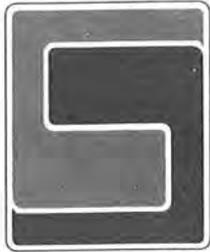


FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★★ Association, Inc.



VOLUME 46, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER — NOVEMBER — DECEMBER
1992

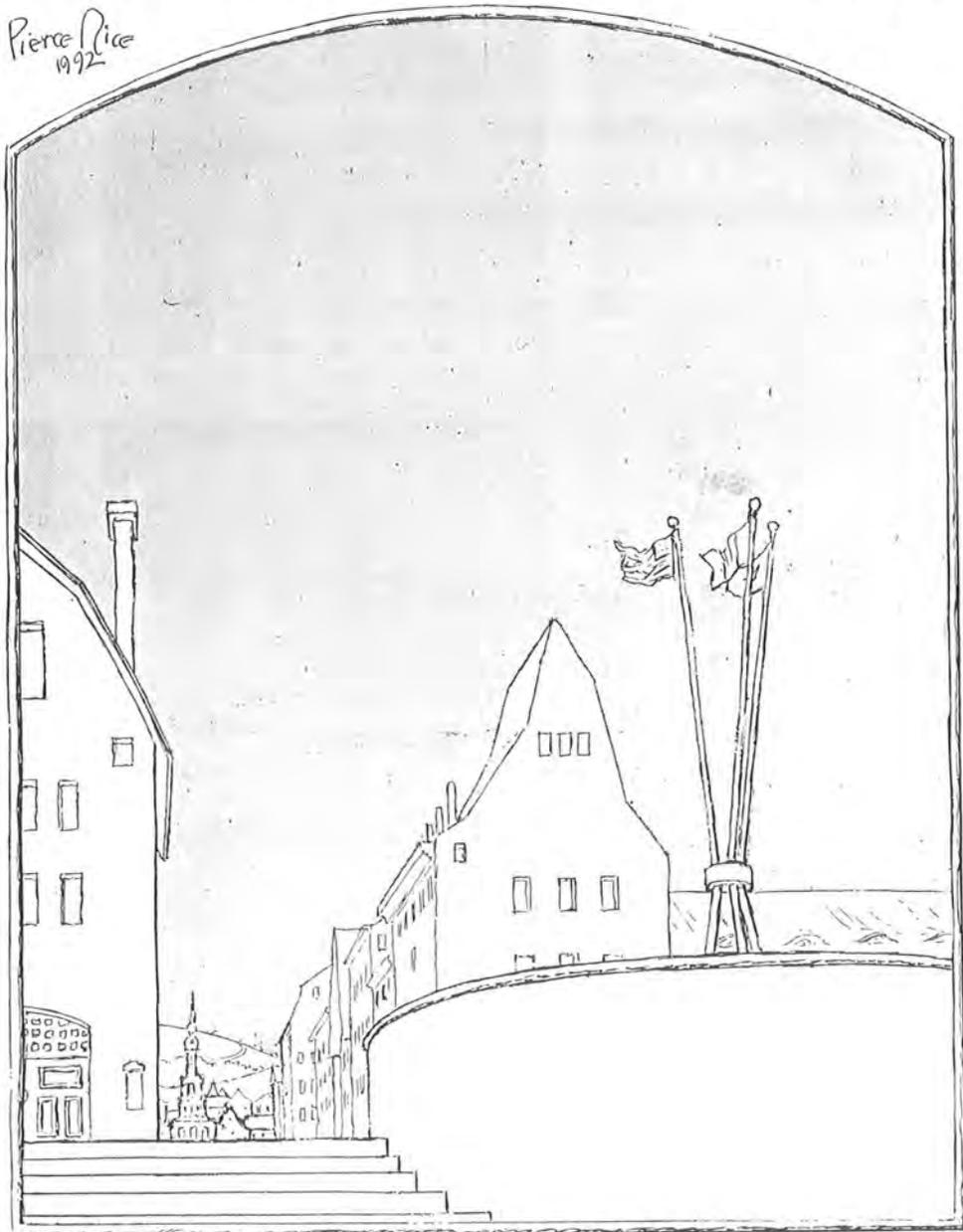
"THE THREE B's"
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101 STEPHEN STREET
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bulletin

"FIRST LINK-UP MEMORIAL PARK"

Pierce Rice
1992



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*Deceased

The ceremonial staircase at the southern end of the monument intended to be erected at Strehla in commemoration of the meeting between the 69th Division and the Russian Army, the final act that brought the War in Europe to its close. The design itself is the product of a collaboration between Sam Lewis, of B Company of the 273rd, and the Russian sculptor Volodia Surovtsev, whose contribution will be a bronze relief panel representing the actual meetings.

San Francisco Reunion, August 23rd-30th, 1992



*1st Timers Joe and Jane Kurt
Company E, 271st*



*1st Timers Henry and Esther Orsi
and they were on the reunion committee.*



*Alex Zubrowski, center, with
two Tanker first timers.*



*Lucci, Rice and Robertson
with two 1st Timers.*



President W.O. "Dutch" Hawn



*First Timers
You all come back!*



Al Westlake and son, Drew



Robert Pierce and son



Unknown



Chester Yastrzemski in cell block at Alcatraz.



Paul Shadle, property of Alcatraz.

News From The Editor's Desk



by — Clarence Marshall
Membership Chairman

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

Coy J. Horton, 1705A Highview Street, Burlington, North Carolina 27215 — C-724th: During the year of 1992, we located **Theodore L. Arndt**. He was a member of Battery C, 724th Field Artillery Battalion. Unfortunately, he passed away April 10, 1992, but **Steven P. Arndt**, Theodore's son, attended the reunion in San Francisco in August. Steven's wish was to become an Associate Member of the 69th Division. His name was presented at the Business Meeting and he was voted in as an Associate Member. It is requested his name be added to the mailing list.

Phillip M. Ikins, M.D., 2636 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, New York 13224 — A-271st: I wish to add some information to your last bulletin picture exhibit which **Sergeant John Pereira** donated and submitted on page 39. I am the unknown American GI pictured in the German uniform with a Luger in my right hand. I had been a platoon sergeant in Company B through much of the war and received a Battlefield Commission and promotion to Second Lieutenant and henceforth, transferred to A Company of the 271st Regiment. I knew **Lieutenant Charles Humphrey** and **Sergeant Pereira**. John's pictures are excellent but I cannot remember any of the other unknowns. Thank you.



Phillip M. Ikins

This picture appeared on page 39 of the last bulletin as American G.I., unknown.

Norman Barratt, 666 Barneson Avenue, San Mateo, California 94402 — Hq.-273rd: After several letters of correspondence, I feel that we are now on a first name basis. I am really looking forward to meeting you in August during the reunion.

As noted in my letter the first part of this month, there were some more pictures that **Ken Reitz** sent to me and which have now been through the enhancement and enlargement process, and here they are. They may not be in time for the next issue of the bulletin, but it is probably better to spread them over more than one issue anyway. It has been great fun for me to see these pictures and my thanks to **Ken Reitz** for loaning the originals to me. By the way, if any of the fellows want copies, they should just drop me a note and let me know which ones they are interested in having and I'll do my best to cooperate with their request.

Also, as I have noted before, there are several of the fellows from both the I&R and Commo who are interested in getting together. Let's hear from you guys and get this into a fact. I'm no longer allowed to eat as much nor to drink as much as I used to, but I can still get by with a beer or two and watch what I eat, so we can all have a good time within our limitations.

Do you have the addresses for **Roger Declerq**, **David Felsenstein**, **Alex Grensher**, and **F.D. Petrucelli** from Headquarters Company, 273rd Infantry? If so, I would appreciate you sending them on to me at your convenience. Now that we are in the latter years of our lives, we tend to take a little longer to get things done, but thank you anyway.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Barratt's pictures appear elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin.)

Donald C. Smith, 8301 Nicholas Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68114 — 881st F.A.: I was a sergeant with the 881st Field Artillery which was part of the 273rd Combat team, 69th Division during all of its combat time in Europe.

I learned of the projected reunion of the Fighting 69th on August 23-30, in San Francisco and would like some information about it. I'm not certain that I can attend but it's a possibility. I have some memorabilia including a copy of the Stars & Stripes congratulating the 69th on its capture of Leipzig.

Leslie B. Payne, 5831 Valley Circle, Omaha, Nebraska 68106-3767: I read your article in the Omaha World Herald. I was a member of the 69th Infantry Division and would be interested in getting more information about the 45th reunion in San Francisco.

Clifton L. Barbieri, 1200 Lone Jack Road, Lynchburg, Virginia 24501 — G-271st: Please send information and if possible a copy of the Bulletin Volume 45, No. 3 to: **Oran R. Jones**, 971 Westbury Drive, Mobile, Alabama 33609.

He is interested in becoming a member and in attending the reunion in San Francisco. I have given him the dates of the reunion and the phone number at the Marriott. However, he will need registration information as contained in the bulletin or directly from **Bob Kurtzman**, whichever you consider the most appropriate.

I met **Oran** in Biloxi at the Camp Shelby Reunion, but I did not hear from him until I received his letter today. He served in Special Troops - Ordnance. That's all I know. Any assistance you can give to **Oran** will be appreciated by both of us.

Jack H. Hartzog, 520 West Lindenwood Avenue, Sikeston, Missouri 63801 — L-273rd: Enclosed are my dues for the coming year. I assume \$5.00 is still the correct amount. Hope you have a good reunion in San Francisco in August.

(Continued on Page 4)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 3)

and I am sure you will. The reunion of the 78th Division Association is September 16-20, 1992 in Louisville, Kentucky and we will go to that one since I served my combat time with the 78th. I was only in the 69th from September or October 1944 at Camp Shelby until late December or early January in England. There is another 69th member here in Sikeston that I see quite often.

A.J. Blain, 24 Mt. Royal Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts 01020 — Cannon-271st: I am sending you an address of a 69th Division member of Cannon Company, 271st Infantry. I called him and told him about our reunion in San Francisco. He said he does not receive any bulletins and is interested in going to the San Francisco reunion and would like to know what we have planned for the week. He would need Volume 45, No. 3 of our bulletin. We were foxhole buddies and I haven't seen him in 47 years.

I want to thank you. May God be with you. Take care and I will see you in San Francisco.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The name and address that Mr. Blain sent was not that of a new member, but a correction of an address for one already on our Association Roster.)

H. Raymond Fahrner, Forge Gate 33E 1, Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19446 — A-273rd: I received your card. Would you send me the address of that new member of Company A, 273rd. I keep a company roster.

I had lunch several months ago with **Ralph Smoyer**, a new member of Company A. He had a diary. I copied some names from it. These were all in the 1st Platoon, A Company, 273rd: **Neil Roth** of Ethan, South Dakota, **Anthony Totoraitis** of Virdin, Illinois and **Homer Davis** of Route 3, Dahlonga, Georgia. There were other names, but for addresses, only the cities were listed. Also, some of the names are already on our membership list.

I hope all is well and I hope that you are feeling better. I have signed up for the reunion. Hope to see you there.

I received the latest Bulletin - two pages for "Taps" - many familiar names. It makes you pause for a thought.

I plan to go to California two weeks before the reunion, on the Scally Ranch. Then I will bus into San Francisco on the 23rd of August. **John Moriarty** and I will share the hotel room.

Again, I hope this finds you in good health. Also, I hope you are going to San Francisco.

Russell R. Ziegert, 2250 West Autumn Place, Citrus Springs, Florida 34434 — C-881st: I saw an article on the 69th Infantry Division in our local paper dated July 19th. I have never seen any information on any of the 69th Division reunions prior to seeing this article. I belong to the VFW and the American Legion that is local and have never seen any information on reunions through these organizations either.

I became a member of the 69th Division in late 1943 or early 1944 reporting to Camp Shelby, Mississippi. I went overseas with the unit and was a T/4 with Charlie Battery, 881st Field Artillery Battalion.

If possible send me some information on the reunion and other info on the Division. Thank you for your efforts and time put forth.

Charles E. Wagner, 2208 North Evergreen, Pampa, Texas 79065: I wanted to drop ya'll a line to notify you that another 69th Division member has passed away. My dad, **Carl E. Wagner** of Pampa, Texas, passed away May 12, 1992. He was 73 years of age. Carl loved to hear from your paper and was always planning to go to your reunions, but something to

do with his health always stopped him. He loved his country and the 69th. He proudly kept his 69th sticker on his automobiles always.

Victor Ostrow, 1612 Lemontree, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904 — Hq., 2nd Bn., 273rd: It seems like an eternity since I last saw you at any of the 69th Division reunions. I know you have had some health problems, but at this stage of the game, don't we all? I sincerely hope you will be able to attend the San Francisco reunion.

I just received Volume 5, No. 3 and learned the distressing news - the passing of **Frank See** and **Frank Carey**, two very dear friends. Both have contributed their time and effort in making the 69th one of the greatest organizations of World War II. It seems like only yesterday that we spoke to each other with high hopes of getting together at the next reunion. My wife and I wish to express our deepest condolences to their wives **Gloria** and **Arlene**, for you are in our hearts and minds. We will miss you - and your loving husbands.

I am in the process of sending the itinerary for the San Francisco trip and am sending it to **Bob Kurtzman**. I have spoken to **Bob Pierce** on the telephone and all indications point to a very exciting tour. This will be my first trip to the West Coast. If it is anything like our Colorado trip, ably run by **Dutch Hawn**, new Association President, I feel confident it will be successful. We have been coming to each of the last 7 reunions, and have never been disappointed, despite some minor glitches. Ironically, the same problem as last year has surfaced again, but on a happy note. One week prior to the 69th reunion during the month of August, the Jewish War Veterans hold their convention in Baltimore, Maryland Inner Harbor at the Stouffer Hotel. Fortunately, it is only 40 miles from my home, so it should not be a problem.

There was an interesting article in the 69th's recent bulletin concerning the Department of Defense (DOD) World War II Commemorative Program. I have contacted the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and will be receiving brochures, posters, audio-visual material, museum and library displays which I hope we will be able to display in the Jewish War Museum, located at 1811 R Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, telephone 1-201-265-6280. Whenever you plan a visit to Washington, D.C. area, please make an effort to see the museum and our docent Mr. Al Lerner will be happy to give you a guided plus historical tour dating back to the Revolutionary Wars. The Jewish War Veterans are the oldest veterans group - almost 100 years old. Bring your wife and family. It will be a pleasant experience.

I am anticipating a great reunion in San Francisco and looking forward to the trip. I will be giving a full report.

Father Jim C. Wooldridge, P.O. Box 1285, Center, Texas 75935: This letter is to inform your Association of the death of my father, **Fred A. Wooldridge**, T/5, AUS, a member of the 69th Division Band in the European Theater of Operations and the Army of Occupation.

Fred A. Wooldridge died July 14th in Center, Texas, and will be buried in Abilene, Texas July 24th.

He was always very proud of his membership in the 69th Division Association and always told many good stories of his comrades in the Fighting 69th.

Christopher A. Schotte, P.O. Box 203, Fischer, Texas 78623: I have just seen the announcement in the July 1992 DAV Magazine of the August 23rd-30th reunion. I am really interested in the what's, what, etc. of the 69th Infantry Division. I was shot up the first night we went into combat and I lost all contact with the 69th. Please send me information about reunions and information about the 69th Association.

(Continued on Page 5)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 4)

Robert Greek, 10-482-CR-13, Montpelier, Ohio 43543 — E-272nd: I am sending this story of an incident that only a very few people know about. I thought it might be of interest and you might like to use it in the Bulletin.

This incident happened when Company E, 272nd Infantry was attempting to capture a small town and the bridge crossing a stream in the village. I don't remember its name but I remember that we entered it in the middle of the blackest night you ever saw. The town had been pretty much secured but a German machine gun across the bridge had stopped our attack. Our machine gunners and the Germans were trading bullets. Our red tracers were answered by the German multi-colored tracers flying back and forth across the bridge. I had positioned two of my mortar squads on one side of the road and the other squad on the opposite side close to the house serving as the Company C.P. I was in the road when the Germans cut loose with a long burst down the road. I could hear the bullets snap as they whizzed by and it didn't take me long to get off the road. The C.O. had called for artillery but the first burst was lost behind a hill. They were firing as close to our position as they felt was safe so no further rounds were fired.

While this was happening I heard a jeep and trucks approaching. I called halt with no effect so I yelled halt again and got them stopped. I asked the driver where he thought he was going, and informed him that the Germans were only a few yards ahead. He said, "I'm leading two 6x6's loaded with gasoline for the tanks." "Where are the tanks?" Out of the inky blackness from across the road came this answer, "Back on their dead asses, where do you suppose they would be?" I took the driver into the Company C.P. When he came out he hurriedly turned the trucks around and scrambled out of there. Fortunately, our machine gunners and the Germans were engaged in fun and games of shooting at each other so no German bullets came down the road while the trucks were there. If some of those pretty German tracers had hit those gasoline cans, I wouldn't be writing this letter. When daylight came we found that the hill was just beyond the bridge and the machine gun nest was too close for artillery. We were not issued any mortar illumination shells until after the war with Germany ended so we couldn't shed any light on the situation. Sometime before daylight, the Germans pulled out and the bridge was captured undamaged.

Brownie A. Parsons, 1143 Mulberry Circle, Charleston, West Virginia 25314 — A-724th: I would like to add two names to our list of members of the 69th Division. Both of these people are members that were with us from May 1943 through Germany and were with Battery A, 724th Field Artillery.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Both of these men were already on our Association Roster.)

Albert R. Hoak, 618½ Riverside S.W., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87105 — M-271st: You don't know me, but I was in M Company of the 271st Infantry. I was a heavy machine gunner, and after V.E. Day we stayed in Germany for about four or five months. Then we went to Rheims, France where we guarded nurses' quarters. We shipped out for the U.S. in November and landed in Newport News, Virginia. I was discharged from Jefferson Barracks in Missouri on November 29th, 1945.

I am totally disabled as you can see by my handwriting. What I would like to ask you is what Army was the 69th Division in? When we went to Rheims they put us in the 75th Division and I would like to know if the 75th Division was

in the same Army as the 69th. I would appreciate you letting me know if you can.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Hoak was advised that the 69th Division was in the 1st Army under General Hodge most of its combat time, and for a brief period of time was transferred into General Patton's 3rd Army at the close of the War. I have no knowledge of what Army the 75th was in.)

Lieutenant Colonel William P. Duncan, Ret., 23 Invincible Court, Alameda, California 94501 — Hq.-271st: It is with sadness that I send this letter to you on the passing of a dear comrade, Brigadier General James McKinley Gibson. General Gibson, 70, died on April 6, 1992 of complications following surgery and was buried on April 13th in Arlington National Cemetery.

He entered the U.S. Army in 1942 and upon completion of OCS was assigned to the 69th Division, Camp Shelby, Mississippi in May, 1943. He served as the Platoon Leader, I&R Platoon, Headquarters Company, 271st Infantry and left the 69th Division in May, 1944 to serve as an Infantry Officer in a rifle company of the 83rd Division. He participated in the Normandy Invasion and was involved in combat operations (Hurtgen Forest, Battle of the Bulge) until the war's end. He was wounded twice and completed his World War II service as a Captain.

General Gibson stayed in the Army and after serving as a Company Commander with the Phillipine Scouts in the Phillipine Islands, he was sent to Korea in June, 1950 at the onset of the Korean War. He served as a Rifle Company Commander with the 1st Cavalry Division and at war's end he was a Major, commanding a Battalion.

After several peacetime promotions, he was sent to Vietnam in 1968 as the Commander of the 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division in the DMZ, where he had seven Battalions under his command. Upon his return to the U.S., he served as Deputy Commandant of the Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, and in the Pentagon, in the Office of the Secretary of the Army, as Personnel and Operations Officers. General Gibson retired from the U.S. Army in July, 1973 after 31 years of active service. His military decorations include three Combat Infantry Badges, the Distinguished Service Medal, three Silver Stars, three Bronze Medals, two Purple Hearts, two Legion of Merit and 20 Air Medals. Upon his retirement from the Army, General Gibson and his wife, Dottie, resided in Alexandria, Virginia where he was Executive Vice President of the National Association for the Uniformed Services and President of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Retired Officers Association.

General Gibson will be remembered by his former comrades in the I&R Platoon as the young, 2nd Lieutenant who could always inspire us to go that extra yard when we felt as though we could not go one more step.

I am sure I speak for all who knew him when I say that he will be remembered with admiration and affection, and that his passing affects us all.

General Gibson's wife of 49 years, Dottie, who shared some of our experiences in Camp Shelby and Hattiesburg, in 1943-44 has asked me to notify the 69th Infantry Division Association concerning the death of her husband.

Richard S. Peckham, 30 Spring Rock Road, New Windsor, New York 12553 — B-271st: I had a note from Charles Hoffman (E-Mail) in response to the topic, 69th Division Association which I viewed on my computer's Prodigy Service.

I trained at Camp Shelby for about 8 months before going overseas with them on the old John Ericson. Shortly

(Continued on Page 6)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 5)

after arriving in England, (I was at Winchester for a spell) I left as a replacement for the 83rd Infantry Division. After the war was over, I ran across one member of my company, B Company, 271st Infantry, who passed on information about the division going on line in February of 1945 and some news of individuals in the Company.

If possible, if you have it, is there a listing of members of Company B, 271st Infantry? I've enclosed an SASE in the hopes that you might have that information. Also any information you could send on the 1993 meeting in Rochester would be appreciated. It is not too far off and I'd be interested in attending. Charles says I'm still a 69er.

Paul C. Winters, 130 Union Road, Coatesville, Pennsylvania 19320 — D-272nd: Enclosed is my check for ten dollars representing payment of my 1992/1993 annual dues.

I was one of the Twenty-Ninth Division men who was transferred to your Division after the war. I am very active in our Association and am currently serving as Senior National Vice Commander. Next month we hold our seventy-fourth national reunion in Roanoke, and at that time I will assume the position of National Commander.

Although I spent only a few months with the Sixty-Ninth, in the 272nd Infantry Regiment, I had the opportunity to meet and to make friends with a lot of fine young men. The years have obliterated the names of these fellows, with the exception of the name **Jim Schubert**, but their faces are still stamped in my mind. A few years ago I spent a day at your Valley Forge, Pennsylvania reunion looking for the names of men whom I might have met. However, there were none on the attendees roster of the 272nd that I recognized.

In closing let me wish you and the members of the Sixty-Ninth Infantry Division Association all of the best and have a great reunion in San Francisco.

Tom Poole's Second Childhood



Tom Poole, Cannon Company, Sergeant - 273rd Infantry
1316 High Street
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

50th Anniversary of World War II in 1993 DoD Announces WWII Commemorative Program Join in the Activities

THE DoD WILL ASSIST US AS A GROUP OR IN YOUR OWN COMMUNITY IN COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS.

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**

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Please print your new address below:

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101 Stephen Street
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Please allow six weeks advance notice.

Chronology of Events at the 45th Annual Reunion in San Francisco, California August 23-30, 1992

Submitted by: Victor Ostrow
Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 273rd Infantry Regiment

Another excellent reunion although attendance was down to around 450. Enough cannot be said of Bob and Theresa Pierce for the magnificent job in putting together a very successful reunion.

We arrived on Sunday, August 23rd at the San Francisco Airport in the midst of a beautiful sunny and breezy cool day. Shuttle buses provided by the Marriott Hotel transported us to their hotel with a scenic view of the bay and airport. We settled in and were pleasantly surprised with so many 69ers arriving early, especially many first timers. Some of the 69ers whom I have not seen at previous reunions were Nat and Rhoda Green and Sumner Russman. The absence of you Clarence, Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Bill Beswick and others who were unable to attend, was surely felt. Earl, you were missed, and my hope is that you will soon recover and become active in the association. I would be remiss if I did not thank you for your anniversary card which always seems to be perfect timing for the week of fun and frolic. It is the hope of my wife and I that you will be fully recovered to assume full duties as coordinating editor with Clarence to provide the Association with 3 yearly bulletins of informative pages of 60 with pictures and data from members. It is one of the top rated military publications.

MONDAY, AUGUST 24th

Nat and Rhoda Green invited my wife and I for a preview of San Francisco in their leased car. The steep closeness of the houses along the hills, scenic views of the Golden Gate Bridge, environs of the beautiful city and skyline. We visited the Japanese Gardens, Historical Museum exhibits of real African Wildlife animation and Sea World. Visitors from the four corners of the globe attended and marveled at the oriental gardens.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25th

Another day on our own with several couples boarding the bus (Samtran) to downtown and took the Grey Line Tour of Muir Woods National Coastal Redwoods. The trees were beautiful and some of them were as tall as 252 feet and over 2,000 years old. We strolled the forest path and viewed the habitat that has existed for so many years. Included in this trip was the city of Sausalito with its quaint shops and sailing marinas - a sight to behold.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26th

We boarded the buses at the Marriott Hotel for the famous Napa and Sonoma Valley Wine Tour for an extensive 9 hours. We viewed the beautiful golden valleys of grapes along the scenic countryside and the historic mansions of the wine makers. We visited the Ferrara family winery, and witnessed the processing and crushing of the grapes hand picked by the migrant workers and the final process of storing and turning of the bottles after having been stored in huge vats. We participated in wine tasting of several wines and the aromatic bouquet of "Antigua," a sweet aperitif. A small bottle sold for \$12.00, and many were purchased.



Japanese Gardens, San Francisco



View of the Golden Gate Bridge

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27th San Francisco Tour

We departed the Marriott for a 5 hour bus tour of the Golden Gate Park Presidio, Cliff House on the Pacific Ocean, crossing the Golden Gate Bridge, and a stop at Twin Peaks for a panoramic view of San Francisco. The view was breathtaking. We visited Chinatown and Fisherman's Wharf. A lunch was enjoyed at a very quaint restaurant. Then we waited in line for the boat trip to Alcatraz Island. The trip across the bay was windy and the water current was very rough before we reached the island. It is easy to see why it is almost impossible to escape from Alcatraz. The prison is a bleak confine of massive walls surrounding the island,

(Continued on Page 8)

**CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AT THE
45th ANNUAL REUNION IN SAN FRANCISCO**
(Continued from Page 7)

and 3 or 4 steep inclines to reach the prison cells. It is depressing to see the very narrow cells, confines and toilet facilities. When the island was disbanded, "hippies" and Indians invaded and camped there for about a year without heat or electricity. Several of the buildings were burned out. It is a very depressing sight.



Alcatraz Island

BEER PARTY

We had a six-piece combo band. The music was outstanding and we were supplied with plenty of beer and pretzels.

I failed to mention previously the hospitality room, with the bar and refreshments being handled by first timers. A great time for getting together and meeting new friends.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29th

Men's and Ladies' Auxiliary Meeting and Evening Banquet

Special acclamation to **Bob Pierce** and his staff for doing a superb job in putting together another fine reunion. We had a sixteen piece band and two female singers. Supper was a catered dinner of steaks, salad, desert, etc. Gifts for each guest - a beautiful wine goblet inscribed 45th anniversary reunion. Pictured on the glass was the San Francisco skyline and 69th etched in the glass. There was a lot of picture taking, renewing of old friendships and making new friends. We all enjoyed ourselves dancing to the old tunes.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 30th
Farewell Breakfast Buffet**

A few tears and sad goodbyes till next year.



Olga and Victor Ostrow at San Francisco State Capitol.



Cable Car at Market and Powell Streets



Downtown San Francisco



Sample of the Architecture in San Francisco

Along with the photos provided by Victor Ostrow, the Alcatraz photo, the Downtown San Francisco photo, and the Architecture photo were provided by Chet Yastrzemski.

69th Infantry Division SAN FRANCISCO REUNION REPORT 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

The first West Coast Reunion may be over, but it will be long remembered as perhaps the best reunion ever. The Marriott Hotel was a wonderful choice site. The location was ideal, the ambiance was beautiful, the food was outstanding, the price was right and the hotel management and personnel support was exceptional.

There are so many people to thank for the huge success of this Reunion that I am really at a loss to decide who to start with. I guess thanks first has to go to the members who attended and their most gracious generosity - more on that later.

Our San Francisco Reunion Committee deserves the most credit for the actual success of the reunion. The organization and dedication of our Committee Chairmen were exemplary. Not only did they participate in support of every function, they solicited and enlisted the support of other local 69ers to work with them. Most of the committees also had their wives willingly sharing in the work schedule.

Because there were some committee changes and a lot of additional volunteers, I would like to list the committees and their duties. Further, Theresa and I want to personally and publicly thank each and every one for the outstanding job they accomplished.

HOSPITALITY ROOM

Chairpersons **Henry and Esther Orsi**
Co-Chairpersons **Harold and Aldora Gonsalves**
Committee Enlistees **Warren and Dorothy Mitchell,**
John O'Shaughnessey, Jim Haight, Carl Kaiser,
Gordon Hansen, Pat Kennedy, Kent Mason, Grant Brown

TOUR WAGONMASTER

Chairpersons **Del and Donna Philpott**
Del also worked Souvenir Sales and assisted with the Golf Tournament Registration.

ENTERTAINMENT

Chairpersons **John and Dena Tounger**
John and Dean also were the ticket takers at the hotel events.

Robert Shaw provided the beer pitchers for the PX party.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Chairman **Walter Haag**, Golf Registration

MEMORIAL SERVICE COLOR GUARD

Chairman **William Lindow**

REGISTRATION

Co-Chairladies **Vivian Kurtzman, Theresa Pierce**
Assisted by ... **Donna Philpott, Virginia Mason, Maria Keller**

LADIES' DAY IN SAN FRANCISCO

Donna Philpott. Donna deserves a special "Thanks." She planned the self-guided tour, conducted an early dry-run, drew up the maps, handled the registration and personally escorted the group of ladies into San Francisco.

How can **Theresa** and I ever express our thanks and gratitude to **Bob** and **Vivian Kurtzman** for all their support and help prior to and during the reunion. It is with no small sacrifice that they devoted so much time at home, sorting tickets, programs, name tags, ribbons, etc., into individual envelopes and maintaining records of Tours/Events/Costs. These duties are over and above the job description of the 69th Division Association Treasurer. **Vivian** and **Theresa** worked side by side every day from Sunday through Saturday afternoon at the Registration Desk. This is a heck of a way for a guest (**Vivian**) to spend a reunion-vacation. All I can say is that they appeared to enjoy what they were doing without any complaints. Even **Bob Kurtzman** spent most of his time assisting in the Souvenir Sales Room when he wasn't paying the daily bills.

Those of you who have never sponsored a reunion cannot appreciate the anxiety associated with the job. There are fixed minimum costs to consider that must be paid regardless of the number of attendees. There are other 'sunk' costs that have never had a method of recovery; printing programs, tickets, making permanent badges, administrative expenses, table decorations and flowers. The three most significant unfunded cost drivers are the Hospitality Room, Coffee and Danish at the General Membership Meetings, and (in recent years) the Souvenir Table Gift. Tours and hotel events are normally inflated a couple of dollars (except PX Party) to cover entertainment, banquet orchestra, and hopefully some of the 'sunk' costs. Over the past years the annual reunions have been in the loss side of the ledger.

I am pleased to announce the 45th Annual Reunion was not only a social success but a financial success. Thanks to the generosity of the attending members, this reunion did not lose any money. Guidance from the Executive Committee early on, forecast a significantly smaller than usual attendance in San Francisco and advised that we should anticipate some loss.

(Continued on Page 10)

**69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
SAN FRANCISCO REUNION REPORT**

(Continued from Page 9)

Further, consideration should be given to eliminating the Table Gift, Coffee and Danish, and Liquor for the Hospitality Room. Some innovative thinking was obviously in order.

With the approval of our President "Dutch" Hawn, we added a new line to the Reunion Registration Form requesting donations to support/fund our Hospitality Room. The response was overwhelming, 50% of the attendees donated to this cause. I am pleased to report the donations completely covered the cost for the best Hospitality Room in my memory. The members came through again with their response to our 50-50 Raffle. The income from the Raffle offset about half of the earlier mentioned 'sunk' cost for tickets, programs, flowers, etc.

But we were not through yet! Marriott's original contract had a clause that room credits would be used by the Association during the week of the Reunion. This was unacceptable to me to lose the value of 20-30 room nights by using them for guests (or whatever). I insisted the contract be changed and room credits be rebated at their cash value of \$70.00 each. Again, I am pleased to report that the room credit rebate paid for the Coffee and Danish at the General Membership Meeting.

Marriott Management agreed to change the cash bar price for five bartenders, i.e., Early Bird - 2; PX - 1; and Banquet - 2. For \$200.00 cash bar sales per event, Marriott waived the bartender's cost that in effect, gave us \$1,000.00 cost avoidance. Where did the \$1,000.00 go? How do you like your 69th Infantry Division embossed wine glass you received as a Table Gift?

We owe the San Francisco Airport Marriott Sales Manager and Convention Manager a debt of gratitude for the outstanding job they did as well as the concessions they made to accommodate our every need. The Hospitality Room was a loss to the Marriott. The complete bar set-up including all mixes, glasses, ice and condiments was \$25.00 per day. Liquor, beer and wine were at their cost; and, the popcorn machine, popcorn, and cups were all complimentary.

This may not be a precedent for future reunions, but it will provide guidelines and thresholds for future Reunion Committee Chairmen and our Site Selection Chairman to use a yardstick for site selection, negotiating and budgeting.

How could I get by without a special thanks for the assistance from some of my Company I, 273rd buddies. Thanks, Bill and Bev Armstrong for escorting the Reno Tour, selling raffle tickets, counting/sorting the money, and presenting cash awards to the winners. Thanks to Erwin and Carmen Sanborn for assisting on the Reno Tour and Raffle sales. Thanks to Carl and Berniece Macknair for your help with the Raffle Ticket sales.

Notice of Intent to Form a California Chapter of the 69th Infantry Division Assn.

This notice of intent is submitted in accordance with Article XII of the 69th Infantry Division Association Constitution; and, Article VI of the By-Laws regarding forming a Branch Society.

As a result of the California 69th Division Members' Survey taken at the San Francisco Reunion in August, 1992, and the continued interest of a group of California 69ers, it is our intent to form a California Chapter.

The Constitution and By-Laws requires a membership of at least 10 members prior to petitioning the President of the Association for approval to form a Chapter. The Chapter must adopt the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association, but are allowed the latitude to amend them to fit their local

Chapter needs as long as the amendments are not inconsistent with those of the Association.

Purpose of this notice is to advise all California and Western Area members of the 69th Infantry Division Association of our intent. Further, we are tentatively planning a meeting in conjunction with a weekend get-together in the area of San Luis Obispo, California, May 14-16, 1993. Those of you who wish to become active can participate in the work-group session; others can enjoy the informal Mini-Reunion.

Objectives of the work-group session will be to prepare a list of Charter members, select officers, draft a Charter Constitution and By-Laws; and, prepare a letter of petition to the Association President. A general meeting will be held to present the results of the work group to the prospective Chapter members for change and/or approval. Our petition will be forwarded in time for consideration by the Association President; and, presented to the Board of Directors at the Rochester, New York meeting for approval.

California or Western Area members who are not already a member of a local 69th Infantry Division Chapter are invited to attend. Anyone interested in either attending or becoming a Chapter member, please send a legal-size, self-addressed stamped envelope to either of the following addresses. We will send you a copy of the specifics of our planned meeting and schedule of events.

ROBERT L. PIERCE **DELBERT E. PHILPOTT**
144 Nashua Court P.O. Box 2014
San Jose, CA 95139 Sunnyvale, CA 94087-0014
Telephone: (408) 226-8040 Telephone: (408) 739-0308

The Army in the Good Old Days

The story goes that in 1910 the Army chain of command worked like this:

Operation Halley's Comet

A Colonel issued the following directive to an executive officer: "Tomorrow evening at approximately 2000 hours, Halley's Comet will be visible in the area, an event which occurs only once every 76 years. Have the men fall out in the battalion area in fatigues and I will explain this rare phenomenon to them. In case of rain we will not be able to see anything, so assemble the men in the theater and I will show a film of this."

Executive officer to the Company Commander - "By order of the Colonel, tomorrow at 2000 hours Halley's Comet will appear above the battalion area. If it rains, fall the men out in fatigues, then march them to the theater where the rare phenomenon will take place, something which occurs only every 76 years."

Company Commander to Lieutenant - "By order of the Colonel, in fatigues at 2000 hours tomorrow evening, the phenomenal Halley's Comet will appear in the theater. In case of rain in the battalion area, the Colonel will give another order, one which occurs every 76 years."

Lieutenant to the Sergeant - "Tomorrow at 2000 hours, the Colonel will appear in the theater with Halley's Comet, something which happens every 76 years. If it rains, the Colonel will order the comet into the battalion area."

Sergeant to the squad - "When it rains tomorrow at 2000 hours, the phenomenal 76-year-old General Halley, accompanied by the Colonel, will drive his comet through the battalion area theater in his fatigues."

So what else is new.

Anonymous

Attendance by State at the 1992 San Francisco, California Reunion

| STATE | MEMBERS | ATTENDANCE |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| California | 67 | 128 |
| Pennsylvania | 21 | 39 |
| New York | 19 | 34 |
| New Jersey | 13 | 24 |
| Ohio | 11 | 20 |
| Florida | 10 | 19 |
| Illinois | 9 | 18 |
| Wisconsin | 9 | 15 |
| Texas | 7 | 15 |
| Virginia | 7 | 14 |
| Colorado | 6 | 10 |
| Louisiana | 6 | 9 |
| Nebraska | 6 | 12 |
| Arizona | 5 | 9 |
| Massachusetts | 5 | 8 |
| Oregon | 5 | 8 |
| Connecticut | 4 | 7 |
| Michigan | 4 | 8 |
| Minnesota | 4 | 6 |
| North Carolina | 4 | 7 |
| Georgia | 3 | 6 |
| Iowa | 3 | 6 |
| Maryland | 3 | 6 |
| Tennessee | 3 | 7 |
| Washington | 3 | 6 |
| Alabama | 2 | 6 |
| Kansas | 2 | 2 |
| Mississippi | 2 | 3 |
| New Mexico | 2 | 3 |
| Oklahoma | 2 | 3 |
| Alaska | 1 | 2 |
| Arkansas | 1 | 1 |
| Delaware | 1 | 3 |
| Hawaii | 1 | 2 |
| Idaho | 1 | 2 |
| Indiana | 1 | 2 |
| Kentucky | 1 | 1 |
| Missouri | 1 | 2 |
| Nevada | 1 | 1 |
| New Hampshire | 1 | 2 |
| South Carolina | 1 | 2 |
| District of Columbia | 1 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 257 | 479 |
| East | 135 | 252 |
| West | 124 | 227 |

- 45 FIRST TIMERS
- 49 Reno Tour
- 171 Napa Valley Tour
- 247 San Francisco Tour
- 107 Alcatraz Tour
- 232 Early Bird Buffet
- 325 PX Nite
- 433 Banquet Dinner Dance
- 195 Breakfast Buffet

1992 Reunion Attendees San Francisco, California

The following is the list of attendees at the 1992 Reunion in San Francisco including Members, Wives and Guests. If your name does not appear it is because you failed to fill out a registration form during your visit.

An asterisk (*) in front of a name indicates a First Timer.

69th DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

- Fred J. Avery Virginia
- Tom Damron California
- Walter Doernbach New Jersey
- Guest: daughter Priscilla*
- Dutch and Jeanne Hawn Colorado
- George Loikow Virginia
- Bob Myers Arizona
- Guest: Jean Marshall*
- Sumner Russman Oklahoma
- Edward Wallin California
- Joe and Eleanor Wright Missouri

69th MPs

- Carl and Ruth Miller Ohio
- John Moriarty Massachusetts

69th QUARTERMASTER

- Warren Alford Louisiana
- *Gino Biancalana California
- Grant Brown Arizona
- *Tony and Edna DeCesare California
- Epi Granillo Arizona
- Guest: Son Ronald*
- Keith and Mary Lou Mower California
- Henry and Esther Orsi California
- *Albert and Dana Puccinelli California
- *Sam Rodriguez California
- Victor Woo California
- Guests: Steve Owling, Marion Sanchez,
 Vicky Woo, Judy Huie*

69th RECON

- *Jim and Mary Haight California

269th ENGINEERS

- *Cy Abrams California
- Guest: Ann Carlton*
- Ernest and Mary Krause Illinois
- Frank Nemeth Pennsylvania
- Frank and Grace Packard Massachusetts
- Ward and Marian Peterson Pennsylvania

369th MEDICAL BATTALION

- Frank and Ruth Andrews Ohio
- *James Bann California
- William Bowman Virginia

569th SIGNAL COMPANY

- Al and Madelyn Eichhammer Florida
- George and Dorothy Hepp New York
- Ed and Frances Hoskins Texas
- Joseph Kotsko Ohio
- *Vic Lautz California
- Curt and *Evelyn Peterson Wisconsin
- Donald and Lois Pierce Pennsylvania

(Continued on Page 12)

1992 REUNION ATTENDEES
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

(Continued from Page 11)

769th ORDNANCE COMPANY

Joseph Selb New Jersey

271st INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

John Barrette Wisconsin
John and Barbara Davis Pennsylvania
Lee Wah New Jersey

COMPANY A

*Allan and Bobbi Gwynne California
Charles and Marion Oliver Louisiana
John and Mary Pereira California
Delbert and Donna Philpott California
George and Rita Wolff South Carolina
Emil and Elena Zerenga New York

COMPANY B

L.J. and Patsy Bocek Nebraska
Helmuth and Pearl Boehm California
Charles Nicely Pennsylvania
Guest: Bobbie Laviano
(NOTE: Bobbi became Mrs. Nicely when they were married in Reno.)
Orrie Pullen Michigan
Guest: Joanne Randall
Ken and Lillian Upton Louisiana
Charles and Patricia Walsh Wisconsin
James and Barbara Walsh Connecticut
Wayne Weygandt Illinois
Guest: Thora Miller

COMPANY C

C.J. Crowley New Mexico

COMPANY D

John and Jean Butkovich Washington
Al Haag Wisconsin
*John and Dena Tounger California

2nd BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

*David and Edith Cohen California
Guest: Son Richard

COMPANY E

Elmer and Erma Broneske Colorado
Robert Dimmick Georgia
*Robert Hosea Colorado
Carl Kaiser California
*Joseph and Jane Kurt Iowa
Bing Poon Washington, D.C.
William and Georgia Rehman Washington
Paul and Marian Shadle Pennsylvania
James Sharpe Wisconsin
William and Marjorie Taylor Florida

COMPANY G

Clifton and Pauline Barbieri Virginia
Edward and *Jacqueline Chando New Jersey
Nathan and Rhoda Green New York
Glenn and Nadine Hunnicutt Nebraska
Daniel and Rita Malinowski Ohio
Guests: Gary and Donna Reynolds
*William McCague California
Ralph and Josephine Plugge Illinois

*Lynn and Lou Jones Tennessee
*Ralph Utermoehlen Kansas

COMPANY K

Robert and Irene Bishop Massachusetts

COMPANY M

*Larry and Raylene Heath California
William and Reba Sheavly Maryland
James and Mary Shoemaker Florida
Richard and Claire Sodorff Idaho
*James and Dottie Stacy California

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

Edgar Biles Arizona
Ralph and Georgia Bradford California
Arthur and Nancy Holgate New Jersey

CANNON COMPANY

Alfred and Rita Blain Massachusetts
*Harold and Nancy Faulkner California

271st MEDICS

*Kent and Virginia Mason California

SERVICE COMPANY

Leroy and Maria Keller Virginia
Guest: Virginia Allen

272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

*Pat and Sonia Kennedy California

COMPANY A

James and *Mary Battin California
L. Raymond and Eileen Olson New Jersey
Edgar and Frances Parsons North Carolina

COMPANY B

*Nicholas and Kathryn Giannone New York
Richard and Gerry Hadley Colorado
*William and Jeanne Higgins Nebraska

COMPANY C

John and Jane Seeba Georgia
Charles Weaver Ohio

COMPANY D

John and Joan Mason California

COMPANY E

Fred and Mavis Butenhoff Wisconsin
Al and Pat Westlake California
Guest: Son John Sinayi
Chet and Barbara Yastrzemski New York

COMPANY F

Herb Callaway Texas
Neil Shields Pennsylvania
*David and Jeanne Theobald California
Melvin and Louise Wardin Michigan

COMPANY G

Anees and Barbara Barakat Pennsylvania
Millard and Fredda Carter Texas
Guest: Daughter Kay White
Will Frazee Ohio
Ray Lehman Iowa
Guest: Eva Benson
James and Helen Vogel California

(Continued on Page 13)

1992 REUNION ATTENDEES
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

(Continued from Page 12)

272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

COMPANY I

Adrian and Marion Eckhardt New Jersey
Robert and Vivian Kurtzman Ohio
Guests: Pat and Marge Doyle,
Roy and Marianne Kurtzman,
Ralph and Ginny Kurtzman
Ed McDonnell New York
Thomas and Jeanne Reardon Pennsylvania
Harold and Ethel Ruck Tennessee
Guest: Daughter Lisa

COMPANY K

Stanley and Laurene Knedlik Arkansas

COMPANY L

Bernard and Edith Zaffern Michigan

COMPANY M

Harold and Aldora Gonsalves California
Floyd and Catherine McCalip Mississippi
Raymond and Alice Wolthoff Florida

CANNON COMPANY

Ralph and Ursula Goebel Minnesota

272nd MEDICS

Jack and Barb Theisen Minnesota

273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Norman and Kay Barratt California
Ben Foy North Carolina
Guest: Ralph Mash

*Edgar and Anne Frimann California
Norman and Juanita Pickford Illinois

HEADQUARTERS, 1st BATTALION

*David and Lois Himebaugh Washington
Bill Robertson California
Ralph and Cecilia Scholtz New York

COMPANY A

Ray Fahrner Pennsylvania
Charles and Kathryn Hammond Nebraska
Jack and Carolyn Houghton Colorado
Edward Lucci New York
*George O'Bryan California
Pierce Rice Virginia
*William and Elsie Scally California
*Herbert Smith California
Bennie and Marcella Srubar Texas

COMPANY B

Arthur and Billie Hall Oregon
Eugene and Marilyn Mischke Illinois
Bob Peason New Jersey
Robert Shaw California
Leo Wright Kentucky

COMPANY C

Kent O'Kelly Mississippi
Emmett and Rosemary Stelzer Texas
Guests: Gareld and Helen Stelzer

COMPANY D

Edgar and Mary Case Pennsylvania
*Gordon and Yvonne Hanson California
*Frank and Edith Hendrickson Oregon
Roland and Janice Hendrickson Oregon
George and Barbara Johnson Virginia
Gordon and Joan Mohr New York
Robert McCarty Louisiana
Kenneth Sawyer Florida
Guest: Fran Collard
*Clifford Williams North Carolina

HEADQUARTER COMPANY, SECOND BATTALION

Victor and Olga Ostrow Maryland

COMPANY E

Joseph and Virginia Aiello New York
*John and Dianna Dremel California
William Gleason Minnesota
Arthur and Marian Hume Michigan
William and Jane Matlach New York
Al and Lotti Shires Florida

COMPANY F

Thomas and Jean Graves Florida
Walter and Shirley Harpain California
Richard and Joy Hopkins California
Fred and Mary Ellen Scherer New Jersey
*Jeep and Muriel Wolfe California
Sammy and Anne Woolf New York

COMPANY G

Alfred and Betty Aronson New Jersey
Willard and Dorris Beecher Florida
Ruth Johnston Pennsylvania
Joe and Diane Panganiban California
Orville and Beulah Schultz California
Edson and Tory Stagg New Jersey

COMPANY H

Robert and Roberta Andrew Pennsylvania
Bert and Rhoda Eckert New York
Tom Hoffman Florida
Leland Jones Kansas
Charles and Doris Locke New Jersey
Guest: Estella Esher
Anthony and Elizabeth Mruk New York

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION

*George and Vita Boyd Illinois
*Marvin and Miriam Freeman Connecticut
David and Miriam Malchick New York
John and Judy Sneary Ohio

COMPANY I

William and Beverly Armstrong Iowa
Justin and Robbie Bloom Maryland
James and Audrey Castrale Nebraska
*Clyde Hobson Oregon
George and Janet Houseal Pennsylvania
Carl and Berniece Macknair Pennsylvania
John and Lorna Penny Illinois
Robert and Theresa Pierce California
Guests: Tim and Dottie Pierce and Dot Brandon
Robert and Doris Rogers Illinois
Earnest and Betty Rowe Delaware
Guest: Daughter Karen
Erwin and Carmen Sanborn New Hampshire

(Continued on Page 14)

1992 REUNION ATTENDEES
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

(Continued from Page 13)

273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

COMPANY K

*Robert and Helen Robbins California
Eldon and Marjie Atwood California
*James and Mary Jolly California

COMPANY M

Fred and Nan Johnson Arizona
Raul Nava California

CANNON COMPANY

Arlie and Parley Boswell Illinois
Lee Wilson California
Guest: Jean Kremetz

SERVICE COMPANY

Stanley and Wanda Olszewski Connecticut

DIVISION ARTILLERY

Bob Bement Colorado
Tom and Jean Brannan Alabama
Guests: Cari Brannan, Sasha Pierce
Charles and Edith Chapman Virginia
*Edward Gibson Texas
Stacy and Natalie Gooch New Mexico
Douglas Hall Louisiana
Bill and Kathleen Hutchinson California
*Charles McGuire California
Robert and Mary Sylva Hawaii

724th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

BATTERY A

Leonard and Alma Braverman California
William and Patricia Ruebsamen California

BATTERY B

Thomas and Helen Heath New York
Gladys Heliseva New York
Guest: Margaret Shalabry

BATTERY C

Howard Hawk California
Coy and Erlene Horton North Carolina
James and Phyllis Newcombe Oklahoma
John Rosenbrock California
John Turner Georgia
Guests: Joyce Turner and Denise Nuchols

879th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

*Earl Ramsey California
Robert and Alice Stern Ohio

880th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Harold Oling California
Emil and Peggy Paoletta Ohio

BATTERY A

James and Geneva Bilbrey Tennessee

BATTERY B

Frank and Joan Alfiero New Jersey

SERVICE BATTERY

William and Loretta Stump Indiana

881st FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Cecil and Mary Lou Ammons Alabama
*William Brooks California
James and Tillie Boris Pennsylvania

BATTERY A

Francis and Zita Enright Wisconsin

BATTERY B

Walter and Alice Haag California
LaMoine Kohl Nebraska
Guest: Son Dusty

Emil Matys Nevada
James Moen Minnesota
Gil and Susan Rocco Pennsylvania
Guest: Son Gil, Jr.

Phil and Harriet Sparacino Wisconsin
Daniel and Margie Sparks Pennsylvania
Eugene and Jacqueline Tabacchi Pennsylvania

BATTERY C

Carl Schumaker Wisconsin
Lester Hart Ohio

SERVICE BATTERY

Stephen Rojcewicz Massachusetts

661st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Donald and Maurine Miller Arizona
Warren and Dorothy Mitchell California
Sandy and Em McNealy California
Guy Nowells Oregon
*Romaine and Mary Repair California
Robert and Bess Stone Texas

777th TANK BATTALION

James and Thurlo Bristol Pennsylvania
Henry and Doris Jurkiewicz Florida
Andy and Laura LaPatka Pennsylvania
Alex and Florence Lasseigne Louisiana
*Robert Mendivil California
Arthur Psaltis California
Henry and Jean Putala Connecticut
Gaylord and Ruth Thomas Wisconsin
Robert Weise New York
Alex Zubrowski New York



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
To All 69ers and Their Families.



President's Briefing



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

This briefing begins my last year as your president. As I mentioned in my first message to you, I approached this assignment with much apprehension. I'm sure that feeling will exist until August 1993 when it is time to step aside. However, I can now see the light at the end of the tunnel thanks to your support.

Many fine things have occurred during our past year. For example, **Frank Nemeth** after many years as our Secretary, asked to be relieved and up stepped **Bill Sheavly** to take his place. **Bill** is doing an outstanding job and future presidents will be very fortunate to have him as part of their team. Then **Tony Keller** felt compelled to be replaced after approximately 15 years of service. Fortunately, **Ed Lucci**, a superbly qualified CPA, stepped forward. Again no loss of expertise. When **Alex Kormas** was unable to attend at San Francisco, he arranged to have jackets, shirts and caps shipped to reunion headquarters. **Frank Nemeth**, **Bill Sheavly** and others stepped up and handled the sale of all our trinkets as well.

Fortunately for me and for **Bob Pierce**, as well as all attendees at San Francisco, **Bob Kurtzman** did his usual exemplary job as treasurer, and, along with **Vivian**, provided a major part in assisting **Theresa Pierce** and her committee with our very efficient registration desk.

In answer to the request for back-up assistance as legal advisor, I am very pleased to announce that **Bernie Zaffern** has agreed to be a co-legal advisor. We are still in need of a back-up chaplain and also a replacement for **Bob Kurtzman** as our treasurer. Anyone interested please let me or the Nominating Committee Chairman, **Walter Holmlin** know.

Now for the crowning event of the past year. If you had any doubts about the San Francisco reunion, ask anyone who attended about their feelings. You will find, I am sure, that the entire production was "big time." It was carried off with real professionalism. **Bob** and **Theresa Pierce** and their wonderful committee, many of whom were first timers, did a fantastic job. **Bob**, **Theresa** and your committee workers - those of us fortunate enough to attend, salute you for a performance well done.

I now move on to our next reunion. **Jack and Mary Duffy** assure me that Rochester, New York is coming together and they expect to have a totally memorable reunion. I know we can count on it.

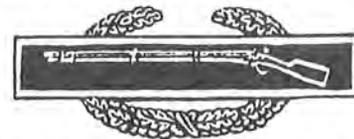
Many of you missed a truly great reunion in San Francisco. Don't let it happen to you in Rochester. Most of us live much closer to Rochester and travel time and cost should be more advantageous. I don't believe it should be necessary to repeat that it is later than you think. The 111 men listed in the Taps section of the last two bulletins should be a sufficient reminder.

Again, I wish to acknowledge the many first timers who attended the reunion. It is our hope that we may see them at future reunions. Ours is essentially a social organization which affords a wonderful way to go to different places, see different things and associate with wonderful people in a true sense of comradeship. There are no strangers and God bless you all.

Old Army Buddies Meet in San Francisco after 47 years



Albert Blain and Harold Faulkner of Cannon Company, 271st Infantry Regiment met after 47 years at the San Francisco Reunion.



The rifleman fights without promise of either reward or relief. Behind every river there's another hill — and behind that hill, another river.

After weeks or months in the line only a wound can offer him the comfort of safety, shelter, and a bed.

Those who are left to fight, fight on, evading death but knowing that with each day of evasion they have exhausted one more chance for survival.

Sooner or later, unless victory comes this chase must end on the litter or in the grave.

by General Omar Bradley

Treasurer's Message



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

Another reunion is over and the new 1992-93 dues year is upon us. Vivian and I had the pleasure of driving to San Francisco and in all our trips across this great land of ours, this was the most pleasant of them all, as with all the rain we have been getting, everything was nice and green and the crops were beautiful. Now we must pray that the weather cooperates for the Farmers to harvest their bountiful crops.

The San Francisco reunion was a pleasure to attend as you can attest to the report that Bob Pierce made. It was a pleasure to work with them and their committee as everything went off with no hitches to anything and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves to the limit. I'm sure everyone enjoyed the fine food at the restaurants and especially the 25% discount they received on their meals. Vivian and I extend our personal thanks to Bob and Theresa Pierce for a job well done.

After arriving back home on September 4th and getting all of the reunion stuff out of the way, we picked up Bob and Jean Shaffer and Big Al and Marge Kormas and made a jaunt to Clarence's picnic where a good time was had by all with still a lot of War stories going on, especially from Al Hornyak.

We then proceeded to get the dues envelopes out before we took off for our Fall fishing trip to Canada and when we arrived back home, we had over 300 letters waiting for us.

Last year we had a total of 2,662 contribute dues which was one more than the previous year. With our roster slowly decreasing due to deaths, we probably will not reach that total again, but it would be nice if we could increase the total number of contributors from 48% to 50% for the first time.

PLEASE NOTE:

At the San Francisco Board of Directors Meeting, it was decided that the \$5.00 regular dues would be discontinued and the dues would be raised to a minimum of \$10.00. This will take effect with the upcoming 1993-1994 dues year starting August 1, 1993. Our resources have slowly been dropping and we find that it takes at least \$10.00 per contributing member to meet our bulletin and operating expenses. We hope that the 14% who contributed 51% of our dues total will continue to do so and that the other 86% can see fit to up their ante a little bit.

Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.
Treasurer

A Great Day with 69ers



Kurtzman's Yard - August 1992
 Left to right: Bob Shaffer, Fern Pugh, Bob Kurtzman, Jean Shaffer, Margaret Kormas, Lewis Pugh, Vivian Kurtzman, Al Kormas and the Kurtzman's next door neighbor.

On a beautiful day the Kormas' and Shaffers met at the Kurtzman's for a day of happiness. First we went to the sumptuous Amish Door messhall, then a ride in Bob's new Safari van, now known as Bwana Safari Bob. We toured the picturesque Ohio valley, and then headed back to the Kurtzman's sitting in the back yard, enjoying being together and just feeling that all's right with the world, etc. And who cruises up very slowly but Lou and Fern Pugh, of Company C, 880th Field Artillery Battalion. What a surprise - and a very enjoyable bull session and conversation. It seems as though they had just come from the same mess hall we had just left. They had joined the Elys of Columbus, Ohio, the McFarlins from Jeromesville nearby, and a couple from New York whose names elude me at the moment. What a small world. Too bad they did not all come down together.

Now it was a mini reunion. Lou was telling us how years ago, at 2330 hours, Lou and Rico D'Angelo both of Company C, 880th, had pounded on Bob's windows for admittance.

The Pughs had to leave and the Shaffers and the rest of us enjoyed a huge platter of fresh perch caught by Bob and Vivian on their semi-annual vacation and there was also homemade deep dish cherry pie by Jean Shaffer. This was living to the ninth degree, especially with comrades from the 69th.

All too soon it was time to motor back home the 70 miles. This was a great day with comrades - and we are all looking forward to many, many more - as long as Bob keeps fishing and Jean keeps baking. How blessed we are.

Sincerely,
 Marge and Howitzer Al Kormas
 Bwana Safari Bob and Vivian Kurtzman
 Bob and Jean Shaffer
 Lou and Fern Pugh

Headquarters Company, 269th Engineers

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

OLIVER "MAC" McCONAHY
supplied these photos
to Frank Nemeth.

*Photo right: T/5 Oliver "Mac" McConahy,
Captain Paul Locke, T/5 Willie Clayton
Colditz, Germany - 1945*



*T/5 Donald Thornton, T/5 Horace Gordon
Kneeling: T/5 Harold Guthrie - Germany 1945*



*269th Engineers heavy equipment leaving Weymouth for LeHavre,
France in December of 1944. Company H & S*



*Sergeant Charles Krichten, Captain Paul Locke, T/5 Willie
Clayton. Colditz, Germany - 1945*



*Left to right:
Kneeling
John Lee

First Row:
??,
Harold Guthrie
Sgt. Lee Tobias

Second Row:
Jim Dowsky
Charles Griffin

Top:
Luis Rivera
Mess Sergeant
Camp Shelby*

69th Infantry Division Assn. 1993 Reunion Rochester, New York

Facility: Holiday Inn, Genesee Plaza

Location: 120 East Main Street, Rochester, New York 14604

Major airline service: American, Continental, Delta, Mohawk, Northwest, Trans World, U.S. Air and United

Time from airport: 15-20 minutes. Distance: approx. 4 miles

Transportation (airport/hotel): Hotel Courtesy Van

Facility Rooms: Capacity: 464 Guaranteed: 350

Room Rates: \$68.00 + tax.

TAX: 7% State/County, 4% Hotel/Motel

MEETING ROOMS:

Registration Room (Association): Open Monday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Minimum capacity 100. To include bulletin board space, house telephone, long tables and chairs.

Hospitality Room: Minimum capacity 300. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. Refreshments to be paid for and served by the Association Committee. Open bar at no charge to members or guests. Service to include all well drinks, keg and bottled beers, wines and soft drinks.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Male members and the Ladies Auxiliary meet separately, but in adjacent rooms. A full coffee and tea service, with a variety of fruit juices and sweet rolls, will be provided on tables outside of the meeting rooms in an area easily accessible to both meetings.

TENTATIVE TOURS:

As of now, it looks like we'll have a series of mini boat tours on the Genesee River and Erie Canal on Tuesday, a tour of the Sonnenberg Gardens and the Casa Larga Vineyards on Wednesday, and a tour of George Eastman House National Museum of Photography and the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum on Thursday. We may be able to arrange for a charter to the Finger Lakes Racetrack (runners) on Friday while others are golfing or attending the Board Meeting.

NOTE: Activities page will appear in the next bulletin with firm daily schedule and cost. Room reservation sheet appears in this bulletin but you need not mail until after the first of the year. You may now plan your vacation around these dates. A large turnout is expected. Do have a good Christmas and New Year's. We look forward to seeing you all in Rochester, New York.

Hurry, Hurry - Closeout!

Just a few 69th Shirts, Jackets and Caps left - Not all sizes, or colors.
Write ASAP.

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| White Shirts | \$15.00 |
| Jackets | \$20.00 |
| Caps | \$ 5.00 |

Shipping Cost: \$3.00 per order

Write NOW to:

Howitzer "Al" Kormas, "X" Supply Sergeant
12500 Edgewater - 503, Lakewood, Ohio 44107

P.S. YOUR LAST CHANCE, MEN!!

Division Headquarters & Headquarters Company



Cole and Burkette painting a Jeep at Naunhof, May 1945.

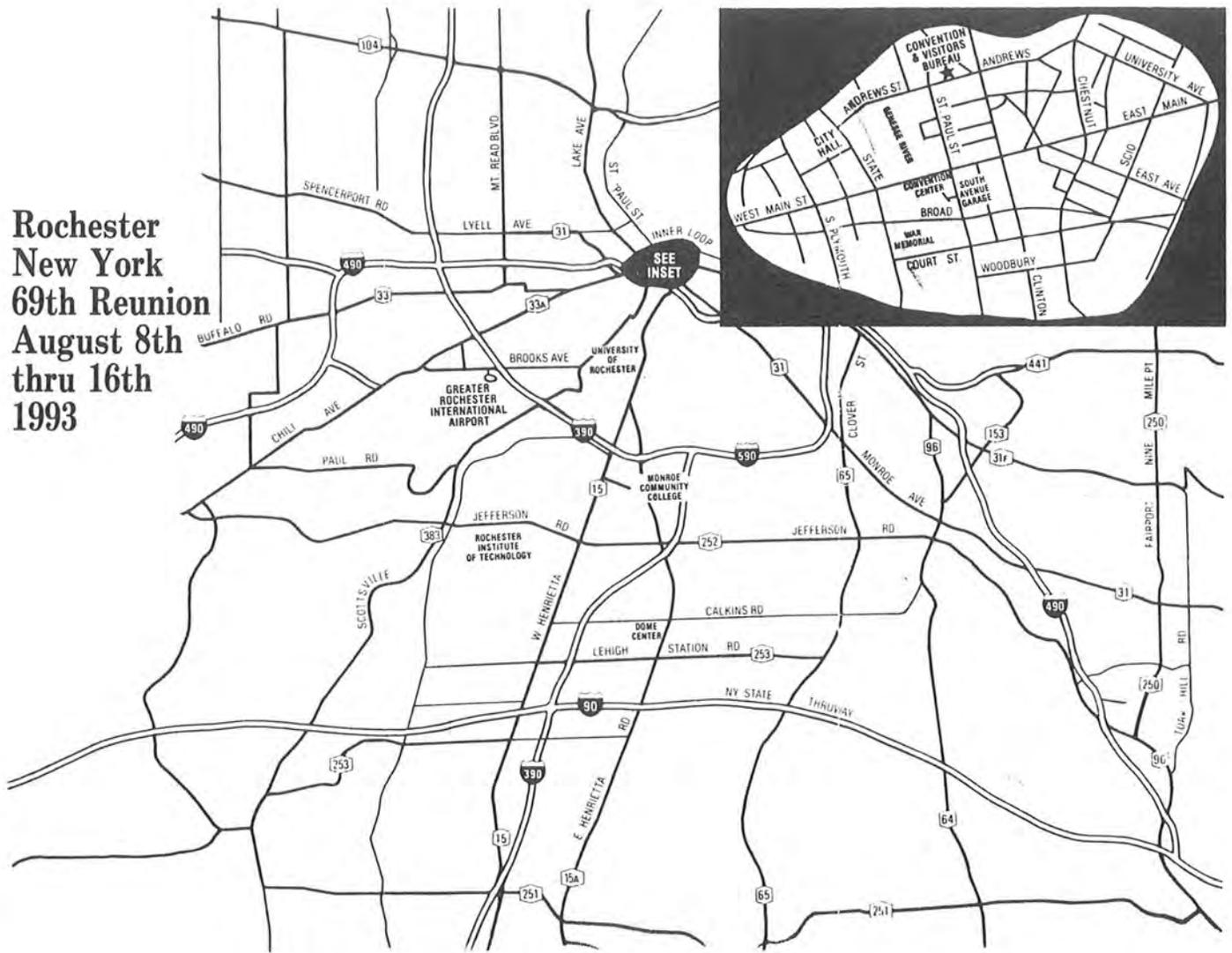


Hendriks and Jeffery Schmitheim, March 1945



Left to right: Stanley, Jaesenki, Webb, Franks, Benny, Ash, Sale, Wood. Headquarters Co. Cooks, October 1944

**Rochester
New York
69th Reunion
August 8th
thru 16th
1993**



**Former Members of
Company A,
273rd Infantry**

Photos furnished by Arthur Pfeifer

Photo right: Arthur Pfeifer



**69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 1993 REUNION
46th ANNUAL REUNION ★ 50th ANNIVERSARY
461st AAA BN. - 661st T.D. BN. - 777th TANK BN.
HOLIDAY INN — Genesee Plaza, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK
AUGUST 8th thru 16th, 1993**

Reservations:

HOLIDAY INN - GENESEE PLAZA
120 East Main Street
Rochester, New York 14604-1699
Telephone: 716/546-6400 Fax: 716/546-3908

HOUSING: Please reserve one of the following:

\$68.00 + Single _____ \$68.00 + Double - 2 persons _____ \$68.00 + Triple - 3 persons _____

\$68.00 + Quad - 4 persons _____ ALL REGULAR ROOMS - \$68.00 + TAX***

Print full names of ALL persons sharing room: _____

NOTE: Special accommodations required:

HANDICAPPED (if available) _____ KING SIZE BED _____ NON-SMOKING _____

I / We plan to arrive (day) _____, August _____, 1993. (Check in after 3:00 P.M.)

I / We plan to depart (day) _____, August _____, 1993. (Check out time - 12:00 Noon)

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

If possible, I/We wish to be quartered near other guests from the same Unit (Specify): _____

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 HOLIDAY INN, Genesee Plaza, 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 the HOLIDAY INN - Genesee Plaza to make charges on my Credit Card.

Your Signature _____

***NOTE: As of September 1st, 1992, the following taxes will apply: Hotel/Motel Room Tax 4%, State/County Sales Tax 7½%.
In March of 1993 an additional ½% may be added to the State/County Sales Tax.

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

Reservations must be received not later than July 15, 1993. 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 prior to August 5, 1993.

Dottie and Me



Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.

Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.
Bulletin Coordinating Manager
 Post Office Box 69
 Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
 Telephone: 412/455-2901

Dottie and I would like to thank all you 69ers for your thoughtfulness in our absence from the San Francisco reunion this past August. We appreciated all the fine cards and notes plus telephone calls from all over these United States telling us to get well for you all missed us.

Dottie had an emergency appendix operation on June 5th and is making out real good now. I started to get hard, rough breathing and had to go to the doctor when, guess who, Dottie, made the appointment. After all the testing and other things you go through, I was told I had a heart condition. I had a rapid heartbeat and my heart was skipping beats at times also. This was something similar to what President Bush had. The doctor told me it could be taken care of with medication with no operations needed. The tests all showed good with no blockages or other complications, so we are happy about that. We just want to thank you all for your kindness in thinking so much of us.

We will see you all in Rochester if not sooner at Canaan Valley in West Virginia for the Tri-State weekend. The doctor made us cancel our four week reunion vacation to California but he did just recently allow us to go to Ameriflora '92 in Columbus, Ohio. Then we were allowed to go to Erie, Pennsylvania for the 461st AAA, Battery B Weekend. They were a nice group of soldiers and wives with some saying they will hopefully make Rochester, New York in '93. We wish that Gil and Susan Rocco would stay at home once in a while.

Guess we ran our luck out-too far as the doc put thumbs down on going to the 880th Field Artillery Battery A, the 69th Recon Troops, Battery C 880th Field Artillery and the 461st AAA Headquarters Battery and Medical Detachment Weekends. Hopefully we can make these next year if all goes well. He did say OK for the late October Central Pennsylvania Weekend. We look forward to seeing you fine people in York.

For the next three bulletins, I am going to list the minigroups and unit weekends with some comments. They are:

- **Company D, 272nd Infantry** — Only one couple attended the 69th Reunion in California
- **Mid-West Group** — Many attended the 69th Reunion in California
- **Company A, 273rd Infantry** — Held their mini in conjunction with the 69th Reunion in California
- **Company E, 273rd Infantry** — Held their mini in conjunction with the 69th Reunion in California

- **Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 273rd Infantry** — Held their mini in conjunction with the 69th Reunion in California
- **Battery C, 724th Field Artillery** — Held their mini in conjunction with the 69th Reunion in California
- **881st Field Artillery, B Battery** — Held their mini in conjunction with the 69th Reunion in California
- **Company D, 273rd Infantry** — Hold weekends and also attended the 69th Reunion in California with a nice attendance
- **Tri-State Group** — Hold weekends and have a nice attendance at 69th Reunions. Somewhat down in California.
- **269th Engineers** — Held reunion in conjunction with 69th Reunion in California. Down some this year.

We sure would like to see more minis help hold up the 69th Parent Association by attending reunions, especially when the reunion is near your area of holding a Mini Unit or Group. The 1993 reunion will be held in Rochester, New York at the Holiday Inn, August 8th thru 16th and the 1994 reunion will be held in Nashville, Tennessee at the Sheraton Music City Hotel, August 21st thru 28th. No site has been picked for 1995 but one is being considered.

These are the times when minis should start holding reunions for the 69th Association for if you can run a mini, I am sure you can run an Association reunion. You need a chairman and you have the rest to handle the needs. Look at the turnouts you have at your mini reunions. That's plenty of people to help. We only need eight to ten couples to run a reunion, a hotel or motel with 350 or more rooms plus it should be close to main interstates and airports. With "Taps" increasing, soon larger hotels and motels will not be needed so it should make things easier for running a reunion. It's getting late in our years of life, so let's start holding hands more often. Once you attend a 69th reunion, I am sure you'll be back unless something unfortunate happens like sickness, finances, or other problems only you and your family know of.

HOPE TO SEE ALL OF YOU IN ROCHESTER IN JUST NINE MONTHS. Don't forget the lap robes ladies.

USS Arizona Memorial Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

I am only one,
 But still I am one.
 I cannot do everything,
 But still I can do something;
 And because I cannot do
 everthing

I will not refuse to do the
 something that I can do.
 EDWARD EVERETTE HALE

And if, within
 the ancient universe,
 There yet remains
 one spark of charity,
 Brother, give us that spark,
 that by its light
 We may reread the chapter
 of our time,
 And from this flickering
 chronicle relearn

The truths that might have been self-evident.

RUSSELL W. DAVENPORT



Headquarters Company, 273rd Infantry Regiment



Ken Reitz in Germany



Back Row: Dow, Epperly, ??, Sergeant Lieblein. Front Row: Corporal Haines, Orwig, Weber, Johnson. I&R Platoon, Headquarters Company, in Germany.



*Far left with helmet, Steve Boucher
Second man in, unknown
3rd man in front of picture looking down,
Sergeant Lieblein
Man leaning against tree, Wally Dow
Man sitting in jeep, Bert Lang
Man sitting on jeep, unknown
Last man leaning on jeep, Cooper Eastman
I&R Platoon, Headquarters, 273rd*

Photos submitted by: Norman Barratt
666 Barneson Avenue
San Mateo, California 94401
Photos sent to him by: Kenneth Reitz
R.D. #3, Box 136
Birdsboro, Pennsylvania 19508
Both of Headquarters, 273rd Infantry



*Bernard Kirshenbaum, S-3 Clerk
Camp Shelby*



*Cooper Eastment: Left rear - Mess Hall.
Right rear - Orderly & Supply Room*



*Marcus Jackson, Company Clerk
Camp Shelby*



*Sergeant Lieblein and Sergeant Otron
 Hattiesburg, Mississippi*



Sergeant Zoss and Proetti

CANNON PICTURE PUZZLE SOLVED

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

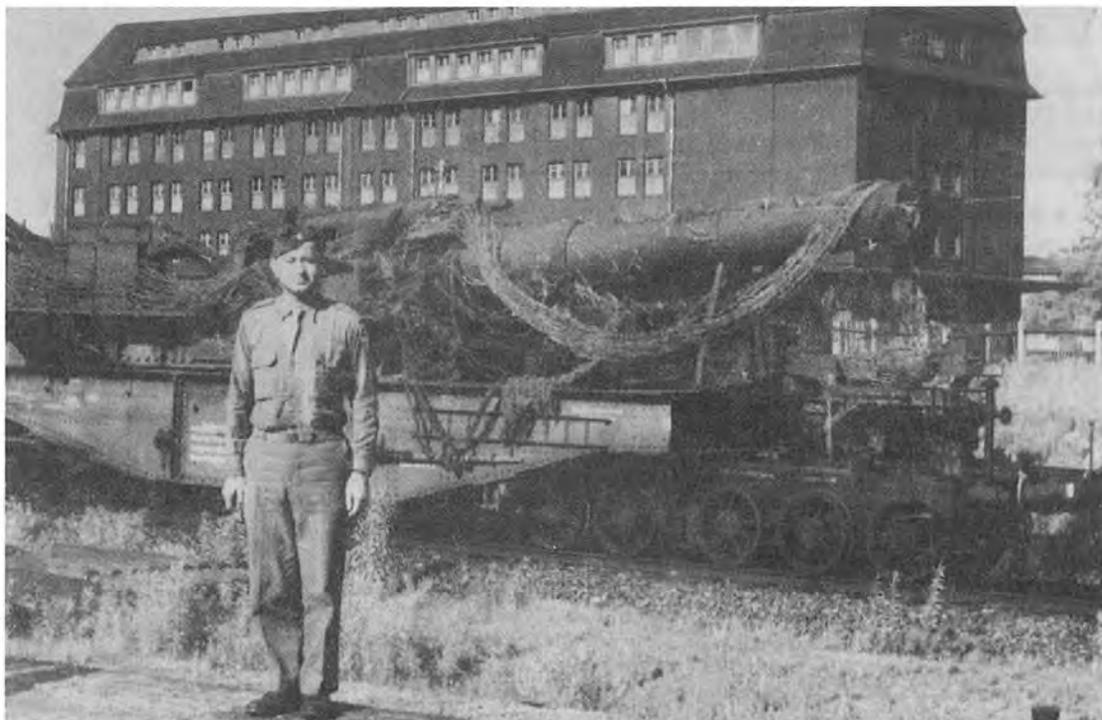
In the last issue of the Bulletin, Page 17, Volume 45, No. 3, Leo Litter had submitted the photo below asking if anyone could help him identify the location of the gun and the factory behind it. He received the following response:

Dear Leo,

I had an opportunity to show your large rail gun and picture to a fellow World War II veteran. His name is **Malcolm Jones** of Pulaski, Tennessee.

He was not a member of the 69th but was assigned to a bastard heavy artillery outfit in support.

He remembers vividly the location and the gun. He immediately recalled this rail gun that was located in Metz, France and claimed the gun pulled back into a tunnel in the hillside on the left. Also, Metz was noted in producing munitions. The building in the background is of a French architecture having a mansard roof.



I hope this helps you clear up the identification of the location and the cannon.

Sincerely,
Jim Mynes, Company K, 273rd Infantry
 1411 Regency Boulevard, S.E., Decatur, Alabama 35601

THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE



Dottie Witzleb

by — Dottie Witzleb
Ladies Auxiliary Editor
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 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



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 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

A Message from your Auxiliary President, Maria Keller

Greetings to the Ladies of the 69th Auxiliary.

First of all, welcome to the first timers that attended the San Francisco Reunion Auxiliary Meeting. It was also a pleasure to have 87 regular members attend our Saturday meeting. The weather was beautiful and the Airport Marriott rolled out the welcome mat. Several guests attended also.

We sincerely missed many of our faithful members who were not able to attend due to the long distance or ill health. Those that carried on are appreciated.

The minutes of the meeting will bring you up to date on what went on. We thank Marianne Kurtzman for serving as Secretary pro tem.

We appreciate the 41 lap robes and 20 pairs of slippers for the two Veterans Hospitals. Those of you that mailed in the lap robes are to be commended. The size is 36" by 45" and should be made of washable material.

Thank all of you for your letters and telephone calls and encouragement throughout the year. It was mighty nice to have so many ladies willing to help with the meeting.

Be sure to send your \$2.00 dues to **Bob Kurtzman** to help pay our bills. The question of a raise in dues will be voted on in Rochester. We might consider either a \$4.00 or a \$5.00 amount. I will appreciate letters from you expressing your views. The men raised the dues to \$10.00 at their August meeting.

To add to the pleasure of our San Francisco trip, we flew to Eugene, Oregon to visit two first cousins and had the opportunity to tour that beautiful state.

My sister, Gin Allen, wishes to thank **Bob** and **Theresa Pierce** and the others of you that made this a special week in her life.

Bob and **Theresa**, you provided us with a week that will live in our minds and hearts forever. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Maria Keller
President, Women's Auxiliary

*Happy Holidays to all 69ers
 from the Ladies Auxiliary.*

(Continued on Page 25)



Maria Keller sent us this photo of Leroy Keller on their visit to Turner Printing in Paducah, Kentucky, the company that printed our 69th History Book. Leroy is holding up a copy of the book with the office staff looking on.

41st Annual Meeting Ladies Auxiliary 69th Infantry Division Assn. San Francisco, California August 29th, 1992

President Maria Keller called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Following the President's welcome to the 41st Annual Meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary, Chaplain Edith Chapman led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, after which she gave the opening prayer.

President Keller introduced those seated at the head table: Vice President Alice Wolthoff, Chaplain Edith Chapman, Co-Chaplain Jeanne Hawn and Secretary Pro-Tem Marianne Kurtzman, CPS. Officers unable to attend the meeting were Secretary Stefania Nemeth and Co-Secretary Ellen McCann.

The Secretary Pro-Tem read the minutes of the September 21, 1991 meeting held in Biloxi, Mississippi, which were approved as read and as previously published in the bulletin.

Correspondence read included: A letter from J.P. Smith, Chief of Voluntary Service, Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Biloxi. Mr. Smith, writing on behalf of the Medical Center staff and patients, thanked the members of our organization for our thoughtfulness and support of the veterans through our generous donation of lap robes and a check for \$500.00 to be used for personal care and comfort items in two VA Hospitals.

On a sadder note, a letter was read from Grace Glaum who said she would be unable to attend the meeting this year, but had sent lap robes. Robert Glaum, of E-271st, suffered a heart attack at the Denver meeting and passed away in May, 1991.

In welcoming the first-timers, President Keller stated that in lieu of awarding a prize for distance traveled, the first-timer

with the greater number of grandchildren would be recognized. She asked each to introduce herself, where she hailed from, and how many grandchildren she had. Edith Hendrickson of Harbor, Oregon, was the winner, having 11 grandchildren.

First-timers were reminded to complete the blue cards provided for giving dates of birthdays and anniversaries for the Sunshine Lady.

Chaplain Edith Chapman presented the memorial service. Those remembered were Jane Bendall of Richmond, Virginia, who had attended many of the meetings, and Nyda Hall, long-time friend of Edith's, who passed away in March of this year. They will be greatly missed by all who knew them.

Our Sunshine Lady, Margie McCombs, was unable to attend this year, but a letter was read from her in which she expressed thanks for the Precious Moments figurine sent to her in August. President Keller extended appreciation for Marge's devotion to the association and for the many hours she spends writing and sending cards.

The financial report showed 688 had paid dues this year and 709 had paid dues in 1991. A dues increase was brought up from the floor, but no action was recommended for this year. President Keller extended thanks and appreciation to Bob Kurtzman, Treasurer, for all of his work in handling the Auxiliary's accounts.

Final registration figures showed 97 members and their guests in attendance, 10 of whom were first-timers.

Recognition was given to all who had assisted in making this year's meeting a successful event: Serving at the registration table were Vivian Kurtzman, Virginia Mason, Phyllis Newcomb and Josephine Plugge. Bob and Theresa Pierce, Co-Chairmen of the meeting, for their telephone calls and correspondence throughout the year, and wonderful planning for a lovely week.

Other items of interest to the group included a report on Mrs. Bolte and Janice Lushbaugh, whose husband had undergone surgery and was progressing nicely. Those in attendance were reminded to sign the cards that will be sent to them following the meeting.

Miriam Scherer moved that two donations of \$250 each be made to two Veterans hospitals in California, for a total donation of \$500. Donations to be used to purchase incidentals. The motion carried unanimously.

The dates of the next meeting of the 69th will be August 8th-16th, 1993 in Rochester, New York. At that time, officers to serve for two years will be elected.

Prior to the close of the business session, President Keller presented a crystal rose bowl, as a token of appreciation for work above and beyond the call of duty to Past President Vivian Kurtzman.

The business portion of the meeting was recessed at 10:00 a.m.

Following the business session, veteran's representatives Leslie Buchman, Chief of Volunteer Services, San Francisco Veterans Hospital and Marty Martinez, Acting Chief, Palo Alto Veterans Administration Hospital, were presented checks for \$250 each in addition to 41 lap robes and 20 pairs of slippers.

The 69th Infantry Division Vice President, Curt Peterson, brought greetings from the men's group.

Jim Boris, Chairman of the Golf Tournament, joined the group to announce winners of the golf tournament: Longest Drive, Ursula Goebel; Low Net, Tillie Boris; Second Low Net, Jane Geeba.

(Continued on Page 26)

THE AUXILIARY PAGE

(Continued from Page 25)

The entertainment for this year was a lingerie show, complete with models from the I-273rd and E-271st, donning and showing off their modeling skills in a very professional manner. Tracy Kirkland of the Chick E Downs Company, provided commentary as well as the items for the "art of dressing well for your mate" showcase. Serving as models were Donna Philpot (E-271st) and the following from I-273rd: Bev Armstrong, Janet Houser, Bernice Macknair, Theresa Pierce and Carmen Sanborn.

Gifts were distributed to all in attendance by Ursula Goebel, Jane Matlach, Esther Orsi, Ethel Ruck and Anne Woolf.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Kurtzman, CPS
Secretary Pro-Tem

Approved:
Maria Keller, President

San Francisco Ladies Auxiliary Report

By Theresa Pierce, *San Francisco Reunion Co-Chairperson*

Well, ladies, another reunion has come and gone, but one that will not soon be forgotten. How can we forget the beautiful Marriott Airport Hotel with its beautiful scenery and the walkway for the early risers to jog on. Watching the planes take off and land was a sight to see, let alone the lights across the bay.

First, I would like to thank all the ladies who helped make our first West Coast Reunion the great success that it was. A special thanks to Vivian Kurtzman who worked with me full time, assisted by Donna Philpott, Virginia Mason and Maria Keller.

As usual the highlight of our meeting was the Ladies' Auxiliary Annual Presentation to a local Veterans Hospital. Both Veteran Volunteer Organizations have sent thank you letters to me on behalf of the 69th Division Association Ladies Auxiliary.

A special thanks go to the several ladies who could not attend but sent lap robes and slippers. Grace Glaum whose husband, Robert, Company E, 271st, passed away in May of 1991. Grace was planning to attend the Reunion but due to a knee operation, she could not make it. Hope your recovery is fast and complete. We expect to see you in Rochester. Also, Catherine Radonic, wife of Edward, Medics, 272nd, sent lap robes and slipper socks in memory of Edward who passed away over two years ago. And, Aldona Mickiewicz, wife of Paul, Company I, 273rd, sent lap robes. The Mickiewicz's were unable to attend because of Paul's illness.

The lingerie fashion show at our meeting, presented by Chickie Downs and Associates, who, by the way, support and supply clothes for the Miss America Pageant, was lots of fun for all. The models for the lingerie show is another subject - they may not have been Miss Americas, but they were a knock-out anyway. It was so good they are all considering joining the professional ranks.

Donna Philpott is a special lady who deserves a special "thank you." Donna planned, coordinated, conducted a dry run, prepared the guide tour maps and escorted the Ladies Day San Francisco Shopping Spree. Around 20 ladies joined the tour group and really had a great time. We sincerely hope that future reunions remember the ladies and have some event tailored for their enjoyment. Rumor has it that some husbands also joined the Ladies Day Tour - oh well!

How about that wedding in Reno during our Reno Overnight Trip? Bobbie Laviano and Charles Nicely decided to tie the knot while there. Bill Armstrong presented them with a bottle of champagne, and they stepped on the bus amid an applause of cheers from our members.

I have to thank all the members of our committees, for assisting in passing out Exchange Gifts, taking snapshots of the presentation of gifts to our two VA hospitals. Also, those who assisted in the 50-50 drawing. And just being there whenever and wherever you were needed.

Reflecting back on this reunion, I hope you all left your hearts in San Francisco.

(Continued on Page 27)



Maria Keller, Auxiliary President, presented checks for \$250 each to Leslie Buchman and Marty Martinez, representatives of the two veterans hospitals in San Francisco.



Vice President Anne Woolf and Alice Wolthoff with laprobes which were presented to the two veterans hospitals.



Modeling the lingerie we have Jan Houseal, Theresa Pierce, Donna Philpott, Berniece Macknair, Carmen Sanborn and Bev Armstrong.



Maria Keller with her sister, Virginia Allen.

Photos for The Auxiliary's Page sent in by Theresa Pierce, Maria Keller and Marianne Kurtzman.



Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 273rd Infantry

Pictures furnished by
Marvin Freeman, 83 Lower Boulevard
New London, Connecticut 06320



*Duke de Gournay and Col. Shaughnessy
September 1945*



*Earl Walters and Marvin Freeman
Altenhain - July 1945*



Marvin Freeman, Al Rendes in back. Ed Kleinbaum and Bill Nelson in front. Altenhain - July 1945



*Hoffman, Rendes, Ressler
August 1945*

New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

Donald C. Smith — 881st Field Artillery
8301 Nicholas Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68114-2944

Roland Wiesenauer — 272nd Infantry
119 Kent Street, Auburn, Michigan 48611

Harry S. Rust — Company M, 272nd Infantry
R.D. #1, Box 371, Milford, Delaware 19963-9762

Colonel E. Blagg — Hq., 3rd Bn., 272nd Infantry
3411 Norcrest Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73121-1837

Leslie B. Payne
5831 Valley Circle, Omaha, Nebraska 68106-3767

Rush Dempsey — Hq. Divarty
726 Duncan Fork Road, Delbarton, West Virginia 23670

Edward W. Gibson — Hq. Divarty
10303 Linkwood Drive, Dallas, Texas 75238

James H. Richardson — Company C, 271st Infantry
P.O. Box 603, San Augustine, Texas 75972

Max Kaufer — Company A, 272nd Infantry
106 Mockingbird Drive, Edwardsville, Pennsylvania 18704

Russell R. Ziegert — Battery C, 881st Field Artillery
2250 West Autumn Place, Citrus Springs, Florida 34434

Robert Arvidson — Company M, 272nd Infantry
1783 Pershing, Portage, Indiana 46368

Thomas Clews
317 West Quanah Street, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74011

Arthur H. Pfeifer — Company A, 273rd Infantry
Box 566, Otis, Massachusetts 01253

Hugh I. South — Company G, 271st Infantry
312 Lalor Street, Apt. C304, Trenton, New Jersey 08611

Albert R. Hoak — Company M, 271st Infantry
618½ Riverside S.W., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87105

Christopher A. Schotte
P.O. Box 203, Fischer, Texas 78623

Paul Murdoch — 273rd Infantry
1919 Coronet #25, Anaheim, California 92801

Norman Walker, Jr. — Company C, 271st Infantry
P.O. Box 194, Wardensville, West Virginia 26851

Eugene Parker — Battery C, 724th Field Artillery
603 Idlewild Road, Bel Air, Maryland 21014

Clyde Hobson — Company C, 273rd Infantry
1586 West Ida Street, Stayton, Oregon 97383

B.J. Kirkpatrick — Battery A, 461st AAA Battalion
17715 N.W. Rolling Hill Lane, Beaverton, Oregon 97006

Robert Mendivil — 777th Tank Destroyers
450 Park Street, Redwood, California 94061

David Theobald — Company F, 272nd Infantry
8401 Moravian Court, Sacramento, California 95826

Oran R. Jones
971 Westbury Drive, Mobile, Alabama 36609

Bill Pendell — Battery C, 881st Field Artillery
20 North Perry Street, Apt. 39
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

Bernard B. Hyman
13337 Lincoln, Huntington Woods, Michigan 48070

Peter Schumacher — Hq., 880th Field Artillery
Box 833, Lemars, Iowa 51031

Fed Swearingain — Company M, 271st Infantry
Route 4, Box 85, Colquitt, Georgia 31737

Richard S. Peckham — Company B, 271st Infantry
30 Spring Rock Road, New Windsor, New York 12553

Arthur J. Psaltis — Company B, 777th Tank Destroyers
35 Kirk Avenue, San Jose, California 95127

Clifford Williams — Company D, 273rd Infantry
Route 2, Box 594, Hiddenite, North Carolina 28636

R.W. Baxter
5 Brams Point Road, Hilton Head, South Carolina 29926

Sydnor Thompson — Battery C, 879th Field Artillery
2600 Charlotte Plaza, Charlotte, North Carolina 28244

Amos H. Lewis — Battery A, 880th Field Artillery
Leisure Shores #2, Blue Eye, Missouri 65611

Edward F. Price — Battery A, 880th Field Artillery
67 Drakestown Road, Hackettstown, New Jersey 07840

Arthur G. Kimble — Company I, 272nd Infantry
HC 32, Box 258, Petersburg, West Virginia 26847

Thanks for Your Support

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT. Many fellow 69ers sent donations for the "FIRST LINK-UP MEMORIAL PARK," including a couple of friends of mine. Several fellows sent a second donation. **GOOD FOR THEM,** as they are doing something they want and believe in. To date, we have received \$7,553.81 in donations.

I have sent each person a note of appreciation from the fellows of the committee. We want to thank each of you for your generosity.

There was appreciated donations from five dollars to one thousand dollars. There were a couple of donations that I had curiosity about, as to the particular amount. One person sent eighteen dollars, I could not figure out such an odd amount. Of course, it was greatly appreciated. Another person sent sixty-nine dollars, that one I could relate to. Some nice notes were enclosed, along with some words of encouragement about the Memorial Park. **TO ALL OF YOU, WE SAY THANK YOU.**

We need some more donations to be able to keep our FLAG fund for our STARS and STRIPES in perpetuity.

I will not publish a list of the names in the 69th Bulletin, nor send a roster of names to anyone that has given a donation. You and I know who you are. Let's let the other members wonder who gave.

I was sorry that I was unable to attend the San Francisco Reunion. I got out of bed one morning the first part of April and could hardly walk. In fact, I still cannot walk. I could not possibly have walked through the airports. If I had come to the reunion, I would have had to set and watch everyone else have a good time. I could not possibly do that. Many thanks for your cards and notes.

With our very best regards,
"FIRST LINK-UP MEMORIAL PARK" Committee

William R. Beswick
Dillard M. Powell
Edgar A. "Bud" Parsons

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

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

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.

NOTE: If you are interested in some good reading, purchase "Remembering War" by Vladimir Poznar and Helena Kaysar, co-editors.

Melvin Miller writes on Meeting at the Elbe

P.O. Box 118, Hoehne, Colorado 81046

I recently received the Fighting 69th Infantry Division bulletin for May to August 1992, and I would like to throw some light on the meeting of the two armies on the Elbe.

I was a Captain with the 881st Field Artillery Battalion and was liaison officer with the 273rd Infantry Battalion of the 69th Infantry Division.

The officer who was given credit for the meeting was 2nd Lt. **Robinson** of the 273rd Battalion. He met the Russian soldiers in the middle of the Elbe on a blown out bridge and had the presence of mind to get three of the Russian soldiers to return with him to the 273rd Battalion. (see picture)

Within a few days he received orders to take his men who were with him to meet Gen. Eisenhower at SHAEF Hq.

After **Robinson's** talk with Ike, the general then turned to his aide and told him to promote these men one grade.

This was done.

When Lt. **Robinson** returned to his field, his papers promoting him to 1st Lieutenant had arrived. The big question now was, "Was he a Captain?"

Before this could be answered Lt. **Robinson** received orders to report for a bond drive in California, and he took off.

A short true story about how he met with the Russians follows: The 69th Division had orders not to patrol over, I think it was six miles, beyond the Mulde River, so he was disobeying orders when he went to the Elbe.

I was also told there was another lieutenant who on the



Russian Army men and officers meet U.S. Army Major Connelly (far left.)

same day as **Robinson** also met some Russians, maybe it was mentioned in **Trimble's** report to Janet Brasswell. Maybe it was Lt. **Albert Kotzebue**.

When **Robinson** got to the town on the Elbe River he made a U.S. Flag out of white cloth and used ink to put the stripes and stars. He then climbed up a water tower and waved the flag. The Russians started to shoot at him and down he came. After the shooting stopped he went up a second time and the same thing happened. On his third try they did not shoot, so he walked to the Elbe and met the Russians on the blown bridge.

Penned Up in Tank for 5 Hours

HEADQUARTERS - COMMUNICATION ZONE
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY

With the 28th Infantry Division in Germany, Sergeant **Francis D. Mockerts** of Soldier Grove, Wisconsin, and his Sherman tank crew didn't know whether to feel embarrassed or angry over their first encounter with the enemy.

Slashing forward through snow and mud during the attack on Schleiden, Germany, the tank hit a mine and was put out of action, the first equipment casualty in the 777th Tank Battalion.

The driver, Corporal **Dewey L. Bailey** of Canton, North Carolina, said, "After hitting the mine we started to dismount to use our sub-machine guns, but enemy snipers forced us back into our tank. "We had to stay inside for five hours, penned up like a bunch of sardines. We got ourselves, and the tank, out under cover of darkness."

Other members of the crew were PFC **Joseph L. McIntosh**, PFC **John M. Campbell** and Corporal **George W. Arnold**.

The five tank members are not only miffed about being imprisoned for five hours - they have been suffering from verbal sniping by their comrades for being the first crew put out of action in the battalion's first operation.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY MILITARY HISTORY INSTITUTE CARLISLE BARRACKS

CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA 17013-5008

The U.S. Army Military History Institute is conducting a major survey to acquire source material for research and history of World War II. We invite you, a veteran of that war, to join our effort. We seek books, camp and unit newspapers, letters home, V-Mail, diaries, memoirs, correspondence and official reports, photographs, illustrations, films, audiotapes, insignias and unit patches. Civilian and uniformed historians from all over this country and from abroad come here to study the history of our American armed forces. Veterans themselves and their families also make extensive use of our holdings. Thousands of veterans and their families have already made unconditional gifts of their material. Write to the address above. Here at the Institute your personal papers will have a permanent home and be preserved and protected.

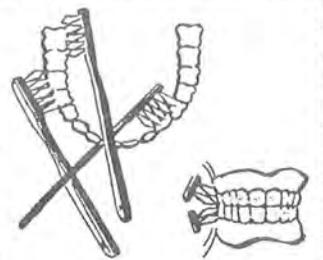
NOTE: **Howitzer Al Kormas** wrote to them and found it very interesting. They sent him a set of 50 questions pertaining to our Army experiences. This is your chance to let off steam. It is well worth the effort.

YOUR TEETH!

"SUIT YOUR OWN TASTE—BUT MAKE SURE TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH ONE OF THEM."



"GET ALL SURFACES — BRUSHING UPPERS DOWN AND LOWERS UP!"



U.S. ARMY

FOR CARE OF TEETH

DO YOU REMEMBER?

The following posters were prepared by the dental section of the surgeon's office of the 69th Infantry Division.

The Brush Your Teeth poster had a blue background and the Denture poster had a red background.

They were placed on all bulletin boards of the Division.

The artist was Irving Novick, G-2, Division Headquarters.

Submitted by
SUMNER A. RUSSMAN
Division Headquarters

Wear your Dentures. (PLATES)



WHEN IT COMES TO DATES, NO TEETH IS WORSE THAN 'B.O.'

IF YOU HAVE 'EM, USE 'EM, YOU CAN'T MISS WITH YOUR 'GI' CHOPPERS!



WHY GO ON A SOFT DIET BECAUSE YOUR DENTURES HURT YOU—

—WHEN AN ADJUSTMENT BY YOUR DENTAL OFFICER WILL BRING STEAKS BACK INTO YOUR LIFE.



DON'T BE A MR. FIXIT! IF YOUR DENTURE NEED REPAIRING, BRING ALL PIECES TO YOUR DENTAL OFFICER IMMEDIATELY!



NEW DENTURES ARE LIKE NEW SHOES, BREAK 'EM IN AND THEY FEEL FINE— SO, GIVE 'EM A CHANCE.



Put Irving Novick

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

Company D, 272nd Infantry

Ralph and Grace Schollenberger, *News Reporters*
24 Fairview Street
Boyertown, Pennsylvania 19512
Telephone: 215/367-0000

The Yorktowne Hotel in York, Pennsylvania was the site of the Company D, 272nd Infantry Regiment reunion, held on June 12, 13 and 14. The Yorktowne is one of the most beautiful and historic hotels in Pennsylvania.

The Company D members were attending this annual reunion, hosted by Ralph and Grace Schollenberger.

The reunion consisted of a Friday evening dinner at Alexander's. A Saturday morning walking tour was taken by members of the company. Some guests made separate tours of Hershey, Gettysburg and Lancaster. Saturday evening a banquet was presented in the Lafayette Room of the hotel. On Sunday an indoor picnic was held in the Lafayette Room. Other activities were enjoyed in the hospitality room. After Monday morning breakfast, the members said their farewells and departed for different places they call home.

The reunion was attended by Company D veterans, wives and guests. Several Company C members were also in attendance. A total of 48 people were present representing fourteen states.

Members Attending

Richard and Lucille Bell Watertown, South Dakota
Arthur and Alice Burkman McHenry, Illinois
Jack and Cele Burrus Arenzville, Illinois
George and Marge Estell Hazlet, New Jersey
Herbert and Kate Frye Dundalk, Maryland
J.P. and Mildred Geoffroy Erath, Louisiana
Byron Gutshall Covington, Virginia
James and Mildred Headland ... Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania
Lowell and Billie Jackson Ft. Wayne, Indiana
Morris and Marion Kaplan E. Deerfield, Florida
John and Rosemary McKeil El Portal, Florida
Pete and Grace Meade Williston Park, New Jersey
Alex Miljevic Havre De Grace, Maryland
Blake Morrison Greensboro, North Carolina
William and Patricia Patton Chevy Chase, Maryland
Ralph Pearson St. Paul, Minnesota
Louis and Judy Poliopk York, Maine
Ralph and Grace Schollenberger ... Boyerstown, Pennsylvania
Carl and Marge Swindlehurst Ferndale, Michigan
Robert and Evelyn Trate Wilmington, Delaware
William and Esther Tritt Carlisle, Pennsylvania
Henry and Louise Schenck ... Berwick, Pennsylvania (Co. C)
Raymond and Marty Strasbaugh .. York, Pennsylvania (Co. C)

The following people were guests of Company D members
Randy and Lisa Barnett Greensboro, North Carolina
Margret Lausing Watertown, South Dakota
Ouida Stelly Erath, Louisiana
Kenneth and Pat Weisel, Boyerstown, Pennsylvania

Several of the men attended the reunion for the first time while others were making a second or third appearance. It was great to renew acquaintances and a good time of fellowship and to recall years gone by.

The 1993 reunion will be held in Asheville, North Carolina, hosted by Blake Morrison and assisted by Randy and Lisa Barnett.

We wish to thank all those attending with a special thanks to the Yorktowne Hotel and their staff.

Mid-West Group

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

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



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

MIDWEST GROUP 1992 SPRING MEETING

The Midwest Group met at the Karakahl Inn in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin on May 7, 8 and 9, 1992.

We gathered in the hospitality room as we arrived on Thursday and had dinner that evening at the Karakahl Inn.

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,
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Friday provided good weather, and the golfers were out early. Non-golfers went to New Glarus, a Swiss settlement, to see the town, tour an embroidery factory and have lunch at the New Glarus Hotel. The afternoon activities were varied (resting, swimming, visiting in the hospitality room), followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant, more hospitality room and early to bed.

We want to thank Curt and Evie Peterson, who arranged this meeting. Look elsewhere in this Bulletin for information on the 1993 Spring Meeting of the Midwest Group.

New Attendees Were:

Eugene and Marilyn Mischke Spring Valley, Illinois
Ralph and Jo Plugge Calumet City, Illinois

The Regulars Present Were:

John Barrette Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin
Fred and Mavis Butenhoff Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Fran and Zita Enright Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Tom and Lorraine Hancock Pekin, Illinois
Curt and Evelyn Peterson Madison, Wisconsin
Gene and Ethel Pierron Belgium, Wisconsin
Phil and Harriet Sparacino Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Gaylord and Ruth Thomas Waupun, Wisconsin
Chuck and Pat Walsh Glendale, Wisconsin
Wayne Weygandt and Thora Miller Ottawa, Illinois



Chuck Walsh, Eugene Mischke, Gene Pierron, John Barrette



*Foreground: Wayne Weygandt, Fred Butenhoff, Chuck Walsh
Background: Ralph Plugge, Phil Sparacino*



Harriet Sparacino, Evelyn Peterson, Jo Plugge, Zita Enright

Company A, 273rd Infantry

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



I am sending a new picture to be used with this column. The guys didn't like the picture previously used.

This was an unusual reunion for me. For the past ten years, I have been vacationing with Bill and Elsie Scally, on their Gordon Valley, Napa, California Ranch. Bill was my machine gun squad Sergeant from Camp Shelby to the Elbe. His wife, Elsie, is the widow of John Ledwidge, Company H, 272nd Infantry. Elsie and John were on two European tours, two cruises and on the trip to Hawaii with the 69th Division Association.

This year, after two weeks on the Scally Ranch and a side-trip to Reno. I journeyed to the Marriott, Burlingame, by van; signing in Sunday, August 23rd. Several of us went to the Giants-Mets game, in Candlestick Park, on Monday. On the Napa Valley tour to the wineries, on Wednesday, August 26th, the Scally's greeted the buses at Yountsville for lunch, That was a reunion in itself.

The Company assembled at 1:00 p.m., Friday, August 27th, for roll call and picture taking. We met in the hospitality room. Answering roll call were as follows:

Ray Fahrner Lansdale, Pennsylvania
Chuck Hammond Norfolk, Nebraska
Jack Houghton Denver, Colorado
Ed Lucci Lynbrook, New York
George O'Bryan Citrus Heights, California
Pierce Rice Arlington, Virginia
Bill Scally Suisun City, California
Bennie Srubar Houston, Texas
Herb Smith* Ojai, California

Herb missed roll call, but came later for his first time reunion. Herb was wounded in mid-February, 1945; and I hadn't seen him for 47 years.

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First timers were: **George O'Bryan, Bill Scally and Herb Smith.** All were from California.

Joining their husbands were: **Kathryn Hammond, Carolyn Houghton, Elsie Scally and Marcella Srubar.**

We attended the Early Bird Dinner on Thursday, the Beer Party on Friday, preceded by the A Company dinner. Farewells were said after the Saturday Night Banquet, and again after the Sunday morning brunch.

A great reunion, and a good turn-out of A Company. We missed many of our regulars. See you in Rochester.

NOTE: I guess I don't know everything. Can't recall the 69th going to Hawaii. I will say A Company, 273rd, has been doing very good since Lexington. I wish E Company, 273rd, could say the same. Sorry we missed California due to my illness and Dorothy getting over an emergency appendix operation but the big E still had the old regulars of 5 members and their wives plus a new member and wife from California. Earl



*Standing, left to right: *Bill Scally - 4th Platoon, Jack Houghton - 1st Platoon, *George O'Bryan - 2nd Platoon and Ed Lucci - 2nd Platoon.*

Seated, left to right: Ray Fahrner - 4th Platoon, Chuck Hammond - 1st Platoon and Bernie Srubar - 1st Platoon.

*Missing from photo: Pierce Rice - Company Headquarters and *Herb Smith - 2nd Platoon. *Indicates First Timers*



*Standing:
Marcella Srubar
Carolyn Houghton*

*Seated:
Elsie Scally
Kathryn Hammond*

To All Members Regimental Crests

**From: H. Ray Fahrner
Forge Gate Apartments, 33E1
Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19446**

I am still selling Regimental Crests. I have an inventory of 271st and 272nd crests. While the 273rd crests are sold out, I will order more upon the receipt of requests. Send name, address and unit to the above address. I will ship and bill you (pin + postage). Approximately \$5.00.

Company E, 273rd Infantry

"THE 273rd STEADILY ADVANCES"

Address is the same as the Tri-State Group



Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.
Coordinators and Reporters

The BIG E was in California but few in number. One first time couple and welcome aboard. We hope you enjoyed your time with the "Boys and Gals" plus all the other 69ers in Burlingame at the San Francisco Airport Marriott. All reports to me say it was a good reunion and sometimes the small ones are the best. Dottie and Me are really sorry we had to cancel. She was just getting over an emergency appendix operation and I came down with a heart condition, which was a rapid heart beat and my heart was also skipping beats. The doctor was concerned but said it was something similar to what President Bush had. He says he will be able to take care of it with medication, so that was good news. All my other tests proved very good with no blockages or operation needed. He scared Dorothy when he told her of a test where they stop your heart and start it again by shock. She didn't eat that up very well.

Now we are looking forward to Rochester, New York and meeting you all once again plus many others from the Big E. Most of our Company does come from the East so Rochester should be no trouble getting to. I don't know what the group did since no one reported in but I can say for sure they took the tours, had a Company dinner on Friday, attended the meetings, and were in full strength for the banquet dinner dance. We hope our first timers from California will join us again in Rochester and many more that will be new first timers as well as those who attended the Niagara Falls reunion a few years back. You know who you were so come and be there with us. Even though it is elsewhere in this bulletin, so you know who was present, I'll go over the list with you stay-at-homes so that you'll add it to next year.

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,
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Sure glad to know Virginia Aiello is well again. Remember her from Biloxi when she took sick coming from the airport, had her on a luggage cart, then spent the week in the hospital, and on Saturday released her but not so she could go to the banquet dinner dance. Instead it was an airline flight back home. Glad you're well Virginia.

Here are the Big E attendees with the asterisk* meaning first timers and come back soon in 1993.

- Joseph and Virginia Aiello New York
- *John and Dianna Dremel California
- William Gleason Minnesota
- Arthur and Marian Hume Michigan
- William and Jane Matlach New York
- Al and Lotti Shires Florida

In closing I just want to say, the Big E of the 273rd Infantry had eleven present while Company E, 271st Infantry had fifteen of which two members and a wife were first timers. Not to leave out the 272nd Infantry, E Company, which ranks third for they only had seven present of which one was a guest and no first timers. Come on E Companies of the 272nd and 273rd, we got to beat the 271st in Rochester, New York.

Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 273rd Infantry

Earl and Ann Walters, *Reporters*
Post Office Box 304
Landisville, Pennsylvania 17538

Over the 4th of July, John and Judy Sneary, Alan and Emmy Murphey, Francis and Ann Blais and me, along with my wife, Ann, had a mini-reunion in Springfield, Ohio. Needless to say, we had a great time. All of us were from Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion of the 273rd.

On our way home we stopped in Belle Vernon and contacted another 69er whom I haven't seen since Basingstoker, England. Nick Turik was an Anti-Tank platoon sergeant when I first joined the 69th in Shelby. We went as far as England together, but Nick had the misfortune (or maybe the good fortune) of breaking an arm while playing touch football.

We had only intended to say "Hi" when I first called him, but he told me to stay put and he'd come to see us. He insisted we go to his house to meet his wife, Pia. As time went on Nick insisted they take us out for lunch. So what I thought would be a half hour to an hour meeting turned out to be about 4 hours of pure enjoyment!

Nick wound up in the 65th Division and later was involved with mining in southern Germany. He said he never went down in the mines but did clerical work - the clean part. He continued with that line of work back in the Pittsburgh area.

While in southern Germany, mining wasn't all that appealed to Nick - Pia lived across the street from him so she became Mrs. Turik. They have no children. They sure make a great couple, very sociable and likable.

Note: You didn't tell us much about the 4th of July weekend. Sure hope you can get them to come to the Tri-State and Central Pennsylvania plus our big annual 69th reunion.

Earl



Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 273rd, 4th of July get-together. Left to right: Ann Blais, Judy Sneary, John Sneary, Alan Murphey, Emmy Murphey, Francis Blais, Earl Walters.



*Nick Turik and his wife, Pia
335 Broad Avenue, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania 15012*

Company G, 273rd Infantry

Al Aronson, *News Reporter*
200 Winston Drive #1019
Cliffside Park, New Jersey 07010
Telephone: 201/886-2040

Our 45th Reunion at San Francisco is now past history. G Company turnout was not as large as it has been in the past, due mainly to illness and travel distance. We did our best to stir the pot to get more of the fellows to attend but in many instances, there was no response at all. Perhaps next year we'll do better in Rochester, New York.

Those attending this year were: Bill and Dorris Beecher, Ruth Johnston, Joe and Diane Panganiban, Ed and Tory Stagg, Orville and Buelah Schultz and ourselves, Al and Betty Aronson.

Our highlight was a dinner party on Friday night, hosted by Joe and Diane Panganiban at their home in Oakland, with the attendance of one of our Fifth Platoon members, Frank and Rosa Barbee. Frank was unable to attend the reunion activities because of conflicting commitments but he promises

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,
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to be present at Rochester next year. This was special for us because it was the first meeting any of us had with any of our Fifth Platoon comrades since the breakup of the 69th at the end of the war.

We missed some old stand-bys in San Francisco, like **Bob Ainley** and **Ray Hotter**, but we look forward to seeing them next August at Rochester, New York.

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON - Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's of 1993.



Bill Beecher, Frank Barbee, Joe Panganiban, Ed Stagg, Al Aronson, Orville Schultz.



Diane Panganiban, Betty Aronson, Dorris Beecher, Beulah Schultz, Ruth Johnston, Tory Stagg

Company B, 272nd Infantry

Nick Giannone, News Reporter
102-00 Shore Front Parkway, #10J
Rockaway Park, New York 11694

Enclosed is a picture taken during the recent reunion in San Francisco. **Bill Higgins** and I were "First Timers." **Dick Hadley** had attended in the past. **Bill, Dick** and I were all in the Company B, 272nd Regiment, and **Bill** and I were members of the Battle Patrol during combat.

We all had a great time and I personally regret not having attended previous reunions.



Gerry Hadley, Jeanne Higgins, Bill Higgins, Dick Hadley, Kathryn Giannone and Nick Giannone having an evening out during the 69th Division 45th Reunion in San Francisco.

Company D, 273rd Infantry

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

Those members of Company D, 273rd, present at the recent reunion in San Francisco were all appreciative of the fine job done by the Reunion Committee. It was a classy affair. While we would have been happier if more of our group had made their way out west, we were pleased to welcome two new-comer couples: **Gordon and Yvonne Hanson** of Redwood, California and **Frank and Edith Hendrickson** of Harbor, Oregon. It gave our group a strong western representation. **Frank and Gordon** were both jeep drivers in the third platoon back in the forties. We hope they and their wives will grace many of our future reunions. We also hope this is an indication that the third platoon will be better represented now.

Nine other persons from D Company, 273rd, attended the 45th reunion: **Ed and Mary Case** from Pennsylvania, **Roland and Jan Hendrickson** from Oregon, **George and Barbara Johnson** from Virginia, **Bob McCarty** from Louisiana and **Ken Sawyer** and **Fran Collard** from Florida. **Betty Jo McCarty** did not accompany **Bob** because of the arrival of a new grandchild. It was a pretty good turnout considering the distances most would have had to travel. Unfortunately, some of our people are strictly ground types. Perhaps we can get back to our usual 20 plus attendance in Rochester next August.

I am hopeful of a good turnout at our company mini-reunion in Florida this winter. Favorable responses from several couples that missed the last one suggests the possibility of having 20 or more this time. Most of those attending last January plan to be back.

The place: **Quality Suites Hotel** on A1A in Melbourne, Florida. The dates: **Friday, January 29th to Friday, February 5th**. A full week will allow time to visit several of the seven major attractions within a 1½ hour drive of Melbourne. Car pooling worked out very well last time. For those staying for a shorter period of time I suggest making it the last part of

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the period. The accommodations are great and are priced the same as last time: \$55 plus taxes. Daily continental breakfast is included. All those interested should get in touch with me by mail or phone. I will send a folder from the hotel and the latest info. If you write, please send me your telephone number.



*Company D, 273rd Infantry in San Francisco
Clockwise from left: Ed Case, Mary Case, Fran Collard,
Ken Sawyer, Barbara Johnson, George Johnson*



*From the left: Fran Collard, Ken Sawyer, George Johnson,
Bob McCarty, Mary Case, Barbara Johnson*

Note: Ken, your pictures are very good. Who took them, your wife? I think with your talking of 20 members hopefully attending Rochester and 20 also hopefully attending your mini in Melbourne in late January and early February, that Company D of the 273rd should start thinking of running a national reunion with the possibility of going back to Florida. You know two things - 1. We don't mind coming back to the same place twice and we have only been to Florida once at Orlando and 2. Since we are having problems getting members to be chairmen and getting a committee to run the reunion, it's time for mini units to plan and run future reunions for the national 69th Association. If you can run a mini, I am sure you can run a Division reunion, especially with 20 to do the work. Look what you tell me and others on how good the San Francisco reunion was run. I am sure we are all learning

as the years and reunions go by. For sure we don't want to go back to Pittsburgh, for we have had three there. The first one in '67 which was the start of getting away from the east coast Washington-New York every other year. It was also the beginning of the rookie members holding a reunion and the beginning of the Pittsburgh group which a few years later became the Western Pennsylvania group and again, a few years later became what is now known as the Tri-State Group. Our '78 reunion was run at that time by the Western Pennsylvania group and our '86 reunion was run by the Tri-State group with only three couples and Clarence as the committee.

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania was visited three times which is enough and these reunions were mostly run by the Central Pennsylvania group with the exception of the first. Philadelphia had three reunions with the first two being run by the east coast members of New York and Washington, and the third one had been run by the Central Pennsylvania group plus a few of the Tri-Staters.

So you see, time does change things and it's getting to be the time when mini groups run national reunions. I am sure Company D of the 273rd could do a good job of running one in Florida again. Look at the Milwaukee reunion run by all rookies and it was a good one at that, which now has the Mid-West group forming from that reunion. Well, this is all only wishful thinking of mine. We possibly will see you in Melbourne.

But think about it D Company. This could start a trend. We now have many mini groups and units, some of which don't even want to join in with the mother original 69th Infantry Division Association. Maybe if you do it, others will too.

Hope all of the members of the Association read your article and my note - daggers will be flying for me. Earl

Battery C, 724th Field Artillery Battalion

First unit in the 69th Infantry Division to hold our mini weekend in conjunction with the 69th Infantry Division at the yearly annual reunion.

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

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

Battery C, 724th Field Artillery Battalion's reunion was held in conjunction with the 69th Infantry Division's annual reunion August 23rd through August 30th, 1992, in San Francisco, California.

Battery C had a dinner meeting on Friday, August 28th in the restaurant at the San Francisco Airport Marriott in Burlingame, California. The following were in attendance: **John Turner**, his sister-in-law **Joyce Turner**, and his niece **Denise Nichols**; **Gladys Heliseva**, widow of **John Heliseva** and her friend **Margaret Shalaby**; **Steven, Luisa and David Arndt**, son, daughter-in-law, and grandson of **Theodore L. Arndt** (deceased); **Stacy and Natalie Gooch**; **Stan and Lois Hawk**; **Bob and Phyllis Newcombe**; **John Rosenbrock**; **Coy and Erlene Horton**. **Charlie Weaver** of the 272nd Infantry was our guest at the dinner.

We would like to encourage all Battery C fellows and other friends to join us in Rochester, New York in August of 1993.

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DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,
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C Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion

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

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

We had it all - good friends, good weather, good food, good program, and a wonderful host and hostess, our own Bill and Correne Leslie.

Our 13th reunion at Eureka Springs, Arkansas included having dinner at several very nice places, going to wonderful shows, riding the trolley, touring the historic loop, seeing the Passion Play, visiting the Thornhill Chapel, train rides, etc. Needless to say, the shops had everyone's attention, especially the ladies. There was lots to see and do.

The White Elephant Exchange was an evening of joy and laughter as we picked and exchanged our prizes. Cliff Ely presented each of the men with helmet liners - that livened up the evening, and Ray Mills was given a box full of notions that were collected over a period of time, each carefully wrapped by Bill Sells! Let us not forget the gifts provided by our gracious host and hostess, the Leslies, the Wallaces and the Sells and anyone else that contributed.

Our hospitality room was generously stocked with goodies such as candies, nuts, cheeses, beef sausage, etc., including lots of beverages. Some of the ladies took part in learning how to use the pretty greeting cards we receive. We made pretty boxes that could be used for jewelry, etc.

Cliff Ely added a few more T-shirts to his already large collection - enjoy Cliff!

A vote for the 1993 reunion will soon be taken and announced in our coming letter!

Everyone's generosity and participation was most appreciated. Thank you.

Attendees were:

Ralph and Dorothy Cowin Indianapolis, Indiana
Cliff and Katherine Ely Columbus, Ohio
Bud and Millie Henson Somerdale, New Jersey
Ray Mills Vincennes, Indiana
Bill and Correne Leslie Horseshoe Bend, Arkansas
Leroy Geotz Slinger, Wisconsin
Don and Florence Johnson Galesburg, Illinois
Bill and Inez Sells Sebring, Florida
Helen and John Wallace Wellfleet, Massachusetts
Joe and Dorothy Damato West Orange, New Jersey
Howard and Vera Whitfield Wrightsville, Georgia
Lee and Betty Meyer St. Marys, Pennsylvania
Lowell and Marjorie McFarlin Jeromesville, Ohio
Lew and Fern Pugh Cadiz, Ohio
Enrico and Anne D'Angelo Saltsburg, Pennsylvania

Guests were most welcome. Come again!

Al and Margaret Kormas Lakewood, Ohio
Don and Noi Henson Somerdale, New Jersey
Jack and Marian Schuld Watertown, Wisconsin
Leroy and Lela Robinson Tampa, Florida

B Battery, 881st Field Artillery Battalion

Eugene G. Tabacchi, *News Reporter*
349 East 2nd Street
Beaver, Pennsylvania 15009
Telephone: Please send in

Almost a half century after he was first sergeant of Baker Battery, 881st Field Artillery, some of his ex-cannoneers and friends agreed that the man who was "first soldier" then is still top man with them.

In recognition of that and in thanks for his care for the Battery then and for its ex-members still, he was honored at the Unit's dinner held in conjunction with the division reunion in San Francisco. He is Walter Haag of Milbrae, California, the Battery's First Sergeant from the Division's activation in Mississippi until that late June day in 1945 at Leuna-Merseberg when many of us were sprinkled among other units to make room for the homeward bound 29th Division high pointers.

After attending his first reunion in Phoenix a decade ago, he led the effort in bringing the Battery mates together again. The largest turnout was at Biloxi in 1991, but the 'Frisco turnout was excellent in light of a high concentration of ex-Battery men in the East.

Attending the dinner in Haag's honor at the Airport Marriott were: Jim Moen, Jean Kohl and son Rusty, Dan and Marge Sparks, Jim and Tillie Boris, Gil and Sue Rocco, Gene and Jackie Tabacchi, Phil and Harriet Sparacino and Emil Matys. Haag was accompanied by his wife, Alice.

The prime mover behind the Haag Testimonial was Dick Stoddard - absent for health reasons - brought to reality by Jim Moen and Gene Tabacchi with unanimous support.

At the dinner, Haag was presented a tribute on framed parchment, and a howitzer and caisson mounted on a polished wooden plaque by Jim Moen. The howitzer and caisson were donated by Stoddard.

Haag, usually an undemonstrative man, was moved by the honor, and admitted the next day, "You guys made me cry."



Jim Moen, Walter Haag, Gene Tabacchi and Jean Kohl

Note: We would like to have your telephone number also, in case we need to contact you for some reason and a picture that goes with the heading. Please note other units in this section of the bulletin. We try to get others to do the same, but it is slow happening. Glad you fellows had a good time.

Earl

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,
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Tri-State Group

TRI-STATE BLUE IS THE FAMILY GROUP

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

Also South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi (Until the Southeastern Chapter reorganizes.)

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

SO 'YA ALL COME - HEAR

This means you and you and yours (The lovely wife)

Join us in Canaan Valley, Davis, West Virginia

June 9 or 10 thru 13, 1993



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."

Where did the days go? Yes, I mean May 14, 15, 16 and 17, 1992 when the Tri-State bunch took over Altoona, Pennsylvania. We were a good, quiet group from World War II and the 69th Infantry Division who really never cause any problems but do enjoy our weekends tremendously. Even though its Tri-State, we can't say which ones they are, all over the U.S.A. Nice having you happy-go-lucky travelers.

May 14th was travel day with many checking in early afternoon. The hospitality room was open and you all had one on Vaughn and Betty Woomer, great hosts. It was very well planned with no time to sleep and some extras tossed in. You missed a good one if you missed Altoona so in 1993 come to Canaan Valley and bring another member or two from your unit so we grow, and not lose ground.

Friday, the 15th of May, we were all awakened early, had breakfast, then dashed for the buses. Traveling over some

beautiful Pennsylvania mountain scenery and farm lands, we ended our journey at Lake Raystown. Boarding the boat and starting our water tour over the huge Raystown Lake, we saw nothing except fog which soon burned off from the sun, and then our eyes popped as we saw God's gift of beauty. The captain of the ship oriented us as we toured. The whole thing went much too fast and before we knew it, we saw ourselves coming into port. Awaiting us at the Inn was a very good lunch. Rain was falling as we came into shore, but we all forgot about that as we ate. With full stomachs, we again boarded the buses for the ride back to the Days Inn in Altoona for a relaxing afternoon and evening, unless you went shopping as many of the women did. Side trips were taken too, by many who came for a weekend of fun and sightseeing.

Saturday morning, May 16th, we were up and at it again for breakfast and a bus ride to Johnstown where Galen Carney of Headquarters Company 271st, met us and led the tour of the flood museum in downtown Johnstown. Galen is a tour guide for Johnstown which has much history in the area. Did you know that the large cemetery on top of the hill at Westmont ranks second only to Arlington for the number of military veterans buried there. It is also the second largest cemetery in the country and has all the Johnstown flood victims buried there also. We then walked a few blocks, except for Mildred Stetler who rode, to the train station to await the Amtrak train which took us around horseshoe curve and back to Altoona where the buses were waiting to take us back to the Days Inn. Everyone was amazed at the climb the railroad has going from Johnstown over the mountain to Altoona. That's why all the freight trains have to have pushers. Departing the buses, we were informed that an extra lunch at Shoney's was awaiting us arranged by the Woomers. We did have a little rain but it cleared before we got to the curve and the rest of our day was wonderful. A little relaxing, then get ready for the banquet at the Ramada Inn a few miles down the road. We sat in the garden area of the Inn with a well prepared banquet dinner. Our entertainment was Frankie Capri, a one man band who entertained the rest of the evening. A short time in the hospitality room for a last one and on to bed for the get up call on Sunday, the 17th.

Breakfast and the goodbyes as another Tri-State weekend came to a halt. See you in San Francisco (Dottie and Earl didn't make it), or at Central Pennsylvania in late October in York, and in June 1993 in Canaan Valley, Davis, West Virginia for tours, good golfing, and feeding the deer that come right to your ground floor room.

By the way, the golfers did get out once or twice in Altoona for a warm-up for San Francisco. I wonder who won? I know Frank Nemeth always does.

Well, do you want to know who all the good members, wives and family members were who attended the Altoona Reunion hosted by Betty and Vaughn Woomer. They are as follows:

Division Headquarters

**Indicates First Timers*

Ted and Rosemarie Edstrom Fairview Park, Ohio
Clarence Marshall, Headquarters Company
New Kensington, Pennsylvania

69th MPs

*Frank and Helen Williams Oreland, Pennsylvania

569th Signal Company

*Tom and Edna Briody Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Carl and Mildred Stetler Reading, Pennsylvania

271st Infantry Regiment

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

*Galen and Ethel M. Carney Johnstown, Pennsylvania

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,
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271st Infantry Regiment (continued)

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

- *Arthur and Nancy Holgate Kendall Park, New Jersey
- *George and Virginia Weston Piscataway, New Jersey
- Mrs. Jane Lynch North Warren, Pennsylvania
and sister Regina Potter

E COMPANY

- *William and Catherine Rita McCall ... Wenonah, New Jersey
- Paul and Marie Shadle ... New Kensington, Pennsylvania

F COMPANY

- *W. Kenneth and Barbara Bernhardt ... Emington, Illinois
- Cecil A. and Alene Cottle Portsmouth, Ohio
- Ash Fuller (Now of Pennsylvania) ... Jackson, Mississippi
- Arlene Carey..... Reinholds, Pennsylvania
- *Raymond and Pearl Norris Aberdeen, Maryland
- L. Vaughn and Betty Woomer Tyrone, Pennsylvania
- *John and Pauline Zimmers Altoona, Pennsylvania

G COMPANY

- *Leroy and Estaline Park..... Weirton, West Virginia

L COMPANY

- Robert N. and Wanda L. Grimm Lancaster, Ohio

M COMPANY

- W.C. "Bill" and Reba Sheavly Reistertown, Maryland

272nd Infantry Regiment

REGIMENT HEADQUARTERS

- *Jack and Dot Blickenderfer Lancaster, Pennsylvania

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

- *Charles B. and Ardis W. Buck Tyrone, Pennsylvania
- George A. and Naomi Murphy Frostberg, Maryland
- Nevin and Dorothy Schrock Meyersdale, Pennsylvania
- W. Leroy and Shirley Yutzey . Meyersdale, Pennsylvania

C COMPANY

- Robert G. and Jean Shaffer Massillon, Ohio
- Charles E. Weaver Columbus, Ohio

F COMPANY

- *Charles C. and Virginia Boyer, Jr. ... Pottsville, Pennsylvania

G COMPANY

- *Michael and Mary Kertis Millsboro, Delaware

H COMPANY

- *Hollis A. and Audrey Durant Stratham, New Hampshire

I COMPANY

- Robert J. and Vivian Kurtzman, Sr. Wilmot, Ohio
- Pat and Janice Lushbaugh Funkstown, Maryland

K COMPANY

- John W. and Ruth McGolerick, Jr. ... Knoxville, Maryland

L COMPANY

- *Bernard H. and Edith Zaffern Southfield, Michigan
- *Kenneth and Marcella Ziems Manassas, Virginia

273rd Infantry Regiment

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

- Charles and Lorraine Goodhart Lancaster, Pennsylvania
- Earl W. and Anna Walters Landisville, Pennsylvania

A COMPANY

- *Edward L. Lucci..... Lynbrook, New York

B COMPANY

- *Glen A. and L. Jean Knepp McClure, Pennsylvania

E COMPANY

- William and Jane Matlach West Islip, New York
- Earl E. and Dorothy A. Witzleb, Jr. Acme, Pennsylvania

H COMPANY

- Tony and Elizabeth Mruk Elmira Heights, New York
- Jacob and Violet M. Stark, Jr. Steelton, Pennsylvania
- Raymond Szkudlarek Perrysburg, Ohio

I COMPANY

- Carl L. and Berniece Macknair McClure, Pennsylvania

K COMPANY

- Earl and Gertrude Richardson ... Niagara Falls, New York

69th Recon Troopers

- Boyd and Stella Ellsworth Steubenville, Ohio

369th Medical Battalion

- Frank and Ruth Andrews (Co. B) Uniontown, Ohio
- Marvin E. and June Slichter Mohnton, Pennsylvania

724th Field Artillery Battalion

A BATTERY

- Paul D. and Mayreta Kitner.... West Lawn, Pennsylvania
- Brownie and Anna Belle Parsons ... Charleston, W. Virginia

880th Field Artillery Battalion

C BATTERY

- Enrico and Anne D'Angelo Saltsburg, Pennsylvania

881st Field Artillery Battalion

HEADQUARTERS, B BATTERY

- James E. and Matilda Boris ... Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

B BATTERY

- *Raymond A. and Marian E. Derr Republic, Ohio

C BATTERY

- Lester Hart Williamsfield, Ohio

879th Field Artillery Battalion

C BATTERY

- James "Jim" S. Jones Aurora, Ohio

HEADQUARTERS

- Alex and Margaret Kormas Lakewood, Ohio

269th Engineers

- James A. and Dorothy "Dotty" Eibling ... Columbus, Ohio
- Daniel and Helen Evers Brookhaven, Pennsylvania
- John T. and Elizabeth Hawley Shippensburg, Pennsylvania
- Walter and Elizabeth Howland .. Shippensburg, Pennsylvania
and daughter Becky Howland

B COMPANY

- Frank and Stefania "Ted" Nemeth .. Levittown, Pennsylvania
- Ward and Marian E. Peterson . Glen Mills, Pennsylvania

661st Tank Destroyers

- John W. and Esther Roth Bay City, Michigan

777th Tank Destroyers

- *Earl and Dollie Weaver Warriors Mark, Pennsylvania
and daughter, Ginger Weaver

461st AAA Battalion

AWOL

Cancelled or No Shows Due To Sickness

- Dell and Mary Balzano (879th FA) ... Highland Heights, Ohio
- Herman Walker (L, 273rd) Greenwood, Indiana
- Harold Wepler and Henrietta Cashen (C, 724th) .. Genoa, Ohio

Total in attendance was 126 good Tri-State 69ers. We hope that Herman Walker is recovering from heart surgery and we'll see him next year. We hope that Harold Wepler's friend Henrietta Cashen is well once again. She is the person who hurt her shoulder in Biloxi at last year's reunion. I saw the Balzano's at Clarence's picnic, so we know they are well again.

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Also I hope that **Mike Kertis** is well again as he became sick in Altoona. They had to miss two great attractions, the Raystown boat cruise and the train ride around horseshoe curve. So, let's everyone get well for Canaan Valley and Rochester. **Dottie** and I are feeling much better, too.

If you feel you are not on the Tri-State roster, just drop a postcard to **Dottie** and me asking to be put on the list. We'll get a flyer off to you in early April but remember it might be best to request a room now since we only have 65 at the lodge area. Some cabins could be available at Canaan should you want a mini weekend with the Tri-State. They have one, two and three room cabins.

Dottie and I wish you all a joyous and Merry Christmas and a New Year full of everything so that we'll see you in the valley where the deer eat from your hand. Do take care.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have pictures of any Tri-State weekends, please send them to **Earl** so that some will get in future bulletins. They will be returned. Thanks. **Earl**

269th Engineers

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



Ted and Frank Nemeth

Hi Gang:

I had a good trip to San Francisco to attend the 69th Infantry Division Reunion. The reunion ran smoothly and everything went off just fine. Enjoyed the tours to Napa Valley wine country and the city tour and its many sights. Even got to play golf in our Chuck Herring Memorial Tournament and enjoyed that a great deal. I must say that **Bob** and **Theresa Pierce** and their committees did a first class job on all the aspects of running a fine reunion.

In mid-July we attended the 75th birthday party for **Bill Foster** of Company H&S or as **Bill** would say, "Heartaches and Sorrow" company. There were about 65 people in attendance and quite a few 69ers from the 269th Engineers, also the Infantry and Field Artillery. Some of those who attended were **Colonel Holmlin**, **Jim and Dotty Eibling**, **John and Elizabeth Hawley**, **Rico and Anne D'Angelo**, **Bob and Vivian Kurtzman** and **Frank and Ted Nemeth**. It was good to see **Betty** and **Bill** and their families once again and know they are doing well. Many more **Bill**.



Bill Foster at his 75th Birthday Party.

We didn't have a large turnout in San Francisco. I guess the distance and maybe the cost in this recession made people think twice about going that far, but, we did have one first timer, so we are still locating some new members after all these years. It was good to see "**Cy**" **Abrams** and **Terry Ann Carlton** from Company C, who reside in California and as first timers, had a good reunion and hope they plan to attend other reunions in the future. I really enjoyed meeting and talking to them and I learned a lot about Company C, 269th Engineers. At the present time **Cy** is trying to write to other members of Company C to hear from them on events and names of the past. So take time to sit down and drop him a line or two. I'm sure you all have a lot in common and everybody remembers things that others would enjoy.



Seymour "Cy" Abrams and guest, Teral Ann Carlton

From Company B, **Mary and Ernie Krause** (see photo following page), while on the Napa Valley Tour are tasting the grape juice, better known as wine. They plan to go to Rochester, New York and maybe even to Wisconsin for a mini-reunion.

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,
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Grace and Kim Packer enjoyed all the tours and every time I saw them, they were in a line waiting for a tour bus and even chaperoned me on the city tour. Marion and Ward Peterson are hard people to keep up with, on tours and getting all over San Francisco to see people, but they always have a good time. I'm sure everyone enjoyed the good sour dough bread and when they hollowed it out and put clam chowder in it, boy, was that good eating.

So from Company A Grace and Frank "Kim" Packer; Company B, Mary and Ernie Krause, Marion and Ward Peterson, Frank Nemeth; and Company C, first timer Cy Abrams and Terry Ann Carlton, his guest, we all say - on to Rochester, New York.

So once again, good health and the best always and hope to see all of you in Rochester, New York at the reunion.

Your ole buddy,
Frank Nemeth



Mary and Ernie Krause of Company B, tasting the wine.

1992 San Francisco Reunion

Submitted by Neil Shields

Photo right:
Our Association Officers
Bill Sheavly, 271st Infantry
Secretary
Curt Peterson, 569th Signal,
Vice President
and
W. O. Dutch Hawn, Div. Hq.,
President



Company F, 272nd Infantry: Herb Calloway, Louise Wardin, Melvin Wardin, Dave Theobald - 1st Timer, Jeanne Theobald and Neil Shields.



Chet and Barb Yastrzemski - Company E, 272nd Infantry

The 273rd Infantry Regiment in the Siegfried Line

By Alan H. Murphey

Photos furnished by
Chris Van Kerckhoven

FORWARD

The primary source materials used to write this article were wartime 273rd Infantry records from the Suitland Branch of the National Archives. These consisted of After Action Reports (AARs), the Regimental S-2/S-3 Journal and Work Sheet and unit disposition overlays for the month of February 1945. Other sources used include recollections of former 273rd members and published military histories.

Any questions or comments should be sent to the author at 1339 Hemlock Drive, Fairborn, Ohio 45324. This is the first of several articles which will cover the history of the 273rd in the Siegfried Line.

PART I

An icy rain was falling as the advance party of the 273rd Infantry Regiment drove into Heppenbach, Belgium, on the afternoon of February 8, 1945. In the center of the village, the scars of war were readily visible. The badly damaged church stood as a grim reminder that churches, with their high steeples for observation, were prime artillery targets. Only eleven days earlier the Germans had been there. On January 28th elements of the German 89th Infantry Division fought a stubborn rear guard action at Heppenbach against U.S. 1st Infantry Division troops driving northeast towards the Siegfried Line, only nine miles away.

When the remainder of 273rd Infantry began arriving in the area the next day, the rain had turned to snow flurries. The troop-filled trucks were quickly directed to pre-selected billets in Heppenbach, Halenfeld and Valender. The regiment set up a command post in Heppenbach, as did 3rd Battalion. Lieutenant Colonel Saladin's 2nd Battalion established its command post at Valender. That night infantrymen of the 273rd had visual proof that they were not far from the front. Every so often, a silent flash of light illuminated the sky behind the hills to the east. It took only a moment to realize that these were artillery flashes. It was a sobering thought.

When the light of dawn broke on February 10th, a heavy fog hung over Heppenbach. Within the hour, a communications sergeant delivered a message to Colonel Charles M. Adams, the regimental commander. It was the crucial order that Adams had been awaiting — he was directed to move his regiment into the line and relieve the 393rd Infantry of the 99th Infantry Division within 48 hours. That afternoon Colonel Adams and his staff officers, accompanied by his battalion commanders, Lieutenant Colonel William Saladin (1st Battalion), Lieutenant Colonel John Lynch (2nd Battalion)



Looking northeast from south of Udenbreth. Farmhouses in Kamberg can be seen on top of hill in center background. In February 1945 Kamberg was occupied by elements of the 989th Volksgrenadier Regiment. In the background, left side, you can see the spire (church) of Udenbreth.

and Lieutenant Colonel Leo Shaughnessey (3rd Battalion), went forward to inspect the 393rd Infantry's front. Their command post was located in a dense Beligan forest 1000 yards west of the International Highway, 9 miles northeast of Heppenbach.

There is no transcript of the briefing that Colonel Adams and his party were given at the CP on the 10th. However, 273rd After Action Reports provide the kind of information that they would have received. The front that Colonel Adams would take over was 4750 yards long. It began 750 yards north of Ramscheid and ran south to the Dahlem road at the Neuhof crossroad. On the left flank of this front was the 395th Infantry, to be relieved by the 271st Infantry. On the right flank was the 424th Infantry of the 106th Division, which would remain in place. The front line, dividing American and German forces, was about 1½ miles inside Germany. Three villages had been taken — Ramscheid, Miescheid and Udenbreth. Also a cluster of farmhouses at a crossroad known as Neuhof. Starting at the southern end of the regimental front, the Germans occupied a pair of pillboxes 1500 yards east of Neuhof, a few open field works east of Udenbreth and a low hill, known as Rauher Berg. These were manned by elements of the German 89th Infantry Division.

Starting from the north end of Udenbreth, the Germans held a string of pillboxes, some occupied, some not, back to a tributary of the Prether River. From there northward, the line followed the Prether. The Germans held all terrain to the east of the river, which was defended by elements of the 989th Volksgrenadier Regiment (277th VG Division). The terrain held by the Germans was ideal for defense — high ground commanding the American positions and separated from them by a deep cross compartment with extremely steep banks. Although the German defensive force was relatively small, they were capable of making an American attack against the high ground costly. If forced to fall back, the Germans had a second defense line 5000-6000 yards to the east. Located

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THE 273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT IN THE SIEGFRIED LINE

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in similar terrain, this second band of the Siegfried Line was densely studded with pillboxes, bunkers and field works.

When the briefing and inspection tour was over, Colonel Adams told Colonel James K. Woolnough, the 393rd commander, that he would send his company commanders and platoon leaders the next day. Following standard relief procedure, he wanted all his unit leaders to become familiar with the terrain and the positions they would be occupying.

On the afternoon of the 11th, unit leaders from the 273rd Infantry arrived at the 393rd command post. Officers from 1st Battalion were escorted to Miescheid, those from 2nd Battalion to Ramscheid and 3rd Battalion officers taken to Udenbreth. For the latter, it turned out to be a unique opportunity to observe combat operations at close range. Second Battalion, 393rd Infantry had scheduled an attack on a German-occupied pillbox that afternoon. The pillbox was at the north end of Udenbreth, the last toe hold the Germans still had in the village. The officers from the 273rd watched intently as the assault team moved into the open. A heavy machine gun in a nearby farmhouse opened up, providing cover fire. On reaching the door of the bunker, the GIs from the 393rd soon breached it with satchel charges. Then the flame throwers went into action. Two German officers and 28 men emerged and were taken prisoner. The whole operation lasted 15 minutes.



The center of Heppenbach, Belgium, as it looks today. 273rd Infantry had its command post here February 9th-12th, 1945.

After the pillbox assault, 1st Lieutenant Walter Niedermayer, the platoon leader of a machine gun platoon from Company H, 393rd, led Captain William E. Parris, Commander of Company M, 273rd, on a tour of his gun positions. It was during this inspection that the Germans unleashed a heavy artillery barrage. Captain Parris was struck by shrapnel and was killed instantly. He was the first soldier in the 273rd Infantry to be killed in action in World War II. Another officer, 1st Lieutenant Daniel L. Pilkinton, was seriously wounded when he was struck in the chest by shrapnel. He was 3rd Battalion's intelligence officer. Following the artillery barrage, the mood of the visiting party became somber. They

had been visibly shaken by the casualties. But there was nothing to do but carry on. The unit leaders continued to inspect the positions they would occupy the next day. It was about 8:00 p.m. when they were ready to leave.

Meanwhile, that afternoon, back in the Heppenbach area, the men of the 273rd had been making last minute preparations. Informed that all their worldly possessions had to fit in a full field pack, many infantrymen attempted to squeeze an extra pair of winter underwear, wool socks or a few personal items into their bulging packs. Weapons were cleaned and oiled for the last time. Some hardy souls took cold-water sponge baths. At 5:00 p.m. company field kitchens began dispensing hot meals. As they stood in long lines with open mess kits, the waiting GIs stamped their boots to keep their feet warm.



The road to Dahlem marked the boundary of 273rd Infantry's right flank. Recent photo taken at Neuohof looking east. Germans occupied two pillboxes (PB 92 and PB 83) alongside road 700 yards past the point where the road disappears to the right in this photograph.

(Continued on Page 45)

THE 273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT IN THE SIEGFRIED LINE

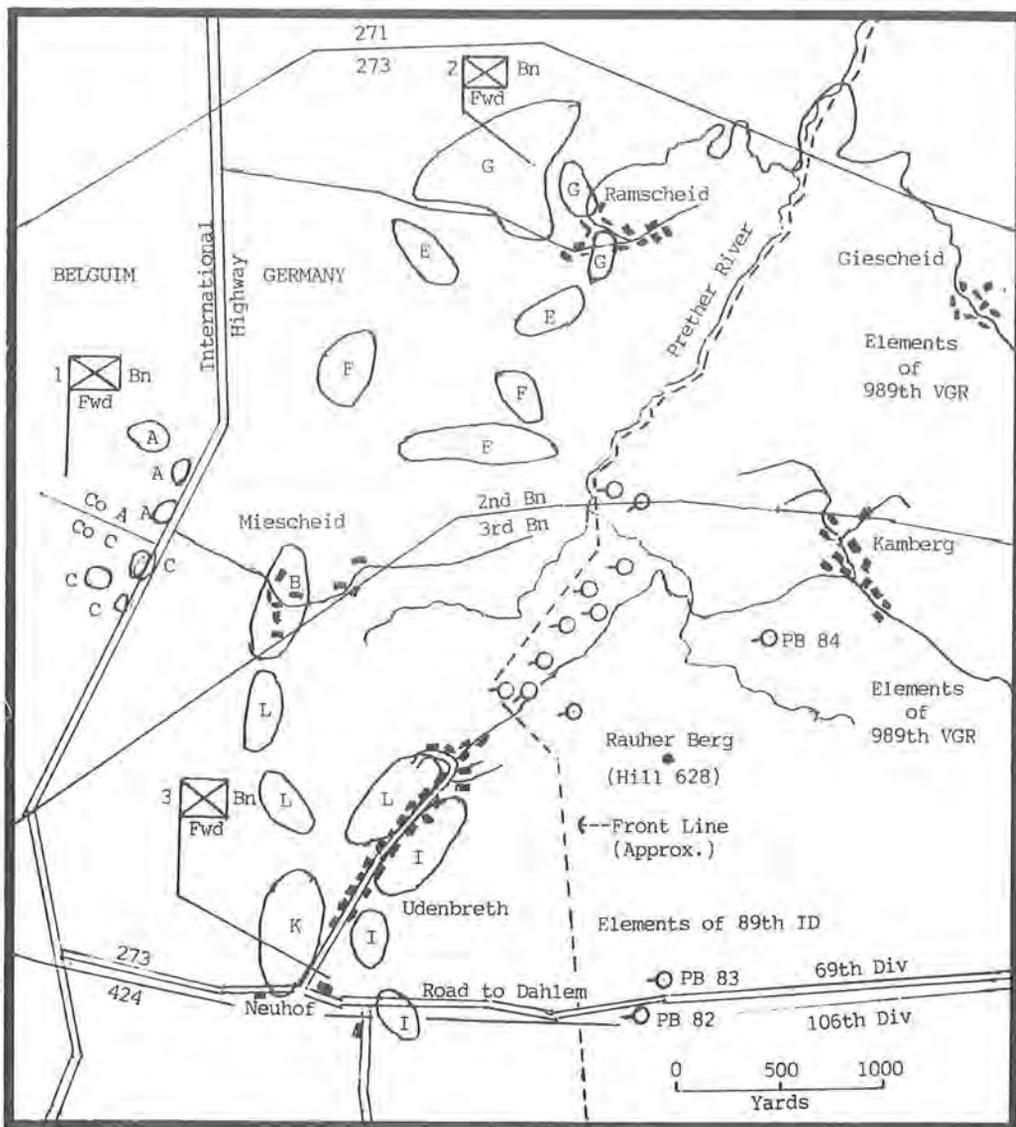
(Continued from Page 44)

About 9:00 p.m. the officers returned. Each platoon leader gathered his men and briefed them on what to expect the following day — the primary objective of the regiment was to knock out pillboxes and gather intelligence from nightly recon patrols. The snow was fairly deep along the regimental front but the 393rd had been averaging one pillbox a day, with relatively light casualties. Unless combat operations intervened, men on the line had two 'hot' meals a day. The chow was manhandled forward in thermos canisters before dawn and after sunset. Lunch consisted of K-rations. Water was rationed and lighting a fire was prohibited. Wherever possible, men lived in captured pillboxes and farmhouses. The pillboxes and bunkers, however had no working generators for electricity, were unheated and had no toilet facilities. Movement during the daylight was dangerous and re-supply was done after dark.

Monday, the 12th of February, broke dark and dreary with low hanging clouds. In slow, staggered rotation over 3000 fresh troops from the 273rd Infantry relieved the three battle-weary battalions of the 393rd. Soon after 8:30 p.m. that night, the 273rd command post began operating in the woods about 2700 yards due east of Udenbreth. Nearby, 273rd Cannon Company set up its 105mm howitzers. At 2040 (8:40 p.m.) 1st Lieutenant Aschenberger, 2nd Battalion's intelligence officer, radioed from Ramscheid that a recon patrol had left the area. The message was entered in the 273rd S-2/S-3 Journal as message "1" by Major Fred W. Craig, the regimental operations officer. Over three hours later, cold and tired, the patrol returned to Ramscheid. The leader reported that they had located a German automatic weapons position and observed two positions believed to be observation posts.

Unfamiliarity with the terrain caused some minor problems that first night. A 1st Battalion patrol from Miescheid was instructed to follow a trail marked only by packed-down snow towards Udenbreth until it contacted a platoon from Company L. The patrol leader reported at 10:25 p.m. that his contact patrol had failed. The reason - the snow had melted on the south side of the draw and left no trail to follow.

The first command change came at 0055 hours on February 13th when Colonel Adams officially assumed command of the regiment's defense sector. For the remainder of the night (and until 10:00 a.m. the next morning), Colonel Adams operated under the operational command of Major



273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT POSITIONS ON 12 FEB. 1945
(from overlay in National Archives)

- - German-occupied pillboxes
- Fwd - Forward (Command Post)
- VGR - Volksgrenadier Regiment
- ID - Infantry Division

General Walter E. Lauer, 99th Division Commander. At precisely 10:00 a.m. on the 13th, Major General Emil F. Reinhardt, the 69th Division Commander, regained operational control of his regiment. He directed the 273rd Infantry to send all reports to the 69th Division Headquarters at Murringen, Belgium, 4 miles to the northwest.

With the arrival of dawn on February 13th, a soldier from the 989th Volksgrenadier Regiment manning an observation post on the Artelsberg, a hill just west of Giescheid, peered through his binoculars. Across the snow-covered landscape, he could see some movement at the eastern edge of Ramscheid, about 1400 yards away. About 8:00 a.m. American mortar rounds began dropping into Giescheid, behind him. It was obvious the fire was coming from Ramscheid, but he could not pinpoint the mortar's position. To the south, another German was observing American positions in Udenbreth from Kamberg Hill. He had a clear view of the farmhouses clustered along the north edge of the village on the crest of the

(Continued on Page 46)

**THE 273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT
IN THE SIEGFRIED LINE**

(Continued from Page 45)

Eichterberg. However, beyond that point the elevation of the land dropped and he could not observe movement along the road leading back through Udenbreth to the frontier. For that view, the Germans depended on observation from a unit of the 89th Infantry Division. They were in field works close to the Dahlem Road about 1500 yards east of Neuhoef. From that position, the whole length of Udenbreth was visible, although the German vantage point was about 65 feet lower than the road which ran the length of Udenbreth.

At this time, the Germans probably did not know that the 393rd Infantry had been relieved by a new regiment. They may have suspected as much because the previous day had witnessed more than usual activity on the American side. Also, there had been a lack of the usual pyrotechnic activity associated with the 393rd. Continued German observation along the front from daylight until 1:30 p.m. must have convinced them that they were facing a new unit. Perhaps the deciding factor was the frequent use of the word "Tryhard" (273rd's call sign), a word German radio monitors had never heard before. Despite a general ammunition shortage, the local commander ordered a 'welcome' barrage for the new tenants. At exactly 1:45 p.m. German artillery opened up. With a hollow scream, shells crashed down on the south end of Udenbreth. GIs from Company I and K near the Neuhoef junction dived for cover. A total of 20 rounds fell within about five minutes but it seemed like a lifetime to those huddled in open positions. Shaken, but happy to have survived their first barrage, the men brushed the mud and snow off their rifles and uniforms.

But it was not over yet. A little over two hours later, at 4:00 p.m., the first of a salvo of shells screamed and exploded near the 3rd Battalion command post, a bunker alongside the Udenbreth road. This time a forward observer from 881st Field Artillery Battalion got a fix on the German gun. Within a few minutes, American howitzers began firing and the enemy gun fell silent.

Company E, 272nd Infantry Regiment's American Flag

Submitted by: Robert Greek
10-482-CR-13
Montpelier, Ohio 43543

While reading the 69th Division History Book I saw the picture of Irvin Schaffer and in his remarks he told that Company E had no American Flag so he gathered the materials and made one.

Here is a picture of that very flag, flying in front of Company E, 272nd Infantry's C.P. in Nassau, Germany. We were all very proud of this flag. I had forgotten who made the flag until I read it in the 69th History Book.



The remainder of the day was relatively quiet. At 6:45 p.m. a heavy machine gun opened up, firing at long range at a platoon of Company G to the west of Ramscheid. A report from Captain McBride, 2nd Battalion operations officer, said the fire was coming from Kamberg Hill, 2000 yards southeast of Company G. Except for sporadic small arms fire and a few flares, the 13th ended without any further reported activity.

— TO BE CONTINUED —



Forty-seven years later after the battle. American mess kit found buried in area occupied by Company A, 273rd Infantry February 12-27, 1945. Items were uncovered by Belgian researcher Chris Van Kerckhoven in forest west of Miescheid on July 19, 1992.

271st Sports Teams Very Successful

Submitted by: Edward Bellhorn
 Medical Detachment, 271st Infantry
 Box 123, Skytop, Pennsylvania 18357

After reading your Volume 45, No. 3 edition of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Bulletin and seeing my old buddies Tony Securo and Major Leo Litter on page 17, I'm encouraged to send to you for publication two pictures for you to use of the Championship of the 271st Infantry Softball Tournament of 1944 and also the basketball championship of the 271st Infantry.

I am proud to say that I played on both of these teams and fought with the 69th throughout Europe and the Battle of the Bulge and that I was in the first group to meet the Russians.

Don Kolloway of the Chicago White Sox (center of softball photo) played second base and was also our manager.

It would be an honor for you to print these photos in your next issue! You guys are doing a great job.

Photo right:

Championship of the 271st Infantry Regiment. Taken in Biloxi, Mississippi after defeating the Gulfport Air Base 84-34. Back row: Bellhorn - Pike - McIntyre. Front row: Graham - Franklin. Medical Detachment.



Softball Team - Standing: George Vosburg - New York, John Buonara - New York, John Sankovich - Pennsylvania, Pat Novicas - New Jersey, Major Leo Litter - New York, Don Kolloway - Illinois, Ed G. Bellhorn - Pennsylvania, Ed Tackacs - New Jersey, Lieutenant Lippmann - Michigan, Vic Henke - Pennsylvania, Bill Meyers - New York, Marlin Derck - Pennsylvania.

Kneeling: Harold Warheit - New York, Turtle Sabol - Pennsylvania, Stephen Patrick - New Jersey, Anthony Eckrati - West Virginia, Walter Franklin - Illinois, John Ranieri - Pennsylvania, Charles Saylor - Illinois

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

In our No. 2 Bulletin last year, we announced that Dr. Robert Ross (I-272), a member of our Association, had offered the 69th Division a scholarship to attend either the School of Medicine or the School of Veterinary Medicine of Ross University. One scholarship was offered and there was no requirement for any financial input by the Association. In response to our announcement, a number of inquiries were received and Dr. Ross sent out college catalogs and application packages to the inquirers. However, no completed applications were received thereafter.

Dr. Ross has kindly agreed to repeat his offer for another year, so we are describing it again as follows:

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 |
| Fees | | \$500 |
| Total free tuition | \$39,600 | |

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

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. Applicants must have completed (or should be about to complete) 90 hours of college pre-medicine or 60 hours of pre-veterinary medicine to be eligible.

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 solicits applicants for the scholarship awards through this news bulletin, 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. Also send a copy of the application to the Ross Scholarship Chairman of the 69th Infantry Division Association in order to establish 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)

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 this date, I have mailed 54 tapes. Some tapes are still available and I can get any amount of orders filled within 20 days.

NOTE: Since this announcement on the Video Tapes has been in several bulletins, it is more than likely this will be the last publication of this article. Members, do get your orders in for the tape to R.C. Trimble so that he can close up shop as soon as the inventory he has on hand has been sold.

It seems the interest that was in Biloxi did not carry over after the members got home, for as I recall, everyone wanted some kind of tape covering the Memorial ceremony. Now you are getting much more from this tape. Those of you not attending Biloxi and the trip back to Camp Shelby would appreciate this tape, I am sure. Do order now members.

Earl

Company A, 271st Infantry Photo Partially Identified by Francis Bigham



Sergeant Storey and Sergeant Bittles

The above photo also appeared in the May-June-July-August issue of the bulletin. We received the following letter identifying one of the other men.

Again I find myself writing you after receiving my June-July-August issue of the bulletin. I would like to identify the unknown with Sergeant Storey on page 38. He is Sergeant Bittles, 2nd Mortar Sergeant of Company A, 271st Mortar Section. I was also pleased to see Sergeant Storey and Sergeant Parks but was very disheartened to learn Sergeant Parks had died. I guess it is later than we all think. I've always wanted to attend a reunion, but to date, things just didn't gel.

Francis J. Bigham
Company A, 271st Infantry
15 Apple Blossom Lane
Danbury, Connecticut

NOTE: You speak of Sergeant Parks who is now deceased. Is he the other man in the rear of the picture? You only named one unknown and there are two in the picture. Anybody else know who this man is?

Earl

Battery C, 880th Field Artillery Mini-Reunion Eureka Springs, Arkansas - Sept. 27th to Oct. 1, 1992



Bill Leslie, Correne Leslie, Don Johnson, Flo Johnson



Ralph Cowin, Dorothy Cowin, Inez Sells, Bill Sells



Lowell McFarlin, Marjorie McFarlin, Katherine Ely, Cliff Ely, and Joe Damata.



Margaret Kormas, Correne Leslie, Anne D'Angelo, Bill Sells, Inez Sells waiting for the Trolley.



Paul Winters and Enrico D'Angelo



Bill Sells and Al Kormas

Annual Meeting of Officers and Board of Directors 69th Infantry Division Assn. August 28th, 1992 San Francisco, California

President Hawn called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. with 12 board members present and quorum declared. Present were: Cliff Barbieri, Harold Ruck, Neil Shields, Ed Lucci, Carl Miller, Edgar Parsons, Pierce Rice, Dutch Hawn, Curt Peterson, Robert Kurtzman and Bill Sheavly. Invocation was given by Joe Wright in absence of a chaplain. Pledge of allegiance by Joe Wright and attending members.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the 1991 Biloxi Reunion were read and approved. Motion to accept by Cliff Barbieri, seconded by Neil Shields. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Robert Kurtzman gave a report on the Association financial condition. He advised that Memorial Funds are now depleted. In addition that our Association funds were being gradually depleted. It was further pointed out that the financial report for our year ending July 31st does not give our true condition as income is in one period and expenses in the following period. Motion to accept report made by Neil Shields and seconded by Harold Ruck. Motion carried.

Motion made to raise dues to \$10.00 per year effective August 1992 made by Curt Peterson, seconded by Cliff Barbieri, motion passed. Authority is given to Board in Constitution By-Laws of the Association.

Discussion regarding non-dues paying members and how critical this has become. Suggestion made by Secretary Sheavly that President Hawn write President's Message in Bulletin encouraging members to pay their dues or if they are not interested in receiving Bulletins to advise Headquarters.

AUDITOR'S REPORT: was accepted and approved.

BULLETIN REPORT: Earl Witzleb not in attendance — no report.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Clarence Marshall not in attendance, however President Hawn reported membership at 5,575, with loss of 125 from prior year.

RESOLUTIONS AND BY-LAWS AND PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE: Joe Wright reported no activity and no recommendations.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Bill Matlach reported four applicants for Ross University. Dr. Ross to send applicants necessary forms, three grandchildren and 1 child of "69" member applied. Report moved and seconded. Motion carried.

SOUVENIR COMMITTEE: Treasurer Kurtzman reported in absence of Frank Nemeth, souvenirs were going well. Motion to accept report made by Neil Shields and seconded by Henry Patula. Motion carried.

REUNION AND SITE ACTIVITY:

Rochester — Chairman Duffy furnished written report that everything was coming into line, but there will be limited tours available. Rooms will be \$68.00 plus tax.

Nashville — Curt Peterson gave report and advised that this reunion was coming along slow. Attempt is being made to get some better prices on rooms and reduce banquet cost.

Future — Representative from Manhattan, Kansas to present a bid for 1995 Reunion to Curt Peterson. Pertinent details

will be furnished at the General Meeting. If programs are acceptable, Curt Peterson will check out St. Paul, Minnesota possibilities. There are no new offers on potential sites by membership, unless someone comes forward to handle 1995, President Hawn might have to pick a location and committee.

OVERSEAS FLOWER FUND: Secretary Sheavly reported a balance in fund of \$551.68. Next decoration will be April 25, 1993. Pictures of grave sites have now been put into photo albums and are available for members to review at annual meetings.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Committee is working on slate to present to general membership.

SAN FRANCISCO REUNION: Chairman Pierce advised that 253 took San Francisco tour, 107 toured Alcatraz, 177 took the Napa Valley tour, 232 Early Bird Dinner and the Banquet 433, 269 at PX Nite. Contributions to hospitality room have been very good and about 50% have contributed to this area of expense.

69th HISTORY BOOK: As of this date follow up is being made on royalties due from Turner Publishing Company on sales of history books. Recent report shows approximately 1,135 sold. There are still approximately 300 left for sale should any member choose to order.

STREHLA MONUMENT REPORT: made by Bud Parsons for Bill Beswick. This project was started as a non-profit, tax exempt fund. Further, no funds were to co-mingled with Association funds. Dedication of monument will be on April 23, 1993, and rededication hopefully by presidents of United States, Russia and Germany on April 25, 1993.

CORRESPONDENCE: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

OLD BUSINESS: none

This being all pertinent business motion made to adjourn by Cliff Barbieri, seconded by Ed Lucci, motion carried and meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
W.C. "Bill" Sheavly
Secretary

Annual Meeting of the General Membership August 29th, 1992 San Francisco, California

President Hawn called meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Pledge of allegiance led by Joe Wright, who also gave a brief invocation.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of Biloxi meeting read and report stands as read. Motion made, seconded and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob Kurtzman gave a report on the financial condition of the Association. He pointed out that the income is in one period and expenses in another which distorts our actual monies on hand. Motion to accept report by Frank Nemeth, seconded by Bob Bement, votes cast in favor of acceptance.

AUDITOR'S REPORT: Ed Lucci, the new auditor, advised all monies are properly accounted. Motion to accept, it was approved and stands as reported. Congratulations were extended to Bob Kurtzman for a job well done.

(Continued on Page 52)

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
AUGUST 29th, 1992 - SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
(Continued from Page 51)**

Jim Boris made a motion to increase dues from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per year. **President Hawn** advised that action had been taken by the Board to raise dues based on the Constitution and By-Laws. Further, that at future reunions we institute a registration fee of \$10.00 to \$15.00. **Hal Ruck** inquired as to tax deductibility of dues. **Ed Lucci** advised that Association is exempt but individuals are not. Moved by **W. Doernbach** and seconded by **Neil Shields** that Auditor's Report be accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS were as follows:

BULLETIN: No report since both **Earl Witzleb** and **Clarence Marshall** are absent.

PARLIAMENTARY, BY-LAWS AND RESOLUTIONS: **Joe Wright** stated no changes have been requested.

WOMEN'S LIAISON: **Curt Peterson** advised he had made request of ladies president to make outline of the duties of wife of Reunion Chairman as to her exact duties at Reunion, prior to and during reunion.

ROSS SCHOLARSHIP: **Bill Matlach** reported **Dr. Ross** is offering scholarships in either medical or veterinary. Both schools are in the West Indies. Four have applied. Association has no responsibility in this scholarship program.

RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS

SOUVENIRS: **Frank Nemeth** reported sales were doing well, asked for suggested items for future. Thanks extended to **Bob** and **Theresa Pierce** for making arrangements for help during Reunion. Thanks also extended to **Al Kormas** for buying shirts and jackets.

RECOGNITION OF FIRST TIMERS

President Hawn pointed out importance of considering a 2nd Vice-President due to the age of membership. Change of By-Laws to be in hands of Secretary and Resolutions Committee thirty days prior to Reunion, and this probably will be voted on at Rochester reunion.

GOLF TOURNAMENT: **Jim Boris** reported twenty participants with prizes for low gross, low net and longest drive. Winners awarded prizes.

OVERSEAS FLOWER FUND: **Secretary Sheavly** reported balance of \$551.68 in Flower Fund. Report also indicated that we have only 40-50 pictures of grave sites yet to obtain and we will have a complete record of all men killed that remain in Europe. The 69th decoration day is April 25th. Further **Bill Matlach** advised a rose is also placed on grave sites on each Memorial Day.

SITE SCREENING COMMITTEE: **Curt Peterson** advised Manhattan, Kansas as possibility, but that he felt their facilities did not meet our requirements. There is a possibility of a cruise, or Myrtle Beach or St. Paul, Minnesota. Final decision will be made in 1993.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: **Hal Ruck** reported on nominations for years 1994-1995 as follows:

- Division Headquarters* **Fred Avery**
- 271st Infantry* **Edward Chando**
- 272nd Infantry* **Ralph Gobel**
- 273rd Infantry* **Art Hume**
- Divarty* **Alex Kormas**
- 269th Engineers* **Ward Peterson**
- 777th Tank Battalion* **Alex Zubrowski**
- 369th Medical Battalion* **Frank Andrews**

No nominations from the floor, therefore motion to accept by **W. Doernbach**, seconded by **Bob Bement**. Motion carried.

REUNION REPORTS:

San Francisco — Report by **Bob Pierce** advised contributions for hospitality room were excellent. There will be 43 at the final banquet. Thanks given to **Bob** and **Theresa Pierce** for an excellent job done on the Reunion. Reunion will end in the black.

Rochester — **President Hawn** reported for **Chairman Duffy** Room rate \$68.00 plus tax. Local military facilities will furnish color guard, dance band, music for Saturday night, etc., gratis.

Nashville — **Jim Bilbrey** gave general report on this site in 1994.

Motion to accept these reports by **Bob Bement**, seconded by **Ernie Rowe**, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

Good of the Order: (1) **Ralph Untermoechlin** spoke on Manhattan, Kansas and encouraged membership to consider this site. (2) **George Johnson** spoke of 3 Flags display, British, American, Russian which were 50 years old and made by the Russians. It was noted American Flag - blue field in wrong corner. (3) **Bud Parsons** advised membership on the progress on the Strehla monument.

There being no further business, unanimous decision to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
W.C. "Bill" Sheavly
Secretary

ATTENTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is now listed on the computer and to make sure our list is complete and accurate, will you please confirm your address and also give us your phone number. Thank you.

Send to: **W. C. Sheavly, Secretary**
218 Sacred Heart Lane
Reistertown, Maryland 21136-1414

Company I, 273rd Infantry



Bledso, Roger Forrest, Al Long on a water run in Hacken, Germany in 1944-45?

A Thanksgiving Menu from 1943, Camp Shelby

Below are the names listed inside of the menu.



BATTERY C

724TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



Thanksgiving Menu
and Battery Roster
1943

69TH DIVISION
CAMP SHELBY, MISSISSIPPI

OFFICERS

CAPTAIN JAMES R. NEWCOMBE
Commanding Battery C
724th Field Artillery Battalion

1st LT. SAMUEL J. FOOSE, Jr. 2nd LT. HOWARD H. McCORMICK
Firing Executive Motor Officer

2nd LT. LOUIS PSALTIS
Mess Officer and Reconnaissance Officer

COOKS

T/4 Oscar W. Drew, Jr.
Acting Mess Sergeant

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1st SHIFT | 2nd SHIFT |
| T/5 Theodore L. Kane, Jr. | Pfc. John F. Veverka |
| Pfc. Coleman H. Birmingham | Pvt. Elijah J. Babb |

FIRST SERGEANT

Arthur G. Erickson

STAFF SERGEANTS

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Norman F. Glese | Lester Voga |
| Walter A. Struck | Vincent J. Priore |

SERGEANTS

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Lyle L. Biggs | Edward J. Domansky |
| Ivan W. Comer | Edward C. Kolyszko |

TECHNICIANS FOURTH GRADE

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Frederick D. Shotwell | Bernard R. Skelley | Joseph W. LaCour |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|

CORPORALS

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Vernon E. Tritch, Jr. | William A. Mullen, Jr. | John F. Koziel |
| Joseph R. Cheskawich | John W. Turner | John Massey |
| Eugene J. Kissell | Theodore L. Arndt | William R. Meadows |
| Philip D. Maines | Walter A. Bockmann | Stanford J. Silvestri |
| Leroy C. McCormick | Carter G. Gaines | Walter J. Wolff |

TECHNICIANS FIFTH GRADE

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Simon J. Avara | James E. Thomas | Salvatore A. DiBartola |
| Chester Colglazier | Thomas J. McCann | Russell N. Reed |
| Coy J. Horton | Melvin F. Baer | Oliver C. Hockaday |

PRIVATES FIRST CLASS

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Louis F. Angelucci | Lester K. Walter | Lloyd E. Morley |
| Joseph J. Bergamasco | William L. Weiser | Harold A. Pollard |
| Peter Feduska | John W. Howard | Martin Szymkowiak Jr. |
| George Mallotides | Harry J. Armor, Jr. | Harold F. Wepler |
| Ray Morse | Alfred J. Eckhardt | Walter J. Wilson |
| Oliver J. Ozelek | Elmer E. Gatchell | Buster D. Ferguson |
| Anthony J. Szaro | Nicholas A. Montella | |

PRIVATES

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Jesse H. Barnhill | Gordon E. Seale | Abe Freeman |
| Joseph J. Biesiada, Jr. | Robert A. Vanderhoof | Curtis Hollingsworth |
| Charles E. Charlton | Joseph Maresca | Lester H. Ketner |
| Paul E. Decker | Joseph J. DiMura, Jr. | Joseph M. Nemeth |
| Hugh R. Dillion | Ralph A. Schroeder | Daniel Roshin |
| Edward H. Fleck | Robert A. Berkau | Trop Sapp |
| William Himmelhaver | John A. Chamberlin | Enrico Vaccaro |
| Anthony Jasinkowiak | Paul M. Clark | Ludwig Wager |
| Bernard Kessler | John E. Deeds, Jr. | Curt Brill |
| Ted G. Robinson | John W. Fish | Donald J. Frazier |
| Michael E. Ryan | | Frederick W. Tapking |

Submitted by

| | |
|---|--|
| John Turner P.O. Box 1645 Decatur, Georgia 30031 | Coy Horton 1705A Highview Street Burlington, North Carolina 27215 |
|---|--|

MENU

ROAST TURKEY WITH FRENCH DRESSING
 GIBLET GRAVY SNOW FLAKE POTATOES
 CREAM PEAS AND CARROTS
 CANDY SWEET POTATOES
 BAVARIN CABBAGE
 CREAM OF TOMATOES SOUP
 PIMENTO SALAD
 FRUIT COCKTAIL SWEET PICKLES
 STUFFED OLIVES
 MARBLE CAKE WITH ICING
 COCOA CREAM PIE CRANBERRY JELLO
 ICE CREAM HOT COFFEE
 BREAD AND BUTTER
 CIGARS AND CIGARETTES

Reminiscences of My World War II Service

PART I

By JOE WRIGHT

Special Troops, Headquarters, 69th Infantry Division
Route 4, Box 1973, Forsyth, Missouri 65653

This is the story of a guy who shouldn't have been there in the first place but eventually was glad it happened the way it did. And now having started the story, it must be concluded, and it will cover 2 years, 10 months and 11 days of Military Service.

At age 38 I was still 1A at my Draft Board, and that kept my employer indecisive because, although I had a good job, he was not sure of my future. So when I inquired at my Draft Board and got no relief, I had no choice but to volunteer which is not the same as enlisting, but they assured me I would have special treatment. So after two weeks "Inactive Duty" to put my affairs in order, I reported on October 26th to my Draft Board in Wheaton, Illinois, where I was put in charge of the group being sent to Camp Grant, Illinois. I was reminded that my number had a V in front of it which meant I was a volunteer and would entitle me to special treatment wherever I went. It is typical of local draft board personnel to make such promises without being informed about how it would turn out. But what happened in my career fortunately was not in their control nor the result of their promises, because the day I put my foot down at Camp Grant that "V" was lost forever. Maybe my guardian angel knew about the "V" because I was extremely lucky in my assignments and promotions.

The days a recruit spends at his first camp are busy and he puts "office hours" behind him because he has only a limited time to complete such things as getting his uniform. (They dispose of the clothes you came in, even mailing them home if you wish). With the uniform and other equipment you are also told you are responsible for everything and will be charged for anything you lose. At this point you get your initial shots, usually three, and then are taken to an "orientation" movie. The one I remember most was on venereal disease in color and it was so graphic that if the shots didn't make you sick, the movie would complete the job and your introduction to the Mess Hall, although the food was good, left you with little interest in it. Fortunately this changed and I never had the common dislike for army food.

Another memory of Camp Grant was the first day we were lined up and marched somewhere. I looked up and saw a young officer standing on a platform and I heard him comment as he viewed us, "It sure looks like they reached the bottom of the barrel." He was a medical officer I remembered from Lewis Institute where we both sang in the Glee Club. Of course, I never got to see and remind. Later that night we took our AGCT test (Army General Classification Test), the result of which gave us our IQ rating. I was so uncomfortable and tired I only completed about one third of the test and was amazed that I got a score of well over 100, and that figure remained on my record for my entire Military "Career."

The next day I had an interview with a classification officer whose job it was to try to learn from our business experience where we would fit in. Apparently, there isn't much an ex-insurance clerk can do, but when I mentioned being a Map Clerk (just a bit above office boy) his eyes opened. I hurriedly explained that those maps had nothing to do with actual map making, but I ended up with an "Operations NCO" classification which required maintaining Situation Maps in combat operations (More about that later).

After another night at Camp Grant we were put on a train destined for Camp Adair near Corvallis, Oregon. There were

no sleeping accommodations furnished but we did manage to get some sleep, and there was a Mess Car within the train. Apparently for security reasons we were given no details about our route, but I believe we were on the Great Northern Railroad, and I did see a station which appeared to be a stop in Glacier National Park, and at one time we saw flocks of pheasants which made the hunters in the group wish for their civilian rifles.

On arrival at Camp Adair we were made a part of the 96th Infantry Division, and I was assigned to the Transportation Platoon of Division Headquarters Company where I was to learn to drive a 2½ ton truck. This came as a shock since I had not driven anything since the days of the Model T Ford, and they soon learned I was a hazard to military equipment. When I mentioned this to my advisory officer he said not worry because as soon as I finished basic training, I would be promoted to Buck Sergeant and assigned to the G3 Section. This is the operations unit of the Infantry Division and it appeared my misclassification (referring back to my Map Clerk days) would soon rear its ugly head. Basic training was not too strenuous and we had a training sergeant who managed to harden our muscles in various games while teaching us to observe the terrain for battle purposes. Learning to march and handle our rifle was a bit awkward but a patient drill sergeant soon had a few of us even drilling the Platoon and another taught us the makeup and armament of the entire division. We soon learned that some of us were being trained as a CADRE to be sent to form another division and that is how I turned up at Hattiesburg, Mississippi and helped in the activation of the 69th Infantry Division.

That part of Oregon in November is not too cold but it is very wet, and we had our share of sleeping out in a 2-man pup tent, eating out of mess kits in the rain, and trying to keep our equipment, especially our rifle, dry. Although the climate was temperate we had a training convoy to the Pacific Ocean over the pass to Newport. During the night a wet snow fell to the height of eight inches. We made it to the Coast, but on the way back several trees had fallen from the weight of the snow and we had experience removing trees from the road in the Pass - not included in the original plan.

The time spent at Camp Adair produced no noteworthy events, and just as soon as the weather improved, in March 1943 we were shipped off to Camp Shelby. There were enough of us to fill an entire train and we did have sleeping accommodations, and when meal time came our cooks set up a mess line on the station platform and we got to use our mess kits. This meant that after eating, the kits were dipped into three cans of water. One was soapy and the other two of very hot rinse water. One learned to rinse carefully because not doing so could result in the "GIs" which required several trips to the bathroom. One of the days - it took four to get to Mississippi - we passed a troop train going the other way, and one kid in the train hollered, "What kind of an army is this? All of those guys are 'Non Coms.'" That is true. All of the Cadremen were at least Corporals.

We arrived at Camp Shelby several weeks before May 15, 1943, the day the 69th Infantry Division was activated, and as "Cadremen" it was our duty to train the recruits that had been coming in every day to the total of 15,000 including the Cadre. We were assigned to "hutments" - tar paper covered buildings that held sixteen men, and our assignment was to Division Headquarters Company and I went to the G3 Section. Even then it seemed we had more men than we needed, but our training continued and we learned we finally were getting ready for combat.

There were several phases of training, and we had to get these raw recruits ready to perform as a unit. Our Commanding General, Charles Bolte, had a reputation for excellent

(Continued on Page 55)

REMINISCENCES OF MY WORLD WAR II SERVICE
(Continued from Page 54)

training. We spent most of our time in the field, living in tents and eating in the open with a final exercise called the "March to the Sea" wherein we camped out but moved slowly south to the Gulf of Mexico near Gulfport and Biloxi but spending most of the time in the DeSoto National Forest among the chiggers and ticks. This is when we got our nickname "The Three B's," and typical of Army language it mean "Bolte's Bivouacing Bastards."

My assignment to the G3 Section was short-lived because a slight change in organization resulted in the development of "Special Troops Headquarters," and since it required a man with the classification of "Operations Non Com" I was sent to take that job. I was very lucky to get the job because it brought me promotion to Staff Sergeant and then to Technical Sergeant. Here again my misclassification showed up but by that time I was able to meet my obligations and fortunately the two other Sergeants, Edstrom and Smith, both good friends, even now, did a good job so all I had to do was supervise. Since it was technically a "battalion" I was actually a Sergeant Major but it was only a complimentary title.

On one of my furloughs home I was reacquainted with a lady I had met in Colorado before I entered the Service. Of course, there is a lot more to that story but space prevents including the details, and in October, in Glen Ellyn at a family dinner she accepted my ring and we were engaged but no date was set. Although the ranks of the division were considerably reduced by the men who went overseas as replacements, it began to appear we could be getting ready to go over ourselves, so Eleanor Alspaugh and I decided to get married on December 12, 1943, at the South Bend Christian Church. It was a beautiful service with most of my family in attendance. Brother George was best man, and since Eleanor wanted a small gold band, George brought a handful of them sent by a good jeweler friend. Of course the ring didn't fit and had to be made smaller (more later). It was a beautiful sunny day but by late afternoon it became icy but we got to the Stevens Hotel in Chicago without incident. Oddly enough, it was sunny and cold in Chicago. Typical of service men in those war days the hotel required proof of marriage and we had our license. When the desk clerk called the bell boy the man said, "Hello, Mr. Wright." He used to work at the Atlantic Hotel where we fellows played cards, so we found a friend in an otherwise cold situation. But the warmest greeting came from our good friend Ellis Lewis who took us to the Kungsholm restaurant for a wedding dinner complete with champagne. We spent our two days shopping (mostly looking) and finally we had to go home, Eleanor to South Bend and me to Hattiesburg. We both left from the Illinois Central Station but we had the chore of going to pick up the ring from the jeweler. While waiting Eleanor sat by an older lady who was bemoaning the War Marriages that couldn't possibly last when I came along and told her to put out her finger and I said "With this ring, I thee wed." I think the poor lady is still in shock. The marriage I have often said was illegal, to which the poor lady might attest, because it was allowed to be performed on a three-day pass plus a weekend pass, neither of which permitted more than 100 miles from Camp, nor should they be continuous. But my good friend and officer, Captain Sullivan, made the exception and hopefully a careful MP wouldn't look too closely. Fortunately, the MPs were not too well informed about such delicate matters. Bob Myers, our very close friend, even now can't figure out how I got away with it. He eventually became my Company Commander in Germany. With little time for a honeymoon, we could be pardoned for our impatience and in January Eleanor got some time off and came down to visit. The housing situation was difficult but we did manage a few days before she had to return to work with the promise she would return as soon as possible.

Here is where the bivouacing situation became awkward because as soon as she arrived I had to go out into the "field" for several days, so she went home and got a leave of absence and stayed with me until Thanksgiving. The nights were very short because we had to catch a bus to Camp in time to stand "Reveille" at 6:00 a.m. But we had a wonderful honeymoon period and Eleanor had a host of experiences as a Camp Shelby wife. Just to prove there can be fun in the restricted military life — Here is the way Eleanor tells it:

The train stopped at Jackson, Mississippi at 6:00 a.m. I got off to transfer to another train to Hattiesburg. I walked around the streets in Jackson for an hour, then had coffee and by that time the other train was there. It stopped at every whistle stop to pick up milk cans. Finally we arrived. Joe took me to the house where we were to have our room, then left for Camp and would see me later. As I walked into our room four large Persian cats greeted me (I am not a cat lover). I got rid of them, never to leave our door open again. We had a front room so to get to the bath we walked through the living room and dining room, which had a bed in it for another couple, a corner of the kitchen into a little hall, and finally the bath. Joe got a seven-day leave so we went to New Orleans and Biloxi - a belated honeymoon. When we got back he went out into the "field" for two or three weeks - I went home. Never saw the cats again. After two more trips to Hattiesburg I took a leave of absence from my job and went back to stay. We had a lovely large room with bath adjoining on the third floor of the home - just two rooms up there. Since Joe left early in the morning it made a long day for me, so I looked for a job. Of course all of the officers didn't need help so I went to the Court House to take a Civil Service exam. I passed and was sent out to the Camp post for a job that was open in my field. Almost hired and as an afterthought the warrant officer asked what division my husband was in and of course the job had just been filled as he knew the 69th was scheduled to ship out soon.

Back in town I went to the Reliance Manufacturing Co., makers of "Big Yank" work shirts. They had a plant in the country that made military clothing. A job was open - a "shirt folder" was needed (shirts for the Navy). I went to work immediately. We were bussed out to the country to be at work by 7:00 a.m. and bussed back to town at 4:00 p.m. During all the time I worked there I was active in the Presbyterian Church in town singing in the choir and doing the solo work. Also I gave concerts at the USO and sang on Sundays at the Camp chapel and whenever troops were being shipped out to go overseas, a church service was held. Sundays I ate in the officers mess hall with the chaplain and his wife where occasionally I saw the General of the 69th eating his dinner. He was the only person I had ever seen who ate peas with his knife.

The days passed rapidly, Thanksgiving was approaching when Joe was notified he was being "shipped out." After a fine Thanksgiving Dinner served at the plant I left their employ. The next hurdle was getting train reservations. The chaplain's assistant told me his aunt had invited me to Perkasio, Pennsylvania to stay with her until the division was shipped overseas. The chaplain's wife was not going to use her reservation to the East Coast so I was able to use it. The day after Thanksgiving saw me on the train to Philadelphia. The Reading station was my destination. Going into the station to wait for the train to Perkasio I saw Joe coming in another door - what a coincidence! The next morning he left for Camp Kilmer and he thought he would be in again but I waited a week and heard nothing from him. The Hendrickses were so nice to me and helped me get another train reservation for home to wait for the end of the war.

To be continued in the next issue of the Bulletin.

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.

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 of 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 WEEKEND

Quality Suites Hotel
Route A1A
Melbourne, Florida 32934

Room Rate: \$55.00 plus tax
Continental Breakfast Included

Interested members or 69ers call or write,

Committee:

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

* * * * *

MAY 13, 14, 15, 1993

MID-WEST GROUP 1993 SPRING MEETING

Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

Wisconsin Dells is a large vacation area on the Wisconsin River, about 120 miles from Milwaukee and 55 miles from Madison.

A few of the attractions are:

- Boat tours of the picturesque river
- The Circus World Museum
- Mid-Continental Railway Museum
- Greyhound racing
- International Crane Foundation (rare birds)
- Museum of Norman Rockwell art

In addition, there are numerous amusement and theme parks, restaurants and tours of the area.

MOTEL: Holiday Inn

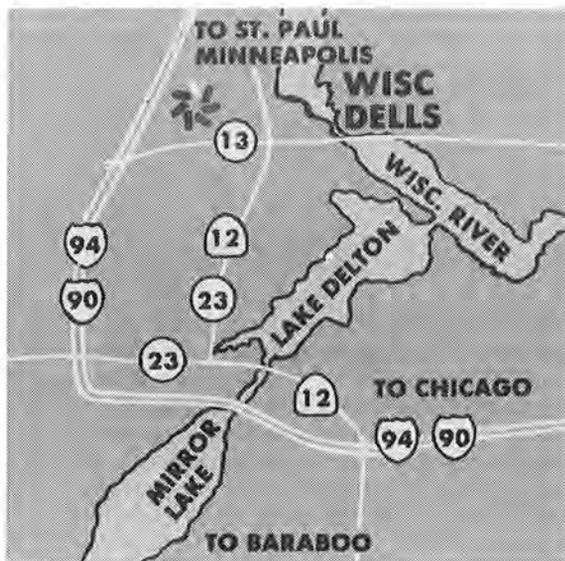
Located on State Highway 13, a short distance east of Exit 87 from Interstate 90/94.

Rate: \$47 per night plus 10½% tax, or \$51.94.

Reservations: Call the Holiday Inn at 608/254-8306 from within Milwaukee, or at 800/254-DELLS from out of state.

You can also write to:

Holiday Inn
P.O. Box 236, Highway 13 and I-90/94
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin 53965



A block of rooms will be held until April 28, 1993 for our group, and it may be difficult to get a room after that date, so call by the deadline.

The room rate given above will hold for a few days before and after our meeting for those who wish to spend more time in the area.

PROGRAM

Thursday, May 13th: Check-in time is 4:00 p.m., but there should be no problem getting in earlier.

Hospitality Room
Dinner, probably at Holiday Inn.

Friday, May 14th: Golf at course to be selected.

Sightseeing for non-golfers.
Hospitality Room.
Dinner at restaurant to be selected.

Saturday, May 15th: On your own.

Check-out time is 12:00 noon.

Committee:

For answers to questions, contact:
Gaylord and Ruth Thomas
432 Doty Street
Waupun, Wisconsin 53963
Telephone: 414/324-4065

(Continued on Page 57)

**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE**

(Continued from Page 56)

MAY 15, 1993

Deadline for news material and pictures for this bulletin,
Bulletin Volume 46, Number 3

May - June - July - August, 1993

No extensions for this bulletin due to reunion in August.
Bulletin due out in early July 1993.

Members should have sent in reservation and activities
form from last bulletin. This bulletin is really, really last
call, if not too late for Rochester.

* * * * *

JUNE 1993 (Tentative)

COMPANY D, 272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

Location: Asheville, North Carolina

Other details to follow in future bulletins.

Committee:

Blake Morrison

2307 Chatham Drive

Greensboro, North Carolina 27408

Telephone: ?? _____

Randy and Lisa Barnett (Guests of 272nd)

Greensboro, North Carolina

* * * * *

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

Friends and Guests also invited.

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 B

Location: Days Inn

2200 Northwest Boulevard

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

Reservations: 1-800-325-2525

Room Rates:

\$60.00 - 1 person

\$65.00 - 2-4 people (2 standard double beds)

\$68.00 - King - 2 people

With complimentary continental breakfast.



Program:

Friday: Our lake cabin for a barbeque.

Bingo

Saturday: Indian Museum in Spokane

Business Meeting

Banquet that night

Committee:

Donald and Gerry Castellaw, Chairpersons

804 East E. Street

Moscow, Idaho 83843

Telephone: 208/882-4092

* * * * *

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.

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

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(Continued on Page 58)

(Continued from Page 57)

 * **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** *

SEPTEMBER 4, 1993

Deadline for news material and pictures for this bulletin.
 Bulletin Volume 47, Number 1
 September - October - November - December, 1993
 Bulletin for news and pictures from Rochester Reunion
 Bulletin due out in late November 1993
 Members should start planning vacation reunion week.
 Nashville Reunion, August 21 thru 28, 1994

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 11¼% 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:** +
 + **Joseph and Virginia McMurry, Co-Chairpersons** +
 + **Company I, 271st Infantry** +
 + **110 Fountain Place** +
 + **Jackson, Tennessee 38305** +
 + **Telephone: 901/668-3606** +
 + **James and Geneva Bilbrey, Co-Chairpersons** +
 + **880th Field Artillery, Battery A** +
 + **R.D. #3, Box 289-B** +
 + **Celina, Tennessee 38551** +
 + **Telephone: 615/243-2250** +
 + **Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.** +
 + **Advising Coordinators** +
 +++++



“Taps”

The melody of TAPS was composed by a non-musical (musician with no formal knowledge) nor the technical names of any of the notes. Union General Daniel Butterfield whistled it for Brigade Bugler Oliver Norton who wrote the notes on the back of an envelope July 2, 1862. The plaintive bugle notes that bring an involuntary lump to the throat typifies our loss and feelings of these two great buglers.

Carl J. Benson
7600 N.W. 26th Street
Bethany, Oklahoma
Div. Hq.

Dale Kizer
727 Gloria Drive
Lima, Ohio
Hq.-879th

Garland Copenhaver
Route 2, Box 99
Wytheville, Virginia
Hq.-661st

Louis L. Roman
6342 Morse Avenue
North Hollywood, California
C-880th

Tom H. Ashley
606 2nd Street N.W.
Alabaster, Alabama
C-880th

Walter C. Wilson
Indianapolis, Indiana
M-272nd

Marion O. Dellinger
800 South 27th Street
Lafayette, Indiana
Div. Hq.

Ralph P. Reeves
7820 West Paradise Drive
Peoria, Arizona
A-881st

Fred A. Wooldridge
3309 Sherry Lane
Abilene, Texas
69th Div. Band

B. B. Baker
898 Wendover Road
Statesville, North Carolina
A-880th

Reverend Carl E. Wagner
1108 North Perry
Pampa, Texas
Div. Hq.

Harold E. Vance
P.O. Box 393
Dauphin, Pennsylvania
69th Recon

Arthur H. Jaszewski
1835 West Grange Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Med. 271st

Robert C. Matthews
P.O. Box 97
Lackey, Virginia
K-271st

Estel Clute
320 Lockwood
Alpena, Michigan
H-271st

Harry C. Wilson
1603 Washington Boulevard
Belpre, Ohio

George E. Couchman
104 South Maple Avenue
Martinsburg, West Virginia
Hq.-880th

John Dokter
P.O. Box 568
Washington, D.C.
H-271st

Albert T. Leike, Jr.
Route 2, Box 238
Parkersburg, Pennsylvania
C-369th

Thomas E. Heil
8712 South 81st Avenue
Hickory Hill, Illinois
Hq., 2nd Bn., 271st

Burton Bethke
R.R. #2, Box 26
Raymond, South Dakota
769th Ordnance

James M. Yedinak
826 Hartman Street
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Hq. Divarty

William Anderson
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Laguna Niguel, California
Div. Hq.

Milton Moxness
P.O. Box 327
Montevideo, Minnesota
Ser. 272nd

THE WORDS TO “TAPS” SAY IT ALL

**Day is done, gone the Sun
From the Lakes, From the Hills
From the Skies, All is Well
Safely Rest, God is Nigh**

Rupert Bryant
109 East Cummings Street
Henrietta, Oklahoma
B-777th

Charles Hobbs
2607 Grimsley
Greensboro, North Carolina
D-461st

Cecil W. Morgan
413 Delaware Road
Frederick, Maryland
A-879th

F. H. McLeod
161 Pickett Road
Sanford, North Carolina

Edward J. Rataj
414 Kingsley Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

George R. Rose
3020 Melford Road
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569th Signal Co.

Kenneth Sanderson
265 Ronald Avenue
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B-271st & 69th MP

John Shartzter
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Howard D. Denbo
110 Indian Hills Drive
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H&S 269th

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Goldsboro, Maryland
F-271st

Paul W. Figg
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Shirleysburg, Pennsylvania
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“Taps”

(Continued from Page 59)

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Melvin Rump
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Earl V. Schultz
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Girard, Pennsylvania
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Tom Rivers, New Jersey
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Eugene Laskowski
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B-879th

NOTE: For those of you who are unaware, the membership voted last year to limit the bulletin to 60 pages. If you submitted material for this bulletin, and did not see it published in this issue, it will be published in the next issue. We cannot always find space for everything that we receive. Please be patient. Also, in the next issue more photographs from the San Francisco Reunion will be published. Thank You, Clarence and Earl