

FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★★ Association, Inc.



VOLUME 45, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER — NOVEMBER — DECEMBER
1991

“THE THREE B’s”
BOLTE’S BIVOUACING BASTARDS

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

bulletin

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This is an authentic reproduction of the official U.S. Army Christmas Card of 1944, which was given to the troops in Europe to send home to family and friends.

News From The Editor's Desk



by — Clarence Marshall
Membership Chairman

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

Lester E. Hart, 7916 North Hayes Road, Williamsfield, Ohio 44093 — C-881st: I have just recently found a new 69th man for your "New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin" column. He is **F. Robert Brown**, P.O. Box 288, Avoca, Arkansas 72711. He was in the 879th Field Artillery, Battery A. In the service he went by **Frank R. Brown**. He would like a copy of the last bulletin (if possible). Said he would make a great effort to attend the Biloxi, Mississippi reunion. He said he went over to Europe on the "Normandy." He was a replacement at Shelby in 1943. He first joined the Air Force at the age of 18 but was washed out (didn't make the grade). Then he was sent from Keesler Field, Biloxi to Camp Shelby. His wife used to live near here but moved away after high school and they came out here last week for a visit. He is 67 years old so he is in our age bracket. Maybe someone in the 879th will remember him.

Thanks for all of the good work.

William R. Boone, P.O. Box 190053, Mobile, Alabama 36619-0053 — G-273rd: I read an article in the Mobile Press newspaper giving the dates of the 44th Annual Reunion of The Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association. I was a member of Company G, 273rd Infantry Regiment during World War II. Please mail me all the information I will need if I decide to attend.

Bruce Berninger, 401 West Madison Avenue, Apt. #6, Dumont, NJ 07628: My father, **Henry C. Berninger**, Serial Number 32900352, served with the 69th Infantry Division during World War II. He served from May 7, 1943 until January 21, 1946. He is now deceased and has been since 1982.

Since his death I have been trying to find out more about the 69th's role during World War II. My father rarely spoke about his own participation other than the fact that he was a cannoneer on a 105mm Howitzer during the war. All the information I have been able to obtain so far is his discharge papers and his Separation Qualification Record from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

I have many unanswered questions and would like any information you can give me about purchasing or obtaining books or other material concerning the 69th during World War II. One of my many unanswered questions is that on my father's discharge papers from Fort Dix, New Jersey on January 21, 1946, it states that he was with the 271st Infantry

Division and every picture I have of him shows him with the "69" shoulder patch. Of the 50 or so World War II books I have, I have only been able to find out the Commanding Major General's name is **E. F. Reinhardt** and that the 69th linked up with Russian troops at Torgau, Germany on April 25, 1945 on the banks of the Elbe River.

Again, any information concerning the 69th during World War II or even a reunion which I could attend would be greatly appreciated.

Joseph H. Green, Jr., 4 Green Street, Georgetown, Delaware 19947 — Hq.-271st: I saw a reference to a 69th Division reunion in the August 1991 issue of the American Legion.

I was in the Headquarters Company of the 271st Regiment, 69th Division and was in an anti-tank gun squad during World War II. I have forgotten all names except for **Thom McCann**, my ammunition man with my bazooka. He and I were outpost men after crossing a river on pontoons allowing our division to form behind us before pressing on towards the Russian link-up. I would like to hear from you or anyone else from the 69th Division.

Lawrence Morone, 27 Finchley Court, Southampton, New Jersey 08088-1006 — Hq.-69th Medic: I am sending you a photo of Company C of the 69th Medical Battalion. I am in the first row, the eighth man from the left - the short fat one. I didn't belong to the group. I belonged to the 69th Medical Battalion Headquarters but the day the picture was taken for the Headquarters group I was away to bakers school and when I got back to camp, I was put in with Company C. We ate with Company C and I knew all the guys. I am sending you a check to cover the cost of returning the photo to me. Thank you for your troubles.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Lawrence's picture appears elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin.)

Alan H. Murphey, 1339 Hemlock Drive, Fairborn, Ohio 45324 — Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd: Thank you for your letter of the 10th. I was pleased that you have added **Jack Weingast**, Company K, 273rd, to the roster again. As you say, if his memory loss precludes interest in Association mail, his wife can advise.

I have written the addresses I found for **Al Wilson** and **Herb Altman**. I will let you know if they are the individuals who served with K-273rd. In the same vein, do you have **Emile Rellstab** on your roster? He was also mentioned in **J. T. Snodgrass'** letter on Page 69 of the January-April '91 Bulletin. I found an **Emile H. Rellstab** listed in the Suffolk County, New York phone directory living in Amagansett, New York. Let me know if he is a member. If not, I will write to see if the Amagansett Rellstab is the right man.

I am enclosing two lists. One is of K-273rd people who belong to the Association based on their names appearing in "New Men Relocated" columns or letters in Bulletins published since 1987. The other is a list of former K-273rd members I extracted from the Association's 1949 membership directory. **Clarence**, could you line out any names on these two lists which are not on your roster and return them to me? Also, if it is not too much trouble, would you add any names you have which do not appear on either of my lists? That way, I can make a directory search for individuals for whom I have clues as to previous residence but not currently Association members.

I was glad to hear that you have been picking up new members through reunion announcements in the press. We definitely need them to replace those we are losing! Hopefully, I will be able to add a few more from 3rd Battalion, 273rd.

Thank you so much for all your assistance and for your prompt replies.

(Continued on Page 3)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 2)

Richard J. Hopkins, Jr., 1511 Waterwheel Drive, Apt. #7, Sacramento, California 95833 — F-273rd: Last year's Reunion First-Timer just had to send this letter to you! Ever since the first of this year, I had been looking forward to the receipt of each bulletin and, particularly, the information concerning this year's Biloxi Reunion.

I must thank the Division Association for the many times my letters to the Association have appeared in the bulletin publications. I am flattered.

I had anticipated the visit to Camp Shelby this year when the Memorial is to be dedicated. My thoughts and feelings will always exist for those of our Buddies who gave their lives during our combat times in 1945. May God always be with them.

Back in March, it suddenly dawned on me that in June, 1941, I had graduated from high school in Chicago. I wondered if a fifty year reunion would be held. I wrote to the principal and I received information about a reunion from the Alumni Association in addition to forms from the head of the reunion committee concerning the date and place it is to be held. Naturally, I was very pleased to get the information. I should have known that my Lane Tech High School would be holding the function. It has always been very professional. In my time, it was a boys only public school with 8,000 attending classes. There were a total of 960 in our graduating class. I should say no more in admiration.

However, an irony showed on their application form. It is being held on September 20th, 21st and 22nd, the last three days of our Division Reunion. At first my reaction was to attend both functions, first in Biloxi and then Chicago. Since then, however, common sense has prevailed. This 68 year old can only do so much these days as, for example, compared to five or ten years ago. I believe you can guess at this point that the Chicago function will be taking precedence over the trip to Biloxi. Even though air transportation makes travel very easy, the distances that my wife and I would have to travel to attend both functions would, in the final analysis, be exhausting.

Because of the attention that our Division Association has given to my past communications and the very delightful time that I had last year at King of Prussia, I had to send this letter explaining the reason for not attending this year's Reunion. I've already sent letters to my Company and Platoon Buddies stating that I would not be in Biloxi, but, as a consequence, I would miss seeing those who might appear at the 44th Annual Reunion.

I think that I need to say no more. Keep up your good, but hard work. I wish you all continued success and I hope everyone had a great time at the 44th Annual Reunion.

Melvin E. Wardin, 866 North Hemlock, Box 315, Hemlock, Michigan 48626 — F-272nd: I am writing to notify you of the death of **Henry Granecki**, 240 21st Street, No. 1011, Toledo, Ohio 43624. He was a Section Leader in the Weapons Platoon of Company F, 272nd Infantry. His son called to notify me this summer and said he would try and notify the 69th. However, I have not seen the notice in the bulletin, so possibly he did not contact you.

You are doing a swell job and all of us really appreciate your work. See you in Mississippi!

Galen W. Carney, Route 1, Box 166, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15906 — Hq.-271st: On April 19th, 1991 my wife and I were on a bus tour to Baltimore Inner Harbor. While there, I remembered that **Herb Garber**, my old platoon sergeant in the I&R platoon of Regiment Headquarters Company, 271st

Infantry, lived there, so I called him. Would you believe after 47 years, I recognized that voice as soon as he answered the phone. We must have chewed the fat for at least 20 minutes. I had known that he was severely wounded. He told me his memory isn't what it was, but he remembered me real well. I'll tell the world, that call really made my day because he and I were good friends. I invited him to come to Johnstown, but he hasn't come yet. I'm still waiting. Perhaps I will get to see him someday. Also, I would like to see **Bill Duncan**, **General Gibson**, **Ed Lansford** and all the rest of the original I&R Platoon.

Samuel E. Popkins, 6507 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22310 — A-271st: Hello again. We all send our best wishes to you from down here in Virginia. Thank you for alerting **Jack Jones** about **Colonel Austin's** sudden death. **Jack Jones**, **Jack Wrigley** and I just happened to be meeting in Fredericksburg the day after **Jack** received the notice you sent. It certainly hit us hard - we all thought quite a bit of our former company commander and true friend down through the years, and then again isn't that what the association is all about!

Would you please add **Rick W. Kurtz**, **Colonel Austin's** next of kin, to the membership. I am also sending a payment for him to become an associate member, associate, honorary or however you see fit. **Rick** is in the service and he wants to continue in the history of the association, as he and **Colonel Austin** were very close. As we understand it, **Rick** is the only living family member that has expressed this desire. His address is: **Rick W. Kurtz**, 5947 A. Harrell Street, Ft. Polk, Louisiana 71459. Please add him to the mailing list and send him a membership card.

Thank you again for all you do for us.

Ralph L. Baucum, Lt. Col. (Ret.), 5135 Sycamore Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39212 — F-273rd: I read in the August, 1991 issue of *The American Legion Magazine* that there would be a reunion of the 69th Infantry Division sometime in September in Biloxi, Mississippi. Since I was Company Commander of Company F, 273rd Regiment, I would appreciate your sending me more details on this reunion. Thanks in advance for sending me this information.

Carl Q. Christol, 1041 Anoka Place, Pacific Palisades, California 90272 — G-3 Section, 272nd: I thought you and our members might be interested in my new book. It is entitled *Space Law: Past, Present, and Future*. In it I deal with the international and domestic laws and policies applicable to the exploration, exploitation, and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies and the natural resources located in these areas. If any of our members have an interest in this subject they can write to the publisher. It is Kluwer Law and Taxation Publishers, 6 Bigelow Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. This is the third book that I have written in this field with the others having appeared in 1966 and in 1982. According to the publisher the 1991 book "is an authoritative assessment and interpretation of space law's dynamic principles and rules." Good wishes to all.

Marvin A. Riggs, 5440 Raymond Road, Jackson, Mississippi 39212 — 271st: I will appreciate it if you will send me some information regarding the 69th Infantry Division Association. I heard where they will be having a reunion in Biloxi in September of 1991.

I was with the 271st Regiment from the day it was activated at Camp Shelby to the day it was deactivated at Camp Kilmer in September of 1945. Anything about the 271st that you can tell me or any guidance that you can give me in obtaining this information will be most welcomed.

(Continued on Page 4)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 3)

Joseph Lipsius, 1354 Bramble Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30329 — Hq.-272nd: I read with deep sorrow of the death of **Alfred L. Musson** of the 271st Infantry Regiment in the "Taps" of the January-April 1991 Bulletin. **Musson, Fred W. Craig** and I were the Regimental S-3s of the 271st, 272nd and 273rd Infantry Regiments during most of the 18 months or so the 69th Division underwent training at Camp Shelby. **Fred Craig** of the 273rd died several years ago. I had the privilege of frequent contact with **Musson** and **Craig** and found them to be outstanding military men as well as individuals.

Shortly before the 69th departed for Kilmer I was displaced as the 272nd's S-3 due to a technicality of rank. At the Siegfried Line I was assigned as the Regiment's S-2 and became the S-3 again at the beginning of redeployment. I believe **Musson** and **Craig** were their Regiments S-3s from basic training until the end of hostilities.

The S-3 was the Regimental Commander's Training and Operations staff officer. He was responsible for training schedules in garrison and operations in the field. Unfortunately, the comradeship that existed in companies, platoons and squads did not take place in this job. The close work with the Regimental Commander isolated the S-3 somewhat and removed him from group relations.

It is possible that most members of the 271st Infantry Regiment did not know or ever hear of **Alfred L. Musson**. It is for this reason I am writing to pay tribute to a fine individual and military person and to call to their attention the loss of one of the outstanding members of that regiment, and one who played a major role in the regiment's every moment and movement.

Charles Yannul, 927 West Browning Road, Bellmawr, New Jersey 08031 — C-661st T.D.: I happily wrote you about finding one of our members about a year and a half ago, living in the next block from me, who was not only a 69er but originally was cadre for the Tank Destroyers before being transferred to the 69th later. In June I went to the reunion of the 661st Tank Destroyers and upon returning found that my friend, **Tom Watkins**, had passed away. Knowing how difficult it can be for the word to reach you, I figured I would notify you just in case no one else has. **Tom** lived at 1047 West Browning Road.

I might add that as a result of having seen my 69th and Tank Destroyer window sticker on my car that **Tom** got to one reunion (Valley Forge) of which he seemed very happy to have attended. Hoping this finds you in improving health.

Joseph N. Kurt, 8266 Wieferich Road, Farley, Iowa 52046 — E-271st: The August issue of the Legion Magazine printed the notice of the 69th Infantry Division Reunion. As a member of the 69th Division, Company E, 271st Regiment, I would like any information on the association that you may have and upcoming reunions.

Edward A. Schalk, 609 West Water Street, Box 446, Teutopolis, Illinois 62467 — K-272nd: Since I was unable to be at the dedication of our 69th Division Memorial Monument at Camp Shelby with you all, I hope that the information sheet and map of Camp Shelby that were given to us in 1943 that I am enclosing will be of some help.

After my mother passed away a few years ago, my wife and I cleaned her house and brought everything down here to our home. Then with my getting busy in the 40/8 and traveling around the country, we didn't have too much time until this past year to look into some of the boxes we got. In one

of the boxes my mother had all my effects from Fort Benning and Camp Shelby. Then, lo and behold! I found my emergency addressee and property card! So, now that I have found that, I can verify that I was actually in Company K of the 272nd Regiment.

Maybe there will be someone at the dedication from Company K who might remember a fresh from OCS "shavetail." If so, ask them to drop me a line and I will return the favor and possibly meet sometime in my coming travels.

While you are all down there at Camp Shelby on September 20th, I will be in the air from St. Louis to San Diego. My thoughts will be with everyone there, and my wishes for a very fine turnout and also good weather for the ceremony. This trip for me should set me up for the actual year that I could become the Chef de Chemin de Fer (National Commander) of the 40 et 8. So, after that year passes by, there will be a possibility of my wife and I being able to find time to attend a reunion of the 69th!!! We sure hope so.

Good luck to all, and I will send my dues to **Robert Kurtzman, Sr.** upon my return home from San Diego at the end of September. So, until then, I'll sign off for now.

William T. Hambrick, 26 White Oak Circle, Seaucy, Arkansas 72143 — C-272nd: I would like to know more about the 69th Division Association and the reunions that are held. I would also like to have the names and addresses of any men in my company that are available. Any information that you can give me would be appreciated. Thank you.

Harold L. Capps, #2 Meadowlark Lane, Hendersonville, North Carolina 28792 — B-272nd: My 1991-1992 dues are enclosed. I wish I could make some contribution to postage or membership but I've had unexpected expenses from a fractured clavicle and then I developed bronchial asthma which I am still fighting.

But anyway you have my dues before the reunion which I hope will help to give a good report to the membership. I won't be there but I wish to all who attend a very safe and enjoyable reunion.

It would appear that our history publishers are still speaking with forked tongues — it's the end of August and still no book. They've had my money for over 2 years. If I had known it would take this long, I would never have ordered, and even at that they charged me \$5.00 more than the pre-published price. Can't win for losing.

Chuck Henderson, R.R. #3, Box 118, Franklin, Indiana 46131 — 2nd Bn., Medic, 271st: I am sending you an update of our Medic Roster of the 271st Infantry Regiment. I think there are three new fellows we have located. Thanks in advance for sending them the latest bulletin.

Lloyd R. Roth, 108 Muskingum Drive, Marietta, Ohio 45750 — 269th Eng.: Enclosed is my check for dues and mailings. I didn't get to Biloxi to the reunion but did get to Shelby for the monument dedication. A great day, a beautiful monument, a fine job by the person or persons that did the design and a well managed ceremony. You and many others are to be commended.

Wonder how many of the guys made the little subtle connection to the Division nickname and **David Bolte's** statement "I'm a legitimate son of **General Bolte**." That was clever.

I suppose you have most if not all records on computer. How much trouble would it be to give me a printout of Ohio members and their current addresses? I'm playing with the idea of getting some of them down here to Marietta for a little get together. Again, thanks for the great job that you do.

(Continued on Page 5)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 4)

Eugene W. Shollenberger, 811 Chestnut Street, Emmaus, Pennsylvania 18049 — C-881st: I just want to tell you how much we enjoyed the last reunion in Mississippi. I think you all did a wonderful job. I and my guest had a wonderful time and the trip was well worth it. I drove 2,540 miles down and back. Now I have a question. My daughter did not take the album thinking you would not have enough. If you ever put them up for sale, I would like to buy two of them. I and the rest of our guests took over 200 pictures. I am thanking you for a job well done.

John E. Goode, 300 East Hopocan Avenue, Barberton, Ohio 44203 — 272nd: I was a member of the 272nd Regimental Headquarters of the 69th Division. In the time since I was separated from the service I have lost all records and everything. I joined the 69th from a replacement depot in Belgium the last part of 1944. Please send me all information about past and present goings on in the Division and about reunions, clubs, etc. and the costs to join. Thanks.

**Does Anyone Remember
John Earl Long,
B Battery, 724th F.A.?**

Janet E. Wells
1924 Seddon Road, Richmond, Virginia 23227

I am sending along this picture of my husband, John Earl Long who took his basic training in Hattiesburg, Mississippi at Camp Shelby and served overseas with the 724th Field Artillery Battalion and 227th Field Artillery Battalion. He made it safely through World War II but died with cancer in 1971. If anyone remembers him, please write to me at the above address.



*John Earl Long, husband of Janet Elizabeth Long
Taken in Durrenberg, Germany*

MOVING

Please print your new address below:

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**Authentic Army S.O.S.
Recipe furnished by
John "Bull" O'Connor**
Headquarters Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion

"Bull" still loves it, and has had it served at VFW and Legion dinners. He promises to serve it at the next reunion of his beloved Battery.

For that special occasion

Old Sarge's SOS

Here is the recipe for that favorite meal of all veterans ... Creamed Beef on Toast ... as given in the Army's Official Cookbook dated November 1950, No. K-75: *Creamed Meat* (beef, lamb, veal or ham). Yield: 100 six-ounce servings. *(Editor's note: For that truly authentic flavor, sprinkle with dirt and serve cold.)*

<u>Ingredients</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Meat carcass, (or)	25 pounds
Meat, ground	17 pounds
Onions chopped (optional), (or)	1 pound (1 quart)
Onions, dehydrated	1½ ounces
Bacon or meat fat	1 pound (1 pint)
Flour, sifted	1½ pounds
Milk, evaporated	16 14½ ounce cans
Beef stock or water (for milk)	2 gallons
Salt	To taste
Pepper	¼ ounce
Bread, toasted	100 slices

1. Cut meat into 1-inch pieces; grind
2. Cook meat in its own fat until brown, stirring frequently.
3. Cook onions in bacon fat; add flour and mix thoroughly.
4. Mix milk in beef stock or water; heat.
5. Add hot milk to fat and flour mixture gradually. Heat to boiling point; boil 1 minute, stirring constantly. Add salt and pepper.
6. Pour sauce over meat; simmer until meat is well done but not overcooked.
7. Serve on toast.

No, Andy Rooney was not a Member of the 69th but he was at the Elbe!

Apparently in the recent past, Andy Rooney of the show "60 Minutes," made mention of "being" with the 69th at the Elbe. Quite a few of you wrote letters to us, assuming that he was a member of the 69th, asking us to write to Mr. Rooney and see if he was planning on attending a reunion, what regiment he was with, etc. Eugene Butterfield wrote to Andy Rooney and received a response. Following is Eugene's letter.

Eugene Butterfield

22449 Lake Road, Suite 210, Rocky River, Ohio 44116

I received a telephone call this afternoon from a woman who said that she works with Andy Rooney and was calling on his behalf. They had received my letter and it was her duty to clear up any misunderstanding that had occurred by his comments in the Sunday night broadcast, when he said that his first look at a Russian soldier occurred on the Elbe River at Torgau when he was with the 69th Infantry Division. She wished to clear up the incorrect impression.

Andy Rooney was never in the 69th Division. He was, however, a reporter for the "Stars and Stripes" based primarily in London, but he got to Paris for a while and then got up to the Elbe with the 69th after we had met the Russians.

They have received a number of letters from 69ers and she is asking me to get out to all of my friends the information that Andy was not really one of us and will not be attending any of our reunions, but they appreciate hearing from all of those who wrote and thank all of them for watching the show.

Robert J. Younglas writes on the story we ran on The Battle of Eilenburg

Robert J. Younglas
3529 Three Mile Road
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

Dear Clarence,

I missed you at the reunion in Biloxi. As usual, we had a great time. B Company had nineteen men present; with the better halves and guests we had thirty-seven.

I have meant to write in reference to the Bulletin Volume 44, Number 1. The story about the battle of Eilenburg is not correct. The city was taken by the first battalion, 271st. The Battalion was attached to the Fifth Corps for the attack. On 21 April commenced with B Company in the front and C Company on the left with A Company on the right. B Company got to about two hundred yards from the edge of the city at dark and held at that point until the following morning. When the attack continued. B Company jumped off at about 1100 hours and entered the city down the main street from the west to east with the first platoon leading, the second platoon in the center and the third platoon on the right.

The company moved to the canal across the middle of the city where we had to stop as the canal was walled with stone and only one bridge in our area to cross. This bridge was getting direct fire from snipers and artillery. The company

had lost about twelve men by this time and we had no contact from either A or C Companies on our flanks. I don't think the Germans even knew how far we were into the city as I shot two across the main street while we were waiting to cross the canal and both were looking up the street to the west where we had come from. At about 1300 I was contacted by the Company Commander who told me that they were going to send artillery across the canal. He ordered me to find a spot where I could see across the canal to spot the first couple of rounds to zero in on. I found a building where I could look down into the eastern side of the canal and sensed the first two rounds and Captain Jones informed me that they were going to fire for effect. I realized that I was in a bad location in case of a few short rounds and moved back to the main street with the rest of the first platoon.

The barrage lasted for about one and a half or two hours and when it lifted, we were able to cross the canal and move down to the banks of the Mulde River with very little fighting.

I have talked to men from A Company and then Colonel (then) Captain Austin, the Company Commander, and learned that A Company had held up on the south flank because of swampy ground and heavy artillery fire and did not move into Eilenburg until after the shelling. I have not had much luck in finding many men from C Company that remember the battle of Eilenburg.

The first battalion remained in the city for three or four days and then moved south to Sermuth where we were when the war ended.

I have checked the history book for the 272nd and it states that they were east of Leipzig during the battle of Eilenburg. In fact, the book stated that it was the best period they had since the start of combat.

I just thought that the record should be set straight and maybe this letter will draw some more information from members to fill in the blanks.

I should mention that I was the Platoon Sergeant of the First Platoon, B Company, 271st, but I have talked to the platoon leaders of the second and third platoons and we agree to facts mentioned above.

Communique from Howitzer Al Kormas, Your Division Souvenir Supply Sergeant

The time has come for me to resign from the above position for personal reasons. For five years, I have procured the Division caps, jackets, and shirts from manufacturers at the wholesale level and likewise in screen printing them. I personally designed them, and thank many of you for your compliments. I took on this job when asked to do so, and after five years, and many thousands of dollars in sales, it is time to let someone else become Supply Sergeant. Of the hundreds of mail orders, only one came back - wrong size. Now I can really enjoy the coming reunions to the fullest with many, many of my buddies.

Your buddy,
Howitzer Al Kormas

President's Briefing



Welkos O. "Dutch" Hawn, *President*
2445 South Cody Court
Lakewood, Colorado 80227
Telephone: 303/986-7604

This is the first of my six briefings scheduled for the August 1991 through August 1993 period. Hopefully, by the sixth bulletin, I'll become more proficient and get it right.

I approach the next two years with much apprehension. I find it a bit difficult to hope that I prove worthy of the trust and confidence the membership has expressed by electing me to this office. I also am deeply aware of the responsibility and the personal honor that go with the task. I expect to prove worthy of your trust and provide the leadership necessary to complete a successful tour of duty.

I, like all you other members of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association, love this association and the fellowship which it provides. This feeling should inspire all of us to do our utmost to see that we move ahead in a continuing effort to be the best we can be. In that spirit, I would propose that all of us give thought to ways to accomplish that mission. We are too far along on life's journey to have time for petty bickering. Let's enjoy and then enjoy again from here until our last reunion — whenever that may be.

In the very near future, the work of other officers and members will have reached conclusions on the problems involved with publication of the unit history book, with our actions regarding the proposed "Link-Up Memorial Park" at Strehla, Germany, and the Ross scholarship proposals.

Therefore, our next three reunions would appear to be the most important immediate orders of business and they seem to be well underway. These issues will command my first interest following the appointment of necessary committees.

Time is extremely short between the deadline for the bulletin and our return from Biloxi so I will leave these appointments for the next bulletin.

As a closing thought, and perhaps it should have been an opening remark, I can only comment on a very, very successful reunion in Biloxi. Even the weather cooperated and the memorial service and dedication have to be one of our all time highlights. My sincere thanks go out to **Bob** and **Vivian Kurtzman** and to their committee for an outstanding reunion.

Also, kudos to **Jack** and **Mary Duffy** for their significant contribution working on the monument. I have no qualms about the 1992 Rochester, New York reunion in their capable hands.

From information provided by co-chairpersons **Bob** and **Theresa Pierce**, **Earl Witzleb** and **Bob Kurtzman**, I know that San Francisco is virtually set. Only a bit of fine tuning remains to be done and we will enjoy one of our best ever. Make your plans now to attend. The San Francisco Bay area is one of the nation's greatest — Don't miss it. The entire San Francisco committee is fired up to provide a great 45th reunion.

In closing, my home address and telephone number are under my photo and I solicit your thoughts to make the association even more meaningful.

ATTENTION: 69th DIVISION ASSOCIATION NOMINATING COMMITTEES OF 1990-1991 DIRECTORS

It's hard to believe just how difficult it has been to acquire even Candidates names, let alone confirmed nominees for Directors of the Association. The primary obstacle appears to be traveling to Reunions either to accept the nomination or to attend future Board of Directors Meetings. Even though Directors are not necessarily required to attend every Reunion, the cost or inconvenience of travel is the culprit.

I am pleased to announce we now have a nominee for a first-time Director for the 369th Medics. I received two (2) volunteers from the 369th Medical Battalion: **Marvin Slichter** and **Milton Goodwin**. I selected **Marvin** for the nomination on a first-come basis. I have talked to him and he has accepted the nomination and is going to attend the Biloxi Reunion. **Milton**, hang in there, your name will be submitted to the next Nominating Committee Chairman as a candidate for a Director nomination in 1992.

The 461st AAA was more difficult, but still resulted in the successful nomination of **Alden Angline** as their first-time Director. A dozen letters were sent out without response. The puzzling thing was that members of the 461st attend the reunions, send many interesting letters and articles into the Bulletin, and have their own Group Reunions, but were reluctant to become an Association Officer. My impression is that they never really felt like they belonged to the 69th Division because they were only attached for a three (3) month period.

The breakthrough came when the 69th Division Association placed the 461st Anti-Aircraft Battalion on the 69th Division Monument, they know now that they are one of us and are very proud of the distinction.

After calls to several members, the consensus was "call D Battery, they are the most active group." Contact with "D" Battery narrowed the field to **Alden Angline** who wrote in the Bulletin, Volume 44, No. 2: "Even though I have no official capacity to represent the 461st AAA, I don't know of anyone else who does either." **Alden** was elected this September in Biloxi, and is in fact the official spokesman for the 461st AAA.

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

1991 Biloxi Reunion

Victor Ostrow, News Reporter
1612 Lemontree Lane
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904
Telephone: 301/384-4654



Victor and Olga Ostrow standing by the Cannon at Camp Shelby.

Earl, you have served your organization well and now we have a very capable man in Dutch Hawn. I feel confident that Dutch will do an equally fine job. In spite of some complaints about the evening tour of New Orleans, the overall reunion was a complete success.

Tuesday we toured the Gulf Coast and its beautiful shoreline, and also had lunch at Mary Mahoneys. We were able to visit Sea World and watch the acrobatics of the dolphins and seals.

Wednesday, a tour of New Orleans night life proved to be very exciting. The city is wide open, people milling around gawking at the show girls and listening to Dixieland Music. Unfortunately, it rained and the women were complaining about their hairdos and walking in the rain. There was a long waiting period for the buses after having dinner and a short visit to the night club. Luckily, we spotted the river boat Natchez and took a two hour boat ride on the Mississippi River and were entertained with jazz, the music of New Orleans.

Thursday was a day on your own, and since we had a car, we made the trip to Camp Shelby and got a preview of the monument. It was a time to take pictures of the memorial and tour the camp. The evening buffet dinner was excellent.

Friday we left the hotel with a contingent of 15 or 16 buses and police escort to the long awaited memorial dedication. We assembled for lunch at the officer's quarters and proceeded to the auditorium. On the podium, David Bolte, General Rogers and officers at Camp Shelby extolled the 69th Division for its part in World War II. Call for the Colors and Pledge of Allegiance to the flag - the impressive ceremony of the Color Guard. Upon conclusion of the ceremony, many of the 69ers and their wives marched behind the Color Guard to the ceremonial grounds. Unveiling of the Monument, with General Rogers and David Bolte as speakers made this a memorable occasion. Flash bulbs were popping, television crews taking pictures and interviewing men of the 69th. Upon conclusion, we visited the War Museum and were amazed at the vast array of weapons and uniforms of the second world war era. Outdoors there were displays of tanks, anti-tanks, jeeps, weapons carriers, ambulances, etc., of the period in which we fought.



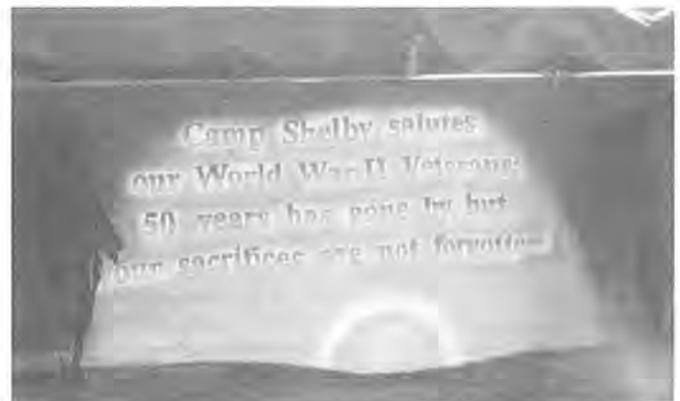
Honor Guard at Camp Shelby

Friday evening we had PX night which was a fun event, dancing, music and camaraderie. Incidentally, our hospitality room on the second floor of the hotel was well stocked with a popcorn machine, and all the hard drinks you were able to consume, which was ably run by Frank and Arlene Carey.

Saturday we held the general meeting and election of officers. Discussion of our history books by a Mr. Turner and his publishing company who showed us a blue line of the forthcoming book. It looked very impressive, and he promised they would be in the mail by the end of October. Proposed sites for the future reunions - San Francisco in 1992, Rochester, New York in 1993 and Nashville, Tennessee in 1994. A round of applause for the excellent job on the memorial was given to Jack Duffy and his group for their work. He thanked the membership for their support.

The highlight of the evening - a banquet dinner with a 16 piece band playing in the Glenn Miller tradition. The banquet hall was filled to capacity. There were speakers and plaques awarded by Earl Witzleb to those who helped him during his tenure. Earl gave a brief message thanking the organization and handing over his Bolo Tie to Dutch Hawn, our new president. In turn he hoped that he would be able to serve our comrades with the same vigor and determination for a successful two-year period.

Sunday! Breakfast buffet and our sad farewells.

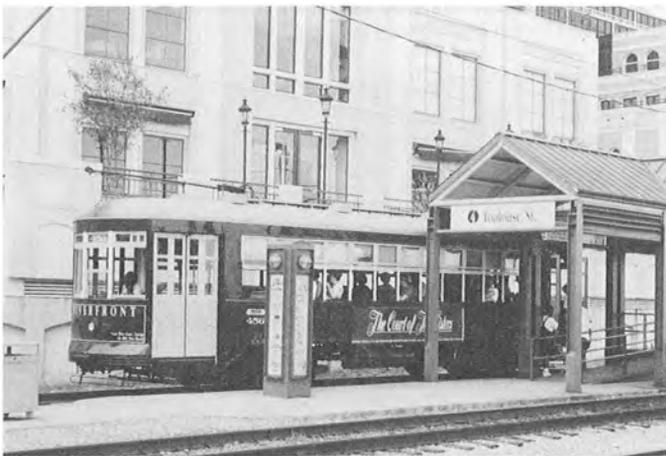




Jack Duffy, right, receiving an Appreciation Award for his dedicated effort in coordinating all of the details of our monument. Left is Bob Myers.



Incoming President, Dutch Hawn, left and outgoing President Earl Witzleb.



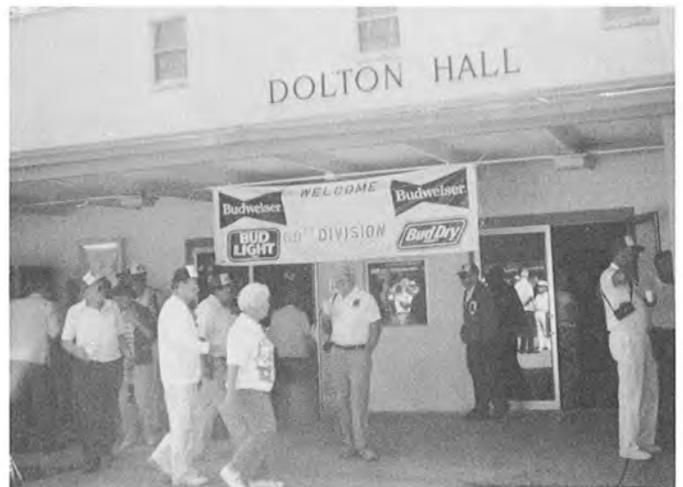
Trolley Car at New Orleans.



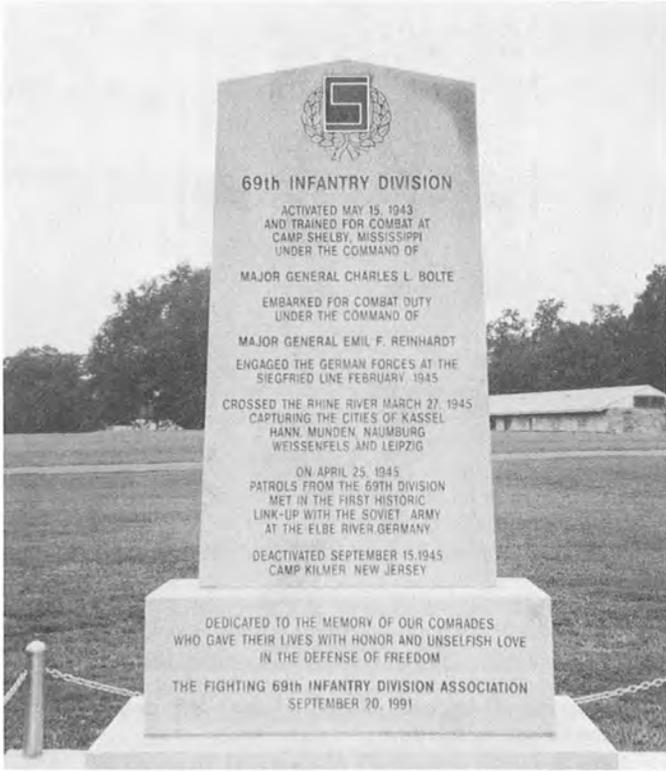
Grant Oak Tree, Biloxi, Mississippi.



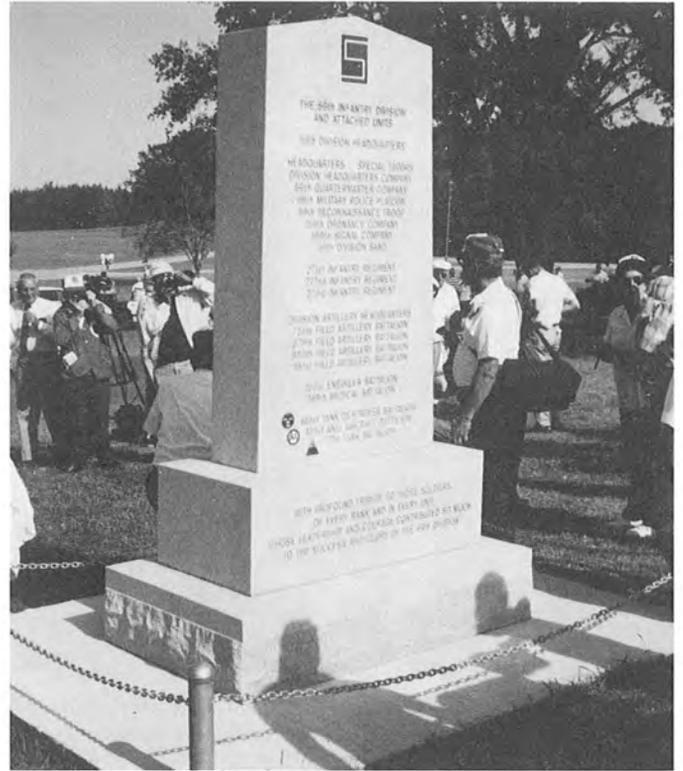
Natchez Station, New Orleans



Dolton Hall, Camp Shelby



Front view of the 69th Monument



Back view of the 69th Monument





Inside Officers Club at Camp Shelby



Tank at Camp Shelby



Chet and Barb Yastrzemski, Fran Tomczek and John and Mary Hoke behind the 69th wreath at our Monument.



Past Presidents - John Moriarty, Bob Myers, George Phillips and Walt Doernbach.



Past President Bill Matlach and Soldiers at Camp Shelby.



Pool at the Mississippi Beach Resort Hotel.

We want to thank Victor Ostrow, Chester Yastrzemski and any others who provided us with photos. All photos were not identified as to who sent them. If we have omitted your name, we are sorry.

WWII vets consecrate monument

HATTIESBURG AMERICAN
Saturday, September 21, 1991

By Janet Braswell
American Senior Writer

Approximately 650 69th Infantry Division veterans and their family members returned to Camp Shelby Friday to dedicate a monument to the 383 division soldiers killed in World War II.

"This is really super," Len Stahl of Somerset, Pennsylvania said. "I will have memories of this for the rest of my life. This is a day to remember. I sure am glad I was able to be here."

A squad sergeant during the 69th's fight across Europe, Stahl lost a gunner during fighting near Leipzig, Germany. He said the memory of that soldier brought him to Camp Shelby Friday.

He said he came "because of our dedicating this monument, because of our comrades who never came back."

The old soldiers, most accompanied by their wives, spent several hours touring Camp Shelby by bus and visiting the Armed Forces Museum before gathering at the Post Theater for the two-part ceremony.

They listened intently — some tearfully — as Colonel Ken Smith, speaking as the Spirit of Camp Shelby, narrated a history of the division after it was activated at Camp Shelby on May 15, 1943.

"After 70 years and five wars, I'm still proud of my boys," the Spirit of Camp Shelby said. "They were made of the right stuff. When you boys of the 69th were here, this was a busy place.

"I lost some of my boys in the 69th — 341 killed, 1,146 wounded and 42 died of wounds. You boys of the 69th were and still are important to me. So many of my boys in the 69th made the ultimate sacrifice."

The soldiers were welcomed to Camp Shelby by Colonel Leland Redmond, post commander, and to Hattiesburg by Mayor Ed Morgan.

A color guard from the Region III Non-commissioned Officers School at Camp Shelby marched the colors from the theater to the monument on Memorial Drive, a distance of about a half mile. Almost half of the veterans followed on foot. Others came by bus.

The monument was unveiled by retired Army Colonel David Bolte, son of Major General Charles L. Bolte, the 69th's first commander.



AMERICAN photo By Steve Coleman
RETIRED ARMY Colonel R.C. Trimble of Hattiesburg waits to place a wreath at the 69th Infantry Division's memorial marker at Camp Shelby. The monument was dedicated Friday.

"It is with a great deal of pride and humility that I participate in this ceremony," Bolte said.

A wreath was placed at the monument by retired Colonel R.C. Trimble of Hattiesburg. A 21-gun salute was followed by Taps.

The 69th, known as "Bolte's Bivouac-ing Bastards," left Camp Shelby in November 1944 for Europe. The division engaged German forces at the Seigfried Line in February 1945 and crossed the Rhine River in March. Patrols from the 69th were the first to meet the Russians at the Elbe River in April 1945.

The division was deactivated in September of 1945 at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

69th Infantry Division honors dead comrades



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dedication: Members of the 69th Infantry Division salute the unveiling of a monument dedicated to the men of the 69th who were killed in World War II. About 700 people came to Camp Shelby on Friday to remember the unit's activation on May 15, 1943.

THE SUN HERALD Saturday, September 21, 1991

By C. R. HARPER

Slower and grayer now, soldiers from the Fighting 69th Infantry Division marched back to Camp Shelby on Friday.

They returned to dedicate a monument to some of the men who trained with them at the camp 48 years ago but who never made it to any of the reunions.

"Dedicated to the memory of our comrades who gave their lives with honor and unselfish love in the defense of freedom," reads the inscription on the base of the new granite monument.

As young men, the soldiers of the 69th crossed the Rhine River and helped capture the German cities of Kassel, Hann, Munden, Naumburg, Weissenfels and Leipzig.

They also were the first Americans to link up with Soviet troops at the Elbe River in Germany on April 25, 1945.

"The war ended on May 8, so it didn't take long after that," said Robert Kurtzman.

Kurtzman is the chairman of the division's 44th annual reunion this year, which culminated with the monument dedication Friday. About 700 members - 15 busloads - of the division returned for this year's week-long reunion in Biloxi, he said. A golf tournament, tours of the Coast and New Orleans and a dinner dance were some of the other reunion events.

The first few reunions were much smaller and mostly centered in the Northeast. But each year they grew and began to spread to other parts of the country. Next year's is in San Francisco.

Said Kurtzman, "If they come to one and they meet a buddy there that they knew, they'll come back."

*Dedicated to the
memory of our
comrades who
gave their lives
with honor and
unselfish love in
the defense of
freedom.*

Inscription

Vets remember days at Camp Shelby

HATTIESBURG AMERICAN Sunday, September 22, 1991

By Janet Braswell, American Senior Writer

Memories drifted as gently as the early autumn breeze Friday as veterans of World War II returned to Camp Shelby, where they became soldiers 48 years ago.

Hard work, crowds and music stuck in the minds of the soldiers of the 69th Infantry Division, many of whom were returning to Camp Shelby for the first time.

Emery Nagy of Fairfield Glade, Tennessee, said he came to Hattiesburg only twice during the 18 months he was at Camp Shelby.

"It was too crowded," he said. "You stood in line to get in the USO. Then you had to stand in line to get five steps with a girl, dancing. It just wasn't worth it."

Nagy had no trouble describing his strongest memories of the Army base.

"Hot, wet, ticks and it was my first experience with chiggers," he said. "Not only did I train here, with the 38th Division and my brother John with the 65th."

Nagy and most of the other soldiers toured Camp Shelby's Armed Forces Museum, taking special pleasure in Doug Mansfield's personal collection of weapons. They hefted the old M-1 rifles and showed off their prowess in working the bolt actions without tearing off their thumbs.

"You see their eyes, their expression," Mansfield said. "It starts coming back to 'em. It's well worth my time. For the first time, their wives are getting to see, touch, feel what they've been describing for 46 years. I think the wives really enjoy seeing it."

Mansfield, who lives in Gautier, is director of Junior ROTC in Ocean Springs.

Bill Snidow of Pembroke, Virginia, was one of the men looking at Mansfield's display.

"I came back and was discharged here," he said. "About all I remember was the discharge building. That's what we were all looking for. I remember the railroad station in Hattiesburg. It's really touching after 45 years to come back."

Snidow fought the war from an M-18 tank.

"They were the newest, the latest thing then," he said.

Outside the museum, the soldiers and their wives wandered amid the restored equipment and vehicles. The music of the '40s - Glenn Miller, the Andrews Sisters - drifted from a tape player rigged inside an old Army truck.

It caught the attention of Joseph Aiello of Bronxville, New York, who came to Camp Shelby in 1944 when he was 18 years old. He had completed basic training but had to be 19 before he could be sent overseas.

He remembered listening to Joe Stafford singing, "I Walk Alone" during the months he was at Camp Shelby.

"Over at the PX, every day somebody played that," Aiello said. "Sometimes I hear it on the radio, and I think of Camp Shelby. I was 19 years old when I was here last. There was something nice about these guys. I was with 'em to the end. I survived!"

Another of the survivors was Len Stahl of Somerset, Pennsylvania.

"I was one of Bolte's Bivouacing Bastards," he said, referring to the division's nickname.

"It was good rugged training, like a 25-mile hike in full field pack in four hours," Stahl said. "That was nothing for me because I was a rugged 19-year-old farm boy."

He was making his first trip back to Camp Shelby.



AMERICAN photo by Janet Braswell

JIM EZELL, right, of Jonesboro, Arkansas, shares a laugh with Sergeant 1st Class Doug Mansfield of Gautier during a trip to the Camp Shelby Museum.

Soldier found love in Hub

HATTIESBURG AMERICAN Sunday, September 22, 1991

By Janet Braswell
American Senior Writer

Godfrey Slimmer of Seminary spent much of Friday afternoon acting as an unofficial host as the men of the 69th Infantry Division streamed into the museum at Camp Shelby.

The 72-year-old New Jersey native first came to Camp Shelby in the spring of 1944, a replacement soldier for the 69th's 881st Field Artillery.

"I met my wife on a bus going from Hattiesburg to Laurel," he said. "She got on the bus, and there was only one seat left so she had to sit in that seat. She didn't want to. I was in uniform and she didn't like soldiers."

"It's hard to imagine, but at that time a soldier and a dog were about the same."

Before the bus ride ended, Slimmer found out the girl was named Edith Graham, she lived in Jones County and worked in the County Extension Service agent's office in Hattiesburg.

Slimmer dated Graham and visited with her family before being shipped to Europe in November 1944.

He survived as the 69th fought its way across Europe, eventually meeting the Russians at the Elbe River in 1945, coming out of the war unharmed.

"Come close, sometimes," Slimmer said.

Slimmer returned to New Jersey after the war but wasn't happy without the girl he met on the bus.

"When we got the war over with and I got back to the states, I looked all around in New Jersey, and I didn't see anybody that looked as good as her," he said. "So I drove a 1938 Studebaker from New Jersey to Hattiesburg. After I got here, I proposed."

The couple lived in New Jersey for about 20 years, moving to Seminary 10 years ago.

69th Infantry redeploying to Shelby

HATTIESBURG AMERICAN Sunday, September 22, 1991

By Janet Braswell
American Senior Writer

The 69th Infantry Division returns to Camp Shelby Friday to dedicate a monument in memory of its soldiers who died in World War II.

The division formed and trained at Camp Shelby before deploying to Europe in November 1944.

"We got there just in time to wrap up the remnants of the Battle of the Bulge," R.C. Trimble of Hattiesburg said.

Trimble, originally from San Antonio, Texas, settled in Mississippi after falling in love with a Greene County woman he met while stationed at Camp Shelby.

"With all the mothers locking up their little girls at night, I managed to get one," he said. Trimble married the former Essie Byrd of State Line, who died in 1987. He has since remarried.

Between 600 and 700 members of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association are to gather in Biloxi, some arriving as early as Monday, for the group's 1991 reunion.

The convention moves to Camp Shelby by bus on Friday.

"There are 680 people who are going to come to the reunion at Shelby," Trimble said. They will be divided into three groups for bus tours of the post, a stop at the Armed Forces Museum and lunch.

The monument dedication begins at 2:00 p.m. at the Post Theater. Following a 30-minute program, the ceremony will move to Memorial Drive. The monument will be unveiled by Brigadier General Phillip L. Bolte and Colonel David E. Bolte, sons of Major General Charles L. Bolte, first commander of the 69th. Trimble will lay a wreath at the monument.

The 69th was activated on May 15, 1943, at Camp Shelby under Bolte's command. By the time the division deployed in November 1944, command has been assumed by Major General Emil F. Reinhardt.

The division engaged German forces at the Siegfried Line in February 1945, crossed the Rhine River on March 27, 1945, and participated in the capture of the cities of Kassel, Hann. Munden, Naumburg, Weissenfels and Leipzig. On April 25, 1945, 69th Division patrols met in the first link-up with the Soviet army at the Elbe River.

Trimble said the U.S.-Soviet meeting was a mistake. He said the first Americans to meet the Russians were supposed to be from a division that had been in Europe longer than the 69th.

"These other divisions were to get all the headlines, but the Russians didn't know that," he said. A lieutenant in the 69th made the first contact, and Trimble, as division warrant officer, was awakened in the middle of the night to prepare court martial documents because the contact violated a standing order.

Word of the meeting was passed through channels until it reached General Dwight Eisenhower in Paris, Trimble said. He said Eisenhower's reply was something similar to "That's all right." By the time the message made its way back to the 69th where Trimble had completed his paperwork, the lieutenant was being hailed as a hero.

"So the colonel said, 'Tear that thing up and give him a Bronze Star,'" Trimble said. The lieutenant was whisked away by airplane and, about a week later, was pictured in *Stars and Stripes* newspaper, posing with movie stars in Madison Square Garden, Trimble said.

"It seems like it's only yesterday, but it was a long time ago," he said.

69th BOLO TIES

Frank See has a limited number of 69th Bolo Ties left. He will not be ordering any more, so this is your last chance if you are interested. They are \$85.00 a piece.

If you would like to own one, send check or money order to:

Frank See
1335 West Wood Drive
Phoenix, Arizona 85029

Treasurer's Message



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

Another fiscal year has come to pass and the new dues year is upon us. Dues notices will be late due to the September reunion. Last year was a banner year with 2,661 making a contribution, but we still have over 3,000 who made no contribution at all. WHY?

For those of you who are unaware, the Treasurer is the most thankless and most worked office in the Association and receives no compensation except a two room suite at the reunion which is a comp room at no expense to the Association.

I almost did not accept the Treasurer's position when I was told I was a pessimist and was trying to run everything. This came from a member who was reimbursed \$1,197.80 for some work he has done, not for the benefit of the Association, but for a private concern.

Call it sour grapes if you like, but this will be my last term as Treasurer. I hope the 1992-93 Nominating Chairman will note this as it will give him two years to select the next Treasurer.

Five years ago I took it upon myself to not send dues notices to members who have contributed prior to the first notice and also those who had contributed prior to the second notice. This was a lot of work, but it saved the Association the cost of envelopes and postage, but I was ridiculed for this. Five years ago we could see the registration was a problem, so we took it upon ourselves to correct it and have received many compliments on how smoothly it was run. At that time we noticed that a small group was spreading rumors, but we let them roll off our backs and continued to take the abuse for the next five years.

Our running the registrations will stop with the next reunion. We look forward to the next two years with Dutch Hawn as President.

Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.
Soon to be Ex-Treasurer

**DUES ARE NOW OVERDUE
for the 1991-1992 fiscal year.
Please send them in.
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

1991 Biloxi Reunion Report

Reunion attendance figures are located in another section of this Bulletin. To the half dozen who had a gripe about trivial things, we will be sending you a bag of horse bleep. To the other 770 who thanked us for the best reunion ever, we wish we could send all of you a bouquet of roses. We appreciate all of your comments.

Except for some changes in the itinerary of the tours which we had no control of, a fat piece of meat and people expecting a choice room for two nights, we had no problems.

From the comments we received, Camp Shelby was the highlight of the whole week and we wish to thank **Bob Trimble, Guy Rogers and Colonel Smith** for all the work that went into making it a special day for all who were lucky to be in attendance. We also wish to thank all who helped at the registration desk and to our guys and gals from I-272nd who helped set up the banquet seating which was the best since **Tom Heath** set up Niagara Falls. And who could knock the Hospitality Room under the capable hand of **Frank Carey** and "F" Troop.

We hope all enjoyed their stay and had a safe and pleasant journey home.

We wish **Frank Fisher, Susan Rocco, Henrietta Cashen, Alene Cottle** and any others who had health problems, a speedy recovery and especially **Bob Robbins** who had a heart attack enroute from California. Our prayers are with all of you.

Bob and Vivian Kurtzman, Sr.

NOTICE: VCR Tapes of Biloxi Reunion are Available

A Hattiesburg television station has available a video tape of approximately 20 minutes of footage on the 69th Infantry Division Association's 44th Annual Reunion covering the Dedication Ceremony at Camp Shelby, Mississippi on September 21st, 1991. They have offered to convert their commercial tape to a standard VCR type and produce one copy for \$115.00. Reproduced cost for 100 tapes, including cost of blank tapes and mailing costs is estimated to make the price for each tape run approximately \$15.00.

Members interested in purchasing a copy of this VCR tape may indicate their desires by writing to:

69th VIDEO TAPE
LT. COL. R. C. TRIMBLE
96 Heatherwood Drive
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39403
Telephone: 601/268-7086

Correct Address for George Gallagher

George and Vickie Gallagher
7013 El Torro Street, Spanish Trails
Zephyrhills, Florida 33541

The post office at Zephyrhills has been returning mail to senders if the above address is not on the letters. If you are writing to George, use the above address.

A Message from your Immediate Past President



Earl E. Witzleb, Jr.
 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."

Well, Dottie and I have returned home. When I became President, I stated we would be on a two year vacation taking us from Denver to Valley Forge to Biloxi and home again. Now my only duties will be to get out three bulletins a year and good ones at that. Clarence and I will be held down to sixty pages in any one bulletin and no more color of red and blue for the cover and back page. They also wanted two bulletins a year but this would really hurt the coming and future reunions so we are now still able to put out three each year. Members, you can help by sending in your dues promptly of five, ten, or more dollars each year.

When I became President, I didn't think it was going to be a working vacation but it was. My first year saw me working along with John "Jack" Duffy, Monument Chairman, most of the time in getting the 69th Monument ready for Camp Shelby which was dedicated on September 20, 1991. If you were there and saw the dedication, it was really worth the trip to Biloxi and Camp Shelby. It was a very impressive service and the day couldn't have been better. My second year was spent dedicating many hours to the 69th History Book. Crandon Clark was its chairman. We made a trip to Paducah, Kentucky and were assured the books would be out in August. Dates were changed and now you should get your book or books in October of 1991. I hope by now you have them and are enjoying the reading material in them along with pictures, maps, and biographies of many members. I think the wait was worth the time taken in producing a very nice history book of the 69th Infantry Division. Any other questions on the history book should be referred to Crandon Clark at area code 201-444-6179.

A few other skirmishes in the two years made things interesting for me. One of them I didn't appreciate at all. All I can say is I had two interesting productive years as President for the 69th Infantry Division Association. I appreciate all the work and help I had from all of you including members, auxiliary members, staff officers, board members, committee chairmen, and committee members.

I could not have had two good years if it were not for members like you all. Sorry I could not have given all of you a plaque for you all earned one. The least I can say is many, many thanks to all of you for making my office as President two great years.

Now Dottie and I hope to be with all of you as just regular members at San Francisco, Rochester and Nashville, Lord willing. We are all getting older and to each of you who never made a reunion, try one. If you are on the west coast or mountain regions of our country, come to San Francisco. If you are on the Eastern Seaboard, New England, the great South or Mid-West, come to Rochester. If you are from any part of the United States, come to Nashville for it is centrally located for all of us. It's a big hub for the airlines and it has many interstates crossing in its area. IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK so to all of you members, come to at least one of the three reunions. I do know if you come to San Francisco, you will not miss any of the others.

I'm still pushing for a record 1,000 attendance and if it doesn't come at San Francisco, Rochester or Nashville, I'm afraid it will never happen for one of these years soon, we will be on the downgrade. I thought we would have had it at Valley Forge but it never happened, for the hundreds of locals within 100 miles never showed and they could have for at least the Early Bird, PX Beer Party, Saturday Banquet Dinner Dance, or all three of them. I don't think two nights lodging plus activities would have hurt too many of our association members.

Once again, for making my two years as PRESIDENT A SUCCESS, THANKS TO ALL. See you as long as we can at all Annual Association Reunions.

Dottie and Me

Thomas Poole Shows Off



Thomas Poole, formerly of Cannon Company, 273rd, displays his beard while attending the reunion of his old buddies from the Minnesota National Guard. He spent almost 5 years in the service. He vows to attend the Biloxi Reunion as he appears in this picture. According to our records, he did!

569th Signal Company

Frank W. Fisher
 1136 East Fairview
 South Bend, Indiana 46614

The pictures say it all. We had a great time once again meeting up with those we met at Valley Forge for the first time. That was great as it was again at Biloxi. We enjoyed meeting up with Herb Wheeler and James Carson for the first time after 45 years. While most of the pictures are of the Radio Operators there were some greetings and get togethers of Signal Company personnel from Construction and Message Center that was also very enjoyable.

Realizing that John Moriarty was an MP I worked with after the war around Leipzig made for quite a first meeting experience since our service days.

Jerry and I (my wife and girlfriend) look forward to attending the future 69th Reunions and wish to express our thanks to all those who worked so hard to arrange for our housing, food and tours, especially Bob and Vivian Kurtzman.

With that, this "ole buddy" says so long and we'll see you all down the road a piece.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Sorry Frank, that only two of your pictures appear in the bulletin. When you used your address stamp on the backs of your pictures, the ink transferred onto the fronts of them and we were unable to use them.)



Frank W. Fisher - Indiana, Julius Tivard - New Jersey and Jack Wilhoit, Florida.



Herb Wheeler and Signal Company Construction People.

1991 Biloxi, Mississippi 44th Annual Reunion September 15-22, 1991



Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Reeves



Mr. and Mrs. John Mason



Mr. and Mrs. Sig Salacinski

COME TO A REUNION! IT'S A GREAT TIME FOR ALL!

THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE



Dottie Witzleb

by — Dottie Witzleb
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 Telephone: _____

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I am looking for a farewell letter from Ellen Snidow. Maria, in addition to the letter you sent, I will be looking for a letter for the next five bulletins as Ladies Auxiliary President.

Those of you who attended the Biloxi reunion enjoyed yourselves I am sure. Wasn't the monument dedication and day at Camp Shelby just great. It was very impressive.

I'll be looking for news from you ladies, so do send it in to me. We have a page or two in the bulletin each time, so let's use it.

Remember when winter arrives, which is soon, start working on lap robes and other items for the Veterans in a hospital near San Francisco. Haven't heard yet what Veteran's hospital received the lap robes in the Biloxi area as well as the \$500.00 check to the volunteers of that hospital for items to be purchased for the Veterans.

Many, many 50th Anniversaries were celebrated this year by members and wives of our 69th Infantry Division Association. We of the Auxiliary wish all of you a very special golden anniversary.

Jeanne Hawn, as first lady of the 69th for two years, Earl wants you to make sure Dutch sends a President's Message letter in for the next five bulletins.

We would like to know how those members and wives who got sick at the Biloxi reunion are doing. Also, those of you

who had to cancel due to sickness or other emergencies. We wish all our members and wives good health so that we can visit with you at future reunions.

Rosemarie Edstrom from Fairview Park, Ohio writes that Ted held off until the last minute to cancel the Biloxi reunion due to her illness. They hope to be at the next one. She also writes that her and Ted were happy that both their children and families were able to be home with them in celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary this year.

I'll put other 50th Anniversary names in future bulletins if you write me. I do not want to name some of the many who have had anniversaries this year and leave someone out, so it is best you write me. I can only put news in the bulletin that I receive for I am not a mind reader.

I hope to have more news for you all in future bulletins.

Dottie

**Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah,
 and a Happy New Year
 To Our Ladies & Their Families
 of the 69th Infantry Division.**

(Continued on Page 20)

A Message from Your Auxiliary President

Dear Ladies of the 69th:

It is a pleasure to greet you as your new president and I will write while my mind is filled with vivid memories of our 44th reunion in Biloxi.

This was one of our very best reunions, filled with very special events. The highlight of our week was the dedication of the monument at Camp Shelby in memory of our deceased veterans and **General Bolte**. Memories flooded my mind from my stay in Hattiesburg in 1944 and visits to Camp Shelby. I had lived with the Captertons at 711 Hardy Street and worked as a secretary for the Mississippi Central Railroad for almost a year. We have a picture of the old railroad station but the office building has been torn down. Friends in Hattiesburg took us on a tour of the city on Monday. Things have changed more than I could imagine there as they had at Camp Shelby.

The little red book I keep is filled with names and addresses and some telephone numbers of the 69th ladies. I will be glad to hear from anyone that has time to write and will share news with **Dottie** for the bulletin. We especially need to know of any illness or deaths, as well as happy events such as anniversaries and new grandchildren.

We will be supporting the museum at Shelby with artifacts and pictures. I am looking for bulletins from the 50's through 1975, in order to send a complete set to the museum. Send me any that you can part with. The beautiful 69th lap robe made by **Ellen Snidow** was presented to the museum. **Mary Ross** brought us one to replace it.

Ladies, be sure your \$2.00 dues are paid to **Bob Kurtzman** so you may share in our projects.

San Francisco is a fun city to visit so try to join us next August.

Again, please write to me at the address on the preceding page. We need news on our ladies as well as our men.

Maria G. Keller
Ladies Auxiliary President

* * * * *

A few words from our Sunshine Lady

To All Our Great Members of the Fighting 69th!!

These few words are certainly late in coming so I just want you all to know that all is going well at the **McCombs** household. **Paul** has done real well coming out of his stroke. August 31st we will have been married 50 years. I cannot believe it!

I want to thank all you dear ones who have sent me cards and notes during the year thanking me for sending the cards. So far for the year, June has topped them all. 265 cards take a little while.

Looks as if **Paul** and I will be unable to attend the reunion in Mississippi but our hearts and thoughts will be with all of you. Have a great one.

God be with all of you and have a great year.

Your Sunshine Lady,
Margie McCombs

69th Division Headquarters Enjoying the Biloxi Reunion



Walter Doernbach, Walt's son and George Loikow



Colleen Curtis, Keith Curtis and Fred Avery



Sigmund Salacinski, Division Headquarters and 69th Quartermaster, Martha Douglas and Bob Myers

Attendance by States at the 1991 Biloxi, Mississippi Reunion

STATE	MEMBERS	ATTENDEES
Pennsylvania	48	99
Florida	37	66
Ohio	31	60
New York	24	43
New Jersey	23	40
Tennessee	17	37
California	17	32
Mississippi	16	25
Virginia	15	23
Illinois	14	24
Indiana	13	27
Texas	12	20
Georgia	11	22
Massachusetts	11	17
Maryland	10	20
Wisconsin	10	18
Louisiana	9	18
West Virginia	9	17
Arizona	8	13
Michigan	8	13
Missouri	7	17
Arkansas	7	14
Alabama	7	13
North Carolina	6	11
Iowa	5	10
Connecticut	5	9
Kentucky	5	8
Nebraska	4	10
Washington	4	6
Oklahoma	3	6
Kansas	2	4
Montana	2	4
Oregon	2	4
Minnesota	2	3
Nevada	2	3
New Mexico	2	3
New Hampshire	2	2
Idaho	1	2
South Carolina	1	2
District of Columbia	1	1
TOTAL	419	776
East	324	607
West	95	169

72 FIRST TIMERS

- 243 Gulf Coast Tour
- 219 New Orleans Day Tour
- 98 New Orleans Nite Tour
- 410 Early Bird Buffet
- 675 PLUS Camp Shelby Dedication
- 550 PX Night
- 607 Banquet
- 277 Breakfast Buffet

We do not have total on the number who just dropped by for the Camp Shelby Dedication.

1991 Reunion Attendees Biloxi, Mississippi

If your name does not appear on this list, it means that you failed to fill out a registration form while you were there. We apologize if your name has been deleted.

**Indicates First Timer*

69th DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

- Fred Avery Virginia
- David and Mary Lee Bolte Virginia
- Keith and Colleen Curtis Iowa
- *Jim Damron Mississippi
- Walter Doernbach New Jersey
and Son
- Jack and Mary Duffy New York
- Dutch and Jeanne Hawn Colorado
- Karol and Margaret Kreutzman Washington
- George Loikow Virginia
- Robert Myers Arizona
- *David and Velma Shaw Louisiana
- Sigmund and Joanne Salacinski New York
- Nolan and Juanece Smith Texas
- *Robert and Sybil Trimble Mississippi
- Joseph and Eleanor Wright Missouri

69th DIVISION BAND

- James and Margaret de Mond Mississippi

69th M.P.s

- Carl and Ruth Miller Ohio
- John Moriarty Massachusetts

69th QUARTERMASTER

- Warren and Zeila Alford Louisiana
- *Robert and Juanita Atees Florida
- *Epitacio Granillo Arizona
and Son Ronald

69th RECON

- L. Boyd and Stella Ellsworth Ohio

269th ENGINEERS

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

- John and Elizabeth Hawley Pennsylvania
- Guest: Walter Howland
- Walter Holmlin New Jersey
- James and Dotty Eibling Ohio
- William and Betty Foster Pennsylvania
- Guest: Bonnie Wachs

COMPANY A

- Marion Diefenbach Florida
- Ray and Leona Hull Ohio
- Samuel and Gloria Pharr Tennessee

COMPANY B

- Daniel and Helen Evers Pennsylvania
- Frank and Stefania Nemeth Pennsylvania
- Darrell and Evelyn Orr Indiana
- Ward and Marian Peterson Pennsylvania
- *Sidney and Gaynell Poirrier Louisiana
- William Riggle, Sr. Indiana
- Guest: Son William, Jr.
- *Cecil and Catherine Robinson Ohio
- Frank Sullivan Massachusetts
- Albert and Helen Winchester Pennsylvania

(Continued on Page 22)

1991 REUNION ATTENDEES, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

(Continued from Page 21)

269th ENGINEERS (Continued)

COMPANY C

Thomas and Mackey Hunt Tennessee
*C.C. and Leona Thompson Arkansas

369th MEDICAL BATTALION

*Adam Adamsky and Wife Pennsylvania
William Bowman Virginia
Roland and Beverly Fracalossi Maryland
Martha Douglas Mississippi
Merle Douglas Mississippi
Brooks and Ethel Drake West Virginia
Milton Goodwin New Jersey
*Marvin and June Slichter Pennsylvania
*William and Gloria Thompson Florida

569th SIGNAL COMPANY

Ralph Becker Ohio
*Raymond and Ruth Brown Mississippi
James and Ruth Combs Georgia
Adolph and Mad Eichhammer Florida
Frank and Geraldine Fisher Indiana
Robert and Frieda Gregory Georgia
George and Dorothy Hepp New York
Edmus and Frances Hoskins Texas
John and Jean Kastanakis Alabama
Joseph and Marlene Kotsko Ohio
Kenneth and Hester Manning West Virginia
Curtis and Evelyn Peterson Wisconsin
Donald and Lois Pierce Pennsylvania
Margie Redmond West Virginia
Carl and Mildred Stetler Pennsylvania
Julius Tivald New Jersey
Herbert and Lola Wheeler Florida
Jack and Freda Wilhoit Florida

769th ORDNANCE COMPANY

Estelle Ewing Georgia
Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Chapman
Irving and Shirley Sarafan New York
Fred and Catherine Scheller Illinois

271st INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

John Barrette Wisconsin
Al and Edith Carbonari Florida
William and Dorothea Duncan California
Ray and Bertha Jones Pennsylvania
Edwin and Sue Lansford Tennessee
Walter and Julia Mueller Indiana
Don and Olive Schoessler New York
*Lee Wah New Jersey

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1st BATTALION

Wilbur and Phyllis Baker Indiana
Alton and Mary Windsor Mississippi

COMPANY A

Charles and Marion Oliver Louisiana
*Delbert and Donna Philpott California
*Robert and Jean Ross Massachusetts

COMPANY B

Lumir Bocek Nebraska
Guest: Patsy Moeller
Helmuth and Pearl Boehm California
Guests: Sidney and Georgia Reeves

Martin Buol Florida
Phil and Ruth Delphey Pennsylvania
Thomas and Lorraine Hancock Illinois
Earl and Millie Hansen Tennessee
Joseph and Mary Lantz Maryland
Charles and Peggy Mabe Pennsylvania
Harold and Cynthia Moore Tennessee
Charles Nicely Pennsylvania

Guest: Bobbie Laviano

Orrie Pullen Michigan
William and Joe Sheehan New Jersey
Kenneth and Lillian Upton Louisiana
*Neil and Betty Ver Merris Michigan
Charles and Pat Walsh Wisconsin
James and Barbara Walsh Connecticut
Wayne Weygandt Illinois

Guest: Thora Miller

James and Dorothy White Tennessee
Robert Younglas Michigan

COMPANY C

*Gerald and Doris Blaedon Wisconsin
*Neal Crowley New Mexico

COMPANY D

Merrill and Elizabeth Embick Pennsylvania
John and Shirley Fleming Pennsylvania

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2nd BATTALION

Donald Connelly Arizona

COMPANY E

Elmer and Erma Broneske Colorado
Robert and Betty Dimmick Georgia
Herbert and Lucie Erhart Arizona
Irving and Etta Gotkin Florida
Thomas Maupin Virginia
Charles and Kathy Moore Ohio
William and Catherine McCall New Jersey
*Jim and Vicky Nelson Washington
Bing Poon Washington, D.C.
*William Rehman Washington
Paul and Marion Shadle Pennsylvania

COMPANY F

Frank and Arlene Carey Pennsylvania
Cecil and Alene Cottle Ohio
Ash Fuller Mississippi
James and Barbara Kidd Kentucky
Vaughn and Betty Woomer Pennsylvania

COMPANY G

Clifton and Pauline Barbieri Virginia
Edward and Jacquelyn Chando New Jersey
Zane and Zelma Gray Arkansas
Scott and Ann Gresham Virginia
Glenn and Nadine Hunnicutt Nebraska

Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Karl Baehr

Lucious and Lewis Mae Murphree Mississippi
*Emery and Pat Nagy Tennessee
George and Agnes Phillips Florida
Ralph and Josephine Plugge Illinois

COMPANY H

*Edward and Marie Hill Pennsylvania
*Keith and Mary Loo Mower California
James and Margaret Zawitoski Maryland

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION

James and Betty Yakle Florida

(Continued on Page 23)

1991 REUNION ATTENDEES, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

(Continued from Page 22)

271st INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

COMPANY I

- *Douglas and Nathalie Buckstad North Carolina
- Jack and Geneva Harrison Texas
- Hy and Mae Rita Kurfirst New York
- Joe and Virginia McMurry Tennessee
- Guests: Andy and Evelyn Anderson*
- *Eugene and Mary Lou O'Leary Pennsylvania

COMPANY K

- Robert and Irene Bishop Massachusetts
- John and Mary Fleming Connecticut
- Herbert Pickett Arizona

COMPANY L

- *Paul and Rose Marie Goddu Massachusetts
- *Edward and Margaret Miller Montana

COMPANY M

- *James and Mary Shoemaker Florida
- *Henry and Jo Thomas Florida

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

- Edgar Biles Arkansas
- Guest: Jo Campbell*
- Arthur and Nancy Holgate New Jersey
- Elvin and Vesta McCurdy Iowa
- Francis Tomczuk New Jersey
- George and Lina West Pennsylvania
- George and Virginia Weston New Jersey

CANNON COMPANY

- Alfred and Rita Blain Massachusetts

SERVICE COMPANY

- Leroy and Maria Keller Virginia

272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

- James and Kay Cassidy Kentucky
- Guest: Daughter Kathleen*
- Thomas Clark Wisconsin

COMPANY A

- James and Mary Battin California
- *Vaughn and Wanda Fairbank Florida
- Robert Lydy Nevada
- Guest: Barbara Kumfer*
- L. R. Olson New Jersey
- Guest: Eileen Rimmer*
- Edgar and Frances Parsons North Carolina
- *Guy and Pauline Steele Missouri
- Guests: Glenn and Claudia Steele*
- James and Loretta Walker Kentucky
- Allen Whitehead Tennessee
- Guest: Son Dave*

COMPANY B

- Crandon and Jane Clark New Jersey
- Richard and Gerry Hadley Colorado
- *Robert and June Harper Pennsylvania

COMPANY C

- *James and Marie Carter Mississippi
- Robert and Jean Shaffer Ohio
- Charles Weaver Ohio

COMPANY D

- John and Joan Mason California

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2nd BATTALION

- *George and Gail Chatfield Florida
- Donald and Marge Kramer Michigan
- David and June Wittman Montana

COMPANY E

- Fred and Mavis Butenhoff Wisconsin
- Garry and Jeanette Maas New Jersey
- Roger and Ruth West Michigan
- Chet and Barbara Yastrzemski New York

COMPANY F

- Norman and Dorothy Allen Wisconsin
- Herb Callaway Texas
- Donald and Mary Jane Rettman Florida
- Neil Shields Pennsylvania
- Guest: Lillian Jones*
- Jacob and Joyce Varn Georgia
- Melvin and Louise Wardin Michigan

COMPANY G

- William and Joyce Phillips Florida

COMPANY H

- *Robert Bassindale Illinois
- *Allen and Carol Carr Ohio
- *Marsh Mussay Illinois
- Guests: George and Phyllis Pearson*
- and Bill and Donna Grauel*
- Leonard Stahl Pennsylvania

COMPANY I

- *Reggie and Dorothy Bailey Tennessee
- Adrian and Marion Eckhardt New Jersey
- William and Dolly Edge Maryland
- Wendell and Sally Freeman Georgia
- Dennis and Elsie Haltiwanger Florida
- Dewey and Irene Hardin Missouri
- James Herbison Massachusetts
- Bob and Vivian Kurtzman Ohio
- Pat and Janice Lushbaugh Maryland
- Edward McDonnell New York
- *Bud and Kay McKelvey Oklahoma
- Tom and Jeanne Reardon Pennsylvania
- Harold and Ethel Ruck Tennessee
- Thomas Yelcich Michigan

COMPANY K

- *John and Ruth McGolerick Maryland

COMPANY L

- Kyle and Mildred Ellison West Virginia
- Russell and Rosanna Meinecke Missouri
- Guest: Winnie Hoskins*
- John and Elizabeth Nelson New Jersey
- *Kenneth and Marcella Ziems Virginia

COMPANY M

- Lido and Louise Dalporto West Virginia
- Thomas and Wilma Moore Tennessee
- Floyd and Catherine McCalip Mississippi
- *Woodford and Ann Portwood Kentucky
- Carl and Dorothy Rapp Florida
- *William and Kathryn Roberts Ohio
- Robert and Claire Sodorff Idaho
- Raymond and Alice Wolthoff Florida

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

- Frank Hadden Georgia
- Russell and Betty Koch Missouri

(Continued on Page 24)

1991 REUNION ATTENDEES, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI
(Continued from Page 23)

272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

CANNON COMPANY

Ralph and Ursula Goebel Minnesota
Frank and Blanche Sniadecki Indiana

SERVICE COMPANY

*Park and Viola Fellers Illinois
Allen and Dorothy Williams Texas

273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

*Norman and Kathryn Barratt California
Ben Foy North Carolina
Guest: Ralph Mash
Norman and Juanita Pickford Illinois

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1st BATTALION

*Robert and Myra Eicher Tennessee
Roy and Sara Gilstrap Georgia
John and Janet Havey Arizona
Kent O'Kelly Mississippi
Ralph and Cecilia Scholtz New York

COMPANY A

*Charles Altsman Texas
James and Mary Carroll Texas
Harold and Catherine Crowley New York
James and Allamae Ezell Arkansas
Raymond Fahrner Pennsylvania
*Jerome Ghedotti Washington
Jack and Carolyn Houghton Colorado
Jack and Jackie Hubbard Florida
Edward Lucci New York
William and Ruby Nettles Mississippi
Pierce Rice Virginia
Bennie and Marcella Srubar Texas
Aaron and Joan Taulbee Ohio

COMPANY B

Paul Bois New Hampshire
Arthur and Billie Hall Oregon
*Sam and Lorraine Lewis Texas
John O'Neill Massachusetts
*Rex and Norene Roberts Alabama
*Leo Wrighthouse Kentucky

COMPANY C

Stanley and Gloria Czyzyk New York
William and Bernice Parks Alabama

COMPANY D

Arthur and Kathe Ayres New Jersey
Boyd and Jean Good California
Charles and Bertha Hoefler New York
Arthur and Eloise Lohrbach Ohio
Guests: Rudy and Betty Lohrbach
Robert and Betty Jo McCarty Louisiana
Vic and Bonnie Motley Texas
Kenneth Sawyer Florida
Guest: Fran Collard
John and Helen Optl Illinois
Lewis Tenney Indiana

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2nd BATTALION

Vic and Olga Ostrow Maryland
Guest: Cecelia Ostrow
Ted and Ursula Schiffner New Jersey

COMPANY E

Joseph and Virginia Aiello New York
William Dunlap Florida
Willard and Jane Matlach New York
Al and Lottie Shires Florida
Harold and Peggy Sprang Ohio
Kermit Webb Kentucky
Earl and Dorothy Witzleb, Jr. Pennsylvania

COMPANY F

Gilbert and Marion Clark Pennsylvania
Guests: Daughter and Two Children
Jack and Marjorie Fain Florida
Walter and Shirley Harpain California
Richard Israel Virginia
Nick and Ethel Uchbar Florida
Sammy and Anne Wolf New York

COMPANY G

Robert and Ila June Ainley Indiana
Al and Betty Aronson New Jersey
Willard and Dorris Beecher Florida
*William and Wynona Boone Alabama
Raymond Hotter Illinois
Ruth Johnston Pennsylvania
*Robert and Mary Ellen Kirk West Virginia
*Hugh and Mary McKee Louisiana
Joe and Diane Panganiban California
Edson and Tory Stagg New Jersey

COMPANY H

Robert and Roberta Andrew Pennsylvania
Bert and Rhoda Eckert New York
Robert and Maxine Haag Indiana
Leland and Lola Jones Kansas

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION

Francis and Anna Blais Maryland
Joseph and Caroline Gavek North Carolina
Charles and Patricia Hoffman Florida
*John and Marjorie Mihm Pennsylvania
Tod and Pauline Morgan Ohio
John and Judy Sneary Ohio
Earl and Anna Walters Pennsylvania

COMPANY I

William and Beverly Armstrong Iowa
Justin Bloom Maryland
James and Audrey Castrale Nebraska
*Floyd and Zona Dunn Missouri
George and Janet Houseal Pennsylvania
Allen and Catherine Long Florida
Guests: Robert Johnson and Sharon Bronner
Carl and Bernice Macknair Pennsylvania
Paul and Aldona Mickiewicz Florida
Robert and Theresa Pierce California
*James Sample Mississippi
John Sullivan Virginia

COMPANY K

Oliver and Maedell Coker Arkansas
Walter and Stella Hajdamacha New Jersey
*James Mynes Alabama
Tutt and Edna Snodgrass Kentucky

COMPANY L

Anthony and Genevieve Plasic Pennsylvania
Herbert Walker Indiana
Guest: Pat Elkins

(Continued on Page 25)

1991 REUNION ATTENDEES, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

(Continued from Page 24)

273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

COMPANY M

Fred and Nan Johnson Arizona
Raul Nava California

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

William Haines North Carolina

CANNON COMPANY

Thomas and Ida Poole Iowa
Mary Ross New Jersey

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION ARTILLERY

Robert Bement Colorado
*Clark and Jean Brannan Alabama
Charles and Edith Chapman Virginia
Alfred Faison Florida
Douglas and Nyda Hall Louisiana
*Henry Johnson New Hampshire
Lois Kaercher Pennsylvania
Syl and Mary Karas Illinois
*Guy Rogers Mississippi
Jay Rollman Nevada
Paul and Mozelle Thomas Oklahoma
Frank Titzer Indiana
Guest: Ella Murphy

724th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

BATTERY A

K. Earl and Nancy Rhea Abel Michigan
Len and Alma Braverman California
William Harsch Florida
Paul and Mayreta Kitner Pennsylvania
Woodrow Mitchell Texas
Brownie and Anna Belle Parsons West Virginia
William and Patricia Ruebsamen California

BATTERY B

Stacy and Natalie Gooch New Mexico
Tom and Helen Heath New York

BATTERY C

Al and Polly DiLoreto Ohio
Robert Hollister New York
Coy and Erlene Horton North Carolina
*James and Phyllis Newcombe Oregon
Daniel O'Shea Connecticut
Louis Psaltis Illinois
John Rosenbrock California
John and Neta Turner Georgia
Harold Weplar Ohio
Guest: Henrietta Cashen

879th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Grant and Betty Clevidence Arkansas
Philip Colombo New York
Alex and Margaret Kormas Ohio

BATTERY A

*George and Katherine Wallis Texas
Merel and Eileen Yarnell Kansas

BATTERY B

Ernst and Jane Heller Ohio
Ragsdale and Erma Lane Tennessee

BATTERY C

*Fred and Patricia Crane Iowa
William and Mary Harr Ohio

SERVICE BATTERY

Dell and Mary Balzano Ohio
James and Lydia Little Georgia
Bruce and Mary Young West Virginia
*Jack Brettell Florida

880th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

John and Doris Cooper Illinois
Eugene and Carolyn McGreevy Maryland
*Harold Oling California
Guests: John and Peggy O'Connor Illinois
Mike and Lucille Pendrick Arkansas
Neno and Mary Sassone Mississippi
William and Katherine Suckel Ohio

BATTERY A

James and Geneva Bilbrey Tennessee
*James and Irene Tipperreiter Florida

BATTERY C

Rico and Anne D'Angelo Pennsylvania
Paul Mallard Florida

SERVICE BATTERY

William and Loretta Stump Indiana

881st FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Cecil and Mary Lou Ammons Alabama
James and Tillie Boris Pennsylvania

BATTERY A

Francis and Zita Enright Wisconsin
Ralph and Madeline Reeves Arizona

BATTERY B

Raymond and Marian Derr Ohio
Walter Haag California
LaMoine Kohl Nebraska
Guest: Son Brian

Jame Moen Minnesota
Robert and Kathleen Murphy Pennsylvania
Gilbert and Susan Rocco Pennsylvania
Philip and Harriet Sparacino Wisconsin
Daniel and Margie Sparks Pennsylvania
Richard Stoddard Colorado
Eugene and Jacqueline Tabacchi Pennsylvania

BATTERY C

Joe and Sybil Conner Georgia
*Pleas and Mildred Copas Tennessee

Guest: Son Pleas, Jr.
Harold and Mary Ann Early Ohio
George and Ruth Ehl Missouri
Lester Hart Ohio
Albert and Charlotte Jones South Carolina
*Hugh and Dorothy Milstead Tennessee
Paul and Josephine Molinari Connecticut
Eugene and Arlene Shollenberger Pennsylvania

Guests: Joan Kollar and Donald Startz
Donald and Mary Taylor Pennsylvania
*George and Jennie Vasil Massachusetts
*Stephen Rojcewicz Massachusetts

(Continued on Page 26)

1991 REUNION ATTENDEES, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI
 (Continued from Page 25)

461st ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY

- *Alden Angline North Carolina
- *Guy Stamey North Carolina
- *Edwin Whitaker North Carolina

661st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

- Clifford Blank, Jr. Texas
- William and Jo Beswick Virginia
- Joseph and Marian Jenei Ohio
- Eugene and Ethel Pierron Wisconsin
- William and Ellen Snidow Virginia

777th TANK BATTALION

- James and Thurlo Bristol Pennsylvania
- Henry Jurkiewicz Florida
- John and Mary Koke New Jersey
- Andrew and Laura LaPatka Pennsylvania
- Alex and Florence Lasseigne Louisiana
- Joseph Loudon Ohio
- John and Ellen McCann Massachusetts
- Henry and Jean Putala Connecticut
- Gaylord and Ruth Thomas Wisconsin
- Robert Weise New York
- Charley and Edna White Oklahoma
- Alex Zubrowski New York

**Biloxi Reunion Attendees Enjoying It All
 At the Saturday Night Banquet-Dinner Dance**



Roger and Ruth West



Mr. and Mrs. Dick Hadley



Crandon and Jane Clark



Mary and Merle Douglas

First Link-Up Memorial Park

Submitted by: **William R. Beswick**
661st Tank Destroyers
P.O. Box 576
West Point, Virginia 23181

A letter was read at the Valley Forge Reunion relating to a Memorial Park being erected on the Elbe River at Strehla, Germany.

It was presented at this year's reunion at Biloxi. A motion was made and approved to proceed with the erection. It will inform the world that the 69th was in Europe as part of the Allied Forces in World War II. At the present time, there is nothing denoting this fact.

Your donations will be greatly appreciated to make this Memorial a true reality. It's something we will all be proud of.

Please keep in mind that we are discussing a Memorial Park comparable in some respects to the scope of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. Government officials of the USSR and the town of Strehla, Germany have made substantial commitments, including land, zoning and dedication.

This question has been asked on several occasions: How would you feel if the conquerors of your country erected a monument in your country?

THE ANSWER:

I've been told several times by German citizens that they do not look upon us as conquerors, but as Liberators. Liberating them from Naziism and Facism, which they had endured for many years. Some of you may be unaware, but, there are several monuments in Germany by American Divisions. One was erected by the 99th Infantry Division at Krefeld, Germany. They also erected a second memorial at the Remagen Bridge. The 78th Infantry Division also erected a memorial at Remagen. That's just to name a couple.

The Strehla Memorial Park was initiated by **Alexander Olshansky**, Major General, Retired, USSR. He was the equivalent to a Staff Sergeant in World War II when he met and shook hands with **Lieutenant Albert Kotzebue** on the bank of the Elbe River at Strehla.

What was once conceived as a two person statue, representing an American and Soviet soldier being erected on the Elbe River at Strehla, will be a Memorial Park, covering an area in excess of one half (1/2) acre, perhaps more.

If a prime piece of property of the size the town of Strehla has donated for the Memorial Park was located on one of the picturesque rivers in this country, including the construction and work for the park, the total cost would probably be in excess of one half (1/2) million dollars.

The proposed Memorial Park will be beautifully landscaped and possibly be one of the most attractive Memorials in the world, concerned with a single United States Infantry Division. I believe we should go for it. It is worthy of our participation and our donations.

This MEMORIAL PARK would have three flag poles arranged triangularly to eliminate flag precedence as such. Wouldn't it be a great feeling to know that our flag is flying about five thousand (5,000) miles from our shores? I always thrill when I see our Stars and Stripes flying in a foreign country.

The construction of this project is planned to be helped by a Soviet Army Engineering unit out of the area. This construction must be undertaken before the Soviet troops are withdrawn from Germany. The maintenance work of the park will be performed by the people of the town of Strehla, Germany.

A question was posed on several occasions, WHY DID NOT THE RUSSIANS INCLUDE THE 69th DIVISION ON THE MONUMENT THEY CONSTRUCTED IN TORGAU? Neither the 69th, nor the 58th Guard Division are displayed on the Monument. The monument was simply inscribed on one side with, "GLORY TO THE VICTORIOUS RED ARMY AND OUR HEROIC ALLIES HAVING TRIUMPHED OVER FACIST GERMANY." On the opposite side, facing the Elbe River are the words, "HERE ON THE ELBE, APRIL 25, 1945, THE FORCES OF THE FIRST UKRAINIAN FRONT OF THE RED ARMY LINKED UP WITH AMERICAN FORCES." AGAIN, NEITHER THE UNITED STATES DIVISION, NOR THE SOVIET DIVISION WAS IDENTIFIED.

The proposed words to be inscribed on the, "FIRST LINK-UP MEMORIAL PARK" are "ON APRIL 25, 1945, THE ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE SOVIET UNION OF THE SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS WERE FIRST JOINED AT THIS LOCATION BY THE 69th INFANTRY DIVISION AND THE RUSSIAN 58th GUARD DIVISION. MAY THE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP REPRESENTED HERE ENDURE FOREVER."

All that is being requested of us is to cooperate in the construction of this Memorial Park, with a token amount of one (1) to three (3) percent of the construction cost. Depending on how one translates man years of Soviet and German contributions. The sum of \$7,500.00 is the estimated amount needed.

Please remember, when languages are interpreted or translated, words can be transposed such as the two person statue and the Memorial Park. I may have misunderstood.

In the past I have taken American flag pins to give to the people of what were Communist countries. In 1985, I took an American Flag, three by five feet to give to the Mayor of Torgau. Also, a 69th Banner, that my wife Jo and I made. Today, that Stars and Stripes is flying high in Hartenfels Castle, and the 69th Banner is proudly displayed in an enclosed glass case.

The Memorial Park will be built with or without our support. It would be to our advantage to participate and contribute the token amount requested, so we can have some control as to what is inscribed on the Memorial and be sure our Division is included.

The comment has been made that the Memorial may be demolished at a later date. I believe I can assure you that a Veterans monument is not apt to be demolished. So far, only the statues and monuments of the deposed leaders of their countries are being demolished, such as Eric Honecker, Josef Stalin, and Lenin, just to name a few.

A separate TAX EXEMPT entity is being established. If a number is required by you when donating money, it will be sent when acknowledging your donation. Please send your donations to:

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

Ed Lucci
23 Evergreen Avenue
Lynbrook, New York 11563

FUNDS SOUGHT: \$7,500.00

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc.

Please see the following page for the article, "MOTION MADE AT BILOXI" relative to this project.

Motion Made at Biloxi Reunion September 21, 1991

I move that a committee be formed with **Mr. William Beswick** as Chairman to serve three (3) years, and that he select six additional members of the 69th Division to serve for the same period, for the purpose of commemorating the service of the 69th Infantry Division in Europe. The committee will designate one or more memorials, insure the erection of same, separately and/or in cooperation with other entities concerned with historical memorials, and be responsible for soliciting funds from private individuals, companies and other sources, and no 69th Infantry Division funds will be used without a major vote of those in attendance at an annual membership meeting.

The committee shall receive publicity in the 69th Bulletin for reporting developments and progress, to give individuals an opportunity to contribute if they so desire, and the committee shall have access to the 69th membership roll to use if independent mailings are desired.

The committee shall have authority to form a tax exempt corporation separate from the 69th Infantry Division Association, Inc., obtain IRS Tax Exempt status, and issue reports annually to its contributors, and periodically through Bulletin announcements, but the funds shall be separate from and not a part of the 69th Infantry Division funds. The funding objective shall be \$7,500.00, unless the committee determines otherwise. No funding commitment shall be made in excess of funds in hand. APPROVED AT BILOXI REUNION SEPTEMBER 21, 1991.

“Elbe Day Festival '92”

Submitted by: **Heinz Richter**
Elbstr. 2, PF 34, Kathewitz
0-7291 Germany

At the end of World War II, in April 1945, Torgau and its surrounding area was the scene of the first contacts of pre-commands of the American and Soviet troops, the scene of the first direct meeting and link-up of American and Soviet soldiers. Later, this historical event was the basis for the idea for the meeting of people in friendship in our town. It became a peak of cultural and political experience for Torgau citizens and their guests.

The non-party civil citizens' action group “Elbe Day,” established in the course of the political changes in the eastern part of Germany, filled the spirit of the meeting with new contents and value in April 1990.

Germany's liberation from fascism in 1945 and the present eradication of Stalinism in Europe created the precondition for our continent's development in freedom and democracy. The memorable meeting and coming together of simple soldiers on April 25, 1945, broke all chains of ideological systems. In the same way the future coming and going together in Europe cannot be gained by the efforts of politicians only, but must be realized by the people themselves in particular.

That is why our citizens' action group intends to change now into an International Elbe Day Association in order to make better coming across these present political and cultural challenges.

So we will celebrate the anniversary of the historical date of April 25, 1945, next year and in the future within the frame of an international public festival, as such a festival opens

good chances for keeping alive remarkable events of history, as well as their passing on to the coming generations.

The motto of “Elbe Day '92” shall be:
“COMING TOGETHER IN EUROPE”

We heartily invite the veterans of the U.S. Army's 69th Infantry Division and the Soviet Army's 58th Guards Rifle Division, together with their children/grandchildren and hope they will join us to underline the international dimension of the historical “Spirit of the Elbe.”

Because of its intercultural mediating role and its multi-cultural origin, jazz shall be a uniting element of our “Elbe Day Festival.” Jazz communicates without any linguistic barrier. The “spirit of coming together” shall be demonstrated by the performances of many international bands.

Subjects of reappraisal of history and of the international coming together will be dealt with by the traditional Torgau Seminar of the Christian Peace Conference and the forum discussions of an International Youth Camp.

Part and parcel of the Elbe Day '92 will be discussed further on the Talk Show with prominent top politicians and journalists broadcasted by German radio stations.

The traditional “Elbe Day Services” will be extended. The participants of the International Torgau Seminar together with Elbe Veterans will meet in the Castle's Church, consecrated as the first Protestant church all over the world by Martin Luther. The international youth will gather together for their Camp Ground Service in the Elbe River meadows.

We try hard to make the “Elbe Day Festival” an annual event remembering the historical Link-Up in April, 1945. In consideration of the changed political situation we intend to bring in line your historical Link-Up with the present need of linking up people and nations.

That is why we direct our special efforts at an annual participation of veterans together with their children/grandchildren as guests of our events remembering the 1945 Link-Up at the Elbe River, but in particular as active participants in our planned forum discussions with today's youth as well as in our talk show together with prominent politicians.

We hope the publication of our matter in your magazine can help us to come into closer contact with veterans and to establish direct contact with the present U.S. Army's 69th Infantry Division respectively. It's today's successor unit.

In the following we would like to inform you of the most striking events of our “Elbe Day Festival '92,” April 23 through 26.

They will be:

- The International DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE Youth Camp, including
 - a great opening fete with international bands
 - forum discussions with top politicians and Elbe veterans
 - the International Torgau Seminar of the Christian Peace Conference
- Political Talk Shows with top politicians and Elbe veterans
 - “Coming Together in Europe” in the House of Culture
 - “Youth Questions European Politicians” in the Town Hall
- Meeting at the Link-up Memorial
 - Together with members of Parliament, Elbe veterans, participants of the International Youth Camp, Torgau citizens and their other guests
- SWINGING ELBE DAY CITY
 - Symbolic Dixieland Troops Meeting on or at the historical Elbe River Bridge by an American and a Russian Army Band
 - Down By The Riverside Street Parade with international bands, Elbe veterans, participants of the International Youth Camp, Torgau citizens and their guests

(Continued on Page 29)

"ELBE DAY FESTIVAL '92"

(Continued from Page 28)

- Down By The Riverside Public Festival in the meadows along the Elbe River just opposite Torgau
- Elbe Day Concert in the Castle's Church - Contemporary Jazz -
- SWINGING ELBE DAY CITY in the Night at various places and halls in Torgau
- Services
 - Elbe Day Service in the Castle's Church
 - Youth Campground Service in the Elbe River meadows
- Final Morning Concerts "COMING TOGETHER IN EUROPE"
 - in the Elbe River meadows
 - in the Torgau garrison of the Soviet Army

Company A, 272nd Infantry

James V. Russo
2104 Coolidge Drive, Arlington, Texas 76011

Enclosed are copies of three photos taken in Germany in April 1945. As I recall, the photos were taken with a "liberated" camera by one of the members of our 3rd Squad, 3rd Platoon, Company A, 272nd.

The first photo shows **Sergeant Ed Manion**, our Assistant Squad Leader, and me (in foreground with BAR) seated on the tank which took us on part of our "tour" of Germany. The second photo was taken as the platoon waited for the order to move out for the 69th's attack on Leipzig. I can only identify Ed who is seen loading his M-1. I am seated on the ammo boxes in the foreground. The third photo shows Ed, peering through binoculars; **Jim Winters**, hands in pocket and head turned towards **George Jeske**; and **??? Rowe** with the non-GI headgear.

My recollection is that **Ed Manion** had recently rejoined the squad after having his helmet "air conditioned" by a German bullet. Fortunately, the bullet exited without serious injury to Ed, although the wound was serious enough to earn him a Purple Heart. Incidentally, I saw his note to the Bulletin a few issues ago and intended to write to him, but procrastinated long enough to misplace the issue which contained his address.



Finally we feel it is a must to express our sincere thanks for having the chance to publish our notice in your magazine. We hope this will help to attract both official delegates and private parties of tourists too, on the occasion of our "ELBE DAY FESTIVAL '92" at Torgau remembering the historical 1945 Link-Up.

We are looking forward to a successful "ELBE DAY FESTIVAL '92."

Cordially yours,
Dr. Uwe Niedersen, Chairman
Organizational Committee

If you are interested, contact **Heinz Richter** at the address on the preceding page or by telefax via Germany 00 37 40 792 / 346, or by phone via Torgau 4910 dialing code / number - Mr. Herbert Schedina, speaking English and in close contact to our committee).

I joined the 69th in June 1944 after completing basic training in Camp Wheeler, Georgia. A few months after the war ended many of us 69ers with a low number of points were transferred to maintenance units. I served in one in Kassel and was later transferred to another in Esslingen, a city which, unlike the almost completely destroyed Kassel, was untouched by the war.

I have a few additional photos taken around the same time as the enclosed, and now that I am retired, I expect to summon up the time and energy to copy them for publication. I enjoy reading the Bulletin and am especially pleased to read of someone I knew in Company A. Keep up the good work!



Alan H. Murphey Provides Us With This Look Into the Past

Alan H. Murphey
Headquarters, 3rd Battalion, 273rd Infantry
1339 Hemlock Drive
Fairborn, Ohio 45324



Left to Right: Alan Murphey and unknown (possibly Walter Butson). Altenhain, Germany. May 1945



Udenbreth farmhouse OP used by I&R section, 3rd Battalion, 273rd Infantry, as it looked in 1960.



Left to right: Pfc. Fred Koeller and Pfc. Duane Munds, A&P Platoon. Altenhain, Germany. May 1945



1st Sergeant Gerard A. Eich and German girls. Raboldshausen, Germany. August 1945.

Pfc. Veikko (Arnold) Mackey, Wire Section, Comm Platoon. Unknown location - 1945.





A&P Platoon log cabin at Battalion Rear CP in the woods southwest of Udenbreth, February 1945. Left to right: Pfc. Everette Patterson, Paul DeFrancisco, Fred Koeller, Michael Ossewaarde, William Siegel, Joseph Guzek, John Sneary and Duane Munds. Squatting: T/Sgt. Leroy Eacret. Koeller is holding helmet over platoon mascot.



Ex-69ers assigned to 138th Ordnance HM Company (Kassel) on furlough to the French Riviera, Nice, France, December 1945. Left to right: Emmett Gless (E/271st), George Garaboldi (Company Unknown), Albert Rendes (Hq., 3rd/273rd), Thomas Hoffman (H/273rd), and Alan Murphey (Hq./3rd/273rd).

Town Square - Kolding, Denmark



Phil Sparacino of Milwaukee, Wisconsin on left. Company B, 881st Field Artillery

New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

- Herbert A. White** — C-271st
384 Maxwell Branch Road, Cottonwood, Tennessee 37048
- J. F. Minton** — Hq., 273rd
117 Caton Street, Piedmont, Alabama 36272
- Herman F. Lipe** — A-271st
604 West Rice Street, Landis, North Carolina 28088
- L. G. Testerman**
R.D. #2, Box 99-A, Mount of Wilson, Virginia 24363
- Cornelius J. Crowley**
407 Camino Del Bosque N.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87114
- F. Robert Brown** — A-879th
P.O. Box 288, Avoca, Arkansas 72711
- Joe L. Blanke** — 661st
21 South Point Lake Serene, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402
- Otis Burdick** — A-777th
5120 69th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Florida 34665
- Herb Walley**
59 Fulton, Mobile, Alabama 36606
- Abraham J. Pastman** — A-271st
Preston A-3, Boca Raton, Florida 33434
- William R. Boone** — G-273rd
P.O. Box 190053, Mobile, Alabama 36619
- Walter Prestage**
1602 Ross, Sioux City, Iowa 51104
- Herman A. Bullard** — 271st
Route 1, Box 84, Iuka, Mississippi 38852
- Joseph H. Green, Jr.** — Hq., 271st
4 Green Street, Georgetown, Delaware 19947
- Jack Weingast** — K-273rd
46 Clara Street, Brooklyn, New York 11218
- Frank Furman** — C-661st
1403 DeWitt Drive, Akron, Ohio 44313
- Roland Vernon** — Cannon, 272nd
4034 South Main Street
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27127
- Joseph N. Kurt** — E-271st
8266 Wieferich Road, Farley, Iowa 52046
- William T. Hambrick** — C-272nd
26 White Oak Circle, Searcy, Arkansas 72143
- Ralph L. Baucum** — F-273rd
5135 Sycamore Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39212
- Edward Goad** — 661st
P.O. Box 339, Rensselaer, New York 12144
- John Stephens** — Recon, 661st
1454 Pinon Avenue, Anderson, California 96009
- P. Witman** — 661st
1632 Schoolhouse Lane, Pen Argyl, Pennsylvania 18072
- George Vosburgh** — Med., F-271st
5780 Brooks Green Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30328
- Elio Bigiarelli** — Med., Hq.-271st
502 Wilson Street, Martinsburg, West Virginia 25401
- Edward LaMonica** — Med.-271st
404 South Portage Path, Akron, Ohio 44320
- Robert S. Maro** — Med., Hq.-271st
173 West Dennick Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio 44505
- Emil Tobias** — Med., I-271st
42 Greenwood Lane, White Plains, New York 10607
- Robert Eicher** — Hq., 1st Bn.-273rd
Route 7, Box 1115, Elizabethton, Tennessee 37643
- Alfred Hicks, Jr.** — C-271st
4611 92nd Street, Lubbock, Texas 79424
- Allen A. Carr** — H-272nd
600 Terrace Plaza, Willowick, Ohio 44095
- Marvin A. Riggs** — 271st
5440 Raymond Road, Jackson, Mississippi 39212
- Edward Suczulak** — K-273rd
R.R. #1, Box 430-A, Lake Village, Indiana 46349
- Frederick W. Baumgartner** — Recon, 661st
1465 Ferguson Avenue, Spring Hill, Florida 34609
- Emile Rellstab** — K-273rd
76 North Avenue, New Rochelle, New York 10801
- Keith Mower** — 69th QM & H-271st
P.O. Box 3031, Van Nuys, California 91407
- Kent O'Kelley** — Hq., 1st Bn.-273rd
2436 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, Mississippi 39531
- John T. O'Neill** — B-273rd
55 Stetson Street, Fall River, Massachusetts 02720
- Rex Roberts, Sr.** — B-273rd
300 Bayon Avenue East, Satsuma, Alabama 36572
- Albert Diacova** — 569th Signal
2829 Tremont, Philadelphia, PA 19136
- John E. Goode** — Hq.-272nd
300 East Hopocan Avenue, Barberton, Ohio 44203
- Angelo Capone** — K-273rd
59 Elite Drive, Cranston, Rhode Island 02921
- Ralph Geisler** — A-273rd
4540 44th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33714
- Arthur H. Holmes** — H-273rd
35 Hale Road, Levittown, Pennsylvania 19056
- Andrew Sundell** — C-271st
90 Sherwood Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08619
- Bruce Berninger** — Honorary Member
401 West Madison Avenue, Apt. #6
Dumont, New Jersey 07628

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

CLARENCE MARSHALL, 101 Stephen Street, New Kensington, PA 15068
EARL E. WITZLEB, JR. P.O. Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
or R.D. #1, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

LADIES AUXILIARY MATERIAL AND PICTURES TO:
DOROTHY A. WITZLEB at the same two addresses above listed for Earl.

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).

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

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.)

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."

Well, Biloxi is over and I was well pleased with the number of Tri-Staters in attendance. I am sure you all agree that the day at Camp Shelby was well worth the visit to the South and the dedication of the 69th monument. Very impressive and it made my term of office as president great.

Now we rest for a few months and enjoy the holidays. Dottie and I wish you all a good Thanksgiving and SEASONS GREETINGS for Christmas and the New Year of 1992.

Say ladies, I know you supply good items of goodies for our hospitality room on our weekend so why not during the long winter nights make lap robes and other items for the

veterans at the Veterans Hospital near San Francisco. If you make a few and take them along with you to the west coast, I am sure the Vets would appreciate them.

We now await the flyer information from Vaughn Woormer on our spring weekend coming up in May of 1992. I hope you all plan to be at Days Inn, Altoona, Pennsylvania this spring. I'll get the information out to each of you about seven or eight weeks before the weekend. I hope you all go to San Francisco but if you can't make it, be sure to attend the Tri-State in the spring. We don't want to miss going somewhere at least once each year. That goes for all member of the 69th Association. If you can't make San Francisco for some reason, write and ask for a flyer to the Tri-State this spring. We'll have a good weekend at Altoona but do try your level best to go to California. Our two addresses are under our picture.



A great time was had by all at the Grantsville-Meyersdale weekend of the Maple Festival. Left to right are Bill Matlach, Paul Kitner, Frank Carey, George Murphy and Earl Witzleb.

461st AAA, Battery B

Larry W. and Milly Brown, News Reporters
538 Burns Avenue
Clarkston, Washington 99403
Telephone: 509/785-2180

The West Coast Reunion is over and Don and Genny Castellaw of Muscaw, Idaho will have the next west coast reunion in June of 1993. We had a hayride breakfast that was enjoyed by all. Also a buffet at Hannah's and a show. The Gergerichs and Russells drove out from Pittsburgh in the Russell's van.

(Continued on Page 34)

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

(Continued from Page 33)

Those in attendance at the Reno Reunion in June 1991 were:

- Larry and Milly Brown Clarkston, Washington
- Dale and Bebe Case Lewiston, Idaho
- Don and Genny Castellaw Muscaw, Idaho
- Don and Audrey Detweiler Nazareth, Pennsylvania
- Vern and Evelyn Diekhoff Rialto, California
- Dick and Helen Esaacson Fair Oaks, California
- Ed and Jo Gergerich Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Karl Petersen and Barbara Saugus, California
- Sam and Vivian Russell Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Tony Salomick Dickinson, North Dakota
- Ann Thompson San Francisco, California
- Dot Wilkinson Santa Rosa, California

EARL'S NOTE: Larry, with all those California addresses, I expect to see them all at San Francisco at the national reunion in 1992. It appears that the 461st AAA members are beginning to show at 69th reunions. We had one couple attend the Valley Forge reunion in 1990. This year we had three members attend our 69th Monument Dedication at Camp Shelby and also our membership meeting on Saturday morning. Although they failed to register in the registration room, I have them on the attendees for Biloxi.

Headquarters, 2nd Battalion 273rd Infantry

Victor Ostrow, News Reporter
1612 Lemontree Lane
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

Another year has rolled by quickly. Sad to say a very dear friend of ours, **Bob Glaum**, COE-271st, has passed away. I received a call from his daughter informing me of the bad news. In the years that I have known **Bob** and his wife **Grace**, I cannot think of a more courageous individual who endured so much pain struggling on two bad legs making every effort to keep up with the rest of us during the week of the 69th reunion. As you may recall, on his last trip to Colorado he suffered a severe heart attack and was unable to attend any other 69th reunions. We will miss him and our hearts go out to his wife **Grace** and family. May God rest his soul. Please enter him under "Taps."

May has been a hectic month for me. As commander of my local Jewish War Veterans Post, I have been very busy keeping a grueling schedule and attending various functions. Recently I attended the Armed Services Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. on veterans rights and health benefits. The Jewish War Veterans presented Senator John Warner of Virginia with the Legion of Merit for his outstanding work on veterans affairs. As you well know, being commander demands a great deal of your time and effort, but the rewards and support of your comrades makes it all worthwhile. I was recently honored as the Veteran of the Year of the Jewish War Veterans of my local post which included a breakfast luncheon and musical entertainment. The following day, Monday, May 7, 1991, I attended a wreath laying ceremony in Memorial Park in Wheaton, Maryland. It was an impressive ceremony with the various organizations participating and open house at the American Legion.

It is rather ironic that two National Conventions would come together a month apart. The Jewish War Veterans National Convention will be held in Atlanta, Georgia followed

by the 69th Convention in September in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Lord willing I intend to make each one and enjoy the festivities. How many more can we make? Let's get together and make the dedication of the Monument at Camp Shelby a momentous occasion with the largest and best event ever held. My wife and I are looking forward to seeing all our many old and new friends. Time to sign off now. May the coming years bring us health and happiness.



Veteran of the Year award being presented to Victor Ostrow, left.



Olga and Victor Ostrow with the Veteran of the Year Plaque.

(Continued on Page 35)

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

(Continued from Page 34)

Company A, 273rd Infantry

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



The 69th Infantry Division reunion at Biloxi, Mississippi is now a happy memory. At approximately 12:00 hours, Thursday, 19 September 1991, eleven members of Able Company made roll call in the Hospitality Room of the Mississippi Beach Resort Hotel. One member, **Pierce Rice**, was enroute from home station. **Jack Hubbard** was absent due to illness. Please contact **Jack** with get well messages. After a rap session, complete with maps, pictures, display of souvenirs from the war, and plenty of vocalizing, the group posed for a Company picture (to be forwarded later). Those present were as follows:

***Charlie Altzman** Amirillo, Texas
James Carroll Levelland, Texas
James Ezell Jonesboro, Arkansas
Ray Fahrner Lansdale, Pennsylvania
Harold Crowley Elmhurst, New York
Ed Lucci Lynbrook, New York
Bill Nettles Starksville, Mississippi
Bennie Srubar Houston, Texas
Aaron Taulbee Wilmington, Ohio
Jack Houghton Denver, Colorado
***Jerry Ghedotti** Kent, Washington

***Jerry and Charlie** were **FIRST TIMERS**. On a happy note, the last time we saw **Charlie** was when he was lying on the back of a tank, having been wounded in the firefight outside City Hall in Leipzig - April 1945. On a sad note, **Jerry** had to leave the reunion due to illness. Please contact **Jerry** with get well messages.

Jerry Ghedotti 25672 29th South Kent, Washington 98032	Jack Hubbard 2852 White Horse Road Orlando, Florida 32822
---	--

After the reunion, I received a call from a former A Company soldier. He fed me the following data:

Ralph Geisler ASN: 6907686
Unit: 7th Coast Artillery - Fort Howard, New Jersey
8", 10", 12", 16" Railroad Guns
Repple Depple: Camp Upton, New York
Disembarked: Liverpool, England
Assigned: 69th Infantry Division - Tent City, France
Buck Sergeant, Co. A, 273rd Infantry, 3rd Platoon
After War: Promoted to Tech Sergeant, 3rd Platoon under
Lieutenant **Fichthorn**

Sentimental Journey: Back to Marmalaine, France
Home - November 1945

Discharged: Fort Monmouth, New Jersey
Address: 4540 Forty-fourth Avenue North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33714
Telephone: 813/525-8211

That's it for now from **Tryhard Red Able**.

TO ALL MEMBERS: If you would like to purchase a Crest of your Regiment, please send your name, address, your Company and Regiment, and number of pins desired. Do not send cash. I will bill you when I ship. They sell for approximately \$5.00 + postage. Allow two months for delivery.

Ray Fahrner

Company D, 273rd Infantry

Ken Sawyer, News Reporter
2935 Turtle Mound Road
Melbourne, Florida 32934
Telephone: 407/254-7175

Many of our Company D frequent-timers didn't attend our recent reunion in Biloxi. Those that did attend missed their friends, and regretted that these friends had missed a memorable occasion. The dreaded Mississippi heat providently vanished in mid-week, and the dedication of the 69th Infantry Division Monument at Camp Shelby was held in beautiful weather. We were thrilled and delighted with an impressive ceremony.

Bob and Betty Jo McCarty opened their home in New Orleans on Thursday the nineteenth to those Company D members attending the reunion. An afternoon was spent enjoying refreshments and a visit to Mardi Gras World to get an appreciation of the time and effort expended in producing the famous Mardi Gras parade floats. Anticipated inclement weather was accommodated by having a barbecue dinner at a local restaurant instead of the **McCarty** backyard. Guests then returned to the **McCarty** home for the cutting of the cake which was appropriately decorated with the division patch and the unit designation. The whole occasion was the treat of the **McCarty**s. Twelve Company D members made it to New Orleans for this great party. **Al Faison** and **Bob Bement**, two artillerymen with whom most of us are well acquainted, were also warmly welcomed.

A well organized banquet had all seventeen of us seated at one table. (Well done, **Bob Kurtzman**, et al). The 17 consisted of **Bob and Jo McCarty**, **Charlie and Bertha Hoefler**, **Art and Eloise Lohrbach**, **John and Helen Oplt**, **Boyd and Jean Good**, **Vic and Bonnie Motley**, **Lew Tenney**, **Art Ayres**, **Elmer Thompson**, **Ken Sawyer** and **Fran Collard**. It was a spirited group. The reunion served as always to freshen and strengthen old ties. Most of those present looked hopefully toward meeting next August in San Francisco. Those who are not enthused with flying should remember to obtain maps or AMTRAC reservations early. Let's make it bigger than Denver. Let's make it the biggest of all.

In the meantime, several of us plan to get together in Melbourne, Florida during the week of 12 January. Some group activities will be planned for the period 14-16 January. The site will be the **Quality Suites Hotel** on the ocean front. Anyone interested in joining us should contact me at the above address or **Bob McCarty**, 2152 Guardian Avenue, Terrytown, Louisiana 70056, Telephone: 504/392-3349

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DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,
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Company E, 273rd Infantry



Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.

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.

Exit 9 of 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."

What's the trouble??? I can't figure out why E Company doesn't get more members to Annual 69th Reunions. We only had Joseph and Virginia Aiello, Davisson Dunlap, William and Jane Matlach, Al and Lottie Shires, Harold and Peggy Sprang, Kermit Webb, and ourselves, Earl and Dorothy Witzleb, Jr. at Biloxi. We had seven members and five wives for a total of twelve. A Company beat us once again since they had thirteen members and eight wives for a total of twenty-one present. Let's go E Company.

The service and day at Camp Shelby with the dedication of the 69th Monument made the week and reunion. We all should have been present. The rest of the week went along well, too.

It's early so why not plan on going to San Francisco. They will have a well planned week for us with, I do believe, an overnight stay at Reno on Monday night. If you can't make San Francisco for some reason, may I invite all E Company members to come to the Tri-State weekend in May of 1992. Read about it under Tri-State Group, but let's do have an E Company get together soon. Altoona, Pennsylvania isn't all that far from the majority of our members on the roster. Write me for a flyer.

Virginia Aiello became ill in Biloxi when she arrived and spent her time in the local hospital until they sent her home on Saturday. We hope you are recovered from your sickness Virginia and that we'll see you and Joe in Altoona, Pennsylvania as well as San Francisco in 1992. Her address is: Virginia Aiello, 245 Parkview Avenue, Bronxville, New York 10708 - if you good E Company members wish to send a card.

If I do remember correctly, Bill and Jane Matlach visited with William Alldredge in Chattanooga, Tennessee on their way to Biloxi. They reported he is fine. We hope to see you, Bill, in Nashville in 1994 if not before, so do stay well.

We missed some old stand-bys in Biloxi so it's time we see you in San Francisco in August 1992.

HAVE A GOOD HOLIDAY SEASON - Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's of 1992.

Company K, 273rd Infantry

Robert H. Hoffman, *News Reporter*

128 Linwood Avenue

Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450

It is always a delight when I find the 69th Bulletin in my mailbox. I eagerly go through the pages and I read everything, as I find it all interesting reading. However, I keep my eye peeled for the 273rd information, and especially Company K, 273rd. I began to believe over the years that my old buddies in Company K, 273rd, including myself, were the least interested in offering information about themselves because it was so rare to read anything pertaining to that group. That is, until the bulletin of January to April, 1991. Happy days, the story of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 273rd Infantry by Alan Murphey - outstanding.

The pictures from Otto J. DeBruyn and Alan Murphey were superb, but it was Tutt Snodgrass who took the prize for his thoughts and perfectly candid comments about some of the men of K Company, 273rd Infantry. This was in response to a letter from Jim Mynes.



Company K, 273rd Infantry - left to right: Tutt Snodgrass, Herb Altman, Bob Hoffman and Jim Steinhilber.

I wrote to Tutt and sent him some photos of himself that I had in an album and commented on his letter. I believe this can snowball now that Tutt recalled so many names and some events that occurred. I hope others from our company will write in and bring us up to date on their lives.

As for myself, I am retired and my wife still works as a school teacher. We have seven grandchildren. I did revisit Germany in 1971 and spent a week driving around areas we had traveled through. Witzler was in living colors, all brightly

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painted and decorated. Stores were stocked with chocolate, cakes, cookies, etc. Funny, I had remembered it as old and drab and in black and white. A jeep drove by with four young German soldiers. They honked the horn and whistled at my 16 year old daughter.

It would be nice to hear from some of our buddies in K Company, 273rd, now that **Jim Mynes** and **Tutt Snodgrass** got the ball rolling.

269th Engineers

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



Sorry I missed the last deadline for the 269th Engineers in the last bulletin, but I promise to do better in the future. "Thanks" to all who worried about me and my health. I'm in good health, really.

A great honor was bestowed on a Company B member. **Bill "Blackie" Blackburn** from Ada, Oklahoma was inducted into the National Hall of Fame for athletes at Kansas City, Missouri, this past July. So, Blackie's photograph (8½ x 11) hangs in Minneapolis, Minnesota along with other great athletes such as **Arnold Palmer**, **Jack Nicklaus** and many others. Blackie received this recognition for 34 years officiating any basketball and football games at all levels including BOWL games.

Enclosed is a photo of the Packard Historical Military Museum at Pine Acres, Oakham, Massachusetts #01068, which is owned and operated by **Frank (Kim) Packard** of Company A. It is, as far as I know, the only museum in the U.S.A. with the 69th Insignia over the doorway and if you would like to donate any military artifacts they would be appreciated and put on display. So, if in the area, stop by and see **Kim** and his museum and all 69ers will be welcomed.

James (Jim) Riley of Company B is working his way to the top in the American Legion Delaware County and also does volunteer work for the Veterans Hospital in Coatesville, Pennsylvania. **Jim** couldn't make the Biloxi reunion since he was committed to other Legion affairs out of town on our dates. Enclosed is a photo of a display that **Jim** designed to be displayed in front of the war monument in Eddystone, Pennsylvania to honor the veterans of Operation Desert Storm, the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, World War I and World War II.

I have been informed that during the Korean War, when the 69th Infantry Division was reactivated, they came out with a 269th Engineer Crest. It was manufactured only for collectors and not the unit, but if we so wanted, we could have these made. My feeling is that when the war ended we had no crest so this would be just a piece of jewelry and not really our 269th Engineers crest. They would cost about \$6.00 a piece and we would have to order at least 50 of them and also pay die costs. So let me hear from you all and find out if we want to order these or not.

Well, I must sign off wishing you all the best of health and enjoy life to its fullest. I will have a complete write-up of the return to Camp Shelby, Mississippi and the reunion at Biloxi, Mississippi.



The Packard Historical Military Museum in Oakham, Massachusetts. Frank Packard served in Company A, 269th Engineers.



Display designed by James Riley for the American Legion at Eddystone, Pennsylvania.

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Company D, 272nd Infantry

Jack and Lucille Burrus, *Coordinators and News Reporters*
R.D. #1, Box 99
Arenzville, Illinois 62611
Telephone: 217/997-2115

D Company of the 272nd Regiment held their Bi-Annual Reunion in "Cajun" country at New Iberia, Louisiana on June 13th, 14th and 15th. Hosts were J.P. and Mildred Geoffroy of Erath, Louisiana. Twenty-four members of the Company from 15 different states were in attendance. The group enjoyed visits to Avery Island, Jefferson Island and a Tabasco sauce factory. On Saturday night a banquet was held at the Best Western Motel. On Sunday afternoon and evening the Geoffroys hosted two meals at their home. It was here that most members of the company ate crawfish for the first time in their lives. They were served three different ways - all delicious! Following the evening meal the group adjourned to a nearby club to listen to "Cajun" music and some of the more spritely members of the company even joined in the dancing!

It was decided to meet again in 1992 instead of waiting until 1993. Ralph and Grace Schollenberger of 24 Fairview Street, Boyerstown, Pennsylvania 19512, will be the hosts. The exact location in Eastern Pennsylvania will be announced later.

It was a great reunion with a good time had by all - with one exception. Those Cajuns shouldn't put quite so many jalapeno peppers in their "hush puppies!"

Former company members in attendance were :

- Zeno Brown Kernersville, North Carolina
- Richard Bell Watertown, South Dakota
- Art Burkman McHenry, Illinois
- Jack Burrus Arenzville, Illinois
- George Estell Hazlett, New Jersey
- Nick Etze Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania
- Herb Frye Dundalk, Maryland
- Byron Gutshall Covington, Virginia
- James Headland Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania
- Lowell Jackson Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Cecil Loudermilch Anniston, Alabama
- John Mason Berkley, California
- Blake Morrison Greensboro, North Carolina
- Charles Patsourakos Cheomsfoid, Massachusetts
- Ralph Pearson St. Paul, Minnesota
- Louis W. Pohopek York, Maine
- Eugene Roberts Dallas, Texas
- Henry Schenck Berwick, Pennsylvania
- Ralph Schollenberger Boyerstown, Pennsylvania
- J.P. Geoffroy, *Host* Erath, Louisiana

Others in attendance were Grant and Margaret Gutshall, Margaret Lausing, Catherine Grobelski, Ruby Brown, Lucille Bell, Alice Burkman, Lucille Burrus, Marge Estell, Katy Frye, Mildred Headland, Billie Jackson, Lucy Loudermilch, Ruth Roberts, Louise Schenck, Grace Shollenberger and the co-host Mildred Geoffroy.

**Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
to all Members of the 69th**

880th Field Artillery, A Battery

John Barnett, *News Reporter*
6374 Brandywine Trail
Norcross, Georgia 30092
Telephone: _____

May I please have a picture of you and your wife with your next article.

REPORT FROM A-880

FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION MESSAGE CENTER

A Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion, held its sixth annual battery reunion September 26-29, 1991, in Tucson, Arizona at the Palo Verde Holiday Inn. Thanks to the advance team of James Bilbrey and Bill Johnson, it was a highly successful and enjoyable affair.

Attending were: James and Geneva Bilbrey, John and Pat Barnett, Bill and Shirley Dunn, Tom and Betty Ellis, Bill and Anne Johnson, Hal and Maxine Robison (*first timers*), Lloyd and Janice Gerth, Izzy and Ruth Bombardier (*Izzy is mayor-elect of Concordia, Kansas*), Frank and Dorothy Cavlovic, Delmar and Betty Jeffries, Vince Ignatosky (*first timer*), Margie Harreld and Joy Northern.

On Friday the group went by bus to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and then to Old Tucson, famous Western movie location. On Saturday our bus went to Sabino Canyon, north of Tucson, where we rode up into the Santa Catalina Mountains to enjoy the breathtaking scenery.

Our annual banquet was held Saturday night in the motel. It was Frank Cavlovic's birthday and we enjoyed his birthday cake for our dessert.

After dinner the redlegs and their wives adjourned to the San Marcus Room and conducted our business meeting. A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of our departed comrades.

It was noted that all batteries of the 880th Field Artillery Battalion are now holding reunions with the exception of "B" and Service Batteries. We expressed hope that these two units would become active and that perhaps down the road a Battalion reunion could be arranged.

Next year's reunion will be held at the usual time - the last week of September (September 24-27, 1992). It will probably be held in the Kentucky or Tennessee area. James Bilbrey will propose the location and the Division Bulletin will be notified.

Reunions are rewarding experiences. Don't put off going to the next one. Tempus does fugit so go - eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow may not just be another day.

880th Field Artillery, C Battery

Lowell and Marjorie McFarlin, *News Reporters*
89 North High Street, Box 236
Jeromesville, Ohio 44840
Telephone: 419/368-7363

GLIMPSE IN AUTUMN

Ladies at a ball	They stand against a wall
Are not so fine as these	Of crisp October sky,
Richly brocaded trees	Their plumed heads held high,
That decorate the fall.	Like ladies at a ball.

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The weather cooperated rather well during our stay at Wildwood Crest. It rained at night and was pleasant during the day. For many of us, the first thing on the agenda was to get our feet in the ocean. The parking lot, the lobby, and the hospitality room began to come alive before 2:00 p.m. Several of us went to a nearby restaurant for some lunch after arriving, and I'm sure everyone there realized that there is plenty of fun and laughter when good friends get together.

Sunday evening we had a dinner-dance at "The Two Mile Landing." We found that we have some very talented dancers in our midst. We were given the souvenir wine glasses to bring home to help us remember our visit there.

On Monday, we drove to Cape May where we toured a beautiful old restored Victorian home, and then took a trolley ride through the city and listened to a very interesting knowledgeable guide. During the afternoon we walked around through the neat little shops in the mall. Monday evening we ate our dinner at the Boat House. Upon returning to our motel we gathered in the hospitality room for our fun time with the white elephant exchange. After all the merriment subsided, it was discovered that **Ben Tobias** was fortunate enough to claim our now famous returning tie. We hope to see it (you too, **Ben**), next year.

Tuesday morning was spent having our annual business meeting, followed by pictures taken around the pool. In the afternoon the bus took the group for their "money making" trip to Atlantic City. What a pity that only **Howard Whitfield** and **Mary Reber's** sister, **Connie**, were able to cash in on it. After returning to the motel the group was able to meet **Bud** and **Millie's** son and his wife. They came to visit us for a day.

After a rather gloomy start on Wednesday morning the day brightened and we were able to enjoy a very pleasant ride on a paddle boat on the inland waterway. The evening was spent at a dinner show at a place called "On The Town." The three entertainers were very good. After returning to the hospitality room, we all realized that our coveted time together was coming to an end for another year.

Perhaps you would like to know who was at the reunion, so here is the list. **Bud** and **Millie Henson**, **Joe** and **Dottie Damato**, **Ben Tobias**, **Willis Samoss**, **Ray Mills**, **Lew** and **Fern Pugh**, **John** and **Helen Wallace**, **Henry** and **Lucille Abbe**, **Lowell** and **Marjorie McFarlin**, **Bill** and **Correne Leslie**, **Howard** and **Vera Whitfield**, **Marvin** and **Mary Reber**, **Dick** and **Connie Helfrick** (**Mary's** sister), **Cliff** and **Katherine Eley**, **Lee** and **Betty Meyer**, **Lou** and **Jean Hoehing** and **Nick Mancini** stopped by.

Well, that pretty much covers the reunion, so we just ask all of you to keep in touch with us. Any news - good or bad, we will pass on as best we can.

God bless you all.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It must have been some weekend. It would be nice to spread out the names of those attending by putting name, city and state. You all did miss the highlight of all 69th Division Association reunions past, present, and future if you missed the day at Camp Shelby, the tour of the camp, visiting the museum, enjoying the delicious meal put out by the camp, the wonderful hospitality of the people of Hattiesburg and camp personnel, and last but not least, the couple of hours spent at the theater and on the grounds for the program and dedication of our 69th Infantry Division Association monument which stands out and honors all soldiers of our units and attached outfits of those who have gone before us and those of us still living. If you missed this day and it can never be repeated, what can I say other than

someone should have represented you at this one shot program. You had to be there for the finale of the 21 gun salute.

Now I see your ballot only has three future sites of a weekend. California was left out. It would have been nice to go there in 1992 to start off with several days at the 69th reunion and end up on your cruise, plus seeing the west coast and more wonderful areas of our great country, the United States.

Earl

Headquarters Battery and Medical Detachment 461st AAA Battalion

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

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

or
3901 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22203
Telephone: _____

461st Meeting on October 11-13, 1991 Quality Inn - Salem, Virginia

We had a beautiful weekend for greeting friends of the 461st. The lobby was the meeting place Friday afternoon as we came from all directions. The motel had a meeting room reserved for us.

Saturday we met at 3:00 to see slides **Charlie Griffin** had of a trip to Paris. **Allen Whitley** had a case of locally grown apples; **Paul Lovelace** a basket of chestnuts. Thanks guys, for your thoughtfulness. **Katherine Trail** came by and visited but could not return for dinner in the evening.

We met for a delicious buffet dinner at 6:30, with 61 present, including guests. **Louis Jones** was master of ceremonies. We appreciate him taking this duty each year. We extended appreciation to **Allen Whitley** for his work in arranging this meeting and others in the past. He requested a break; **Charlie Griffin** agreed to arrange a date and place for our meeting in 1992 - preferably in this area and this time of year. The meeting was turned over to **Frenchy Breyette**, who gave a few remarks regarding the Battle of Normandy Foundation. We will be receiving additional information on this.

We welcomed first-timers this year: **Francis** and **Ruth Atkins** and **Guy** and **Stella Testerman**. Hope to see you next year.

There being no old or new business we discussed payment of the dinner - \$826.90, including tax and tip. It was agreed each person would pay \$14.00. No extra money is needed this year as other expenses have been underwritten by an anonymous person. Thanks. There was no charge to the family of **John Marshall**, grandson of **Gaines Marshall**. It was a pleasure to meet them and see the scrapbook **John** had put together. **Margaret Bryson** and **Linda** had brought several gifts to be drawn. We then adjourned to have group pictures taken. (Minutes taken by **Mac** and **Madge Morris**).

Attending this reunion were:

Louis and **Ruth Jones**, **Joe** and **Margaret Bryson**, **Howard** and **Maxine Sandefur**, **Paul** and **Bertha Kowalchek**, **Ed** and

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Belle Moore, John and Connie Lane, Milford and Letha Moore, Chris and Brooke Blattner, Mac and Madge Morris, Paul and Ethel Lovelace, John and Elsie Chambliss, Conley and Viola Gamble, Roy and Ethel Currier, Filmore and Marie Cassell, Francis and Keith Atkins, Guy and Stella Testerman, Bruce and Susie Marshall and family, Wallace and Betty Ullery, Francis and Eleanor Breyette, Isabel and Ralph Yingling, Steve and Cindy Lucas, Ed and Joyce Hales, Ben and Linda Truitt, Allen Whitley, Charles (Ed) Griffin, J.D. and Phyllis Blackwell and Fran and J.D.'s daughter and son-in-law Bill Hopkins and Ellen and family, Betty Gamble, Tom and Patrick Musselwhite.

NOTE: Mac, it would be nice if you listed each name separately with city and state such as: Mac and Madge Morris, Arlington, Virginia This way they are not too jumbled and more readable for those wanting to know who attended.

We did have three members attend our 69th reunion in Biloxi from the 461st AAA. They were from D-Battery attending the beautiful monument ceremony at Camp Shelby and also the general membership meeting at the Mississippi Beach Resort Hotel. One of these men is your first AAA member to be on the 69th Board of Directors. This, along with the couple attending last year's reunion at Valley Forge, makes me feel you fellows and gals will start coming to our reunions as did the other attached units to the 69th, which are the 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 777th Tank Battalion. You know you are all welcome to attend our 69th reunion and also invited to attend mini-weekends if one is in your area. Next year we would like to see some of you take a west coast vacation at the time of our San Francisco reunion in August and join us at the Airport Marriott.

I hope too, that you are encouraging your members to pay dues to the 69th Association which are five dollars, and two dollars for the wife to be an auxiliary member. If you can afford ten dollars, we consider this a contributory membership plus if you still have a few dollars to share, we can use it for helping defray the cost of bulletins and postage. Our treasurer reports our funds are going fast due to the bulletins being so large that Clarence and I have been limited to no more than 60 page bulletins. We also have to cut out the red and blue covers and go back to the black and white. They also wanted us to go to two bulletins a year but this would hurt our publicity of annual reunions, so we still have three for at least the next three or four years. Kindly see that your group will support the 69th Association.

Dottie and I are sorry we could not attend your weekend this year since she was out of vacation time and also she isn't feeling all that well. She left home sick, attended the Biloxi reunion with me, went on to Florida for a week, and came home feeling worse than when she left. We'll possibly see you all next year if the Lord is willing and all goes well.

Earl

NOTICE

If you would like to see your unit covered, please send in an article and we will publish it. We would like to see coverage from all units. If you don't send it in, we cannot publish it. So get your pen and paper out and send us some coverage for your unit. We show no favoritism. It is your interest that will cause your unit to receive more coverage. SO SEND IT IN, GUYS!

**Jim Ford of Company D,
271st sent us these shots**



Jim Ford, Germany 1945



Fort Lewis, Washington - 1949



Tunnel Hill, Georgia - May 1991

Sam Lewis Writes . . .

66A Brookmeadow Drive, Wimberly, Texas 78676

I would like to become a member of the 69th Division Association. It is at the suggestion of Mr. Edgar Parsons that I do so. I am a little late, am I not? The reason is that until April 24, 1985, at the Merkur Hotel in Leipzig, I was not aware that the Association even existed. In fact, I had often wondered why the 69th never had a reunion as did so many other units. Especially since the notoriety of the link-up.

My wife and I were planning our 7th trip to Europe when we learned of the 1985 meeting, and that was only due to seeing in the paper of that "Journey For Peace" group's plans to attend. We were planning to drive to Leipzig and would have been there on the 30th. I can't describe the terrible feeling I would have had if that schedule had prevailed, and I had learned of the event later.

Anyway, when we walked into the Merkur that afternoon, the first Americans we met had a 69th name tag on so we stopped them. They were from Richardson, Texas, where we had lived from 1959 to 1971, and they knew a cousin of Mrs. Lewis. Small world, big surprise.

I have no idea why I had never been contacted about joining the Association. I joined the Division in September 1944 at Camp Shelby. Initially, I was assigned to Company G, 273rd, Kotzebue's Company, but a week later I was reassigned to Company B, 273rd as platoon leader of the first platoon. If Kotzebue was in G Company at that time, I must have met him, but I have no memory of it. Nor did I know him at Texas A&M where he was two years back of me. I never met him in person, but we did talk by telephone in January 1987. I called and told him (I knew he was terminally ill with cancer) about my efforts in Torgau in 1985 to have some Texas Bluebonnets planted in his honor somewhere along the Elbe. He was so elated and happy to know that. In less than two months time after our talk, he was dead. I was thankful I had given him some bit of happiness in his final days.

As you may know from Edgar Parsons, I have been involved in getting a memorial of some kind erected at Strehla commemorating the first link-up, or, as Kotzebue's daughter Debbie Kelly calls it, "The Forgotten Link-up." Edgar Parsons found me several weeks ago after he returned from the meeting in Strehla April 25, 1991. He has sent me much literature, and we talked by telephone for nearly two hours after I received his first letter.

He also sent me the latest copy of the Association's Bulletin with information of the Biloxi meeting. We intend to try to make some of it. Our financial situation will not permit us more than possibly the ceremony at Shelby and the Saturday events following. We will have to drive, and we will make our own motel arrangements.

I met Crandon Clark at the reception in Torgau in 1990 and I believe it was he who sent me info about the history book he is working on. I sent a biography and photo and my firsthand account of the tragedy at Miescheid.

In a recent letter to the Russian sculptor, Surovtsev, I asked for any and all drawings and data he has on their memorial design. If he responds soon, I plan to seek an audience with the A&M Board of Directors and present a suggestion that the University help with the American part of the costs involved. The Former Students Association of A&M furnished the plaque and the special bluebonnet seeds which we took to Torgau in April 1990. I intend to keep doing all I can to see that a memorial of some kind, is erected at the link-up site in Strehla. I must say I am quite pleased to read that members of the 69th Division Association may have an opportunity to help with this long overdue effort for a memorial.

Here is my check for \$10.00 for membership in the Association. And I look forward, hopefully, to Biloxi and a chance to see some friends from those times past, and to make some new ones.



Miescheid, Germany - July 1966. Sam Lewis, right, looking at Mr. Mathius Klein. His brother's widow is near the door. The building was CP of the 3rd Platoon, B Company, 273rd and was blown up in February 1945 killing 51 soldiers, all but 4 of 3rd Platoon and nearly all of a patrol of A Company.



View from Sam Lewis' Platoon C.P. house in Miescheid looking across the valley to Udenbreth - March 1984.



Sam at gap in Dragon's Teeth on the road into Meisheid.

The Story of 2nd Lt. William Ricker of Company F, 271st Infantry

Submitted by: **Brian Lindner**
Waterbury Historical Society
Route 1, Box 4316
Waterbury Center, VT 05677

Dear Mr. Marshall:

As you may recall, I contacted you several times over the past months regarding the Waterbury Historical Society, Inc. project on 2nd Lt. William Ricker of Company F, 271st Infantry.

Ricker became MIA on February 19, 1945 and was later reported as a POW and finally KIA. It has been a surprise to me to learn how many men of the 271st have wondered for 46 years what happened to Ricker on his first patrol. With your assistance, I have located several eyewitnesses and a great many official documents which outline what really happened.

Following is the story which I would like to contribute to your Association in memory of Lt. Ricker.

Thank you for your assistance in this research of the men of the Fighting 69th.

* * * * *



2nd Lieutenant William Ricker
Photo credit: Radio Station WDEV

Early in World War II townspeople began to dread seeing Lloyd Squier of radio station WDEV. They didn't avoid him on the streets or in the restaurants because of his political views or business dealings but because his radio station was also the Western Union office. It was through his office and over his desk that relatives received official word of men who were killed, wounded, captured or missing. Squier took it

upon himself to personally deliver as many of these telegrams as possible and it was because of this that people began to dread seeing him at the door. It was not a pleasant duty but he had a special ability to deliver the unwelcome news.

There is no question that one telegram delivered by Squier affected him very deeply. The contents of this telegram and the letters which followed prompted him to set out on a five year search for further information. He hired an attorney in Washington, DC and made visits to the Adjutant General's office in a personal quest for information. The telegram which so deeply affected him was the one he delivered to Mary Ricker in the cold of late February 1945. Mary Ricker's husband, and the father of her three young children, was also Squier's closest friend and business partner in the local radio station. The telegram was official notice that thirty-two year old 2nd Lt. William Ricker of Company F, 271st Infantry, 69th Division was Missing in Action during combat action in Germany.

William Ricker was born the son of a prominent country doctor in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. As a young man he had worked his way into ownership of the local newspaper, as well as, the radio station. As a successful businessman he became one of the charter members of the local Rotary. When the town was organizing and recruiting for Company B of the State Guard, Ricker was one of the first men to volunteer and enlisted as a Private. (The State Guard was formed to fill the gap left by the National Guard which has been Federalized.) By December of 1942 he had qualified in the Guard as a Marksman and been promoted to Private First Class. Ricker continued with his businesses while finding time for his hobby of horseback riding at his newly built gentleman farm. He is still remembered as an accomplished horseman which probably was a major factor in determining what he did next.

We can only imagine the discussions Ricker had with Squier when he first mentioned that he would like to take a leave from the businesses and enlist in the Cavalry where he could do more for the country than by remaining at home in the State Guard. We can also only imagine the conversations between him and his wife when he told her what he was considering. Imaginations aside, Ricker resigned from the Guard on May 22, 1942 and enlisted in the U.S. Army on June 2, 1942. Squier's son remembers his father crying only once, the day Bill Ricker left town. (Later, while home on leave, Ricker spoke at a meeting of the Waterbury Rotary and was introduced by Squier as "the best friend and partner a man ever had.")

On the field of modern warfare the Cavalry was quickly eliminated, except in name, and probably to the great disappointment of Ricker. Within six months of enlisting he was shipped off to Officer Candidate School at Fort Riley, Kansas. As a successful candidate he was soon commissioned as Second Lieutenant and received his orders to report to Camp Hood, Texas for duty in the *motorized* cavalry now known as a tank destroyer unit. For the next eighteen months he served as an instructor in communications and radio operations.

During this time he also took military intelligence courses, became a supply officer and ended up as the executive officer for the unit. Ricker had been pressured for months to take a Public Relations position but he resisted in a deep patriotic sense that he should instead be a combat soldier. There is little doubt that this resistance and frequently requested transfers affected his chances for promotion but this seems to have been a minor consequence, in his view. He requested and was finally granted a transfer to the infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia. In the later part of 1944 he was assigned to Company F, Second Battalion, 271st Infantry of the 69th Infantry Division based at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. At 4:00 a.m. on October 31, 1944, Company F left Shelby for the last time aboard Pullmans bound for an unknown destination.

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**THE STORY OF 2nd LT. WILLIAM RICKER
OF COMPANY F, 271st INFANTRY**

(Continued from Page 42)

Company F soon found itself at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey where they underwent training in life boats, cargo nets and such other sea going requirements as to leave no doubt that they were headed for Europe. Ricker was able to secure a few short days of leave and traveled home to Waterbury where he was able to spend some time with his wife and young children. On November 15th he was back with his unit and on board the "John Ericsson" for the twelve day crossing to Southampton, England. During the crossing Ricker typed a "V-Mail" letter to Squier and began with, "This is the big trip I've been waiting for for a long time and strange as it may seem I'm enjoying it immensely." Company F spent Christmas in England before sailing for France in January of 1945. The Company then spent the days until February 11th being marched, trucked and moved by train into their frontline positions in front of the famous German defensive barrier known as the Siegfried Line.

Just before entering the front lines he had time to send two short letters home. On February 5th he told Squier,

Life is gradually boiling down to the essentials, a hot meal, warm sack and cigarettes. All other comforts and conveniences are more or less looked upon as luxuries. However, no one seems to be disturbed and spirits remain high.

As the war progresses to its end I think more and more of home and the happy reunion with my family, my friends and my work. I am fortunate for I have no worries, just a longing.

Two days later he penned what seems to have been the last letter to his wife.

7 Feb 1945
France

My dearest Mary,

I just ate a fresh fried egg and am still smacking my chops. Before pursuing my duties I thought I'd say 'howdy' to you, sweetheart, with the wish that you are well and to give you the assurance that I am in A-1 condition.

I was very pleased to read in one of your letters that Bill [his 5 year old son], liked my mail. I'll try to write to him soon again.

It's warmer here now and the snow has melted thus we're more than comfortable. I think of you constantly, dearest, and pray that we'll be together soon. I can think of nothing more heavenly than to be at home. Keep lovely, darling, some fine day our fondest dreams will turn to realities.

All my love, dearest
Bill

During the time in France, Ricker always attended Sunday services conducted by Chaplain James May. May tells the story of how Ricker was sitting on the floor with the enlisted men during one service when he asked Ricker to read a passage. Ricker rose and read in French.

Since arriving in the front lines on the eleventh, the regiment had sent patrols to guard against German attack and to probe the defenses in front of their position. Down a shallow valley, up a small ridge and several hundred yards ahead was the tiny German village of Buschem which consisted of little more than five or six buildings. On Sunday, February 19, 1945 volunteers were requested by Colonel A.E. McCormick for a patrol. Ricker was the first to volunteer and he quickly assembled a group of four volunteers of which only Sergeant James McKenna would return alive. (At Chaplain May's

service that morning he inquired where Ricker was and the men advised that the Lieutenant had volunteered for a patrol.)

There is some evidence that Colonel McCormick issued orders that the patrol was not to go beyond a specific point. There is also some evidence to indicate that Ricker's captain did not relay this portion of the order in the apparent hope that the patrol would continue until Germans were encountered and hopefully captured. If true, this was a fatal omission.

Writing in September of 1990, Lieutenant James R. Kidd (the only lieutenant of four from Ricker's unit to survive the war) said,

We saw Bill and his patrol (my memory is that there were 15 to 20 men in it) start out from our lines, crossed a small stream and climbed the long hill leading up to Buschem which sat just beyond the crest of the high ground. Soon after they disappeared from view we heard firing, and some time later we saw some of the men running back to our lines. I have forgotten the losses, but most of the men did not make it back.

In a report filed by an unknown sergeant two months after the patrol, Ricker had taken a 12-man patrol into a German village of Buschem ... The patrol advanced further than anticipated and was caught in a German machine-gun and mortar barrage. During this barrage two of the men were killed. Lieutenant Ricker was reported to have been seen falling to the ground by the other men of the patrol who got away.

In a letter to Mary Ricker in June of 1945 Major General J.A. Ulio related that the patrol entered Buschem at approximately 2:00 p.m. ... During the ensuing engagement with small arms and mortar fire, your husband and the other members of the patrol were compelled to withdraw. Another shell or grenade fell near Lieutenant Ricker causing him to fall to the ground. A short time afterward, your husband moved and an enemy rifleman fired at him and he fell to the earth and was not observed to move again. The above constitutes all available information regarding your husband's disappearance on 19 February 1945.

This letter must have come as a severe blow to Mary Ricker since she had previously been told by Lieutenant Colonel McCormick,

In a town which we captured about March 5th, a local German Priest revealed this to me. Your gallant husband was taken prisoner on February 19th with a wound in the abdomen. He was being given medical treatment by the Germans when this Priest spoke to him. He was in good condition, spoke to the Priest and smoked a cigarette. The Priest did not believe the wound was serious as your husband was up and walking around prior to being evacuated. Prior to our arrival in this town the Germans evacuated him together with other American prisoners to a prison camp deeper in Germany. The Priest identified Lieutenant Ricker to my complete satisfaction.

When Company F had advanced through Buschem several days after the ambush they had searched the area for Ricker and the other missing men from his patrol. They found two graves which when opened proved to be two other men from the ill-fated patrol. No trace of Ricker was found and this lent credibility to the Priest's story. Subsequently, the Americans captured documents from the 277th German Infantry division which seemed to confirm Ricker's status as POW because the documents contained notes about a captured, but unidentified, American officer who was wounded near Buschem.

When the war ended it was determined that the Germans had no record of capturing or holding Lieutenant Ricker. American teams systematically combed this and all other areas of combat for clues in locating missing men but nothing was found which would help solve the mystery. Lieutenant

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**THE STORY OF 2nd LT. WILLIAM RICKER
OF COMPANY F, 271st INFANTRY**

(Continued from Page 43)

Ricker's status was changed from, "Prisoner of War" to "Missing in Action" and in 1946 to "Killed in Action" when still no trace had been found one year after his disappearance. Thus began an intense search for information by Lloyd Squier. (Squier's Washington attorney even paid a personal visit to the head of a post war investigative team which was departing to Europe in an effort to solve MIA questions.) The only information which turned up were two other second hand accounts of what had happened, one told of Ricker being ambushed in a house by a grenade and the other related that he had been captured. For five years Squier searched while he and Mary Ricker waited for more information.

Five years after the war, in mid-March of 1950, a letter arrived from the Officer of Quartermaster General in Washington. The letter read, in part,

Dear Mrs. Ricker:

We are desirous that you be furnished information concerning the resting place of the remains of your husband, the late Second Lieutenant William G. Ricker.

The official report of burial has been received and discloses that the remains of your husband were originally buried in an isolated grave in Buschem, Germany, but were later disinterred by our American Graves Registration Personnel and reinterred in Plot S, Row 7, Grave 164, in the United States Military Cemetery Neuville-en-Condroz, located nine miles southwest of Liege, Belgium.

On June 25, 1950 Ricker's remains were buried in the Greenmont Cemetery in Montpelier, Vermont. (Townspople never spoke out loud but most were skeptical that the remains

sent home were really Lieutenant Ricker's.) The Army's Graves Registration file which would shed some light on this story remained buried in government files until obtained by the family in late 1990. These documents, when combined with eyewitness reports and documents also obtained from other sources reveal for the first time the full story of what happened to Bill Ricker.

Ricker received a severe chest wound(s) from what appeared to have been a combination of mortar (or grenade) fragments and rifle fire. He died in Buschem on the day of his ill-fated patrol. German civilians wrapped his body in a mattress pad, clipped his dog tags to the outside and buried him behind one of the few buildings in the tiny town. They marked the grave with a cross. When American troops passed through the town several days later they located several graves but somehow missed Ricker's.

In July of 1946 an Army Graves Registration team passed through the area and this time were shown the grave which they then opened. Over one year after his death, Ricker's remains were transported to a military cemetery in Belgium but his dog tags seem to have been lost in the process. Upon arrival in Belgium he became Unknown Soldier X-2699. The Army then lost his file leaving them with an unidentified body and no file.

In 1949 the file was relocated and the Army began an intense effort to identify any remains which might relate to it. The official file reflects a very careful and highly detailed exam which provided identification beyond any reasonable doubt.

Lieutenant Colonel McCormick had formally recommended Ricker for a Silver Star which was not approved but two Bronze Stars were awarded posthumously. Mark Ricker never fully recovered from the loss.

**Then . . . and . . . Now
Marcell E. Thorne and Herman G. Scott**



Thorne and Scott in 1943 at Camp Shelby.



Thorne and Scott in 1985.

Both were in the 69th Division then went to the 36th together.
 Marcell Edward Thorne, Route 1, Box 452, Buffalo, West Virginia 25033-9769
 Herman Glenn Scott, Route 9, Box 400, Statesville, North Carolina 28677

Pictures
 furnished by
 Marcell Thorne

69th Mini Reunion Golf Furlough - August 1991

Our golf reunion was held at Lindenhall Resort, near Pittsburgh, a great and tough, tough golf course. We had planned this for some time and our leader, Frank, made all the arrangements. To say it was a great success is minimizing it. When Ray and I met Frank and Big Dan we really hugged; our plans were now at hand. A tough, tough course comparable to our old obstacle courses. The high point of our furlough was on finishing the 18th.

Friday, who was there but our old buddy Rico D'Angelo and Anne who live nearby and they really surprised us. We all dined together in a beautiful scenic messhall, enjoyed great chow and wonderful B.S. conversation that flowed endlessly. The spirit of our camaraderie infected the dining room help, who joined right in with us, a moment we shall always recall.

Parting after three days was almost as sad as when they broke us up in Germany. We veterans can easily understand this deep feeling and camaraderie. We are definitely planning another furlough of this type next spring, right Frank?

We know many, many 69ers visit each other during reunions, but for those who haven't, you are missing something wonderful.

Again, thanks to the help at Lindenhall, notably Mary Budd, and Carol and Bob. We are looking forward to next spring again, for another golf furlough, and long barracks B.S. Time is running, as we all know, just look at our Taps list. God give you all many more reunions and our camaraderie and friendships.

From your buddies,
Frank Nemeth, Big Dan Evers
Ray Szkudlarek (Polish Ambassador)
Howitzer Al Kormas

P.S. Of course, **Frank** was the winner.



Left to right: Frank Nemeth, Ray Szkudlarek, Howitzer Al Kormas, Big Dan Evers



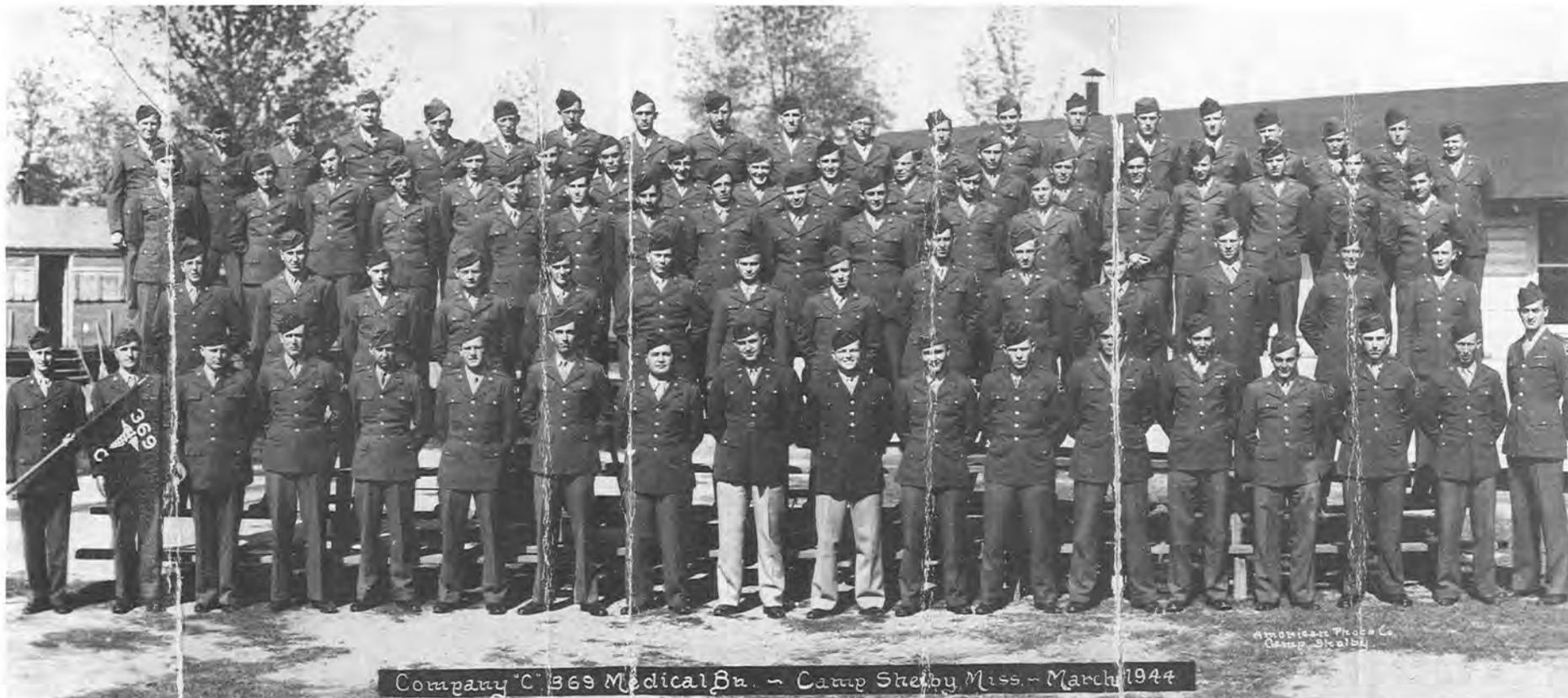
*Ray Szkudlarek, Big Dan Evers, Frank Nemeth
 Hotdog Time at the 10th Tee*



Schmitdheim, Germany - March 1945

1. Dimascio - NJ 2. Campbell - PA 3. ?? 4. D. T. Lewis - PA 5. MacDonald - DC 6. Dukelow - WI 7. Wotowowitz - CT
 8. Weinstein - AL 9. ?? 10. Donaldson - OH 11. Ammons - AL 12. Prindlesz - NY 13. Phillips - NY 14. Uhre - NY
 15. Bonczek - OH 16. Dionne - NY

Photo furnished by Howitzer Al Kormas



Company C, 369th Medical Battalion Camp Shelby, Mississippi — March 1944

From left to right starting with the men holding the flag:

Row 1: Sergeant Strauss, Sergeant Vuckmanick, Sergeant May, Sergeant Layton, Sergeant Barnes, Sergeant Kakerback, Sergeant Morpew, Sergeant Morone, Lieutenant Walen, Lieutenant Douglas, Sergeant Christ, Sergeant Walker, Sergeant King, Sergeant Stone, Sergeant Woods, Sergeant Roby, Sergeant Park, 1st Sergeant Bowman

Row 2: All are Corporals - Gray, Like, Gaines, Burns, Jackson, Webster, Parenton, Cornes, Smith, Thomay, Dorn, Mosholder, Cambell, Vestine

Row 3: Newhouse, Shumate, Smyte, Miller, Molini, Singleton, Rakosi, Merricks, Dinella, Dunn, Sciro, Bagdon, Griffith, Cocose, Weich, Coate, Carlucci, Cliver, Theoboit, Nicastro, Keane, Tomasco, Lamara, Klackawsky, Hudleston, Thomas,

Row 4: Gerteer, Merlo, Allison, O'Cain, Halbcrum, Oswald, Waldrep, Anderson, Stokes, Metz, Philips, Vincent, Carroll, Jones, Much, Gray, Bergman, Finnel, Smith, Meyer

Photo submitted by Lawrence Morone

Paul Fleming Sends In These Shots from K Co., 271st Infantry

154 Bunce Road
Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109-3213

Ever since I became a member of the Fighting 69th Division Association in 1990, I've been meaning to send the enclosed photographs.

I was a member of the 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, K Company, 271st Regiment in the spring of 1945, until I woke up in the 178 General Hospital, Rheims, France. Arriving at that location I had nothing but myself. These photographs were sent to me in June 1946 by Fred Ivans of Alcoa, Tennessee.

There is a blank in my mind, even today, as to what occurred at that time so the names of all the individuals in the photographs are not known. It is known that the photographs were taken in an area near Leipzig or the Elbe River. In addition, all of the men in the photographs are at least members of K Company. However, all in the larger photograph (right) are from the 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, but not all are identified. I have identified the ones that I could with indication of where they came from.

Fred Ivans has been the only person I have ever been in contact with since leaving the unit. We corresponded a couple of times but that ended in the late 40's. While at the Knoxville World's Fair I drove over to Alcoa and tried to find him. There was a Fred Ivans in the telephone directory but no answer after several calls, in a 2-3 hour period, and by luck I drove by the house but no one was there.

I am looking forward to seeing these photographs in a future publication of the bulletin. Maybe this may result in establishing contact with someone, because there are still some blanks in my mind as to what really happened that resulted in my ending up in the 178 General Hospital.



Germany, 1945



2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon
Front Row: Hunt, Unknown, Fiddler (PA), Unknown
Second Row: Unknown, Wachler (NY), Fred Ivans (TN), Paul Fleming (CT now, then PA), Unknown.



Paul Fleming



Fun at the Biloxi Reunion



*New Orleans Tour
Big Dan Evers, Rico D'Angelo, Howitzer Al, Frank Sullivan*



*First Sergeant W. Haag
Battery B - 881st Field Artillery*



*Helen Evers feeding "Chow Hound" Dan Evers and
Bonnie Foster.*



Staff Sergeant at Camp Shelby and Howitzer Al



Mike Pendrick and John "Bull" O'Connor, Hq. 880th F.A.



Howitzer Al and Ray Fahrner

A History of the 461st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion BATTLE OF THE BULGE AND THE WINTER WAR — PART 3 —

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

The seeds of the Battle of the Bulge were sown during the summer of 1944 with Hitler's thoughts of retreating behind the West Wall, gathering new divisions and breaking out with the intent of taking the great port of Antwerp and cutting off and surrounding the British and Canadian Armies, in addition to the American First and Ninth Armies around Aachen, fully half the Allied forces on the European Continent. Surely, losing these troops, England and Canada would be out of it and the U.S. would lose its zest for the war and might strike for a separate peace leaving him to then fight the war on a single front. His aim was to put an end to the Red menace, thus fulfilling his ambition to destroy communism and the Russian hordes utterly, to level Moscow and Leningrad, blotting their names forever from geography and history alike. Yes, Hitler was not unlike "Atilla The Hun," of history past.

Some days before Hitler made the dramatic announcement of the coming plans at the "Wolfschanze" on September 16, he had directed his plans and operations officer, General Jodl, to study the possibility of an offensive in the Ardennes, and he himself had pored over the results. Inside Germany, fronting the Ardennes, dense forests formed a ready cloak for the assembly of an attacking force; and no matter how restrictive the terrain, the Germans had shown in 1940 that mobile forces could move through Ardennes swiftly.

Hitler had no way of knowing how strong the Allied line might be in the Ardennes by the time his offensive was ready and even as he reached this decision, there was considerable concern about a drive by a corps of the American First Army through the Ardennes and into the contiguous region inside Germany known as the Eifel. There two American infantry divisions had crossed the frontier and penetrated a thinly fortified sector of the West Wall near and astride a high ridgeline, the Schnee Eifel, while a few miles to the south an armored division had crossed Luxembourg, penetrated the West wall, and headed for the crossroads town of Bitburg. It was September 17 before hastily assembled troops were able to halt the drive at the Schnee Eifel, and even then the Americans retained control of the ridge. Only four days later would German pressure force the armored division to abandon its thrust on Bitburg and retire into Luxembourg.

Modern history will not record a more detailed account of the action that took place on the road to Bitburg, than that in the paragraph above. Yet of such small, but intense actions are battles won or lost. Battery "A" was very involved in this action and the predominating feature of their notable success was due to the intensity of our long training and the fact that ground firing actions had become somewhat old hat, in that we were very used to successfully carrying them out. I am submitting the Action After/After Action Report, herewith.

HEADQUARTERS
461st AAA AW Bn
APO 230, U.S. ARMY

9 October 1944

SUBJECT: Action After/After Action Report

TO: Commanding Officer, 115th AAA Group, APO 305,
U.S. Army

1. The following is resume of an action in which elements of Battery "A," 461st AAA AW Battalion were successfully employed in a ground role in defense of a vital installation.

2. On the afternoon of 18 September the 2nd Platoon of Battery "A" took up positions to provide AAA AW defense of an Engineer bridge at Wallendorf, Germany (P-962427). This bridge was on the route of communication between forward elements of the 8th Armoured Division with 112th Infantry Regimental CT attached, which had forced a narrow spearhead into Germany several days before, and the remainder of the Division located in Luxembourg. The bridge and town itself are on the German border. The town of Wallendorf is on the German side of the river on a small flat. Two forks of the river meet at the town. The river runs through narrow valleys with hills rising rapidly to 200-300 feet on both sides. On the German side advance pill-boxes of the Siegfried Line overlook the valley. Above the town the hillside is covered with trees.

3. The fifth Armoured Division within Germany had been subjected to severe artillery fire for some time prior to the arrival of the platoon at the bridge, and was contracting its lines. The position of the Division in Germany was not satisfactory.

4. The morning of 19 September was very misty and foggy. The fog did not lift until 1100 hours. Shortly after daybreak German MG's were heard in the village. This fire was heard intermittently during the morning and increased after 1030 hours. After the fog lifted, the volume of fire increased. At about 1000 hours, mortar fire began to fall around the bridge. It became apparent that a German force had come down the hillside and was in the town, with the apparent mission of cutting off our elements in Germany, turning the bridgehead into a pocket. As the fire increased the Engineers working at the bridge withdrew from the valley. Our infantry which was on the enemy side of the river began filtering back across the river. Gun number 6 was in an exposed position near the river and considerable small arms fire was directed at it. Three men of this gun section were wounded at this time and the position became untenable. An Infantry lieutenant withdrawing with his troops at this time, stopped at the gun section and called the AAA platoon CP and informed the platoon commander that all infantry was withdrawing from the enemy side of the river and that the AAA units should withdraw immediately. The Platoon Commander ordered the withdrawal of his platoon. Gun section number 6, due to conditions stated above, was unable to evacuate its gun but managed to load the wounded and withdraw on the prime mover. Gun section number 5 was also under heavy local fire and the section found that it was impossible to remove their gun. A tank was commandeered to go to the position to retrieve this gun but was driven back by heavy fire. Gun section 7 also started to withdraw but three men volunteered to return to the position and man the gun. Gun section 8 was able to withdraw with all equipment complete and was sent to an assembly point, while members of the platoon continued to withdraw equipment under heavy fire. The Platoon Commander assembled and reorganized his platoon. The CO 387th AAA AW Bn (SP) contacted one element of the platoon and informed them that he was sending

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**A HISTORY OF THE 461st ANTI-AIRCRAFT
ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION**
(Continued from Page 49)

2 M-15 half tracks to reinforce the defense at the bridge. As the volume of fire had decreased the Platoon Commander ordered his platoon to return to their positions at the bridge, which they did. All equipment was intact except gun number 6, which was slightly damaged by small arms fire, and one prime mover which was temporarily knocked out while attempting to evacuate gun number 5.

5. a. Lieutenant William R. Kintner, (then Battalion CO 461st AAA AW Bn) was notified at 1330 hours that the platoon at the bridge was having difficulty. He drove to the area and arrived about 1600 hours. The entire picture was confused. A general withdrawal from the pocket had begun, but information as to just what was going on was impossible to procure. Arriving at the bridge itself, the AA platoon was found to have returned to its positions. In addition, two M-15's of the 387th AAA SP Bn were observed at the scene. The men of the AA platoon were in a nervous state as a general withdrawal was evidently taking place. As no one knew what the situation was, the Battalion CO ordered two Bofors guns and the bulk of platoon headquarters to be taken to the rear and at the same time the M-16's, the remaining 40mm and MG's were set up for a ground role. He then proceeded to Division Headquarters to see the G-3 to ascertain the situation and to find out what the plans were for defense of the bridge during the night.

b. The G-3 at that time did not know that the Infantry Battalion had withdrawn. He immediately arranged to send the 1st Battalion of the 112th Infantry back to Wallendorf. This Battalion was in a depleted condition, averaging 30 men per company. At that time the Battalion CO 461st decided to reinforce the bridge defenses by intercepting elements of the 1st platoon of Battery A as they returned from inside Germany with the 137th FA Bn to which they had been attached. It was decided to employ four M-16's, two Bofors and eight .50 cal MG's in this defense. About 1800 hours, while returning to Wallendorf, part of the 1st platoon was seen on the road. The platoon CO was ordered to return with the water cooled MG's and crews as soon as possible. At the bridge the two M-16's and one 40mm were stopped. Captain Sims, the Battery CO, was there. There was about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour of daylight remaining. It was not known when the Infantry Battalion would arrive but it was known that the retreat of the forces in Germany would continue during the night. It was then decided to set up a perimeter defense of the bridge which would be coordinated with the infantry upon their arrival. The Battalion CO of the 387th AAA was contacted and the employment of his two M-15's was coordinated. The general plan was to cover all approaches to the bridge, concentrating firepower toward the town which would be the most likely avenue of approach. The .50 cal MG fire units were spotted between the M-16's and Bofors. Three were held in reserve to be turned over to the infantry if they desired to use them. One M-16 was placed directly along side the bridge. Arcs of fire were assigned to prevent shooting our own troops and to give 360 degrees of protection. A CP was set up on the spot and as many guns as possible were tied in with a telephone hot-loop. The Battery Officers went to their sections and explained the set-up.

c. At about 2100 hours Company B of the infantry arrived to take up positions on the crest of the hill above Wallendorf. A liaison Officer was sent with the Company Commander to learn their disposition. The CO of the company desired an MG which was turned over to him complete with crew. The Battery Commander took two MG's to the top of the hill where Company C was to be deployed and coordinated outpost security with the CO of that Company. The CO of

Company B returned from his reconnaissance and stated that he had too few men to properly defend the ridge line. It was then arranged to set up a horseshoe outpost defense about two to three hundred yards from the bridge, to alert the close-in defense of enemy infiltration during the night. Plans were made to give him supporting fire and for his company to clear the area above town if it became necessary to deliver fire there. Upon the completion of these arrangements a trip was made to the Infantry Battalion CP to advise the Battalion CO of the set-up. There, communications were arranged with the CO of Company C, across the river, by linking in with 40mm sections located nearby.

d. During the night there were no incidents but men were warned to be alert at daybreak. During the night a continuous withdrawal of units from inside Germany took place over the bridge. At 0400 hours an infantry battalion that had been in position on top of the ridge moved back through the gap.

6. a. At 0550 hours action started with the firing of several rounds of German bazooka at the M-16 near the bridge. Small arms firing was heard. The crew of No. 12 M-16 had spotted in the half light of dawn a German patrol attempting to blow the bridge. Corporal Miller closed in on the patrol and at a range of 15 yards killed the officer leading it and severely wounded and captured three prisoners.

b. Sporadic German machine gun fire began which was persistent throughout the morning. Intermittent mortar and nebelwerfer fire of varying intensity began and lasted throughout the day. Whenever fire began, AA Bofors and MG's blanketed the town and hills. One man on an M-16 was killed by machine gun fire. It was decided to take two Bofors out of the area and in their place set up two additional .50 cal MG's, which were dug in under fire. M-16 crews were instructed to change positions about 100 yards every half-hour. Close liaison was maintained with Infantry and fire was delivered anywhere upon their request. During this period, the .50 cal MG located on the hillside destroyed at least one German MG and killed or pinned down a considerable number of Germans infiltrating the down the hill. The bridge was under sporadic small arms fire at this time. Captain Sims took a water chest and additional ammunition to this gun on the hill.

c. In view of the fact that the attack was increasing in intensity and that the AA weapons had to be deployed in full observation of the enemy, the Battalion CO again went to the Division G-3 and requested that armor be sent there to replace them. G-3 stated to hold on and he would come up to look over the situation. He further stated that the infantry battalion that had been withdrawn during the night would be ordered to retake its former position beyond the ridge line. A telephone to the bridge area was set up by the division.

d. At 1100 hours the Division G-3 was called and asked when relief would arrive. The G-3 stated that the infantry battalion was on its way and that some light tanks would be sent there. The Battalion CO advised the G-3 that time, that in view of the importance of the place and the fact that it was under enemy observation, the 461st AA would not be withdrawn until the tanks arrived. After that, two M-16s would be left at the bridge to provide AA defense. These M-16s would be taken out at dusk and returned the next morning at daybreak. The G-3 stated that this was satisfactory.

e. At 1230 hours the 2nd Infantry Battalion started to move through the gap. It's advance was held up by fire from the town. At this time heavy artillery concentrations began to fall along the road, and continued at intervals throughout the afternoon. At 1300 hours the first light tanks came into position near the bridge. The Battalion CO advised the Battery CO to tell his men they were going to be pulled out and to begin to do so. He then returned to his headquarters.

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**A HISTORY OF THE 461st ANTI-AIRCRAFT
ARTILLERY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION**
(Continued from Page 50)

7. a. At about 1400 hours our armor started to withdraw from the hill. They drew heavy fire and continued over past the bridge, withdrawing to the Luxembourg side of the bridge. Mortar and artillery fire intensified as vehicles approached the open area between the town and the bridge. The 2nd Infantry Battalion immediately withdrew across the river, again leaving the AA platoon the only troops guarding the crossing.

b. At 1430 hours the two M-16s of the 387th AAA SP Battalion withdrew and Captain Sims began to withdraw all of his units except two M-16s which he kept at the bridge, with orders to stay there as long as the tanks remained. At 1500 hours the tanks pulled out and AA M-16s followed them. A half-hour later Captain Sims returned to the bridge with two M-16s and remained until dusk. Later in the afternoon two M-16s of the 387th returned to the bridge and remained there all night. It is believed these were the only weapons in the immediate vicinity of the bridge that afternoon and night.

8. a. Captain Sims returned to the bridge the next morning, 21 September with two M-16s. He found that both of the bridges had been blown but stayed to provide cover for Engineers who were supposed to try and build another bridge. While waiting, under fire, for the Engineers, one M-16 was hit by mortar and bazooka fire and destroyed. Captain Sims and two members of his crew were wounded, and one infantry soldier standing nearby was killed. The remaining M-16 withdrew from the untenable position. Several M-16s of the 387th were also at the bridge that morning. One of them was destroyed at the same time.

b. Elements of the Battery that were in this engagement were sent to the vicinity of an Ordnance Company where repairs of vehicles were begun. Every vehicle was in need of repairs due to the effect of shrapnel and small arms fire. In addition one 40mm gun was damaged by small arms fire. One M-16 was completely destroyed.

c. The following casualties were sustained.

Killed:	Aikey, Lewis, C., Pfc.	33259650
	Filson, James M., Pvt.	33259700
Wounded:	Sims, William R., Capt.	01044682
	Moore, Michael F., Sgt.	31010567
	Martin, Donald W., Cpl.	33407439
	Allen, Willard J., Pvt.	36546200
	Collette, Harry (NMI), Pvt.	33407457
	Hemming, Bernard E., Pvt.	32940956
	Semerjian, George S., Pvt.	33743616

* * * * *

JOHN F. BONNER
Major, CAC, Commanding.

The latter part of September our batteries were scattered from Luxembourg City to St. Vith, a distance of some 70 kilometers as the crow flies but on a front as crooked as Al Capone. Now the fall rains were setting in which made sitting on the guns a real chore along with wet feet and mud knee deep. We were also in the Siegfried Line with its booby traps and mines which meant taping lines of travel and staying within those lines. We were also getting new divisions in the line, from the States and not too bright. The result was a lot of casualties to souvenir hunters.

It was about this time that German aircraft became inactive and so we began to move around on ground firing missions utilizing both M-16's and 40mm's. Our hit and run tactics kept him in the dark as to where we would strike next. We hit everything within range of our guns; his chow lines, pillboxes, road blocks, towns and fox holes. Nothing of his was safe. We were now attached to the 99th Infantry Division,

new from the States. Worse yet they were stretched on a front that made their lines very thin and vulnerable to any mass attack. We kept getting reports of activity in the German rear but Army Headquarters evidently gave it no credence. We were also in "Buzz-Bomb Alley" and lowered the boom on a number of them. Private Ed Whitaker of D Battery had the unique experience while delivering rations to the sections one day, of having one of the bombs land on one side of him, skip over his head, and land on the opposite side unexploded.

With the coming of December all batteries moved north to a line on or about from Kalterherberg to Eupen in the area held by the 78th Infantry Division.

On the 16th of December, 1944 the Germans opened their offensive in the Ardennes to be known as the Battle Of The Bulge. There were five things the Germans had to do if they wanted to accomplish their goal of taking Antwerp. First and second, they had to set up "hard shoulders" at both edges of the salient where it penetrated the Allied line. These corners were the most vulnerable points and were absolutely vital to success. Third, the Panzer SS spearhead must swiftly overrun the American center and race to capture the bridges across the Meuse River before they could be blown or defended. Fourth, von Manteuffel's Fifth Army moving on the Sixth SS Panzer Army's left, must with its right wing capture St. Vith, the key road and rail center in the north; and fifth, with its left wing take Bastogne, the key to the rail and road traffic in the south.

The fact was, none of the assigned objectives was reached within the allotted time on the strict schedule. And four of them were never reached at all. St. Vith was finally taken (actually abandoned by the Allies), seven days behind schedule, too late to be of any help, and Bastogne was never taken. No Panzer units ever reached the Meuse River. Most important, the German troops trying to secure the "hard shoulders" at the corners of the salient were repulsed repeatedly and never did break down the corners of the American line. The effect of this was to choke off the the counter-offensive between these two angled points. So, tactically, the much vaunted, Hitler-inspired counter-offensive was doomed from the start.

Strategically, it was also doomed. For the Germans it was much too ambitious a plan for the resources available at that point of the war, both in men, fuel, guns and armor. All of Hitler's field marshals and chiefs of staff had counseled against it. In fact, its very lack of feasibility helped gain for it the high element of surprise it enjoyed at its beginning. Eisenhower, Bradley, Montgomery and their staffs could not believe the Germans would try such a grand attack, with no more resources than they had. At a December 19 meeting between Eisenhower and his commanders, Ike termed the situation "one of opportunity for us and not disaster." German Field Marshall Model, who commanded the entire operation, called it a failure as early as December 18 (two days after it started on the sixteenth) when he learned how far behind schedule his Panzers had fallen. True, it did almost destroy the reserves Hitler had but it was also very costly to the Americans. The reserves we had were so slim as to be pathetic. The First Division had just been pulled from the Hurtgen Forest with effectives down to thirty men per regiment and those, completely exhausted.

The 78th Infantry Division were deployed in the Rotgen, Lammersdorf area with Battery "B" remaining at Monschau with two V Corp Field Artillery Battalions.

By the 17th the German forces were knocking at the door of Monschau where Battery "B" was located. The forces not overrun were spread thin as paper and Battery "B" had a mighty hot two days. All gun crews depressed their guns and fired direct into the enemy troops and aided materially

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**A HISTORY OF THE 461st ANTI-AIRCRAFT
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in preventing the fall of Monschau. Some good shooting was also engaged in as enemy aircraft supporting the German counter-offensive, were making numerous flights over the area. Battery "B" received a Unit Citation, which is shown below.

HEADQUARTERS

FIRST UNITED STATES ARMY, APO 230

13 January 1945

SUBJECT: Unit Citation, French.

TO: SUPREME COMMANDER,

ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE,

APO 757 (Main).

THRU: Commanding General, Twelfth Army Group, APO 655

1. In accordance with the provisions of letter, Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force, file AG 200.62-1 (G-1), subject: "Unit Citations," dated 1 January 1945, it is recommended that the following unit be cited in the Orders of the French Army: Battery "B", 461st AAA AW Bn.

2. Date and complete narrative of action:

It was on the 8th of December, Battery "B" was assigned the mission of providing AA protection for the 186th FA Battalion and the 200th FA Battalion in the vicinity of Monschau and Mutzenich, Germany. To provide proper protection for the Field Artillery Battalions, located in a valley north and west of Monschau, it was necessary to place the AA guns on the forward slope of a hill, extending south and east of the town of Mutzenich, Germany. These positions, being under direct observation of the enemy situated approximately 3000 yards to the east, were dug at night with strict camouflage discipline exercised during daylight hours. Two of the gun sections drew fire several times from an enemy SP gun firing from a church yard in the enemy held town of Imgenbroich. Since the AA guns were deployed so as to cover the town of Imgenbroich and its approaches, the Battery Commander informed the S-3 of the 38th Cavalry Recon Squadron, who was coordinating the ground defense in the area, that the AAA would assist in this defense, if needed.

Permission was also obtained to fire on the SP gun in the Imgenbroich area, as soon as the muzzle blast was observed.

Although enemy mortar and shell fire was falling in the area at varying intervals, no concentrated enemy shelling was experienced until the morning of December 16. At 0530 hours a terrific bombardment started, cutting all communications to other units. A runner from the 38th Cavalry Recon arrived asking for defensive fire on the designated area. Since all communication to the guns was cut by shell fire, a runner was sent to each gun giving the order to commence firing. At 0730 hours six guns of the Battery opened fire, firing direct fire and in bursts of eight rounds, alternating guns and continued to do so until approximately 0845 hours. Hits were observed to strike the open ground in and around the town of Imgenbroich causing damage to enemy positions.

German infantry, following up their artillery barrage, commenced moving down the slope of the opposite hill advancing on our lines. The intensity of the direct AA fire caused innumerable casualties amongst the enemy troops, breaking up the attack and forcing the enemy to retire to the reverse slope of the hills. Two German observation posts had been thoroughly bracketed and finally were completely destroyed. The Commanding Officer, "C" Troop, 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron had stated that the withering fire delivered by Battery "B" was responsible for containing this attack against his thinly held sector.

Enemy fire continued on a moderate scale throughout the day without any further damage or casualties. The Commanding Officer, 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron on the recommendation of the Battery Commander, Battery "B," ordered the latter to place direct fire on the town of

Imgenbroich, using one M16B H/T with API Ammunition. The half-track was taken out of position at approximately 1530 hours and placed in a new position south of Mutzenich and commenced firing immediately. Hits were observed on a known German CP which was destroyed and on several buildings in the vicinity known to be occupied by the enemy.

During the night of 16th December 1944, the 1st Platoon, Battery "B," attached to the 186th Field Artillery Battalion moved out with the Field Artillery under cover of darkness to selected positions three miles west of Mutzenich, leaving two 40mm Bofors to support the Cavalry. These two guns were ready to fire instantaneously on any target observed.

At 0900 hours on 17 December, a heavy concentration of Nebelwerfer fire bracketed the town of Mutzenich and "B" Battery CP received six direct hits, burning the Command Post and four vehicles. Three Officers and five Enlisted Men were wounded in this action. Second Lieutenant Pithan (Battle Field Commission), assistant platoon leader of the 1st Platoon, died as a result of his wounds.

The untiring efforts of the officers and enlisted men, their devotion to duty and utter disregard for personal safety, evidenced by the many times they exposed themselves to heavy enemy shell fire, reflect great credit on the unit and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces.

3. Proposed citation:

Battery "B," 461st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, is cited for distinguishing itself in battle by conspicuous bravery in the presence of the enemy while deployed in the vicinity of Mutzenich and Monschau, Germany from 8 December 1944 to 17 December 1944.

On the initiative of the Battery Commander, the Battery was granted permission to assist in the ground defense of this area, the mission being in addition to the regularly assigned mission of affording AA protection to the 200th FA Bn and the 186th FA Bn. Although under direct observation of the enemy, and with the expectation of frequent concentrations of enemy artillery fire, the guns were deployed in such a manner that both the regularly assigned mission and the requested mission of ground fire might be carried out.

On the morning of 16 December, a terrific enemy artillery concentration started, cutting all communications. Following the bombardment, an enemy infantry advance started along the Monschau-Mutzenich line. By the use of runners, the order was given to open fire. At 0730 hours firing commenced on the advancing enemy infantry and on prearranged targets behind the German lines. In spite of heavy artillery shelling the guns of Battery "B," 461st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, continued firing in a ground role until 0845 hours when the order "cease fire" was given. Through their fire, Battery "B" aided materially in denying the enemy territory which was only lightly held by our reconnaissance forces. The repulse of this attack denied the enemy ground which might well have been exploited to link up with the enemy salient established to the south at this time.

The untiring efforts of the officers and enlisted men, their devotion to duty and utter disregard for personal safety, evidenced by the many times they exposed themselves to heavy and intense enemy fire, reflects great credit on the unit and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces.

Courtney H. Hodges

Lieutenant General, U.S. Army, Commanding

Catching most forward thinly held areas by surprise our forces were overwhelmed or routed. On the 17th they were really rolling but surprisingly we also had hundreds of small units down to squad size and smaller that were, on their own, putting up one whale of a fight and somehow were thus able to slow the Nazi juggernaut allowing time to eventually bring up reinforcements and choke the Bulge off. As unbelievable

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as it sounds most of these tiny units separated from their units, some retreating slowly, some behind German lines, almost all out of communication with any other unit still doggedly fought, often to the death to slow the German drive and give time for the Allies to regroup. What began as the U.S. Army's most complete failure of battlefield intelligence finally became America's greatest victory. The true story of these scattered units is one of the greatest war stories of all time.

English speaking German paratroopers were dropped in the Eupen-Malmedy areas to act as M.P.s to create confusion by blowing bridges and mis-directing retreat columns. These people were able to cause a bit of a problem but were soon killed or captured and executed as spies.

Finally it happened. Reports on one hundred and fifty American prisoners being cut down by a group of mindless Panzer SS idiots began to filter through and became known as the Malmedy massacre.

Now there was fighting at literally tens of dozens of road junctions and bridges. No one of these little stands could have had a profound effect on the German drive. But hundreds of them, impromptu little battles at nameless bridges and unknown road crossings, had an effect of slowing enormously the German impetus, particularly in the restricting terrain of the Ardennes where there were few roads and narrow valleys and no open country. These little die-hard "one-man-stands," alone in the snow and fog without communications, would prove so enormously effective out of all proportion to their size, in slowing down the German advance in the Ardennes Terrain. The professionalism of the U.S. soldier had come far since Kasserine Pass in North Africa.

They could not be expected to hold back some two hundred thousand men and a thousand tanks, however. The first major defensive moves and actions, though in the confusion we were unaware of them, were vital and set the tone of battle for the weeks to come. American Staff Schools had taught that the way to contain and finally reduce the salient of a major offensive was first to hold the shoulders of the penetration. This was automatic for U.S. commanders. Holding these shoulders would constrict the enemy in the number of major forces he would be able to commit. Without sufficient width to the salient, the Panzer columns would run into and block each other. In the north Hodges' First Army held at a right outside of Elsenborn that came to be known as the "Elsenborn Shoulder," and in so doing kept the great bulk of the Sixth SS Panzer Army occupied and out of the advance entirely. In the south at Echternach the Fourth Division of Patton's Third Army wavered, gave up some ground, but managed to hold. In the center, blocking the two main road centers, St. Vith and Bastogne held. Our only reserves were the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions which had been mauled in Montgomery's fiasco at Arnhem. The 82nd was sent to strengthen and extend westward Hodges' line from Elsenborn. The 101st was sent on a wild one-hundred mile ride through the sleeting night to reinforce Bastogne. Now Patton could move to the north and struck out for Bastogne itself. Patton astonished his confreres by offering to begin his attack in seventy-two hours, or early on December 22. This meant he must swing his entire third Army - six divisions and one hundred thirty-three thousand vehicles - in a ninety-degree turn from east to north, in three days. His attack came on the 22nd as promised. A most extraordinary feat and one that probably only Patton of the world's generals could pull off.

Now again it was time for Monty, the "Mighty Mite," to enter the scene again. It was determined that because of the probability that the German advance would totally split

Bradley's 12th Army Group, and with the constant difficulty of communication with the forces to the north of the salient, that all forces to the north of the German thrust should be transferred to Montgomery's command. It was an upsetting suggestion, and would become the cause of bad blood between the two that would forever remain unhealed. Ike had always resisted putting large numbers of American troops under British command and had specifically and repeatedly rejected Montgomery's request to be made overall ground commander. The proposal made sense, however, and it might also insure the use of British reserves (of which, unlike the Americans, Monty had a great store) if they were needed. Later when the Bulge was all but over Montgomery would use the change of command, in a press conference on January 7, to claim for himself and the British armies the entire credit for saving the Allies and winning the victory. In fact, only a very few British troops were used at all in the entire battle, something like the equivalent of three American battalions. I remember the Orders Of The Day that came through from him. "We shall now sit back and tidy up our lines." Orders were to withhold fire unless, I believe, there were at least twenty of the enemy in a group. No Yank cared a whit for Montgomery nor for his tactics. A bit later it was especially galling during their retreat back into Germany we could have walked out and killed them with sticks. Believe me, it was a time of low morale.

More snow and cold set in with a front moving in from the east which would freeze the ground allowing tanks to maneuver freely, but would also clear air for the use of Allied air power which to now had been completely grounded. Christmas morning Hodges, and Collins of VII Corps, had committed the Second Armoured to wiping out the Second Panzer Division at a town called Celles, just three miles from Dinant and the Meuse. It was the high point of the German advance, not quite sixty miles from starting point. The Second Panzer Division literally had run out of gasoline.

Though the point had been stopped, it was not the end by any means. The day after Christmas, some twenty-five miles away Patton's Fourth U.S. Armored Division relieved Bastogne and Hitler was notified that Antwerp would not be taken by any means. On the 30th of December, Manteuffel delivered a numbing attack against Patton's corridor into Bastogne. The fighting was worse than what the defenders of Bastogne had known even in their most critical days. The U.S. troops held, threw the Germans back, and the corridor was not cut. Final linkage between the First and Third Armies did not come until January 16 in Houffalize and the last vestige of the Bulge did not disappear until January 28th.

January 1st, 1945 was a great day. The sky cleared and the German air force that was left came over in clouds. Shooting was great and the sky was full of spirals of smoke twisting down and into the ground.

In the end, some 600,000 U.S. troops fought in the Ardennes campaign and counter offensive. Of these 81,000 were casualties: KIA, WIA or captured. The British suffered 1,400 casualties. The attacking Germans lost around 100,000 men in killed, wounded and prisoners.

German prisoners, asked to assess their various enemies, have said that the British attacked singing, and the French attacked shouting, but that the Americans attacked in silence and agreed that they much preferred to battle the men who advanced singing and shouting, rather than the grimly silent men who kept coming on stubbornly without a sound. An old G.I. would have told them with a sour smile that he kept his mouth shut because he did not want anyone to see how badly his teeth were chattering. The German assuredly would not have smiled.

During the Bulge Battery "C" had been given the defense of Road Junctions on the Eupen-Malmedy road which is the area known as the Hautes Fagnes (High Marshes), in effect

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a ridgeline whose crest marks the highest elevation in the Ardennes. It is an almost trackless moor covered with forest or peat bogs. We who were there called it "Little Siberia" and with good reason. Deep snow, cold wind, open moors and wet gun pits made living a "hell on earth." Some of the crews had shacks for housing from materials we were able to scrounge. Battery officers lived in a squad tent. If the Germans would have been able to break through in an attack, it would have served them right.

The evening of January 4th, I was called out of the line to Battalion Headquarters in Eupen, Belgium and received a battlefield commission as a second Lieutenant. I understand the orders had been in for a time but due to the confusion of the Bulge, paperwork was the last thing of importance. I was fortunate, due to be transferred I requested leave to stay with my second platoon and after a few questions my request was granted. I was overjoyed as I had grown to love and respect this platoon of extraordinary men. It was also the first I had seen the men of Headquarters Battery since leaving them in Sedan, France, a life-time before and we had a great hour together before my return to "C" Battery and the Second Platoon. 1st Lieutenant John Stoutenborough, 2nd Platoon Leader was soon promoted to Executive Officer of "C" Battery and I became Platoon Commander. Captain Floyd Pratt, Battery Commander went to Headquarters as a Major and 1st Lieutenant, later Captain Pierre Bouie was brought in from "A" Battery to become our Battery Commander. I had a further bit of good fortune. A big later Sergeant William Haden from Headquarters Battery, an old friend, received a battlefield commission and became my assistant platoon commander. It was a good pick. Bill and I knew exactly how each other thought and worked without a hitch. To the best of my knowledge the Second Platoon of "C" Battery was the only combat unit with two platoon leaders, both battlefield commissioned.

Bill was a quick thinker and one fellow you wanted on your side when trouble arose. An example took place in our early days on German soil. Among others, he and a captain from Headquarters were on a team setting up local governments in German towns and cities. Tooling along in a jeep the captain and Bill made a turn at a blind corner and stopped short of a German roadblock with a machine gun and nine Nazis waiting. Understandably, the captain was nonplussed, his actual combat experience was nil. Bill immediately stepped out of the jeep, approached the Germans and shouted, "Handen-hoch," or words to the effect of hands up and surrender. Twice he received no response so turning he strode past the jeep to the road corner and rapidly raised and lowered his fist in the time honored double-time expression. He then turned and walked back to where the Germans were now talking and again shouted to them to surrender in German. Believing that Bill was calling up troops, all nine came out with their hands up. Bill started them out, following in the jeep with his tommy-gun at the ready. Reports are that they were very miffed upon reaching the corner curve and finding they had been duped. Bill passed away in September 1989 but not before I was able to make two visits to his home in Atlanta, Georgia. He was one great soldier and a wonderful friend.

On February 4th "C" Battery pulled stakes from Little Siberia and took up positions in and around the Monschau area protecting bridges and later to include V Corps Headquarters which moved into our perimeter. Batteries A-B and D set up for business further south generally in the Bullingen area. Setting in my guns around Monschau I had one left and wanted to place that one on top of a high point to the east of town that have a great overview of the countryside.

Running recon on this point my jeep driver, Bob White and I found the small narrow rutted dirt road leading to the top. Just as we rounded the top we pulled up to a stop with a bad taste in our mouths. In front of us were a pair of Shermans and an infantry half track, blown and burned. I turned to Bob and said, "Hell Bobby, we're in a mined area." Bob whistled and I said, "Bob, do you think you might back down all the way into town in exactly your same tracks?" "Yes sir, you bet," he replied and we started back. I cannot say we were scared, we had been through too much to have a special scared day. It was with us all day and every day but I will say, we were never constipated at any time. Arriving at Monschau safely we notified the engineers and they got to work on it. The road was so full of shrapnel and mines that it became necessary to blow the entire length of the road. We had one overworked battalion of Guardian Angels. Monschau had another quirk. It was a beautiful spot and was really the "Niagara Falls" or honeymoon spot of Germany. This was also a hot spot for girls in Hitler's strength through joy program and a place to serve the German SS and deliver their babies for the glory of the Fatherland. We had inexperienced troops in town also and the girls for a short while befriended a number of them until they got wise to the fact that while they were engaged in joy, the girls were sticking knives in their backs. Ah, the blessings of joy and the naivete of untrained troops. It was also in this area that Germans began to pop up through the snowbanks and as luck would have it one of my sections found a thick log just off the gun pit where before had been only snow. This one was different. It had a German sergeant sitting up against it with the whole side of his head peeled away by shrapnel exposing his brain. We weren't about to take care of their dead so we let him watch over things. I made it a point to take my lunch sitting beside him to let the men know that I also knew he was there. Later we found it necessary to have the M.P.s roust out the civilians from the villages to clean up the mess. I never saw dead laying around in any of the occupied countries. Even the hated Boche was planted immediately, but not in Germany.

On the 11th of March 1945 we were attached to and spent the rest of the war with the 69th Infantry Division and assigned the mission of protecting the Divisional FA Battalions.

Continued in Next Bulletin



*1991 Biloxi Reunion
Ray Olsen and Eileen Rimmer*

Headquarters Battery, 880th Field Artillery Third Annual Reunion

Submitted by: John J. O'Connor, 4512 Maple Avenue, Brookfield, Illinois 60513-2335

Our third annual reunion was held July 25, 1991 to July 28, 1991 in Greensburg, Pennsylvania at the Sherton Inn. In attendance were the following members and their spouses:

Stuart and Elinor McGowan
Emil and Peggy Paoletta
John and Peggy O'Connor
Stanley and Georgia Bratt
Eugene and Carolyn McGreevy
Robert and Marilyn McKee
Larry and Rose Adler
John and Margaret Powell
Michael and Lucille Pendrick
Enrico and Anne D'Angelo, C Battery, 880th
Alex and Marge Kormas, Headquarters, 879th Field Artillery
Aloysius Brier

Aloysius Brier came after the dinner banquet to say hello to all the members. The members owe a vote of thanks to Anne D'Angelo and Enrico for their superb planning of the events during the reunion, which included a great play at St. Vincent's College, luncheons, a night at the harness races, our breakfast meeting and of course, our dinner banquet with great entertainment. At the races the only one who won was the track.

The most important part of our meeting was a reading by Stan Bratt of our first so many days in combat which I think was a revelation to the spouses present. Our thanks to Stan for his fine rendition of those past memories. Robert McKee led a short memorial service to remember those who have passed on.



*Front Row, left to right:
John O'Connor, Stanley Bratt,
Michael Pendrick and Emil
Paoletta.*

*Rear Row, left to right:
Enrico D'Angelo, Al Kormas,
Eugene McGreevy, Stuart
McGowan, Larry Adler, Robert
McKee, Al Brier and John
Powell.*

*Front Row, left to right:
Rose Adler, Lucille Pendrick,
Georgia Bratt, and Carolyn
McGreevy.*

*Rear Row, left to right:
Peggy O'Connor, Marge Kormas,
Elinor McGowan, Marilyn
McKee, Peggy Paoletta,
Margaret Powell and Anne
D'Angelo.*





Larry and Rose Adler of Leesburg, Florida at the Headquarters, 880th Field Artillery Reunion banquet at the Sheraton of Greensburg, Pennsylvania.



Neno Sassone of the 880th Headquarters Battery from Osyka, Mississippi Fort Bragg, North Carolina - 1944

Wedding Anniversaries



*Bob and Vivian Kurtzman of Wilmot, Ohio
Bob and Vivian celebrated their 50th Anniversary.*



Al and Marge Kormas of Lakewood, Ohio

**69th Infantry Division 45th Annual Reunion
SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT MARRIOTT
BURLINGAME, CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 23-30, 1992**

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE

May I just make note to all Leaders of Chapters, Groups, Branches, Companies, Battalions, Regiments, Recon, Artillery, AAA, and T.D.'s to get your Activities Schedules to Earl E. Witzleb Jr., Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069 or R.D. #1, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606, as early as possible. We try to work at least a year ahead, as we only put out three Bulletins a year. When mailing in this information, do send your organization's name, person in charge (Chairman), address, city, state, zip, telephone numbers including area codes, dates, location, and anything else that you feel might be of interest for members to know. This may also bring a few new faces, or two, to your group. Then bring them to a National Reunion to meet a-l-l-l-l of the gang.

By now everyone should know where news material, articles and pictures should be mailed to. Your Coordinating Manager and Editor will do a superb job of handling it along with Dottie who takes care of the ladies mail. Thanks for getting it in on time.

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

1991

DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE FOR 1991-1992

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JANUARY 4, 1992

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 14, 15, 16, and 17, 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.

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

(All other of the 50 States invited too, including New England, Eastern States, Mid-West, Mountain States, Far West, Alaska, Hawaii, Texas and ALL THE SOUTH)

Hotel/Motel: Days Inn
 Banquet: Ramada Inn
 Location: Altoona, Pennsylvania
 Tours: Being planned at present time.
 Featuring famous horseshoe curve of Conrail and Amtrak.
 Boat Ride on Lake Raystown, Big Hospitality Room
 Saturday Banquet with Entertainment

Committee:

L. Vaughn and Betty Woomer, Chairpersons
 Company F, 272nd Infantry
 813 Highland Drive
 Tyrone, Pennsylvania 16686
 Telephone: 814/684-0185

MAY 7, 8, 9, 1992

MIDWEST GROUP

SPRING MEETING WEEKEND

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.

Karakahl Inn

Mount Horeb, Wisconsin

Located at 1405 Business Highways 18/151 in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin, about 15 miles west of Madison. Mount Horeb was settled by Norwegian immigrants, and things to see include a restored Norwegian farm, museums and gift shops. New Glarus, a Swiss community, is about 18 miles away. There are numerous other attractions within a radius of 25 to 30 miles.

Rates: \$46.00 per night plus 5.5% tax, or \$48.53.

Program:

Thursday, May 7: Check in after 3:00 p.m.
 Hospitality Room
 Dinner, probably at Karakahl Inn

Friday, May 8: Golf. Approximately \$5.00 for nine holes, plus cost of cart.
 Sightseeing for non-golfers.
 Hospitality Room.
 Dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Saturday, May 9: On your own.
 Check-out time is 12:00 noon.

Reservations: Call the Karakahl directly at 608/437-5545, at least three weeks before May 7, 1992. You can also write to:

Karakahl Inn
 P.O. Box 101
 Mount Horeb, Wisconsin 53572

For answers to questions about the meeting, contact:

Committee:

Curt and Evie Peterson
 4900 Wallace Avenue
 Madison, Wisconsin 53716
 Telephone: 608/222-7957

GET YOUR NEWS IN EARLY!

Let people know in plenty of time about your meeting so they can make their plans ahead of time. You will have a larger turnout and you will be much more organized. Don't forget our National 69th Reunion.

(Continued on Page 58)

**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE**
(Continued from Page 57)



Mid-West Spring Meeting at Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, Illinois.

Left to right, facing - Gene Pierron, John Barnette and Fran Enright. Backs of Tom and Lorraine Hancock.



Mid-West Spring Meeting at Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, Illinois

Left to right: Ethel Pierron, Fred Butenhoff, Wayne Weygandt, Mavis Butenhoff, Phil and Harriet Sparacino.

* * * * *

APRIL 25, 1992

Deadline for news material and pictures for this bulletin.
Bulletin Volume 45, Number 3
May - June - July - August, 1992
Bulletin due out in late June or early July 1992

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JUNE 12, 13, 14, 1992

COMPANY D, 272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

Yorktown Hotel

York, Pennsylvania
Telephone: 717/848-1111

Reunion information to be mailed to members.

Committee:

Ralph and Grace Schollenberger
24 Fairview Street
Boyerstown, Pennsylvania 19512
Telephone: 215/367-0000

**August 23, 24, 25, 26,
27, 28, 29, 30, 1992**

**69th INFANTRY
DIVISION ASSOCIATION
45th ANNUAL REUNION**

San Francisco Airport Marriott

1800 Old Bayshore Highway
Burlingame, California 94010
Telephone: 415/692-9100

Close to International Airport
and U.S. Interstate Highways

350 ROOMS AND SEVERAL SUITES

Singles and Doubles: \$70.00

plus 8% State and City Taxes=\$75.60

Suite: 65% off the published 1992 rates
Rates are good for 3 days prior and after
reunion week dates.

HOSPITALITY ROOM - TOURS - EARLY BIRD
PX BEER PARTY - BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AND
AUXILIARY MEETING - MEMORIAL SERVICE
- BANQUET DINNER DANCE - SUNDAY GOING
HOME BREAKFAST

Committee:

Robert "Bob" and Theresa Pierce
Company I, 273rd Infantry
144 Nashua Court
San Jose, California 95139
Telephone: 408/226-8040

**LET'S GO MEMBERS FROM THE
WEST COAST STATES, MOUNTAIN
STATES, AND ALL THE 50 STATES
INCLUDING ALASKA AND HAWAII,
DON'T LET THE EAST TAKE OVER.**

* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 24, 25, 26, 27, 1992

880th FIELD ARTILLERY, A BATTERY WEEKEND
Kentucky, or Tennessee will be the site.

Further details will be in the next bulletin.

Committee:

James Bilbrey, *Chairman*
R.D. #3, Box 289-B
Celina, Tennessee 38551
Telephone: _____

(Continued on Page 59)



the 69th

INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

p.o. box 69, champion, pa. 15622-0069

DO NOT FORWARD - ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Mr Lowell McFarlin
89 N. High St. Box 236
Jeromesville, OH 44840

This is a solicitation for the order of goods and/or services and not a bill, invoice or statement of account due. You are under no obligation to make any payments on account of this offer unless you accept this offer.

Happy
Holidays!



James E. Moody
Route 3, Box 428
Wendell, North Carolina
69th M.P.

Hubert Tibbs
1771 Piercy Drive
Akron, Ohio
Hq. Divarty

James D. Negley
1416-D Manor House Lane
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
D-369th

Stanley Karas
6328 Alderwood Street
Spring Hill, Florida
E-272nd

Alex Waichulis
3322 Michigan Street
Hobart, Indiana
E-271st

Olan S. George
Akron, Ohio
C-661st

Warren Truman
1637 Reamer Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
B-269th

Troy Sapp
Route 5, Box 797
Marianna, Florida
C-724th

Henry Granecki
240 21st Street
Toledo, Ohio
F-272nd

Robert A. Ellis
R.R. #1, Box 1339-B
Cascade, Virginia
Hq., 272nd

William T. Cook
Shippenville, Pennsylvania
D-369th

"Taps"

James V. Gambone
Bruceton Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
769th Ordnance

Jesse Haynes
Route 4, Box 248
Tallasse, Alabama
E-273rd

J. W. Weeks
Wewahitchka, Florida

Tom Watkins
1047 West Browning Road
Bellmawr, New Jersey
Hq.-273rd

Paul Adams
103 Pleasantview Drive
Weirton, West Virginia
B-724th

C. Alphonsa Needy
423 North Main Street
Boonsboro, Maryland

Burrell Bowles
Route 1, Box 31-A
Kamiah, Idaho
Hq., 1st Bn.-271st

"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!

Brantley Watkins
2614 Brantley Road
Pocomoke City, Maryland
Hq. Divarty

Hewson A. Ryan
8 Grove Street
Winchester, Massachusetts
D-271st

Charles Hunt
301 West Maple Avenue
Lancaster, Kentucky
569th Signal

William H. Sommer
2063 Orchard Drive
Stevensville, Michigan
E-271st