee wishing to hold the 1994 reunion please take note.

Filling the chairmanship of the "Charles Herring Memorial Golf Tournament" will be Joseph Wright from Forsyth, Missouri. He will be assisted by George Johnson from Petersburg, Virginia and Frank Nemeth, Levittown, Pennsylvania.

We must fill two important offices this year in Biloxi, for both the President and Vice President will be open to the membership plus Secretary, Treasury, and eight to ten Board of Directors. This is a very important year in choosing officers of the Association for the staff officers will be elected for two years and the Directors for a term of three years. Any input on these offices would be greatly appreciated by me so they may be forwarded through the right channels. Thanks much from you all.

Earl E. Witzleb, Jr., President

## New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

Bill Wemyss, Jr.

9 Peach Blossom Square, Nashville, Tennessee 37205

William H. Roberts — Hq., 881st

280 Edgewood Drive, Jackson, Tennessee 38301

Kenny Hamilton — 2nd Bn., Medic 271st

522 Bonita Drive, Lady Lakes, Florida 32159

Edgar J. Love — I-272nd

Route 3, Box 521, Siler City, North Carolina 27344

David Turner, Sr. — 69th Recon

Route 2, Staunton, Virginia 24401

Bruno Campese — AT-272nd

3703 Second Avenue, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania 15010

Edward Gagnon — Ser. 879th

464 Sycamore Lane, Haine City, Florida 33844

Leroy Park

RD 1, Box 164-E, Weirton, West Virginia 26062

Jack Brettell — H&S, 880th

P.O. Box 1004, Lady Lake, Florida 32159

Harold Towery — Cannon Co.-273rd

Route 2, Box 337-R, Tupelo, Mississippi 38801

Attilio V. Arbia — Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd

214 Conant Street, Revere, Massachusetts 02151

William J. Thompson — A-271st

Route 1, Box 72, Baker, Florida 32531

Leo J. Wrighthouse

2205 Symetric Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40229

Floyd M. Nadel — C-880th

7805 Marilyn Drive, Des Moines, Iowa 50322

Michael Petropoulos — Medic 272nd

16 Oakcrest Drive, Rochester, New York 14617

M. E. Thorne — H-273rd

Route 1, Box 452, O'Dell Addition  
Buffalo, West Virginia 25033-9769

William H. Martin — D-272nd

14825 37th Avenue N.E., Seattle, Washington 98155

Paul P. Vandenberg — Hq., 273rd

1145 South Oneida Street, Appleton, Wisconsin 54915

Reggie W. Bailey

3330 Clear Springs Road, Mascot, Tennessee 37806

Sam Lewis — B-273rd

66-A Brookmeadow Drive, Wimberly, Texas 78676

Earle L. Melton — Hq., 272nd

3410 Milan Drive, Montgomery, Alabama 36109

Harold Compton

R.R. #6, Box 204, Vincennes, Indiana 47591

Frank M. Hogerty, Jr. — Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd

1442-D Lake Crystal Drive, W. Palm Beach, Florida 33411

Joseph O. Martin, Jr. — Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd

514 South Wilson, Enid, Oklahoma 73703

## 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*

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Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069      or      R.D. #1, Box 477  
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Telephone: 215/945-3809

**Ellen McCann, Assistant Secretary**  
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Woburn, Massachusetts 01801  
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**Maria Keller, Vice President**  
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Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Margie McCombs, Sunshine Lady and Asst.**  
1184 Thorndale Road      *Chaplain*  
West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380  
Telephone: 215/269-0810

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

planning and would like to host a reunion in 1994. It's a good city for a reunion.

Have a nice summer and save vacation time so you can come to Biloxi. Do have a safe trip too, as I am looking forward to seeing you all. We plan on being there for the week.

Dottie

\* \* \* \* \*

## A Message from your Auxiliary President, Ellen Snidow

Hello,

After a very mild winter in which we had very few extreme cold days, and very little snow and ice, we are having one of the most beautiful springs we have had for years. The spring flowers, shrubs and trees have been at their best. We hope all of you have had a good winter and spring.

We were kept close to home by chores and an expected grandchild who arrived January 17th, Nathan Doyle Snidow. He is a real joy and we get to see a lot of him since he lives here in Pembroke. We spent several days at Nags Head, North Carolina and stopped to see my sister and brother-in-law, Joe and Bill Beswick. Bill is doing very well after having the 2nd knee surgery. Haven't seen anyone else. Have had letters from several of you. I learned that Janet Houseal of Norristown, Pennsylvania knitted the bedroom shoes we received at Valley Forge. Thanks Janet.

I'm certain that plans for the Reunion in Mississippi are well on the way to being completed. We look forward to seeing you there.

A reminder to ladies coming for the first time. Please bring a small gift to be used in our exchange, at the Ladies Auxiliary Meeting on Saturday morning. Let's have the largest attendance ever at this meeting.

Bill, along with Paul Gornbein, Bill Matlach, Bud Parsons, Crandon Clark, E. R. Sams, Robert Haag and Walter Holmlin are attending the stone laying of the World War II monument in Strehla, Germany. Sure hope they are having a grand time.

News is scarce from this area, so until September, all of you stay well and plan to attend the Reunion.

God Bless, Ellen Snidow



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

Hi Members:

Only months away or should I say a month or weeks away from our Biloxi Reunion that I am hoping will bring the turnout Valley Forge should have had. Ladies, how's the lap robes and slippers coming along? Remember our veterans in a hospital near Biloxi will be glad to get them plus the check for \$500.00 that will bring a lot of other items the government won't provide. I hope a record number of items will be brought to the Auxiliary Meeting on Saturday. The volunteers at that Veterans Hospital will be very happy to get them for those that need them and many do.

We are about over our two year vacation that Earl talks about but I believe it was a working vacation on his part. It started after we left Denver and I hope it will be over when we leave Biloxi. I'll be glad to get back with the gang at the tables and get away from the head table. I hope to see a lot of new faces and all the usual returnees. Earl is expecting a full house from his E Company, 273rd Infantry, so I hope he isn't disappointed this year like he was last year. We should also have several couples from Nashville, Tennessee who are

# Victor Ostrow Sent Us These Shots - Kassel, Germany

Victor Ostrow, 1612 Lemontree Lane, Silver Springs, Maryland 20904



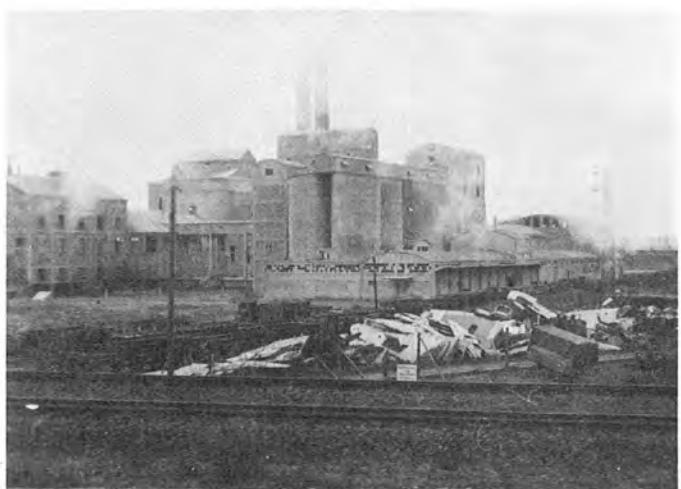
*Victor Ostrow*



*Victor Ostrow*



*Wreckage of Bridges*



*Returning  
home  
on the  
Liberty Ship*

# 65th Infantry Division Monument Dedicated September 14, 1984



# 69th Infantry Division Monument to be Dedicated September 20, 1991



The 69th Infantry Division's Monument will be located at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, which is where the 65th Infantry Division's monument is located. Their annual reunion will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana at the Marriott Hotel, August 28th to 31st, 1991.

## HELP WANTED

Thank you most kindly for the magnificent coverage of the old 461st AAA (Aw) Battalion in your most recent publication. I especially appreciated your display I sent referring to the honor you have given us by including our battalion on your Division Monument to be dedicated at Camp Shelby, September 20, 1991. Being as we were a Fifth Corps entity this may have been necessary, but to now have division recognition is much greater. We are thankful.

I am writing about another matter. This is about the possibility of our unit being awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. Recently we have heard that if a unit is assigned for as much as three months to a recognized Infantry organization, then that assigned unit becomes eligible for some privileges of the major unit. Our Battery D in particular was

assigned to the 69th for more than that period during those last days of the war. We might well be considered very much like your division artillery. Did your artillerymen receive the badge?

I am writing to ask if you have people in the division who are in particular knowledge about such matters. I would like to be made aware of any action we might take in this regard.

Thank you again for the many courtesies you have extended us.

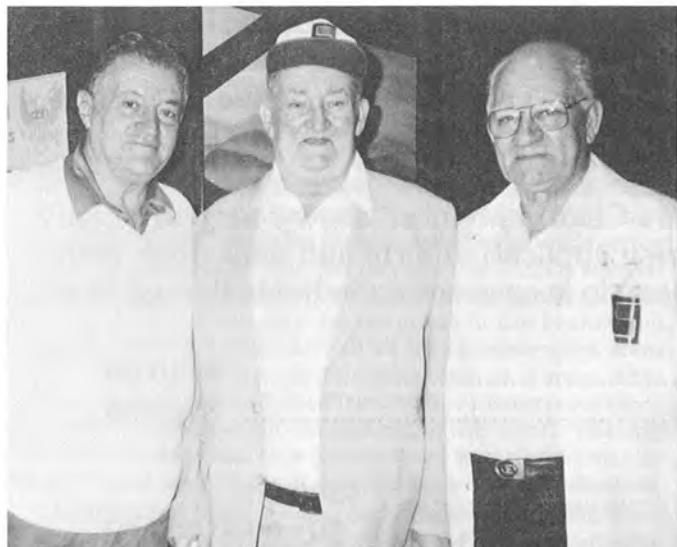
Sincerely,  
Alden Angline  
34 Forest View Drive  
Asheville, North Carolina 28804

**Pictures from  
the Tri-State Reunion  
held in  
Grantsville, Maryland  
April 10th-14th, 1991**

Pictures sent in by Enrico D'Angelo



*Lowell McFarlin, Cliff Eley and Robert Williams  
880th, C Battery*



*Al Kormas, Adam Manz and Enrico D'Angelo*



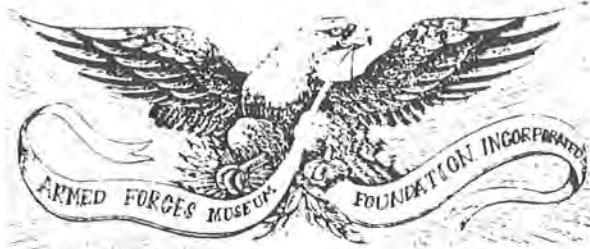
*Banquet Night - Al Kormas and Frank Nemeth*



*Margaret and Al Kormas receiving award on Banquet Night.*



*Jake Stark and entertainer doing the Pennsylvania Polka.*



# 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



# *Camp Shelby, Mississippi*



WELCOME  
TO

**CAMP SHELBY**  
**THE NATION'S LARGEST**  
**NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE**  
**TRAINING SITE**



# Welcome to Camp Shelby!

Welcome to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, one of the largest state-owned and operated field training sites in the United States.

Camp Shelby has more than 134,820 acres available for training, 960 buildings, 50 ranges, 64 numbered training areas, an airfield, and an airborne drop zone. The camp has 130 surveyed artillery firing points, and has accommodated seven artillery battalions training simultaneously. Especially suitable for combined arms infantry training, the camp has limited armor maneuver areas and six tank firing ranges, to include ranges for the M-1 tank, and the Bradley fighting vehicle, two air-to-ground gunnery ranges and numerous specialized and unique training facilities. Its newest addition is the M-1 tank training program being conducted by the 155th Armor Brigade, Mississippi National Guard.

Camp Shelby is the annual training site for over 45,000 National Guardsmen and reservists from more than twenty states, but is also used throughout the year — typically 325 days and 44 week-ends of the year. In 1989 more than 107,380 troops trained here. The camp's wartime mission is to serve as a major, independent mobilization station of the U. S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM). Its peacetime mission is to furnish necessary support and facilities needed by units training here.

Camp Shelby is located ten miles south of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on the northern edge of the De Soto National Forest. The camp lies at the center of an excellent transportation network. It is located approximately 100 road miles from Mobile, Alabama, Jackson, Mississippi, and New Orleans, Louisiana. The Gulf Coast is a one-hour drive to the south. Mississippi's climate year-round is mild which enhances the camp's use as a training center.

## History

Camp Shelby was established in 1917. Hattiesburg civic leaders petitioned the government to build a post in the area. Local businessmen worked with General Leonard Wood in making the site selection. Approximately 6,000 National Guard Troops from Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia moved here to form the nucleus of the 38th Division. These troops named the new post in honor of Isaac Shelby, Indian fighter, Revolutionary War hero, and first Governor of Kentucky.

The camp, built by 4,500 civilians at a cost of 3.3

million dollars, eventually boasted 1,206 buildings, most of which were used for administration and logistics support. During World War I there were 36,000 troops stationed here. The troops were housed in tents.

Of all the First World War training centers, Camp Shelby achieved the second-highest health record and was awarded a special commendation for discipline and efficiency. However, upon demobilization, it was deactivated, and all but four of the buildings were torn down. The four buildings were ammunition storage magazines, and one of them, Building 6981, still stands north of the MATES tactical vehicle parking lot on Warehouse road.

In 1934, the State of Mississippi acquired the site for use as a summer camp by the National Guard. In 1937, Camp McClellan, Alabama an older post, was dismantled, and some of the materials were used to construct the early wooden buildings at Shelby. Many of these buildings are still in use.

Land in the De Soto National Forest was used for Army maneuvers in 1938, and soon Camp Shelby's natural advantages of climate, terrain, and location brought it to the attention of mobilization planners in Washington. With the assistance of the Mississippi Congressional delegation, the federal government negotiated for the lease of additional land, federal funds were appropriated, and in September, 1940, the camp was reopened as a federal installation.

Elements of the 37th Division, Ohio National Guard, were stationed here, as well as the famed "Cyclone Division," the 38th, of Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia. The 38th Division got its nickname as a result of a tornado that occurred during their World War I training at Camp Shelby.

In addition to the 37th and 38th Divisions, the 31st (Dixie), the 43rd, 65th, and 69th Divisions trained here, as well as the famous Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which became the most highly decorated unit in the European Theater. Women's Army Corps (WAC) units also trained here. The post contained a large convalescent hospital, and a prisoner of war camp which initially housed members of the German Africa Corps. At one time the population exceeded 100,000 troops, making Camp Shelby the largest training center in the world.

The Camp Shelby of WW II contained 360,000

acres — (an area much larger than current available land) — an additional 400,000 acres was leased for maneuver space. In all, over a thousand square miles were in use for training. Initially, troops using Camp Shelby were housed in tents (over 14,000), forming the largest tent city in the world. Construction workers (17,000), and Army engineer units constructed 1,800 buildings and 250 miles of improved roads at a cost of 24 million dollars.

After the war, however, the post was again closed. The War Assets Administration sold the federally-owned property. Even the water pipes were dug up and sold, most of them going to Oklahoma City, where some are still in use!!

During the Korean Conflict, Camp Shelby was developed as an Emergency Railhead Facility, and \$3 million was spent to restore rail, water, and electric services. In the summer of 1954, non-divisional National Guard units trained at the post, and in 1956, the Continental Army Command designated Camp Shelby as a Permanent Training Site, directed by Third Army Headquarters.

Initially troops performing annual training at Camp Shelby were housed in tents, but in 1958 Congress allocated money for the first of the permanent-type barracks. In 1959 the Department of the Army approved the overall Camp Shelby plan and adopted it as the model for future construction at all field training sites.

The 199th Light Infantry Brigade trained here prior to their overseas deployment to Vietnam. The money derived from their training was used to construct Building 6606.

## Museum

In September 1984, the 65th Infantry Division Association dedicated a monument in memory of their departed comrades resulting in a chain reaction of interest and enthusiasm for the establishment of a museum at Camp Shelby. The Mississippi Army National Guard NCO Association has made a substantial financial contribution to support the Camp Shelby Museum Project.

In June 1988, the Department of the Army Center of Military History approved the establishment of an Army Holding Facility (Armed Forces Museum) at Camp Shelby. Individuals and organizations have donated over 1,492 items that are on display in building number 80.

The Adjutant General has since appointed a committee to develop, organize and incorporate a museum foundation. The Armed Forces Museum Foundation was incorporated January 1989.

The Foundation will provide an umbrella under which individuals and organizations can support the further development and sustainment of the Museum. Through the Museum we can proudly inform and educate as well as perpetuate the significant contributions the State of Mississippi has made to the defense of the United States, and to preserve our military history. For additional information contact: Armed Forces Museum Foundation, Inc., Post Office Box 5027 (Attn: MS-DSR-PA), Jackson, MS 39296-5027.

## Training

Camp Shelby has access to over 132,000 acres (about 206 square miles). Approximately 117,000 acres are owned by the U. S. Forest Service with a special use permit granted to the Mississippi National Guard. The main cantonment area, 7,900 acres, is owned by the state, 6,500 acres are leased from private owners, and 1,394 acres are owned by the Department of the Army. Funds have been allocated for the purchase and lease of additional land. Another 149,000 acres of De Soto National Forest would become available for training in the event of a national emergency.

Camp Shelby has ranges to accommodate all weapons from the 9mm pistol to the 8-inch howitzer. There are 114 surveyed artillery firing positions each of which can be occupied by an entire firing battery of artillery using any weapon from the 105mm through the 8-inch howitzer. Firing positions are located throughout the camp, but all fire into an artillery impact area 4,000 meters wide and 4,000 meters deep. Eight observation posts overlook this impact area. In addition to the artillery firing points, 16 mortar firing points are located to the east, south, and west of the impact area. Mortar points will accommodate any mortar in the U. S. Army inventory.

The Training Set, Fire Observation (TSFO), a \$100,000 computerized facility, is used to train artillery forward observers and scouts. Housed indoors to allow all-weather use, the TSFO utilizes panoramic projection of color slides showing actual terrain. The projection is coordinated with topographic maps of the terrain shown, and thus can be used to teach map reading and terrain orientation as well as observation of indirect fire.

A program teaching THREAT equipment recognition is also available, and the newest program can be used to train personnel in some fire direction center procedures. The TSFO can accommodate 30 students at one time.

Being especially suitable for armor training, three National Guard armored brigades conduct annual

training here regularly. Facilities include two Tank Table VI ranges, three Table VII/VIII tank crew combat firing courses, and a tank platoon battle run. The installation's current tank ranges have the capability to support one full armor brigade in a firing mode during annual training.

Existing maneuver areas include a 19-kilometer deep corridor currently under development, varying from one to five kilometers in width. Furthermore, marketable timber is being selectively cut from areas to provide the extended visibility necessary for long-range armor engagements, with Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) equipment available for simulating armor engagements.

Infantry training areas include 50 dismounted maneuver areas and 12 track maneuver areas. There are available ranges for qualification firing of all current infantry weapons including the M-60 and 50 caliber machine guns. Camp Shelby has the following small arms ranges: One record fire pistol range, one familiarization pistol range, one MP combat pistol range, five 25 meter rifle ranges, one field fire rifle range, one record fire rifle range, one familiarization rifle range. For machine gun fire there are two 10 meter ranges, one qualification range, three familiarization ranges, one transition range (10 points for M-60mg, 5 for 50 caliber mg), and two moving target ranges; also, the TSFO facility houses a computerized M-16 rifle trainer which simulates all aspects of rifle marksmanship.

In addition to the above ranges, a multiple use known-distance (KD) range is available, as well as four armor ranges to support Bradley fighting vehicle gunnery training tables V through VIII. For live fire dismounted training, there is one squad dismount range and one Mechanized infantry platoon battle course available. Ranges are also available for firing the M203 grenade launcher, and anti-armor tracking and live fire, to include the TOW, Dragon, 90mm RR, M-72 LAW, and the AT-4 LAW.

The mechanized ranges are organized according to the multiple use concept; all activities may not be conducted concurrently. However, 16,000 acres are available for armor and mechanized training, and 123,000 acres (about 90% of the post) are available for infantry training.

Furthermore, because of the multiple use range concept, all ranges can not be fired at the same time, and automated target equipment requires set-up and take-down time before and after firing; this requires careful management, which is provided by the full-time staff.

In addition, a wide variety of facilities are available for infantry-oriented basic soldiering skills.

These include a gas chamber, several camouflage training areas, two demolition areas, a field fortification area, a repelling tower, and both track and wheeled vehicle driver training courses.

Hagler Army Air Field has 5,000 feet of paved runway and 9,000 square yards of apron space. The main runway is suitable for aircraft up through the C-130; maximum weight capacity is 175,000 pounds.

There are three C-130 turn-around/parking spaces. The air field control tower is operational during periods of annual training. There is an administrative/operations building, two hangar/maintenance shops, and 31 helicopter tie-down pads. In addition, three tactical air strips and numerous helicopter landing areas are located in training and maneuver areas. Camp Shelby also has its own drop zone, and the Air National Guard utilizes two (2) air-to-ground gunnery ranges on the post.

Camp Shelby affords engineer units ample opportunities to perform battlefield mission under realistic training conditions. Two demolition areas are available, as are engineer rigging and landmine warfare training areas. One float bridge area, two Bailey bridge areas, one field fortification area, six water supply training areas, a POL training area, and one amphibious training area are also available.

Combat Support and Combat Service Support Units also have excellent training opportunities available at Camp Shelby. The Load Out Training Area (LOTA) contains rail boxcars and flat cars, and full-size loading simulators of C-130 and C-141 cargo aircraft. Transportation units can practice air and rail loading and unloading and also Material Handling Equipment (MHE) operations.

## Schools

The Regional School Support Detachment (RSSD) serves as the headquarters for three (3) National Guard Bureau schools located at Camp Shelby. The three schools are the M60A3 Displaced Equipment Training Team (DETT), Regional Training Site - Maintenance (RTS-Maint), and the Regional Training Site - Medical (RTS-Med). The RSSD provides administrative, logistical, medical, and training support to each of the schools and upon request provides support to individuals or units utilizing them. The RSSD also serves as liaison between the schools and higher command elements. The RSSD also develops programs to ensure future growth of the school.

The M60A3 DETT was organized in March of 1986 for the purpose of providing transition training for reserve component armor crewmen and organizational turret mechanics fielding the M60A3

tank. The DETT provides year round training for units in annual training status. This saves funding and provides consistently high quality training for soldiers. Several new missions for the DETT are under development for implementation upon completion of the M60A3 tank program.

The Regional Training Site - Maintenance provides training to individual soldiers assigned as maintenance personnel to various types of units. Qualified instructors are available to provide instruction in virtually all areas of maintenance as well as combat vehicle retrieval and class IX supply. A new, comfortable training facility equipped with up-to-date simulators and modern equipment is used to facilitate training.

The Regional Training Site - Medical provides new equipment training and sustainment training for medical units receiving or operating with Deployable Medical System (DEPMEDS) equipment. An eight (8) acre training site and an extensive training complex is available to facilitate training. The RTS-Med also serves as a regional medical equipment maintenance center which provides individual training for biomedical equipment personnel. Several additional courses are under development including a Medical Supply Course and a Combat Casualty Care Course.

The Mississippi Military Academy (MMA), National Guard Officer Candidate School (OCS), is currently in its 32nd year of operation. The 12-month officer candidate school curriculum is divided into three phases, two resident phases conducted during successive summers, and an interim IDT phase conducted during weekends throughout the year. The OCS program has graduated 960 officers, of whom more than 400 continue to serve.

In 1975, the Mississippi Military Academy implemented the Non-Commissioned Officer Educational School by conducting a Senior NCO Course for selected E8s and E9s from throughout the state. The success and impact of this program, led to a nation-wide Reserve Component NCO Program. From the first course, the NCO Education System has evolved into the present format of Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) for E4s and E5s, Basic NCO Course for E6s, and an Advanced NCO Course for E7s.

Additionally, MMA offers an Instructor Training Course (ITC), Training Management System (TMS), and a First Sergeant Course (FSC).

Since 1975, MMA has graduated more than 6,000 non-commissioned officers from varied NCO Educational Programs.

The Mississippi Military Academy also conducts a

ROTC/SMP Pre-Commissioning Training Program. ROTC Military Science III and IV's from universities throughout the state participate in a fast-paced, performance oriented training program designed to provide training in critical areas which enhance officer development. This program, five months in length, and first implemented in Mississippi, has been adopted by several other states to meet similar needs.

The Second Army Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) School trains 500 to 800 students each year in the fundamentals of nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) defense. The school is operational from April through August each year. During calendar year 1989, five 13-day NBC Defense courses were conducted to prepare company and battalion-level personnel of all branches for duties in these areas with in their parent units.

Concurrently, MOS conversion courses were conducted to train personnel for MOS 54B (Chemical Operations). The MOS courses include nine Skill Level 1 Conversion Courses and seven Skill Levels 2/3 Conversion Courses. The school is staffed by both Army National Guard and Reserve personnel, and students are drawn from active Army, Guard and Reserve units throughout the Second Army area.

The Region III NCO Academy serves the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas. USAR students from other states also attend. Staffed by 55 full-time trainers and administrators, the school operates year-round and conducts approximately 17 training cycles per year.

The NCO Academy trains soldiers in the grades of E-4 and E-5 in the Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) using a two-week, three-phased, 123.5-hour curriculum. In order to pass the course, students must achieve a grade of 70% in all academic areas and 100% in all hands-on training. The course can accommodate twelve 12-man squads, for a total of 144 students per cycle. Between October, 1984, and September 1989, the NCO School trained and graduated 9,063 non-commissioned officers.

## Support

Camp Shelby is a designated major mobilization station, which would operate under U. S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) in case of national emergency or war. The Camp Shelby mission would be to mobilize, receive, train, and equip units in preparation for overseas deployment. In order to accomplish this mission, certain post activities have

been established, all oriented toward mobilization.

The Mobilization and Training Equipment Site (MATES) receives equipment from Army National Guard units and maintains and stores it for mobilization and training. The site stores approximately 833 combat vehicles, 24 pieces of major engineer equipment, 154 wheeled vehicles and 4,874 pieces of miscellaneous equipment. MATES supports 34 specific organizations of the Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee Army Guard, comprising armor, infantry, artillery, engineer, combat support, and maintenance units. One of 18 such sites in the nation, the Camp Shelby MATES is the crucial logistic base for these units in the areas of maintenance, property accounting, support of training, storage and preservation, security, repair parts supply, and reporting.

The Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) performs support maintenance — repair, overhaul, and rebuild — and conducts maintenance assistance in support of regional organizational and maintenance shops and units of the Mississippi National Guard. The CSMS provides direct support for units training at Camp Shelby.

An Inter-Service Support Agreement (ISSA) between FORSCOM, Second Army, and the Adjutant General of Mississippi established a similar equipment site for U. S. Army Reserve units and equipment. The Equipment Concentration Site (ECS) performs functions similar to the MATES, storing and maintaining 30 combat vehicles, approximately 500 wheeled vehicles and trailers, engineer and construction equipment. They also provide support equipment such as refrigeration, laundry, bakery, and refueling equipment — a total of 770 separate items. The ECS supports units from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Puerto Rico.

The Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS) provides maintenance that is beyond the capabilities of various assigned using units. The Shop located at Camp Shelby supports units within a 60-mile radius, as well as the units on post.

The United States Property and Fiscal Office (USP&FO) ships, receives, and stores all classes of supplies for the MATES, ECS, OMS, CSMS, and a dozen other OMS facilities at various locations. The USP&FO operates a series of warehouses at Camp Shelby, including a cold weather equipment contingency storage building, and an aviation Class IX facility for storage of obsolete aviation repair parts in support of all states.

In conjunction with USP&FO supply activities, the 367th Maintenance Company operates a DAS 3/DS 4 computerized inventory control system. DAS 3 is

Decentralized Automated Service Support System, and encompasses Class IX support for all non-brigade ground units; DS 4 stands for Direct Support Unit Supply System. Computer operations are housed in a van which makes the system fully deployable upon mobilization. Furthermore, a training van is available to train Direct Support Maintenance units during annual training, in their DS Class IX supply missions.

## Facilities

Since designation as a Permanent Training Site, Camp Shelby has continued to add to its facilities, 20 increments over a 25 year period. At the present time, the post has sufficient BOQ's, BEQ's, logistics buildings, dining facilities and headquarters buildings to support an entire division or its equivalent. Medical facilities, and troop morale, welfare and recreational (MWR) facilities also available. These are summarized in Table I.

TABLE I - FACILITIES

TYPE	NUMBER	CAPACITY
General Officer Quarters	3	8
Field Grade Officer	22	166
Bachelor Officer Quarters	49	980
Senior Warrant Quarters	2	16
Senior NCO Quarters	5	95
Enlisted Barrack	281	10,116
Latrine Buildings	82	
Dining Facilities	69	200 each
Division Headquarters	1	
Brigade Headquarters	5	
Battalion Headquarters	22	
Company Headquarters	99	
Battalion Supply Buildings	18	
Troop Medical Clinics	2	
Classroom Facilities	5	50 each

Additional support facilities for units to train at Camp Shelby are varied to meet Department of Defense criteria for a major Mobilization Station. In addition to the ranges and training areas already mentioned, units can expect to have available the facilities listed in Table II.

TABLE II - SUPPORT

TYPE	NUMBER
Ammunition Supply Point (w/20 steel arched magazines)	1
Bulk Fuel Storage (MOGAS 100,000 gal)	1
Bulk Fuel Storage (Diesel 100,000 gal)	1

Bulk Fuel Storage (JP-4 15,000)	1
Unit Fuel Stations (MOGAS)	12
Unit Fuel Stations (Diesel)	10
Troop Issue Subsistence Activity	1
Range Control Facility	4
Training Set Fire Observation	1
Organizational Maintenance Shop	1
Mobilization & Training Equipment Site	1
USAR Equipment Concentration Site	1
Army Aviation Air Field	1
Army Aviation Tactical Air Strips	3
Illuminated Helicopter Pads	4
Regional Training Site-Maintenance	1
Regional Training Site-Medical	1
Field Training Site, Medical	1
Installation Support Unit Armory	1

Camp Shelby was built during periods of austere military budgets, as reflected by the cost effectiveness and simplicity of design apparent throughout the post. Phase 21A and 21B of the Camp's on-going program consists of the improvement and renovation of existing facilities.

Part I is a modification and addition to the Camp Shelby electrical distribution system at a cost of \$500,000.00.

Part II is for a natural gas distribution system at a cost of \$935,000.00.

Part III is modification and addition to heating systems at a cost of \$2,800,000.00.

Some buildings are already suitable for year-round occupancy. An additional battalion size area is being "winterized." Additional latrines for female personnel, sidewalks, paving of parking areas near unit orderly rooms, modernization of dining facilities, and the installation of fans in the barracks are also on-going improvements.

## Morale/Recreation Facilities

Camp Shelby has five field pavilions for troop recreation. Greer Chapel offers both Protestant and Catholic services during Annual Training periods. The main post exchange, branch PX, and the Class VI store operate year round. Additional troop facilities include two washaterias, the post theater, enlisted personnel service clubs, two lakes and several outdoor basketball and volleyball courts. Other facilities include Lake Walker, a 39 acre recreational and fishing lake, and a 25-space recreational vehicle campground beside the lake.

four lighted softball fields and six lighted tennis courts.

A new Officers Club was constructed in 1983, and the main NCO Club has been renovated. A junior Olympic swimming pool now serves Camp Shelby, and the new BEQ had a 44-person wing added in 1986.

The Department of Defense does not appropriate funds for certain facilities which are normally considered part of the main cantonment area of a post. However, under provisions of a Mississippi state law, the revenues from the sale of timber and mineral products on state land at Camp Shelby, must be spent at Camp Shelby. In conjunction with the State Forestry Commission, the Adjutant General administers a timber management program, depositing all proceeds into a special fund for morale, welfare, and recreational improvements. Over one million dollars has been made available from the timber fund for these purposes.

## Additional Information

For additional information regarding training opportunities at Camp Shelby, contact one of the following:

**Mississippi Military Department**  
**Post Office Box 5027**  
**Jackson, MS 39296-5027**  
**Commercial (601) 973-6311**  
**AUTOVON 637-6311**

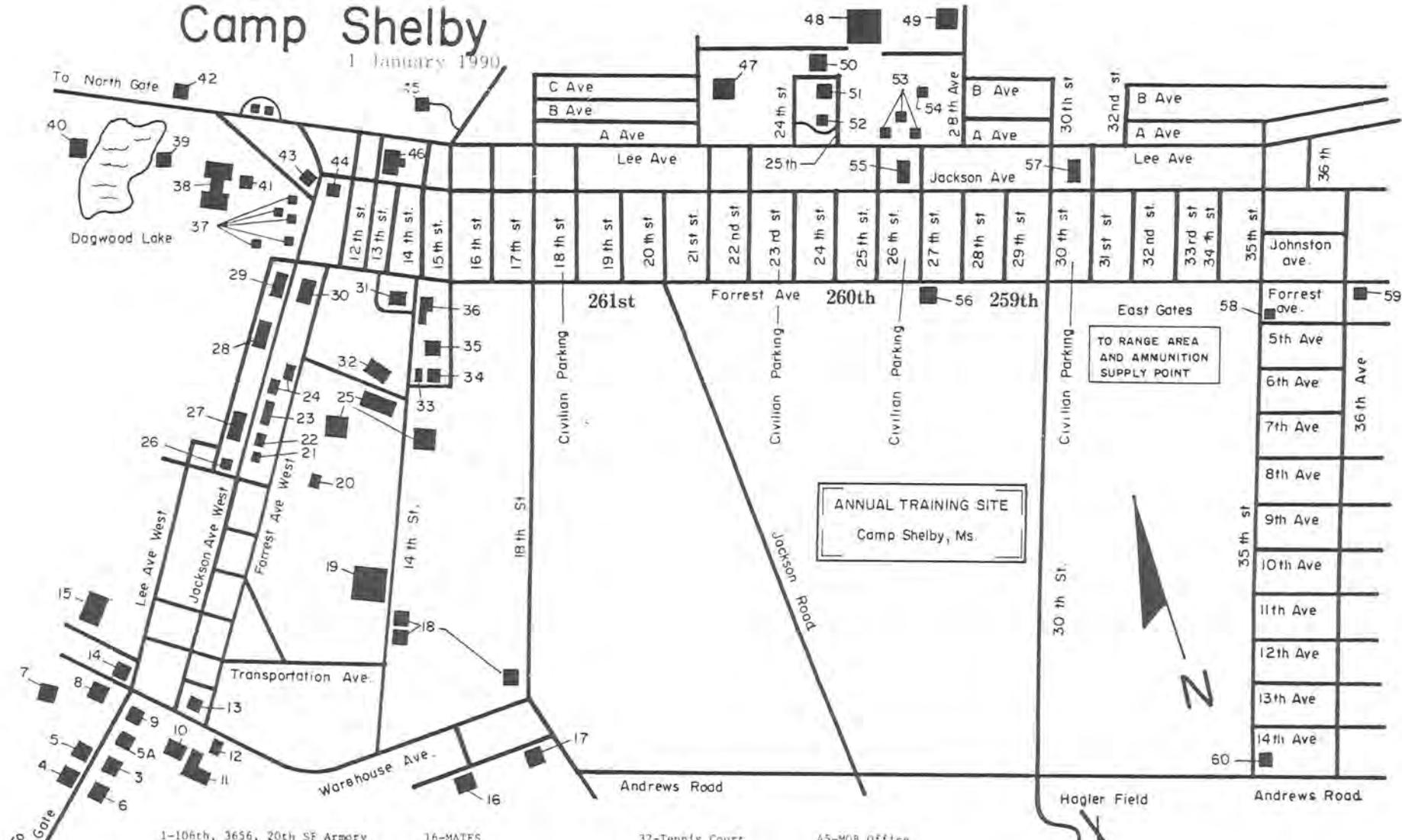
or  
**Training Site Supervisor**  
**Camp Shelby, MS 39407-5500**  
**Comm: (601) 584-2871, ext. 2685**  
**AUTOVON 921-2685**

The Mississippi Army National Guard extends thanks to the Active Army, Army National Guard, US Army Reserve, and others who contributed to this booklet.

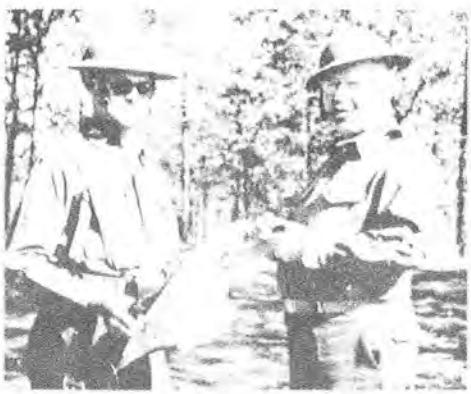
*This booklet is dedicated to the soldiers of Camp Shelby — past, present, and future — those who have served their nation in peace and in war, those who now serve, and those who will carry on the proud traditions of freedom through strength and courage, through diligence and self-sacrifice, and through patriotism of the highest order.*

## Camp Shelby

1 January 1990



- |                               |                            |                           |                              |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1-106th, 3656, 20th SF Armory | 16-MATES                   | 32-Tennis Court           | 45-MOB Office                |
| 2-OMS #6                      | 17-M60A3                   | 33-NCO Club               | 46-Past Hospital             |
| 3-USP&FO Warehouse            | 18-Dep Meds                | 34-Swimming Pool          | 47-Officers Club             |
| 4-Facilities Engineer         | 19-Engineer Open Storage   | 35-Theater                | 48-Family Camp Ground        |
| 5-ECS                         | 20-Washateria              | 36-Service Club           | 49-WW/TP                     |
| 5A-ECS Warehouse              | 21-DOL                     | 37-VIP Quarters           | 50-Evaluation Bldg           |
| 6-DAS III                     | 22-RSSD                    | 38-BQ 1 Blockhouse        | 51-Post Office               |
| 7-FE Maint                    | 23-NBC Classroom           | 39-East Pavilion #1       | 52-Paxton Hall (2400)        |
| 8-Post Supply & Finance       | 24-MP HQ                   | 40-West Pavilion #2       | 53-General Officer Qtrs      |
| 9-Branch PX & Fire Station    | 25-Softball Field          | 41-Grove Pavilion         | 54-Tiki Pavilion             |
| 10-USP&FO Warehouse           | 26-TSFO                    | 42-TNG Site HQ/ISU Armory | 55-Main PX                   |
| 11-CSMS                       | 27-40th ORD DET (EOD)      | 43-Camp HQ                | 56-Washateria/Barber Shop    |
| 12-CSMS Supervisor            | 28-ACCH                    | 44-Post Commander         | 57-MMA HQ                    |
| 13-Museum                     | 29-Redstone Readiness      |                           | 58-Leadership Reaction Couts |
| 14-Billeting Office           | 30-Post Chapel             |                           | 59-Regional Maint. TNG Site  |
| 15-Ration Breakdown           | 31-Class VI & Credit Union |                           | 60-Bulk Fuel Storage Center  |
|                               |                            |                           | 61-Hagier Field              |



This brochure is dedicated to the soldiers of Camp Shelby--past, present, and future--those who have served their nation in peace and in war, those who now serve, and those who will carry on the proud traditions of freedom through strength and courage, through diligence and self-sacrifice, and through patriotism of the highest order.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

Weekly Events	Per Person	Number Persons	Amount
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
Sunday, September 15th — Early Arrivals on your own.			
Monday, September 16th — Registration 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.			
Tuesday, September 17th — Mississippi Gulf Coast Tour with lunch at Mary Mahoneys. Leave Hotel at 9:00 A.M. ....	\$ 30.00	_____	\$ _____
Wednesday, September 18th — 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	_____	\$ _____
Thursday, September 19th — 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	_____	\$ _____
Friday, September 20th — 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	_____	\$ _____
Saturday, September 21st — 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	_____	\$ _____
Sunday, September 22nd — Farewell Breakfast Buffet - 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M..... Replacement Cost for Lost or Broken Permanent Badges .....	\$ 11.00	_____	\$ _____
Farewells and Departures - See you all next year.	\$ 3.00	_____	\$ _____

**DUES**

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

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.

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

We are interested in all news from Chapters, Groups, Branches, Companies, Battalions, Regiments, Recon, Artillery, AAA, Units, T.D.'s and any mini, for this column, as it may help build up your events. Mail your date(s), location, banquet cost, activities 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).

## COME VIEW THE DEDICATION OF THE 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION'S MONUMENT AT CAMP SHELBY, HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI SEPTEMBER 20th, 1991. REUNION WEEK — SEPTEMBER 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22, 1991 MISSISSIPPI BEACH RESORT HOTEL (New Name for Biloxi Hilton) BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI — FOR THE WEEK OF OUR REUNION

We are sorry that YOM KIPPUR fell in this week when it was selected. No other weeks are available in late August or September. To try to help solve the problem, the Reunion Committee has changed the day going to Camp Shelby from Thursday to Friday for our Jewish members. They are hopeful that you will worship YOM KIPPUR, Wednesday, September 18th, then fly to Biloxi on Thursday, September 19th so that you can make the trip to Camp Shelby with us on Friday, September 20th.

\* \* \* \*

## 461st AAA, Battery D

Guy and Ruth Stamey, *News Reporters*  
Route 5, Box 73  
Candler, North Carolina 28715  
Telephone: 704/667-9526

Dear Members and Families of Battery D, 461st:

The unusual beauty of spring this year makes one wish we could live our life over again. Perhaps we could do even better than before. Especially by trying to avoid conflict that seems to come in spite of everything.

We are saddened by the report of the death of Dover Hunt through cancer. Also, Gilbert McIlvain has died of a massive brain tumor, his wife having died earlier in November. As both our numbers and our health decline, each of us should determine to be present for our remaining reunions.

**We are writing to remind you in particular; OUR REUNION WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, FRIDAY, AND SATURDAY, JUNE 20-21-22 of this year (1991), and will be held at First Baptist Church.**

Edwin, Mary, Ruth and I attended Floyd and Margaret Locklear's 50th wedding anniversary. Sunday dinner was at their son's (R.L.) and was a great affair. Later we visited with Henry and Mary Bryant, and then with James and Pearlie Jones.

At this time we have \$200.00 in our mailing fund. Thank you for your help. Ruth and I received 57 Christmas cards from battery members or families. Ruth loves to display them on our hearth, which makes the holidays far more enjoyable than ever.

James Revis is attending a conference at the Baptist Assembly at Ft. Caswell. Millie has to have someone with her all the time now.

Steve Mattox says new medicine is helping him very much and he expects to be with us in June. Ernest Brown called to say that Laddie and Leon are doing fairly well and expect to be with us in June.

Carl Mosher writes that he expects to be with us for the first time. Edwin will have a corrected mailing list ready for the reunion.

I think most will be staying in the Mountaineer Inn on Tunnel Road again this time. The manager has promised good rates. The phone is 1-800-255-4080 or 1-704-254-5331. There are other good motels on the same road.

We had a total of 110 members and families at the last reunion in 1989. That is the second largest number ever to attend since the beginning.

Please let us know that you will be present and who will be with you. The program and activities will be much the same as last time.

**ATTENTION ALL:** A very important statement we feel must be made at this time. We feel it is the best thing to be done for the good of our wonderful group.

### Please read carefully:

As you will remember ever since our first meeting in 1979, all meetings have been held in Asheville, and some of us who just happened to be handy because we lived here have had quite a bit to do with the arrangements. This is not to say that others have not done even more. Especially Sergeant John English, who has done more than anyone else.

Edwin, Alden and I have been thinking seriously about this and we are making this announcement at this time so you can come to the reunion prepared to act on it.

We feel it is time for us to step aside and have others of our fine group take over these responsibilities. It is time for this. Here are our wishes.

1. The reunion will not be held in Asheville in 1993. There are many fine places otherwise, and we will enjoy getting to go ourselves to some new location.
2. Please come prepared to appoint a new arrangement committee. Our preference is that you would appoint Sergeant English and let him appoint his assistants.

(Continued on Page 32)

**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,  
COMPANIES AND GROUP MINI-WEEKENDS  
ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**  
*(Continued from Page 31)*

Since the meeting will be in another city, he will want to secure people local to the place chosen.

It has been our sincere pleasure to have had a part in all that has taken place. We assure you of our continued deep interest in all that is to come and our promise to cooperate in every way.

The above decision has been made after careful consideration, and we are counting on you to accept this and move on into the great future we have before us.

With kindest regards, and with our deep affection for everyone, we are:

Guy Stamey  
Edwin Whitaker  
Alden Angline

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Central Pennsylvania Branch**

Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Eastern Maryland, Eastern New York PLUS Long Island, Washington, D.C. and now the New England States have been included (Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine).

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED WRITE FRANK CAREY  
AT THE ADDRESS BELOW. TIME WAITS FOR NO MAN  
AND WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF IT.**

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

Dear Fellow 69ers:

We certainly hope you all are well, happy and prosperous. We are looking forward to seeing many of you in Biloxi, Mississippi in September and in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in November.

The 1991 Central Pennsylvania Branch weekend will be held in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania from Nov. 7th thru Nov. 10th. It will be held at the Holiday Inn located at the junction of Business 15 South and Baltimore Street. Very easy to find.

We have reserved 50 rooms and hope to fill all of them. More are available if needed. The rooms are very nice and we negotiated a reasonable rate. Many points of interest are within walking distance of the Inn.

We realize that many of you have been to Gettysburg before, so have we. But I am a Civil War buff and I always find something new and different each time we visit.

### **THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

Thursday, November 7th: Travel and check-in day. Check in time is 1:00 p.m. Spacious and cheery hospitality room opens at 1:01 p.m. and closes "when the last dog is hung."



Frank and Arlene Carey

**Friday, November 8th: 9:30 a.m. Tour of 3 sites:**

1. Electric Map: A 30 minute electronic presentation that shows how the Battle of Gettysburg was fought.
2. General Eisenhower's Farm: A 15 minute shuttle bus ride to the farm and stay as long as you like.
3. Cyclorama: A must see! A theatre in the round with a painted mural around the interior perimeter. Simply amazing!

**Friday, 7:00 p.m. is the Banquet. Choce of 2 entrees.**

**Saturday, November 9th: 9:30 a.m. Two hour tour of the Battlefield. A guide and P.A. system on each bus. Seats are elevated and huge windows for good vision. Two stops during the tour and very limited walking. From returning of this tour you will be on your own for additional sightseeing and/or shopping. As mentioned earlier there is so much to see and lots of it is within walking distance from the hotel. The hospitality room will open at 1:00 p.m. and guess what. It closes "when the last dog is hung." Arlene and I will entertain you on Saturday night.**

**Sunday, November 10th: Lots of hugs and kisses as we break camp until next year. Old friends have met and new friends were made. That's what it's all about.**

The flyers concerning this weekend will be in your hands by September 1st. Deadline for reservations is October 18, FIRM!

We realize the lateness of the Biloxi reunion will hurt us. But if you have any money left over after Biloxi, try to attend. Those of you not attending Biloxi, this would be an ideal weekend getaway. But whatever folks, try to attend. We need your support and we need your help.

That's it for now. Stay well, stay happy and care for each other. See you in Biloxi and/or Gettysburg.

Our Love and 69th Regards,  
Frank and Arlene

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## **69th Cavalry Recon Troop**

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

Harold L. and Jeanne Gardner, *News Reporters*  
2929 Mason Avenue  
Independence, Missouri 64052  
Telephone: 816/254-4816

### **69th CAVALRY RECON TROOP CHANGE IN LOCATION OF 1991 REUNION**

As most of you probably know by this time, there has been a change in the location of our 40th Annual Recon reunion. Ralph Riggs who was hosting the reunion in Columbus, Ohio, passed away very suddenly and unexpected on March 17th, 1991. He will be missed by all of us.

Bob Ellsworth, Bob West and Bones Schueler got their heads together and agreed to co-host the reunion. They have decided to have this reunion the same dates, September 5-7, 1991 in Dayton, Ohio. It is a modern "Holiday Holidome" facility located at Exit 44 on Interstate 75. Every effort was made to obtain the best facility for the most reasonable price. They feel that the fellows will approve. As in the past, the hospitality room will be stocked with beer, soft drinks and snacks. You bring your own brand of "hard" liquor if you desire.

*(Continued on Page 33)*

**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,  
COMPANIES, AND GROUP MINI-WEEKENDS  
ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**  
*(Continued from Page 32)*

The city of Dayton and the motel area have much to offer. The committee is sure that we will have an enjoyable stay in the area.

The rates at the facility are \$55.00 to \$69.00, depending on the type of accommodations you select. Cut-off date is August 5th. The committee desires that we get our reservations in just as soon as possible. We all know that from previous reunions. If you have not received your reservation packet from one of the committee write them and they will get it to you "tout de suite."

We have just received word of the passing of another of our Troopers. Paul Fowler passed away on May 15, 1991. As most of you know Paul had a number of medical problems for a number of years. He did attend the 1990 reunion in New Orleans and in a telephone conversation with this writer did enjoy being with the boys very much. We will miss Paul and "Ole Buddy" Riggs presence at our reunions. We will miss Riggs and his football and/or baseball pools. We will also miss Paul's wit and poetry and comments. Our thoughts and prayers are with Millie Fowler and Millie Riggs.

**The Committee for the upcoming reunion is:**

Lewis "Boyd" and Stella Ellsworth, *Coordinators*  
Route #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  
Laurelvile, Ohio 43135  
Telephone: 614/332-3341

\*\*\*\*\*  
**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.

Are you a 69th Infantry Division Association member? Are you an E Company, 273rd Infantry Regiment member? Are you a regular 69th reunion attendee? Are you coming to Biloxi, Mississippi for our 44th Annual Reunion at the Mississippi Beach Resort Hotel? Are you going to help E Company have more in attendance than A Company, 273 Infantry? Are you in a bad financial situation? Are you 65 years of age or older now? Need I say anything else. Do you realize its 46 years since World War II ended? Have we seen each other 25 or more times since 1945? Have we seen each other once? When will we see you? This year 1991 in September, I hope. We have better than 50 members on the roster. Lets get the 50 or more of us together just once. Possibly our CO Davisson F. Dunlap from Orlando - Winter Park, Florida will be in attendance. We sure would like to see him again. I am sure he would like to see each of us again. I am sure Joe and Virginia Aiello, Tony and Doris Bummara, Arthur and Marian Hume, John and Ruth Mass, William and Jane Matlach, Al and Lottie Shires, Harold and Peggy Sprang and Earl and "Dottie" Dorothy Witzleb Jr. would like to see you all once again with your wives, girlfriends, and even your family if you wish to bring them.

Come one, come all to Biloxi, Mississippi September 15 thru 22, 1991 for a reunion of E Company that will never be forgotten. You need not attend the entire week but do try and be present for the trip back to Camp Shelby and the dedication of the 69th monument on September 20, 1991. What a change you'll see at the camp with its new look of concrete block buildings. Can I count on you this year? Yes you know who I am talking to. So be there, for here we all come and let's hope its not the finish line as we want to see each other many many more times before we fade away years after the year 2000.

HEY GOOD E COMPANY 273rd MEMBERS — PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES EVEN IF IT IS THE \$5.00 REGULAR and I'm sure your card will say 1991-1992. You are never behind in dues with the 69th, just keep paying them each year when sending in the activities sheet for another reunion. See YA ALL in BILOXI in SEPTEMBER. Take care and enjoy the summer.

Earl and Dottie

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

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DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,  
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ACROSS THE UNITED STATES  
(Continued from Page 33)

## Mid-West Group

Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Not having a West Coast group at the present time. Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona Utah, and New Mexico invited too.

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



Fran and Zita Enright, News Reporters  
7304 West Georgia Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53220  
Telephone: 414/541-9598

### SPRING MEETING

The Mid-West Group gathered at the Pheasant Run Resort near St. Charles, Illinois on April 25, 26 and 27, 1991. Bob and Vivian Kurtzman were able to join the usual attendees, consisting of:

Earl and Nancy Rhea Abel - Union, Michigan  
John Barrette - Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin  
Fred and Mavis Butenhoff - Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Fran and Zita Enright - Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Tom and Lorraine Hancock - Pekin, Illinois  
Chalmer and Reita Pearson - Vandalia, Michigan  
Curt and Evelyn Peterson - Madison, Wisconsin  
Gene and Ethel Pierron - Belgium, Wisconsin  
Phil and Harriet Sparacino - Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Chuck and Pat Walsh - Glendale, Wisconsin  
Wayne Weygandt and Thora Miller - Ottawa, Illinois

Pheasant Run hosted a national convention of dealers and collectors of carved wooden birds and duck decoys while we were there. So most of Thursday afternoon was spent in locating our rooms amidst all of the duck people. We finally got together in the hospitality room, followed by dinner at the Resort.

On Friday, the golfers got off to an early start on the course at Pheasant Run. The non-golfers went to Cantigny, which is a park supported by the estate of Robert R. McCormick, the late editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. We toured the McCormick home, a museum dedicated to the Army First Division, and the gardens, followed by lunch at Geneva before joining the golfers in the hospitality room at Pheasant Run.

The big event of the evening was the dinner/theater, with a presentation of "Little Shop of Horrors." The cast did an outstanding job, and the effects were spectacular from our first-row seats in the small theater.

We want to thank Fred Butenhoff for arranging the Pheasant Run meeting. Everything went well despite changes in resort personnel who were handling our affair.

Watch the bulletin for news of the 1992 Spring Meeting of the Mid-West Group.

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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.

Also South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi (Until the Southeastern Chapter reorganizes.) Welcome, come join us in Altoona, Pennsylvania in 1992.

(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.)

"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 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."

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DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,  
COMPANIES, AND GROUP MINI-WEEKENDS  
ACROSS THE UNITED STATES  
(Continued from Page 34)



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

## Fighting 69th Veterans Meet for Maryland Reunion

From THE REPUBLIC NEWSPAPER  
Thursday, April 25, 1991

Meyersdale, PA

The Fighting 69th Infantry Division held their reunion at the Grantsville (Maryland) Holiday Inn last week. Members of the group came from Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, New York, and Michigan. While here they all attended activities at the Maple Festival in Meyersdale.

The 69th was activated May 15, 1943 at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. After completing training they were transferred to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey for assignment in the European Theatre of Operations.

After arriving in England to be outfitted for combat, they were transferred to France then through Belgium where they relieved the 99th Division in the Battle of the Bulge. They fought through the Siegfried Line, crossed the Rhine River on the longest pontoon bridge that had ever been built and later fought at Kassel, which was a main railroad terminal. They went on to capture Leipzig, which was the first largest city in Europe at that time. The campaign continued on to make the first link-up with the Russian forces at Torgau on the Elbe River, which brought the war to a close.

Last week's reunion was attended by forty veterans, along with their wives and guests. Leroy Yutzey, of Meyersdale, and George A. Murphy of Frostburg, Maryland, coordinated the event.

Also attending were: Carl R. Stetler, Reading, Pennsylvania; John W. Mowrey, Jr., Charleston, West Virginia; Paul Shadie, New Kensington, Pennsylvania; Frank C. Nemeth, Levittown, Pennsylvania; Cecil A. Cottle, Portsmouth, Ohio; Nevin Schrock, Jr., Meyersdale, Pennsylvania; Theodore Edstrom, Fairview Park, Ohio; Earl E. Witzleb, Acme, Pennsylvania; Robert G. Shaffer, Massillon, Ohio; Paul D. Kitner, West Lawn, Pennsylvania; Charles J. Goodhart, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr., Wilmot, Ohio.

Also: Charles E. Locke, Sr., Town Bank, New Jersey; Wade E. Peterson, Glen Mills, Pennsylvania; Brownie A. Parsons, Charleston, West Virginia; Andrew LaPatka, New Castle, Pennsylvania; C. Frank Carey, Reinholds, Pennsylvania; Jacob Stark, Jr., Steelton, Pennsylvania; L. A. Lushbaugh, Funkstown, Maryland; Adam G. Manz, Ellwood City, Pennsylvania; Harold F. Wepler, Geona, Ohio; William Sheavly, Reistertown, Maryland; Earl W. Walters, Landisville, Pennsylvania.

Also: Thomas Yelcich, Jr., Livonia, Michigan; Lester E. Hart, Williamsfield, Ohio; William Matlach, West Islip, New York; Vaughn Woerner, Tyrone, Pennsylvania; Enrico D'Angelo, Saltsburg, Pennsylvania; Alex Kormas, Lakewood, Ohio; William H. Harr, Bainbridge, Ohio; Charles E. Weaver, Columbus, Ohio; Raymond T. Szkudlarek, Toledo, Ohio; Edward S. Toolis, Sr., Leetonia, Ohio; Bill Tener, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Donald Newman, Grantsville, Maryland; and Willima Buhl, Laughlintown, Pennsylvania.

Need I say anything else from the nice write-up we had from The Republican Newspaper, Meyersdale, Pennsylvania. We did have 72 attend but I am missing a few names. If you were at the Maple Festival weekend and I missed your name, sorry. If you let me know who you are, I'll get it in the next bulletin.

We gathered on Wednesday, had a nice Thursday, Friday, and Saturday before leaving on Sunday for home and Biloxi, Mississippi. Most everyone present said they would be at Biloxi.

Thursday was more or less on your own day with some going to the Maple Festival and a tour of a maple camp. Yes, plenty of maple syrup was bought by the group. Others who came in on Thursday toured the Maple Camp Friday morning and had hot cakes in Meyersdale at the Festival. Friday afternoon we all went to Meyersdale High School auditorium and watched the Tamburitzans perform for us. They are a dance group who perform the dances of many foreign countries in European and Asian style of dancing and singing. Saturday we went to Meyersdale High School to see the pageant, "The Legend of the Magic Water," which showed us the beginning of the making of maple syrup to the present. Maple syrup from Meyersdale is found worldwide since it is the capital of the maple syrup industry. Saturday evening was the banquet with entertainment from a church group that Leroy Yutzey is a member of. They had everyone in stitches many times. Sunday was our farewell breakfast and the usual goodbyes.

Those attending with cancellations first are:

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Wilson — Cortland, Ohio  
Guests of Lester Hart

John and Ruth McGolrick, Jr. — Knoxville, Maryland  
Company K, 272nd Infantry

Hope you are feeling better John, after your surgery.

### ATTENDEES:

\*Edward and Edna Toolis, Sr. — Leetonia, Ohio  
Edna is a member of the Ladies Auxiliary

Ted and Rosemarie Edstrom — Fairview Park, Ohio  
69th Division Headquarters

Adam Manz and sister Carol Koziar  
Ellwood City, Pennsylvania  
69th Division Headquarters

Frank C. and Stefania (Ted) Nemeth  
Levittown, Pennsylvania  
269th Engineers, Company B

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

(Continued from Page 35)

- Ward E. and Marian Peterson — Glen Mills, Pennsylvania  
269th Engineers, Company B
- Carl R. and Mildred Stetler — Reading, Pennsylvania  
569th Signal Company
- Andrew and Laura LaPatka — New Castle, Pennsylvania  
777th Tank Battalion, Company D
- Paul D. and Mayreta Kitner — West Lawn, Pennsylvania  
724th Field Artillery, Battery A
- \*Brownie A. and Anna Belle Parsons  
Charleston, West Virginia  
724th Field Artillery, Battery A
- Harold Wepler and guest Henrietta Cashen — Genoa, Ohio  
724th Field Artillery, Battery C
- William H. and Mary Harr — Bainbridge, Ohio  
879th Field Artillery, Battery C
- Enrico and Anne D'Angelo — Saltsburg, Pennsylvania  
880th Field Artillery, Battery C
- James E. and Tillie Boris — Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
881st Field Artillery, Headquarters Battery
- William J. Tener — Homestead, Pennsylvania  
881st Field Artillery, Battery A  
Guest Leo Knapp — Munhall, Pennsylvania
- Lester E. Hart — Williamsfield, Ohio  
881st Field Artillery, Battery C
- Paul and Marian Shadle — New Kensington, Pennsylvania  
Company E, 271st Infantry
- C. Frank and Arlene Carey — Reinholds, Pennsylvania  
Company F, 271st Infantry
- Cecil A. and Alene Cottle — Portsmouth, Ohio  
Company F, 271st Infantry
- L. Vaughn and Betty Woomer — Tyrone, Pennsylvania  
Company F, 271st Infantry
- William "Bill" and Reba Sheavly — Reisterstown, Maryland  
Company M, 271st Infantry
- \*Nevin and Dorothy Schrock, Jr. — Meyersdale, Pennsylvania  
Headquarters, 272nd Infantry
- \*Mr. and Mrs. George Murphy — Frostburg, Maryland  
Headquarters, 272nd Infantry
- Donald and Ruth Newman — Grantsville, Maryland  
Headquarters, 272nd Infantry
- \*Mr. and Mrs. William Yutzey — Meyersdale, Pennsylvania  
Headquarters, 272nd Infantry
- Robert G. and Jean Shaffer — Massillon, Ohio  
Company C, 272nd Infantry
- \*Charles E. Weaver — Columbus, Ohio  
Company C, 272nd Infantry
- Robert J. and Vivian Kurtzman — Wilmot, Ohio  
Company I, 272nd Infantry
- L. A. "Pat" and Janice Lushbaugh — Funkstown, Maryland  
Company I, 272nd Infantry
- \*Thomas Yelcich, Jr. — Livonia, Michigan  
Company I, 272nd Infantry
- \*Charles J. and Lorraine Goodhart — Lancaster, Pennsylvania  
Headquarters, 273rd Infantry
- Earl W. and Anna Walters — Landisville, Pennsylvania  
Headquarters, 273rd Infantry
- \*William and Jane Matlach — West Islip, New York  
Company E, 273rd Infantry

Earl E. and Dorothy A. Witzleb, Jr. — Acme, Pennsylvania  
Company E, 273rd Infantry

\*Charles E. and Doris Locke — Town Bank, New Jersey  
Company H, 273rd Infantry

John W. and Arylene Mowrey, Jr.  
Charlestown, West Virginia  
Company H, 273rd Infantry

Jacob and Violet Stark, Jr. — Steelton, Pennsylvania  
Company H, 273rd Infantry

Raymond T. Szkudlarek — Toledo, Ohio  
Company H, 273rd Infantry

\*First Timers

Who did I miss? We had 72 attend. Hope I did not miss any first timers. Again, we had many new first timers. Where are the regular old timers? Hope you're not sick, out of funds or cannot drive.

Hope to see ya all next year in May at Altoona, Pennsylvania when Vaughn and Betty Woomer will be host. Vaughn has us committed to the Days Inn which has plenty of rooms and one big hospitality room which we all go for. His weekend is shaping up pretty good and should be a good one when May, 1992 rolls around.

Looks like H Company, 273rd Infantry and Headquarters, 272nd Infantry tied for the most present, four members each with wives. Company I, 272nd, Company F, 271st, 881st Field Artillery, and 724th Field Artillery each had three present. Looks like the 69th Division Headquarters and 269th Engineers are losing out lately since they always were the big attendee winners. I am sure Clarence Marshall, Division Headquarters and C. Ash Fuller, Jr., would have been present had they not had injuries. Clarence was in the hospital and Ash was hospitalized having had his car run over him. Both are doing well now and hope to be in Biloxi this September.

I just recalled who was missing from the list:

Alex and Margaret Kormas — Lakewood, Ohio  
879th Field Artillery Headquarters

No registration slip but I am sure they were present since the Kormas' and Balzanos won the Tri-State plaque this year, 1991. The Balzanos were absent.

Thanks to the committee of Murphy, Yutzey, and Newman plus wives for a weekend put together perfectly.

See you all in Biloxi and Altoona.

Earl and Dottie



The committee at Grantsville: Don Newman, George Murphy and Leroy Yutzey.

(Continued on Page 37)

DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,  
COMPANIES, AND GROUP MINI-WEEKENDS  
ACROSS THE UNITED STATES  
(Continued from Page 36)



*Part of the Entertainment*



*Part of the Entertainment*

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Company A, 273rd Infantry**

**H. Ray Fahrner, News Reporter**  
Forge Gate Apartments, 33E1  
Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19446  
Telephone: 215/855-9696



Hi Ray,

Thanks for the card and Ed Lucci's address and telephone number. I called Ed the other night. I sure enjoyed talking to him. The other guy in the picture is Irving Herman. He was in the 69th Division. I don't know what outfit he was with. He was from the Bronx, New York area. I will try to make the reunion in September.

Thank you for the card and information, Ray. Jerry Ghedotti's picture shows Irving and Jerry. Jerry was in the 2nd platoon of A Company, 273rd Infantry. His address is as follows:

25672 29th South  
Kent, Washington 98032  
Telephone: 206/839-6369

In February, I was passing through Houston, Texas - business in the oil fields. I was met at the airport by Bennie and Marcella Srbab. I spent the weekend with them, and they took me to a dinner-dance. I had an enjoyable time, and Bennie saw me off at the airport. He and I got together at the B-B-Q cookout in Houston a week later. It is always great to meet 69ers wherever you travel.

That's it for from Tryhard Red Able.



*Irving Herman and Jerry Ghedotti*

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**NOTICE**

Some of you have been complaining that we do not cover your unit or regiment. The information that is printed in the bulletin is supplied by you, the members. We cannot print what we do not have. If you would like to see more information about your unit, please send it in and we will publish it. We show no favoritism. It is your interest that will cause your unit to receive more coverage in the bulletin. SO SEND IT IN, GUYS!

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

## ENGLAND, NORMANDY AND NORTHERN FRANCE

### — PART 2 —

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

Hey! We must be a lucky outfit. On board with us was a contingent of Army Nurses and the first contingent of WACs to move to England. This was not to be such a dull crossing after all.

We had good speed so we did not need an escort, but we did have air cover except for one day in the middle of the Atlantic. We traveled south toward the Bahama's, turned east to a point off the coast of France and then ran north and around the northern cape of Ireland taking seven days at a good speed. After mid-ocean our air cover came from England.

The Battalion was quartered on both port and starboard on four tier steel bunks. We were comfortable, exposed to the elements but we did have overhead cover. Meals were something else. I remember cheese and mustard pickles for breakfast and quite often dehydrated peas with supper but the cooks had not learned proper preparation so they were usually like little hard marbles. Our officers, we noted, had to pay for their food and one of their breakfast items was stewed kidney so they were not too envied.

Our vessel performed fine and we were fast enough so that subs could not overtake us, but the history of this old refurbished tub did make us wonder. We learned she was anchored in an estuary for some time waiting to be cut up for scrap. World War I came along and she was refurbished and pressed into service carrying troops. Between the wars she lay in a backwater again waiting to be cut up for scrap. In World War II, she was again repaired and pressed into service, seeing much service. I wonder whether the torches have found the old girl yet.

Toilet facilities were crowded with lines that now would remind us of those in Russia. Most of us shaved daily using sea water which is not recommended for tender skin. We did not gripe to the English about the food which might have been sufficient but completely alien to us. It was English food being served on a British ship and Lord knows they had it hard enough to serve anything. Prior to taking us on, the ship had been provisioned in Australia. We ate in the dining room in shifts, breakfast generally consisted of a piece of cheese and a ration of mustard pickles. The officers were also allotted in addition to this, some kidney or calves brain. Not exactly fare that we were used to but this was a British ship, and she had just returned from Australia and carried all English provisions. Supper was potatoes, hard dry peas (not cooked long enough) and mutton. It took about one day and one realized that unless one could get enough candy at the canteen on board we would be mighty hungry upon reaching the British Isles. The second evening the canteen opened and we all bought up a supply, but what a comedown. I had purchased a number of Hershey chocolate bars but when I took a bite, did I have a surprise. It tasted exactly like cold mutton. Sure enough, everything had been packaged and wrapped in paper

treated with sheep tallow. We couldn't wait to get to Europe and powdered eggs and spam!

We were confined to our living areas as the bow and stern of the ship were reserved for the nurses and WACs to enjoy, as they were quartered in the cabins and our numbers were more than could be out on deck at one time.

All of us stood at the railings when passing around the north coast of Ireland. There is barely a spot of land that walks down to the sea. It is a never ending series of sheer cliffs from one to several hundred feet in height. It had been raining as usual but the sun came through the clouds as we journeyed past. The green of Ireland is the true green of poetry, a green such as you have never seen and there were a thousand waterfalls flinging themselves from the cliff-tops to splash into the sea far down below.

We left the Irish coast and a bit later under a cover of British fighter planes watched the coast of Scotland come over the horizon. A British submarine escorted us into the Firth of Clyde where we dropped anchor at Greenock, Scotland. Two surprises — one, we looked at our watches and were amazed to see that it was 2:00 a.m. We were getting close to the land of the midnight sun. The other was the beauty of the landscape. Greenock is a rather fair sized village lying in a sort of a spoon tilted on a hillside. The whole world seemed green and all the houses were stark white with red tiled roofs. We have nothing like it in the U.S., anywhere.

Later we were ferried ashore and immediately boarded trains that took us to our destination; Warrington, England, mid-way between Liverpool and Manchester. We also had our first exposure to that plaintive cry, "Any gum chum?" that was uttered by every child we passed. We were attached to the 8th American Air Force and given the mission of providing Anti-Aircraft protection to the airfields at Burtonwood and St. Lanton. Two of our Batteries, A and B, were moved to Wharton, several miles to the north while Headquarters, Headquarters Battery and Batteries C and D set up around Burtonwood Air Depot, two miles from downtown Warrington, which is midway between Liverpool and Manchester. Headquarters Battery moved into the Mary-Ann site which was formerly used by the British military on the edge of the Air Depot.

Burtonwood was the largest American air repair depot in England, was a very busy one and the size of a small city. Along two sides were dozens of concrete pylons some 12 or 14 feet in height. When a new motor for Flying Fortresses or Liberators came in or was rebuilt, it was mounted on a pylon complete with propeller, and ran for hours and of course with no muffler system, the noise was overwhelming. It took some getting used to.

We were lucky in that the Nazis were now busy bombing London and the south of England and did not bother us in the Midlands. Passes to Warrington were frequent and even to London and up to Scotland on weekends. We soon learned to drive on the wrong side of the road, drink tea and talk like the British. The total blackout at night as well as aboard ship took a little getting used to, though.

The British Isles are only about the size of the State of Minnesota and soon became almost overwhelmed with troops from a dozen nations plus equipment for them. Driving or hiking through the countryside there was a never ending series of stacks of artillery ammo along the roadsides with whole fields, often as far as one could see covered with the bodies of new aircraft, tanks, half-tracks, cannon, trucks by the 10's of thousands and all the other items necessary for war including ammunition and fuel dumps.

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## A HISTORY OF THE 461st ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION *(Continued from Page 38)*

We learned to like the British people. They really had a difficult time with bombings, loss of their soldiers in the fighting that had gone on and was still going on in North Africa and the Far East. With little fuel for heat, food severely rationed, little to wear that was new, and the blackout every night, and that meant no light to be shown whatever! - it made us wonder how our people would handle it in a similar situation.

We used British obstacle courses, worked out with the British Home Guard and traded our men on the guns with some of the British Anti-Aircraft people which turned out to be splendid training. It was quiet, still, we knew we weren't sent over for the ride. On November 20, 1943, the battalion was assigned to the First U.S. Army, attached to the V Corps (5th Corp), and further attached to the 115th AAA Group, and from then on our training became rough and tough.

We packed up and convoyed to the Southwest countryside of England and Wales. Here we picked up the M-16 half-tracks, 16 of them, four to a battery. They were equipped with an electrically operated gun turret mounting four lethal .50 cal guns. Later on we were to use these with deadly effect. They proved to be very sturdy and able to take a great deal of punishment. Colonel Gegan asked if we would like to see what they would do on rough terrain and we asked how far he would like us to go. He answered, "If you wreck it, it will prove not to be what we need, won't it." So three of us took off with one. M/Sgt. Melby drove, Don Hechtl rode with him. Don at this time was either a Tech Sergeant, W/O or 2nd Lieutenant, memory fails me. I was interested in what would happen to a man in the turret if a sudden departure had to be made across country, so I elected to ride the turret. Now I must tell you that Melby was one whale of a rough terrain driver, always had been, but he now had a 1st Sergeant in the bucket and that gave a little more incentive to hit the absolute worst areas he could find and he did one fine job doing so. Funny, after the ride we still remained close friends, but I determined that an average man better get the hell out of the turret. The unit suffered no damage and that was no small miracle and we also now knew just what the unit would do in a combat situation.

The Battalion found itself in early December of 1943 down in the southwest tip of England at Truro. Here we trained in amphibious exercises which included loading aboard assault craft, waterproofing vehicles, etc. Christmas Day was spent hard at work and it was just as well. Snow covered the ground, the men of Headquarters Battery were living in lambing pens for sheep on a large estate near the water. These were open on the sides, about the only thing they did was to keep your bedroll out of the snow. It was wet, cold, damp as only that country can be, and work was welcomed. The C.P. was in the mansion of the landowner and it was old and heated only with the fireplaces. Damp and uncomfortable was a fit description of it.

Walking down to the waters edge in an unoccupied moment we found a very long channel not over 300 feet in width and lower than the surrounding land by some 30 feet. At anchor were several landing craft, tanks, the first we had seen and wonder of wonders, as bitter as the weather was on top, here the waters edge was covered with bamboo. It took some moments to realize, of course, the Gulf Stream hits this area. Just the sight of the stuff seemed to moderate our misery somewhat. After a miserable month in weather as bad as England can offer, the Battalion moved back to Ilminster, in Somerset, to a more or less permanent station. Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, and A and B Batteries were located in the town of Ilminster itself, while C and D Batteries were billeted in South Petherton, some four miles to the east.

Training was now intensified, and the next four months found the Battalion on the road a great deal moving between many different training centers and firing camps. Our men were working hard and the Battalion was a good one. Their firing records were tops and they knew how to take care of themselves. Everyone's thoughts were on the coming invasion of France which we sensed had to be near. Where would the landings be, when, what would casualties be like? We all wondered whether we would be in the assault waves. Rumors were rife but most were discounted and lips were sealed around civilians.

The 15th of April, 1944 the Battalion was alerted for the coming invasion and final preparations were completed.

Our weather remained lousy and then the invasion was postponed from a date in May till June. Only three days in June were available, because of tide and moon: the fifth, sixth and seventh, and bad weather was predicted for those days. Everyone is familiar with the story of how with the huge fleet already at sea in the Channel on June 4th, the operation was again postponed for a day because of weather and how Ike agonized nearly all of June 5 over whether to go on the sixth. Most of his senior commanders had advised Go. In the army, it is the commander who makes the final decision, and also takes the final full responsibility. It had to be Ike's finest moment. Now the thousands of vessels cruising the rough night Channel began to form up in their groups and head for their landing designations.

The sheer weight of the units scheduled to hit the beaches almost assured a landing. The problem was that the assault divisions must be able to move inland, consolidate their positions, hook up with the units to their right and left from the other landings which would present a united front that could hold and leave sufficient room in the rear for the all-important buildup behind that would follow. The plans called for four more divisions to be landed by D+3, and a further eleven by D+14 for a total force of 23 divisions, including the three airborne divisions which had jumped before dawn of June 6th.

Hundreds of thousands of men and thousands of tanks and other vehicles waited at the staging areas to be moved over as time and space permitted. These units were needed to extend and solidify a base from which armor could attack overland. The first day's objective called for an Allied line from Quineville in the west around the corner of the Cotentin peninsula, all the way to Cabourg in the east beyond the Orne River. None of the five assault forces reached their objectives on the first day.

German resistance encountered varied greatly. In the west at Utah Beach the U.S. 4th Infantry Division encountered almost none, losing 12 men in the first 24 hours. The aerial bombardment and naval shelling were very successful. Their luck had been incredible, yet they had not taken their objective, had not linked up with the 82nd and 101st Airborne who had jumped into the Cotentin corner the night before. Most contended they had moved too cautiously. Omaha around the bend some 10 miles to the east, was different — a veritable bloodbath. Six miles of hell with 100 foot cliffs on each end. Pure murderous hell! Still further to the east on the three British beaches, Gold, Juno, and Sword, the British and Canadian divisions, like the excellent professionals they were, moved briskly and rather stylishly ashore and inland against marked resistance, picked up most of their airborne, but failed to meet their objective also, taking somewhat under 3,000 casualties in killed, wounded and missing. At Omaha, General Gerow's V Corps alone sustained 3,881 in killed, wounded and missing.

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## A HISTORY OF THE 461st ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION

(Continued from Page 39)

Omaha had had bad luck all around. It was known beforehand that the Omaha terrain was perhaps the roughest of the five, a crescent-shaped dish with a bluff on top and only two exit roads, which could be a devastating defensive position. It was also not known that a fresh, crack division, the 352nd, had been moved into the area a few days before. In addition the air bombardment had missed its target, the majority of the Duplex Drive tanks (semi-amphibious tanks that were to lead off) had sunk in the heavy seas before they reached the beach, and the beach and underwater obstructions were more formidable than expected. As late as 1030 hours the famed old 1st Division lay pinned down behind the seawall while the enemy swept the beaches with small arms fire. German artillery chased the landing craft where they milled offshore. By 1300 hours the crisis was pretty much over. Much credit for that must go to Admiral Kirk, the U.S. naval commander, who bunched his destroyers off the coast and delivered maximum fire on the German strong points. At the same time, the German 352nd Division was running out of shells, as the excellent U.S. bombardment on the roads behind them kept them from getting resupplied and reinforced. But by midnight our deepest penetration on Omaha was barely more than a mile. For almost 3,900 casualties.

Omaha will always be remembered as being six miles of hell with 100 foot cliffs along it. Under murderous covering fire, the terror and total confusion, men screaming or sinking silently under the water, tanks sinking as their crews drowned inside, landing craft going up as a direct hit took them, or grating ashore to discharge their live cargo into the already scrambled mess, officers trying to get their men together, medics trying to find shelter for the wounded, until finally out of the confusion a "certain desperate order began to emerge," and men began to move toward the two bottleneck exits.

A small volunteer group led by Captain (then Lieutenant) John E. Hammond and Sergeant Francis Fulmer landed on Omaha Red Beach with the 1st Infantry Division but had their equipment destroyed by shellfire before they were able to use it. "D" Day was something! The night of June 6th prior to the June 7th landings was just one constant flow of aircraft heading for Normandy. Heavy bombers up high going in to take out rail yards, bridges and transportation centers as far away as Paris. Squadrons of fighters swarmed around them. The sky was fairly clear and the lines of C-47's towing gliders or paratroops were never ending with the earth below quivering from the vibrations of thousands of motors. "D" Day was here and we knew we would not be in the first waves but were on edge and eager to get going. On the 10th of June 1944 our forward elements left Ilminster for the staging area at Weymouth where they loaded aboard ships.

### NORMANDY, FRANCE - JUNE 13, 1944

On D 7, June 13th, the Battalion landed on Omaha Beach, France, and moved to their positions with the V Corp Artillery.

Fifth Corps was part of the 1st U.S. Army, one of the "assault" Corps, and had the mission of building up strength as quickly as possible and then pushing on into the interior of France before the German Army could bring up enough reserves to prevent this. To assist in this breakthrough a large number of Field Artillery Battalions were assigned to V Corps and it was these FA Battalions the 461st AAA AW Battalion was to help protect.

On the 14th of June Headquarters Battery moved out of Hau Gros and set up for business at La Mine, France where they would spend a bit over two weeks. "A" Battery under Captain William R. Sims landed on easy-red beach near Colleville-sur-Mer, de-waterproofed and spent the night in the

same field with Jerries buzzing overhead and millions of tracers cutting through the sky and illuminating the night. On the 14th they were in position giving protection to the 953rd Field Artillery Battalion in the area of Cerisy-la-Foret. Foxholes became our homes and they were deep and covered. Good thing. Occasional shelling and enemy aircraft strafing from time to time made them safe havens. "A" Battery moved again, this time with the 187th Field Artillery Battalion but remained generally in the same area.

On July 19th "A" Battery moved near Cormorlain, half way between St. Lo and Caumont. This move placed the number five gun less than 400 yards from the enemy. The enemy was shelling them almost every day and enemy air activity at night was on a larger scale than ever before. They were becoming "foxhole happy." July 24th, the day of the breakthrough at St. Lo was unforgettable. Early in the morning a lone Me-109 flew over the area, and we scored hits on it. Evidently the plane was able to get back to its own lines where it was able to give an accurate report of our positions, for that same afternoon the most intensive counter-battery fire we had received so far took place, mainly near guns 5 and 11 and the CP of the Second Platoon. No sooner had the shelling stopped, when all our crews were attacked by enemy planes, nine of them. They were FW-190's and Me-109's, and they strafed, dive-bombed, and shot rockets at our positions. The men were busier than one armed paper hangers, but when the smoke and excitement had cleared, off in the distance could be seen the smoking remains of seven Jerry planes, and friendly P-47s took care of the other two. Luckily we had no casualties. A P-47 accidentally dropped her bombs in our area the next day, but outside of a terrific shaking-up, we were not bothered ... C'est la guerre . . .

Battery "B" landed along with "A" Battery but spent almost all of the rest of June and July generally in the Balleroy area attached to the 186th Field Artillery Battalion. Later on the 2nd Platoon was attached to the 953rd Field Artillery Battalion. Although spectacular incidents were not becoming daily fare for this Battery, they never-the-less had action, some hot and heavy nearly every day during June and July and like Battery "A" their shooting was sharp.

"C" Battery came to shore with Battalion Headquarters, de-waterproofed and spending one night with the 406th Field Artillery Gp., spent the rest of June and July in the areas of Le Molay, Planquerry, Balleroy and Couvains supplying protection at various times for the 955th Field Artillery R.R. overpasses, V Corp Headquarters, 987th Field Artillery, and experiencing bombing, shelling and lots of good shooting.

"D" Battery landed on Omaha Beach, de-waterproofed and on the 15th of June provided AA protection for the 62nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion. "D" received their "Baptism of Fire" almost immediately and soon learned to differentiate between incoming and outgoing artillery shells and it took only a very few nights to become accustomed to the flood of tracers and the noise of "burp" guns a few hundred yards away. At this time the men also became acquainted with the fire power of a P-47, Thunderbolt, when one opened up on No. 5 section from about 500 yards. In the excitement the boys on the Bofor got off a round and the machine gunner warmed up his weapon. Fortunately no damage occurred to either party.

With only Ju-88, two Me-109s and one Fw-190 shot down and two Me-109s probably destroyed, the Battery took leave of the 62nd and joined the 941st Field Artillery Battalion near Planquerry where they were to spend a little over a month. Normandy rapidly became an acute pain in the neck for everyone in all the batteries. The rains were incessant, and punctuated by frequent artillery fire, near drove the men nuts dodging in and out of foxholes the day long. "D" Battery had

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## A HISTORY OF THE 461st ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION

(Continued from Page 40)

a long and enjoyable association with the 941st as they were to remain with them nearly to the end of the war. The end of July saw the Battery moving to new positions near La Vieille, some 6 miles east of St. Lo with the 941st which was supporting the 2nd Infantry Division in the St. Lo Breakthrough.

Meanwhile Headquarters and Headquarters Battery were in an apple orchard in the area of La Bazique, France. We had passed through the terrible storm that wrecked the Beach installations including the Mulberry ports and interrupted the flow of supplies which were now short. It was amazing when the storm was over how fast the beaches were again put into operation. New troops were moving into every field not occupied and Normandy was beginning to look like the crowded Midlands of England had been. Here our Medics had fixed up a duece and a half with their dental equipment and in working through Normandy must have pulled a ton of teeth from the mouths of Frenchmen, old and young. Bed Check Charlie was over every night to disturb us and the sight over the Beaches was something else. You have to imagine most of the fireworks on the 4th of July in this Country being concentrated over a few miles of beach. It was even enough to drown out the noise to the front of us.

One day we had a Red Cross truck with three genuine, honest-to-God American girls passing out coffee and doughnuts to us. 2nd Division infantrymen were in the field behind and to the west of us and a battalion of Shermans was in the field behind us, some 250 feet away. Evidently someone up front was in trouble as a firing order came through. Every gun in the Battalion opened up at once and the concussion blew the girls to the front of their vehicle. We knew we would miss them and hated to see them go but at the same time we couldn't keep from laughing. Those girls closed shop and were out of there in not over 20 seconds.

No man will ever forget those days and weeks in the hedge-row country. Every field and every woods was full of troops. The noise up front near the lines was terrific. We also learned what Calvados was. It was a liquor made from apples by the Frenchmen of Normandy and it was as violent as rocket fuel. Fact is, we used to use it as fuel in our cigarette lighters. The Frenchmen sipped on it all day but it was near death to us.

As was the case with every unit, now and then one or more of our men would have too much and then the question came up, what to do to a man for punishment in NORMANDY? The poor soul was already committed as close to "hell" as he would ever be. The Colonel found a rocky area a couple of hundred feet from the large sheet metal barn which we were using for our kitchen truck and to eat in. All the rest of the property was of a beautiful mix of sand and soil, a joy to dig a foxhole in. He decided to have these fellows dig a hole, a large one and use it for his C.P. After several days of pick and shovel work the area did have a dent in it. About this time Captain Pratt of "C" Battery came by. It was a little while before chow time at noon and I was watching the men in the barn from a short distance when Captain Pratt came over and asked me what I thought of the Colonel's C.P. I told him it stunk (we were good friends) and he said, would I like to do something about it? I answered yes, and he said, "Get me some plastic explosive." I returned with a desired amount properly covered as we didn't want to draw a crowd. Returning to the hole we planted the explosive and lit the fuses. At that moment the chow call rang out and the Captain and I stood by a tree and observed. The officers were at table and the line had begun to progress through when there was a

tremendous "BOOM!" Three sides of this tin barn were piled to the rafters with bundles of faggots, gleaned from the woods. Tables and food went to the ground along with the officers, the men scattered like mice and dirt and rocks began raining down on the tin roof making an infernal racket. I watched my two cooks, their helmets buried in the stacked bundles trying to get the rest of their bodies to follow. It was one hilarious scene for the two of us but not for any of the men. Everyone thought it was for real and we suggested it had to be from a heavy gun. Now the hole was complete, but the Colonel now forgot about it and we let the batteries handle their own men. We thought we had done a very good deed and we had many a good laugh through the ensuing months.

During the daylight hours the German Air Force with few exceptions limited their flights to armed reconnaissance, but at night they were always over to drop a few. Every night was a 4th of July celebration magnified thousands of times.

Now it was my turn. I picked up a bug, the first time I had ever been sick. I turned out to be the Army's first case of influenza and was shipped off to a forward hospital which was near the beaches. At that time there was little difference between forward and rear. For air-raids we had a million dollar jackass tethered outside our tent. Believe it or not for nearly a week I listened to that jackass bray exactly twenty minutes before every air-raid. I know when the hospital moved they took that animal along with them. I was then transferred to the 4th General Field Hospital and spent a few days there before being sent to a Replacement Depot. I only stayed for some 30 hours but in that time I learned to have a tremendous amount of compassion and patience with all future replacements. In the end my unit found me and took me back. I was one of the lucky ones!

We were not too far from St. Lo and jump-off time was near. One day I had watched a flight of British bombers come over St. Lo appearing like a handful of marbles just tossed into the air. They just appeared that way, fact is, it was an intricate formation. They came in at medium altitude and I counted 24 of those beautiful birds fall fluttering to earth.

"COBRA" was the code name given to the campaign to take St. Lo and break out. Involved mainly were the 30th and 9th infantry divisions followed by the 1st Infantry and 2nd Armored to the left plus the 4th Division, all this on a front of only 7,000 yards. This would be immediately preceded by a massive air bombardment. The fighter bombers would concentrate on hitting forward German defenses in a 250-yard belt immediately south of the Periers, St. Lo road. Eight Air Force "heavies" would bomb to a depth of 2,500 yards behind the German front, accompanied by the artillery fire of 1,000 guns. We had a secret weapon for this strike. Normandy with its maze of hedgerows was a certain death trap for tanks and for attacking infantry, without them, it was near suicidal. Our new weapon was a set of steel tusks welded onto the front of many of the Shermans, which so equipped were capable of battering a path through the Norman hedgerows in swift fashion. In typical Yankee fashion every armored unit had been trying to solve the hedgerow problem and during a "bull session" of the 2nd Armored's 102nd Cavalry Reconnaissance, a young fellow from Tennessee named Roberts in answer to the question asked, "Why don't we get some saw teeth and put them on the front of the tank and cut through these hedges?" A Sergeant Curtis Culin saw the value of the idea and using the steel from the German beach obstacles fashioned the teeth which were then welded to the tank front. He became an "All American Hero," hundreds of 1st Army's tanks were modified, and we were on the way to winning in Normandy. The "Rhinos," as they were called restored

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## A HISTORY OF THE 461st ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION *(Continued from Page 41)*

battlefield maneuverability to General Bradley's armor. Now while German tanks remained restricted to the roads, the Shermans possessed the power to outflank them across country. All we now needed was a long barreled rifle for our tanks to replace the pea shooter they came with, but that was not to come till some time later.

The launching of COBRA was delayed for some days by torrential rain and low cloud. On July 24th, the order was given and 1,600 aircraft had already taken off for the preliminary air bombardment when the weather closed in again. Some were successfully recalled, or declined to risk bombing through the overcast. But others again poured down explosives destined for the path of the American attack. The results were disastrously erratic. 25 Americans were killed and 131 in the 30th Division were wounded, and the Germans had proved with final confirmation of the American intention to move on the St. Lo-Periers front. Some enraged American units such as the 2nd/120th Infantry opened fire on their own aircraft, a not uncommon practice among all the armies in Normandy when suffering at the hands of their own pilots.

The next morning, the forecaster's promise of brighter weather was true. Early in the morning the 901st Panzergrenadiers phoned their divisional headquarters to report that the American infantry in front of them are abandoning their positions. They thought that their 7th Army had to be correct when it had predicted that the main effort would be south of the Caen area, far to the east. Shortly, German telephones began to ring again reporting: "Bombing attacks by endless waves of aircraft. Fighter-bombers attacking on bridges and artillery positions." We had been pulled back to allow room for safe bombing by our aircraft. At about 9:00 a.m., the fighter-bombers opened their first 20-minute assault on the German front line. Behind them, high above the dust and smoke, 1,800 heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force droned slowly towards the target area, their glinting wings watched by thousands of expectant young soldiers in their foxholes and tank turrets below, massed, ready to move when the airmen had finished.

[As we watched, [wrote Ernie Pyle] there crept into our consciousness a realization that windrows of exploding bombs were easing back towards us, flight by flight, instead of gradually forward, as the plan called for. Then we were horrified by the suspicion that these machines, high in the sky and completely detached from us, were aiming their bombs at the smokeline on the ground, and a gentle breeze was drifting the smokeline back over us. We stood tensed in muscle and frozen in intellect, watching each flight approach and pass over us, feeling trapped and completely helpless.]

General Bradley had asked that the bombers attack east-west to reduce the risk of "short bombing." The airmen, for their own reasons, came in north-south. Despite desperate efforts by the ground troops to identify their positions with yellow panels and smoke markers, there was wild bombing by 8th Air Force, with appalling consequences for the men below. Again many were killed and hundreds wounded. This was the action in which we lost Lieutenant General McNair who had come up to watch the jump-off. The entire command group of the 9th Division's 3rd/47th Infantry was wiped out. The front was in a shambles but fortunately the Germans had also suffered, though not as much. There was no question but that the postponement of the attack from Monday to Tuesday, plus two successive days of bombing of our own troops, took the ginger out of several front-line elements. Hesitantly,

VII Corps began moving to the attack but found the Germans still holding stubbornly to their positions. To the west General Collins found the German line was not solid and began to penetrate, first slowly then faster until it was finally clear going with little or no organized resistance. Collins also gave his mobile columns orders to by-pass and go like hell.

Shortly after this, all units received orders to take cover whenever the 8th Air Force came over us in any action. For the rest of the war they were in disfavor with us, who were there. The IX Tactical Air Force under the command of Major General Elwood Quesada, however, was well respected and always worked very closely with us, and well.

I cannot remember but a few instances where our guns would be dug in without a dead animal next to the parapet to swell like a balloon in a few days and burst. That and the odor we found nowhere else.

Headquarters moved to Torigni-sur-Vier for some six days. While there I accompanied Louis Jones, our mess sergeant to the town to fill our water cans at an engineer purification unit. We located it in the center of town on the banks of the Village pond. All was fine and we loaded up except that the Engineers in a hurry to set up tossed the intake hose and screen over the carcass of a dead cow in the water. Try as I would, coffee that day just wasn't right.

Now 1st Army and the 3rd with Patton were sweeping south and east. 1st to close the Falaise Gap and 3rd heading for Paris. The Germans were concentrating part of the Army left to them for a counter-attack in the Mortain or Mortree area. If they could cut through, they could sweep west and north to the Beaches and cut us off from our supplies. We were thin but Bradley took a chance. We did hold and that was the last of the German attacks in Normandy. It was also the only time I remember that we were to be considered expendable. It was not a comfortable thought. Now we were all on the run to catch up with 1st Army.

The battlefields of Falaise was unquestionably one of the greatest "killing grounds" of any of the war areas. Roads, highways and fields were so choked with destroyed equipment and with dead men and animals that passage through the area was difficult. Scenes there could only be described by Dante. It was literally possible to walk for hundreds of yards at a time, stepping on nothing but dead and decaying flesh. This time it was the Germans doing the dying. In spite of Allied mistakes, they took fifty thousand prisoners and counted ten thousand German dead.

One of the great feats of this war must be the German withdrawal from Falaise. Allied artillery poured down on them from all sides as they moved, never once did the German troops panic or falter. Nor did they collapse and panic on the long retreat back to the German frontier. The Germans were hardened, dedicated soldiers, the seasoned veterans of years of battles, and never did they show it better than in their escape from Falaise.

Once out of the Falaise pocket the carnage thinned, but was never out of sight. To me it was like a blazed trail through the forest.

This fighting from Avranches to the Meuse was exhilarating but a fatiguing kind of fighting. It was more of a scrambling pursuit, a mechanized advance with everybody riding somewhere or other — on tanks, trucks, on jeeps and weapon carriers. Whenever the enemy stood to make a stand, there would be a sharp, short fight in which men died as dreadfully and unwillingly as in the hedgerows. The countryside passed, mile after mile full of dust and windburn. There was little rest at night; too much had to be cleaned and serviced for tomorrow's push on to the East.

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## HISTORY OF THE 461st ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION *(Continued from Page 42)*

We stopped at Bellaire, on the outskirts of Paris and would spend four days there while Paris was liberated by the French. The honor had been reserved for French General LeClerc's French 2nd Division. We sent in our halftracks to protect the Seine River bridges. Fun and frolic in Paris along with overwhelming mass welcome made it difficult to clear the City, so the American 4th Division was brought in and organized resistance ended on the 25th.

With the German column retreating from Paris toward Belgium we organized a Provisional Trucking Detail with all batteries contributing vehicles and men. In first Command was Captain Meldrum with Lieutenant Boudreau, I was First Sergeant, and stayed with this detail some eight days during which time we transported Infantrymen from the 109th Regiment, 28th Division and the 112th Regiment, 4th Division, with orders to see that the German Column left France. We stayed near enough to keep them moving but not near enough to fight. At the rear of their column was a large squat Tiger tank and the best we could put up against it was one miserable French 75, so patience and care was the order of the day. We finally urged their column into Belgium and I returned to Headquarters Battery at Sedan, France after eight days, but with changes in personnel the Detail continued on for the next three months and after that as needed for the duration of the war. At this time 1st Army and 3rd Army had reached the Seine, north and south of Paris, but were drastically hindered by lack of ammo, gas and supplies.

Until we could capture the port of Antwerp, Belgium and repair it, we set up a series of one way roads from the Beaches to the Front and established what became known as the Red-Ball Express. These vehicles ran 24 hours a day with stops only for gas, load and to have required maintenance. They did

yeoman duty. When our troops reached the Meuse River, however, we just plain ran out of gas and had to stop to replenish. This of course gave the Germans a great opportunity to reestablish the Siegfried Line which they did.

On the 15th of September we were in Burg Reuland, Luxembourg. Beautiful country but it was wet, muddy and getting cold, with a promise of snow not too far off. This was a land of thick tall pine forests and castles. It was also fraught with danger as here, the front was fluid with German SS troops wandering all over the landscape.

On the 17th of September Major Jacobs, the Battalion Executive Officer along with his driver, Lewis Woodson, were captured by a German patrol operating across a main supply road a few miles south of the Battalion Headquarters. The patrol loaded onto Woody's jeep and ordered him to proceed. Woody was one of our fast thinkers. While tooling down the road he saw a curve coming up with a steep drop-off. He alerted Major Jacobs that he was going to run the jeep off the road to jump when he hollered. Both escaped the jeep which plunged off the road with a group of surprised Germans. Woody was young and fast and managed to escape and returned to Headquarters. Major Jacobs was not as fast and became a prisoner and spent the rest of the war months being marched back and forth across Germany. We had lost Colonel Gegan to illness late in July and the loss of Major Jacobs left us without a C.O. Lieutenant Colonel William Kintner of the 115th AAA Group, took over the Battalion for three weeks in September until he was ordered to Stateside duty. On the 26th of September, Lieutenant Colonel John F. Bonner (then Major) took command of the Battalion, and shortly we moved into Belgium, into the Malmedy, Eupen, Spa area.

A few days after the loss of Major Jacobs, I was transferred to Battery "C" to act as an Assistant Platoon Commander of 2nd Platoon. Second Platoon was attached to the 955th Field Artillery Battalion.

*To Be Continued in the Next Bulletin*



Former members of the 569th Signal Company Taken at Camp Shelby July, 1944

First Row, left to right: Ken Steinle, Thompson, Bill Capozzoli, Harry Lewis

Second Row: Leo Weinberg, Gene Estrih, Duffy

Standing in doorway: Scotty

Picture furnished by Bill Capozzoli



# Company A, 271st Infantry Division

Sent in by Harry J. Zanotti, 3447 North Pontiac, Chicago, Illinois 60634



*Unknown*



*Unknown*



*Rex Mullin*



*Mullin, Popkins, Sergeant Parks, Bob Milly, Harry Zanotti*



*Sergeant Clift, Unknown, Harry Zanotti*



*Sergeant Clift, Jim Bell and Harry Zanotti*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** We could not make out photo descriptions clearly on back of pictures. Names are probably not in order of appearance.



*Town of Cornburg, Germany*



*Taken in England - Little girl's name was Edna Hallam*



*Sergeant Parks, Popkins, Mullin, Milly and Zanotti*

*Nick Natrana, Bob Ellis,  
Jim Bell, D'Meo, Sergeant Clift*

*Cannot recall all of the names.*



# 1945 Battle Sights Revisited in 1991



## FIGHTING 69th INFANTRY DIVISION 1991 SIEGFRIED LINE TO ELBE RIVER TOUR

*Bill Matlach - E-273rd, Walter Homlin - 269th Engineers, Bud Parsons - A-272nd, Bill Snidow - B-661st TD, Bob Haag - H-273rd, E. R. Sams - H-273rd, Paul Gornbein - D-273rd and Crandon Clark - B-272nd*

Bob Haag was a member of Lieutenant Kotzabue's patrol.

E. R. Sams was a member of Major Craig's patrol.

On April 22nd eight members of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association embarked on a journey that would take them to the cities, towns and villages in Germany that held the most poignant of memories. Each of the journeymen - Crandon Clark - B-272nd, Paul Gornbein - D-273rd, Robert Haag - H-273rd, Walter Holmlin - 269th Engineers, William Matlach - E-273rd, Edgar Parsons - A-272nd, E. R. Sams - H-273rd, and William Snidow - B-661st Tank Destroyer Battalion, had a special place that he wanted to see again.

Leaving Dulles International Airport at 6:30 p.m., the group landed in Frankfurt at 9:00 a.m. (European time) on April 23rd and met their English-speaking mini van driver. After exchanging money at the airport bank, the travelers hit the open road on their way to the Kassel area. Visited en route were Hann, Munden, Witzenhausen and Heiligenstadt. Interesting stories were related concerning individual battle experiences, strategies involved and personal vignettes. The first day's travel came to a close with an overnight stay in Kassel.

The second day saw the group set off for Torgau. The route took them to what had been the East German border crossing at Eisenach. Some of the group had participated in the previous year's Europe/Russia tour. They were amazed at the visible changes that had occurred during the twelve month interval. No longer was there a border to cross, or even an inspection station to pass through. However, portions of the high wire fences and guard towers could still be seen along the sides of the highway. Most conspicuous was the heavy traffic flowing eastward. Only a short year ago the highways had been a driver's paradise - miles of open stretches of bare road. Not only are the highways crowded, but the cars and trucks are much different. Whereas the cars seen on the previous trip were rather dilapidated - predominantly the much maligned East German Wartburg model - today's traffic consists chiefly of shiny new Audis, BMWs, Fords, Mercedes and Porsches.

Bypassing Gotha and Erfurt, a lunch stop was made in the historic city of Weimar. A pleasant meal was enjoyed at

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## 1945 BATTLE SIGHTS REVISITED IN 1991

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a stately old Gothic style restaurant. Some English speaking guests seated at a nearby table came over and offered suggestions as to what to see and where to visit while in a city so famous for its artists, composers, university and writers. Unfortunately, time did not permit anything more than cursory viewing through the van's windows as the journey continued to its destination of Torgau.

There was time, however, to spend in Weissenfels and visit the military installations there. Two individuals in the group, Clark and Parsons, were stationed there on prisoner control duty in 1945.

Leipzig was reached by late afternoon. The city was bustling with activity. The amount of new construction taking place - mainly apartment complexes - was quite evident. Something very noticeable also was the quantity of merchandise available to shoppers, in direct contrast to last year.

By not stopping in Leipzig the travelers were able to reach Torgau by early evening of April 24th. Gala military celebrations had taken place in Torgau on April 25th in 1985 and 1990, commemorating the historic American-Russian link-up of 1945. But this year a week-long civilian Torgau Fest was planned, resulting in hotel rooms being at a premium. Mayor Wolfgang Geistenberger secured accommodations for the group's two day stay in Torgau. They visited the museum which is located in a section of Hartenfels Castle and were happy to note that the division banner, regimental insignia and other 69th paraphernalia were prominently displayed and being carefully maintained. Using Torgau as a base of operations, the 69th Vets were able to take short daily trips to nearby towns on both the Elbe and Mulde Rivers.

After laying a wreath at the grave of Joe Polowsky, towns such as Strehla, Wurzen, Dahlen, Bennewitz and Trebsen were located. Haag and Sams were particularly interested in the Torgau-Strehla area. Haag and Polowsky were members of Lieutenant Albert Kotzebue's patrol, which was the first to make contact with a Russian cavalryman at 11:30 a.m. on April 25th. Sams accompanied Major Fred Craig's patrol, which encountered Russians at 4:45 p.m., five hours later.

### THE PROPOSED LINK-UP MONUMENT AT STREHLA

The timing of this trip, and particularly the special stops in Torgau, and Strehla (some 16 miles south of Torgau, and also on the Elbe River) originated in 1990 invitations to various Soviets to visit the United States in 1991. The invitations were made by Bill Beswick, and many others among the approximately 100 European Tour participants of 69th'ers and their wives. It will be recalled that Bill Beswick, a former 69th Infantry Division Association President, was the principal organizer of both the 1985 and 1990 European tours.

Among the Soviets who subsequently accepted the invitations, in writing, were Lieutenant General Valdimir Orlov (the ranking member from the Soviet War Veterans Committee, and responsible for the 1990 honor guard, and band, in Berlin together with the "pass in review" parade in honor of the 69th'ers visit, the Leipzig banquet, the Torgau reception, Moscow May Day parade invitations, etc.) and Major General Alexander Olshansky (see below). The acceptances were communicated to Bill Beswick, and the United States visits were to occur around April 25, 1991. In March, 1991, Beswick was informed it would not be possible for the Soviets to come to the United States.

Several days later, an invitation was received by Beswick for any and all 69th'ers to come to Torgau's First Annual "DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE" American-Soviet link-up celebration, with some 30 bands participating, including the

U.S. Military Band from the U.S. Berlin Brigade. In addition, Beswick was informed that representatives from the Soviet War Veterans Committee, and others, would be present at Strehla, April 25, 1991, to discuss developments concerning the proposed Soviet-American-German memorial at the site of the *first* World War II link-up between units of the armies of the United States and the Soviet Union. It will be recalled that the memorial plans were discussed briefly at the Association's 1990 Valley Forge meeting, with discussion and action delegated, as accurately as can now be recalled without official minutes, to the Association's Board.

Knee hospitalizations concurrently prevented Beswick from travel to Torgau and Strehla. The Torgau and Strehla events nevertheless provided the rationalization (together with the fortuitous timing of a special Pan Am round trip fare to Frankfurt of \$346) for the aforementioned eight 69th'ers to visit any and all 69th battle areas of interest, as well as to fact-find informally the status of the proposed Strehla memorial.

Upon arrival at the Burgermeister's office in Strehla, April 25, it developed that no member of the Soviet War Veterans Committee would be present. The group was invited to lunch by Mayor Andreas Habeland. He introduced them to two members from a Russian Cultural Committee from Moscow, who stated that General Orlov and Olshansky had wished to come, but it was not possible for them to do so. The visiting Russians were treated with respect by the Strehla Mayor and his staff, and the subsequent presentations indicate they are the principals involved in the planning and construction for the memorial commemorating the *first* World War II link-up of armies of the Soviet Union and the United States - respectively, units of the Soviet's Sixth Infantry Company, 175th Infantry Regiment, 58th Guards Division, and the American patrol led by Lieutenant Albert Kotzebue, (of Houston, Texas) Company G, 2nd Battalion, 273rd Infantry Regiment, 69th Division.

The Elbe River link-up memorial is being "pushed" by the Soviet War Veterans Committee (in the USSR, the rough equivalent of a combination of the United States' Veterans Administration, Rotary, American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars), and by an especially interested Soviet veteran, Major General Alexander Olshansky. On April 25, 1945, Olshansky was a Staff Sergeant in the above-mentioned Soviet Sixth Infantry Company, and is the Russian soldier described by Lieutenant Kotzebue as throwing a line to Kotzebue's boat crossing the Elbe River, thus enabling Kotzebue to complete his river crossing and to first shake hands with our World War II Russian allies. (See Lieutenant Kotzebue's account in *YANKS MEET REDS*, p. 26; the mimeographed "official" account *THE RUSSIAN-AMERICAN LINK-UP, 25 APRIL 1945* pages 18-19, prepared by Captain William J. Fox, First Army combat history officer who accompanied Major Craig's patrol, and also interviewed Lieutenant Kotzebue on April 25 and 26, 1945; and the 40 years later ABC TV 20/20 link-up re-enactment and joint interviews between Kotzebue and Olshansky at the Strehla link-up site, shown on national TV in April, 1985, and of which many 69th Division Association members have video copies.)

It is noted that Lieutenant Kotzebue stayed in the Army, served in Korea and Vietnam, retired as a Lieutenant Colonel, and died in 1987. General Olshansky and a large contingent from the Soviet War Veterans Committee attended Kotzebue's memorial services at Arlington National Cemetery.

A notation concerning Kotzebue, Texas A&M University, and a Mr. Sam Lewis from Texas is pertinent. In 69th Division records, Kotzebue's home town is shown as Houston, Texas, and it is speculated, no proof, he attended Texas A&M. Mr. Lewis was in the Hotel Mercur, Leipzig concurrent with the 1990 visit of the three bus loads of members of the 69th

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## 1945 BATTLE SIGHTS REVISITED IN 1991

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Division, and their wives, en route to Torgau. At that time, it is believed Mr. Lewis made informal, and coincidental contact with several 69th'ers concerning his wish to plant Texas "bluebonnets" (the Texas state flower) at the Strehla link-up site, and perhaps have some of these particular flowers be a part of the link-up site landscaping. Lewis may also have made suggestions concerning the desirability of a Texas A&M plaque with special recognition for Lieutenant Kotzebue, and perhaps Texas, to be a part of the memorial. In any event, Lewis' name is known to both the Mayor of Strehla, and to the Russian Cultural Committee principals. However, the Russians stated to the group that Mr. Lewis and associates are not known to have made any financial commitments. A partial address in Texas for Mr. Lewis was obtained, and the matter is to be clarified.

(At one point in this fact-finding, it was stated that Mr. Lewis' interest originated from the fact that his father was a patrol member, but a review of the historical records shows that no member of the three patrols - Kotzebue, Robertson, Craig - had the last name of Lewis.)

Strehla, a town of about 4500 population, has a castle about 1000 years old, and is interested in the memorial as an additional tourist attraction. A plot of land (about 12,000 square feet, 100 feet wide, sloping gradually downward for a distance of about 120 feet from the level of a roadway on the river bank to the Elbe River about 120 feet horizontally away) is understood to have been formally dedicated by the Strehla authorities for this "link-up" memorial. The vertical decline over this 120 feet is about 30 feet. These figures are estimates, derived from a brief visual inspection of the proposed site. Neither a contour map nor detailed schematics were available.

The memorial site is near the ferry. The Elbe River is quite deep, and the barge traffic is understood to be substantial, although no statistics were provided. While inspecting the site, a barge comparable in draft and size to those on the Rhine River passed by.

The highest level of the memorial would feature three flagstaffs, one for each of the national flags of the United States, the Soviet Union, and Germany. The flags would be flown on suitable holidays, especially April 25th.

The highest level of the memorial is understood to be the same altitude as the river bank roadway, so the flags would be prominently visible to roadway auto and pedestrian traffic, ferry traffic, and Elbe River boat traffic.

Beneath the flagstaffs, there is proposed an especially composed mosaic/mural about 33 feet wide, and about 6½ feet high, symbolizing the end of war. A preliminary model was shown to us, but neither a picture nor a drawing of the proposed mural was available, and the flash photography substitute is not helpful.

A styrofoam, or similar light plastic, model of the overall memorial had been prepared. The model is in two sections, for portability, and when joined, is about 3 feet square. Photographs now available of this model are disappointing as "stand-alone" pictorials of the proposed "link-up" memorial. If more informative materials become available, they will be forwarded.

The mosaic/mural, together with the three flags just above it, would be prominently visible from river traffic, and from the ferry site, but not from the river bank roadway. However, and somewhat reminiscent of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., the design contemplates a park-like setting, with steps leading downwards some eight feet from the river bank roadway level towards the Elbe. The steps flank each side of the 33 foot mural, with a stone/cement bench near each side of the two sides of the mosaic/mural. The two

benches are to be located on an especially leveled area comparable to a large terrace. This large terrace is some eight feet below the roadway built on the topmost portion of the river bank. The benches would not obstruct the view of the mural from the river.

The mural, being made of stone/cement and/or similar permanent materials, and measuring some 33 feet by 6½ feet would also serve as a retaining wall built into the river bank. The area between the benches would be level, to facilitate walking. Details of the mural could easily be inspected from this leveled area, after descending the steps. It is understood the additional area leading further downwards to the Elbe River, will be landscaped to enhance enjoyment of the combined river, ferry, pedestrian, and auto traffic.

At appropriate location(s) on the mural/wall would be three permanent plaques, one each in English, Russian, and German, with language such as the following:

ON APRIL 25, 1945, THE ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS WERE FIRST JOINED AT THIS LOCATION BY THE AMERICAN 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION AND THE RUSSIAN 58TH GUARDS DIVISION. MAY THE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP REPRESENTED HERE ENDURE FOREVER.

Such wording, if the plans materialize, would be the only descriptor, or evidence, in Europe, of the World War II service of the 69th Infantry Division.

If the plans materialize, the proposed memorial featuring the 69th Infantry Division would be by far the most spectacular, artistic, and elaborate recognition concerning any single infantry division that served in World War II Europe, and perhaps throughout the world. No comparable memorial, except perhaps those in Normandy honoring all the D-Day divisions, is known to exist.

In Torgau, there is a massive monument, erected unilaterally about 20 years ago by the Government of the Soviet Union. That monument has inscriptions on two sides, in Russian, German, and English. On the front of the monument, facing the castle, the words are:

GLORY TO THE VICTORIOUS RED ARMY  
AND OUR HEROIC ALLIES HAVING  
TRIUMPHED OVER FASCIST GERMANY.

On the back of the monument, facing the Elbe River, the words are:

HERE ON THE ELBE, APRIL 25, 1945, THE FORCES  
OF THE FIRST UKRAINIAN FRONT OF THE RED  
ARMY LINKED UP WITH AMERICAN FORCES.

Note the absence of any reference to the 69th Infantry Division. Note also the absence of any claim that Torgau was the site of the first link-up.

The Russian cultural group members were Vladimir S. Stefanovich, whose business card reads, "Chief Architect, Memorial Centre of Soviet Soldiers and Citizens Died Abroad, Qr. 220, build 6., Gorky st. 6, Moscow 103009, USSR, Tel (off) 292-02-63" and Vladimir Alexandrovitch Surovtsev, Novocherkassk 1 Boulevard, Flat 48, Moscow 109651, USSR, and who carries the title of Sculptor. Mr. Surovtsev speaks passable English, and is proud of his artistic status and accomplishments.

Mr. Surovtsev is understood to have been working for some two years on this "link-up project" with the approval and support of the Soviet War Veterans Committee and other elements of the Soviet Government. The design is his "baby." Among his other accomplishments, which unfortunately

(Continued on Page 49)

## 1945 BATTLE SIGHTS REVISITED IN 1991

(Continued from Page 48)

confuse the Strehla project, are two statues, in bronze or similar metal, about 21 inches high x 24 inches wide, and 16 inches deep, and each weighing about 150 pounds. The statues are about one-quarter life size, as a crude estimate. The statues depict an American helmeted soldier and a Soviet soldier wearing a peaked cap, no visible armament, seated together on what appears to be a single large stone, at about a 45 degree angle to each other, and apparently engaged in friendly conversation.

Mr. Surovtsev has prepared these two statues in the hope that President Bush and President Gorbachev would accept them, at some joint occasion, for placement in an appropriate museum in each country. He requested assistance in making the appropriate contacts for such an event in the United States. Mr. Surovtsev's enthusiasm for his "two soldiers" project, plus language misunderstandings, facilitated a mistaken belief that a life-size or other representation of the "two soldiers" would be a part of the Strehla "link-up project" but the projects are entirely separate. If Presidential notice occurs at some future time, however, this "two soldiers" project may become of interest to the 69th Infantry Division Association, and is reported now for possible future reference.

Early in the discussions, the group attempted to make clear that no member of the group, or the group collectively, had any official status insofar as the 69th Infantry Division Association or any other organization was concerned. Nevertheless, we were there, and were interested in becoming informed of the Soviet and German plans. We also attempted to make clear that decisions concerning any participation by the 69th Infantry Division Association are normally made only by the Association, and the Association meets annually, the next meeting being in September.

At this time, Mr. Surovtsev stated that he was concerned primarily with our reaction to the link-up design concept. Did we have major objections to the concept, or any particular? We attempted to make clear that although we might react as individuals, that any such reaction should not be construed as indicative of any Association reaction, and we ourselves needed more information as the basis for any informed opinion. In this "international" meeting, as in many other "international" discussions among individuals conferring for the first time, it is unclear how much mutual understanding was accomplished.

Mr. Surovtsev introduced the subject of the project's cost. He had prepared an extremely crude budgetary estimate, contemplating approximately equal cost sharing among the three nationalities. The group experienced a practical illustration of the difficulties of communication with citizens of a country that has little or no awareness of cost accounting, and budget estimating. The former East Germans have similar limitations. Matlach made several specific requests, and suggestions, concerning schematics, detailed contour and architectural renderings, as well as labor, timing, and materials costing that would be necessary for Mr. Surovtsev to have prepared to document any request for concept and funds reactions from the Association. Mr. Surovtsev appeared to understand, and to accept willingly all of Matlach's suggestions.

As an example of the lack of awareness of total costs, Parsons asked if the crude estimate included any cost in recognition of the approximate two years of design work already expended. The answer was, "no" and they did not think it appropriate to include such costs, as they had already been expended.

Similarly, Parsons asked if the cost included an allowance for the land, and for the annual upkeep and landscape

maintenance. Again, the answer was, "no" as the land was given by the Strehla authorities, and the annual maintenance costs would be routinely supplied by Strehla.

Mr. Surovtsev stated considerable willingness to come to the 69th Division September meeting in Biloxi, and indicated that he would need funds to defray his costs. As politely as we could, we attempted to make clear that without a complete presentation, inclusive of the supporting documents suggested, such a visit and accompanying presentation might well be counter-productive, even if it were feasible for the matter to be a part of the September agenda. As an additional practical matter, none of us were in a position to make any commitments concerning either funds, or willingness of the Association to invite Mr. Surovtsev to Biloxi for his purpose.

Mr. Surovtsev stated that one or more other private organizations might be able to provide funds, including funds for his travel to the United States. He specifically mentioned a Soviet-American Foundation in the United States, and promised to supply the address. In this context, the name of Igor N. Belusovitch was mentioned. Igor is a 69th from Co. E, 273rd Infantry, and coincidentally a member of Major Craig's patrol. He is also a State Department expert on the Soviet Union, had been assigned at one time to Moscow, is extremely knowledgeable in Soviet affairs and contacts, has just retired, and has been consulted on this matter. He did not know of this particular foundation, and is generally pessimistic concerning this source of funds.

If the clarifying and supplemental information is received, it will be promptly forwarded to the appropriate officers of the 69th Infantry Division Association. In reviewing what we had learned, and unless/until more complete information is received, especially on costs and design schematics and/or associated funding/construction specifics, it was concluded to be premature to "push" for a 69th Infantry Division Association funding commitment.

*(NOTE: Bulletin deadlines has not enabled this report to be "cleared" with each of the eight. Exception may be taken to some aspects, and particular wording. The author has attempted to provide an accurate account, to the best of his aging memory.)*

## BATTLE SITES REVISITED REPORT CONTINUED

Time was taken to accommodate Gornbein's request to locate a railroad bridge spanning the Mulde River at Bennewitz. It was there while guarding the damaged bridge one night that Gornbein met a hometown buddy. The bridge, repaired and enlarged, was found and photographed. Matlach also was successful in locating a bridge at Tresben, a few miles upstream that had been used by patrols led by him and others in the 273rd Infantry Regiment. This bridge had been repaired by Holmlin's engineers. Comparing pictures taken on this excursion with photographs which have survived since 1945 will afford many hours of soulful reminiscing.

The group departed from Torgau on April 26, after a farewell get-together with Mayor Gerstenberger, and began the longest leg of the trip — to Aachen. That night was spent in Aachen. Holmlin had never been back to this region since 1945, so a sight-seeing session was planned for him to also include Malmedy and Bastogne.

April 27th's itinerary proceeded to the Siegfried line area - Krinkelt, Miescheid, Giescheid and Ramscheid. The badly battered church at Krinkelt, depicted in the 69th Infantry Division Pictorial History book, was located and visited. The church has been completely rebuilt but can be positively identified by means of a plaque placed there by the 99th Infantry

(Continued on Page 50)

## 1945 BATTLE SIGHTS REVISITED IN 1991

(Continued from Page 49)

Division. Snidow found the exact place in Miescheid where he had been wounded by an artillery shell. This day, indeed, was a memorable one! The night was spent in Remagen.

The next day, April 28th, was spent exploring the Remagen area. The fortification that stands next to where the Ludendorff Bridge had once been, has been converted, ironically, to a peace museum. Fort Ehrenbreitstein, located where the Rhine and Mosel Rivers meet at Koblenz and once again used as a German military installation, was visited later that afternoon. The group returned to Remagen and relaxed on the next-to-last night of their stay in Germany.

Leaving Remagen the next morning, the men drove to Koblenz. Half the group boarded a boat for a six hour Rhine River cruise. The other half remained with the van to visit and photograph medieval castles along the way to Boppard. There they had lunch and shopped for souvenirs. The cruise boat docked in front of the hotel in Assmannshausen, where the last night was to be spent. The group was reunited when the van arrived from Boppard.

Following a hearty breakfast the next morning (April 30th), the journeying 69er's left for Frankfurt and the return flight home.

Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the entire trip. The total cost per person was surprisingly low. With but eight persons in the group, everyone's wishes as to places to visit and sights seen were fulfilled. The English-speaking German driver was

with us throughout the trip, helping us order meals, and staying in the same hotels. He also made all hotel reservations for us, mostly after our arrival in Germany, when he was informed in detail of the places we wished to visit.

Each person was responsible for the performance of a certain task (meal payments, hotel payments, coordinating itinerary, baggage, etc.) and by thus dividing up the work, no one individual was saddled with having to do too much.

If any other 69th'er is interested in touring Germany, as well as bordering countries such as France, Belgium, Holland, and others, in this highly flexible manner, and not necessarily limited to battle sites, the person to contact is:

**Arnd Richter**  
Spitzerfeld 106  
D-6903 Neckargemuend  
Germany  
Telephone, direct dial: 011-49-6223-3032

Mr. Richter met us at the Frankfurt airport with a Mercedes van, very adequate for himself as the driver and eight passengers, and delivered us to the Frankfurt airport for our return flight. Dividing all costs by eight, our individual cost inclusive of the bargain PanAm flight, was slightly under \$1000.

**Bud Parsons**, 919-942-5472, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, made the arrangements with Mr. Richter, and he may be contacted for supplementary information by any other interested 69th'er.



Gornbein, Clark and Haag on the east bank of the Elbe River at Strehla, where Sergeant Kotzebue's patrol crossed on April 25, 1945.

\*\*\*\*\*

# \*\*\*\*\* 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-I-I 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.

## 1991

Members take NOTICE — Our reunion is not until September of this year but our dues year starts August 1, 1991. Pay your dues early. Since I know you are all coming to Biloxi, bring them with you or better still, mail them in with your activities sheet to our Treasurer and they'll be taken care of until August 1, 1992. This way you can forget about them for 12 months. If you are a member who has a business or profession, why not send something extra for our large bulletins and the extra cost of postage we now have to pay. You can deduct it from your income tax or charge it as an expense to your business or profession. We can use the extra needed help financially.

Our Treasurer, Robert Kurtzman, says he has enough financial donations that will pay the cost of our 69th Monument at Camp Shelby with a little extra left over that will be given as a donation to the Museum Fund for future needs.

## **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**

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

**Merle E. Douglas, Co-Assistant Chairman**  
Post Office Box 1465  
Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564-1465  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Guy N. Rogers, Co-Assistant Chairman**  
607 Hampton Circle  
Jackson, Mississippi 39211  
Telephone: 601/956-4026

**Jack Duffy, Monument Advisor Chairman**  
28 Cypress Street  
Rochester, New York 14620-2306  
Telephone: 716/271-4194

*(Continued on Page 52)*

**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS  
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE**  
*(Continued from Page 51)*

**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

\* \* \* \* \*

**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 5, 6, 7, 1991**

**69th CAVALRY RECON TROOPS**

**Change in Location:**

**Holiday Holidome**

Exit 44 on Interstate 75  
Dayton, Ohio

**Committee:**

Lewis "Boyd" and Stella Ellsworth  
Route 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

\* \* \* \* \*

**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: 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**

**777th TANK BATTALION**

Contact: Joseph "Joe" Louden, 419/475-0770 and Frank See, 602/866-6992

\* \* \* \* \*

**SEPTEMBER 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 1991**

**724th FIELD ARTILLERY**

**BATTERY C**

Battery C, 724th Field Artillery Reunion will be held in conjunction with the 69th Infantry Division Reunion, September 15-22, 1991 at Biloxi, Mississippi. Battery C, 724th Dinner will be Friday evening, September 20th.

**For more information contact:**

**Committee:**

Vernon E. Tritch, Jr., Co-Chairman

3259 Foxiana Road

Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Telephone: 717/944-9080

or

John W. Turner, Co-Chairman

P.O. Box 1645

Decatur, Georgia 30031

Telephone: 404/378-3543

\* \* \* \* \*

If your unit gets together with the 69th Infantry Division's Annual Reunion and you want to be 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 in Biloxi.

*(Continued on Page 53)*

**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS  
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE**  
*(Continued from Page 52)*

**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 Mississippi Beach Resort Hotel 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: Days Inn

Location: Altoona, Pennsylvania

Tours: Being planned at present time.

Featuring famous horseshoe curve of Conrail and Amtrak.

Committee:

L. Vaughn and Betty Woomer, *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

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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 54)*

**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS  
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE**  
*(Continued from Page 53)*

**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."

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Davis, West Virginia 26260

Telephone: Call West Virginia information and ask for  
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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:**

*There is nothing so easy but that it becomes  
difficult when you do it with reluctance.*

\*\*\*\*\*



# "Taps"

**CHALMER L. PEARSON**  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
15330 Joseph Road  
Van Dalia, Michigan  
Company I, 272nd Regiment

**Guy E. Bennett**  
410 2nd Avenue S.W.  
Cullman, Alabama  
Service 724th

**Paul Bumpus**  
513 7th Street  
Covington, Indiana  
B-880th and Div. Hq.

**Joseph Getson**  
1423 Boston Avenue  
Joliet, Illinois  
Hq.-880th

**Frank Gudman**  
R.R. #5, Box 600  
Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania  
B-269th

**William H. Jordan**  
Route 1, Box 395  
Leighton, Alabama  
A-273rd

**David Kesterson**  
728 Avon Drive  
Cambridge, Ohio  
569th Signal Co.

**Dennis Michum**  
6338 Bridgewood Drive  
Santa Rosa, California  
Hq. Divarty

**Winfred McKneely**  
P.O. Drawer C  
Griffith, Georgia  
D-273rd

**Harry Ridgeway**  
124 Selma Drive  
Winchester, Virginia

**Samuel E. Sample**  
Route 1, Box 114  
Pickens, Mississippi  
I-273rd

**Raymond Slagle**  
9 Linden Avenue  
Hanover, Pennsylvania  
B-880th

**Leonard F. Smith, Jr.**  
Box 1137  
Paxton, Florida  
A-881st

**Edward Vander Vliet**  
8801 West 147th Street  
Orland Park, Illinois  
Div. Hq.

**Jerry Santilli**  
8150 Aber Road  
Verona, Pennsylvania  
L-272nd

**Floyd McKelvey**  
915 Hattie Drive  
Anderson, Indiana  
Service 880th

**Ralph Riggs**  
2790 Fairfax Drive  
Columbus, Ohio  
69th Recon

**John Van Auken**  
P.O. Box 5021  
Ventura, California  
D-273rd

**Dewey Holcomb**  
Route 3, Box 1000  
Hoquiam, Washington  
D-273rd

**W. C. Albright**  
402 Adams Street Extension  
Enola, Pennsylvania  
Medic 273rd

**Sam Cantor**  
353 Daly Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
B-724th

**Stan Gibolla**  
1332 Price Street  
Chester, Pennsylvania  
I-271st

**James Gormley**  
7159 Marsden Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
F-271st and Div. Hq.

## "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!

**William Harry**  
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*the 69th*

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