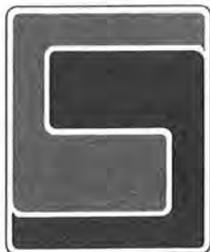


FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★★ Association, Inc.



VOLUME 45, NO. 3

MAY — JUNE — JULY — AUGUST
1992

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

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

bulletin

FIRST ARTILLERY ROUND OF THE 69th



Snow and fire-power in the Hurtgen Forest.

Number Two piece “C” Battery 880th Field Artillery Battalion immediately after firing the first round fired by the 69th Division Artillery in combat. Round was fired at 1050 on 11 February 1945. This is a 105mm howitzer.

“C” Battery’s guns fired the first of the 880th’s many rounds against the Siegfried line ... At 1050 hours, 11 February 1945, the lanyard was pulled that officially opened the 69th’s participation in the offensive against Nazi military might.

Mud ... plain mud ... was the keynote of those first days in the Monschau Forest ... The mine-sown road from Amel to the forest was axle-deep ... the dug-outs, which the 371st Field Artillery had prepared ... had mud floors ... the gun positions were water-soaked. One drove through mud ... one worked in mud ... one walked through mud ... and many a night one slept in mud.

Beyond the battery positions stood the serrated Dragon’s teeth ... and in the concealed folds of the hilly Eifel were concealed enemy pill-boxes ... 88s, nebelwerfers kept the Infantry on the alert.

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Dear Members:

Clarence is looking for new members all the time. On Page 15 of this bulletin is a News Release letter that can be torn out of the bulletin and mailed or taken to your local newspaper. If you don't want to take it out of your bulletin, get a copy or two made and take that to the newspaper. It should not be too late and I would say it's never too late to get it in your local paper. It does discuss the upcoming San Francisco reunion which will be our 45th. The last paragraph does state new members are welcome and to write to our Membership Chairman.

We did mail out about 450 news release letters this year but they went to newspapers having a circulation of 30,000 or more. Only a few years ago this list was close to 700 but with the jointures of newspapers and the folding of others, the list keeps getting smaller and smaller. Next year, Lord willing, we'll drop our circulation down to about 10,000 or better newspapers. I feel some of the local and smaller papers could do a better job in finding members than the bigger ones, due to the fact that they don't cost as much and some are only weeklies. They too get to the backwoods and out to areas that the larger papers don't service.

SEE PAGE 15 for NEWS RELEASE

All 69ers, please mail this to your local newspaper.

Or better yet, make a few copies and mail it to several newspapers. Help the 69th Infantry Division grow and help promote the San Francisco Reunion. A lot of the guys that we served with don't know we are out here. Hopefully, this will bring us lots of new members.

News From The Editor's Desk



by — Clarence Marshall
Membership Chairman

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

Howard Carlton, R.R. 2, Box 1226, Wolfeboro, New Hampshire 03894 — Hq. Btry., 880th FA: Hope this letter finds you well. I am enclosing an article which was in a local newspaper which I found quite interesting about veterans searching for wartime buddies. I thought it might be helpful to a lot of our members who are searching for their buddies somewhere in this great country of ours. It may be worth publishing in the Bulletin.

Also, where can I obtain a 69th insignia for my car window, as I just purchased a different car?

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Carlton's article appears elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin.)

William Muldoon, 79 Elizabeth Drive, Beth Page, New York 11714 — E-272nd: I formerly was a member of Company E, 272nd Regiment, from May 1943 to April 1944, when I left the company to go overseas as a replacement. I just got the 69th Division History Book and on Page 108 is a picture of **Rex Kiser**, a buddy whom I trained with, but there was no address on him. I am enclosing a self-addressed postcard for the information I am requesting. You see, **Rex** ended up in the 9th Division and was mortally wounded in August of 1944. I too ended up in the 9th Division and was lucky. I got hit but was able to return to duty.

Stanley R. Green, 160 Strongwood Avenue, Battle Creek, Michigan 49017 — C-661st T.D.: I am writing this note in hopes of getting it in the next Bulletin. It is in regards to the "First Link-Up Memorial Park" to be erected on the Elbe River at Strehla. I have sent in my donation and hope others will do the same, so we can all proudly say our flag is flying high over in Germany and the monument will acknowledge the 69th Infantry Division's part in meeting the Russians at Torgau.

Albert Leike, Jr., Route 2, Box 238, Parkersburg, Pennsylvania 19365 — C-369th: Is there any way I can locate a member of Company C, 369th Medical Battalion, by the name of **Lewis Gray**. His home state was Ohio and any help from 69ers would be appreciated.

Richard R. Plum, 8 Glenmary Avenue, Red Bank, New Jersey 07701 — Hq., 3rd Bn., 271st: Your article about the Upper Darby Class Ring (Page 51 of the January-April 1992

Issue) really stirred my memory, as I was a 1943 classmate of **Mr. DeFrancisco**. He was Class Treasurer as I recall. After high school graduation, we met again in Camp Shelby. I was a telephone lineman in 3rd Battalion Headquarters and he was a platoon sergeant in I Company. He was killed by a mortar round on the first day that I Company was committed to battle. The Upper Darby Class of 1943 will be celebrating its 50th Reunion next year. He will be remembered.

Francis Bigham, 15 Apple Blossom Lane, Danbury, Connecticut 06811 — A-271st: Just a few words to let you know how thankful I am to see the photo I sent to you published in the Bulletin. I just received the 69th Bulletin and I am very pleased with your prompt action. I hope the picture generates some enthusiasm and encourages some to write. I am always pleased and happy to hear from my buddies. Thanking you again, Clarence, and wishing all is well with you and your family.

Tony Szaro, 311 Sherwood Road, Union, New Jersey 07083 — C-724th: I am sending you some old pictures of my buddies from Company C, 724th Field Artillery, which I came across in my old 69th Division scrapbook. I am hoping you can use them in the 69th Division Bulletin. The fellows will get a kick out of the memories we shared. Thank you. I hope to see you in San Francisco.

Alan Murphey, 1339 Hemlock Drive, Fairborn, Ohio 45324 — Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd: Thank you for your interesting letter of January 23rd. I had planned to write earlier but have been busy with research and writing projects.

I am very pleased to say that I have finally relocated my buddy **Robert Miller**. This would not have been possible had it not been for **Joe Weber** of Anti-Tank, 271st Infantry. **Joe** sent me an address for **Bob** he found on a high school alumni mailing list. You can imagine what a thrill it was to hear from **Bob Miller** after 47 years! He and I went through the war together in Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 273rd Infantry. We were both scout-observers, all the way from maneuvers in Mississippi to Colditz on the Mulde River. The last time I saw **Bob** was June 29, 1945, when he left Polenz Airfield for the 29th Infantry Division. He tells me he moved from Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania to Baltimore three months after he was discharged in May 1946. He worked for Bethlehem Steel Corporation for 40 years, retiring in 1986. As **Bob** says, he had never heard of the 69th Division Association. Would you please add his name to the mailing list.

Regarding **Chris Van Kerckhoven** from Belgium who wanted to subscribe to the Bulletin - from your explanation of what happened, I can see how you get caught in the middle when you handle both the membership roster and the Bulletin. No wonder you get frustrated.

Incidentally, do you by chance have two extra copies of the last Bulletin, the September to December 1991 issue? In case you do, I'm enclosing \$2.00 and a self-addressed manila envelope. I would like to send one copy to the widow of **Arnold Mackey** as her husband's photo appeared on Page 30 and one copy to **Van Kerckhoven**. **Van K.** has been most helpful with research I'm doing on 3rd Battalion, 273rd Infantry's positions in the Siegfried Line. Based on information I sent him, he located and photographed old pillboxes and bunkers occupied by Third Battalion at Udenbreth in February 1945 - even the farmhouse where we had our OP and the elderly German couple, **Alfred Mueller** and his wife, who live there today. I am putting together an article on Udenbreth for possible publication in the Bulletin.

Take care and keep up the good work!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Murphey's article on Udenbreth begins on Page 40 of this issue.)

(Continued on Page 4)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 3)

Ralph E. Utermoehlen, 2221 Stone Post Road, Manhattan, Kansas 66502 — I-271st: Thanks for sending the names of I Company, 271st Association members. One I was in college with and have in later times worked some with former State Senator Merrill Wertz, yet we never mentioned our wartime outfit. I have contacted Merrill and he's all for inviting the Reunion to Kansas in 1994. The Eisenhower Complex in Abilene, Kansas is planning extra activities that year to commemorate D-Day, The Bulge and the drive to the Elbe River.

Manhattan, home of Kansas State University, is on one side of the Ft. Riley Reservation and Junction City, Merrill's home, is on the other side of the Fort. Abilene is a few miles beyond Junction City. This area is in the Flint Hills, a large native prairie grass geology extending into Oklahoma. The Combat Air Museum is 50 miles east of us in Topeka and President Truman's Library is 50 miles east of Topeka in Independence, Missouri. Fort Riley has the U.S. Cavalry and General Custer Museums. Fort Leavenworth also has museums.

Clarence, would you be able to send me what the needed requirements are for a reunion? Also, if possible, Merrill and I need the names of Association members in Kansas, also in nearby Nebraska, Oklahoma and Missouri. From this list we should be able to get a good hosting committee.

Paul B. Thomas, Box 592, Pryor, Oklahoma 74362 — Hq. Divarty: I would like to urge all of our 69th Division membership to participate in making the First Link-Up Memorial Park in Strehla, Germany, a reality. We need to let the world know that our 69th Division made the first Russian contact on the Elbe River. The monument and our flag flying there will be a fitting tribute to our men and also recognize the fact that some of our troops paid the supreme price for the defeat of Hitler, Facism and Nazism. **Bill Beswick** is to be commended for his efforts in this endeavor. I also appreciate the work you have done through the years.

Mrs. Joyce Webb, 14 Clairview Drive, Carnegie, Pennsylvania 15106-3814: My name is Joyce Webb. My father is **John Dunevich**. He is a member of the Fighting 69th. I just wanted to let you know my Dad is very sick. He has cancer of the liver. The doctor told me he has one to two months at the most. We have him at his home in a hospital bed. He isn't in any pain. I take care of him about 18 hours a day. He's an excellent patient and tries to help all he can.

He's a good father, grandfather and great grandfather. We are really going to miss him. If possible, please notify some of his friends for us. It's very hard for me to locate everyone. Please contact me any time.

John's address is: **John Dunevich**, 698 Prestley Street, Carnegie, PA 15106. He was a member of Company A, 777th Tank Battalion.

Leonard J. Addorisio, 89 Benjamin Street, Stratford, Connecticut 06497 — B-661st T.D.: With reference to the letter about the "First Link-Up Memorial" in Strehla, Germany, I want to add my comments and enthusiasm for this outstanding project. It would make us all proud of the part we played in the victory and link-up with the Russians. Your donation to this Memorial - where our American flag can fly high - will help the 69th Division gain recognition.

Robert N. Grimm, 836 North Columbus Street, Lancaster, Ohio 43130 — L-271st: First of all, I want to thank everyone that puts this GREAT BULLETIN together each time - to you Clarence Marshall, Bob Kurtzman, Sr. and the many others that are involved.

Concerning the 69th History Book, I think they did a great job putting such a book together, but they must have been short on proofreaders. In my auto-biography I stated that at the age of 63, I was still in business, and they tacked 5 more years onto me and stated that I was 68 years old. They are coming fast enough without that. And also they omitted my present address and unit I was in, and awards I had received.

Probably I and the other **Robert Grimm**, from Apollo, Pennsylvania, are the only two with the same first and last names in the 69th. My grandfather, James Norwin Grimm, came to Ohio as a young man in around 1890 from Apollo, Pennsylvania. And another thing, my wife, Wanda, discovered in the history book, was that my third cousin was in the 69th, which I never knew. Raymond V. Kuhn's grandmother, Ida Grimm Shaeffer and my grandfather, James N. Grimm, were brother and sister.

Grant D. Brown, 665 Angelita Drive, Prescott, Arizona 86303 — 69th Q.M.: I was leafing through the World War I book, *U.S. Official Pictures of the World War*, a short time ago and ran across a photo of our General Bolte taken on 9 August 1918 in France when he was the 58th Infantry Intelligence Officer.

I've written to **George Gallagher** in hopes of rounding up the men of the 69th Quartermaster Company and meeting in San Francisco in August. I haven't heard back as yet from him. Could you give me **Victor Woo's** mailing address so that I can contact him regarding the reunion. Most of the men of the 69th Quartermaster were from California.

Charles Chapman, 7412 Exmore Street, Springfield, Virginia 22150-4026 — Hq. Divarty: **Mr. Norman Chronister** of 1416 Lyncrest Avenue, Jackson, Mississippi 39202, the son of **Norman Chronister** who served in our Battery (Headquarters Battery, Division Artillery), has written to me with the inquiry listed below. His father is in a nursing home in Jackson, and although he can no longer see well enough to read, cannot walk or respond to our letters, nevertheless he retains his humor and agreeable disposition which all of us remember. Here is the inquiry:

"I have wondered, too, if you can tell me if your organization has or is affiliated with, an archive. All of the letters Daddy sent from Europe to his family in Laurel, Mississippi, along with some group photographs and a small address book, are in my possession. In number, I suppose they would fill a shoebox. Having been, several years ago, an historian at Mississippi's Department of Archives and History, I know how important such letters can eventually become. If you have, or can recommend a depository, I would be happy to contribute this collection. Some future Bell I. Wiley might find them helpful."

Clarence, **Mr. Chronister's** question is quite timely and is one that others may wonder about but have not asked. Could you respond to his question.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: I responded to Mr. Chapman's letter and sent him information regarding the Camp Shelby Museum in Mississippi.)

James M. Bann, 5553 Terra Granada Drive, Unit 3A, Walnut Creek, California 94595 — B-369th: Through the grapevine I've heard that the 69th Division Association is still alive. I was a member of the 69th Division from March, 1944, until May (or June) 1945. My unit was Company B, 369th Medical Battalion. I'd like to join the Association and attend the reunion in August, 1992, in San Francisco. Please send me information regarding joining the Association and whatever forms I'll need.

(Continued on Page 5)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 4)

Eldon Atwood, P.O. Box 1849, El Centro, California 92244 — L-273rd: Enclosed please find my check for \$5.00 to enroll my old army buddy, **Ralph Sayer**, in our organization. I have wondered for years and years what happened to **Sayer**, and lo and behold the phone rang in our San Diego condo at 4:45 last Friday and it was a young lady identifying herself as the daughter of **Ralph Sayer**.

She had been talking to her dad on the phone in New Jersey and he happened to mention "**Eldon Atwood**" living out in the San Diego area - actually El Centro is 115 miles east of San Diego - and she just started thumbing through the San Diego telephone directory and spotted my name, and called our San Diego number. By a fluke, we were in San Diego on a weekday. My wife answered the phone to the question: "Would this be the **Eldon Atwood** who would be about 65 years old?" My wife was dumbfounded and wouldn't respond to that type of a question, because just this past week in El Centro there had been friendly inquiries about just how old I am - and this age thing I've always kinda skirted it.

Anyway, I came on the phone after **Marjie**, my wife, said it was a young lady identifying herself as "**Ralph Sayer's** daughter." Imagine my surprise (and delight) to find out it was **THE Ralph Sayer** from my former outfit.

Needless to say, bright and early on Saturday morning I picked up the phone and called **Ralph** in Allamuchi, New Jersey. We had a long conversation, and I was simply astonished how **Ralph** could remember every single incident, all the guys' names, officers' names, various combat incidents, et cetera, et cetera. It was incredible - and yet he had not been in touch with and/or had ever heard of our 69th Infantry Association.

Anyway, I do want to get **Sayer** enrolled in the Association. With his knowledge and memories, he'd be a real asset to the organization.

Believe it or not, **Ralph's** daughter works at the Marriott Hotel in San Diego and where we were headed to celebrate our niece and nephew's wedding anniversary when the phone rang. Unfortunately, she was off that evening, so we haven't as yet met her. I told her before we hung up that this Friday, the 13th, was my lucky day!!



*Marjie and Eldon Atwood
Christmas, 1991*

Thomas C. Damron, 3315 Sacramento Street, Suite 413, San Francisco, California 94118 — son of former Colonel **James Damron**: It has been a few years since we have spoken or seen each other. I trust you are doing well and will be able to visit San Francisco for the next reunion.

At a recent medical convention that I attended, I ran into a gentleman by the name of **Sidney Malet**. **Dr. Malet** and I were talking about the military in general and then he mentioned his time spent in the service. When I inquired about his World War II service, he informed me he had been with the 69th Infantry Division. I proceeded to show him my membership card and asked if he would like someone to contact him regarding the 69th Infantry Division Association. **Dr. Malet** indicated he would like to hear from the Association and was very interested in hearing that the 1992 reunion was scheduled to be in San Francisco.

When I get to Phoenix, Arizona I usually have the chance to share a meal with **Bob Myers**. I also had the chance to visit with **Frank See** several times before his passing. I will be in Carlisle, Pennsylvania for two weeks this summer at the Army War College. If I take leave after the course, I will be up your way and will stop by to see you. If not, I hope to see you in August.

John J. O'Connor, 4512 Maple Avenue, Brookfield, Illinois 60513 — Hq.-880th: Hope this epistle finds you getting along okay and your rehab going along well. I imagine rehab can get very boring at times but you have the guts to go 100%.

Thank you for returning the pictures and for putting the written articles into the last bulletin. It was appreciated very much. **Al Kormas** wanted to know what the letters BS meant in my one article. He said it must have stood for Boy Scout, so I let it stand at that and told him so. **Al** is a good person. He worked hard for the 69th. Of course, you have done a superb job for the 69th and you can't be thanked quite enough. I personally do thank you for your work, **Clarence**.

One name to be added to the "Taps" list, I am sorry to report, is that of **Leonard Nathan**, Headquarters Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion. **Leonard** passed away July 27, 1991, but I did not learn of this until January, 1992.

Another member was found. Add the following to the mailing list and I am sure he will respond to the dues request, as he did not know of the 69th Association and wants to be made aware of anything concerning the 69th. He is: **Boyd Schultz**, 546 South Old Sevierville Road, Seymour, Tennessee 37865. Telephone: 615/577-0513.

Thanks for your courtesies in these matters, **Clarence**. Say hello to **Rico** and **Anne** if you see them.

Louis N. Rodgers, 99 North Main, Apt. 609, Memphis, Tennessee 38103 — Div. Hq.: The Association is congratulated upon its participation in establishing the "First Link-Up Memorial Park" on the Elbe River at Strehla, Germany. The committee chairman, **Bill Beswick**, has done an outstanding job in this special and most appropriate project. **Clarence Marshall**, **Earl Witzleb** and **Bill Beswick** have made it easy for all members to participate in this project by putting in the last bulletin on Page 45 the details for mailing our contributions for this project. I was delighted to mail **Bill** my contribution for this worthy project commemorating this worldwide historic event.

Nick Giannone, 10200 Shore Front, Parkway #10J, Rockaway Park, New York 11694 — B-272nd: I was recently contacted by an old friend that I had not heard from for over 40 years. He is **E. George Wood**, Route 1, Box 93G, Hawarden, Iowa 51023. **Woods**, as he was commonly called when he served with the 272nd Regiment, Company B, was part of

(Continued on Page 6)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 5)

the 1st Battalion Battle Patrol during combat. Would you please let me have the correct address for **Dave Butvinick** of Bayonne, New Jersey, Company A, 272nd Infantry.

LTC Jay S. Rollman, 2613 Springridge Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89134 — Hq. Divarty: I thoroughly support "First Link-Up Memorial Park" on the Elbe River, Strehla, Germany, and I urge every member of the Association to support the program. Every member of our Association should be proud to see our great American flag flying on the east bank of the Elbe River and the memorializing of the 69th's World War II role in Europe. I was not in the infantry unit that actually made the link-up but I am proud to have been a part of the Division that was there. I have made my contribution and I ask that everyone make any kind of contribution possible in support of this great effort.

Paul Molinari, P.O. Box 1781, Manchester, Connecticut 06040 — C-881st: I hope at this writing that your health has improved. We know that you weren't able to make the trip to Biloxi because of ill health. We pray we will see you at other reunions from here on in.

The wife and I enjoyed ourselves with all our buddies and their wives at the reunion in Biloxi. It was good to go back in time and see Camp Shelby as it is today. Of course, everything has changed since our training there.

Well today, I received a big surprise - my wife and I went to the Springfield, Massachusetts Eastern States Exposition. There was so much to see that of the many buildings, we were only able to visit one in about 3 hours. Well, as we were going in the door of the building, someone walked up to me and said, "Were you in the 69th Division?" At that point I realized that I was wearing my 69th Division red jacket. He recognized the emblem and then told me he was also in the 69th Infantry Division. He was an infantry boy but he could not remember whether he was in the 271st, 272nd or 273rd. I told him about our reunions and he was happy to hear about them. He introduced himself as **Raymond Thibeault**. He would like to be put on the roster and also receive the bulletins. His name and address are: **Raymond Thibeault**, 264 East Road, Hampstead, New Hampshire 03841. If anyone recognizes his name, I wish they would drop him a line and I'm sure we will see him at one of our reunions.

Well, until we meet again, **Clarence**, stay healthy so you can make the reunions.

Allen C. Williams, 2922 Pasture Lane, Sugar Land, Texas 77479 — Service 272nd: As you know there were three separate "Link-Up" meetings with the Russians by members of the 69th Infantry Division on April 25, 1945, and the first of these meetings was made by a patrol under the leadership of **Lt. Albert Kotzebue**, now deceased, near the German city of Strehla.

Now forty-seven years later, land has been donated by the city of Strehla for the construction of a monument and park in memory of this great historical event. The Russians are to draw up the plans and do the construction work, and the members of the 69th Infantry Division have been asked to make a cash contribution to help fund the project.

If the 69ers do provide the requested contribution, the American flag will be included in the flags to fly in that Memorial Park, and it can be a reminder to all who visit the memorial that the Americans played a big role in the liberation of the German people from the control of Hitler and the Nazi Party.

It would be a terrible injustice to all Americans, and especially those who fought in the European Theater during

World War II, if the American flag is not one of the flags to be raised during the initial ceremonies, when this monument is unveiled. It would be a great miscarriage of justice for the Russian flag to be flying without the American flag at this monument for the "First Link-Up" Meeting.

Dorothy and I are glad that we can contribute to the fund, and we hope every 69er, who can do so without putting a bind on their finances, will make a contribution.

Contributions should be made payable to: **69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc.**, and it would be for the "First Link-Up Memorial in Strehla, Germany." Mail it to: **William R. Beswick**, Committee Chairman, P.O. Box 576, West Point, Virginia 23181.

William D. Devitt, 10 Chestnut Street, Beverly, Massachusetts 01915 — I-272nd: I've enclosed the obituary of **James J. McDonnell** of 66 Forest Street, Peabody, Massachusetts, taken from the Friday, April 17, 1992 issue of the Salem (Massachusetts) Evening News. **Mr. McDonnell** served with the 1st Battalion, 273rd Infantry in Europe during World War II. From the wording, I believe he may have been a member of one of the patrols which met the Russian troops at Strehla or Torgau in April 1945.

Although Peabody (pop. 45,000) is adjacent to Beverly (pop. 45,000), I did not know him, although from time to time people would tell me "they thought someone they knew in Peabody knew someone who was in your division," but never giving me enough information to trace him. In fact, however, after reading his obituary, I realized I knew him by his reputation (excellent) as a well-known and well respected fire fighter.

I've never met you but I feel as if I know you. I've been reading the Bulletin for years and look forward to each new issue. You have had an impact on so many people through your editorial skills and efforts toward building membership. Thank you.

I attended the reunion in King of Prussia but was not able to go to Shelby. It would have been interesting to see the place again. Nor will my wife, June, and I be able to go to San Francisco this year. However, we look forward to Rochester in 1993 and Nashville in 1994.

Excerpt from the obituary: During World War II, **Deputy McDonnell** served in the U.S. Army with the 1st Battalion of the 273rd Infantry Regiment. He saw action in the Rhineland and Central Europe and was awarded the Bronze Star. In 1985, he was reunited with three of his Army comrades in Washington, D.C. where a British television crew made a documentary about the end of World War II and the historic 1945 meeting at the Elbe River between U.S. and Russian Troops when handshakes and bearhugs were exchanged.

Dr. Delbert E. Philpott, 1602 Kamsack Drive, Sunnyvale, California 94087 — A-271st: I am writing in regards to the Memorial Park at Strehla. Linking with the Russians 58th Guard in April 1945 was the cumulative highlight of our Division's many distinctive accomplishments. That brought us to the attention of all the world. The monument in Torgau, Germany, while commendable, does not mention the 69th. This is a result of political thinking and not that of the Veterans of the 58th Guard or the general population. This is obvious because the new freedom in Russia is now allowing them to express themselves.

The present effort for recognition is extremely commendable and on a scale that will produce a truly wonderful monument. Other Divisions have produced monuments in other parts of Europe, but none exist for the Fighting 69th.

(Continued on Page 7)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 6)

Our accomplishment and the chosen location are unique and part of history. With the Iron Curtain down, accessibility for visitors to Strehla on the Elbe River isn't a problem. Both Strehla and Torgau will be tourist attractions with unhindered access. Our historical event will be preserved for future generations.

The required funding for such a project would be beyond our ability. Fortunately, the cost of the land, materials and labor for the construction is almost completely being borne by Russia and the Germans. Our financial involvement is really very small - a mere token of the total cost. It does, however, need our moral support without which it would not be built. By being involved, we can have direct input on the overall construction. I'm sure our sons and daughters will be proud to know that deserved recognition has occurred at the Elbe River. It will help the world to remember our great accomplishment as well.

The generous offer by the Russian and German governments to erect a monument to this World War exploit is a sincere expression of their personal desires which only recently could be expressed. Their commitment indeed shows how serious they are to project a solid image and build a lasting monument.

I am hopeful we can contribute the token amount needed and I'm sure we'll be proud of a monument to a world event that we of the 69th helped to bring about.

William P. Higgins, 676 North 57th Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska 68132 — B-272nd; **Dick Hadley** of Denver has been the catalyst of my interest in 69th Division activities and my wife Jeanne and I plan to attend the San Francisco reunion. I was in Company B, 272nd and the Battle Patrol, from Shelby to Torgau and Kassel during post war service.

With assistance from **Nick Giannone**, also Company B and the Battle Patrol, we have been contacting former buddies urging them to attend the reunion.

I am asking for your help in locating two of the Battle Patrol members. First of all, **First Lieutenant Francis B. DeLoach**, listed in the Regimental History as a platoon leader in Company A, 272nd Infantry. He was the Battle Patrol leader and I believe from South Carolina.

Secondly, **Sergeant Vincent J. Mazza**, Company B, 272nd Infantry and also in the Battle Patrol. He was originally from New York City.

I appreciate any assistance and hope to see you in San Francisco.

Mary Kuchmuk, 6725 Pierce, Kingsley, Michigan 49649: This is to notify you of my father's death, **M/Sgt. Robert J. Younglas** of Company B, 271st Infantry, 3529 Three Mile, Traverse City, Michigan 49684. He passed away April 4, 1992 due to an acute MI (heart attack). He was very active in promoting your Divisional reunions and was very proud of all the men he fought with. My father was a devoted military man and has passed that on to his grandchildren. I hope you will let everyone know how sad I am that he will no longer be able to attend your reunions or help gather up friends, because the Fighting 69th is what kept him alive. God bless all of you and please continue to keep my father in your hearts because I know he is watching over you all.

I have all the mailing lists that my father gathered and would forward them on to anyone that would like to take over where he left off.

New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

- James M. Bann** — B-369th
5553 Terra Granada Drive, Unit 3A
Walnut Creek, California 94595
- Thomas Embree** — M-272nd
5214 North 78th Way, Scottsdale, Arizona 85250
- Daniel Rufo** — I-273rd
2515 Boston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21224
- Frederick E. Kleinhenz** — I-273rd
217 Beaumont Court, Ridge, New York 11961
- Dr. Ezra Laderman**
Dean School of Music, Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut 06520
- Robert B. Miller** — Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd
1914 Ellinwood Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21237
- Ewing P. Haynie, Jr.** — B-273rd
2850 Haynie's Drive, Huntingdon, West Virginia 25704
- Ralph Sayer** — L-273rd
P.O. Box 28, Allamuchi, New Jersey 07820
- C. C. Swafford** — C-881st
6711 Grasshopper Road, Birchwood, Tennessee 37308
- Boyd Schultz** — Hq.-880th
546 South Old Sevierville Road, Seymour, Tennessee 37865
- Dr. Sidney Malet**
8526 Colonial Drive, Stockton, California 95209
- Raymond Thibeault** — C-272nd
P.O. Box 385, Hampstead, New Hampshire 03841
- E. George Wood** — B-272nd
Route 1, Box 93-G, Hawarden, Iowa 51023
- Ziegfred A. Walczak** — C-881st
1221 West 28th Street, Lorain, Ohio 44052
- Shirley M. Toler** — G-272nd
13201 Miami Street, Hudson, Florida 33567
- Robert J. Cole** — Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd
1107 West Maple Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008-1845
- Arch Astolfi** — I-273rd
163 Summer Street, Danvers, Massachusetts 01923

MOVING

Please print your new address below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please send this form and your old address label to:
National Headquarters
101 Stephen Street
New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068
Please allow six weeks advance notice.

President's Briefing



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

Time passes swiftly — lest we forget. Our 1991 Biloxi Reunion seems to have been a short time ago, and we are already faced with the 1992 Reunion in San Francisco. **Bob** and **Theresa Pierce** and their Committee have organized a great, great happening for all you 69ers to enjoy. Let's put forth the effort to experience the pleasure and camaraderie that only get-togethers like this make possible. As I mentioned above, time passes swiftly. Don't let the reunions we hold annually, this one being the 45th, be another of those things we've always intended to enjoy but, then Father Time and his accompanying frailties, precluded us from doing. Get your reservations in now. It will assist the reunion committee and our treasurer in completing their work to make this one of our more memorable reunions.

In my previous briefing I made mention of the need for additional people to step forward and serve in a number of areas. We need volunteers for help in every job. A few tasks are completely open and all of the positions are in need of back-ups to either assist or be ready to take over as we lose volunteers who are not handling these assignments.

Among the more critical areas where help is needed is the office of Treasurer, where **Bob Kurtzman** has so effectively and efficiently served for so many years. **Bob** has already advised us that the 1993 Reunion will be his swan song. Therefore, I solicit recommendations from all members to either volunteer or submit recommendations for members that they feel can and will do a great job as our next Treasurer. This would enable a possible successor to work a bit with **Bob Kurtzman** before he steps down. **Curt Peterson** or myself will be most interested in any and all suggestions.

Also, we are currently without a successor to "**Howitzer**" **Al Kormas** who has so capably outfitted so many of us with 69er caps, shirts, jackets, etc. We need someone to step forward on that front. It seems that each year we manage to get from thirty to fifty first-timers, and there is normally a great deal of interest in our apparel from that group.

Another area needing back-ups is that of Chaplain. **Bill Snidow** has always served us well but now we have no one to support **Bill**, and if he had to miss a reunion we would probably have to go to someone from outside our group for a vital portion of our programs and memorial service. As a sad reminder the oft-repeated phrase "it's later than you think" - the last bulletin had a list of 12 new members located in the past four months, and the Taps column had 51 names listed.

As an additional comment, I have had several items that may come up at the coming reunion, and you may wish to give them some thought:

1. Consideration of a 2nd Vice-President. I know this is very controversial, and has been voted down in the past. Since it would require a change in the by-laws, it will not be voted on in San Francisco but it could be voted on in Rochester if desired.
2. We have had requests from Russian members of the 58th Guard Division of the World War II Soviet Army for invitations to attend our reunions. Again this is controversial but it will be discussed at San Francisco so that all members can be informed and participate in the decision.
3. Department of the Army "50th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Committee." A copy of a letter directed to **Mr. Clarence Marshall** on this subject appears below.

As a final note, we are still in need of input for our Site Selection Committees for 1995 and 1996 following Nashville in 1994. There are many beautiful areas of this Nation that are available, and we can provide all necessary guidance. So step up and be counted; help is available and will be in writing to assist in your planning.

My best wishes to all members and families, and I hope to see you, come August, in San Francisco.

DoD Announces WWII Commemorative Program

The 50th Anniversary of World War II has begun. From Pearl Harbor to V-J Day, the Department of Defense (DoD) is helping to commemorate the events of World War II around the country.

According to U.S. Army Col. Ron Green, Deputy Director of the 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemorative Committee, there is a great need to educate people on World War II. To that end, the DoD has developed WWII programs to inform wartime and postwar generations of the military's contributions during the war; help America's youth gain historical and geographical knowledge; honor the contributions and service of the citizen-soldiers of World War II; and educate service men and women, their families and civilian employees on the responsibilities of citizenship and to reaffirm the values upon which our Nation and military were founded. "After all," said Col. Green, "when you educate, you honor."

The DoD is prepared to be a resource for communities, groups and individuals planning World War II commemoration activities. The DoD will supply information and support for these activities. The DoD has also developed brochures, posters, audio-visual material, and museum and library displays.

For more information on how to become involved in commemorating the 50th Anniversary of World War II, contact:

50th Anniversary of WWII
Commemoration Committee
Attention: SACC, Room 3E524
The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20310-0107

Treasurer's Message



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

Another fiscal year is about to come to an end and dues contributions are running about the same. Last year we received contributions from 2,661 members and to date we have received 2,648 and hope we can pick up another 14 to pass last year's total. We have noticed that more have contributed to the postage fund (870) and 69 First Timers as well as 58 Old Timers who had not contributed in the past 8 years and the net amount of contributions has risen slightly.

We hope you have either made your plane reservations or are planning to drive to San Francisco. We have received 33 reservations to date and note for the first time that a reunion in the western part of our great country may be dominated by westerners, so if the east wants to keep up it's image, they better get started.

Bob and Theresa Pierce are very excited about the reunion and have done a bang-up job putting things together. Let's not disappoint them.

By the time you read this it will be much closer to reunion time and we will have made our annual trip to the Tri-State Weekend at Altoona, Pennsylvania and be back home from our annual two week jaunt to our favorite fishing lake in Canada.

Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.
Treasurer

**The National Order of
Battlefield Commissions
is looking for men commissioned
on the field of battle while engaged
with the enemy in World War I,
World War II, Korea and Vietnam.**

**Contact: John C. Angier
111 NOBC #338
67 Ocean Drive
St. Augustine, Florida 32084**

A Tribute to Frank See 777th Tank Battalion



Never before, or since, has a first-time attendee come on the scene of a Fighting 69th Infantry Division reunion (August, 1977) like FRANK SEE. He was co-chairman and did an outstanding job. In the words of Bill Matlach, Past President, "The first time I really remember meeting Frank was at the first Phoenix reunion when Jane and I were at the airport and were greeted by Frank and a few other locals wearing western hats bearing the 69th emblem. Frank drove us to the hotel - that was the ultimate in playing host to the 69th Reunion. Frank was so honest and straight-forward, no foolishness, that you had to like him from the beginning."

Between August 14th through the 22nd, 1977, Frank wore out the road between the Phoenix airports and Mountain Shadow Resort Hotel. Throughout it all, Frank was enthusiastic, tireless and personable with a warm, friendly smile for everyone he met. He knew no strangers. Frank, along with John Havey and Bob Ellis were all appointed to serve on the Board of Directors as a result of their contribution to the success of their first reunion.

In the years that followed, Frank made a significant contribution to all major improvements in our Association. He served many years as a member of the Board as well as Chairman and/or in an active and knowledgeable member of many vital committees. In addition, he was an inspiration among those with whom he served in the 777th Tank Battalion, whose attendance has risen through his influence.

Frank will be sorely missed. We must seek to carry on as he would have wanted. No one every made more friends among us. May God bless Frank See and make full use of his outstanding talents.

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



Bob and Theresa Pierce

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

COMMITTEE REPORT

The first West Coast Reunion looks like a winner. Our committee has already started a telephone campaign to personally encourage the 90 or so 69ers who live around the Bay area, to attend the Reunion. The committee met at the Marriott Hotel in March to discuss specific details of the upcoming Reunion. All the committee members were present except **James McCarthy, Jr.** Jim resigned from the Reunion Committee because of more pressing issues; he lost his home in the Oakland Hills Fire Storm and is trying to rebuild.

SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT MARRIOTT HOTEL

There has been a change that affects the price of the hotel rooms and is beyond the control of either the Marriott or myself. Since the last report was submitted to the Bulletin, San Mateo County and cities within the county raised their City/County Hotel Tax from 8% to 10%. This means the cost of rooms has increased by \$1.40 per night.

If you have already sent in your hotel reservation with the first night's deposit, Marriott has agreed to accept the reservation and adjust the final bill to include the \$1.40 per night increase.

If you have not sent in your hotel reservation form, please make a pen and ink change to the 8% tax and mark 10%. Cost of the room is now \$70.00 per night plus 10% hotel tax for a total of \$77.00 per night.

There are some other considerations that may apply to you. First, if you prefer a non-smoking room, please write it on the reservation form. Second, if you need a room for the handicapped, please make a note. Last, Marriott has an Airport Shuttle Van with a power-lift step for wheelchairs. If you require this service and the van does not have a lift, please advise the driver to send another van. Or, call the hotel when you arrive at the airport.

Seating for the Dinner-Dance will be assigned by units and table numbers posted on a seating assignment board outside of the Banquet Hall. Tables will have name place cards for individual seating. Please don't change the table numbers/names. This technique was very successful at the Biloxi Reunion because it eliminated the "Oklahoma Land Rush" when the doors opened.

To locate the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel, refer to the perspective map. This map not only identifies the hotel but all other hotels and points of interest in an approximate 10-mile circle of the San Francisco Airport. To reach the Marriott Hotel, going either north or south on the Bayshore Freeway 101, exit at Millbrae Avenue. Go east (towards the Bay) joining Bayshore Highway. Turn right at the red light and the Marriott Hotel is the first building on the left.

SCHEDULED TOURS

There is a constraint of 40 passengers minimum per bus, however, the quantity can vary from 40-47 passengers. What this means is that there could be a few reservations that cannot be accommodated. Don't be a last minute shopper, send in your reservations early and be assured of a place on the bus.

Alcatraz Tour Group reservations must be received prior to 30 days before the tour date. After that, ticket sales go to individual reservations. Tour groups are also limited to 50 tickets per boat. Our group has 150 tickets reserved, 50 each for the 1:45 p.m. boat, 2:15 p.m. boat and 2:45 p.m. boat. I will mark the boat departure time on your tickets as I receive them from the Treasurer. Please make your reservations early! Minor correction - Alcatraz Tour is on the Red & White, not the Blue & Gold Fleet.

HOSPITALITY ROOM

I believe there is a misconception about the intent of the Hospitality Room, it is not a hang-out for drinkers to get soused or free booze. The Hospitality Room is our assembly area where we can all gather to relax, renew old acquaintances, make new friends, layout our scrapbooks, tell lies, and re-fight the big one, "World War II."

No hotel has a lobby that can accommodate a group as large as ours and still have some kind of privacy. It's not all booze either, there is ice water, soft drinks, snacks, always cold beer, and yes, there is liquor. There is a price to pay for the convenience, clean up, condiments, snacks and drinks. The cost in earlier years was absorbed by the sponsoring chapter members and even out of the pockets of Past Presidents and committee members. Lately, it has been a drain on the Treasury. It's time to address the issue!

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69th INFANTRY DIVISION 45th ANNUAL REUNION
SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT MARRIOTT
COMMITTEE REPORT
(Continued from Page 10)

"Please support your Hospitality Room" and send in your donations with your Reservation Form and let's all enjoy.

CHARLES HERRING MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Our San Francisco Reunion Golf Committee Chairman, Walter W. Haag, has secured an ideal golf course near the hotel. It's a flat, pleasant, Bay Shore course. Pertinent information:

City of San Mateo Golf Course

Tournament Date: Friday, August 28, 1992

Starting Time: 11:30 a.m.

Green Fee: \$16.00

Electric Cart Rental: \$16.00

Pull Cart Rental: \$ 2.00

There are no rental golf clubs available.

The Charles Herring Memorial Golf Tournament Committee Chairman, **Jim Boris**, assisted by Committee Members **George Johnson** and **Joseph Wright**, will conduct the Tournament.

The Golf sign-up sheet will be at the Registration Desk. When you sign in, you will need to pay the \$16.00 Green Fee. Jim and his committee will do the pairings, determine handicaps, arrange transportation, coordinate with the course starter, and take care of prizes and awards.

To find the golf course, turn left from the hotel on Old Bayshore Highway, follow this street until it joins Airport Boulevard at the intersection of Broadway. Turn left and continue on Airport Boulevard to Coyote Point and the golf course. Maps will be available at the Registration Desk.

PLACES OF INTEREST/TOURS

There have been many inquiries about what to see and do in Northern California. I will attempt to highlight some of the more interesting as well as available tours. If you haven't heard, San Francisco was recently voted No. 1 visitor's destination in the United States by Travelers Magazine. Everyone should take the City Tour. It will whet your appetite for more and point out the places you should revisit on your own. To see anything outside of the Bay area, a car is a must.

BOAT TOURS

There are three (3) cruise companies which offer a variety of tours, all sail from Fisherman's Wharf area. The Red & White Fleet offers tours to Angel's Island, Alcatraz, and scenic Bay Cruises. The Red & White Ferries have service to North Bay Cities of Sausalito, Tiburon, Vallejo, and Marine World Africa USA which is a 160-acre wildlife park with shows and animals in innovative habitats. The Blue & Gold Fleet offers scenic Bay Day and Night Cruises and Dinner-Dance Cruises.

San Francisco Bay Area is a treasure of beautiful Victorian homes, millionaires mansions, museums and gardens. Typical is the 1899 37-room Dunsmuir House surrounded by 40 acres of gardens, or the Filoli Home which was used for TV's "Dynasty" mansion with 16 acres of gardens.

BUS AND TRAIN TOURS

Both bus and train tours go to Napa Wine Country and Reno, Nevada. Popular bus tours go to the resort hotels and casinos in North Lake Tahoe, South Lake Tahoe, and Carson City, Nevada.

For Giant Redwoods, there is a tour to Muir Woods National Monument 17 miles north of San Francisco. There are 550 acres of Coastal Redwoods that are as high as 252 feet and over 2,000 years old.

Monterey/Carmel is one of the most scenic spots on the California coast known for the historic town of Monterey which was the capital of California in 1777 under Spanish and Mexican rule.

Monterey/Carmel tour offers the Monterey Presidio; Fisherman's Wharf; Cannery Row; Monterey Bay Ocean Aquarium; famed 17 Mile Drive past Cypress Rock, Lone Cypress, and Pebble Beach and Cypress Point golf courses; City of Carmel; and Carmel Mission established by Father Junipero Serra in 1770. Father Serra is buried beneath the floor in front of the altar.

Two hundred miles south of San Francisco is Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument, William Randolph Hearst's 114-room castle. This tour is an overnight trip that includes transportation, overnight lodging, and tour tickets. The castle is so large there are four separate tours that take about two hours each. It is absolutely essential to have advance tickets for the tours even if you drive yourself.

DRIVING TOURS NORTH

A car is essential to really see and appreciate Northern California. Every northern county abounds with wineries, all having tasting rooms. Some wineries do charge an admission. In Napa Valley you can take a hot air balloon ride with champagne furnished. Both Napa and Sonoma have helicopter tours, some even land at the private heliports of the wineries.

Calistoga is the heart of Napa Valley and has many points of interest including "Old Faithful Geyser" that erupts every 40 minutes. This area is also the center for steam baths, mineral baths, and mud baths.

See the Redwood Empire. Highway 101 North is the Redwood Highway that travels for miles through the Coastal Redwood forests. South of Scotia, a section of Old Highway 101 is named the Avenue of the Giants. This 33-mile drive goes through 43,000 acres of redwood groves, including the Rockefeller Forest and the 346-foot high giant redwood, the "Founders Tree."

DRIVING TOURS SOUTH

A coastal drive south on Highway 1 along the Pacific Ocean is a must. Follow the coast through Half Moon Bay down to Santa Cruz, a summer resort city with beautiful beaches, and Fisherman's Wharf with great restaurants. The beach boardwalk is California's oldest amusement park (no entry fee). The boardwalk is also the site of the famous Coconut Grove Grand Ballroom which has been completely restored to it's original grandeur. Take a short side-trip to nearby Felton to take a ride on the "Big Trees and Pacific Railway," a steam train operation that includes the 1880 town of Roaring Camp.

San Jose and the beautiful Santa Clara Valley is 45 miles south of the Marriott. This valley was once famous for its fruit trees: apricot, plums, cherries, and pears. Now it's as world famous as Silicon Valley. Besides it's completely restored downtown and light rail transit, there are several points of interest worth the ride.

The Historical Museum is actually a small town of restored Victorian buildings, shops, bank, hotel, etc. Next to the Museum is the Japanese Friendship Gardens patterned after the Korakuen Gardens in Okayama, Japan.

(Continued on Page 12)

**69th INFANTRY DIVISION 45th ANNUAL REUNION
SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT MARRIOTT
COMMITTEE REPORT**

(Continued from Page 11)

The Roscrucian Egyptian Museum, in addition to its art collection, includes a walk-in tomb, reproduction of the sarcophagus of King Tutankhamen, and an exceptional array of mummies.

The Winchester Mystery House is a 160-room mansion built by Sarah Winchester, daughter of the famous gun inventor.

THE GOLD COUNTRY

Highway 49 that wanders along the foothills of the Sierras is called the Gold Chain because it links all the old gold mining camps together. Take a trip back in history and visit the Gold Country. Start with Old Sacramento, the renovated Capitol Building, and Sutter's Fort. Then on to Highway 49 to the Gold Camps of Auburn, Placerville (Hangtown), El Dorado, Sutter Creek, Angels Camp, Chinese Camp, Sonora and the ghost town of Colombia where Mark Twain grubbed for gold.

**"GO WEST" - "GO FOR THE GOLD"
"GOLDEN CALIFORNIA"**

NOTICE

Since the last Bulletin, Volume 45, Number 2 - January, February, March, April 1992, a few changes have been made in the Committee Report of Bob and Theresa Pierce, which should be brought to your attention, regarding the San Francisco Reunion. All changes have been underlined.

THE RENO TOUR

a. **THE RENO TOUR** is a Gambler's Package that stops at one Casino going to the Hotel/Casino for your overnight stay in Reno, and two stops on the return trip. To accommodate this tour, you must arrive at the Marriott, Sunday, August 23rd, to pick up your tickets. The tour will depart the Marriott at 8:00 a.m., Monday, August 24th. If you stay at the Marriott Sunday night, you will be required to check out on Monday morning, your same room cannot be held unless you pay for Monday night. The hotel will allow you to check your luggage so you can leave the bulk of your luggage at the hotel and only take an overnight bag for your Reno Tour. Rooms will be guaranteed upon your return, Tuesday, August 25th. Reservations must be made 45 days in advance, (not later than July 10, 1992) to assure rooms are available in Reno.

**SAN FRANCISCO TOUR AND ALCATRAZ
OPTION NOW READS**

**SAN FRANCISCO CITY TOUR
Thursday, August 27th**

Depart Marriott 9:00 a.m. for a 7-hour bus tour of San Francisco: Golden Gate Park, Presidio, Cliff House on the Pacific Ocean, cross Golden Gate Bridge, stop at Twin Peaks for a panoramic view of San Francisco, see Chinatown and Fisherman's Wharf. Lunch on your own at Pier 39, then two hours to browse, sightsee, shop around Pier 39, Fisherman's Wharf and the Cannery.

Price: \$30.00.

Alcatraz Option

After lunch, catch a Red and White Fleet Boat for a two-hour Prison Tour. Price: \$12.00.

San Francisco City and Alcatraz Tours are combined for convenience and price. They depart and return to the Marriott Hotel together.

AIRLINE TICKETS

Airline Tickets for Senior Citizen's Discount Coupons

For those of you who are not frequent flyers or who may have never flown before, there is a Senior Citizen's Program available on most Airlines that offers substantial discounts. Each Airline has different ages to define Seniors but I am sure we all qualify.

There are coupons you must purchase in either 4 or 8 coupon sets, one set per person. One coupon can be used for each one-way flight (2 coupons for a round-trip flight). Coupons are good for one year and are unrestricted as to days of the week, etc. A set of 4 unrestricted coupons may vary in price between now and August 1992, but the present price is about \$516.00. Check your favorite Airline.

Please read again the information in its entirety from the last Bulletin, noting the changes made here. Also, the necessary changes have been made on your registration sheet. Do take note of these. Pages involved with the changes from the previous Bulletin are 10, 11, 12 and 13. Review the RV'ers locations which some of you may want to use as well as the Delta Airlines Special 69th Division Discount. Make sure you read the five (1 through 5) simple steps to take.

Have a safe trip no matter what way you may travel so that you can return home safely. Bob, Theresa and the Committee are eagerly awaiting your arrival at the Marriott Airport in late August. Dottie and me hope to see you there too.

Lake Tahoe Trip

Dear 69ers,

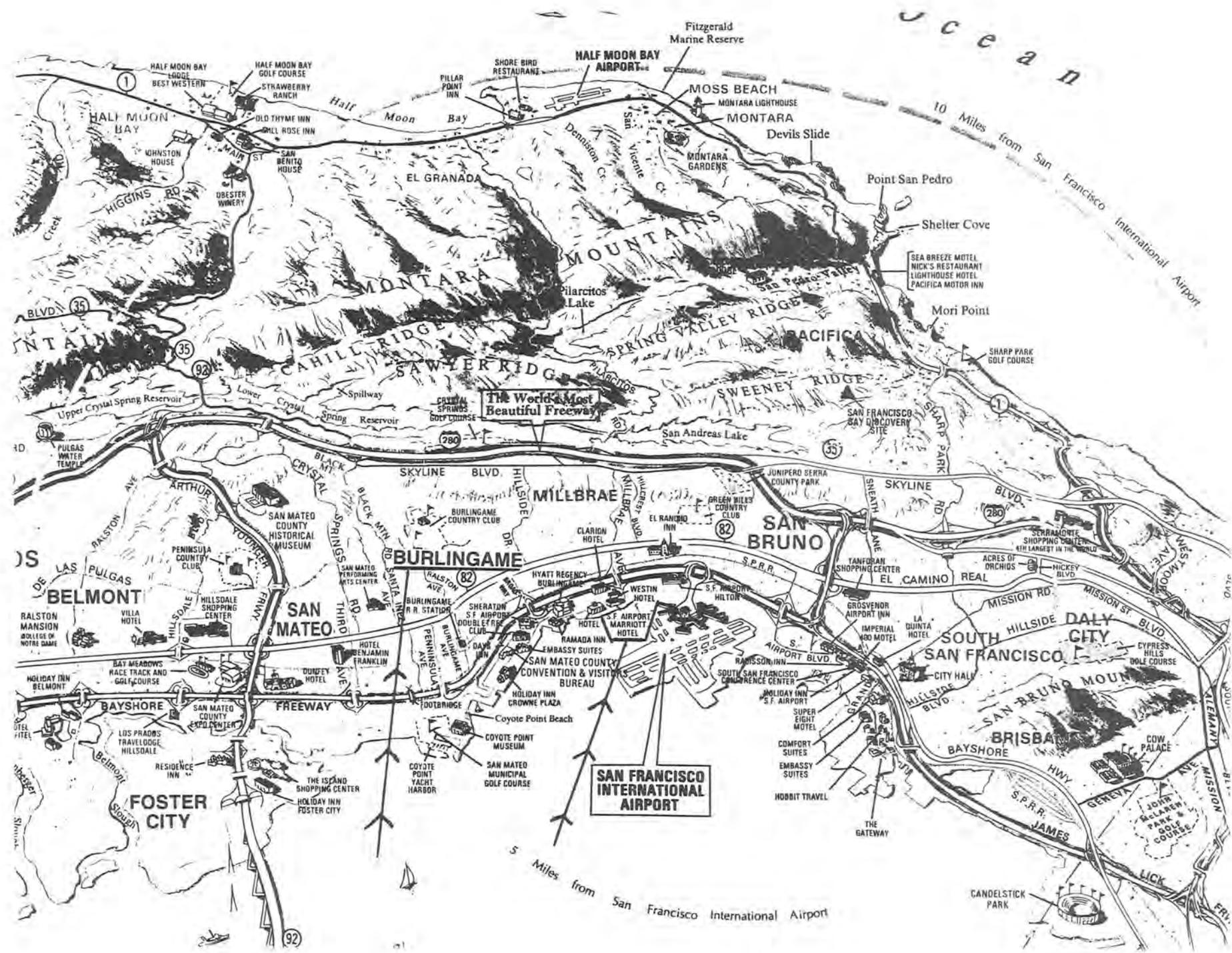
Immediately following the San Francisco Reunion, a group of us 69ers had thought it would be nice to take a trip to Lake Tahoe. I have contacted several hotels in the Lake Tahoe area and none will give us a special group rate because it is "high season" and includes a holiday week. The best I could do was at Harrah's. The approximate cost for two - including round trip bus, three nights hotel accommodations, cocktail show, breakfast in your room or buffet for two and casino book, would be \$500.00. All rates and taxes are subject to change. This rate is based on a minimum of 40 persons per bus.

I have discussed this with several 69ers and they seem to think it is too expensive. I shall appreciate hearing from any of you who still are interested and of course, those who did not know about these plans are welcome.

Please let me know as soon as possible by telephone or letter.

Edith Carbonari
7812 Cloverfield Circle
Boca Raton, Florida 33433

**69th Infantry Division
45th Annual Reunion
SAN FRANCISCO
AIRPORT MARRIOTT
Burlingame, California
August 23-30, 1992**



Ocean

10 Miles from San Francisco International Airport

5 Miles from San Francisco International Airport

Dottie and Me



Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.

Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.
Bulletin Coordinating Manager
 Post Office Box 69
 Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069

or
 R.D. #1, Box 477
 Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606
 Telephone: 412/455-2901
 (Evenings after 7:00 P.M. and Weekends)
 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."

I'm glad and proud that I was President for two years during the best time in our history. My column then was the President's Message. Now we're back to normal and it's Dottie and Me, which I write as part of the team doing the bulletin. Clarence has his Editor's column which consists of nice little notes from you members. Keep it up and continue to send them to Clarence. It would also be nice if you sent in a picture of yourself and even include your better half in it. Our bulletins rank high in military publications. Some have copied from us, something we are very proud of. All we are interested in doing is in putting out a nice 60 page bulletin with good news and pictures from all you fellows. Yes, ladies you can write to Dottie and I'm sure it will get in the Auxiliary Page.

One of our biggest problems is in bulletins being returned to us from the post office due to the fact that we were not made aware of an address change or the snowbirds going south for the winter. I just started taking this job over from Clarence and after the first bulletin returns were completed (Volume 45, Number 1 - September, October, November, December, 1991), I can tell you the results were as follows:

Members paying \$5.00 dues	19
Members paying \$10.00 dues	15
Members paying more than \$10.00 dues	22
Widows	6
Deceased	11
Never paid any dues this year	46
Total Bulletins Returned	119

out of almost 6,000 mailed bulk rate.

When you really think about it, that's not too bad, is it. Only thing, you 119 will miss an issue of our bulletin for I am not mailing out a second bulletin. The way you get an issue of the bulletin you missed is to write to me, Earl Witzleb, at the address above, and I'll see that you get a copy as long as the supply lasts. The cost of postage to the Association for this extra mailing costs \$2.50, and if you do this twice, your \$5.00 dues is gone. Because the 22 members paying more than \$10.00 dues covers those paying at least a \$5.00 dues, we are still able to operate. I would recommend if you request a back bulletin or even several back copies, you send a check

for \$3.00 or more to me payable to the 69th Infantry Division Association. I have mailed out many of these back requests but only a couple have sent a check for our troubles. Thanks fellow members for understanding as we do want our Association to remain in the black. I can tell you \$5.00 a year dues will never carry the load. We understand many of you can only afford that much and some of you not even \$5.00 dues, which we can appreciate. Right now your bulletins will get to you on time, three times a year, if you keep us posted on a correct address, so do mail your changes in as early as possible to Clarence.

Dottie and I plan on being in San Francisco from Tuesday on for the reunion and hope to see you all since the Pierces and committee have a great week lined up for us. The tours are good, the food is good, the extras are good, and the friendship and fellowship is terrific, so do join us August 23rd to 30th for one heck of a reunion at the San Francisco Marriott.

69th Division Committee Revisions 1991-1993

Some people do read the bulletins. Two changes are being made on the Nominating Committee for 1992 at San Francisco. They are minor ones or they could be important ones. Paul Thomas, Chairman, now lists his telephone number and also Keith Curtis. Never know when a telephone number is needed, especially Paul's since he is the Chairman.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 1992 (SAN FRANCISCO)

Paul Thomas, Chairman
 Divarty
 Post Office Box 592
 Pryor, Oklahoma 74362
 Telephone: 918/825-1161

Francis Sullivan
 269th Engineers
 16 Netta Road
 Dedham, Massachusetts 02026
 Telephone: _____ Too late now.

Bill Beswick
 661st Tank Destroyers
 P.O. Box 576
 West Point, Virginia 23181
 Telephone: 804/843-2696

Joe Loudon
 777th Tank Battalion
 6041 Atwell Road
 Toledo, Ohio 43613
 Telephone: 419/475-0770

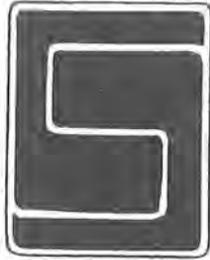
Keith Curtis
 Division Headquarters, Special Troops
 12810 N.W. 118th Avenue
 Granger, Iowa 50109
 Telephone: 515/999-2432

Clifton Barbieri
 Company G, 271st Infantry
 1200 Lone Jack Road
 Lynchburg, Virginia 24501
 Telephone: 804/846-0505

Harold Ruck
 Company I, 272nd Infantry
 622 Melville Avenue
 Chattanooga, Tennessee 37412
 Telephone: 615/698-3418

Robert E. Haag
 Company H, 273rd Infantry
 2205 West 42nd Street
 Indianapolis, Indiana 46208
 Telephone: 317/291-3788

FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION



★★★★ *Association, Inc.*

INSERT NEWS RELEASE

From: **Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association, Inc.**
101 Stephen Street
New Kensington, PA 15068
Phone: (412) 335-3224

TO THE EDITOR:

Our records show that a number of veterans of the 69th Infantry Division reside in your readership area. You will be doing them — and — us a real service if you can find space to publish the attached news release, or some portion of it. Thank you for your courtesy!

FIGHTING 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC. FOR RELEASE AT WILL

The Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association has announced that its 45th annual reunion will be held August 23rd to 30th, 1992 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, California 94010.

The organization is made up of World War II Veterans from all over the United States who served in the 69th Infantry Division and its attached units, the 461st AAA Battalion, 661st Tank Destroyers Battalion, and the 777th Tank Battalion.

The 69th Division was activated May 15, 1943 at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi and trained by Major General Charles L. Bolte where they became known as, "Bolte's Bivouacing Bastards." The 69th distinguished itself in Germany with the First Army capturing the city of Leipzig and making the famed link-up with the Russian Army at Torgau on the Elbe River to end World War II in Europe. Leading the Division into battle beginning at the Battle of the Bulge was Major General E. F. Reinhardt. The Division was deactivated September 15, 1945 with its colors at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

President Welkos O. "Dutch" Hawn expects a large turnout of members, wives, and guests for this reunion in the West. The majority of our membership live in the East, Mid-West and South with a large number coming from the West Coast making for an expected record turnout from the Bay City area. The Reno Overnight Gambling Tour along with tours of Napa Valley Wine Country, San Francisco City and Alcatraz Prison, and finishing with the Men's and Ladies' "Charles Herring Memorial Golf Tournament" should make for a nice week and vacation.

Chairpersons in charge of the reunion are Mr. and Mrs. Robert "Bob" and Theresa Pierce of San Jose, California 95139. For further information you may contact The Pierces at 144 Nashua Court, San Jose, California 95139, telephone (408) 226-8040.

Other scheduled events along with the tours are the Early Bird Dinner, PX Party Night, Meetings of the Board of Directors, Ladies Auxiliary and General Membership, Unit(s) Night Out, Memorial Service, Banquet Dinner Dance and going home Goodbye Until Next Year Breakfast.

New 69th readers who may be interested in membership to the Association should contact: NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, in care of Clarence Marshall, 101 Stephen Street, New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068, telephone area code (412) 335-3224.

(It would be greatly appreciated if this announcement could be published all or in part more than once in the next two or three months.)

THEN and NOW



Tom Yelcich on the left and Tony Securo on the right.

Tom Yelcich of I Company, 272nd Infantry and Tony Securo who was a Medic with the 271st, went to high school together in Fairmont, West Virginia. Tony married Tom's sister Stella. They were drafted the same day, and their serial numbers are only 4 digits apart. They arrived in Camp Shelby, Mississippi in May of 1943.

Tony served with the 69th from the beginning through Germany to the end of the war. Tom served in the Pacific from New Guinea to the mountains of Luzon, Philippines using his excellent 69th training. He left the 69th in August of 1944 as Staff Sergeant, serving as Battalion S-2 and S-3 of the 33rd Division.

Submitted by: Tom Yelcich

18093 Country Club Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48152

CAN YOU HELP LEO LITTER?

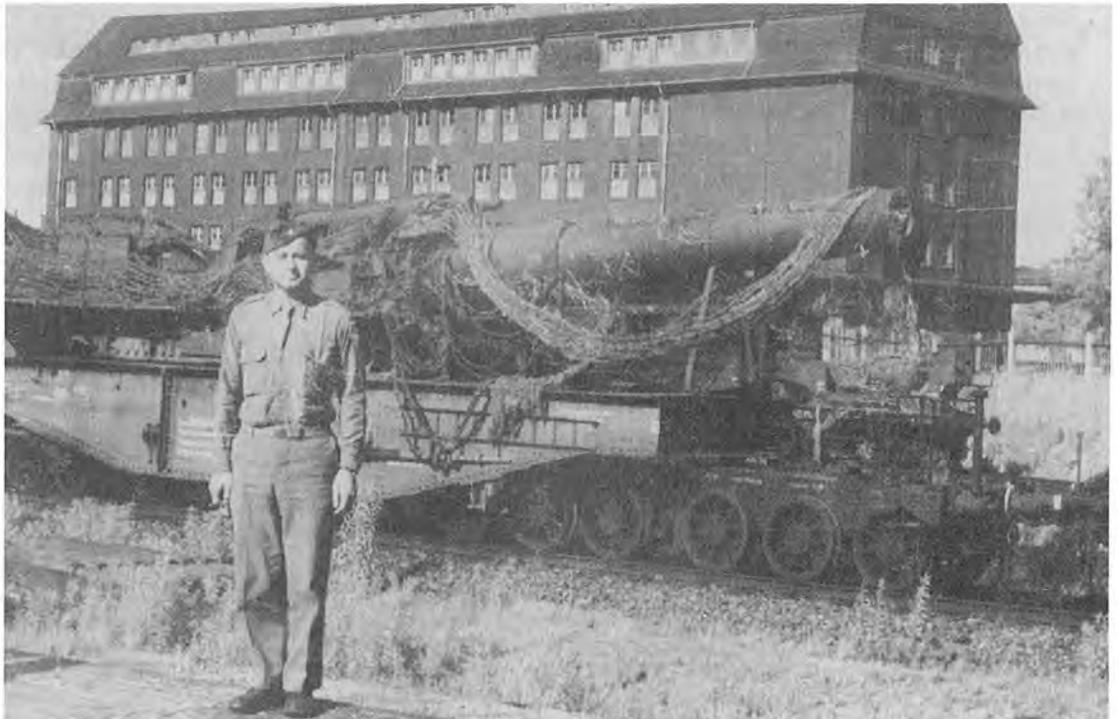
Leo Litter, M.D., 16 High Ridge Road, West Hartford, Connecticut 06117

I am sending you this photograph of a huge cannon that the Germans had constructed. It was ready to deliver huge shells from the northern shores of Europe, over the English Channel to London. We captured it just in time. It was carried on an elongated flat car.

At that time I was Regimental Surgeon with the 69th Infantry Division. The chap standing in front of the big gun was me.

I am trying to find out the location of the gun and the factory in the background. Can anyone help me with this request?

I am taking courses at our local community college in Hartford and my English professor has me writing my "Memoirs" which will be entitled, "A Pediatrician's Odyssey."



Can anyone help Leo identify the location and the factory in the background of this cannon? If so, please write to the address above.

Malcolm Jones
Puhaski Tr

- 17 - Metz France
Gun pulled back in tunnel in hill to left

Company C, 269th Engineers

Pictures furnished by: Frank Nemeth, *Souvenir General*
66 Gaping Rock Road, Levittown, Pennsylvania 19057



Where the 3rd Platoon lived for a while. What town was this?



Do you remember these two guys names?



John Taylor and Squad Leader



Cy Abrams



Members of 3rd Platoon



Photo left: John Taylor, far left and Cy Abrams, far right.

*Photo right:
"C" Company Squad*

If anyone can identify any of the fellows not already known, please write and let Frank Nemeth know.

CY ABRAMS
supplied these photos to
Frank Nemeth.



THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE



Dottie Witzleb

by — Dottie Witzleb
Ladies Auxiliary Editor

P.O. Box 69
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
Home Telephone: 412/455-2901
Work Telephone: 412/433-1713 (8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Monday through Friday)

or R.D. #1, Box 477
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606



Maria Keller, President
8221 Galway Lane
Richmond, Virginia 23228
Telephone: 804/266-1194



Alice Wolthoff, Vice President
5609 14th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33707-3418
Telephone: 813/347-6975



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

Stefania (Ted) Nemeth, Secretary
66 Gaping Rock Road
Levittown, Pennsylvania 19057
Telephone: 215/945-3809

Ellen McCann, Assistant Secretary
39 Mayflower Road
Woburn, Massachusetts 01801
Telephone: _____ Please send to Earl

Edith Chapman, Chaplain
7412 Exmore
Springfield, Virginia 22150
Telephone: 703/451-1904

Jeanne Hawn, Co-Chaplain
2445 South Cody Court
Lakewood, Colorado 80227
Telephone: 303/986-7604

Well ladies, we got a telephone number when I received Edith Chapman's. Now we need one more for Ellen McCann. We also have three pictures of the seven officers so we need four more. Getting them would fill a page and we would be sure of a page for each bulletin. This is the third bulletin for this group of officers and only three more to go before election day arrives in Rochester, New York.

Spring is here so I suppose all the hard work is finished. I mean the lap robes and other items for the veterans in a hospital somewhere near San Francisco. Each year this project is done by our Auxiliary and really for a worthy cause. The receivers of these items become the happiest veterans in the world. You really don't know how much it means to them for many of them have no one who cares for them except the doctors, nurses, chaplains, volunteers and us, we wives of veterans who have been more fortunate than those men living in a veterans hospital. We care, so do bring your lap robes, bibbs, etc. to San Francisco or send them to one of the officers as I am sure they will get to the auxiliary meeting room on Saturday, August 29th.

Earl and I plan on being at the reunion from Tuesday through Saturday, so we'll be looking for you either on a tour, in the hospitality room or in our room.

Dottie

A Message from your Auxiliary President, Maria Keller

Greetings to the Ladies of the 69th Auxiliary:

We are having a touch of "blackberry winter" in Virginia. That is the season in May when the blackberries are white with bloom and very cool weather returns.

This is May 8, 1992. I just read in one of the bulletins that: "May 8, 1945 at 2400 hours the 69th received a cease fire order." I was in Richmond waiting to hear this news. Leroy was in Germany near Leipzig getting ready to write me, 47 years ago!!

We will be on vacation next week visiting in Tennessee and Kentucky. While in Paducah, we will visit the Turner Printing Press. We are enjoying our copy of the history.

If you have copies of any of the older bulletins please bring them with you in August, or mail them to me. We are collecting copies for the Museum at Camp Shelby.

I wish to express our appreciation to our Sunshine Lady, Margie McCombs, for the lovely cards we receive year after

(Continued on Page 21)

THE AUXILIARY PAGE
 (Continued from Page 20)

year. It adds joy to our lives. We celebrated our 50th anniversary last August about the same time that Marge and Paul celebrated theirs. Ladies, let us know about your anniversaries.

We were saddened to hear that Nyda Hall died March 1992. Her husband is Douglas Hall, Route 1, Box 75, Loranger, Louisiana 70446. Also I attended the funeral of Jane Bendall in April. Jane was the widow of James G. Bendall. Their son is James, Jr. of 1709 Cambridge Court, Richmond, Virginia 23233. We will need the name of any of our deceased members for our Memorial Service in August.

We are anticipating a great get-together August 23-30 for our annual meeting. We hope that many of you are making reservations to attend. For the newcomers, please bring a small gift for our gift exchange. As many of you as possible please bring lap robes for our veterans hospitals, size 36x45. These may be knit, crocheted or stitched. They will be going to two veterans hospitals. Our California committee is hard at work making plans for a great reunion. Don't miss it!

I thank each of you that have written to me. Keep the letters coming.

Sincerely,
 Maria Keller, President



Vivian Kurtzman and Ellen Snidow with 69th afghan lap robe. Biloxi, Mississippi — 1991



President Ellen Snidow presenting \$500 check to Veterans Administration Representative, J.P. Smith, Chief of Voluntary Service.



Robert Follmer and his wife, Ginnie, on their 40th Anniversary, August 10, 1985. Mr. Follmer recently passed away.

69ers Get Together for a Dinner Meeting in Arizona



Dinner meeting at the Black Angus Restaurant in Mesa, Arizona, March 19, 1992. Left to right: Bob Myers, Jean Marshall, John Havey, Janet Havey, Colleen and Keith Curtis.



John Havey, Keith Curtis and Bob Myers.

Veterans search for wartime buddies

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1992 JOURNAL INQUIRER

By Alan Wade, Special to Maturity News Service

Article Furnished By:

Howard Carlton

Headquarters Battery, 880th Field Artillery
R.R. 2, Box 1226, Wolfeboro, New Hampshire 03894

There are 8.8 million American veterans of World War II. After half a century trying to forget the mud and death, thousands of them have begun remembering and are trying to find long-forgotten military friends.

"We're all retired now, so we've got the time to look for people we liked in the war," said Fred J. Cassata of Buffalo, New York, who keeps a roster of the 65th U.S. Infantry Division. "But you may not recognize your buddies when you find them."

Maurice Neil of Canton, Michigan who served with Cassata, agrees. He recalls walking into a reunion of the 65th at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and saying to himself: "Good Lord, I don't know any of these guys. They're old men!"

Neil left and walked back to his hotel. His wife urged him to return, saying someone there must know his friends.

"So I went back," Neil said. "First thing, I saw a man staring at me. White hair and a paunch. It was Abie Spanover from the 2nd platoon." They spent the evening remembering a battle at Saarlautern, Germany, and an ambush at a place called Treuf.

Keep up the search

Cassata and Neil have some advice for veterans looking for wartime buddies. They suggest going to a reunion of a division, a brigade or a ship rather than an American Legion convention where "locating a pal amid a mass of 30,000 men can be a hopeless job."

William G. Robertie of Ipswich, Massachusetts, says the key to success is to keep at the search. "You can usually find anybody," added Robertie, who edits the 2nd Air Division Association newsletter. "But you always have to work."

Helen J. Allen of Fort McClellan, Alabama, president of the Women's Army Corps Veterans Association, says her members simply ask people about their buddies "and eventually there is someone who knows the missing (person)."

Bernice George of Clearwater, Florida, president of the Waves National Association, which is made up of women who served in the wartime navy, says many of her queries are from male veterans.

Her association's newsletter publishes inquiries. A typical note might read, "Does anyone know the whereabouts of Kathy X?" If there is a reply, George says she tells the members about the inquiry "and she can take it - or leave it - from there."

Howard Brown of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, says he is startled that so few veterans know there are hundreds of military associations that can be helpful in locating people.

"Every year, people show up at our reunions by chance, and say they never knew we existed." He added that he expects a dozen "walk-ins" at the 1992 reunion of his 43rd Infantry Division Association, September 12-14 in Colchester, Vermont.

Brown says the payoff will come when one of them "walks up to a guy at the reunion, looks him in the eye, sees him smile and hears him say, 'Well, I'll be a son of a gun!'"

Brown says the library is another source of information about veterans groups, citing such books as the "Encyclopedia of Associations" and "The Directory of Conventions."

Book available

Retired Lt. Col. Richard S. Johnson, regarded as an expert in tracking veterans, has written another book, "How to Find Anyone Who Is or Has Been in the Military." It can be ordered for \$16 by calling (800) 937-2133.

Johnson, who runs Military Information Enterprises in Fort Sam, Houston, Texas, hunts down potential members for veterans associations, using a computer link to credit-reporting services and other data banks. Once, he boasts, he helped find 3,000 veterans of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Frank Pokrop of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who conducts searches for 4th Marine Division veterans, said, "You can sometimes find a wartime buddy for nothing, if you have an acquaintance in the police, auto-licensing division or even the FBI."

Some "missing" veterans are found nearby. The 65th Division's Neil, who winters in Frost Free, Florida, noticed in the paper one day that an Ohio man was retiring in the South. It turned out to be a World War II buddy living a few houses away.

Another avenue for finding people is small town telephone operators. They may report that there is no listing for that name, "but his father is still here - want to talk to him?"

Write to VA

Not everyone wants to be "found," which is why the government is cautious in helping out. But if you do want to seek help, write the Department of Veterans Affairs, at 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420.

Enclose a personal letter to your friend. If the friend has a VA mortgage, pension or other government link, the VA will add the address and relay the letter.

Ed Brooks of Richmond, Virginia, used the system to find fellow survivors of the USS Hull, which sank in a typhoon off the Philippines in World War II. The sailors spent days on a raft before being rescued.

"What did you have to eat?" a reporter asked. "An orange," Brooks replied.

"How did you divide it?"

"Very carefully," Brooks said.

UNDERAGE VETERANS SOUGHT

The Veterans of Underage Military Service is trying to contact all veterans who served in the U.S. Military for any length of time under the age of 17.

A reunion will be held in Las Vegas in October.

Contact: Allan C. Stover

3444 Walker Drive

Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Former Members of 3rd Platoon, Company I, 271st Infantry

*Photo right:
Musich, Richmond, Unknown,
Utermoehlen (with harmonica)*



*Relaxing at the Mulde River Village of Klein Brothen
Utermoehlen, Eichenour, Musich, Stout*



*Ralph Utermoehlen in front of billet with
flag at half mast for President Roosevelt's
death. Squad Leader George Branch carried
this flag in combat for good luck, just as his
father had done in World War I.*



*Richmond with rifle — Unknown with Nazi gear — Fisher
with rifle — others unknown.*



*Barmes with bedroll — Fisher on bench — Utermoehlen
with rifle — Sigler in Kraut helmet.*

A Gathering in the Rolling Hills of Ohio



On March 9th the following "rendezvoused" at Der Dutchman messhall in beautiful Ohio: Viv and Bob Kurtzman, Jean and Bob Shaffer, Rico and Anne D'Angelo, and Marge and Howitzer Al Kormas. Our barracks for four days was the Atwood Lake Lodge, which featured a ½ price deal. We even got our own hospitality room, which we amply stocked with "goodies" and chow. Just being with one another was great medicine. Words can hardly describe the feeling of camaraderie we experienced, just being together. Indoor pool, a billiard table, and a great messhall.

We toured the area, and returned for more chow at the Der Dutchman in Bolivar, Ohio - not only to enjoy the food, but the friendliness of the help shown to us veterans. We played games and did some hiking, but no 20 milers or bivouacing though. While there we got a heavy snow which curtailed thoughts of golf, but blanketed the marvelous countryside, and the view from our balcony and windows was breathtaking. As usual, as at all reunions, the lovely ladies brought too much chow and we tried to finish it with many belches, etc.

Parting was not sweet sorrow, but we all felt that many years of life had vanished, and we were all so glad that we got together. Enormous pots of coffee were drunk, and liquor consumption, I am sorry to say, has fallen off. I am sure we vets had our share of liquor way back when. We must give special thanks to Bob Kurtzman who with Shaffer had originally reconnoitered the area, made the reservations, and provided maps for all.

There is a serious aspect to this "furlough" we had. As our new prez says, IT IS LATER THAN YOU THINK. Get out there with your buddies and do likewise. You will not only like it, you will love it.



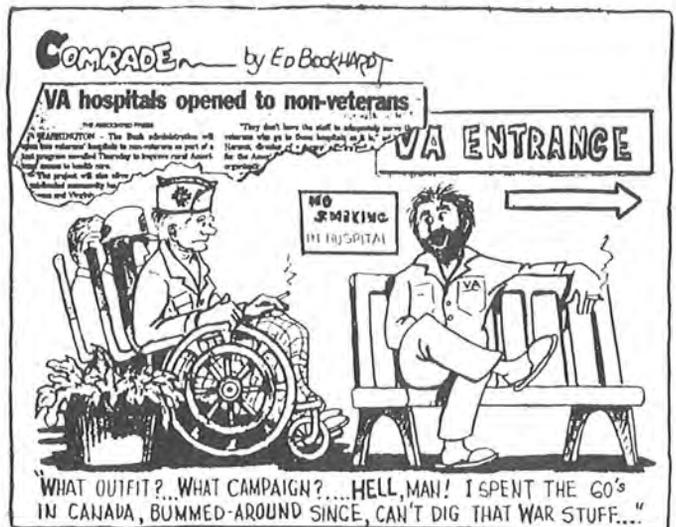
Enrico D'Angelo, Bob Shaffer, Robert Kurtzman, Al Kormas
Snow covered golf carts.



"The Group." Left to right: Bob Kurtzman, Bob Shaffer, Jean Shaffer, Anne D'Angelo, Enrico D'Angelo, Vivian Kurtzman, Marge Kormas and Al Kormas.



Back row: Bob Kurtzman, Anne D'Angelo, Marge Kormas, Al Kormas and Bob Shaffer. Front row: Enrico D'Angelo, Vivian Kurtzman and Jean Shaffer.



69th Video Tape of Dedication of Monument

R. C. TRIMBLE, Lt. Col. U.S. Army, Retired
96 Heatherwood Drive
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402
Phone: 601/268-7086

BACKGROUND:

For the sum of \$115.00 a local TV station has provided a copy of 20 minutes of footage they took of the dedication ceremony at Camp Shelby on 20 September 1991. Negotiations for the procurement and purchase of this tape was started the first part of October by Lt. Col. R. C. Trimble, U.S. Army, Retired. Clarification of copyrights and arrangement for making copies was completed by the end of December.

CURRENT PROJECT STATUS:

Initially the contractor had indicated that he would charge \$9.00 per copy, provided the order is for 100 or more copies. Further negotiations made it possible for me to get tapes made in much smaller quantities for a price of \$10.00 each.

Tapes are now available for members interested for the same initial cost of \$15.00 per tape. The initial estimate of mailing costs has been reduced to \$1.05 for postage and 50 cents for a postal mailing envelope.

UPDATE OF TAPE CONTENTS:

The tape that has been produced runs for approximately 1 hour. A timing breakdown of the contents of the tape is as follows:

<u>SUBJECT CONTENT</u>	<u>Minutes</u>
Introduction of the proposed project and the TV interview with Jack Duffy.	5
Footage of 11 September, 1991 at Camp Shelby during the construction of the Monument. This footage shows the delivery of the three piece monument to the dedication site and videos the complete construction of the monument. The footage was taken by me so don't expect it to be a professional product.	10
The next segment of footage is a home produced video which carries the sound tract of the "Spirit of Camp Shelby." A dialogue authored and narrated by Colonel Smith, our Camp Shelby Project Officer, which was presented at Dalton Hall at the opening of the ceremonies. During the playing of this sound tract a still video display of the cover picture of the 69th Division History Book is on screen.	20
The sound track ends with the playing of God Bless America and the National Anthem. During the playing of these two songs two still photos appear on screen, one of General Bolte riding his horse and the other a picture of a Command Staff presenting arms.	5
Finally, the last segment of the tape carries the footage taken by the TV cameraman. The TV media starts with an interview of the Camp Shelby Post Commander, then covers the ceremony inside the Theatre, the walking of members and family to the dedication site and closes with the placement of the wreath at the foot of the monument and the playing of Taps.	20

TAPE AVAILABILITY:

Tapes are available for the price of \$15.00 now. If you place an order and do not get your tape within 20 days you should let me know. As of the end of February I have mailed 25 tapes. I now have on hand approximately 15 tapes, and can get any amount of orders filled within 20 days. I plan on having some tapes available for sale to members at our next reunion in San Francisco.

Attention: Veterans Who Dealt With Refugees

Lt. Col. Douglas L. Erwin
Department of the Air Force
Headquarters United States Air Force Academy
USAF Academy, Colorado 80840-5000

I am a professor of Political Science at the U.S. Air Force Academy and I am working on a project, initially commissioned by Third Army/CENTCOM, dealing with refugees in combat. I began this project several years ago, and in fact sent out letters like this one at that time, and still would like to poll veterans' organizations like yours to find out more information.

My topic involves researching cases in World War II and the Korean War in which civilian refugees were directly in contact with U.S. troops. I am not interested in refugees behind U.S. lines - after they have crossed the FLOT. I want to find out what impact the refugees made on the American soldiers - from the soldiers carrying a rifle or in a tank on up to the various commanders of the units. Essentially, I am asking if the presence of the refugees in the combat zone, or on the way to the combat zone, forced some sort of change in plans or operations on the part of the U.S. units. For instance did the refugees slow the progress of US troops to the battle? Did they prevent maneuver that was intended? Was some sort of compensation made when the presence of refugees was discovered? What was this? What was the overall result?

Thus, what I would respectfully request of you is to poll your members to see if they have any recollections of such cases that I have described. Perhaps a way to do this would be to put an announcement in your Association newsletter, and/or to make an announcement at a reunion. Or, if applicable, I would appreciate your telling me of any people to contact that would be useful to me in this regard and then I can call or write them myself. People who wish to respond can correspond directly with me at the address above or at telephone 719/472-2388/2270.

I should emphasize that I am not looking for any major, "earth shattering" events that your men may recall, rather I am interested in normal combat type situations in which refugees were present. Nor am I looking for any formal, literary masterpieces. I just want some basic information; phone calls or handwritten letters would be more than sufficient.

My goal in this is to compile case histories in which refugees were encountered in combat so that soldiers of the future will have something to read about what Americans have done in the past in similar situations. I think that this is a very useful project to the U.S. Army and will be useful in the future to insure that American soldiers will be able to learn from the past and "fight smarter" in the future. I am anxious to poll associations such as yours before your generation passes from the scene. The Civil Affairs units and many commanders support the project and I hope that you will too.

**FOUND A NEW MEMBER?
HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS?
THIS SHOULD BE MAILED TO:
Clarence Marshall
101 Stephen Street
New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068
Telephone: 412/335-3224**



69th INFANTRY DIVISION Memorial Fund, Inc.



540 EUCLID HEIGHTS BLVD., P.O. BOX 576, WEST POINT, VIRGINIA 23181
Telephone: 804/843-2696

“FIRST LINK-UP MEMORIAL PARK”

It's time to publish another article, to keep all members up to date as to what is transpiring with the "Memorial Park." I'm reasonably sure that many have been reluctant to contribute to the "First Link-Up Memorial Fund," on account of having doubts about the completion of the project due to the problems encountered in the former Soviet Union, now referred to as the "Commonwealth of Independent States." I believe that is what it is now.

Mr. A. Pisarev, President of "Voskhod Bank," of Moscow is sponsor and is underwriting and supplying funds for the Soviet War Veterans Committee for their portion of the Memorial Park. The German State of Saxony is subsidizing the Town of Strehla, Germany, in the erection and their portion of the Memorial. I have received this information this week from both sponsors.

Your donation will be greatly appreciated. Please make your check out to: 69th INFANTRY DIVISION MEMORIAL FUND, INC. and mail it to: **WILLIAM R. BESWICK, CHAIRMAN**, P.O. Box 576, West Point, Virginia 23181. Phone: 804/843-2696.



Mr. Sobkov - Operating Engineer, Major Gen. Olshansky - Soviet War Veterans Committee and founder of this project, and Mr. V. Suroutsev, Russian Sculptor.



Stone carving presently in the rough that will be completed and become a part of the Memorial Park.

AN INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE NOW

Construction in 1992 — Dedication in 1993

Please send your contributions for the "FIRST LINK-UP MEMORIAL PARK" TO:

Mr. William Beswick, Chairman
"FIRST LINK-UP MEMORIAL FUND"
P.O. Box 576, West Point, Virginia 23181

Please clip this box and make checks payable to: First Link-Up Fund. The Fund is a non-profit tax-exempt veteran's organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of North Carolina.

With your check, please include the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

69th Division Organization/Affiliation: _____

Amount Donated: _____

Questions, additional information, clarification, please contact Mr. William Beswick at the above address and phone.

ALL DONATIONS WILL BE RECOGNIZED WITH A RECEIPT OF THE AMOUNT THEY HAVE DONATED AND THE TAX-EXEMPT NUMBER WILL BE SENT AT THAT TIME.

Battery C, 724th Field Artillery

Pictures furnished by: Anthony Szaro



USO Cottage in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.



155 mm Gun Sergeants, Battery C, 724th Field Artillery
Dewey, Poythress, Struck, Kolysko, Domansky



Sergeant Domansky, Corporal Szaro, Corporal Turner, and
Pfc. Morse.



Battery C, 724th Field Artillery Battalion, overlooking
63rd Street.

I & R Platoon of Headquarters Company, 273rd Infantry Wants To Get Together for a Reunion

Within the past few weeks, I have talked with 3 members from Headquarters Company, 273rd, namely **Benny Foy**, **Ken Reitz** and **Cooper Eastman**. In my conversation with **Ken Reitz**, he mentioned that he had some pictures of the men in the I & R Platoon, which I urged him to send in and share with all of the fellows. **Ken** also brought me up to date on what has happened over the years to many of the men in the platoon.

Ken also, expressed a desire to see if enough of the I & R men would want to get together for a mini-reunion. This is also a subject that **Cooper Eastman** and I have discussed several times. So if any of the fellows are interested. Please have them contact any one of the following:

Norman Barratt
666 Barneson Avenue
San Mateo, California 94402
Phone: 415/692-3336

Cooper Eastman
190 Harvard Circle
Newtonville, Massachusetts 02160
Phone: 617/322-9849

Kenny Reitz
Box 136
Birdsboro, Pennsylvania 19508
Phone: 215/582-4800

From the talk we had, it seems that only **Benny Foy** will be making it out to the reunion in August in San Francisco. I am looking forward to seeing him again and catching up on the many things that have occurred in our lives and those of our other Army buddies.

**69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 1992 REUNION
45th ANNUAL REUNION
461st AAA BN. - 661st T.D. BN. - 777th TANK BN.
SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT MARRIOTT
BURLINGAME, CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 23rd thru 30th, 1992**

Reservations:

SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT MARRIOTT
1800 Old Bayshore Highway
Burlingame, California 94010
Telephone: 415/692-9100

HOUSING: Please reserve one of the following:

\$70.00 + Single _____ \$70.00 + Double - 2 persons _____ \$70.00 + Triple - 3 persons _____

\$70.00 + Quad - 4 persons _____ ALL REGULAR ROOMS - \$70.00 + 10% TAX

Executive Suite - 1 Bedroom (Call for Availability and Current Price) + Tax

I / We plan to arrive (day) _____, August _____, 1992. (Check in after 3:00 P.M.)

I / We plan to depart (day) _____, August _____, 1992. (Check out time - 12:00 Noon)

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

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

Send Confirmation to: (Please Type or Print)

Name: _____

Street / R.D. / P.O. Box: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Telephone / Area Code: _____

In order to Confirm Reservation, One of the Following Must Accompany This Form:

Check or Money Order (One Night's Lodging) Payable to the San Francisco Airport Marriott, or Major Credit Card Number and Date of Expiration.

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

Credit Card Name _____ Number _____ Expires _____

I authorize San Francisco Airport Marriott to make charges on my Credit Card.

Your Signature _____

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

Reservations must be received not later than August 2, 1992. If a particular type of room is unavailable, the next most suitable room will be assigned. No particular room, room type, or location can be guaranteed. Deposit returnable on 72 hours cancellation notice, before August 23, 1992.

69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 1992 REUNION

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

SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT MARRIOTT – BURLINGAME, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 23rd to 30th, 1992

Registration form to be mailed to: **Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.**

P.O. Box 178, Wilmot, Ohio 44689 • Phone: 216/359-5487

I/we will attend the 69th Infantry Division Association Reunion at Burlingame, California August 23-30, and will attend the following activities.

Name: _____

Street / R.D. / P.O. Box: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Telephone / Area Code: _____ First Timer Second Timer Old Timer

Unit: _____ Wife's Name: _____

Guests: _____

* * * * *

Weekly Events	Per Person	Number Persons	Amount
Registrations: Sunday, August 23rd - Early Arrivals on your own; Sunday: Reno Tour Group Registration Only, 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 24th - Thursday, August 27th, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Check Bulletin Board for Friday and Saturday		NO CHARGE	
Monday, August 24th — Reno Overnight Gambling Tour. Leave Hotel 8:00 a.m.; Return Tuesday 6:30 p.m. *Double occupancy \$50.00 per person. Single \$65.00. Enter Amount ▶			\$ _____
Tuesday, August 25th — On your own unless you are on the Reno Overnight Gambling Tour. Nice time to see some of the side trips Bob Pierce has suggested in this Bulletin.			
Wednesday, August 26th — Napa Valley Wine Country Tour Leave Hotel 9:00 a.m. Return 6:00 p.m.	\$ 40.00		\$ _____
Thursday, August 27th — San Francisco City Tour Only	\$ 30.00		\$ _____
Alcatraz Prison Tour, must have City Tour Ticket = \$42.00 ... Leave Hotel 9:00 a.m. returns 4:00 p.m.	\$ 12.00		\$ _____
Early Bird Dinner 7:00 p.m., Cash Bar 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	\$ 30.00		\$ _____
Friday, August 28th — Golf Tournament (Check at Registration Desk) Ladies' Day in San Francisco (open) Executive Board Meeting - 1:00 p.m. PX Beer Party - Ticket Required. 9:00 p.m. til ???.....	\$ 5.00		\$ _____
Saturday, August 29th — Men's and Ladies General Meetings, 9:00 A.M. till ? Memorial Service 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Banquet Dinner Dance - 7:30 P.M., Cash Bar 6:30 P.M. till ??...	\$ 30.00		\$ _____
Sunday, August 30th — Farewell Breakfast Buffet - 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.....	\$ 13.00		\$ _____
Replacement Cost for Lost or Broken Permanent Badges	\$ 3.00		\$ _____
Farewells and Departures - See you all next year.			
SUPPORT YOUR HOSPITALITY ROOM: DONATIONS PLEASE!			\$ _____
		Reunion Sub-Total	\$ _____
DUES			
New Dues Year - August 1, 1992 to July 31, 1993			
Regular Membership	\$ 5.00		\$ _____
Contributory Dues	\$10.00		\$ _____
Ladies Auxiliary	\$ 2.00		\$ _____
Postage and Bulletin Donation (up to you)			\$ _____
		Dues Sub-Total	\$ _____
		Total Amount Paid	\$ _____

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

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

880th Field Artillery, A Battery

John and Patricia Barnett, *News Reporters*

6374 Brandywine Trail
Norcross, Georgia 30092
Telephone: 404/448-6513

These pictures were taken at Tucson, Arizona in September of 1991 at a reunion of "A" Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion. Have you ever seen a finer looking group of ladies?! We won't discuss the men.



John and Patricia Barnett



Sitting: Ellis, Bilbrey. Second row: Dunn, Johnson, Cavlovic, Barnett. Standing: Gerth, Jeffries, Bombardier, Ignatosky.



Standing: Dunn, Barnett, Gerth, Ellis Jeffries. Seated: Johnson, Cavlovic, Bilbrey, Northern. Front: Harreld, Bombardier.

881st Field Artillery, B Battery

Henry S. Sarnicki, *News Reporter*

9133 Marshall Road
Evans City, Pennsylvania

Telephone: _____ Please send to Earl.



Henry Sarnicki & Paul Marvulli at the IG Farben Industries.



Barney DeStefano, chief of the 4th Section gun crew and Henry Sarnicki, his prime mover driver. (What a crew.)



Henry Sarnicki in Berlin with Kayto, one of the replacements.

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

Mail all news, write-ups, and pictures to Earl E. Witzleb, Jr.

R.D. #1, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606 or Post Office Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069

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."

When you read this article, it will just tell you that you are too late for our weekend in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Now since we didn't see you in mid May, we hope that you can shake hands and have a good time at "The Bay City of San Francisco" August 23rd through 30th. Tours, activities, meetings and good old friendship will prevail. See you in California or on the journey west.

If you have been missing everything, then it's time to join us once and that would be in a beautiful valley and resort called Canaan Valley Resort in West Virginia. Our dates for this weekend are June 9th or 10th to the 13th, 1993. We need to know early if you plan on this weekend for rooms could be hard to get if you wait until the last minute. It's better to say yes now and cancel later for it's getting later than you think. So just drop Vernon and Norma or Dottie and me a postcard saying, add us to your list.

Company E, 273rd Infantry

"THE 273rd STEADILY ADVANCES"

Address is the same as the Tri-State Group

We look for a good turnout of members for not only is it a week of fun, enjoyment and friendship but a west coast vacation, too. Come join Joe and Virginia Aiello, Bill and Jane Matlach, Al and Lottie Shires, Skip and Dottie Witzleb, Harold and Peggy Sprang, Kermit Webb, and last but not least, our old CO, Davisson Dunlap. Steadily advance so we must grow for our forces are fifty plus. Come be with us just once and I'm sure you'll be back. Don't forget the wife and family too, for you are all welcome. If you haven't already done it, do it right now by finding the registration form and activities form somewhere in this bulletin and mail them to the proper places today. All of the tours are excellent and reasonable. Sooo, remember, San Francisco, August 23rd through 30th and BE THERE. Have a nice trip.

Company D, 273rd Infantry

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

Our mid-winter D/273rd reunion in Melbourne, Florida was held 13-17 January, 1992. The Quality Suites Hotel on Route A1A welcomed the thirteen members and guests. The number 13 wasn't unlucky for us as everyone obviously had a wonderful time. We unanimously agreed to do it again next year and hope to get other members to join us.

In attendance were **Bob and Betty Jo McCarty, George and Barbara Johnson, Roland and Jan Hendrickson, Ken and Jean Maynard, Bud and Joan Mohr, Art Ayres, Ken Sawyer and Fran Collard.** Illness in the family prevented the **Al Blackmars** and **Dan Hughs** from coming. Short notice probably kept others away. We are hopeful of having at least twenty people next year.

After we had gathered, the weatherman presented us with the coldest weather so far this year in Florida. By the third day we really appreciated our jackets and sweaters. A day-time cruise out of Fort Pierce did not induce sunbathing on deck, but nobody seemed to mind. No one got rich at the slots or the tables, but we all felt richly rewarded. The food was terrific, the water was smooth and the sun was bright. A picture of the group aboard the ship was taken.

Melbourne is far from being the center of the universe, but it proved to be ideal. Groups of us took daytime trips to Epcot, Universal Studios, and the Space Center, all within a one and one-half hour drive. Evenings were spent in our well stocked hospitality room which was provided as a courtesy by Quality Suites. Everyone went home a few pounds heavier after all that partying and some great meals at the hotel and nearby restaurants.

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION
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THE UNITED STATES**
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The food was not the only thing that got great raves. The accommodations at the hotel were top-notch. All of our suites were close together on the seventh floor. The hotel is right on the beach affording a great view of the Atlantic. To the west was another uninterrupted panorama of the Indian River and coastal Florida.

Next year Quality Suites can offer us the good rates (\$55.00 + tax) through the end of January. I propose we have our winter company reunion during the period 29 January - 5 February. The first few days will afford an opportunity to take advantage of the attractions offered by central Florida. I will attempt to set us some group trips and a banquet for the last few days. I will also investigate the availability of 3 day cruises to the Bahamas out of Port Canaveral during the week preceding and following the reunion for those with a bit more time to spend in Florida.

269th Engineers

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



Hi Everyone:

Hope you're all doing well and enjoying good health. Hope to see you out in San Francisco in August!

We found a new member from Company C, Cy Abrams, living out in California and he was good enough to send me some photos of himself and his buddies, which should be on the Engineers Page. There is a slight problem which we all seem to have. We didn't write names on the backs of the photos. I guess we never figured, after forty years, we wouldn't be able to recall their names. So, if any of you guys know the names of the people in those photos, let me know and I'll let



Members of Company D, 273rd Infantry on a cruise out of Fort Pierce, Florida on January 15th. First row from left: Barbara Johnson, Jan Hendrickson, Jean Maynard, Joan Mohr, Fran Collard, Betty Jo McCarty, Art Ayres, and Bud Mohr. Second row from left: Ken Maynard, Roland Hendrickson, Ken Sawyer, Bob McCarty and George Johnson.

Cy know. John Taylor sent me some photos from Schonan Kaserne DP Camp near Leipzig and I had never heard of it until I was reading the 69th History Book. It seems that the officer in charge was Lieutenant James McEnaney and he had seven enlisted men in this detail. Well, we know John was there so if we could find out the names of the remaining six, that would be great. I'm not sure if Cy Abrams was on this duty or not, but I'm sure we'll get some names off of those photos. Please let me know, o.k.

I just went through the 69th History Book and was glad to count we had 29 members of the 269th who sent in their photo and a short write-up. Too bad it couldn't have been a lot more, but I still enjoyed reading over all of them.



It is with great sorrow that I write to you and let you know that we lost a member of Company B. I lost a real true friend when Bill V. Blackburn passed away. We all knew him

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,
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as "Blackie" except when his big brother Harold was around, then he was "Little Blackie."

Bill was considered the Dean of Officials in the Oklahoma High School Officials Association. He officiated over 4,000 games in his 34 year career. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Officials Hall of Fame in 1988. He worked in the "Big 8" and officiated the Cotton Bowl game. He also was a very good golfer and had a hole-in-one not too long ago. All of us who served with him will recall his easy laugh and his willingness to help everyone out and with his being a Class "A" soldier. Our thoughts will always be with him and our sympathy goes to his family and his brother Harold who was First Sergeant for a while of Company B and A of the 269th.

Hope you are all making plans for going to the reunion in San Francisco. It should be a real good one with a lot of First Timers. Best to you all.

Company G, 272nd Infantry

Val Frauenhofer, *News Reporter*
5244 East Main Road
Batavia, New York 14020
Telephone: 716/343-0216

(Now send me a picture Val, with your next write-up.)

In June of 1991, fourteen "G" vets attended a mini-reunion in Dayton, Ohio. Attending were Bill Phillips, John Schumaker, Paul Ziats, John Worman, Bill Danahy, Anees Barakat, Ed Ross, Bill Lillien, Merrill Wysong, Ray Lehman, Clem Hudacek, Val Frauenhofer, Joe O'Donnell and Will Frazee. All together with friends and spouses, 27 attended.

We started with a Friday evening brunch at Will Frazee's house in Centerville. This was followed the next few days by meals and sightseeing together, especially the Air Force Museum which is really spectacular and of interest even to old foot soldiers. A great time was had by all.



Air Force Museum, June 1991. From left to right: Will Frazee, Joe O'Donnell, Bill Danahy, Louise O'Donnell and Clem Hudacek.

Another mini-reunion was held in St. Petersburg, Florida on January 29th to February 2nd, 1992. Attending were Anees and Barbara Barakat, Val and Edna Frauenhofer, Bill and Lynn Danahy, Shirley and Vi Toler, Bill and Miriam Lillien, Dread and Dorothy Mattox, Tony and Mary Curcio, John Worman and Alma, Bill and Joyce Phillips, John and Edna McGinnis, "Jake" McLain and Will Frazee.

On opening day Curcio, Danahy, Worman and "Mother" McGinnis played 18 holes of golf at Mac's club, Isla del Sol. Some fine dinners, a luncheon cruise of the bay, a visit to the fabulous St. Pete Pier, and the fantastic Gasparilla Parade helped make the reunion memorable, but the real pleasure was meeting with old buddies and their wives, and the frequent "bull" sessions.

We are looking forward to San Francisco and seeing some of the West Coast boys there. The good news is that more of us are retired and have the time to attend the conventions. The bad news is that health problems keep some of us from making it.

Company I, 273rd Infantry

Robert L. Pierce
144 Nashua Court
San Jose, California 95139
Telephone: 408/226-8040

Now is the moment of truth! How many of our friends from the East Coast and Midwest will venture this far west to attend the first West Coast Reunion. My brother who lives in Michigan always says that going to California is like traveling to another country.

Well, never let it be said that Company I guys and gals are casual members of the 69th Division even though many have the "fear of flying," and may be a little short of the means, they are coming to California by plane, train, bus and car. Confirmation has been received by letter, Christmas cards and personal contact that Company I (as usual) will be well represented at the 45th Reunion in San Francisco. God willing, the following have committed:

Bob and Theresa Pierce	John and Annette Sullivan
Bill and Bev Armstrong	Nick and Ann Villacci
John and Lorna Penny	Ernie and Betty Rowe
Bob and Doris Rogers	Al and Cathy Long
George and Janet Houseal	Erwin and Carmen Sanborn
Jim and Audrey Castrale	Justine and Robbie Bloom
Carl and Bernice Macknair	Jane Sample

Now we need commitments from our other regulars:

Paul and Aldona Mickiewicz	Floyd and Skip Dunn
Paul and Elaine Eagon	George and Fran Pursey
Dale and Wanda Lincoln	Tony and JoAnn Rende

This is also a wonderful opportunity for some of our West Coast Company I members:

Alvin and Ethel Glaser
Roy and Helen Verdugo
Bill Johnson
Cliff Arnold

And last but not least, George Harper.

Let's make this the most memorable reunion ever. Send in those reservations today. Your friends are waiting and the Golden Gate is open to welcome you to California!

(Continued on Page 34)

461st Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Battery B

Your Committee:

Ed and Jo Gergerich
318 Hawthorne Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15209
Telephone: 412/821-2016

Bill and Jo Byler
2625 Post Avenue
Erie, Pennsylvania 16508
Telephone: 814/864-8176

This is the information you've been waiting for.

What: The 461st Battery B Reunion

When: September 18, 19 and 20, 1992

Where: El Patio Motel
2950 West 8th Street, Erie, Pennsylvania

Dress: Casual and informal for all events.

Agenda: The Hospitality Room will be open Thursday for any early arrivals. You should have received a reservation card in the mail. Send it in at your earliest convenience. If you did not, please write to one of us at the above address and we will provide one. Check in time is 11:00 a.m. Major credit cards, cash, personal checks and money orders will be accepted.

Prices: \$35.95 + Tax - Single \$45.95 + Tax - Double

Program: Coffee and rolls to be served Saturday and Sunday morning in the Hospitality Room.

Luncheon: Served in Hospitality Room Saturday Noon with Group Meeting to follow for future Reunion plans.

Banquet at Fergie's Party Room at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday evening, September 19th. (price at a later date)

Many restaurants available within walking distance for your convenience and don't forget Blair Outlet next door.

If flying, the motel will provide Limo Service to and from the Airport. Call upon arrival. If driving, use map on the brochure that was sent if you received one, if not write to us and we will provide one.

Please return your reservation cards with a deposit to insure grouping together on the first floor.

Mark your calendar and don't forget. Looking forward to seeing all of you.

69th Cavalry Recon Troop

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

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

69th CAVALRY RECON TROOP 1992 41st REUNION

The 41st annual reunion of the 69th Recon Troop will be held September 27, 1992, in Waco, Texas. Our host for this get-together will be **Hugh Bob Fuller**, our Texas Trumpeteer.

Bob has us billeted at the Quality Inn of Waco, which is located in downtown Waco at Interstate 35 and 4th Street. This was formerly a Sheraton and is a first class establishment. Our rate will be \$50.00 plus tax which is very reasonable.

Fuller has arranged for a block of 50 rooms and will release those not reserved by the later part of August. If you haven't sent in your reservation yet, better hop to it. You can make your reservation direct with the Quality Inn by calling 1-800-ASK-WACO They also have a WATTS number which is 817/757-1110. Be sure and tell them you are with the 69th Recon so you will get the special rate.

The Quality Inn is just four blocks from the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame, three blocks from Lake Brazos and the riverwalk and only one block from Baylor University. There is also a Memorial Museum which contains mementos of Davy Crockett, Bat Masterson and Billy the Kid. Some of you Easterners may not recognize some of those names but those of us West of the Mississippi do.

For you who come in by plane, sorry to say no major airlines land at the Waco Airport. However, American Airlines flies a feeder line from Dallas-Ft. Worth. It's named the American Eagle. Also Delta Airlines runs its feeder line from Dallas-Ft. Worth. Its name is ASA Airlines. Both of these feeder airlines land at Waco. Of course for those coming by road, you just take Interstate 35 right into town and get off at 4th Street. Fuller says the Quality Inn has an Airport Van and if you can't get them, just call him.

Let's have a good turnout for this first reunion in Texas. No doubt Bob will show us a good time, Texas style. For you who are a little late in making your decision to go, just give Bob a call and I'm sure he'll fix you up.

Contact Bob at: **Hugh Bob Fuller**
1325 LaSalle, P.O. Box 484
Waco, Texas 76703
Telephone: 817/752-9274

Jim Haight, one of our California boys, was not at our reunion in Dayton, Ohio last fall, so he didn't get to make his pitch for the San Francisco area. He actually lives in Redwood City which is just about 30 miles south of San Francisco on Highway 101. It would have been nice to be in San Francisco at the same time as the Division Reunion.

I received my 69th History Book a couple of months ago. I've really enjoyed reading the biographies of the fellows. I feel like I've gotten to know more of the fellows in the other parts of the Division. There was only 12 of we Recon Troopers who sent something in. I just wish that more of the fellows had. I've talked to several of them that now wish they had. I got one of the leatherette covered ones. I've been thinking of putting it away and ordering another one of the cheaper ones.

I hope this finds you and Dottie in good health. Jeanne is having more problems with her lower back. Seems a vertebrae above a 20 year old fusion job has slipped. She wears a brace affair now.

Ahead is a recap of our 40th Reunion.

69th CAVALRY RECON TROOP 1991 40th REUNION

Our 40th annual reunion is now history. It was held September 5-7, 1991 in Miamisburg (Dayton), Ohio. The troop was billeted at the modern "Holiday Holidome." The reunion was ably co-hosted by **Bob West** and **Bob "Bones" Schueler** assisted by **Boyd Ellsworth**. Also the distaff side of **Jean West**, **Mable Schueler** and **Stella Ellsworth** were a great help.

Schueler and West were advance party and made numerous recon missions making sure that everything was

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in order for the CP and Bivouac areas. We must say that they did one heck of a good job of it. The rooms were very comfortable and the rates were in line for establishments of this caliber. Swimming pool, sauna, whirlpool, putting green, exercise room and electronic game machines were available for those who wished to make use of them. A first class restaurant, although not inexpensive, was on the premises for those without transportation. Other eating establishments were within walking distance or a short drive. We had a nice hospitality room with an additional room if necessary for the overflow.

The hospitality room was well stocked with plenty of soft drinks, beer and wine. Some of the troopers brought their favorite brand of the "other beverages." In addition to the snacks provided by our hosts and hostesses, some of our other wonderful ladies did their usual thing in preparing and bringing delicious food as they have in the past. Our ladies are a great group of cooks. This is evident as not too many of we troopers appear to be underfed. Our ladies do a great job and have become an important part of making our reunions successful. Thanks much, gals. We love you and it's wonderful to have you share our reunions with us.

Other than our co-hosts, one of the earliest arrivals were the **Moscaritolos**. **Mike** and **Mary** arrived on Wednesday. Also in the area on Wednesday were **Harold** and **Jeanne Gardner**. The majority of the fellows and wives arrived in the area on Thursday and some on Friday. It was great to be there and see the Troopers assemble.

It was good to have **Mary Paradine** in attendance. She is the wife of **Rodney Paradine**, who is in a nursing home. She was with us last year in New Orleans and was able to make it again this year. We truly enjoyed having you with us, **Mary**.

On Friday, some of us formed a convoy and motored to the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The tour of the facility was very enjoyable and informative. Displays included airplanes from the Kitty Hawk era to the Persian Gulf and Desert Storm. Some of the airplanes which we thought were large and sophisticated in the World War II era, and they were at that time, are far outdone by the equipment of the modern military establishment.

In traveling to and from the museum, it seems the point vehicle operator and navigator miscued on reading the map. After a 180 degree turn was executed on the overpass on Interstate 75, a new compass reading was made and we proceeded in the proper direction and arrived back at the CP without further problems. Maybe we've forgotten some of our recon knowledge or maybe we're not used to up to date and accurate maps.

On Friday evening we were treated to some slides by **Boyd Ellsworth**. He took us, by way of pictures, on the trips to Europe which they made in 1985 and 1990. Some of the fellows even thought they recognized a picture of the building which served our Recon Troop as the CP in 1945. Thanks very much, **Boyd**. It made for an interesting evening for those of us who were unable to make the actual trip.

At approximately 1000 hours on Saturday, the Troopers assembled in the hospitality room for a short business meeting. The major portion of the meeting was devoted to selecting the host and location for our 41st Reunion in 1992. After some discussion, **Hugh Fuller** was approached with the idea that he host a reunion in the Great State of Texas. After more discussion **Hugh** "willingly" agreed to host the shindig in the Waco, Texas area. It was generally agreed to hold the

reunion the second weekend of September, although the exact dates will be left up to **Hugh**. As you who have hosted reunions in the past know, much work is involved in putting on these affairs. Since we do not have an over abundance of Troopers living in the Waco area that **Hugh** can call on for help, we can all be of assistance by writing cards, letters and making telephone calls to our buddies and telling them about the reunion. When the question was asked as to how many of us would make the trip to Waco, **everyone** in the room indicated they would be there. We realize that unforeseen circumstances can and do arise which curtail our travel plans, but let's do our utmost to make the trip to Waco.

Saturday evening prior to dinner, **Schueler** and **West** had arranged to have a photographer to take a formal picture. After much posing and arranging of personnel, the job was done. It will be a great reminder of the occasion. Sorry that a couple of the boys missed getting in the picture. Just a note: The photographs were in our hands as of September 14th. That's good service and the pictures turned out great.

We were then treated to a delicious buffet dinner in our private dining room. Plenty of food, well prepared and attractively arranged, was set for us. **D.B. George** did the honors with the invocation. Thanks **D.B.**

After dinner was completed, we observed a moment of silence in memory of all our departed Troopers. We have lost four since the last reunion, **Paul Fowler**, **Ralph Riggs**, **Carl Roberts** and **Oliver Tipton**. **Hugh Fuller** stirred the emotions of us all with his rendition of "Taps" in their honor. Needless to say there were many misty eyed Troopers in the room as we remembered our buddies who have left us. **MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**. Our prayers go out to their spouses and families.

In keeping with a tradition established some years ago, **Boyd Ellsworth** started us off and each gave a brief review of our family highlights since our last reunion. This is always interesting and informative. After pictures were snapped of the fellows grouped by platoons, we returned to the hospitality room to continue our discussions on how we won the war. If anyone doesn't believe that, just ask us.

One of the empty spots at our reunion this year was the absence of our "Ole Sarge" **Hank Weiman**. **Hank** and **Lillian** have always been one of our most regular reunion attendees. They were unable to attend due to illness in their immediate family. Our prayers go out to each of you. You were both missed greatly.

Another of our regulars who missed were **Charlie** and **Bobbie Fox**. We understand they were in the process of adding to their family by way of a wedding. We missed you both.

Floyd "Big Juice" Opdyke had registered for the reunion and we were elated anticipating his presence. However he had to cancel. We understand "Big Juice." We were sorry to hear of your recent loss of your lovely **Irene**. Our prayers are with you. We hope to see you next year.

Answering roll call in Dayton were the following:

Harold Dooley South Dakota
Boyd and Stella Ellsworth Ohio
Gordon and Fern Ewing Florida
Dick Fogt Ohio
Wayne and Dorothy Frazier Mississippi
Hugh Bob Fuller, Sr. Texas
Harold and Jeanne Gardner Missouri
D.B. and Betty George Maryland
Eddie and Mary Lou Glenz Pennsylvania
Getty and Lucy Glotfelty Washington State

(Continued on Page 36)

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

(Continued from Page 35)

- Dan and Rita Haun West Virginia
- Morris Kaiserman Illinois
- Jerry Leib and Judy Leonard California
- Mike and Mary Moscaritolo New Jersey
- Marshall and Delphine Ney Indiana
- Herb and Eileene Norman Colorado
- Wally and Carolyn Pepper Florida
- Charles Rice Oklahoma
- Murray Schmieder The Bronx
- Robert and Mable Schueler Ohio
- Ed and Nancy Sivas California
- Hap and Maxine Stambaugh Pennsylvania
- Art and Lenke Treible Ohio
- Cowboy and Janet Vaughan Virginia
- Frank and Loretta Veazey Ohio
- Lloyd and Ruth Walker Ohio
- Bob and Jean West Ohio
- Fred Wohlers Florida
- Mary Paradine (wife of Rodney) Michigan

We also had several guests with us. Attending with Herb and Eileene Norman were Will and Barbara Frazee. Will was a former member of G Company, 272nd Regiment of the 69th. Nice to have you both with us. Come again.

Attending with Mary Paradine were Cecil and Jean Paradine. Cecil is the brother of Trooper Rodney Paradine. Cecil and Jean also attended our 1982 reunion in Steubenville, Ohio. Come again folks. You're always welcome and thanks for bringing Mary.

Now, to you Troopers who have never made a reunion or haven't made one in recent years, how about start planning now for the one in 1992. Hugh Fuller will no doubt go all out to entertain us "Texas Style." Texas is a big state, so we're sure they can hold us all, even if the entire Troop showed up. Get your 1992 calendar started by making an entry for the 41st Reunion of the Recon in Waco, Texas. This will be quite a distance for some of our regulars, but no doubt they'll be there. And it will be somewhat closer for some of the rest of us. Clear your calendars for next September and let's make a run on Waco, Texas.

Again, Schueler and West, thanks for another great reunion. We will send out some rosters to those who didn't make Dayton and include a short letter to prod the no-shows a little. All you fellows, write, call and or VISIT some of your buddies. Some of them are physically unable to attend our reunions.

Take care, stay well, and may God's presence watch over all of us.

Central Pennsylvania Branch

Central Pennsylvania, Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Eastern Maryland, Eastern New York plus Long Island and Washington, D.C.

Carl and Mildred Stetler, Chairpersons
1704 North Third Street
Reading, Pennsylvania 19601
Telephone: 215/373-7908

Paul and Mayreta Kitner
2814 Hillvale Avenue
West Lawn, Pennsylvania 19609
Telephone: 215/678-4869

**A THANK YOU TO THE
FIGHTING 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
FROM ARLENE CAREY
WIFE OF FRANK CAREY**

Many thanks to all of you for the many sympathy cards, complimentary notes, beautiful flowers and many phone calls expressing your sympathy. A special thanks to the Fighting 69th Division Association and Tri-State Group and the individuals for the contributions to the Heart Association in memory of Frank. A very special thanks to the 69ers and their spouses and Jane Lynch for being able to attend Frank's funeral. Also, to Cecil and Alene Cottle for staying with me during this difficult time. Also, for the continued support from many of you and the visit from the Witzlebs and Shadles. Frank was a true 69er and proud of it. May he rest in peace.

Gods Blessing,
Arlene Carey

* * * * *

Dear Fellow 69ers:

As all of you know, Frank is no longer with us. He passed away unexpectedly while at work on January 31. He certainly will be missed by most of us. He was a true 69er and PROUD of it. His 69th cap went with him.

Carl Stetler and Paul Kitner agreed to take charge of the 1992 Central Pennsylvania mini-weekend in memory of Frank. It will be held in York, Pennsylvania from October 29th through November 1st at the Holiday Inn.

PLEASE NOTE: Unless someone else is willing to take over the Central Pennsylvania Branch, this will be your last one. So it's up to you folks if you wish to continue seeing each other at these mini-weekend gatherings. Frank often stated, "It's later than you think" and how true it is.

We have reserved 50 rooms and hope to fill all of them. More are available if needed. The rooms are very nice and we negotiated a reasonable rate. Many points of interest close by the hotel in Historic York, Pennsylvania.

THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS IS AS FOLLOWS:

Thursday, October 29th: Travel and check-in day. Check-in time is 1:00 p.m. Cheery hospitality room opens at 1:30 p.m. and closes as Frank always stated, "when the last dog is hung."

Friday, October 30th: 10:00 a.m. Harley Davidson Motorcycle Plant and Museum Tour. To save on cost, we will car pool from hotel, which is only ¼ mile from hotel. Tour will be approximately 1½ hours. Return to hotel and if enough interest, we will hire a school bus to go to York Haven Hydro Plant, which is approximately ½ hour from hotel. We will depart from hotel at 2:00 p.m. and tour will be approximately 1 hour.

Saturday, October 31st: 7:00 p.m. Banquet, choice of 2 entrees. Cash Bar 6:00-7:00 p.m.
On your own during the day, many points of interest and shopping malls (ladies) close by.
Hospitality Room opens at 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 1st: As always, hugs and kisses as we break camp till next time.

The flyers will be mailed around September 1st.

Take care and hope to see many of you in memory of Frank. You know he would want it that way.

Our Love and 69th Regards,
Stetlers, Kitners and Arlene Carey

Company A, 271st Infantry

John F. Pereira
1040 Third Avenue
Napa, California 94558
Telephone: 707/224-2247

I was T/Sergeant of the 1st Platoon of A Company, 271st Infantry. I have sent in the following photos hoping that it will stir some interest in the upcoming San Francisco reunion and also in hopes that my old buddies will enjoy seeing them.

I have recently heard from **Sergeant Sam Popkins** and **Sergeant Allan Gwynne**, after publication of our History Book.



Drinking wine out of GI cups and 5 gallon cans. Leipzig, Germany. What a hangover we had the next day!!



Standing Center: Mike Toronto of Patterson, New Jersey

It is a First Class AAA production. It was very worthwhile waiting for.

I had previously attended the Scottsdale and Williamsburg, Virginia reunions. It was great to visit with **1st Sergeant Jim Parks** of Illinois, **Sergeant Ray Dinsmore** of Arizona, **Bob Ellis** of Arizona, **Emil Zerenga** of New York and **Frank Haught** of Arizona, all from Company A, 271st, and **General Reinhardt**, a real gentleman.

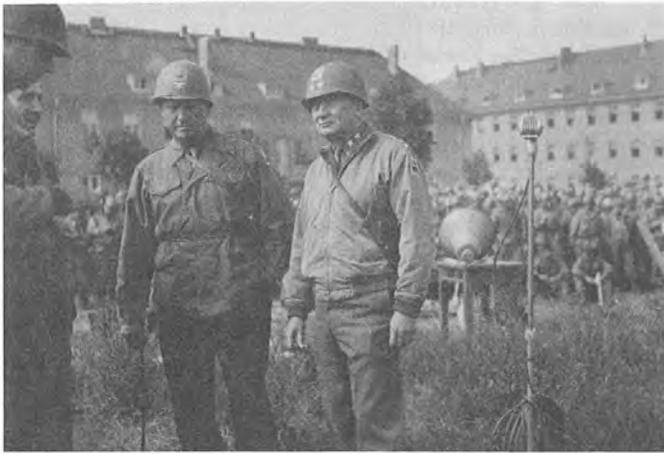
Thanks for all your help. You and Dottie do an excellent job on the bulletin and we all appreciate it a great deal. Best wishes and I am looking forward to seeing you in San Francisco.



Sergeant Pereira and 2 POWs, both barbers who cut our hair.



1st Sergeant Jim Parks and Russians on Mulde River.



Major General Reinhardt



POWs. Soldiers names unknown.



A Company, 1st Platoon



*A last drink in Paris at one of the many sidewalk cafes.
Sergeant Clift, Sergeant Pereira*



Sergeant Storey. Others unknown.



Mike Toronto and John Pereira



Major General Reinhardt



On pass in Belgium, John Pereira, unknown, Sergeant Clift.



Unknown



American G.I., Unknown



A Company Softball Team. Top left - Lieutenant Humphrey. Top 4th from left - Bob Ellis, Bottom left - Sergeant Ed McNamara, Bottom 4th from left - Sergeant John Pereira, Lower right corner - Sergeant Storey. Others unknown.



A Company 1st Platoon: Top, left to right - Sergeant Pereira, Lieutenant Humphrey, Sergeant Fite, Medic name unknown. Bottom: First 2 unknown, Sergeant Al Gwynne.

More photos sent by John F. Pereira will appear in the next issue of the bulletin.

Vol 45-3
May thru Aug 1992

Udenbreth Revisited

by Alan H. Murphey

Photos furnished by Chris Van Kerckhoven

For vets of 3rd Battalion, 273rd Infantry the word Udenbreth is one that few will forget. For most of them, their first clear view of the German village, 1600 yards east of the Belgian border, was at daybreak on February 13, 1945. The previous evening, in complete darkness, they had relieved a battalion of the 393rd Infantry Regiment. As the gray sky began to lighten, the GIs of Third Battalion peered east from their positions in wrecked farmhouses, foxholes and pillboxes. The bleak, snow-covered landscape did not look very hospitable. They hoped their stay would be short.

Udenbreth is not a household word among military historians. However, it has seen the ebb and flow of battle. The name of this obscure village was first mentioned in German battle plans in October 1944. It was to be the jumping off point for the 990th Volksgrenadier Regiment. Troops were to assemble in pillboxes and bunkers at Udenbreth during the night of December 15-16, 1944, and from there assault the American foxholes and dugouts along the forest line a half mile to the west. Everything went according to plan. Before dawn on December 16, German artillery, nebelwerfers and mortars began crashing into the American positions. The grenadiers of the 990th crowded together in the concrete shelters at Udenbreth waiting for the barrage to lift. At 0700 the guns fell silent. The grenadiers poured from the pillboxes and bunkers and started across the treeless draw. The GIs of Company C, 393rd Infantry, were ready. Before reaching the tree line, the Germans were stopped by a hail of American mortar and machine gun fire. The battle see-sawed back and forth the rest of the day. Finally, the GIs were forced to fall back along the trail of Krinkelt. Thus ended the first day of the Battle of the Bulge.

Six weeks later the 99th Division had regained the ground it had lost on December 16. Once again Udenbreth was visible to men of 393rd Infantry. By early February, a battalion of the 393rd cleared and occupied the village. They found that Udenbreth was not a healthy place to live. Any movement during daylight would bring down a hail of German fire. The weary men of the Checkerboard Division were more than pleased when they were finally relieved by the Fighting Sixty-Ninth. The inexperienced men of Third Battalion learned quickly that the departing members of 393rd Infantry had not been exaggerating when they had warned: "Don't move around on the main street in daylight. That's the road to heaven!"



The Belgian researcher Chris Van Kerckhoven wears patches of the two American Infantry divisions who fought at Udenbreth (99th and 69th). Photo taken halfway between Udenbreth and Kamberg, near Udenbreth Mill. The remains of a large pillbox are hidden in the darkness of the tree line in the background.

On February 15, 1992, a red Datsun with Belgian license plates moved northeast on the "road to heaven." The driver was a young Belgian, Chris Van Kerckhoven, a historical World War II researcher from Westerlo. His mission - to locate Third Battalion's observation post. He had volunteered to do this after corresponding with Alan Murphey, a former member of the Battalion's I&R Section.

Van Kerckhoven carried two clues: a photograph of the farmhouse OP taken by Murphey during a brief visit in 1960 and an enlarged cartographic map of Udenbreth marked with the former scout's recollection of the OP's location. Within a few minutes, the Belgian passed the Udenbreth church. For all practical purposes, he had reached the end of the village. Here, the road opens into a kind of 'square,' from which three roads slope down to farm fields. At the upper end of each of these roads are a few farmhouses. Van Kerckhoven, searching for the building marked on his map, turned right down the first and stopped at the second farmhouse. The structure looked nothing like the 1960 photo. In desperation, he asked the owner for help. He was a 74-year-old farmer named Herman Schmitz. Yes, said Herr Schmitz, he recognized the photo. It was not far, he would take him there. Jumping spryly into the Datsun, the farmer guided the young Belgian back via the 'square,' then to a farmhouse at the end of the third road. It was about 250 yards, as the crow flies, from the house Murphey had marked on the map.

There was no doubt about it this time! Van Kerckhoven knew immediately he had relocated Third Battalion's 1945 farmhouse OP. Herr Schmitz introduced the Belgian to the owners, Alfred Mueller and his wife, an elderly couple, who invited him inside. He explained how their house had been used as an observation post by the Americans in 1945. He told them that he was corresponding with one of the Americans who had occupied the house, who was interested in what the building looked like today. The German couple were pleased to help. They said they had purchased the farm in 1964 and renovated it. Van Kerckhoven took numerous photographs, both inside and outside the building.

(Continued on Page 41)



Northern end of "road to heaven" at Udenbreth. Church on left was heavily damaged when 3rd Battalion, 273rd occupied the village in 1945.

UDENBRETH REVISITED

(Continued from Page 40)

Soon it was time for lunch. Herr Schmitz invited the Belgian visitor to return with him to eat. There, Fran Schmitz served a real farmer's repast - hot bean soup with brown bread and bacon. Having learned of Van Kerckhoven's keen interest in World War II history, the elderly farmer presented him with some items he had found in the vicinity - an American .30 cal ammunition box and a canteen. He then showed his military decorations. The farmer had been wounded several times and had a Silver Wound badge plus the Ostmedaille and the Iron Cross Second and First Class. He told how he had fought in France as a young man, later in Russia, and finally in Berlin.

That afternoon, anxious to see more of Udenbreth, Van Kerckhoven was taken on an escorted tour of the area by Herr Schmitz. Ever conscious of the historical significance, the Belgian researcher photographed and marked each site on a detailed chart of the area. Driving northeast to the Udenbreth Mill alongside a tributary of the Prether River, 800 yards northeast of Udenbreth, Van Kerckhoven took photos of the hill known as Rauher Berg. The hill had been taken by Company I, 273rd in a dawn attack on March 1, 1945. Herr Schmitz pointed out a large bunker just west of the Udenbreth Mill. It was almost invisible sitting just inside the darkness of a line of trees. This was just one of seven pillboxes close to a wooded area east of Miescheid, a village about 1200 yards to the east. In February 1945 Miescheid was occupied by 1st Battalion, 273rd.



Left to right: Fran Mueller (holding photo of house taken by author in 1960), Herman Schmitz and Alfred Mueller. Copy of 69th Bulletin is visible on table.

By 2:30 Van Kerckhoven had taken 50 photographs, including bunkers, pillboxes and dragon's teeth and marked the location of each on his chart. This meticulous attention to detail is something the Belgian researcher learned from his primary work - searching for historic relics of World War II using a metal detector. What began as a hobby ten years ago, has turned into a passion that consumes all his free time. In summer or winter, he will drive hundreds of miles on weekends to scout the forests of the Ardennes. From experience, he has learned that good historical research is essential. His impressive collection of charts, military reports, technical literature and books on World War II provide clues as to where to search. He only retains small objects and light material, all of which he photographs, records and plots on the appropriate topographic map. When Van Kerckhoven discovers heavy ammunition or explosives, he immediately alerts the authorities.

In August 1986, while excavating an infantry dugout 1000 yards northwest of Losheimergraben, he made a remarkable find, a pair of American dog tags. There followed a search for the individual whose name was engraved on the tags - Oscar M. Hahn. Six months later, in February 1987, he was disheartened to learn that Hahn, a former member of the 69th Division, had died in 1970. In 1988, again in the forest near Losheimergraben, Van Kerckhoven uncovered a battered American aluminum canteen.

(Continued on Page 42)



Building on left (AM Eichert No. 14) is the farmhouse used by 3rd Battalion, 273rd as an observation post in February 1945. The farmhouse is currently owned by Alfred Mueller.

UDENBRETH REVISITED

(Continued from Page 41)

What made the find so unusual was that it had the name "BASCOM TESTER" and "AS 7382" etched in the metal. This time, the Belgian was successful in contacting the owner. It took a lot of patience and correspondence, but finally he located Bascom Tester in Hurley, Virginia. Tester, a former medic with the 60th Infantry Regiment (9th Division) was more than surprised when he learned that Van Kerckhoven had found a canteen he had lost in the Ardennes 45 years earlier.

Since his initial visit to Udenbreth, the Belgian's interest in this area has grown. Based on an overlay from the National Archives, Van Kerckhoven is attempting to locate the site of the 273rd Regiment command post in the forest west of Udenbreth. During a trip on April 12, 1992, he found wire spread over the area, as well as the remains of a transmitting set, batteries and other objects not yet identified. He would be interested in hearing from anyone who recalls the layout of 273rd's CP. Additionally, he would be pleased to hear from any 69er who is interested in his work. Letters should be addressed to:

CHRIS VAN KERCKHOVEN
Doelstraat 55, B-2260
Westerlo, Belgium

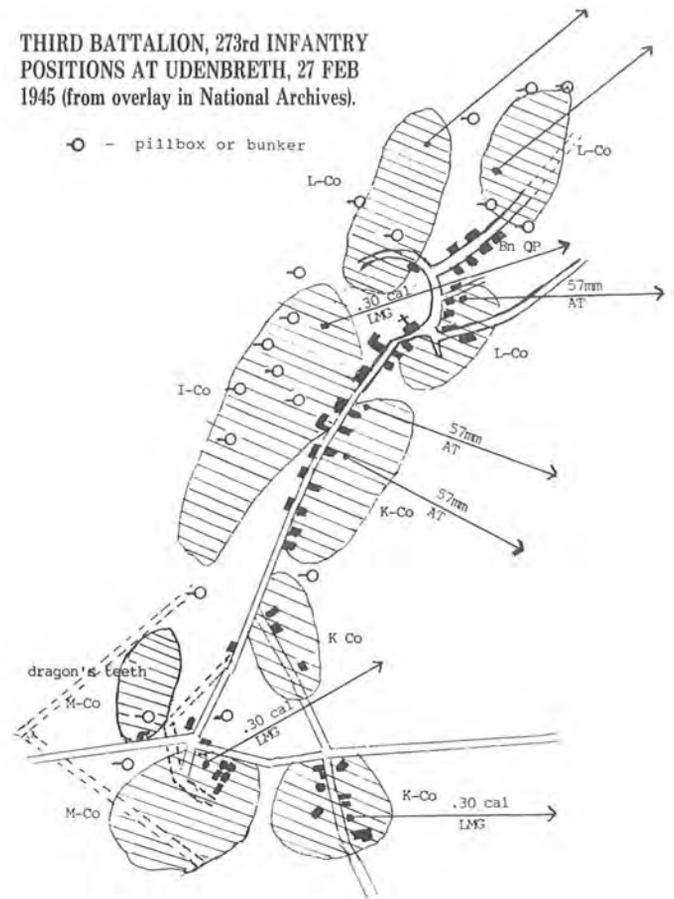


Pillbox used by Company I, 273rd, as a command post in 1945, as it looks today.



Section of dragon's teeth built in shape of 'V' south of Udenbreth. This view was taken at northern end of the 'V.' Company M, 273rd had its mortar positions in a field to the right.

THIRD BATTALION, 273rd INFANTRY POSITIONS AT UDENBRETH, 27 FEB 1945 (from overlay in National Archives).



Can Anyone Help Me?

In August 1986, I found the dog tags of an **OSCAR M. HAHN**, 37665396 in a foxhole near Losheimergraben, Belgium. The following year I located his widow who told me that her husband had died of a heart attack on 27 May 1970 and was buried near his boyhood home of Lamont, Iowa. She said that he had served in the 69th Infantry Division as a Browning Automatic Rifleman. Also that he was seriously injured in Leipzig, Germany on 18 April 1945 and was awarded the Silver Star for action there.

I do not know what company or regiment **Oscar M. Hahn** served in, but I would like very much to hear from anyone who knew him. Please write me:

Chris Van Kerckhoven
Doelstraat 55, B-2260
Westerlo, Belgium



Oscar M. Hahn, 1944

New Medical/Veterinary Scholarships Offered to 69ers' Children or Grandchildren are worth \$40,000 to \$48,000

Dr. Robert Ross (I-272) of Ross University, a fellow member of the Association, has offered the 69th Division a scholarship to attend either the School of Medicine or the School of Veterinary Medicine of the Ross University. One scholarship per year is offered and there is no requirement for any financial input by the Association. The following tabulation summarizes the offer:

ESTIMATED VALUE OF SCHOLARSHIP

School of Medicine (Dominica, West Indies)

ITEM	PAID BY SCHOLARSHIP	PAID BY STUDENT
Tuition, 4 semesters	\$4,990/semester	
Room and Board		\$1500-\$2000/semester
Miscellaneous Fees		\$1600
Tuition, 6 semesters of clinical rotation	\$4,570/semester	\$2,500
Room and Board		Student Responsibility
Fees & Insurance		\$1700
Total free tuition	\$47,380	

School of Veterinary Medicine (St. Kitts, West Indies)

Tuition, 6 semesters	\$6,450/semester	
Room and Board		Student Responsibility
Miscellaneous Fees		\$850
Tuition, 2 semesters at Oklahoma State	\$450/semester	\$6,000/semester
Room and Board		Student Responsibility
Miscellaneous Fees		\$500
Total free tuition	\$39,600	

The above dollar values are approximate and subject to correction or revision by Ross University.

At our recent reunion in Biloxi, our general membership voted to accept this magnificent offer, which is completely independent of previous scholarships funded by the 69th Infantry Division Association.

Eligible candidates are children and grandchildren of former members of the 69th Infantry Division or members of attached units currently comprising part of the 69th Infantry Division Association.

The Term "children" is defined to include stepchildren or adopted children.

Selection of winning applicants shall be performed exclusively by Ross University. Ross University shall establish all requirements and conditions and shall be the sole judge for selection of successful applicants. Ross University shall also be completely responsible for all decisions regarding continuation of a scholarship once it has been awarded. The 69th Infantry Division Association shall only confirm that applicants are legitimate candidates.

The 69th Infantry Division Association shall solicit applicants for the scholarship awards through news bulletin items such as this one, but assumes no responsibility for details and conditions of scholarship awards or for recipient/university interaction subsequent to acceptance of the award. However, the Association shall maintain correspondence with the university and award winners to follow their progress through the university curriculum.

Eligible candidates who wish to apply should:

1. Fill out the Ross University Scholarship application below and send it to: **Dr. Robert Ross**
Ross University
460 West 34th Street
New York, New York 10001
2. A copy of the application should also be sent to the Ross Scholarship Chairman for the 69th Infantry Division Association in order to reestablish confirmation of eligibility:

William R. Matlach
19 Barberry Road
West Islip, New York 11795

ROSS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Dr. Robert Ross
Ross University
460 West 34th Street
New York, New York 10001

DATE _____

I wish to apply as a candidate for the 69th Infantry Division Scholarship described in the Association news bulletin. Please send me a university catalog and application package for this purpose. I wish to attend the Ross University

School of Medicine School of Veterinary Medicine

Last Name _____ First _____ M.I. _____

Address _____

RELATED 69th DIVISION MEMBER:

Name _____

Address _____

Unit _____ Relationship to Applicant _____

Signature _____ (if deceased, spouse please sign)

Elbe River Flags Displayed at Quartermaster Museum at Fort Lee, Virginia

The photograph on the right is of the flags used for the meeting of our division and the Russians. The original correspondence which accompanied these flags appears below this letter. The flags and original correspondence are held by the Quartermaster Museum at Fort Lee, Virginia. The Nazi flags referred to but not pictured, are stored in the Army Archives elsewhere.

I thought the picture of the flags and the correspondence related to them would be of interest to the 69th Division members. If my good fortune continues, I plan to bring them with me to the San Francisco Reunion.

The man who made me aware of the flags is Colonel (then Captain) Alvin Hulsey, Headquarters Company, 273rd Infantry Regiment. His home address is: 2703 Forbest Drive, Prince George, Virginia 23875.

He is a member of the Quartermaster Museum Board. I do not believe he is a member of our Association.

Sincerely,
George M. Johnson
 Company D, 273rd Infantry

Below is the letter that General Reinhardt sent to Major General A. D. Surles, Director of Public Relations at the War Department.



HEADQUARTERS, 69th INFANTRY DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
 A.P.O. NO. 417
 c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

17 July 1945

Major General A. D. Surles
 U.S. Army
 Director, Bureau of Public Relations
 War Department
 Washington, D.C.

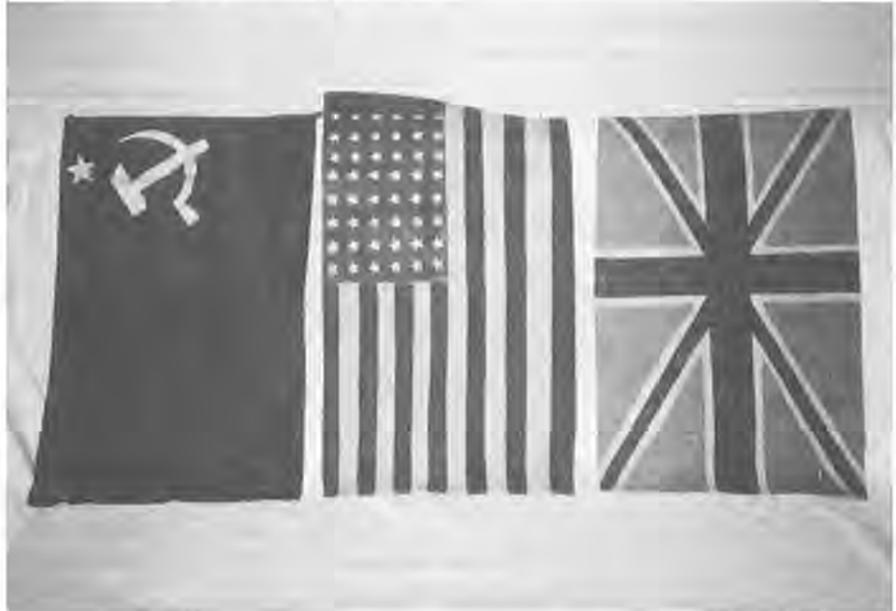
Dear Surles:

I have just forwarded to you under separate cover, by registered mail, one Nazi Flag captured at Leipzig and three improvised flags, American, Russian and British, which were used at the meeting between the American and Russian forces. These are being sent to you in accordance with your request of 26 June 1945.

These flags may be used for any purpose which you see fit as it was not my intention to retain them in my possession but to turn them over to the War Department as battle trophies if they were desired as such. It will, therefore, be unnecessary to return them to me.

I wish to thank you for your kind congratulations on the notable part taken by the 69th Division in this historical meeting. With kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,
E. F. Reinhardt
 Major General, U.S. Army Commanding



History: These improvised flags, representing the three Allied Nations, United States, Russia and Great Britain, were used during ceremonies at which the Division Commander of the 58th Russian Guards Division, Major General Russakov, was host to the Division Commander of the 69th Infantry Division, Major General E. F. Reinhardt, 26 April 1945 on the east bank of the Elbe River in the vicinity of Torgau, Germany. There were numerous improvised flags of this nature which were used for decorating the shaded lane leading from the east bank of the Elbe River, where Major General Reinhardt and his staff arrived, to the building nearby, which was used for the historical meeting of the Division Commanders of the two Allied Nations.

These same flags were also used the following day, 27 April 1945, when the Corps Commander of the 35th Russian Corps, Major General Baklanov, was host to the V Corps Commander, Major General C. E. Huebner.

American Flag (World War II)

Material: Muslin painted one side, hemmed only at staff edge.
 Size: 30" x 17"

British Flag (World War II)

Material: Muslin, painted one side, hemmed only at staff edge.
 Size: 30" x 17"

Russian Flag (World War II)

Material: Heavy red muslin; Soviet insignia (sickle and hammer and star) painted in white on upper field near staff; hemmed at staff edge, selvage at lower edge.

Condition of all flags: Fair, somewhat creased from folding, and paint slightly cracked and smudged from weathering. Some fraying on unbound edges.

Source: From BPR, per Co. H. B. Smith (Room 2-D-855, Pentagon) for Maj. Gen. Surles to whom flags were sent by Maj. Gen. E. F. Reinhardt, C/G 69th U.S. Inf. Div. Accompanying letter from Gen. Reinhardt presents flags (HP. 44, 45, 46, 47) to WD and encloses historical sketch. Papers on file Historical Properties Section.

(Continued on Page 45)

**ELBE RIVER FLAGS DISPLAYED AT
QUARTERMASTER MUSEUM, FORT LEE, VIRGINIA**
(Continued from Page 44)

Regarding the Nazi Flag: This Nazi Flag (not pictured) was captured during the Battle of Leipzig, Germany, 18-20 April 1945.

The 69th Infantry Division, commanded by Major General E. F. Reinhardt, captured the city of Leipzig. By 3:00 p.m., 19 April, all enemy resistance had ceased except for an enemy strong point located within The Monument of the Battle of the Nations (Volkerschlachtdenkmal) in the southeastern part of the city. The German garrison of approximately 200 surrendered at 2:00 a.m., 20 April.

This flag was removed from the new City Hall (Neues Rathaus) of Leipzig after a task force, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel David T. Zweibel, Commanding Officer, 777th Tank Battalion, had assaulted and captured that important public building. The attack began at 8:30 p.m., 18 April. For several hours the military garrison fought with grim determination. Among the casualties found in the building were the Bourgemeister, Deputy Bourgemeister, and the wife and daughter of the latter. These four persons had committed suicide at some time during the attack. By 9:40 a.m., 19 April, the City Hall had fallen into the hands of the task force, which consisted of:

- a. F Company, 273rd Infantry Regiment, commanded by 1st Lieutenant James H. Box, who was wounded during the action.
- b. D Company of the 777th Tank Battalion, commanded by Captain Robert Goodman.
- c. First Platoon of C Company, 777th Tank Battalion, commanded by 1st Lieutenant Robert F. Fierabend.
- d. Assault Gun Platoon of Headquarters Company, 777th Tank Battalion, commanded by 1st Lieutenant John A. Hoff.
- e. Second Platoon of C Company, 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion, commanded by 1st Lieutenant Howard K. Matlack.

This flag was flown from flag staff at the City Hall during official ceremonies and national holidays.

(All of the above information and the information on the previous page of this article including the letter from General Reinhardt, are from the original documents accompanying the flags and now on file in the Historical Properties Section.)

Buddies - 724th Field Artillery



John Earl Long (standing) of B-Battery, 724th Field Artillery. Soldier sitting on Jeep unknown.
Photo sent by Mrs. Janet Wells (formerly Mrs. Janet Long)

We saw this is a newsletter and wish to share with you the following:

**How To Tell
You Are Growing Old**

- Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.
- You feel like the morning after, when you haven't been anywhere.
- You get winded playing chess.
- Your children begin to look middle-aged.
- You know all the answers, but nobody asks you any questions.
- You turn out the lights for economic rather than romantic reasons.
- You sit in a rocking chair, but you can't get it going!
- Your knees buckle, but your belt won't.
- You're 17 around the neck, 42 around the waist, and 96 around the 9 hole golf course.
- You cannot stand people who are intolerant.
- You burn the midnight oil until 9:00 p.m.
- Your back goes out more often that you do.
- Your pacemaker raises the garage door when a pretty girl goes by.
- The little gray-haired lady you help across the street is your wife.
- You get exercise acting as pallbearer for friends who exercise.
- You have too much room in the house, and not enough in the medicine cabinet.
- But you are not growing old: You are a civic volunteer who is always young at heart!

569th Signal Company



Sherman Brownfield and John F. Fox of the 569th Signal Company in Torgau, Germany, 1945.

Photo furnished by John Fox

Cornerstones

Just before I came into the Army my papa took me aside and told me where babies come from. I was quite surprised and shocked but really, in a way, quite thrilled. Now what I would like to know is where the hell officers and sergeants come from

Company C, 272nd Infantry

Pictures furnished by: Charles E. Weaver
1001 Bainbridge Place, Columbus, Ohio 43228-3501



*Joe Kendzieski and Boyd McCoy, Camp Shelby - 1944
This picture appears in the new history book.*



Standing: Private McWilliams, Corporal Easterling, Pfc. Goldstein. Sitting, front: Pvt. Powell and Pfc. Dismarais.



Pfc. Allshouse in a C-2 Jeep — Eilenburg, Germany, May 1945



*Facilities in Mississippi Woods.
Powell (lower), Evans and ??*



*Standing: Sergeant Johnson, Goldstein, Dorsch
Kneeling: Powell, C. E. Weaver, Sergeant Schultz*



*Taken on the bank of the Elbe River. American soldiers
are from C Company. C.E. Weaver in between the Russians.*

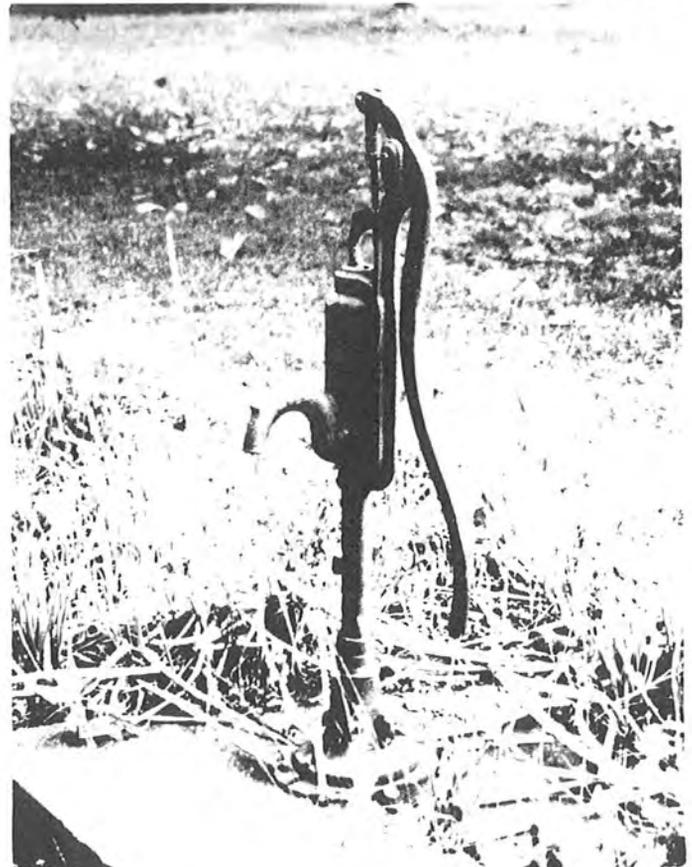


Official Meeting of Russian and American Generals. The bridge in the foreground is a Russian pontoon bridge.

Remember When . . .

- It was okay to eat eggs, milk, and butter.
- A milestone marriage was 50 years — not one.
- Families ate around a kitchen table — not the TV.
- A soap was something to clean your hands — not dirty your mind.
- The only pesticide was a fly swatter.
- People gladly bent over to pick up a penny.
- Sunday Schools were full and stores were closed on Sunday.
- A Bronco was a horse in a wild west story and Lewis & Clark were explorers.
- Nobody ever heard of Aids, Alzheimer's Disease, gingivitis, or cholesterol.
- Sears catalogues were recycled out back.
- A white Christmas was expected — not dreamed of; and the snow drifts were so high the kids built connecting tunnels.
- A laced-up corset was the only means of 'waist management.'
- Moms ran their own drug store: hot water bottles, Vicks salve, baking soda, mustard plasters, iodine, and castor oil.
- Valentine's Day was a big occasion in school.
- It was breakfast, dinner, and supper, in that order — on time and no excuses.
- Most of us had spring houses, smoke houses, out-houses — not summer houses.
- Kids made their own kites.
- Movie theatres and rolled oats boxes kept Mom's dish shelves full.
- A school day opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Lord's Prayer.
- Boys hid behind the barn to smoke corn silk and baby dolls looked like babies, not fashion plates.
- It didn't take a funeral to create a family reunion.
- Dads had the final say.

. . . and we pumped water . . . not iron!



Yesteryear's Backyard Source of Muscle.

The Old Soldier and the War Memorial

Written by: Howitzer Al Kormas
Ex-Division Supply Sergeant and

Headquarters Battery, 879th Field Artillery Battalion

On a beautiful spring day, clear and cool with a warm sun shining down at the town War Memorial, an old soldier veteran sits, relaxing in the glow next to a three inch cannon with worn lens and grooves. Oh, the stories it could tell, as it sits quietly forever, night and day. The old soldier sighs and time flits by, to memories gone by, and now so vividly recalled, as the flags whip on high.

The initial mimeographed notice that Uncle Sam wants you, passing the physical, being sworn in, and mom crying as you leave for the induction center. In so many homes, blue stars fly of boys gone to war, and sad, gold stars also. The train slowly, very slowly, backs into the swampy area, and the tough training sergeant announces in no uncertain terms, "All you rookies who thought you were going to the air corps ground crew are going to be censored infantry. Not a sound could be heard from the train, all now worried about being assigned to an infantry company or artillery battery with tough cadre instructors.

The first few nights, quiet sobs could be heard. Then it really started - heat, sweat, fatigue, hiking, marching, full field packs, weapons, KP, guard, field problems. Donning leggings and putting up pup tents for the first time, and learning our general orders, serial number, rifle number, etc. Going to town on our first pass, knowing all ten general orders plus the eleventh - take no _____ from the company commander. The chaplain would lecture us on how to behave in town, and avoid all the bad women just waiting for you, ha-ha, none to be found, and carrying a pro kit as army equipment. Field problems, obstacle and infiltration courses, the rifle range, and each type of unit becoming proficient in their way and all meeting together in maneuvers to a well-oiled fighting machine. Visits to the dispensary for short arm inspections wearing only helmet liners, raincoats and shoes. Out in the field for weeks at a time, sweating and all of us stinking alike.

Did you know Shelby was our biggest army camp? At one time almost 90,000 men. The division pass to Biloxi, and 15,000 of us for three days, and the boys sure whooped it up, fortified by rum and coke. The Air Corps kept its men locked up at Keesler Field to avoid the nasty infantrymen. The exuberance of the men did cause a little property damage to the town, which the army paid for.

Called the March To The Sea. Three times many thousands of riflemen were taken out for casualties overseas, and replaced by others, more basic, and field problems again. After many dry runs, we were off to Camp Kilmer, port of embarkation - merry old England. For six weeks we thoroughly enjoyed the pubs, darts, warm beer, the English lasses, being taken into homes, passes to London and Picadilly Circus. Kids always asking, got any gum chum? One night at pre-dawn, cold and snowy, we stole away forever and the town awoke to empty barracks, and saying another group of Yanks are off to combat. God protect them.

Getting off the LST's in LeHavre, France and going up the beach to young kids grabbing your arm, "cigarette for papa, candy for me, and want sister Joe? Seeing in public places the shielded latrines covering one from ankle to the shoulder, they had a unique name. And very quickly being sent on our way to combat being issued ammo, grenades, bazooka rounds, boxes of machine gun bullets, etc., and going up on a miserable night, seeing the flashes of artillery getting closer, and now hearing them, and replacing the 99th Checkerboard Division at the tail end of the Bulge.



The old soldier can now envision the sounds of artillery going either way, the sound of mortars, 30 and 50 caliber guns, the enemy's fast machine pistols, etc. Yes, Purple Heart corners, the Seigfried line, the pillboxes - scared, yes we were scared, some of us discovered wet knees, etc.

The breakout to the Rhine, wine, cognac, C K and D rations, new 10-in-ones. Capturing Fort Ehrenbretstein, capturing Germany's entire poison gas supply, and the Prisoner of War Camp, Colditz Castle, among others. The Castle became the source of movies and books. We received no mention of having taken it. The bitter fighting in the last few days around Leipzig, and meeting the Russians at Torgau on April 25th. Our top brass became peeved as they wanted to be in on the link-up, which included our Commander Eisenhower.

May 8th - the end of hostilities, listening to radios telling of parties, and celebrating all over the world - but we were going about normally, and finding it hard to grasp that it was all over, and worrying about going to the Pacific. Thank God for the atomic bomb - that saved us. Occupation duty, little duty, some fraternizing, passes to England, France, etc., and being transferred to other units. Men now going home, hugging their buddies tightly, yes, and a few tears too. For years now the army was our home.

Back to civilian life, going home quietly and resuming where we left off, raising families, becoming civilians. None cried for the large parties etc., which came wars after ours.

Joining the 69th, participating in reunions and mini-reunions and local chapters to further solidify our camaraderie. Many have left the world since, many now ill, which makes the memories so very important. And you have to read so many times in the bulletins - it is later than you think. Call, write your buddy, and attend. Everyone comes back from a reunion looking about thirty years younger. Being with their comrades is the best medicine in the world.

An hour has passed, the old soldier sighs, gets up from the park bench, shakes out a few kinks, and walks home to the war department, our beloved wives, to whom we owe so much.

So again, attend, and if you are not able, call or write to your buddies. Who is the old soldier? It is we, the soldiers of the Fighting 69th, you and I.

God bless us, one and all.

269th Engineers

FORT DIX 75th ANNIVERSARY AND REUNION August 20-22, 1992

Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of World War II, the 75th Anniversary of Fort Dix as an installation, and the last basic training class graduation, at Fort Dix. Events include final BT graduation, equipment/skills displays, firepower exercise, and memorial ceremony.

For details, call 609/562-2151

Write to: SATO

P.O. Box 240

Fort Dix, New Jersey 08640

by July 15th for reservations.



*Dot and Joe Vioral
Company A, 269th Engineers*

SWORLD NEWS SUPPLEMENT



TASK FORCE ZWEIBEL

WITH THE 69th INFANTRY DIVISION —

TFZ, known as Task Force Zweibel, commanded by Lt. Col. Zweibel of the 777th Tank Battalion, played a prominent part in the 69th's advance from the Rhine and the capture of Leipzig. It was this unit that took the city hall in the heart of downtown Leipzig after a fifteen hour battle with the frenzied defenders of this fifth city of Hitler's Reich.

It was about 1800 on the 18th of April that TFZ moved into Leipzig with infantrymen atop the tanks. In a crushing push through heavy machine gun, small arms, and anti-tank fire, the task force barreled their way into the center of the city. There they consolidated their position and remained overnight. In daylight TFZ located the City Hall and opened up with all guns at point blank range of one hundred and fifty yards. Fire was maintained for nearly two hours, until an ultimatum, asking for unconditional surrender, was accepted by the German commander.

Captured were one Major General, 170 enlisted men, and 13 Gestapo. The City Hall and Nazi flag were turned over to the Commanding General of the 69th by the Task Force Commander. The American Flag was raised over the City Hall after the arrival of the Commanding General.

TASK FORCE ZWEIBEL CONSISTED OF:

2nd Platoon, Company C, 777th Tank Battalion

1st Platoon, 661st Tank Destroyers Battalion

Company F, White Battalion, 273rd Infantry Regiment

Assault Gun Platoon, 777th Tank Battalion

Tank Section, Battalion Headquarters, 777th Tank Battalion

Four Light Tanks, Company D, 777th Tank Battalion

Submitted by: Vernon Wirth, Company A, 777th Tank Battalion

From an old newspaper article or flyer. We could not reproduce the original, as it was of very poor quality.



The Exuberant Meeting of Ivan and Joe

Photo and article excerpted from Victory in Europe, a Time-Life Book.

Soviet and American troops along the Elbe flung themselves at each other like long-lost comrades-in-arms. With the Russians shouting out "tovarisch" ("comrade") and "Amerikanets," and the GIs singing "The Volga Boatman" (the only Russian tune they knew), the victorious fighting men embraced and saluted, exchanged small gifts and took stock.

Americans found the Russian military style astounding. Many Red Army troops wore no helmets into combat, but they fought wearing all their medals. Throughout the first day of their encounter, Soviet soldiers and U.S. GIs swapped medals for insignia, took hundreds of photographs together and spent hours boasting over whose weapons were the best.

Meeting at the Elbe: A GI examines a Soviet submachine gun while another breaks down his pistol for a curious Russian. Notice the 69th insignia on the helmet of the center soldier.

2nd Battalion, Headquarters 273rd Infantry

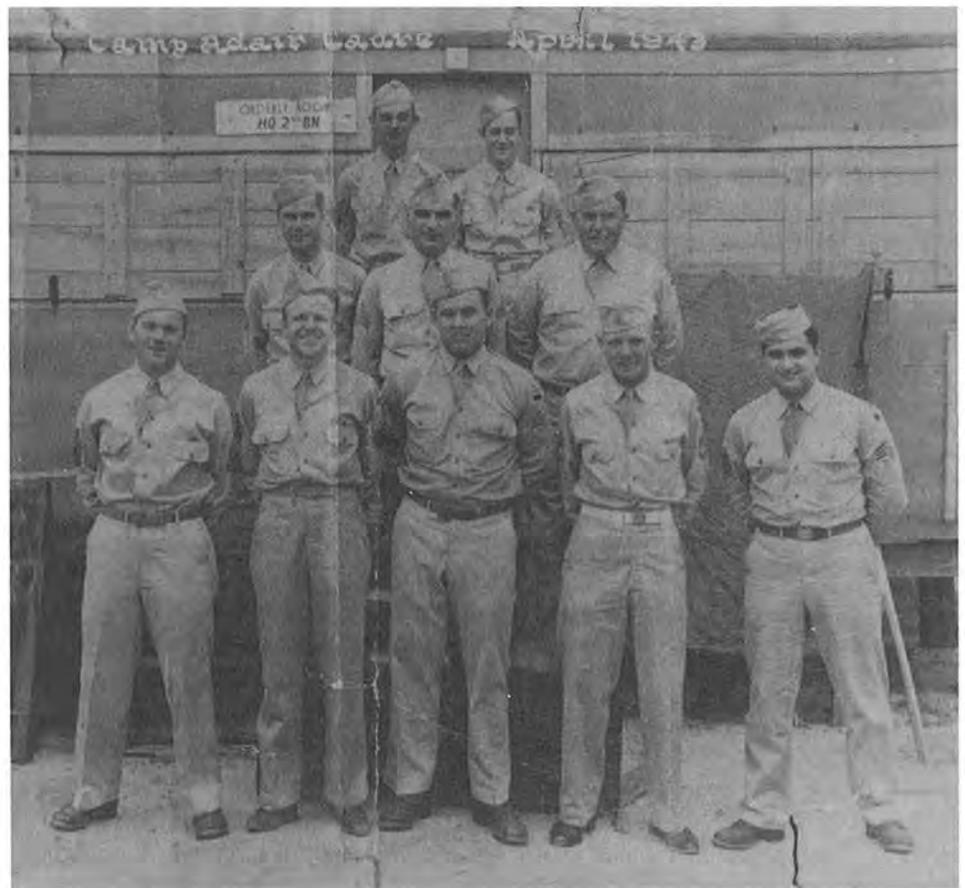
Cadre of 2nd Battalion Headquarters, 381st Infantry, 96th Division that left Camp Adair, Oregon to become the 2nd Battalion Headquarters of the 273rd Infantry Regiment of the 69th Division.

*Back Row, left to right:
Wortman, Harold Nitz*

*Second Row
Eddie Gibbs, Tom Pallo, Unknown*

*Third Row
Unknown, Mark Beublitz,
Les Lerche, Smith, Nick LaPetina*

Picture Furnished by: Eddie Gibbs



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.

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.

1992

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 10% State and City Taxes=\$77.00
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.

(Continued on Page 52)

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

AUGUST 23-30, 1992

BATTERY C, 724th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

In conjunction with the 69th Infantry Division Reunion,
at the San Francisco Airport Marriott, Burlingame, Cali-
fornia.

DINNER WILL BE ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 28th, 1992.

Contact:

Coy Horton, Co-Chairman
1705-A Highview Street
Burlington, North Carolina 27215
Telephone: 919/227-7785

or

John Turner, Co-Chairman
P.O. Box 1645
Decatur, Georgia 30031
Telephone: 404/378-3543

* * * * *

AUGUST 23-30, 1992

COMPANY E, 273rd INFANTRY

Our reunion week will be in conjunction with the 69th
Infantry Division Association Reunion, August 23rd thru
30th, 1992. We will meet in Earl's room at the San Francisco
Airport Marriott, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame,
California. You need not attend all week, but we will have
our Company Dinner on FRIDAY, AUGUST 28th.

For more information, contact:

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."

* * * * *

AUGUST 23-30, 1992

COMPANY A, 273rd INFANTRY

We will meet for our reunion at the San Francisco Marriott
in conjunction with the 69th Infantry Division Association's
Reunion, August 23rd thru 30, 1992, in Edward Lucci's room
for camaraderie, friendship and planning.

Contact:

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

* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 18, 19, 20, 1992

461st AAA, BATTERY-B, EAST COAST WEEKEND

Hotel/Motel: El Patio Motel
2950 West 8th Avenue
Erie, Pennsylvania

Price: \$35.95 plus tax = Single
\$45.95 plus tax = Double

Dress: Casual and informal for all events.

More details in write-up in another part of this bulletin.

Committee:

Edward "Ed" and Josephine "Jo" Gergerich
318 Hawthorne Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15209
Telephone: 412/821-2016

William "Bill" and Josephine "Jo" Byler
2625 Post Avenue
Erie, Pennsylvania 16508
Telephone: 814/864-8176

* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 24, 25, 26, 27, 1992

880th FIELD ARTILLERY A BATTERY WEEKEND

Hotel/Motel: Shoney's Inn
Location: Lexington, Kentucky

Committee:

James Billbrey, Chairman
R.D. #3, Box 289-B
Celina, Tennessee 38551
Telephone: 615/243-2250

John Barnett, Media Representative
6374 Brandywine Trail
Norcross, Georgia 30092
Telephone: 404/448-6513

* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 25, 26, 27, 1992

69th CAVALRY RECON TROOP WEEKEND

Quality Inn of Waco
Interstate 35 and 4th Street
Waco, Texas
Formerly a Sheraton

Room Rate: \$50.00 plus tax
Make reservations directly to Quality Inn
Telephone: 1-800/ ASK-WACO

Committee:

Hugh Bob Fuller
1325 LaSalle
Post Office Box 484
Waco, Texas 76703
Telephone: 817/752-9274

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SEPTEMBER 26, 1992

Deadline for news material and pictures for this bulletin.
Bulletin Volume 46, Number 1
September-October-November-December, 1992
No extensions this time.
Bulletin due out by December 1, 1992.

* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 27th thru OCTOBER 1, 1992

BATTERY C, 880th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Colonial Inn
Eureka Springs, Arkansas

Committee:

William and Correne Leslie
2704 South Shore Drive
Horseshoe Bend, Arkansas 72512
Telephone: 501/670-4382

(Continued on Page 53)

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

OCTOBER 9, 10 and 11, 1992

**461st AAA HEADQUARTERS BATTERY
AND MEDICAL DETACHMENT WEEKEND**

**Hotel/Motel: Quality Inn
Location: Salem, Virginia 24153**

**Quality Inn
Telephone: 703/562-1912**

Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Leave Sunday or stay over.
Leave I-81 at Exit 41 and go south on SR-419 to Motel.
We will have a block of rooms reserved. Good rates.
Meeting Room will be the Montgomery/Franklin Room.

Committee:

Eddie C. Griffin, Chairman
3880 Croydon Drive N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44718
Telephone: 216/492-5376

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

* * * * *

**OCTOBER 29, 30, 31 and NOVEMBER 1, 1992
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH**

**Holiday Inn
York, Pennsylvania**

Tour to Harley Davidson Motorcycle Plant.
Tentative Tour to York Haven Hydro Plant.
Hospitality Room, Shopping Malls for the Ladies
Saturday Evening Banquet

Committee:

Carl and Mildred Stetler, Chairpersons
1704 North Third Street
Reading, Pennsylvania 19601
Telephone: 215/373-7908

Paul and Mayreta Kitner

2814 Hillvale Avenue
West Lawn, Pennsylvania 19609
Telephone: 215/678-4869

* * * * *

1993

JANUARY 16, 1993

Deadline for news material and pictures for this bulletin.
Bulletin Volume 46, Number 2
January - February - March - April, 1993
Year Planning and Vacation - Reunion Bulletin
No extensions this time.
Rochester Chairmen and Committee, have your information
in for this bulletin.
Bulletin due out in March 1993.

* * * * *

JANUARY 29th thru FEBRUARY 5, 1993

COMPANY D, 273rd INFANTRY MID-WINTER WEEK

Tentative Plans for:
Quality Suites
Route A1A
Melbourne, Florida 32934

Committee:

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

* * * * *

JUNE 1993

461st AAA, Battery B
To be held in the state of Idaho.
Details to follow in future bulletins.

Committee:

Donald and Gerry Castellaw, Chairpersons
804 East E. Street
Moscow, Idaho 83843
Telephone: 208/882-4092

* * * * *

JUNE 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 1993

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

Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Western
Maryland, Western New York, Michigan, Indiana,
Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.
Also South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and
Mississippi. (Until the Southeastern Chapter reorganizes.)
(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).

By Popular Request — CANAAN VALLEY RESORT

Route 1, Box 330
Davis, West Virginia 26260
Telephone: Call West Virginia information and ask for
Canaan Valley

Only 65 rooms — DEER LODGE

Sign up early, NOW - Cancel later if emergency arises
SWIM IN THE POOL (Indoor or Outdoor) - MINIATURE
GOLF - RIDE THE CHAIR LIFT - WALK THE MANY
TRAILS - FEED THE DEER - TOURS - HOSPITALITY
ROOM - FINE FOOD - GOLF - FELLOWSHIP WITH
FRIENDS OF THE 69th DIVISION ASSOCIATION -
BANQUET - ENTERTAINMENT - RELAX IN THE COOL
AIR — GOING HOME SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Committee:

**Vernon and Norma Hanlin, Headquarters Company, 271st
Box 118
Mt. Storm, West Virginia 26739
Telephone: 304/693-7658**

**Earl and Dorothy Witzleb, Jr., Company E, 273rd
R.D. 1, Box 477
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606
Telephone: 412/455-2901**

* * * * *

JUNE 17, 18, 19, 1993

461st AAA, BATTERY D

**First Baptist Church
Asheville, North Carolina**

Church dinner with social following.
Banquet at nearby restaurant.
Lodging at motel of your choice.
More details in next bulletin.

See following page for committee.

(Continued on Page 54)

**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE**

(Continued from Page 53)

Committee:

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

Edwin Whitaker
534 Rose Hill Road
Asheville, North Carolina 28803

Alden Angline
34 Forest View Drive
Asheville, North Carolina 28804

* * * * *

August 8 thru 16, 1993
69th INFANTRY
DIVISION ASSOCIATION
46th ANNUAL REUNION
50th ANNIVERSARY
Holiday Inn,
Rochester, New York

Program and details
being worked out at present time.

HOSPITALITY ROOM - TOURS - EARLY BIRD
PX BEER PARTY - MEMORIAL SERVICE -
BANQUET DINNER DANCE - SUNDAY GOING
HOME BREAKFAST

MUCH MUCH MORE TO COME
IN LATER BULLETINS

Committee:

John "Jack" and Mary Duffy, Chairpersons
69th Division Headquarters Company
28 Cypress Street
Rochester, New York 14620-2306
Telephone: 716/271-4194

* * * * *

WE ONLY PUBLISH THREE BULLETINS A YEAR,
ONE EVERY FOUR MONTHS, SO GET YOUR NEWS
MATERIAL, PICTURES AND MINI-WEEKENDS IN
EARLY AND EARLY IS AT LEAST ONE YEAR IN
ADVANCE OF YOUR EVENT DATES. WE CAN HELP
YOU WITH MINI-WEEKENDS: HOW ABOUT MINIS
SUPPORTING OUR 69th ANNUAL REUNIONS.

WE ARE NOW PUBLISHING ARTICLES FOR THE
"CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS AND COMMUNICA-
TION SCHEDULE" FOR 1993 AND 1994.

WE WILL SEE YOU IN SAN FRANCISCO IN 1992,
ROCHESTER IN 1993, AND NASHVILLE IN 1994.

1994

+++++

August 21 thru 28, 1994
69th INFANTRY
DIVISION ASSOCIATION
47th ANNUAL REUNION
SHERATON MUSIC
CITY HOTEL
777 McGavock Pike
AT Century City
Nashville, Tennessee 37214
Telephone: 615/885-2200

Big Hospitality Room - Tours - Early Bird
- PX Beer Party - Memorial Service -
Banquet Dinner Dance

(Please note: Either our Beer Party or Banquet
could be changed to an earlier day).

Grand Old Opera Being Featured
Sunday Going Home Breakfast

MUCH MORE TO COME
IN LATER BULLETINS

Room Rates: Single, Double, Triple, Quads
\$72.00 plus 11 3/4% State and Local Taxes

Nashville International Airport nearby. Hub for
several airlines. Complimentary transportation to
and from the Airport. Free Parking at Hotel.
Many Interstates north and south, east and west,
pass by Nashville. Nashville is centrally located
in the States. Not too far from Chicago, New
Orleans, Kansas City, Norfolk, Florida, Eastern
Seaboard, Great Lakes, New England, Texas,
Plains States, Mountain States and the Pacific
West Coast.

SEE YOU ALL IN NASHVILLE in '94!

Committee:

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+++++



"Taps"

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Zephyrhills, Florida
69th M.P. and 69th Q.M.

"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!

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