

# FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

## ★★★★ *Association, Inc.*



VOLUME 46, NO. 3

MAY — JUNE — JULY — AUGUST  
1993

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

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

# bulletin

### OFFICERS 1992-1993

Welkos O. Hawn, *President*  
2445 South Cody Court  
Lakewood, CO 80227 ..... Div. Hq.

Curt E. Peterson, *Vice President*  
4900 Wallace Avenue  
Madison, WI 53716 ..... 569

William C. Sheavly, *Secretary*  
218 Sacred Heart Lane  
Reistertown, MD 21136 ..... 271

Robert Kurtzman, *Treasurer*  
P.O. Drawer 178  
Wilmot, OH 44689 ..... 272

Clarence Marshall, *Membership*  
101 Stephen Street  
New Kensington, PA 15068 .. Div. Hq.

Edward Lucci, *Auditor* ..... 273  
William Snidow, *Chaplain* ..... 661  
Paul Shadle, *Co-Chaplain* ..... 271  
Earl Witzleb, Jr., *Co-Chaplain* ..... 273  
Joe Wright, *Parliamentarian* .. Div. Hq.  
Eugene Butterfield, *Legal Adv.* .. Div. Hq.

### LADIES' AUXILIARY

Maria Keller, *President*  
Alice Wolthoff, *Vice President*  
Stefania Nemeth, *Secretary*  
Ellen McCann, *Assistant Secretary*  
Edith Chapman, *Chaplain*  
Jeanne Hawn, *Assistant Chaplain*  
Margie McCombs, *Sunshine Lady*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### 1992-1993

Clarence Marshall ..... Div. Hq.  
Ash Fuller ..... 271  
Neil Shields ..... 272  
Edward Lucci ..... 273  
Phil Colombo ..... Divarty  
Walter Holmlin ..... 269  
Joseph Jenei ..... 661  
Henry Putala ..... 777

#### 1993-1994

Carl A. Miller ..... 69 MP  
George W. Weston ..... 271  
Edgar A. Parsons ..... 272  
Pierce G. Rice ..... 273  
J. S. Rollman ..... Divarty  
Frank Packard ..... 269  
William E. Snidow ..... 661  
Charles White ..... 777  
Marvin Slichter ..... 369  
Alden Angline ..... 461

#### 1994-1995

Fred Avery ..... Div. Hq.  
Edward Chando ..... 271  
Ralph Gobel ..... 272  
Art Hume ..... 273  
Alex Kormas ..... Divarty  
Ward Peterson ..... 269  
Alex Zubrowski ..... 777  
Frank Andrews ..... 369

### PAST PRESIDENTS

\*Maj. Gen. E. F. Reinhardt,  
TX ..... Div. Hq.

\*Lester J. Milich, NJ ..... 569 Sig.  
\*Hyman E. Goldstein, NY ..... 272 Inf.  
\*Clifford E. Ewing, GA ..... 769 Ord.  
Sherman Lawrence, NY ..... 272 Inf.  
Murry Galuten, FL ..... 272 Inf.  
\*Henry Madison, NY ..... 272 Inf.  
\*Sol Rosenblitt, FL ..... 271 Inf.  
\*Cyril Baron, FL ..... Div. Hq.

\*Loar L. Quickle, NJ ..... 271 Inf.  
Harold M. Starry, PA ..... 272 Inf.  
Wm. R. Matlach, NY ..... 273 Inf.  
Sam Woolf, NY ..... 273 Inf.  
Geo. E. Phillips, FL ..... 271 Inf.  
Albert Carbonari, CT ..... 271 Inf.  
Stanley Olszewski, CT ..... 273 Inf.  
John Moriarty, MA ..... 69 MP  
Robert Myers, AZ ..... Div. Hq.  
Walter Doernbach, NJ ..... Div. Hq.  
\*George Gallagher, FL ..... MP & QM  
William Beswick, VA ..... 661  
William Foster, PA ..... 269  
Earl E. Witzleb, Jr., PA ..... 273 Inf.

\*Deceased



Rochester, New York Skyline with the Sam Patch Cruise Boat shown in the foreground.

*Come and Join Us At The*  
**1993 69th Infantry Division Reunion**  
**ROCHESTER, NEW YORK**  
**August 8th - 15th, 1993**



# News From The Editor's Desk



by — Clarence Marshall  
Membership Chairman

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

**Peter J. K. Hendriks**, Frejushof 6, 5627 TP Eindhoven, The Netherlands — Thank you very much for your letter of April 28th, concerning my request for information about the 69th Division men that are buried at the U.S. Military Cemetery in Margraten.

I appreciate very much that you are willing to publish my questionnaire in the next issue of your News Bulletin, and I look forward with great interest to the responses from the 69th veterans. They are the only ones who can tell the great stories of their valiant fallen comrades, so it will be recorded for future generations.

Thank you very much again for all your help on my behalf. It is very much appreciated! Every best wish to you and the great veterans of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division!

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Hendriks's questionnaire appears elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin.)*

**Charles Sydnor Thompson**, 2600 Charlotte Plaza, Charlotte, North Carolina 28244 — C-879th: I am considering attending the reunion in Rochester and would like to know if you would send me a list of the names of persons that you have for C Battery of the 879th Field Artillery Battalion. I want to write them and see if they will come to the reunion. I shall appreciate your sending me the names and addresses of all such persons who have ever joined or attended a reunion. I hope this is not too much trouble.

**Marvin L. Freeman**, 83 Lower Boulevard, New London, Connecticut 06320 — C-879th: It's that time of the year again and we will be leaving our Florida location for our northern place in Connecticut. We expect to be in our home by May 7th or 8th. I enclosed a copy of my old address label since I don't want to cut the label out of the bulletin. I trust my address change will produce no problems. I am also enclosing a check for \$10.00 for membership renewal. Keep well. Hope you'll make it to Rochester. Best regards.

**Howard B. Gardner**, R.F.D. #1, Box 51-C8, Ashdown, Arkansas 71822 — K-273rd: I have located a missing 69er. I am enclosing \$10.00 for his dues. I hope it is enough. Please send him the 69th stickers, etc. His name and address are as follows:

**Corporal Herman Mueschke, Jr.**  
Company L, 273rd Infantry  
1003 Columbia, Houston, Texas 77008

**Michael Moscaritolo**, 19 Trotters Circle, Kissimmee, Florida 34743 — 69th Recon: Hope this note finds you feeling much better. I just spoke with **Harold Gardner** of my troop and he stated that my dues envelope or something was returned to you by our post office in Florida. They have instructions whenever I go north for 2 or 3 months to forward my mail. I even told them to forward the 69th Division Bulletin but because it is printed "Do Not Forward," they will not mail it north. I even phoned them because in October and November I was in New Jersey. Well anyway, I mailed my check for \$20.00 to Bob Kurtzman and I received my membership card. The rest of the check was Contributory and Postage.

Now I have enclosed \$5.00 so please mail to me at my address below the last edition of our Bulletin. I am actually disturbed when I don't receive it. I wish to keep up with all the news and the activities. Thank you very much.

I also wish to inform you that **Vincent D'Meo** passed away on June 24, 1992 in Hillside, New Jersey. Vince was listed with the Recon Troop because he always came to our reunions. He was an original member of the 271st Infantry, either A Company, 1st Battalion, or Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion. He died while undergoing heart surgery. His widow still resides at 1018 Schleifer Avenue, Hillside, New Jersey 07205.

I'll be residing in Florida for at least 6 months. Take care. Talk to you again.

**John Kurey**, 17 Marlborough Drive, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania 15012 — H&S-269th: Just a line to let you know I received your card and newsletter. I still wish to be kept on your list. I'm retired, but I still don't have time to do all I'd like to do. Could you please tell me how many are left from my company? One of these days I'll show up at a meeting, that is, me and my buddy Toby. Toby is a Siberian Husky and my constant companion. It's just him and me now against the world. See you soon, I hope.

P.S. I still have my World War II Show Jeep which is for sale at \$6000.00 or best offer. I've got enough trophies from car shows. Anyone interested, please contact me at the address above.

**Norville F. Kendrick**, 421 Williams Ditch Road, Cantonment, Florida 32533: Please send me information of the 69th Division Reunion. I'm 67 years old and a veteran of World War II. I've been wanting to get in touch with my group. I finally reached you through the American Legion magazine.

**W.J. Elsner**, 26 Mercury Lane, North Ft. Myers, Florida 33903 — L-272nd: It is my sad duty to inform you of the death of **Kyle Ellison** of Beckley, West Virginia, 115 Olympia Drive 25801. Kyle was a member of the 272nd, Company L. He was a sergeant of the first mortar squad of which I was also in. Kyle and his wife Mildred have a vacation home in Oldsmar, Florida, where he was at the time of his death. He was out on the golf course with friends, when he was stricken by a massive heart attack. This was on the 2nd of March and he passed away in the hospital on the 5th of March. He will be missed by everyone. I hope you can get this in the next 69th Bulletin or at least a space in Taps.

I have written to some of the people in the 69th, Company L, 272nd, but am sure I have missed a lot of them. I hope you are in good health and will try to get to the next 69th reunion.

**Lou Lineburgh**, 469 Literary Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44113 — B&S, 881st: Thank you for your response to my phone call about the 69th Division. I have contacted **Captain Mills** and **Raymond Hurley** from the list. **Gene Tabacci** must be on vacation. I get no answer there. I also received the Bulletin. I plan to attend the reunion in Rochester, New York. I am sending dues to the Treasurer. Hope to meet you at the reunion.

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

*(Continued from Page 3)*

**Raymond J. Case**, 3133 Renatta Drive, Belleair Bluffs, Florida 34640 — 3rd Bn., 272nd: On page 50 of the last Bulletin, Volume 46, No. 2, appeared six pictures with a request to anyone who remembers **Edward Thompson** to please let us know. Following is a letter from **R.J. Case** clearing things up somewhat.

I remember **Edward J. Thompson**. He was Battalion Commander, 3rd Battalion, 272nd Infantry during our last days at Camp Shelby and our movement to England and later to France and Germany. The photo of five officers on page 50 shows **Lieutenant Colonel Thompson** in the middle of the four officers, which I do not or cannot make out. It could be the four Company Commanders in the 3rd Battalion. My guess is that the picture is outside on the grounds of the estate in Leipzig where he had our CP during our short occupation of Leipzig waiting for the Russians to come and take over.

My history was that I was assigned to the cadre of the 69th in Camp Adair, Oregon as Sergeant Major, 3rd Battalion, 272nd Infantry. At Hattiesburg for a couple of years, we trained five divisions and took the fifth one over to England. As cadre I was with the 69th from start to finish as Sergeant Major, 3rd Battalion, 272nd, except for short times in Hattiesburg and Germany I was "acting" First Sergeant of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 272nd. I served the U.S. Army for exactly five years - discharged as a Tech Sergeant or Sergeant Major in October, 1945 at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts. In my career in accounting I moved to New York City in 1952. There I joined the 69th Division Association. We had monthly meetings at a hotel on 57th Street in New York City. Generally, I am not a joiner and I lost interest in the reunions, etc. but the Bulletins I receive are enjoyed and keep me in touch.

But to get back to **Lieutenant Colonel Thompson**, my memory tells me that he was employed by Eastman Kodak of Rochester, New York and was a Supply Officer called back from Hawaii or the West to Benning, Georgia for refresher infantry training and because of his rank, assigned to Headquarters, 3rd Battalion, 272nd Infantry as Battalion Commander. **Edward Thompson** was not an aggressive or gung-ho soldier and for some reason the 3rd Battalion in any combat training or situation was always held in reserve while 1st and 2nd were the leaders. Maybe he was a favorite of the Regimental 272nd Commander. We survived, with very few casualties, and as cadre I came back to the United States via the Queen Elizabeth, a fast trip! I do not recognize any of the other photos.

**Harold Gardner**, 2929 Mason Avenue, Independence, Missouri 64052-2962 — 69th Recon: We finally got the information on **Gail Keever**. **Bob Schueler** in Hamilton, Ohio ran it down. **Gail** died on December 20, 1992 and was buried on December 23rd in Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Phoenix, Arizona. **Schueler** sent a note to his address in Mesa, Arizona and addressed it to relatives or friends of **Gail Keever** and it worked. He got a reply from a **Mark Keever**, probably a brother or son.

I talked to **Earl Witzleb** some time back and he said the Bulletin was at the printers. I called him about getting a picture and article in the next one. Our Recon Troop has a bottle of vodka in a holder that will be opened and a toast drunk to the Troopers by the last Trooper. I took a Polaroid picture of it and I asked **Earl** if Polaroid pictures came out pretty good in print. he said he thought they would.

**Earl** told me that he had 36 inches of snow and no doubt you got the same amount. We had 15 inches in one storm

in February but that's nothing like what you get up there.

On my first class mail being returned from **Ralph Stafura** I found out that apparently it depends on who the postman is that day. My mail went out with his street address and a box number on it. **Ralph** says that if his mail comes with only the street address on it, they won't deliver it. But my mail had both. I always did think there was something odd about those Florida people. **Mike Moscaritolo** goes back and forth between Florida and New Jersey depending on how the wind blows. He makes several trips back and forth each year. He told me that he went to the Kissimmee post office and offered to pay them to have his mail forwarded to New Jersey when he got up there. The post office told him that they could not forward anything other than first class mail even when he requested it. I don't know about this postal service. I told **Mike** about you getting his Dues Notice with the yellow post office sticker on it. Does **Kurtzman** send his notices out first class? I've never paid attention when I get mine.

We had a couple of real nice days here. It was 65 degrees this morning at 10:00 a.m. and now it is getting very cloudy and we are supposed to have some heavy rains today and tomorrow. We have plenty of moisture now and they predict a wetter than normal spring here.

It appears that we should have a pretty nice turn-out of the fellows at Oshkosh in August. We've got about 20-25 who have already made a commitment that they will be there. And of course the wives - that means 40-50. We had 21 in Waco plus one of our widows.

My newsletter is going over pretty good. I get input from quite a few of the Troopers. The only trouble is that it's usually about the same ones that I hear from. I wish we would hear from some of the fellows that we haven't heard from for years. This last letter I sent out 96 copies and did not get any of them back, so I know someone got them. I send all of them out first class so they will be returned or forwarded.

Guess I'd better sign off. I've got several more letters to get out. I don't know why I don't answer them right away but I don't. Then all of a sudden I've got several of them to answer at one time.

**Frank Warther**, 30-31 Heywood Avenue, Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410-4405 — I-271st: I was a member of the 69th Division from the time it was activated in 1943 until it was broken up in 1945. Also I was a member of the Division Association from the first meeting in the New York City 69th Armory until the present. I'm very proud of the Division and the Association.

Also, we all owe you a tremendous "THANK YOU" for your many years of great work keeping the Association together. You have done a great job, God bless you.

Recently, several members of Company I, 271st Infantry started having mini reunions. Last May, we got together in Pittsburgh. Soon we will meet in Little Rock, Arkansas.

We noted from the 69th Division History Book that was recently published and sold by Turner Publications that **Permon Chavious** is listed as a member of the 69th Association. We would like to notify **Permon** of our meeting. Could you please send me his address in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. We appreciate your help and hope to be able to thank you in person someday.

**W. Kenneth Bernhardt**, Box 87, Emington, Illinois 60934 — F-271st: I have been bouncing around the country with my wife in our RV, and decided to try to locate another 69th Division member. I thought that I remembered where he lived, in Las Cruces, New Mexico. I looked in the phone book,

*(Continued on Page 5)*

## NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 4)

and sure enough, he was there. I immediately called him, and as luck would have it, he was home. We talked for some time, and he was not aware that there was a 69th Division Association. I would appreciate it if you could send him a bulletin, as he is interested. Send to: **Mr. Daniel B. Jett, Jr.**, 935 North Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001. **Daniel** was a member of Company F, 271st, and a member of the 4th Platoon in the mortar section. He has a good recollection of the people in his section, and would like some contact. My recollection is that he sounds exactly like he did in 1944. When he spoke, I could picture him.

Thank you for your continued good work for the group, and we hope that the year 1993 is kinder to you than the past couple of years.

**Sam Lewis**, 1403 West San Antonio Street, Lockhart, Texas 78644 — B-273rd: Here is a story you might like to print in the Bulletin. I sent a draft of it to **Alan Murphey** last summer after we spent a short visit with him on our way back from **Bob Grimm's** place on the Allegheny River in Pennsylvania. He strongly urged me to send it in. Also, use any or all of the pictures you want to. I would like them back later on. Incidentally, **Bob** found me as a result of my biography being in the Division History Book.

Please check if I sent in my membership renewal for 92-93. I thought I did but can't be sure. We moved in November from Wimberley to Lockhart and my records are still hiding in a box somewhere. Also, I have not received the last issue of the Bulletin, Volume 46, No. 1. Perhaps they are not forwarded. Please let me know if I owe you for membership.

Below is new information on the Strehla memorial. Also, I have enclosed a copy of a letter from **Heinz Richter** who lives just across the Elbe in Torgau. He was quite helpful to **Bud Parsons** and the group who went there in 1991. It was he who put me in touch with a local firm there who can build and erect the Three Peoples Flagpole which I designed. Mrs. Lewis and I went over there in mid March 1992 and met with this company and with the mayor of Strehla. **Mr. Richter** acted as interpreter for me in that meeting. Too, we were guests of he and his wife Werra for two nights. He has been a great help to me and is willing to do anything to help the project along.

I have been involved in this memorial idea since mid 1989 when I approached Texas A&M with a suggestion for providing a plaque to install at Strehla commemorating an event in which a Texas Aggie played a prominent part. My wife and I took that plaque to Torgau in April 1990 and presented it at the 45th Anniversary celebration ceremonies. It was, in fact, the first physical thing to be brought to the river to be part of the memorial. The mayor of Strehla has it now. Also, I have been sending out letters (5,000 in all) to wartime Aggies asking for money to build the flagpoles. As of just recently, I believe enough has been donated to do that. The last money to come in was not from an Aggie, but from a friend of one. It was from **Robert W. Kotzebue, Sr.**, a cousin of **Buck Kotzebue's** father.

Perhaps if all is as I think, by the time of the "Ground-breaking" in April we might have a contract to build the flagpoles, and before prices go up again. By reducing the height of the poles from 25 feet to 19 feet, the cost is affordable. So, if the construction is done in stages, we might at least have our flagpoles in place early.

Last Sunday, February 21st, I spoke with **Bud Parsons**, and he told me he was going into the hospital the next day for surgery. He also said a recent FAX from Moscow revealed that **Major General Alexander Olshansky** was seriously ill.

I am wondering now, if any of us will make the 50th Anniversary celebration. I plan to, but who knows.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *Mr. Lewis' story appears elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin.*)

**Godfrey Slimmer**, P.O. Box 49, Seminary, Massachusetts 39479-0049 - B-881st: Report from Camp Shelby — you may be aware of the fact that the Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, known as Building #350, will be officially opened on Saturday, May 8, 1993. Mention should be made of two people who have done a lot of work to get this job done. They are **Dr. Betty Drake**, U.S.M.C.-Ret., and **Sergeant Charles Eppling**, who is on active duty at Camp Shelby. **Dr. Drake** gets paid for 20 hours per week. She works about 50 hours per week. **Sergeant Eppling** spends most of his waking hours working on the machines, both inside and outside of the museum. Pity his poor wife! Anyway Clarence, if you don't get a full report from someone better qualified than me, at least you will have this note.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *Information on the Camp Shelby Museum dedication and celebration appears elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin.*)

**William Muldoon**, 79 Elizabeth Drive, Bethpage, New York 11714 — Yes, I guess it is now time to think of our 50th Anniversary of our Grand Old Division. The scene goes back to May of 1943 and all of us Old Timers' appearance to form this Division. Our group in New York was formed out at Camp Upton on Long Island. We were all there together, to get our uniforms, shots, etc. About a week later my group was put on a big troop train forming and to me and others it would be our trip out of New York State for parts unknown at the time. This was a Saturday morning and we traveled to New Jersey, then to Pennsylvania completely across the state. As night set in we traveled through Ohio, and into the state of Indiana. It was Sunday morning when we arrived in Terra Haute, Indiana. We paused for a while with everyone wondering what our final destination would be. When the train started up again we seemed to switch over and head in a southerly direction. We traveled through Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and into Mississippi where we arrived in Jackson, Mississippi. They emptied the train out and we thought this was our destination. But it was only for a walk through town to stretch our legs. Again back on the train. Finally about 4:00 p.m. and in a heavy southern downpour we arrived in the marshaling yards of Camp Shelby.

We were next put in barracks over night. The next morning we were broken down into regiments. My group was put in the 272nd Regiment. When we got to the Regiment Headquarters, we were broken down into companies. I and my group were put in Company E. We were given a small briefing by **Captain Guilford**, Company CO, and assigned to a platoon which was the 2nd Platoon. **Lieutenant Hemingway** was in charge. We were then assigned to barracks. A few more days of orientation and assignments. Oh yes, may I add we were told a lot of the officers were just out of Fort Benning Officers Candidate School. The Cadre was from the West Coast up north. We were told we soon would go through 13 weeks of basic training. At a group meeting in one of the theaters, **Colonel Lanham**, Regimental Commander, did say if we came through with flying colors in basic every man would receive a 15 day furlough.

During basic training we found out the 31st Division (D.D.) Dixie Division, trained at Shelby and then shipped out as a unit to the South Pacific. It was always predicted because of the Mississippi area, the 69th would also ship out to the South Pacific. Also in camp was the 442nd Combat Team, which was made up of native men from Hawaii, etc. They were

(Continued on Page 6)

## NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 5)

a very good team and I understand that later on in Italy they made a great name for themselves. September 1943 came around and as promised, the first batch of men left to go on a 15 day furlough. In October this rotation plan was disrupted. They started to dig into the ranks for replacements to go overseas. This happened several times. In between we received A.S.T.P. men to fill in the ranks. Around March or April of 1944, not many original trainees were left. In fact, I shipped out as a replacement and about 1,000 other 272nd Regiment men did too. We ended up in Ft. Meade, Maryland to be processed for our overseas assignments. From that point, we went to Myles Standish in Massachusetts. Then to the boat for the boat ride to England. Then to France and Normandy. My group was put in the 9th Division as replacements. Most of the guys lasted about a month in combat. They were wounded or K.I.A. I was pretty lucky and lasted much longer only to get wounded and come back again. When I tried to count who went where, I found lots of K.I.A., wounded, or P.O.W., so about one year later in July of 1944, we found out what it was all about.

I was lucky to make it to the end in May of 1945, two years after starting to become a soldier in May of 1943 in old Camp Shelby with the 69th Division. Oh yes, to add a foot note to the story, I did get my 15 day furlough in November of 1943, along with my buddy, Eddie Netta who also ended up overseas with me. He was severely wounded in August of 1944 in the back side. He never returned to the outfit. They made him an M.P. in Paris. My buddy Rex Kiser got his also in the back. Today he is in a wheelchair paralyzed. So you can see all kinds of guys ended up in the 69th Division, took training, and we went out early as replacements, but we always look back on our training days at Camp Shelby. Now it was 50 years ago, and I wonder how we all made out.

**John J. O'Connor**, 9321 Jefferson, Brookfield, Illinois 60513 — Hq.-880th: Hope this letter finds you in good health and getting through the winter season in good shape. We here in the Chicago area have been pretty lucky this winter as it has not been too bad so far, although we can expect rain or snow this coming Thursday and Friday. Hopefully, it will be rain.

My reason for this letter is a call I received from an individual in Bryan, Texas. This call was the result of this person seeing our reunion name in the Vets column for our Headquarters Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion reunion which we will hold in conjunction with the National reunion. Our name appeared in the VFW magazine.

The individual who called me is **William Aldred**, 3807 Courtney Circle, Bryan, Texas 77802. His phone number is area code (409) 846-5395. He wanted to know if there was a Division history book available as he is getting together a family history. His brother was **Fred L. Aldred** who trained with the 69th in Mississippi. Fred is believed to have served with the Field Artillery. Do you have a record of **Fred Aldred** in your files? Possibly in the next bulletin you could make an insert asking if anyone knew this **Fred Aldred** and they could write to his brother. As for the history book, if the small edition is still available you could let him know, **William Aldred**, that is. Also you could let him know of the big history book that we ordered from the Kentucky printer. Hope this information is sufficient to help this Brother get more info about his brother **Fred**.

*(Editor's Note: In the last bulletin we ran a block in order to help locate Fred Aldred. Anyone who knew of him or has any information or recollection, please contact his brother at the above address.)*

**Charles Yannul**, 927 West Browning Road, Bellmawr, New Jersey 08031-1625 — 661st T.D. Bn.: Going over our Tank Battalion roster, I noted an address very close to home and wasn't familiar with the person at all, so I decided to stop in and see him since no phone was listed. I caught up with him after a couple visits and while he is a heck of a nice guy and we sure do wish he was a 69er, it turns out he was never in the Army and instead served in the Navy. I'll bet we spent ten to fifteen minutes trying to figure out how we got his name, even hashing through his relatives for a clue, but came up with nothing and the amazing thing is, he said he even wrote and told someone he was not a member but could not remember the details. I thought I would write and let you know in case you too are carrying him. He is **William Layer** of 307 Evergreen Avenue, Westmont, New Jersey 08108. And here is another one we discovered two years back under almost the same circumstances: **James Modlin** of 3300 Shady Bend Drive, Independence, Missouri 64052. Since the 661st has no official secretary, it's possible we slipped up notifying you on that last one.

Frances and I are getting our reservations in the mail today for Rochester and hope to meet you there. By the way, Clarence, since I married a widow, Frances, of a 69er and I'm a 69er, do we, in your vast knowledge of the outfit, stand out as the only ones ever having done this? With warmest wishes and thanks for all the good work you have done for our outfit over the many years.

**Mrs. Madeline J. Reeves**, 7820 Paradise Drive, Peoria, Arizona 85345 — Widow A-881st: Please extend my gratitude to all members of the 69th who so graciously wrote to me upon the death of my husband **Ralph P. Reeves**. Special thanks to **Harold** and **Mary Ann Early** who dedicated their mini-reunion to his memory, the 881st C-Battery, also to 881st A and B Batteries.

**Walter E. Boyd**, 87 Coolidge Road, West Yarmouth, Massachusetts 02673 — B-661st: I read your reunion notice of the 69th Infantry Division (661st Tank Destroyer Battalion) in the May issue of the V.F.W. magazine and would appreciate any follow-up information. When I called Vets, they only gave me the place and dates and of course, your address.

I retired as a Command Sergeant Major after thirty years in the Army. The 661st Tank Destroyers (Company B), still have strong memories for me as they were my first unit in a long series of assignments. Again, please send me information on the reunion and the 69th Infantry Division Association.

## MOVING

Please print your new address below:

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

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

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

Please allow six weeks advance notice.

# President's Briefing



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

This will be my sixth and last briefing as your President. I would remind you that I asked for your assistance and most of your indulgence. I can thankfully say that you have given me both. I am truly appreciative and thankful for your support.

With scarcely two full months before our Rochester, New York 46th Annual Reunion, I shall touch briefly on some of the areas I feel should be in your thoughts as we approach Rochester.

First, a complete slate of officers is to be selected. I am sure that **Walter Holmlin** as chairman of the Nominating Committee has a slate virtually complete. If anyone has recommendations, **Walter** will certainly entertain them and nominations can also be made from the floor. Give this some real thought since these people will be important to us over the next two years.

Second, we always need volunteers to come up with recommendations for future reunion sites. At present, I only know of one possibility for 1995. Hopefully, there will be more come our August reunion. If not, as I mentioned in my last briefing, we may have to change our method of site selection. Think about it.

Third, as costs escalate we may have to give serious consideration to cease mailing our bulletins to those who do not pay dues. We have approximately 5,700 on our mailing list and normally about 3,000 are paying members. Most organizations eliminate those who do not pay. We never have but may be forced to reconsider. I wonder how many of those who do not contribute may have moved or passed away and never actually receive the bulletin. Others may have absolutely no interest in same. Food for thought and perhaps for action.

With this bulletin, however, the most important single item is participation in our 46th Annual Reunion. I am somewhat concerned with lack of attendance by many of our members who appear to attend mini reunions but who almost never attend the Annual 69th Infantry Division function. It

sometimes seems that our bulletin serves a great many of our units and their people as a convenient forum to publicize their unit functions but they have little interest in the 69th as a Divisional Unit. We have a wonderful and well organized annual get-together and would love to have greater participation from all of you — Please. Make a greater effort this year to join the many who already attend most of our functions. As time marches on, we know that many of us for very valid reasons cannot be present and our prayers and best wishes are always with you.

In the spirit of service and comradeship, my sincere best wishes to you all.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Gilbert Clark Sends 69th Patch to New Market Battlefield Military Museum

Gilbert Clark

Company F, 273rd Infantry Regiment  
70 Yates Street, Forty-Fort, Pennsylvania 18704

I thought this might be of some interest to some of you 69th members, although I am a year late in sending it in for publication.

While driving home from the Biloxi reunion my family and I stayed overnight in New Market, Virginia. Next door to the motel was the New Market Battlefield Military Museum, where we spent some time before returning home.

They had a display of World War II Army Division Patches, but many were missing, among them the 69th. Before we left the museum we met the Director/Curator John Bracken. I asked him if he would like a 69th patch. I had a new one with me. His answer was he would be glad to have one, but it had to be a Combat Patch. I told him that when I got home, I would send him the one from my field jacket, which I still had.

When I sent the patch in, I explained to him about it being put upside down in the Patton Museum at Fort Knox. In April 1992 I received the following letter from him.

New Market Battlefield Military Museum  
P.O. Box 1131 • Route 305 (Collins Drive)  
New Market, Virginia 22844  
Telephone: (703) 740-8065

Dear Mr. Clark,

Thank you so much for sending the 69th Division Patch that you wore during your service to our country. The patch is now on display in our museum, in the correct position! The information you included about the Division is very much appreciated, also. Your patch donation does help complete our display.

I appreciate the kind remarks about the museum. I am pleased that you and your family enjoyed your visit and I hope that you plan to visit again. Over the winter, many changes and additions were made. When you next visit the museum, please let us know.

And again, thanks for the patch and the information. We are pleased to be able to honor you and your time in the service in this way.

Historically,  
John M. Bracken

\*\*\*\*\*



## 569th SIGNAL COMPANY - RADIO SECTION in France, sometime around February 1945

This list of names and photo provided by: RALPH H. BECKER of Xenia, Ohio

First Row: Louis Paesano, Pete Labyak\*, Carl Fritch, George Hepp, Bill Smith, Milton Rosenberg\*, Charles Borer, Monte Marano, Leonard Rosenberg\*, James Kelly, G.B. Ringwald, William Poorman

Second Row: Frank W. Dodd, Raymond Zonker, Martin Schuessler, Julius Tivald, Gene Dathyn, Willard J. Lantz, George Plass, Steve Lebid, Ralph H. Becker, ?? Jankow, John Williams, Louis Raburn, Ben Ormand, Frank W. Fisher, Jack Vinis, John Monaco

Third Row: James L. Carson, Edward Grabowski\*, Fred Gevelber, Jack Wilhoit, John Wilson, Robert E. Zak, Vic A. Lautz, Marshall Owens, S. H. Hartman, Archie Harris

Missing from picture: Lt. David Goldstein, Wilbur Duncan, Harold E. Grieff, Bob Kettlewell

\*Deceased

Picture submitted by: Frank W. Fisher — 1136 East Fairview, South Bend, Indiana 46614

# CAMP SHELBY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The following articles were submitted by Mrs. M. Douglas of P.O. Box 430, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39403, who lives in the vicinity of Camp Shelby, covering the Anniversary Celebration and several other items of interest presently going on at Camp Shelby.

All of the articles appeared in the HATTIESBURG AMERICAN and were written by Janet Braswell, Senior Writer.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Vets, residents hail Shelby shrine

Sunday, May 9, 1993

The new Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby got a hearty round of approval on Saturday from veterans whose history is chronicled there.

The museum's reopening was a major part of Camp Shelby's 75th anniversary celebration.

"It's super," said Representative Sonny Montgomery, D-Mississippi, who came to Camp Shelby as a young lieutenant in 1943.

His portrait and his National Guard general's uniform are just two of 6,000 artifacts on display.

"It's great to have this museum," Montgomery said. "To be back at Camp Shelby brings back a lot of wonderful, sweet memories."

Dave Myers, a Maryland boy when he trained with the 65th Division at Camp Shelby for World War II, now lives in Vicksburg.

"I think it's a great start," he said of the museum. "I was down here two years ago and it was almost nothing then."

Eased by the passing of 50 years, memories of time spent at Camp Shelby are mostly good.

"I grew up in Colorado," said Jay J. Piccinati of Baton Rouge. "I remember that most of June, July and August got hotter than Haiti. I'd go to the Forrest Theater to get out of the heat. I enjoyed Hattiesburg, the people were nice."

Bill and Nell Anderson of Hattiesburg are no strangers to Camp Shelby.

"We bring a lot of people out here who are visiting from other states," Mrs. Anderson said.

Anderson, who trained at Shelby in 1942 and 1943, liked Saturday's program and the museum's exhibits.

"I've enjoyed it," he said. "I think it's wonderful."

Ronald M. Oba of Honolulu toured the museum for the first time this weekend.

"It was very impressive," he said. "I'm glad I came."

He is a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team's Veterans Club, which paid for the museum's air conditioning and second-floor carpeting.

Lemuel Stevens of Laurel trained at Camp Blanding, Florida, but was discharged after World War II at Camp Shelby.

"We had never seen the museum," he said. "I think it's great."

The museum is more than exhibits of Camp Shelby's history, said Major General James Gardner, adjutant general



Steve Coleman/Hattiesburg American

**TO BEAT THE BAND:** Military personnel march in parade during ceremonies at Camp Shelby on Saturday.

of the Mississippi National Guard.

"This museum serves as a living memorial to the men and women who served the United States," he said. "Bring the children out. They're the ones who need to be reminded of the heritage they're inheriting."

\* \* \* \* \*

## Old and new pay homage to Shelby

Visitors old and new streamed into Camp Shelby Saturday as the post celebrated three-quarters of a century of military history.

The tribute included dedication of the Armed Forces Museum's new quarters in Building 350.

The day began with narrative reading of the Spirit of Camp Shelby. The Spirit recounted the base's history to a crowd packed into the Post Theater.

"The first troops started arriving in September 1917," the Spirit said. "It was the boys of the 38th Division who named me. When this first class of mine went overseas, I lost a lot of them."

The Kentucky troops of the 38th named the post for their first governor, Isaac Shelby.

Ten divisions trained at Camp Shelby in World War II, when the post had a population of 100,000, including the 65th Infantry Division, the 69th Infantry Division and the famed Japanese-American Regimental Combat Team.

"There was a description of Shelby as we were coming down here on the troop train, the hell-hole of the country," said Lou Liss, a Massachusetts native who now lives in Baton Rouge. "But it wasn't so bad."

Liss lived at 1311 Hardy Street, now The Wild Magnolia restaurant, during part of his stay at Shelby with the 65th.

(Continued on Page 10)

**OLD AND NEW PAY HOMAGE TO SHELBY**

*(Continued from Page 9)*

"That was the last house in 1943," he said. "It was empty fields until you got to the college."

Ronald M. Oba traveled from Hawaii for Saturday's ceremonies, making his first visit to Camp Shelby since he trained there with the 442nd.

"It looks so vastly different," he said. "I can't recognize the old Camp Shelby we trained in."

Oba stood near Monument Drive, where World War II divisions have erected monuments, to watch the parade of Army National Guard, Air Force, Marine and Navy Seabee troops march from the theater to the museum.

"I came because I've never been to Camp Shelby before," said Pat Evans of Hattiesburg. "I'm very impressed."

Her daughter, 10-year old Sarah, was interested in appearances.

"I came to see what the uniforms look like, what the people look like," she said.

Camp Shelby served as an emergency railhead facility during the Korean War, trained the 199th Light Infantry Brigade for service in Vietnam and was activated as the mobilization point for the 155th Armored Brigade for Operation Desert Storm.

"Camp Shelby has been a very important part of our military forces throughout this century," said Sen. Trent Loft, keynote speaker. "It's important we look forward to the future and realize we can't be free without a strong national defense. We're not the world's cops, but we do have a vital role."

The base will continue to be important as the United States decreases the size of its active duty forces, he said.

"We'll have greater need for our peacetime personnel, the men and women who train at Camp Shelby," he said.

\*\*\*\*\*

**POW relics added to Shelby museum**



**SHELBY DISPLAY:** Volunteer James S. Thompson Sr. of Hattiesburg works on a display with a World War II Nazi flag in the background at the Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby.

Half a century ago, several thousand German prisoners called the forests of South Mississippi home.

When World War II ended and they returned to their real homes, the Germans left behind Lake Geiger at Paul B. Johnson State Park, a lake they dug with shovels.

Fifty years later, a photograph of a work party is on display with other POW artifacts at the Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby.

James B. Birdsong of Gulfport recently made the set of photos and other items available to the museum. His stepfather the late Col. T.B. Birdsong, commanded the POW camp.

"He told quite a few stories about it," Birdsong said. "He had a lot of pictures, two big albums. He made some real good friends among the Germans. Some came back to visit him. He had some that wrote him letters every year."

The 4,000 German prisoners were members of the Afrika Corps.

"They had their own village there, their own bakery," said Ott Brockman of Hattiesburg, a member of the museum foundation's board of directors. "Every one of them learned English while they were there."

The prisoners were happy to be in Mississippi, said Herb Sasaki of Hattiesburg, also a foundation director.

"They were safe and weren't going anywhere," he said.

Sasaki and his brother, Harry, both served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which trained at Camp Shelby. On at least one occasion, Harry served on a guard detail, traveling to Alabama where the POWs harvested a peanut crop, his brother said.

"The guards didn't figure the prisoners would go anywhere," Sasaki said. "They stacked up their arms and had the prisoners watch them while they played poker."

The POW exhibit includes a bound volume of The Mississippi Post, a newspaper put out in German by the prisoners.

"Some of the English-speaking ones would read the paper and listen to the radio and write it up in The Mississippi Post," said Betty Drake, curator.

A few Arabs also were held as POWs at Camp Shelby, Birdsong said. "The Germans loved to go hiking in the woods," he said. "When they had problems with discipline, they'd put the Germans to digging latrines and the Arabs to hiking because they just hated that."

# Bombs possibly buried at Camp Shelby

## Officials consider safety risk minimal

The possibility of buried mustard gas bombs at Camp Shelby presents no public hazard, military officials said Tuesday.

A search of archives and other historical documents turned up a map showing a small number of mustard gas bombs may have been buried at Camp Shelby after World War II.

"We have received nothing to verify that at this time," said James Jones, National Guard spokesman in Jackson. "There is no evidence of any threat whatsoever to human health or safety."

The research was ordered by Congress as part of the 1993 defense appropriations legislation, he said.

Mustard gas is irritating to the skin, eyes and respiratory system but fatal only in large doses.

"That was World War I stuff," said Roger Martin of Purvis. "I don't think I ever ran into any, other than being told about it, during World War II."

Martin trained at Camp Shelby in the 1940s with the 31st Infantry Division, nicknamed the Dixie Division.

"We'd go into a training area and come out crying," said R.C. Trimble, who trained at Camp Shelby with the 69th Infantry Division. "I don't know if it was mustard gas or not."

Information provided to Mississippi officials indicates the bombs were decontaminated, probably with lime, before being buried, Jones said.

Should decontaminated bombs be found at Camp Shelby, the safety hazard probably would be slight, said Frank Woodruff, chemical safety specialist at the University of Southern Mississippi.

"Unless it's a huge amount of that type of gas, it would probably not present a huge amount of health hazard," Woodruff said. "It was not a killing gas except in large quantities. Mainly, it was an irritant."

The chemical report - part of the Non-Stockpile Chemical Material Program - was done by the Department of the Army at the direction of Congress.

The Army report indicates possible burials at 75 locations in 32 states, including Columbus Air Force Base, Horn Island and Camp Shelby in Mississippi, Jones said. Inspections and possible cleanup have not been scheduled.

"Up until this point, everything has been searches of historical records," Jones said. "Actual confirmation will require physical site surveys and, in some cases, evacuation (of the material)."

The map shows the bombs may have been buried north of the firing range impact area, a restricted area. The area is restricted because of its closeness to the impact area, Jones said.

"We have taken action to further limit access to the suspected area and make sure it is undisturbed pending further investigation by the Department of the Army," Jones said.

The Camp Shelby impact area is 14,500 acres located in the southern part of the base, between U.S. 49 and Mississippi 29, said Col. Garland Boleware, state public affairs officer and former Camp Shelby commander.

All rounds fired at Camp Shelby land in the central impact area, which is surrounded by 92 artillery firing points.

In past years, a number of people have been killed when undetonated ammunition exploded as they were attempting to collect scrap metal from the impact area. Warning signs and educational programs in area schools have virtually put an end to the practice, officials said.

In addition to the chemical report, Congress received a similar report from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on munitions that may be buried at 250 sites nationwide.

The impact area at Camp Shelby will be inspected by Corps personnel from the Huntsville, Alabama office, said Mike Logue, Corps spokesman in Vicksburg.

"They set the priorities and schedules," he said. "About the only thing we're looking at there is the active artillery range."

Camp Shelby was used for training infantry divisions in World Wars I and II. It was deactivated after World War II and reopened as a National Guard training base in the late 1950s.

Whether the present impact area was used during Camp Shelby's early days wasn't known Tuesday, Boleware said.

The post also has two small air-to-ground impact areas, Boleware said.

One is located east of Mississippi 29 and the other is a few hundred yards east of the main impact area, he said.

Camp Shelby, the country's largest state-owned training facility, will train about 25,000 National Guardsmen from throughout the Southeast during five two-week annual training periods this summer.

Colonel Leland Redmond, camp commander, was unavailable for comment Wednesday.

\*\*\*\*\*

## HELP NEEDED

Can anyone provide information on either of the following former members of the 69th Division?

**CAPTAIN OHRINGER** - According to the 273rd Infantry records, **Captain Ohringer** "from IPW," checked German documents in a safe found at Polenz airfield on 17 June 1945 and forwarded them to "higher headquarters." Was **Captain Ohringer** a member of the 273rd or the 69th Division IPW (Interrogation Prisoner of War) Team?

**WILLIAM (BILL) ZESSER** - A German named Rolf Andree of Naunhof, Germany, is attempting to locate "**Bill Zesser**" of the 69th Division who was stationed at either Naunhof or Brandis in May 1945. Andree was about 10 years old when he knew Zesser, who was about 19-21 at that time. What unit was **Bill Zesser** assigned to and where was he from in the United States?

Anyone who can provide information on either **Captain Ohringer** or **Bill Zesser** please write: **Alan H. Murphey**, 1339 Hemlock Drive, Fairborn, Ohio 45324.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Underage Veterans Sought

(ELLCOTT CITY, MD) A national veterans association is seeking veterans who falsified their age and served in the U.S. Military UNDER the age of 17. A national reunion will be held in October. A free handbook on government policy on underage veterans will be sent on request to any underage veteran. For more information write to:

**ALLAN STOVER**

Commander, Veterans of Underage Military Service  
3444 Walker Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland 21042  
Telephone: 410/461-9779

# Camp Shelby Museum Visited by 69th Members

Presented by: William Beswick  
P.O. Box 576, West Point, Virginia 23181

Edgar "Bud" Parsons, Bill Snidow and I stopped by Camp Shelby recently. The 69th Monument stands proudly among a couple more that have been installed nearby, not too long ago. But, I don't think any are as nice as ours.

We also looked for the museum, which had been moved to a much larger quarters and is much nicer. They have obtained a number of large tanks, one of them is a captured tank from Desert Storm. There is a large cargo carrying helicopter and a number of various vehicles displayed out front.

Dr. Betty Drake, Curator, who is in charge of the museum is doing an excellent job with some volunteers who are really dedicated. They have put in a lot of hard and tedious work. One fellow is an excellent artist and is showing his talent by drawing murals of Nazi Germany. These are young guys and should be admired.

One section has been devoted to the Fighting 69th Division. General Bolte's "Four Star" flag is part of the display, along with the Regimental Crests of the 271st, 272nd and the 273rd. It makes for an impressive display. If you recall, the General's "Four Star" flag was given to the Association by Sergeant Major George Loikow.

I believe it was Mrs. Betty Bender who wrote me and told me that she had some souvenirs that Bob had brought home from Germany. She asked me what I could suggest that she do with them. I suggested that she could donate them to the Camp Shelby Museum. She did and they are on display.

If you have any memorabilia and are not sure what you would like to do with it, and your children do not want it, send it to:

Dr. Betty Drake  
The Armed Forces Museum  
Building #350  
Camp Shelby, Mississippi 39407  
Telephone: (601) 584-2757

I would like to think that the money that was donated to the museum in excess of the cost of the monument assisted them to move to their present quarters.



*New Quarters of the Camp Shelby Museum*



*Latest picture of our monument taken April 10, 1993*



*New equipment at Camp Shelby in front of Museum*

# Treasurer's Message



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

With the 1993 Reunion getting closer and the 1992-1993 dues year drawing to a close, I am happy to report that another dues paying record has been set even though the members paying has dropped from 2,662 to 2,619. This was done by the members' contribution increase and to a record of 950 making a postage and bulletin donation. We only had 62 First Timers and only 43 Old Timers paying dues for the first time, either because they were new members or just because they have neglected to pay before.

Due to the "Taps" list, our membership is now the lowest it has been in the past five years. We're not getting any younger and if you haven't made a reunion, it's time you plan on Rochester as all indications point to it being the largest we have had. To date I have received 57 reservations which is a pretty good sign that it will be a big one and all should be happy with the events that Jack Duffy and his committee have planned for you. Vivian and I visited the Rochester area at the time of Jack's committee meeting and the accommodations are very good with everything located on the mezzanine with a large registration and hospitality room.

This will be my last reunion as Treasurer. Hope to see you all in Rochester and do make plans for 1994 at Nashville, Tennessee.

*Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr., Treasurer*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Information on Catherine Coyne Sought

I am a member of the Association. I was a Corporal in the 273rd Infantry Regiment Service Company and the jeep driver for Lieutenant Joseph K. Kovarik.

I really enjoyed the reprint of the Boston Herald "Here's Tribute to Fightingest Outfit" by Catherine Coyne and I am the driver she reported "had become lost in the maze of Russians at Torgau" as reported on Page 17 of the first quarter Bulletin which I recently received.

Lieutenant Kovarik went off and left me with the Russians and when I finally made my way back to my outfit he said he thought I had been killed.

I know she would be elderly, but I am wondering if the reporter, Catherine Coyne, is still alive in Boston? I would like to contact her if her whereabouts are known. Thank you.

**Arthur R. Trelease, Service - 273rd**  
 2728 Bryant Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

# New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

**Lou Lineburgh** — B and Service, 881st Field Artillery  
 469 Literary Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44113

**Marion J. Bryant** — Company B, 271st Infantry  
 1990 66th Avenue S., St. Petersburg, Florida 33712

**Norville F. Kendrick** — Company M, 272nd Infantry  
 421 Williams Ditch Road, Cantonment, Florida 32533

**William Porter** — 269th Engineers  
 100 Olive Springs Road, Soquel, California 95073

**Herman Mueschke, Jr.** — Company L, 273rd Infantry  
 1003 Columbia, Houston, Texas 77008

**Joseph J. Elinoff** — Company I, 272nd Infantry  
 727 South Grape Street, Denver, Colorado 80222

**Robert Crowe** — Company E, 273rd Infantry  
 14 Beaverbrook Road, Burlington, Massachusetts 01803

**Bill Ham** — Company H, 271st Infantry  
 885 Edgewood Drive, Lexington, Kentucky 40515

**Edward C. Reese**  
 80 Sherwood Avenue, Hornell, New York 14843

**Walter E. Boyd** — Company B, 661st Tank Destroyers  
 87 Coolidge Road, West Yarmouth, Massachusetts 02673

**Thomas C. Elliott** — Service, 879th Field Artillery  
 5261 16th N.E., Seattle, Washington 98105

**Lee S. Daub** — Service, 879th Field Artillery  
 2108 "O" N.W., Washington, DC 20037

**Donald C. Penny** — Headquarters, 3rd Bn., 273rd Infantry  
 1504 Columbus Court, New Berne, North Carolina 28560

**Wesley E. Berry** — Company I, 272nd Infantry  
 Box 364, R.D. #4, Colfax Road  
 Fairmont, West Virginia 26554

**Harry Chandler** — Company D, 273rd Infantry  
 22212 Union Hill Road, Redmond, Washington 98053

**Rev. Edward V. Dorsey, Sr.** — AT, 273rd Infantry  
 30430 Daphne Lane, Princess Anne, Maryland 21853-2844

\*\*\*\*\*



*Boyd Ellsworth receiving a loving hug from wife Estella at this 76th birthday celebration.*

# THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE



Dottie Witzleb

by — Dottie Witzleb  
*Ladies Auxiliary Editor*  
 P.O. Box 69  
 Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069 or R.D. #1, Box 477  
 Home Telephone: 412/455-2901 Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606  
 Work Telephone: 412/433-1713 (8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Monday through Friday)



**Maria Keller, President**  
 8221 Galway Lane  
 Richmond, Virginia 23228-3013  
 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

Dear Ladies of the 69th:

Greetings to all of you 69th ladies. I hope that you are reading the Spring Bulletin which arrived in April. Dottie Witzleb had successful surgery and has returned to work. Dottie is the lady who has done so much to keep our news moving.

Margie McCombs will be retiring this Fall from sending our birthday and anniversary cards. We appreciate all that she has done. I remember when Mrs. Reynolds from Winchester told us her dining room table was stacked with cards year round. I am sure Margie has had the same experience.

We want to thank Vivian Kurtzman for representing us at the Rochester planning meeting. We are expecting a grand reunion in August. I want to remind you to bring a wrapped gift for our gift exchange. Please try to stay with a gift between \$3.00 and \$5.00. Some of us will want to bring an extra as we expect a lot of First Timers.

The Auxiliary extends its sympathy to the family of Annette Sullivan, wife of Colonel John Sullivan, Company I, 273rd and to the family of Loretta Arnold, wife of Clifford

Arnold, Company I, 273rd. Please keep us informed as we need the names for our Memorial Service on Saturday morning. We try to write each family and express our caring.

We hope a lot of you have been making lap robes to present to the Veterans Hospital. The size is 36"x45" and may be sewn, knitted or crocheted. Bibs and bedroom slippers are also needed. Washable material is suggested.

We want to thank Bob and Theresa Pierce for the super reunion in San Francisco last August. Jack and Mary Duffy have planned a very special week for us, August 8th-16th, in Rochester. Try to be with us. Also thanks go out to Marianne Kurtzman for the minutes published in the Fall Bulletin. We will be voting on a dues increase to \$5.00.

As I write this, we are completing our planning for a cruise to Alaska May 30th sponsored by our Extension Agent. We will have a lot to talk about when we return.

We are still collecting old issues of the Bulletin. We have most issues since the 1970s but others are missing. The Museum at Camp Shelby would like a complete set. If you have copies to spare, bring them to Rochester.

Sincerely,  
**Maria G. Keller, President**  
*Ladies' Auxiliary*

\*\*\*\*\*

# Resident's war diary sparks memories at Army reunion

The Glenview Announcements

September 17, 1992

Submitted by: Stanley Bratt  
3607 Countryside Lane, Glenview, Illinois 60025  
Headquarters, 880th Field Artillery

Written by Ed Callahan, Staff Writer

Once a year in the past few years, Glenview resident Stanley Bratt has gotten together with some old friends to share memories.

The memories come from a diary Bratt kept when he served with the U.S. Army's 69th Infantry Division during the last few months of World War II in Europe. His old friends are fellow members of the Headquarters Company of the 880th who still get together for an annual reunion. For the last two years, they have asked Bratt to read from his diary.

"They twist my arm so I read it," Bratt said.

His diary is a window back to a time that is four decades gone but one that produced vivid memories for everyone involved, memories that only need a few words to come back to life.

Bratt's diary covers the period from January 1, 1945 to that summer, after the defeat of Nazi Germany. It covers the movement of the 69th Division from bases in England to the front lines in Europe, the unit's first commitment to battle and its participation in the final Allied drive that overwhelmed Germany.

Bratt wrote in the diary whenever he had the chance. Once the 69th Division was in combat, that meant writing by flashlight or candlelight, sometimes huddled in a foxhole under a blanket. He also had to write small to get everything in.

That has made transcribing the diary, which he has started to do in the last couple of years, something of a challenge. "In some spots, I had to use a magnifying glass to make sure I was getting everything," he said. So far, he has typed up about a third of the diary, reaching to February 27, 1945, when the 69th had been in combat for more than two weeks.

When Bratt started his diary, he was 23 years old and had reached the rank of sergeant. When he joined the U.S. Army in 1942, he started out by serving in a communications unit in the South Pacific. In 1943, he began pilot training, but was bounced out before completion when the Army decided it had enough pilots and cut back on the training program. Given the choice of going back to the South Pacific or being assigned to a new unit, Bratt picked the new unit and ended up with the 69th Division.

On January 1, 1945, Bratt and the 69th Division were in England. Bratt was responsible for maintaining his battalion's field telephone system, but most of the time was taken up with running the unit's message center and handing out mail. The first entry describes a trip he and friends made to Oxford to visit the famous universities there, along with other historical sites.

*We looked at the walls Shakespeare looked at, saw the clock that Shakespeare saw and sat near the fireside where Shakespeare used to study ... I counted seven chapels that we visited and four quads. All of them were so impressive — each one a mirror into the past of some man or some sect or some class.*

Over the next few weeks, Bratt recounts his duties, his social activities and jots down his thoughts on his fellow



Army Corporal Stanley Bratt delivers the mail. A notation on the back of this photo notes "we mostly receive letters through him. Notice the mail sack. Also notice how small the sack is because there is hardly any mail at noon. At night that sack is loaded with packages, papers and letters."

soldiers. On January 6th, he wrote how one of the men in his unit was assigned to learn how to operate and maintain a 50-caliber machine gun.

*A man of his caliber (a N.Y.C. lawyer) is really no subject to place on a complicated mechanical weapon. Our Battery Commander often uses little if any discretion in the disposal of his personnel. It was perhaps done as a joke as too many other things around here are done.*

Bratt also entered his thoughts on his English hosts.

*The British are far behind on many things and cling tenaciously to the past. They can put up with one thing for a longer period of time than Americans can. They appear well satisfied with what they have but Americans want to get new things or trade the old to keep up with style or change.*

On January 21st, the division began the process of moving from England to the front lines. After an uneventful channel crossing, the ship carrying Bratt's unit docked at LaHavre in France.

*We got a glimpse of LaHavre from the boat prior to landing. It was then that a lump came up in my throat. The stark reality struck me — in view was a seaport town, blasted to pieces, completely flattened, lying in ruins with bricks and debris covering miles of area in front of us.*

For the next few days, Bratt's unit moved through France toward the German border where the front lines were. For several days, the division camped around the town of

(Continued on Page 16)

**RESIDENT'S WAR DIARY SPARKS MEMORIES AT ARMY REUNION** (Continued from Page 15)

Lafuëllie. Bratt's initial concern was with the cold and snowy weather, which made keeping warm at night a major challenge.

The first few nights here were miserable for sleeping. The problem was trying to get warmth so one could sleep. My afternoon mail contained a Covenant Weekly and several Sioux City Journals. Len Nathan received his copies of the New York Times. Bill Burgess received his copies of Norfolk papers. Between the three of us we gathered enough paper to pad the brick floor under our bed rolls to help us sleep.

During this time, Bratt had time to reflect on his strong Christian faith and the effect his service in the Army had had on it.

My interpretation of Christian living has broadened, even changed since I entered the Army almost three years ago. I have refused to dub a man a sinner because he smokes, dances and uses foul language to impress upon one his precise meaning — as I was taught to do in younger days. Granted, for sound Christian living within the provincial persuasion of my Swedish Covenant tradition one should not practice those habits; however, I no longer pass judgment or condemn those who do.

The 69th Division was formally committed to combat on February 4th. Bratt's battalion spent the next few days moving up behind the American front line, which by this time was on German soil.

The trip to the front was an excursion that I shall never forget because of the gruesome things we saw — dead German soldiers lying in the wide open plains, dead horses and cows often bloated lying in gullies or ditches near roads and farmyards, demolished homes with clothes, furniture and fixtures strewn about the ground. It seemed like an unending trail of destroyed tanks, vehicles and equipment just left behind.

---

**'First impressions of combat were not as I expected them to be — most of us were pretty laid back and quite relaxed . . .'**

---

By February 11th, the 880th Artillery was in combat and Bratt's entries became briefer and less detailed. Partly, this was out of concern about putting too much sensitive information in his diary, in case it was captured by the Germans. Still, he described his reactions to his first official day in battle.

I stood guard during early morning hours near the dug-out and was really very scared but nothing happened.

Since he was stationed with an artillery unit, Bratt always was several miles behind the division's forward positions. In his diary, he noted that most of the men in his unit, himself included, were pleased that they were as close to the German Army as they were getting. Still, the unit was on the receiving end of a few German shells now and then, though fortunately none came very close.

And of course, the infantry in direct contact with the enemy suffered many dead and wounded.

Even behind the lines, there was a chance for drama. One of the last entries to be transcribed describes the fate of an American B-17 bomber hit by German ground fire in front of the 69th's position.

One B-17 burst into flames near the front and went into a spin just after the crew had bailed out. We stood on a high hill and counted five Americans coming down by parachute. Most of them landed inside our lines but several were carried by a strong wind into the German lines.

The rest of the diary, which Bratt plans to transcribe in the future, covers the division's crossing of the Rhine and the final collapse of Nazi Germany. The 69th Division's record includes the capture of Leipzig. It also was the first American unit to link up with the Russian Army at Torgau on the Elbe River.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Headquarters, 3rd Battalion 272nd Staff Officers



Left to right: Donald Spry - S-4, Joseph Mahoney - Company Commander, Edward Thompson - Battalion Commander, Blackburn Stephens - Executive Officer, George LaMoree - S-3, Donald Alderson - S-2

Picture taken in Sprotta Germany May 5th, 1945.

Furnished by: George LaMoree

\*\*\*\*\*

## Company H, 237rd



Herbert Schultheis is second from the left. Can anyone help with the others?

# The 273rd Infantry Regiment in the Siegfried Line

By Alan H. Murphey

Photos furnished by  
Chris Van Kerckhoven

## NOTE

Chris Van Kerckhoven, the Belgian WWII researcher, recently located an operational history of the 277th Volksgrenadier Division for the period 28 January - 9 March 1945. The 277th VGD is the unit which faced the 69th Division in the Siegfried Line. The report, found by Van Kerckhoven in German military archives at Friburg, Germany, was written in 1947 by Lt. Col. Baron von Wagenheim who was the operations officer of the 277th VGD. Any reference in this article, or subsequent articles, to 277th VGD operations are based on von Wagenheim's 1947 report. Any questions or comments should be sent to the author at 1339 Hemlock Drive, Fairborn, OH 45324.



*The insignia of the 277th VGD. Formed originally as the 277th Infantry Division, the unit was trapped in the Falaise Pocket in August 1944 and escaped with only 2,500 men. Rebuilt in October 1944 as a Volksgrenadier division, it fought in the Battle of the Bulge.*

## PART 3

Enemy activity increased considerably during the afternoon of February 16. Between 12:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., the regimental observation post reported a lot of foot traffic on the road connecting Schnorrenberg and Rescheid. All were soldiers on foot. One of these was seen pushing a bicycle. Many of the Germans were carrying what looked like barracks bags. Just before sunset, the 273rd OP reported a horse-drawn ammunition wagon moving into Rescheid from Schnorrenberg.

Much of this activity was probably a part of the reorganization which the 277th Volksgrenadier Division was undergoing. It began on February 8th and was still in progress on the 16th as the division tried to rebuild its strength. General Wilhelm Viebig, the division commander, knew he had to move quickly to make up for the casualties incurred between January 24th and February 7th during the 277th's withdrawal back to the West Wall. The division's operations officer, Lt. Col. Baron von Wagenheim, recorded some of the measures taken to rebuild the 277th:

"The heavy losses sustained led to the disbanding of weak units and the integration with others . . . battalions were reduced to two grenadier companies and one heavily-armed



*Looking northeast along village road at Ramscheid towards 2nd Battalion command post about 700 yards away. The village church is 50 yards to the left of where this photo was taken. In 1945 Company G occupied this area. Photo taken 13 March 1993.*

company. Even the supply troops were disbanded in order to reinforce the infantry ... the Division was empowered to commandeer all other forces and splinter groups found in the rearward areas for immediate service in the infantry."

During the late afternoon of the 16th, the 273rd operations officer, prepared plans for an attack on Pillbox 19. The pillbox, used by the Germans as an outpost, was located about 1500 yards east of Miescheid close to the Missebach, a small stream that emptied into the Prether. The plan was to storm PB 19 at dawn on February 18th, blow it with explosives and withdraw, leaving it unusable to the enemy. The mission was assigned to 1st Battalion. To avoid any surprises, Lieutenant Colonel Saladin sent a patrol that night to reconnoiter. The patrol, code named "Richard," returned to the battalion command post at 11:45 p.m. and was debriefed: After crossing to the south side of the Missebach, the patrol had followed a "double stranded barbed wire fence" for about 500 yards. From there they had cautiously approached PB 19 after walking another 500 yards. They found no outposts guarding the pillbox but saw "a guard standing on top of it." According to their report, the stream's rushing sound made enough noise to mask their approach. However, the going was slow as the route to the pillbox was across marshy ground.

The early morning hours of February 17th were exceptionally quiet - no small arms fire, no flares - only dead silence. Just before midnight on the 16th, a single burst of German machine gun fire was directed at Ramscheid. After that, all enemy activity ceased.

The Germans broke their long nocturnal silence at exactly 6:30 a.m. With a giant roar, the first of fifty 105mm artillery shells exploded in Udenbreth. Each incoming thirty-three-pound projectile sounded like a freight train. When the barrage ended, some companies discovered that their line to battalion had been cut. Wiremen from the battalion wire section were soon working to restore communications. The work was dangerous in daylight. The wiremen, when moving across open spaces between bombed-out farmhouses, could be seen by German observers. Not long after the Comm men had completed their task, Udenbreth was hit again. This time it was a 21-rocket Nebelwerfer barrage.

Following the rocket attack, an uneasy calm returned to the regimental front which continued through the afternoon.

*(Continued on Page 18)*

**THE 273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT IN  
THE SIEGFRIED LINE** (Continued from Page 17)

At 3:30 p.m. 2nd Battalion at Ramscheid reported that what sounded like 57mm anti-tank gun fire was passing overhead. Regiment replied that the fire was "TD registration fire," but did not elaborate. Other messages in the regimental Journal reflect an unusually uneventful afternoon. But that was not to last, the Germans had an unexpected surprise up their sleeve.

At precisely 5:00 p.m. the Germans suddenly opened up with small arms fire along the entire 3rd Battalion front. A couple of minutes later about a platoon of German infantrymen emerged from trenches about 650 yards east of the Neuhoef crossroads. As they did so, enemy machine guns near Pillbox 82 and Pillbox 83 began firing. **Pfc. Robert Hoffman**, a K-Company machine gunner, was close to the crossroads.

"Late in the afternoon we were hit by machine gun fire. The bullets ricocheted loudly off a piece of tin roofing beside our ruined farmhouse. As the fog began to roll in, I could see the Germans coming up the road. It was a frightening sight."

At that moment Udenbreth was hit by a heavy artillery and mortar barrage. In all, about thirty 105mm shells and 20 mortar rounds crashed into the battalion's positions. This was followed by two salvos of "screaming meemies." After the rockets exploded, the sound of more German machine guns was audible. **Lieutenant Colonel Shaughnessey**, in a brief report to regiment, said that the small arms automatic fire which followed the rocket barrage came "from fixed positions from up the valley."

The German infantry reached a point about 575 yards from the crossroads before they were stopped by American counter fire. The enemy position was based on a report from a K-Company outpost that said they were being "sprayed" with automatic weapons fire from UTM coordinates F049024. This was a dirt lane bordering a field just north of the Dahlem road and 875 yards due east of the battalion command post.

For about the next half hour, machine gun fire echoed up the valley. American Brownings could be recognized by their "rrrrrrrp," like a bedsheet being torn. The German weapons, with twice the rate of fire of American machine guns, were fired in short bursts to conserve ammunition.



*Junction of road to Dahlem and International Highway, looking north. On the evening of 17 February 1945, Colonel Adams told Lieutenant Colonel Saladin to set up a listening post here. Sign indicates to turn right for Dahlem and Udenbreth and straight ahead for Koln, Aachen and Hellenthal. In 1945 the International Highway was only a narrow, 2-lane road at this point. Photo taken February 1992.*

At 5:34 p.m., **Lieutenant Colonel Shaughnessey** called the regimental command post. He officially confirmed that 3rd Battalion had been hit by what he called a "small scale attack" on its right flank. The regimental S-3 immediately notified the other two battalions and the divisional G-3 at Murringen. **Colonel Adams** was notified of the attack at 5:40 p.m. As a precautionary measure, **Colonel Adams** ordered 1st Battalion to "move one platoon from along the International Highway to the road junction at Udenbreth." Seventeen minutes later the 3rd Battalion commander called regiment again to say that the attack had died out. **Colonel Adams** told 1st Battalion to cancel the platoon movement but to set up a "listening post at the Udenbreth road junction," in case the Germans should renew their attack. The Dahlem road was an obvious approach route for tanks. The listening post remained at the road junction all night and was withdrawn at 8:30 a.m. the following morning.

News of the German attack on Udenbreth was passed from 69th Division Headquarters to V Corps at Eupen. From there it went to 1st Army at Spa. The report reached Paris Sunday, February 18th. The next day an entry in SHEAF Communique No. 317, released February 19th, read: "Allied forces contained a small scale counter-attack by enemy infantry in the area of Udenbreth." There was no mention that those who "contained" the attack were members of K Company, 273rd Infantry.

February 17th turned out to be a record-setting day for the total number of lethal projectiles — rocket, artillery and mortar — to fall on Udenbreth in a single day. The excitement generated by the late afternoon attack had barely subsided at the 3rd Battalion CP when, at 7:00 p.m., Udenbreth was rocked by twelve exploding 88mm shells. Forty-five minutes later, another 15 to 20 rounds of "pretty heavy stuff" hit the village. By midnight 3rd Battalion had been hit by at least 112 artillery shells, 20 mortar rounds and 33 rockets.

The following morning, as scheduled, an assault team from 1st Battalion attacked Pillbox 19 at first light. Regimental records do not give the size of the assault team or the name of its leader. The first indication that the attack was successful reached regiment at 7:53 a.m. A report from 1st Battalion said that PB 19 had been captured and that 4 Germans had been killed, one taken prisoner and one had escaped. The team's casualties were 2 wounded, "1 slightly, 1 seriously." The report was relayed 15 minutes later to Division G-2 in Murringen. **Colonel Gibbons**, the assistant 69th Division commander with his aide, **1st Lieutenant Sinclair**, arrived at the regimental CP about 9:30 a.m. and were briefed on the pillbox operation by **Major Craig**. At 10:15 **Colonel Gibbons** left for the 1st Battalion command post for an additional briefing.

That afternoon remained relatively quiet. The regimental Journal listed only 3 incidents of enemy fire:

12:35 p.m. - Machine gun in Kamberg firing at Ramscheid.

(Continued on Page 19)

**THE 273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT IN  
THE SIEGFRIED LINE** (Continued from Page 18)

1:48 p.m. - Suspected 88mm gun firing at Ramscheid from vicinity of Giescheid "every 10 minutes or so."

6:20 p.m. - Artillery fire falling between 1st and 2nd Battalion.

At 10:15 p.m. that night Pillbox 19 was blown and the assault team returned to American lines. The lone German prisoner was interrogated at the 273rd CP. When he first arrived, the German's wrists were bound. As this was contrary to policy, regiment immediately advised all three infantry battalions that in the future they should not bind prisoners.

The German, however, was not reluctant to talk. He said that he was a member of 6th Company, 989th Regiment, 277th Volksgrenadier Division. Of the 60 men in his company, 20 were in line and 40 in reserve in Oberwolfert, a village about 4½ kilometers (3 miles) east of Ramscheid. The regiment's 8th company (heavy weapons) was in reserve, housed in nearby Unterwolfert. The prisoner claimed he had been transferred to the infantry from Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 277th Artillery Regiment. On a map, the German pointed to Hecken and said that was the location of his former Headquarters battery from which all fire orders were issued. The battery commander was Lieutenant Meter. Moving to the southwest with his finger, the prisoner pointed to a field on the eastern edge of Oberwolfert. That, he said, was the location of 1st Battery and was commanded by Captain Hoffe. Both batteries, he added, had two 105mm guns. The guns, with a range of about 9500 meters (10,400 yards), could easily hit any target in the 273rd Infantry area.

February 18th ended with some additional enemy fire and the return of two American recon patrols. Just before 10:00 p.m. both E and G Company outposts received bursts of enemy machine gun fire. A half hour later, at the opposite end of the regimental front, the Germans lobbed about 16 mortar rounds into Udenbreth. Of the two American patrols, the one from 2nd Battalion made the deepest penetration — the outskirts of Giescheid. Code named "Wesley," the patrol discovered unoccupied, V-shaped mortar emplacements at the northern edge of the enemy-held village. The patrol observed "a cart move to the center of the village" which "appeared to be hauling hay." "Wesley's" patrol leader estimated that one German infantry platoon was in Giescheid. Farther south, a 1st Battalion patrol observed a German carrying party



*A peaceful Saturday afternoon in Ramscheid. Sunlight casts a shadow of a tree on the belfry wall of the village church. In February 1945 the battered facade of this church was scarred by German barrages hurled at Lieutenant Colonel Lynch's 2nd Battalion. Area around church was held by a platoon from G Company. Photo taken 13 March 1993.*

re-supply forward units. Supplies for troops in Kamberg were seen to arrive from Reischied at 11:00 p.m. At midnight, German soldiers were observed carrying supplies to a large concrete pillbox on top of Willemsberg hill, about 500 yards southwest of Kamberg.

The arrival of dawn on February 19th illuminated a cold landscape shrouded in heavy morning ground fog. To the men of 273rd Infantry, the dreary hills to the east looked just as depressing as when first seen at dawn on February 13th. They were thankful for one thing, however, the Germans did not fire their customary "reveille" barrage that morning. The ground fog proved both slow and unpredictable in breaking up. At 9:00 a.m. the regimental OP announced, "fog just lifting making the outskirts of Giescheid visible." But an hour later, the same post reported, "limited visibility, fog closing in."

It was not until 10:28 a.m. that the Germans opened fire on American positions. But this was an artillery barrage which fell north of 2nd Battalion in the Hollerath area held by 271st Infantry's 1st Battalion. In the 273rd area, American guns were the first to open fire on the 19th. At 10:50 a.m. the first of twenty-two 105mm shells exploded at the crossroad 600 yards southeast of Kamberg. This was where the road from Rescheid joined the road connecting Kamberg and Schnorrenberg. The fog had cleared by then as an 881st FO was able to report that all shells had hit the target. Despite the American shelling, there was no response from the Germans.

At 2:10 p.m. division G-2 notified regiment that a psychological warfare team would be coming up later in the afternoon. Soon after, 3rd Battalion was told that the team would arrive at Udenbreth at 4:30 p.m. They were advised not to initiate machine gun fire while the psychological warfare team was broadcasting. The team reached Udenbreth about 5:00 p.m. and set up their loudspeakers at the south end of the village. Soon a message in German was urging soldiers to surrender. The voice coming from the large speakers was loud enough to echo off the hills to the east. The commander in charge of the area apparently did not appreciate the American broadcasts and decided to silence them. At 5:55 p.m., the first salvo of a 36-rocket barrage screamed and moaned as it streaked towards Udenbreth. This was immediately followed by an artillery and mortar barrage. Lieutenant Colonel Shaughnessey notified regiment that the psychological warfare team could not get back to regiment because of heavy enemy fire. The team managed to leave Udenbreth after American batteries opened up with heavy counter fire.

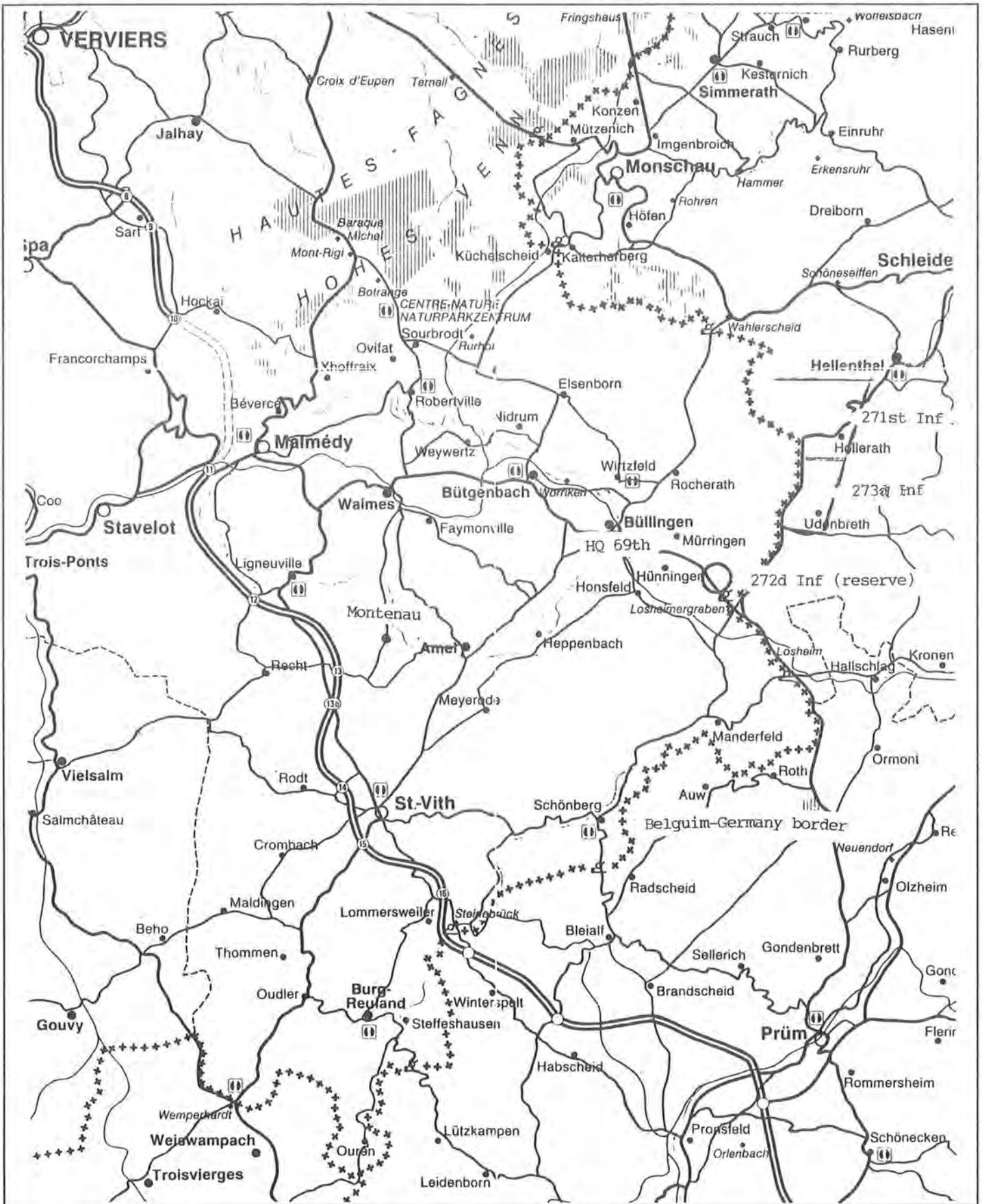
Despite the team's forced retreat, it accomplished its mission. Within an hour a total of 7 German soldiers surrendered to 3rd Battalion outposts at Udenbreth.

— TO BE CONTINUED —



*Bazooka rocket excavated by WW II researcher Chris Van Kerckhoven. This projectile was found at the site of Lt. Col. Saladin's 1st Battalion command post in the forest 175 yards west of the International Highway. Photo taken 26 July 1992.*

# SEIGFRIED LINE



+++++++ Indicates Seigfried Line or Dragons Teeth going from the top to bottom of map.

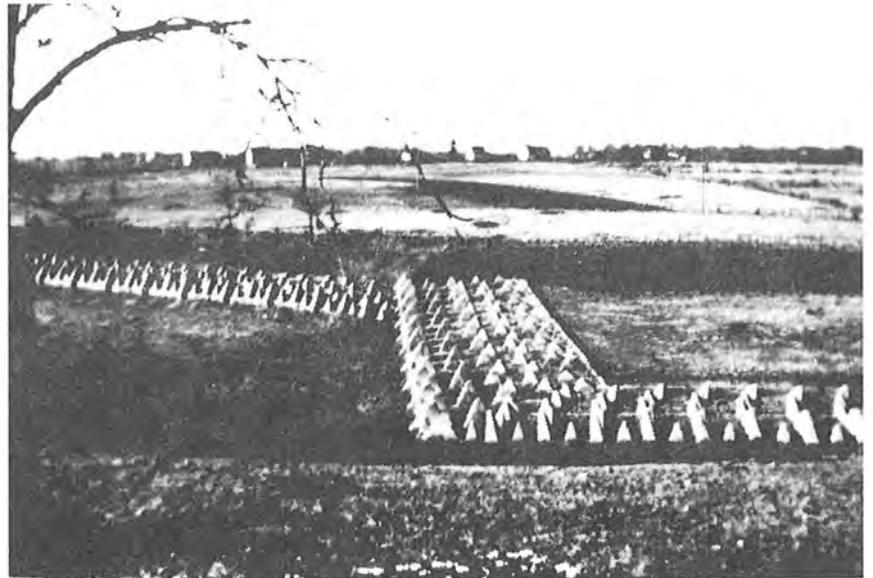
# Company D, 272nd Infantry Regiment

Submitted by: Richard Bell  
R.R. #1, Box 130  
Florence, South Dakota 57235

*Photo right: Seigfried Line tank stoppers on German Belgian border.*

*Photo below: World War II 1st Army V Corps bridge across the Rhine looking west. Niederbreisig on West Bank. 69th Division vehicles crossed on this and troops crossed in landing craft from Kaltenbergers on the West Bank to Bendorf on the East Bank.*

*In the last bulletin, Volume 46, No. 2, on page 29, a picture from this same group showed the bridge looking east.*



\*\*\*\*\*

**69th Infantry Division 46th Annual Reunion**  
**Holiday Inn - Genesee Plaza, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK**  
**AUGUST 8th to 15th, 1993**

*Please come to this reunion. It's later than you think!!*

# U.S. Military Cemetery at Margraten Questionnaire

**PETER J. K. HENDRIKX**

Frejushof 6, 5627 TP Eindhoven, The Netherlands

My name is Peter Hendrikk, 26, from the Netherlands and I am conducting research about the American soldiers who are buried at the U.S. Military Cemetery at Margraten, the Netherlands. Knowing that men my age are buried there so we, the next generation, can live in freedom makes me humble and respectful. They should never be forgotten. Being very much interested in World War II history, I am intrigued by the individual soldiers. To me they are more than just a foreign name on a white cross or star. I want to pay tribute to these soldiers by writing a book about them, the soldiers who are unable to tell their own story about their contributions to our liberation. I want to capture their spirit and the Zeitgeist in which they lived. Too many great stories about great individuals have never been told, and will never be told otherwise. In order to do this, I need your help. I would kindly request whether you can answer any questions about any men that you know who are buried at the Margraten cemetery.

Thank You

- Name of Soldier Buried at Margraten?
- Unit?
- How old was he?
- Was he married?
- What was his family background, education and profession?
- What were his future plans once the war was over?
- What kind of man was he?
- What was his job in his unit?
- How did he perform?
- What can you relate about his Army career?
- How did he perform in battle?
- Do you recall any anticdotes about his performance?
- When and where was he fatally hit?
- Was he K.I.A. or did he D.O.W.?
- In which battle was he hit and how did it happen?
- What was his contribution to this particular battle?
- Do you have a photograph of him that I may keep or copy?
- Do you have clippings, papers, diaries, logs, reports, books, etc. about your unit that I may keep or copy?

Of course, feel free to add anything that you think is of interest. Your recollections about your own service in World War II is also greatly appreciated. Although it is preferred to put it in writing, you can also put your story on tape. And if you can't help me, do you know somebody who can? Can you also provide me with the address of someone who can add parts to your story, or can help and check you with details you're not sure of?

I look forward to your reply with great interest because you are the only available source left to provide information about the men from your unit that made the supreme sacrifice. I feel that your stories can keep the memory of these great men alive.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Senior Citizens are the Biggest Carriers of AIDS!

Hearing AIDS	Walking AIDS
Band AIDS	Medic-AID
Roll AIDS	Government AID

# Third Annual Mini-Reunion at Atwood Lodge, Ohio

Submitted by Howitzer Al Kormas



*Robert Kurtzman, Enrico D'Angelo, Al Kormas, Robert Shaffer and Boyd Ellsworth at Atwood Lake, Ohio recently.*

In mid-March a small group of 69ers got together at the Atwood Lodge in Ohio. Those who attended were the Kurtzmans, Shaffers, D'Angelos, Kormas' and newcomers, the Ellsworths. A great time was had by all. The D'Angelos were a day late as they had a 25 inch snowfall the day before. The War department's (wives) brought all kinds of goodies, crock pots and soups. The Ellsworths brought Stella's yummy mouth watering pies and Anne D'Angelo supplied pierogies and heavenly cole slaw, a family recipe. The Shaffers supplied all kinds of breakfast goodies and the Kormas' brought along the odds and ends.

We again had our own hospitality room, and enjoyed many hours in it, plus there was a big fireplace at the lodge. The ladies enjoyed swimming and exercising in the indoor pool and lounging by the fireplace. Days were spent not on 20 mile hikes but driving in Safari Bob's van touring the beautiful countryside and having chow at a great Amish type messhall. The four days flew by quickly, and then parting is always sad, but plans are made for the next year again. Going home was safe for all and again we all left exhilarated, full of good fresh air, but best of all, being with comrades and enjoying life to the hilt. Everyone left wearing a big smile and getting ready for another in 1994.

The ranks of the 69th are diminishing but being together is so precious — God be with us all.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Old Folks are Worth a Fortune

Old folks are worth a fortune: With silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a lot more social with the passing of the years; some might even call me a frivolous old gal. I'm seeing five gentlemen every day.

As soon as I wake, Will Power helps me get out of bed. Then I go to see John. Then Charley Horse comes along, and when he is here he takes a lot of my time and attention. When he leaves, Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day. (He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint.) After such a busy day, I'm really tired and glad to go to bed — with Ben Gay. What a life!

# HOMeward BOUND!

## LOW-POINT, NON-ESSENTIALS GO TO ORDNANCE GROUPS

### Changes in Requirements Enable More to Return to States

Copied from "The Link-Up", 273rd Infantry Newspaper  
August 21st, 1945 issue

Minus 1428 unessential, low-point EM formerly in the organization, the 273rd will be homeward bound this week.

Between last Wednesday when the division was notified that it was scheduled for shipment to the States and late Sunday night, when the LINK-UP locked up the page forms, requirements for shipment home had been changed at least three times.

As the situation stood Sunday night, men who will be 38 years old by 1 November of this year, and men with a minimum of 75 points could be shipped home with the division. Critical score for colored troops is 60 points.

The first shipment of low-point, unessential men left the regiment Saturday morning. Saturday night requirements for going home with the division were lowered to 75 points. Men who would reach the age of 40 by 1 November this year were also eligible, regardless of critical score.

#### MORE MEN ELIGIBLE

When Tryhard was notified of the change, immediate check was made and about 50 men were found to be eligible to return home. Of the 50 men, only 38 could be contacted and removed from the trucks, some as late as Saturday morning.

Saturday's shipment of 500 EM included several men who would have been eligible to remain in the regiment had the changes in requirements come a few hours sooner. The shipment was to the 54th Ordnance Group in Kassel.

W/O Carlton L. Wallis, Assistant Adjutant said late Sunday that men who were on the Saturday shipment to Kassel and are qualified by points or by age for return to the States, will not have to wait long before returning home. He added that they might possibly be shipped to other divisions scheduled for shipment at about the same time as the 69th.

#### SHIPMENT TO FRANKFURT

Sunday's shipment of 700 EM went to the 52nd Ordnance Group near Frankfurt am Main.

Monday 185 men left for the 55th Ordnance Group in Pforzheim, Germany.

The last shipment from the 273rd prior to return home consisted of 43 colored troops with less than 60 points who left yesterday for the 550th FA located southeast of Mannheim.

This will leave 40 colored troops in the regiment eligible for return home and eventual discharge.

Authorized to travel 2% overstrength, the regiment when ready for embarkation will include between 3250 and 3300 EM and officers.

#### 2,000 EXPECTED

As the LINK-UP went to press, the Regimental Personnel Section was expecting the arrival of 2,000 high-pointers from the 7th Armored Division.

Informed sources at Tryhard personnel could assign no significance to the shipments exclusively to ordnance outfits. But it was disclosed that they will be assigned to the ordnance groups "for holding or reassignment or possible return home by Christmas."

NOTE: "Tryhard" was 273rd Infantry's radio call sign. On August 21, 1945 the 273rd regimental command post was located at RENGSHAUSEN, about 22 miles south of Kassel.

# Who Wears This Badge?



#### A SOLDIER WHO REMEMBERS —

He remembers the wet, rough feet and the dusty, sour smell of war. He remembers a special hill or stream or village and wonders if it looks the same now. He remembers fear, and he remembers relief. He remembers Combat.

#### A SOLDIER WHO IS PROUD —

He's proud of having done a job well, of having proved himself when it counted. He knows what dependability and responsibility mean, and he takes pride in that knowledge. He is proud of the past, confident of the future.

#### A SOLDIER WHO KNOWS —

The cost of war and the price of peace and knows which is the better buy. He knows now is a time when you can't let down. He knows what defense means, it means him, standing alert and ready.

#### A SOLDIER'S SOLDIER —

His badge is the symbol of a great group of men, his fellows may be tall or short, Texans or New Englanders, it doesn't matter. Whenever he meets a soldier wearing the badge, he knows he meets a buddy.

#### ABOVE ALL, AN INFANTRYMAN —

He's heard all the jokes and told a few himself, he's heard all the gripes and griped some himself and he's heard all the boasts and boasted himself. It's all part of being Infantry and when the chips are down, he wouldn't feel right not being with his buddies.

NOTE: Veterans who earned and were awarded the Combat Infantry Badge are eligible for membership in the Combat Infantrymen's Association. For information, send a self-addressed, legal size envelope to:

Combat Infantrymen's Association  
Commander Norman S. Kantor  
138 Locust Avenue  
New Rochelle, New York 10805

\*\*\*\*\*



Arlene and Ash Fuller at the Tri-State Reunion, Canaan Valley

# James Eyster Visits Udenbreth

James "Jim" P. Eyster  
Company L, 273rd Infantry  
342 Versailles Drive, Apartment C  
Melbourne, Florida 32951  
Telephone: 407/952-5653

I retired from the Virgin Islands Government last year and immediately traveled to Amsterdam to visit our daughter and son-in-law. We drove in their car to Udenbreth, Germany. Very strange feeling to see the dragon's teeth and pillboxes after 47 years.

*Photo right: Rebuilt town of Udenbreth in background.*



*The dragon's teeth shown with me and my son-in-law. Behind us is the road we came into Udenbreth from Belgium in 1945.*



*The depth of the dragon's teeth as they still stand today.*



*Me in front of the pillbox where Co. L, 273rd 2nd and 3rd platoon lived for 3 weeks until the breakout.*



*Me and my daughter in front of the pillbox we captured with a flame thrower that didn't ignite. Kamburg is in the distance across the valley. It was taken I believe by the 1st Battalion, on February 27, 1945.*

# 69th Video Tape of Dedication of Monument Camp Shelby, Mississippi is Still Available

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 in the right column:

**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. Some tapes are still available and I can get any amount of orders filled within 20 days.

SUBJECT CONTENT

Minutes

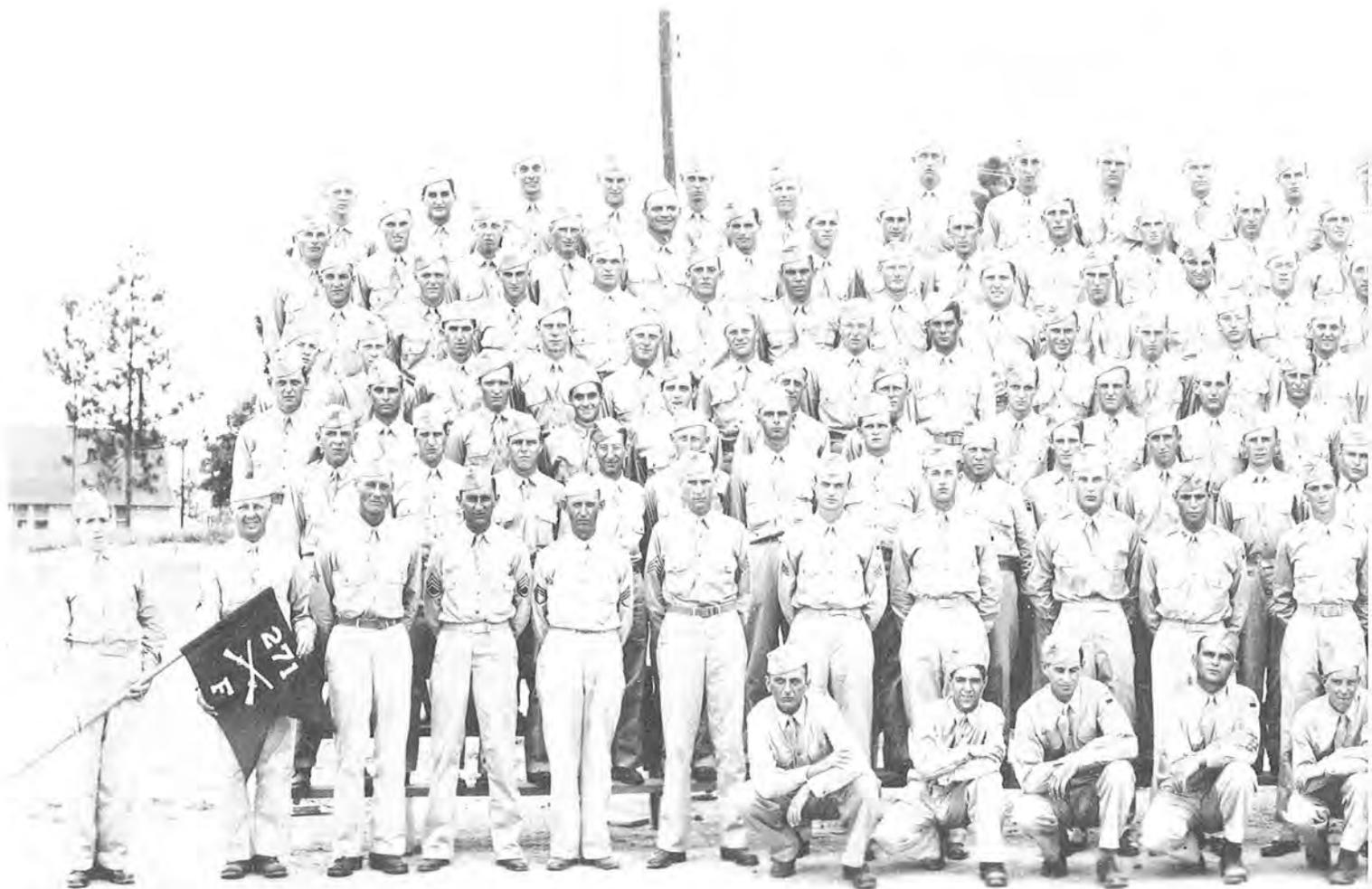
Introduction of the proposed project and the TV interview with Jack Duffy.	5
Footage of 11 September, 1991 at Camp Shelby during the construction of the Monument. This footage shows the delivery of the three piece monument to the dedication site and videos the complete construction of the monument. The 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

\*\*\*\*\*

## Collins Hall — Carlisle, Pennsylvania



Collins Hall in honor of General J. Lawton (Lightning Joe Collins). To be completed in mid 1994 at the Carlisle Barracks.



**DUES ARE NOW  
PAYABLE FOR THE  
1993-1994 DUES YEAR**

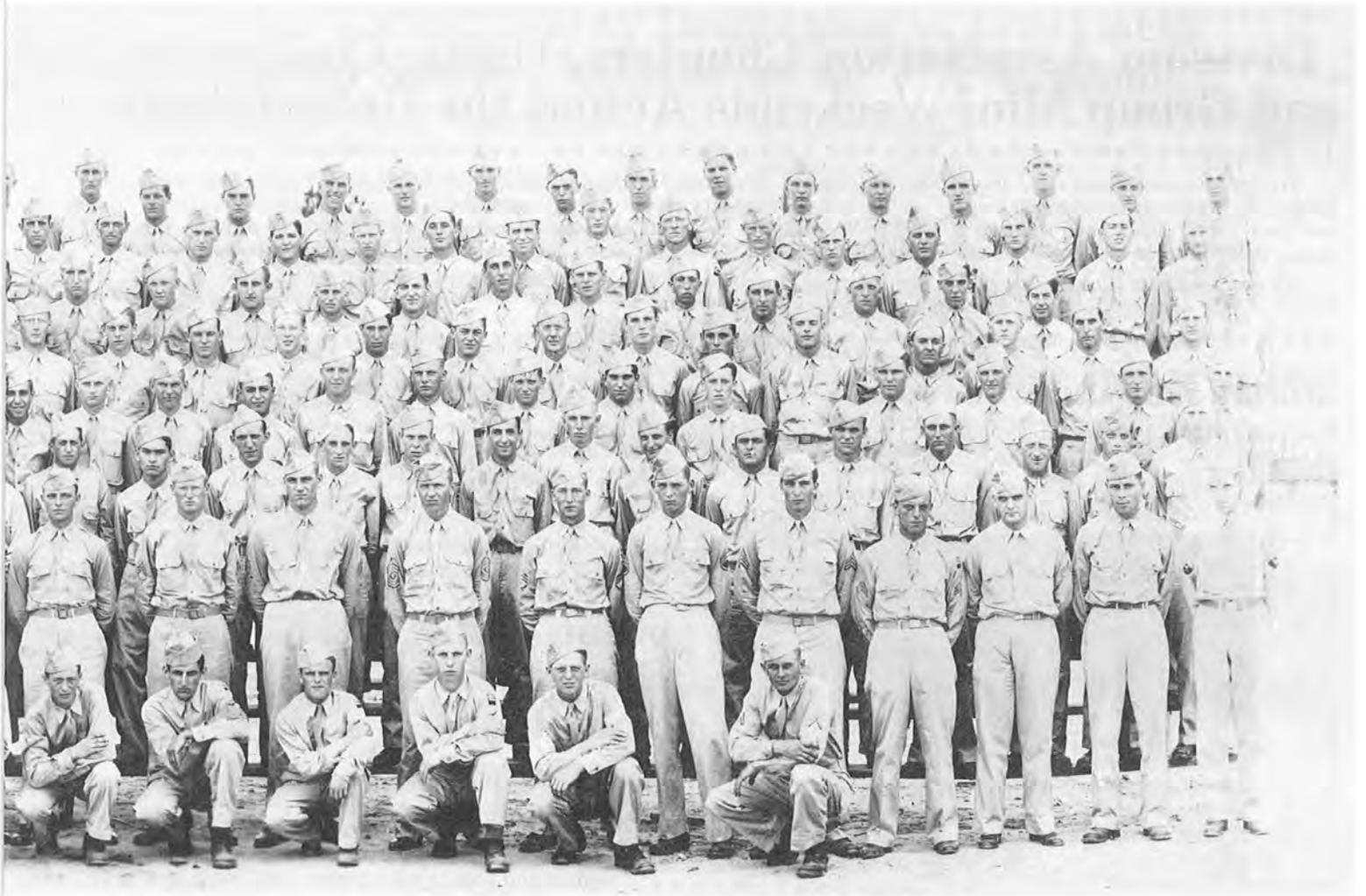
**Starting with the Rochester Reunion,  
1993-1994 Dues will be changed to  
\$10.00**

**If you can give a little more, please do  
so. We need your support NOW. If you  
read our Treasurer's Message, you will  
see that our Membership is going down  
due to Taps but the costs of printing  
and mailing are rising.**

**Thank You**

**Company F,  
Camp Shelby, Missis**

**Photo furnished by: Mr. Raymond Norris,**



**271st Infantry  
Mississippi — August 1943**

642 Law Street, Aberdeen, Maryland 21001

**69th Infantry Division  
1994  
47th Annual Reunion  
Sheraton Music City Hotel  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE  
August 21 thru 28, 1994  
777 McGavock Pike  
AT Century City  
Nashville, Tennessee 37214  
See back of bulletin Calendar of Events  
for further information.**



**DUES ARE NOW  
PAYABLE FOR THE  
1993-1994 DUES YEAR**

Starting with the Rochester Reunion,  
1993-1994 Dues will be changed to  
\$10.00

If you can give a little more, please do  
so. We need your support NOW. If you  
read our Treasurer's Message, you will  
see that our Membership is going down  
due to Taps but the costs of printing  
and mailing are rising.

**Thank You**

**Company F, 271st Infantry  
Camp Shelby, Mississippi — August 1943**

Photo furnished by: Mr. Raymond Norris, 642 Law Street, Aberdeen, Maryland 21001

**69th Infantry Division  
1994**

**47th Annual Reunion  
Sheraton Music City Hotel  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**August 21 thru 28, 1994**

**777 McGavock Pike  
AT Century City  
Nashville, Tennessee 37214**

See back of bulletin Calendar of Events  
for further information.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

We are interested in all news from Chapters, Groups, Branches, Companies, Battalions, Regiments, Recon, Artillery, AAA, Units, T.D.'s and any mini for this column, as it may help build up your events. Mail your date(s), location, banquet cost, activities and room rates, plus a good write-up to Earl E. Witzleb, Jr., Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069 or R.D. #1, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606, as early as possible. Then follow through with a write-up immediately after the event(s).

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## 269th Engineers

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



Hi Engineers,

Hope you are all making plans to go to the 69th Infantry Division Reunion in Rochester, New York in August. It should be a good reunion since we have never had one in that area and the city is supposed to be very pretty and a lot of things to see and do!! So I'm sure the 69th committee will keep us busy and on the go to make sure all is in order.

Below is a photo taken at a staff meeting being given by Colonel Holmlin overseas. The photo was supplied by Frank "Kim" Packard of Company A.



Bill Hosteller S-4, Del Thornton S-2, Bob Davis EX-O, and (rear) Jim Eibling S-3.

Sorry to report that the 269th Company B lost a good friend and a good soldier when W. "Charlie" Ellis passed away on March 19, 1993. Everyone who served with Charlie will speak highly of him and remember him always. I know I will.

Wishing you all well and try to make one of the reunions, either a mini or the 69th Division at Rochester.

Your "Ole" Buddie,  
 Frank

\*\*\*\*\*

## 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion

Bill Beswick, *News Reporter*  
 P.O. Box 576  
 West Point, Virginia 23181



Dear Fellow 661'ers:

I understand that the Rochester, New York area is an excellent area to visit. Lots of places to go and see.

There are a couple of tours that you may enjoy. In fact, one tour is being repeated so everyone will have a chance to see it all.

There are many 661'ers living in the New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio areas. So come out and enjoy each others companionship.

Do you remember what happened at Reischied, Geisheid, Bad Ems, Witzzenhausen, Leipzig, or Torgau? Now is the time to recall what happened by discussing and cussing it out with your war time friends. You may just enjoy seeing them.

Two more comments to think about — It's later than you think. Besides, you never know what tomorrow will bring and it may be too late to even think about it. SO DO IT NOW.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 69th Cavalry Recon Troop

Harold L. Gardner, *News Reporter*  
 2929 Mason Avenue  
 Independence, Missouri 64052  
 Telephone: 806/254-4816

Have you let Jerry Leib or Ed Sivas know that you will be in Oshkosh, Wisconsin for the 42nd Annual Reunion of the 69th Recon Troop in late August 1993?

Even if you haven't made your reservation with the Oshkosh Hilton yet, drop them a card and let them know that you plan to attend. That will give them an idea of how many to plan for when they talk with the Hilton.

(Continued on Page 29)

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

*(Continued from Page 28)*

In a conversation we had with Jerry on March 4th, he said that he had heard from the following who indicated that they are planning on being there:

- Dick and Fran Fogt
- Harold and Jeanne Gardner
- Jerry and Judie Leib
- Bones and Mable Schueler
- Herb and Eileen Norman
- Wally and Carolyn Pepper
- Getty and Lucy Glotfelty
- Jim and Mary Haight
- Ed and Nancy Sivas
- Lewis and Janice Hill
- Floyd and Evelyn Opdyke

We know that a number of our other "regulars" will also be there. They just haven't notified Jerry or Ed yet.

For you fellows that fly up, Jerry says that UNITED EXPRESS operates lines from both Chicago and Milwaukee into Oshkosh. Below are two contacts for reservations and/or information on airlines, accommodations or other information:

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Oshkosh Hilton           | Ambassador Travel, Ltd.  |
| 1 North Main Street      | Attn: Nina Leib          |
| Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901 | Koeller Center           |
| 1-800-445-8667           | 1094 S. Koeller Drive    |
| 1-414-231-5000           | Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901 |
|                          | 1-414-236-7777           |

When you contact one of these establishments, make sure you identify yourself as being with the 69th Recon reunion.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: The information contained in this article from the 69th Recon was derived from a newsletter they sent out to all members in March. Please contact Jerry Leib or Ed Sivas to update before making reservations for the 69th Recon Oshkosh reunion.)*

**Jerry Leib**  
22335 South Vermont Avenue, #22  
Torrance, California 90502  
Telephone: 301/328-9877

**Ed Sivas**  
26648 Indian Peak Road  
Rancho Palos Verdes, California 90274  
Telephone: 213/378-4979

CLOSING THOUGHTS

By the time you get to the point where you can make ends meet, someone moves the ends.

When you are arguing with fools, you should make sure they are not doing the same.

"The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly and lie about your age." *Lucille Ball*

"We can't all be heroes because somebody has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by." *Will Rogers*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Company D, 273rd Infantry**

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

**Allan Blackmar, Co-News Reporter**  
Church Street  
Pine Plains, New York 12567-0118

Members, their wives and guests of Company D-273rd Infantry arrived in Melbourne, Florida for a mini-reunion the first week in February. Hosting the reunion were Ken Sawyer and Fran Collard. Those seeking relief from the winter and wishing comradeship and friendship were Bob and Betty Jo McCarty, George and Barbara Johnson, Allan and Mary Blackmar and their guests Jim and Ev Stone. Enjoyed while down south were Epcot, Kennedy Space Center, a Dinner Theater, Golf and a banquet evening.



*Allan Blackmar, Ken Sawyer, George Johnson, Bob McCarty*



*George Johnson, Ken Sawyer, Allan Blackmar, Bob McCarty*

*(Continued on Page 30)*

# Company A, 273rd Infantry

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



At the San Francisco reunion, Ed Lucci checked the Company roster against the Division rosters. He found many discrepancies and omissions. With Clarence Marshall's assistance, we were able to rectify the errors, and coordinate the respective rosters. The updated roster has 71 living members and 17 deceased (died in civilian life).

If any member of A Company would like a copy of this roster, please let me know and I will send you a copy. We are still missing several telephone numbers and one or two zip codes. When you can, drop Ed a line showing your correct zip code and your telephone number.

PLEASE NOTE: If you change your address, please notify Ed.

**Ed Lucci**  
 23 Evergreen Avenue  
 Lynbrook, New York 11563-3219

Alan Murphey, who is writing the history of the 273rd in combat, has enlisted my aid in filling in the blanks of the Regiment's KIA. We are seeking dates and areas when killed. If you have any information, please send it to me.

That's it for now - hope to see you in Rochester.

\*\*\*\*\*

Photo left: Ladies  
 1992 Reunion, Lexington, Kentucky

Sitting: Betty Ellis, Shirley Zidian, Dorothy Cavlovic, Joy Northern, Catherine Calderone, and Irene Tipperreiter.

Standing: Ruby Sausaman, Margie Harreld, Irene McCarthy, Ruth Bombardier, Janice Gerth, Carol Zavodsky, Geneva Bilbrey, Pat Barnett, Betty Jeffries and Anne Johnson.

(Continued on Page 31)



Al Blackmar, Jim Stone, Ev Stone, Mary Blackmar, Fran Collard, Betty Jo McCarty, Barb Johnson, Bob McCarty

\*\*\*\*\*

# Battery A, 880th Field Artillery

John Barnett, News Reporter  
 6374 Brandywine Trail, Norcross, Georgia 30092



1992 Reunion, Lexington, Kentucky — Sitting: Frank Cavlovic, Henry Tipperreiter. 2nd Row: Bob McCarthy, Louis Calderone, Rex Sausaman, Bill Johnson and Lloyd Gerth. 3rd Row: Tom Ellis, Joe Zidian, Izzy Bombardier, Jeff Jeffries, John Barnett, Vince Ignatosky, Frank Zavodsky.





*A Battery, 880th Field Artillery Lexington, Kentucky Reunion*

*James Bilbrey, G. P. Frasier, John Barnett*

*Standing: Jeffries, Ignatosky, Barnett, Sausaman, Zidian, Tipperreiter, Bombardier, Dunn. Sitting: Gerth, Kneeling: Ellis*

\*\*\*\*\*

## 269th ENGINEERS OFFICERS

Submitted by: Frank "Kim" Packard



*CWD John O'Hagerty - Groitzsch, Germany (South of Leipzig)*



*Capt. Delmar Thornton Bn. S-2, Capt. Howard Ogles, Co. C*



*Captain Paul Locke - H&S Company - Nannhof, Germany*



*Captain William Christopherson - 269th Bn. Surgeon - England*

# Ordeal of Liberation at Colditz

EDITOR'S NOTE: Several years ago we printed a short article on Colditz extracted somewhat, from this article. Due to the interest that the men of the 69th have shown towards the ordeal at Colditz, we have decided to publish the complete version. We hope you enjoy it.

By Eric Narveson

History teacher at a junior high in Fremont, California

For the escape-prone POWs at Colditz Castle, the long moment of possible liberation posed dangerous uncertainties. Caught between onrushing armies from east and west, the German SS was determined to make a last-ditch stand in the shadow of the castle's walls.

\* \* \* \* \*

In the spring of 1945, Nazi Germany was experiencing the worst humiliation a nation can suffer. Two gigantic enemy armies had invaded the German homeland, seizing or destroying everything in their paths. The end of the war - the liberation of Europe - was in sight. Among the many places captured by the Allies that spring were Nazi prisoners of war camps. The storybook castle at Colditz, with its cache of "problem prisoners," was one of them.

Colditz lay roughly in the center of a geographic triangle formed by the cities of Leipzig, Dresden, and Chemnitz (now Karl Marx Stadt), in Saxony, Germany. In April 1945, the Soviet First Ukrainian Army was advancing from the east, pushing a torrent of refugees ahead of it, while the U.S. First Army was advancing from the west.

War was not new to Colditz, for nearly 800 years a summer hunting lodge for the kings of Saxony. The castle was sacked in 1634 by Imperialists in the Thirty Years' War. Swedes occupied the fortress in 1635, 1639, 1642, and 1706. In 1800, Colditz became a prison, and in 1828 as insane asylum. The Nazis turned Colditz into a concentration camp in 1933; in the late 1930s, the grounds were used as a Hitler Youth Work Camp.

When World War II started, Colditz simply took on a new identity. Beginning in October 1939, the castle was an Allied prisoner of war camp. At first it held Polish officers captured in the *blitzkrieg* invasion of Poland. Later, Colditz confined only the most dangerous and habitual escapers - the Germans thinking it an excellent idea to keep all their most troublesome prisoners in one jail. Colditz quickly gained a proud reputation among Allied prisoners of war as the camp for "bad boys." Officially named *Kriegsgefangenenoffizierssonderlager* (Special Officer Prisoner of War Camp) IV C, or simply Oflag IV C, the castle held captive Czechs, Poles, Dutch, Belgians, French Yugoslavs, Britons, Canadians, Indians, South Africans, Australians, New Zealanders, and Americans.

Such men were not discouraged by the fact that the Germans considered their camp escape-proof. Indeed, this merely encouraged them to challenge the camp's exalted reputation by increasing their escape attempts. The prisoners tried to break out with such frequency and determination that an attempt occurred on the average of once every 10 days for more than four years. Escapers tried every conceivable route: through walls and bars, over roofs and ceilings, under floors and foundations, in concealment and disguise. They exploited almost any change in the monotony of prison life with an escape attempt, theft, or other distraction that was aimed at aiding some future escape.



Being a prisoner of war was a fulltime occupation. With little else to do, prisoners developed ingenious escape plans and methods. Escapes varied in speed, size, and effort. Some were as quick and impromptu as a dash around a wall on an exercise walk, or a gymnastic vault over a barbed-wire wall. Others were long and well-planned, involving scores of men, as in the case of a French-built tunnel. It took the French prisoners eight months to dig a 144-foot tunnel through solid rock, using table knives and soup spoons, only to be discovered by the Germans with less than a week's work left before breaking out. Other escape attempts were equally daring and imaginative. British prisoners even built a glider in the castle attic (although, as events transpired, it never was to be flown).

Between escape attempts, prisoners busied themselves with a variety of morale-boosting activities, including the time-honored prerogative of baiting their captors. Mock German salutes (the thumb turned inward to form a surreptitious Churchillian "V"), rooftop water bombs, obscene puns on foreign words, cigarette smoke blown "accidentally" into a sentry's face - all formed part of the prisoners' prankish humor. Scarcely an *Appell*, or roll call, went by without an indignant German officer despairing, "*Sind Sie Offiziere oder Kinder?*" - Are you officers or children? Invariably, a chorus of raspberries would be his answer.

Prisoners also organized more refined entertainments: elaborate pantomimes, musicales, and full-dress "ballets" featuring tough-looking POWs prancing about in paper tutus. A rough-and-tumble version of English soccer, called stoolball, was also popular, with scores of prisoners wrestling, gouging, and pummeling each other senseless in an effort to touch a goalie's stool with the ball. Games were arranged between the different nationalities represented within the prison, but were discontinued after they proved too damaging to Allied co-existence - particularly when an insouciant group of Frenchmen upset the heavily favored British team.

Food rations for prisoners were adequate, if not exactly delectable. Coffee was brewed from acorns; potatoes and turnips formed the staple diet, augmented by bread, barley, peas, and a bitter-tasting jam substitute which looked - and tasted - like tar. Food parcels from home were occasionally permitted: tinned meat, vegetables, cheese, real jam and jellies, chocolate, cocoa, sugar and cooking fat. These much-coveted items, by common accord, were put into a pool for all to share.

(Continued on Page 33)

## ORDEAL OF LIBERATION AT COLDITZ

(Continued from Page 32)

The internationality of the camp disappeared with the removal of French, Polish, Dutch, and Belgian POWs in 1943. The remaining prisoners were primarily from the British Commonwealth. The intensity of escape attempts began to taper off after June 6, 1944, when the Allies landed in Normandy. The prisoners anticipated liberation by September, so escape efforts were deemed unnecessary.

In the fall of 1944, new special prisoners began arriving at the castle, including three Americans captured by the Gestapo during the German conquest of Hungary in March. In this way, the *Prominente* class of prisoners increased in number. These were special prisoners, hostages really, who were believed to possess exceptional value because of kinship to various high-level British officials or because of other political importance to the Allies. The *Prominente* included Giles Romily, nephew of Winston Churchill; Captain the Earl of Hopetown, eldest son of the Viceroy of India; Captain the Master of Elphinstone, nephew of Queen Elizabeth and King George VI; Polish General Tadeusz Bor-Komorowski, leader of the Warsaw Uprising of 1944; and John Winant, Jr., son of the American Ambassador to Great Britain. These men were kept separated from the rest of the prison population, their activities observed day and night. The German government felt these *Prominente* could be used to bargain for certain treaty concessions, for anything less than unconditional

surrender. Sensible leaders could see, even if Adolph Hitler could not, that the handwriting was very clearly on the wall.

The British government was quite concerned about the fate of the *Prominente*. On February 19, 1945, Churchill's War Cabinet even discussed the idea of a special rescue mission by parachutists, who would land at the castle and free the *Prominente*. With the support of Prime Minister Churchill and King George VI, this plan eventually became a directive from Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces (SHAEF) to the First Allied Airborne Army, but was never carried out, due primarily to the swiftness of the Allied advance into Germany.

On February 26, 1945, more than 1,700 French prisoners arrived at Colditz after an 85-mile march from their eastern camp, which had been threatened by advancing Soviets. Overnight, Colditz became severely overcrowded, the camp population nearly quintupling. Twelve hundred Frenchmen were assigned to the castle; the other 500 were held in the town jail.

The first sign of the advancing armies was the arrival of Soviet *Stormovik* fighters over the area. On the night of April 9, one plane strafed the castle, to the total surprise of prisoners and guards. The Allied POWs thought the castle had been mistaken for an army of *Waffen SS* headquarters, and belatedly realized that as fighting drew closer, it would be dangerous to be confined within such a significant military target as the castle.

(Continued on Page 34)



Postcard sent in by Michael Booker, of how Colditz looks today.

## ORDEAL OF LIBERATION AT COLDITZ

(Continued from Page 33)

The prisoners' apprehension increased the next day when remnants of a retreating German infantry regiment arrived in the town of Colditz. The commanding officer, a captain, had orders to make a stand at the Mulde River, a few hundred yards west of the castle. He met with the Colditz *Kommandant*, Lt. Col. Gerhard Prawitt, and demanded to know the camp's strength. The paltry garrison consisted now of 200 men between the ages of 50 and 65, armed with rifles and a mere 15 rounds of ammunition apiece. They also had 10 machine guns but little ammunition.

The captain immediately realized the castle's troops were not much better off than his own unit. The regiment was down to a few hundred men from its original strength of over 2,000 soldiers, and it had only three 75mm guns remaining in its artillery reserve. Deciding to draw upon what little strength the town could provide, he turned to the *Partei Kreisleiter* (Nazi Party District Leader), who obligingly mustered his *Volkssturm* Battalion.

The *Volkssturm* were more or less able-bodied men from the ages of 16 to 60, as defined by special order of Adolf Hitler in late 1944. The Colditz *Volkssturm* Battalion consisted entirely of old men and boys, except the *Kreisleiter* (who was about 50) and the *Bauleiter*, a 35-year-old local Nazi leader. Armed with only one rifle for every tenth man, plus a few *Panzerfausts* (hand-carried, single-shot anti-tank weapons), this group had little military training and no combat experience. On the afternoon they were mustered, the *Volkssturm* began to practice with their few weapons under the supervision of soldiers from the newly arrived infantry regiment.

By April 11, the inhabitants of Colditz could see and hear the war first-hand. A few prisoners stationed at castle windows spotted smoke on the western horizon. Occasionally during the day, occupants of the camp could hear the rumble of heavy artillery off to the west. They also followed the progress of the U.S. First Army from BBC reports received on a hidden radio.

The Germans were watching and listening too. During the day, Army Command Area IV, at Glauchau, sent a secret order to the *Kommandantur* (Camp Headquarters), advising that upon receipt of the code word *Heidenroslein* (rockrose), the *Prominente* were to be removed to another prison in Konigstein, 50 miles east of Colditz. Two trucks were sent, with an escort, to insure the move would be successfully completed.

A new sight shocked the castle's inhabitants on the morning of April 12. Thousands of refugees were pouring over the town bridge across the Mulde, heading west before the Soviet advance. Homeless civilians clogged the roads with oxcarts, pushcarts, and horse-drawn wagons full of terrified, freezing, and starving old men, women, and children. Propaganda stories of "inhuman" Russians were working in reverse — Germans, no longer feeling superior to the Russians, were now fleeing the Slavic hordes from the east.

In town, the *Volkssturm* continued to prepare a last-ditch defense, digging slit trenches and reinforcing houses at the western outskirts of the village. Some townsmen and soldiers spent the morning underneath the town bridge, planting nearly ancient explosives that dated from World War I.

Sometime after 5:00 p.m., the code word *Heidenroslein* came through the castle by telephone from Glauchau. The orders had said that *Prominente* were to be moved within two hours after reception of the code word. But Colonel Prawitt decided to delay the move until after final roll call at 10:00 p.m. After the roll call, the Senior British Officer, W. "Willie" Tod, was informed of the move, and he immediately requested to see the *Kommandant*. Tod, Brigadier E. F. Davies of the British Army, and Lt. Col. Florimond Duke of the U.S. Army stormed in to see Colonel Prawitt.

Tod, who had lost a son in the war, demanded that the *Kommandant* ignore the order to move the *Prominente*. Since Prawitt could not be sure of the ever-changing situation on the front, Tod said, he could claim with some plausibility that the message had never been received. Tod argues that it would be madness to send two truckloads of prisoners through the constantly narrowing corridor between American and Soviet forces. Prawitt responded that he was threatened with execution if he did not deliver the *Prominente* to Konigstein.

Tod continued to press Prawitt. The trucks might be strafed by Allied aircraft, he said. Prawitt replied that the move would take place at night and be completed by dawn. Tod responded that the SS, or some fanatical group of regular soldiers, would shoot at any unidentified, unauthorized transport, or else confiscate the vehicle and strand the *Prominente* somewhere in hostile territory. The *Kommandant* assured him the prisoners would be heavily guarded by a contingent from the Konigstein prison, and would be safe during the move. At Tod's continued urging, however, Prawitt agreed to send Captain Reinhold Eggers, Colditz's security officer, along as far as Konigstein. At that point, Eggers was to return with a statement signed by the members of the *Prominente* announcing their safe arrival and subsequent transfer of responsibility.

At 1:30 a.m., the *Prominente* were marched into the courtyard of the *Kommandantur*, where two trucks were waiting. They left the castle escorted by two motorcycles, an armored car, and the reluctant Eggers. As the trucks went through the gate, Churchill's nephew, Romily, jauntily called back to his comrades, "I thought you'd all like to know that today is Friday, the thirteenth!"

The next morning, the last vestiges of an unidentified *Waffen* SS division arrived in the Colditz area. It immediately prepared to defend the hills east of the castle and behind the infantry regiment already in town. The SS soldiers, about 800, brought with them truckloads of the tank-busting *Panzerfausts*, which they distributed among the *Volkssturm*. They also had a few 88mm anti-aircraft guns, which were deployed along the ridge above the castle. These 88s probably came from the Leipzig area, where a concentrated belt of flak guns protected various German oil refineries.

Sometime during the following 72 hours, the SS troops went to a concentration camp two miles south of Colditz. There they murdered 400 Hungarian Jews who were being used as slave laborers. Four of the Jews managed to survive by crawling under the bodies of the dead.

Prawitt woke to the ringing of the telephone on the morning of April 14th. Glauchau gave him the code letters "ZR." This mean *Zerstörung-Raumung* (destroy-evacuate); camp guards were to destroy all records, stores, and warning systems. Furthermore, all prisoners were to be moved east on any available transport. The castle was equipped with one antique motor car and two horse-drawn carts, but Prawitt was determined to follow orders. After he sent for Tod at 6:00 a.m., Tod and Duke arrived in the *Kommandantur* prepared to counter Prawitt's argument at all costs.

The *Kommandant* informed Tod that he had to be ready to move his men in three hours. Tod refused, arguing that the men did not have enough physical strength to march cross-country. Prawitt stressed that he was under orders from his superiors. The American officer, Duke, said the prisoners had been waiting for liberation for a long time, and with freedom only a matter of hours away, nothing would force them out of Colditz. Prawitt remained steadfast. Tod then asked him to call headquarters and tell them the prisoners would not move without force. The phone conversation was short. Prawitt could not get anyone at headquarters to take responsibility for the consequences of a forced move, so he courageously decided to ignore his early-morning order.

(Continued on Page 35)

## ORDEAL OF LIBERATION AT COLDITZ

(Continued from Page 34)

During mid-morning, a new sign of war appeared. A watcher among the prisoners spotted American Thunderbolt fighter planes to the southwest. Twenty prisoners immediately dashed down into the courtyard and spelled out the letters "P-O-W" on the black cobblestones with sheets, blankets, and shirts. No sooner were they finished than one of the planes flew directly over the castle. The prisoners waved, cheered, jumped, and ran around in circles. They could clearly see the pilot's goggled head, and hoped that he, in turn, had recognized them.

In the afternoon, as the outskirts of town were being hit by artillery fire, Tod and Duke again went to see the *Kommandant*. They feared that the SS might seize the castle because of its obvious military importance. Tod suggested the German garrison surrender to its prisoners. At first Prawitt refused, but after long debate (and reasoned consideration of his legal position in post-war Germany), he agreed to hand over responsibility for discipline within the camp to senior POW officers. Prawitt gave keys to the weapons and ammunition storage to Tod and Duke; the Allied officers agreed not to use them unless there was real danger the SS would try to occupy the prison. In that event, the prisoners would break out the weapons and distribute them among themselves while disarming the guards and taking them prisoner. To avoid arousing suspicion among the nearby SS, prison guards would remain at their posts; everything would appear normal from the outside. Prawitt gave his men orders not to fire upon prisoners or approaching American soldiers. The *Kommandant* prudently insisted that no national flags or white flags of surrender be hung out the windows of the castle.

Prawitt also demanded compensation for his surrender to unarmed prisoners of war. Tod and Duke signed a safe conduct agreement, and agreed to exonerate the Germans from any complaints of alleged violations of the Geneva Convention governing correct treatment of prisoners of war - with two exceptions. The first was the killing of British Lieutenant Michael Sinclair while he was attempting to escape on September 25, 1944. Tod and Duke demanded a full investigation after liberation, with no clemency to be shown to any found guilty of violating the military code. The second was responsibility for the safety of the *Prominente*. If they suffered any harm prior to their safe liberation, Prawitt and his staff would be held responsible. That afternoon, Security Chief Eggers handed over to the British prisoners 1,400 personal items of property that were confiscated upon their arrival at the camp. In the evening, he burned all the papers and official files of the *Kommandantur*, an event which took some seven hours.

April 15 was clear and sunny. There was great activity in the town of Colditz. German soldiers and *Volkssturm* deployed their machine guns and prepared for battle. American Thunderbolts reappeared and began strafing various strong-points within the town. The Germans had no anti-aircraft protection from the planes; the SS chose to save their 88mm ammunition for approaching American armor. At 10:30, the prisoners spotted tanks due west of town; but as the tanks approached they were recognized as German. The Thunderbolt pilots also saw the column and dive-bombed the tanks. Since each pullout and turn required several minutes, the tanks in the interim moved forward into the protection of Colditz's narrow streets. One by one, the vehicles crossed the town bridge, evading the attacks of American fighters.

Around two in the afternoon, a half-dozen American Sherman tanks entered the open fields two miles west of the castle and began firing into German machine-gun positions on the outskirts of town. This attracted the attention of the SS on the ridge behind the castle. The 88s opened up on the American tanks, but their aim was poor, and several rounds fell on the town, killing many German defenders. The SS

reluctantly stopped firing after realizing what was happening.

A few minutes after the 88s ceased fire, a dozen men in *Waffen SS* uniforms, along with some *Volkssturm*, crossed the ancient bridge and climbed down the riverbank below the castle. A few minutes later there was a tremendous explosion as they detonated the ammunition placed under the bridge three days before. But the bridge, amazingly, remained standing. The soldiers began blasting the center piling of the bridge with *Panzerfausts*. The firing went on for about an hour, but the Germans finally gave up - leaving more than half the central pilings still intact.

Colditz was soon within range of the advancing American artillery. The first rounds fell short, but the second skimmed the roof. British artillery officers in camp were alarmed: they knew the Americans were registering on the castle. The next rounds proved they were right; one hit the *Kommandantur*, killing a German corporal, another burst in mid-air over the prisoners' courtyard, wounding a French prisoner.

Lieutenant Kenneth B. Dodson of the 73rd Armored Field Battalion, Ninth Armored Division, in charge of the barrage, intended to destroy the castle in order to flush out German tanks suspected of hiding within its walls. Soon, however, Dodson received reports that spotters had seen French and British flags hanging from the castle windows. He delayed bombardment and informed his superior officer, Colonel Leo W. H. Shaughnessey, commander of Combat Command Reserve of the Ninth Armored Division, Shaughnessey immediately instructed Dodson to direct his fire on the hills beyond, but to preserve the castle at all costs. "Do not - repeat not - shell castle which contains P.O.W.," he ordered.

For the rest of the day and into the night, the SS of the ridge east of the camp traded artillery fire with the Americans on the plain west of Colditz. During this duel, American infantrymen slowly pushed their way into town. The prisoners suffered from this all-night exchange; the noise was deafening, the concussions bone-shaking. Prisoners and guards alike were helplessly trapped inside the castle. By 2:00 a.m., April 16th, the artillery contest finally subsided, replaced by a steady sound of machine guns and small-arms fire. This meant that American infantry had crossed the river and was on the castle side.

Captain Guy Nunn was one of five American prisoners at Colditz. At three in the morning, Prawitt, increasingly desperate, chose him to leave the castle, contact approaching American troops, and lead them back to the prison to accept its surrender. Nunn knew he would not be able to contact any of his fellow countrymen in the dark, so he waited until dawn before going out the main gate. Instantly, he was greeted by a burst of machine-gun fire. Nunn threw himself to the ground, ruefully reminded that he was in a combat situation, and crawled down the causeway crossing the dry castle moat and leading into town. There, he peered around the corner of a building and spotted two figures moving slowly up the street from one doorway to another. Nunn waited until he could make out their helmets in the dim light. After a moment, he knew - they were American GIs.

Joyfully, he whistled to them. They froze. He yelled that he was an American prisoner of war. The two GIs doubted his identity. They were advance scouts from their company, they knew there were no other Americans ahead of them. One of the soldiers had just killed a ten-year-old Hitler Youth member when the boy shot a GI from ambush, so they were ready for any tricks. No American-speaking Nazi would lead them into a trap.

Captain Nunn felt their suspicion. "This is kosher!" he yelled. It was a stroke of genius. No Nazi would use a Jewish word like "kosher," not even as a trick.

One of the GIs cautiously came forward in a crouch, the other following him. Nunn stood up, holding his arms high and wide. The two soldiers recognized his uniform and followed him up the road to the castle. The Americans looked frightening, faces smeared with lamp black, bayonets fixed,

(Continued on Page 36)

## ORDEAL OF LIBERATION AT COLDITZ

(Continued from Page 35)

grenades hanging from their uniforms. As soon as the three were inside the gate, one of the soldiers went into a guard-box and emerged with a framed picture of Adolf Hitler. Raising the portrait above his head, he smashed it to the cobblestones and ground it under his boot heel. A roar of cheers went up from the prisoners' windows in the castle. With that simple gesture they knew that they were finally free, that all the waiting and suffering had paid off — Liberation!

A British officer standing near the gate now came forward, taking one soldier's outstretched hand. "Any GIs here?" the soldier asked affably. In seconds, a mob of now-former prisoners of war rushed into the courtyard, surrounding the soldiers, weeping, laughing, and clapping each other on the back. Frenchmen joyfully embraced, kissing each other on the cheek with tears streaming down their faces.

In short order, the Americans disarmed the acquiescent German guards. Colonel Shaughnessey arrived later on to formally accept surrender of the castle and its garrison. Tod, as senior POW, proposed that all prisoners except those with special duties be kept within the castle for the time being, to allow them to readjust to freedom and to avoid Nazi suicide parties which Shaughnessey warned were still swarming the countryside. (Three Frenchmen who subsequently disobeyed the order were recaptured by the Germans and disappeared.)

The next two days were spent collecting all the accumulated possessions of five years' imprisonment and moving these behind the lines to safety. Within two days of liberation, the ex-prisoners were on their way to England. The castle was occupied by American troops from the 9th Armored and 69th Infantry Divisions, which in turn were forced to abandon Colditz in July 1945, because the castle was located in the region by then designated as the Soviet occupation zone. Later, the castle was used as a hospital for Soviet officers suffering from venereal disease. In 1949, now part of newly created East Germany, Colditz returned to its unhappy function of insane asylum.

By then, the thousands of British, American, and other Allied POWs who had suffered, endured, and persevered within Colditz's forbidding walls had long since returned to civilian life. On the day of his return to England, British Captain Dick Howe arrived at Kaledar airfield, near Chemnitz, riding a German Army motorcycle he had somehow commandeered at Colditz. With his fellow-prisoners now boarding American-made Dakotas for the short flight home, Howe took one last ride aboard his BMW cycle. Spying a GI emerging from a hut at the edge of the airfield, Howe raced over to him. "Hey!" he shouted, "can you ride a motorbike!" "Yeah," the American replied. "Well, you've got one," Howe told him, hurrying off to catch his plane. On board, he looked out and saw the GI slowly walking around the cycle like a child on Christmas morning. Howe had already received his Christmas present. He was going home.

## The Red Fox of Colditz

Despite the great number and variety of escape attempts at Colditz, only one Allied prisoner was killed by German guards while trying to escape. Ironically, he was also the most determined and proficient escaper at the prison: British Lieutenant Michael Sinclair, known to his captors as "*Der Rote Fuchs*" — the Red Fox.

Sinclair, an officer with the 60th Rifles, was captured by the Germans at Calais, France, early in the war. His first escape, from a camp in northeastern Germany, took him through Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia, before his recapture at the Bulgarian border. En route to Colditz, he escaped twice more before ever reaching the "escape-proof" castle.

The red-haired, Cambridge-educated Sinclair soon became legendary to prisoners and guards alike for his absolutely unshakable resolution to escape at the slightest opportunity. In all, he made six escape attempts at Colditz, including two in which he successfully breached the prison's walls and nearly succeeded in reaching Switzerland.

The first, on November 20, 1942, involved a daylight rope climb down a prison air shaft, accompanied by a French officer. The two successfully left the castle through an unguarded gate, casually sauntered through the park bordering the prison, and parted company outside, the Frenchman bound for Leipzig, Sinclair for the Swiss border. Three days later, after an Allied air raid had sparked a determined search for enemy parachutists, the Red Fox was caught near Singen, Germany, only a half-mile from freedom.

Sinclair's most daring attempt, one which revealed both his gambler's courage and his sacrificial devotion to his fellow prisoners, took place on May 19, 1943. Disguised as a German guard commander nicknamed "Franz Josef" by the prisoners, Sinclair and two other German-speaking POWs climbed down a homemade rope into the prison courtyard. The three intended to impersonate the regular guards, relieve them of duty and open a prison gate for 20 other inmates. The plan only misfired at the last minute when one of the original guards stolidly refused to leave his post.

In his guise as "Franz Josef" Sinclair wasted precious time arguing with the guard, instead of leaving the prison on his own. Not content to escape alone, Sinclair was determined to carry through with the original plan. After several minutes of wrangling, the real "Franz Josef" appeared with a contingent of soldiers. In the confusing melee which followed, Sinclair was shot in the chest at pointblank range by a frightened guard. Miraculously, the bullet glanced off his ribs and he survived with only a flesh wound.

In November 1943, Sinclair again managed to get clear away, dropping over a sheer parapet at the castle with a second prisoner, Jack Best. They then cut their way through strands of concertina wire at the foot of the prison. Three days later, the two were walking down the main street in Reine, Germany, when they were spotted by a policeman who felt Best did not look enough like a German. The escapees were then just 22 miles from the Swiss border.

Escape had become an obsession for Sinclair, and his single-mindedness caused other prisoners to worry about his safety. By the summer of 1944, it was clear that the war was nearing its end; escape from Colditz was virtually meaningless.

But on September 25, 1944, the Red Fox made one last attempt. This time, he was going alone. In the exercise yard, Sinclair turned suddenly to a companion, took his hand and said, "It's going to be now or never."

Then, before his friend could say anything, Sinclair ran to the wire fence surrounding the yard and began clawing his way over the barbed wire. German guards, who had become accustomed to *Der Rote Fuchs*'s audacious escapes, were thunderstruck by this suicidal and unimaginative attempt.

As Sinclair reached the top of the fence and balanced atop the swaying wires, sentries began shouting, "Halt! Halt! *Halt oder ich schieesse!*" Sinclair made the nine-foot drop and began stumbling uphill toward the outer wall. A volley of shots splattered around him. Disdaining the last opportunity to surrender, he kept on.

The German sentries fired another volley. One bullet glanced off Sinclair's elbow and entered his heart. At the age of 26, he was dead when the guards reached him.

At a memorial service held in his honor at Colditz chapel, shortly after the war ended seven months later, the prison chaplain paid tribute to the Red Fox's indomitable courage. "Whenever the story of escaping in this war is written," he said, "Mike Sinclair's name will be there, high up on the list."

# Memorial Day Address

May 31, 1993

Wellwood Park, Merchantville, New Jersey

Submitted by: Lawrence Adrian Eckhardt  
Councilman, Borough of Merchantville, New Jersey  
Company I, 272nd

NOTE: Read this through, 69ers. It contains an excellent explanation of how Memorial Day came to be a National Holiday.

Very Good Morning!

Thank you, Robert Klimowski, Commander F.W. Griff Post 68, American Legion, and Karl Kohler, Chairman of the Memorial Day Committee - for your continual support in organizing this event and for the invitation to speak this morning.

On behalf of Mayor Morrissey and the rest of Borough Council, I thank the Organizations represented and "you" for being here, and sharing this time of thoughtful remembrance together, on this pleasant morning and in this peaceful setting.

Now is indeed a time to remember - a time to honor the devotion of our American heroes who paid the supreme sacrifice of their lives. It is also a time to pray that such sacrifices will soon - some day - no longer be required. However, the sobering fact that throughout the ages an average of 40 different wars between peoples are active, throughout the world, must make us believe that the quest for lasting peace will not come easily.

We know that our Memorial Day custom of decorating graves started very soon after the end of the Civil War. There were numerous beginnings to the ceremony in America, the first possibly being prompted by some women in Columbus, Mississippi, who, in 1866, placed flowers on the graves of both Confederate and Union soldiers. The impartiality shown by this incident inspired Francis Miles Finch to write a moving lyric ("The Blue and the Gray"). Its first and last verse catches the significance of the womens' event:

By the flow of the inland river  
Whence the fleets of iron have fled,  
Where the blades of the grave grass quiver,  
Asleep are the ranks of the dead:  
Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgement-day;  
Under the one, the Blue,  
Under the other, the Gray.

No more shall the war cry sever,  
Or the winding rivers be red;  
They banish our anger forever  
When they laurel the graves of the dead!  
Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgement-day;  
Love and tears for the Blue,  
Tears and love for the Gray.

After the early, individual beginnings, General Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic issued an order naming May 30, 1868 . . . .

" . . . for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of the comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion and whose bodies lie in almost every city, village or hamlet churchyard in the land. It is the purpose of the commander-in-chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept from year to year while a survivor of the war remains to honor the

memory of the departed . . . Let no ravages of time testify to coming generations that we have forgotten, as a people, the cost of a free and undivided Republic."

As a result, the first National Memorial Day was held that year with over 100 separate commemorations. The most noteworthy was held in the National Cemetery at Arlington, Virginia. General (later President) James A. Garfield noted in part, and I quote:

"I am oppressed with a sense of the impropriety of uttering words on this occasion. If silence is ever golden, it must be here beside the graves of 15,000 men whose lives were more significant than speech and whose death was a poem — the music of which can never be sung. With words we make promises, plight faith, praise virtue. Promises may not be kept; plighted faith may be broken; and vaunted virtue be only the cunning mask of vice. We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and virtue." End quote.

A year later over 300 observances were held, and of course today many thousands are held each May. Today we remember the dead from all American wars. We solemnly decorated not only the graves of fellow countrymen and women buried in America, but in services like this, we decorate graves in foreign countries. Water-services nobly honor those who have died at sea.

In reflecting on Memorial Day, I was struck by two contrasting characteristics. Aspects of our memorial remembrances are either VERY LARGE in magnitude - when expressed in terms of numbers of wars, battles and casualties, or our remembrances are VERY PERSONAL - either a private memory of a loved one or friend who died in the service of the United States - or very personal thoughts about the "ultimate sacrifice" of war - and what it means to each of us.

The number of Americans who have died in service to our Country through all of our wars exceeds one million three hundred thousand. It is hard for me to comprehend this total - 1,300,000 - especially when I remember that each statistic refers to a separate, heroic American defending American freedom and democracy. Tied in to casualties of course is the VERY LARGE number of American military campaigns, battles and skirmishes that have been waged over two centuries.

In response to the gratitude felt by all Americans for the sacrifices made during times of war, another very positive, large statistic is the number of "People who Remember." I believe two to three million people will today be participating in a Memorial Day remembrance activity. I am not including in this number those who are simply "celebrating" in some event which happens to be occurring this weekend. (This week I saw that Channel 12 was advertising some programs tied in to a "Memorial Day Celebration." I believe today is a Day of Remembrance, a Day of Observation, not a day of celebration. I may be too tied up on a "word," but to me, Memorial Day is a day for inward introspection.) Finally on this point, although perhaps only one or two percent of Americans are visibly participating in these Remembrances, I believe more than ninety-nine percent of Americans emotionally support the importance of the sacrifices made.

The other characteristic of Memorial Day is deeply personal, to each of us - the OBSERVATIONS and FEELINGS of what military, personal sacrifice means to us as a human.

*(Continued on Page 38)*

**MEMORIAL DAY ADDRESS**

*(Continued from Page 37)*

All of us here today either SERVED our country actively in time of peace or war, SUPPORTED our country in our daily lives, or have BENEFITTED from the efforts of others to preserve our freedom. Each of us, then, has a personal connection to "why we are here today." Our deepest feelings will be felt by those of us who lost a very close, dear one in time of War.

I salute the sacrifices and service given to our Country by the veterans in attendance here today. On a personal note, I salute my relatives - in particular my mother and father, my father-in-law and my aunts and uncles who served our nation honorably in war and peace.

Finally, in addition to honoring the sacrifices of our war dead, we will want to remember our own deceased relatives and friends, the great majority of whom have spent their lives supporting war efforts in their own ways and in nobly supporting American ideals. Let us remember them all today.

God Bless America!

\*\*\*\*\*



*Our editor, Clarence Marshall, all dressed up at the recent Canaan Valley Tri-State Reunion.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEW DUES YEAR**  
**August 1, 1993**  
**to July 31, 1994**  
**DUES ARE NOW \$10.00 PER YEAR**  
**REGULAR MEMBERSHIP**  
*Please send your dues in promptly.*  
*We need your support.*

# First Link-Up Memorial Park Bronze Mural

Submitted by: Bill Beswick

Past President, 69th Infantry Division Association  
P.O. Box 576, West Point, Virginia 23181

This article pertains to the BRONZE MURAL that is to be placed on the back wall of the "First Link-Up Memorial Park" to be constructed in Strehla, Germany.

## PEGASUS,

### THE FLYING HORSE OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY

After lots of consultation between the Americans, Russians, and Germans, it was decided to cast Pegasus on the bronze plaque on the back wall of the "Memorial Park," in Strehla, Germany. Pegasus will not offend any of the three nations, or groups.

Pegasus was a marvelous horse which had sprung from Gorgon's blood when Perseus killed her. He was a winged steed, unwearied of flight, sweeping through the air swift as a gale.

Our interpretation goes a little further: The rider on Pegasus is shown picking up the Spirit of the slain heroes and carrying them to Heaven for Eternity.

I think this appears to be displayed in extremely fine taste for everyone. There is too much that can be written here about Pegasus. You may be interested in reading more about it in your encyclopedia. I am sure that you will find it good reading and interesting.

These pictures are of the Bas-relief which is in Valodia Surovtsev's studio in Moscow, Russia.



# Rino L. Godino retires from Foster Wheeler USA Corp.

Service Company, 271st Infantry

May 6 — Rino L. Godino, Vice President of Process Design and Development, is retiring from Foster Wheeler USA Corporation after more than 41 years of service.



He began his career with Foster Wheeler in 1951 as a process engineer in the Petroleum Design Department. Mr. Godino then held many positions of increasing responsibility such as group supervisor (lube oils), chief engineer (heavy oils and hydroprocessing), manager of process design, and director of process design and development prior to attaining his most recent position. Before joining Foster Wheeler, he was an instructor in chemical engineering at New York University.

Mr. Godino received his bachelor's of science degree (1950) and his master's degree (1952) in Chemical Engineering from New York University. He completed the Executive Management Course at New York University in 1967. A licensed Professional Engineer in the states of New Jersey, Illinois and Pennsylvania, Mr. Godino is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, National Society of Professional Engineers, Tau Beta Pi and Phi Lambda Upsilon. He is the author of numerous technical publications and holds seven patents in petroleum refining. He is profiled in "Who's Who in America," "Who's Who in the East" and "Men of Achievement."

A World War II veteran, Mr. Godino served in Europe (two battle stars). He held the Combat Infantryman Badge and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

Mr. Godino and his wife, Dolores, whose background is in the fashion industry and the arts, reside in central New Jersey and are the parents of two children, Diane and Marc. A professional magician, Mr. Godino is a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (Order of Merlin) and the Society of American Magicians.

(NOTE: Mr. Godino, we hope to see you at the Rochester, New York reunion in August of 1993.)

\*\*\*\*\*

# Donald W. Cole Seeks Help for Peaceful Resolution

Company H, 273rd Infantry



Dr. Donald W. Cole, Cleveland Psychologist, Industrial Social Worker and Management/O.D. Consultant has just returned from nine days in Croatia, April 29th to May 8th. Serbia has now conquered and occupies 22% of Croatia and about 90% of Bosnia. The Croatians desperately need:

1. Lifting of the arms embargo against Croatia and Bosnia so that they can defend themselves against the Serbs. The Serb/Yugoslavian government put all the weapons and ammunition factories in Serbia so the Serbs have weapons and ammunition but their victims do not. During the battle for Dubrovnic, the Croatians had only 240 rifles and no heavy weapons to use against the Serb tanks. At one point they had less than 200 bullets for their rifles.
2. Air strikes to protect women and children from the Serbian heavy artillery and as support for UN Peace Keeping Forces.
3. Humanitarian Aid. When the Serbs leave an area they have occupied, they burn villages and destroy everything of possible value.
4. Fully trained Psychologists and Social Workers to work in the refugee camps to ease the mental anguish and emotional suffering of the refugees and especially those who have been raped and tortured.
5. Management consultants to improve the management skills needed to handle such overwhelming problems.
6. Letters to President Bill Clinton, c/o The White House, Washington, DC, USA. Without his help there is little likelihood of stopping the slaughter now going on.

For more information about what is happening in Croatia and how you can help, please feel free to contact Don Cole at the address below.

**Dr. Donald Cole, RODC**  
The Organization Development Institute  
11234 Walnut Ridge Road  
Chesterland, Ohio 44026

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

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

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

# 461st AAA Battalion

Submitted by Francis Breyette and Vincent Consiglio



*Vince Consiglio on right. Lloyd Caulk in power turret.*



*69th Division 881st Field Artillery Battalion*



*German Officer and aide get a free ride to the M.P.'s.  
Before Leipzig*



*69th Division 881st Field Artillery Battalion  
Men not identified*



Robert D. Bissell somewhere in Germany.



Francis Breyette at Schkeuditz, Germany. C Battery, 461st

\*\*\*\*\*

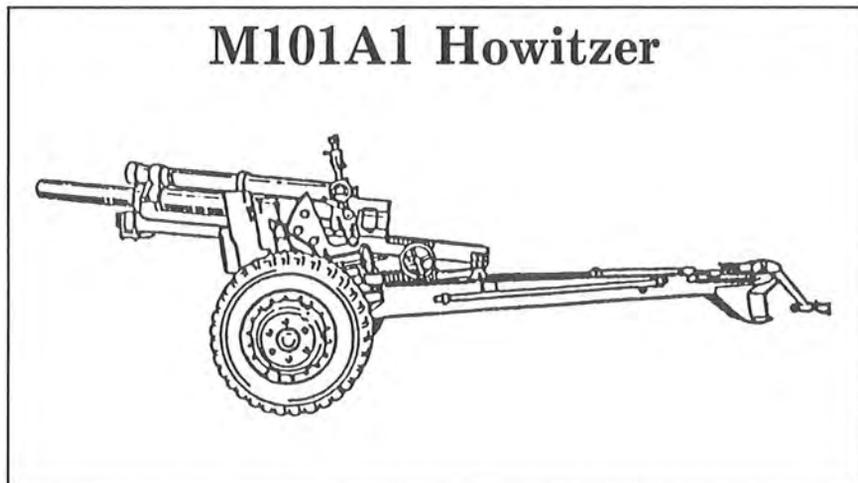
## Fort Sill Field Artillery Weapon Fact Sheet

One of the most venerable field artillery weapons is the M101A1 towed howitzer. It is a light field artillery weapon that can be carried by helicopter or cargo aircraft and parachuted into action with airborne troops, or towed over land.

The M101A1 came into service in the early 1940s. It saw extensive action during World War II, the Korean conflict, and the Vietnam era. The M101A1 is used today by active U.S. Army units in Alaska and by many foreign nations.

The M101A1 is a 105mm howitzer that fires a 33-pound projectile more than 11,000 meter (almost 7 miles). It has been replaced in most Army units with the M102 towed howitzer.

However, because of its record of reliability in harsh environments, the M101A1 is the artillery weapon in two battalions in Alaska.



### CHARACTERISTICS — M101A1 (105mm) TOWED HOWITZER

Maximum range .....	11,270 meters
Traverse arc .....	400 mils left (22.5°)      409 mils right of center (23°)
Time to emplace .....	2 minutes
Elevation — minimum .....	-90 mils (-5°)      maximum ..... 1,155 mils (65°)
Combat loaded .....	4,980 pounds
Traveling length .....	19.18 feet
Traveling width .....	7.5 feet
Traveling height .....	5 feet
Maximum rate of fire .....	10 rounds per minute (first 3 min.)
Sustained rate of fire .....	3 rounds per minute
Projectile weight (conventional high explosive) .....	33 pounds

# 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)

# Found - A Wartime Buddy

By Sam B. Lewis

Company B, 273rd Regiment

I imagine many of you men of the 69th have had an experience like the one I relate here. Others may have done as I did for 47 years; daydream and hope for such a happening.

In 1966, I went back, with my wife and four daughters, to Germany, and the first stop was Miescheid. With maps I had saved from wartime, I drove right back to that little village and stopped right in front of that house. You know the one I mean, the one where 51 men died. A picture I took in 1966 appeared in the August-December 1991 Bulletin on page 41. Lieutenant **Ralph Hutto**, our third platoon leader, lost all but three of his men that night.

After that visit in 1966, I frequently ran an imaginary movie scene through my mind. Somehow I had managed to find where **Ralph** lived and got him on the telephone, and I'd say, "Hey **Ralph**, we have got to get together. I have been back to Miescheid **Ralph**, and I have pictures to show you and things to tell." I ran that film many times, but it never happened. What has now happened is much, much better, but I have to start at the beginning.

About ten years ago I sat many nights for 18 months writing my wartime memoirs so our nine grandchildren would know how granddaddy helped win the war. I called it "Sam, The War Years." What you read now is from the part about the action we experienced in Leipzig, slightly condensed. We were just entering Leipzig from Holzhausen 7KM to the southeast.

When we were about 150 yards from the first row of buildings, someone yelled, "Hit the ground." I couldn't see anything and didn't hear any shooting, but I hit the ground. A smart soldier never questions that command. It turned out there were four Germans with a machine gun behind bushes near the buildings. The whole battalion was well within their field of fire. They must have estimated their chances of coming out of a fire fight alive as zero, and they gave up without firing a shot. They told us there were about 100 boys and old men commanded by four SS Officers in a school building a block past the building we were near. Our part of the battle for Leipzig was about to begin.

My platoon was at the end of the building which we were told to evacuate so we wouldn't have enemies behind us. While we were clearing the building, some men from Lieutenant **Guarino's** platoon started down a street towards the school house. Enemy soldiers fired on them and hit and killed the lead man. The rest got back to safety. Captain **O'Donovan** ordered my platoon and the third, commanded by Lieutenant **Hutto**, to start a flanking movement to our left. Our objective was to come at the school from the left rear. We started down the street our evacuated building faced, and I turned right at the second street, which was really just a walking and bicycle path about 12 feet wide. Lieutenant **Hutto** turned right at the next street. I led my men a block down this narrow street to where it ended at a similar cross street. On the far side was a 7 foot high board fence which we couldn't see over. We stopped before rounding the corner to rest a minute while I decided which way we should turn. At this time, I didn't know where the machine gun was that had killed **Guarino's** man earlier.

A squad which I had sent on patrol from Holzhausen had not caught up with us, so I had only two squads, maybe 20 men. The leader of one of those had, a week or so before, taken ill and had been sent back to the rear. I had promoted assistant squad leader **Pfc. Bob Grimm** to lead the squad.

**Grimm** had always been a good, conscientious soldier, well liked by his buddies, and I was glad to promote him and hoped to get him his sergeant stripes.

After a few minutes rest, I decided to turn right and told **Grimm** to take the lead and I turned to get the other squad up and ready to follow. **Grimm** and five of his men were around the corner as I stepped in line to catch up to him. I had gone about 20 feet, and **Grimm** about 40 when the machine gun opened up with tracer bullets. All of a sudden we were surrounded by streaks of fire. We whirled around and scurried back around the corner, all except **Grimm**.

I heard him yelling for help - he had been hit, probably by one of the first bullets. I can only guess that the others of us were not hit because of the movement of the gun after it started firing. The pattern must have spread out quite a bit. I stuck my head around the corner, but couldn't get out far enough to see **Grimm**. The gun was still sending tracer bullets down the street. Lieutenant **Hutto** and his men were crossing that street a block further down and were the target of that fire. The firing kept **Grimm** from getting up and he was still yelling for help.

I began to get a severe sense of frustration. Here was a fine young man laying wounded in the street, and I couldn't do anything about it. I couldn't even find anyone to shoot at. My feelings became very intense, very quick. I felt I had to do something. I had to find that machine gun. I went into the house for a better view, but looking out the front window showed me nothing except the tracer fire going down the street. That is what it actually was, but to my eyes, it appeared as though the fire was coming from the other side of the fence, where there was a large knothole. As my eyes reacted to the streaks of fire, it appeared to originate at the knothole. My mind said that wasn't logical, by my sense of frustration was such that it over-ruled all else and I raised my M-1 and fired all eight shots through the window and into the fence. Of course all I did was break the glass, and put eight small holes in the fence. I realized then that the gun had to be farther down the street.

I went back outside and as I reached the street, **Grimm** hobbled around the corner and collapsed to the pavement. He had been hit in the upper right chest. I guessed the bullet hadn't hit anything vital and I broke out my aid kit, and put first aid powder on the wound and gave him a shot of morphine with the one-shot throw-away syringe. Oddly, I have no memory of where I stuck the needle.

I sent a man into the house to get a blanket, and we made a stretcher using two rifles and the blanket. I went back with the four men carrying **Grimm** as I wanted to get some tank support and get that machine gun. As I remember now, the Captain said he would get the tanks. While I was there, and seeing that **Grimm** was taken care of, I happened to see Lieutenant **Guarino** whose man had been killed earlier. He looked really scared. And I thought, I bet I look the same way. I was scared to death. I never heard how **Grimm** made out. I hope he suffered no lasting damage.

Flash forward now, like in the movies, 46 years and 11 months to March 3, 1992. Mrs. Lewis and I have just returned from an evening meeting. There is a message on the answering machine. It sounded something like this. "Hello, is this Sam Lewis? I'm trying to locate a Sam Lewis who was a lieutenant and platoon leader in the 69th Division. You may not remember me, but I am Bob Grimm. I was wounded in Leipzig ... " Well, when I heard the words, "wounded in Leipzig," I almost leaped out of my chair. I knew who it was. My arms went up ready to jump up and yell out. The recording went on for a minute or so, but I didn't hear all of it the

*(Continued on Page 44)*

## FOUND - A WARTIME BUDDY

*(Continued from Page 43)*

first time. All I could think was, "He made it, he made it. Thank God, he made it." It is difficult to convey the emotion I experienced at that time. Pure elation comes close.

We talked the next evening on the telephone for an hour and a half. Me in Texas, and he in Pennsylvania. And he was as excited about it all as I was. And he remembers a lot more than I do. I sent him some pictures and slides and a copy of my memoirs.

I have been back and walked around that corner in Leipzig. It was in 1985, after we had attended the 40th reunion in Torgau. It was an unusual feeling to stand there, and remember. About two weeks after Bob and I talked, Lorraine and I left on another trip to Europe. It was mostly a vacation, but also, I wanted to talk with a German flagpole company near Torgau about building the Flagpole system I had designed for the Strehla memorial. We went by way of Leipzig and went again to that street. This time I took several pictures showing the scene where Bob was shot. I wanted him to have them so his family could see the site.

Bob invited us to visit him in his German style cabin on the Allegheny River and in July, we went there. Bob and his wife Marge had their children and grandchildren waiting for us. It was an emotional experience for all.



*Sam Lewis and Bob Grimm meet after 47 years and 3 months.*



*Bob's wife Marge and son "Smokey" look on as Sam and Bob fight the war again on the banks of the Allegheny River.*

I believe most of you share a feeling I have. At the age we are now, and having gone through an overwhelming experience such as the war, we do a lot of looking back, back to that war. I find recalling those times quite satisfying. But to be able to share those memories with someone who was there with you has to be the best. And that is what Bob and I did for two days. What follows now, is my recollection of his telling his version of the Leipzig incident.

Lieutenant Lewis told me to take my men and go around the corner and up to the next street, and wait there and he would meet me. We were about two thirds of the way there, with me hugging the wood fence on our left, and our BAR man even with me on the other side of the narrow street, when I spotted some German soldiers setting up a gun in a second floor window of a building on the corner of the second street down. I waved to my BAR man to stop, and pointed to the gunners. I didn't mean for him to do anything, but he jumped to the middle of the street, raised his gun and let go a long burst down the street. Well, that got their attention and they opened fire. One of the first bullets hit me below my right shoulder and knocked me down with my feet towards them. Everybody else made it back around the corner. I started yelling for help. They were still shooting at me. Bullets were bouncing off the pavement and tearing into the wood fence. I kept yelling, and then I was hit again in my upper thigh. I was already hurting bad, but this hit was worse. I stopped yelling, and they stopped shooting. I guess they thought I was dead. After a few minutes, I got up and made it back around the corner and fell to the pavement. I never lost consciousness. Lieutenant Lewis tore open my shirt and started putting first aid powder in the wound. Sergeant King, our platoon guide, cut my pants leg and worked on my wound there. He took the morphine needle from the lieutenant and gave me the shot. Lieutenant Lewis sent two men into the house for a blanket to make a stretcher. That didn't work, so he sent them back in to take a door off the wall. That made a good stretcher.

I was real thirsty and asked for water. I knew you weren't supposed to give a badly wounded man any water, and when Sergeant King said to give me all I wanted, I thought, 'Sergeant King is giving me water because he thinks I am going to die and water won't matter.' I got scared then.

I kept trying to tell King to take my watch and what to do with my things. He got real upset with me, and told me that I was going to be all right, and to stop talking like that. He said when this is all over, you and I will get together, drink a few beers and reminisce about the war. I didn't believe him then, but we did exactly that.

I credit Lieutenant Lewis and Sergeant King with saving my life. The doctor who worked on me first said I had lost a lot of blood, and if I hadn't got help when I did, I might not have made it. The bullet that hit my chest glanced off two ribs and down through a lung. I lost both ribs and the lung. The bullet that hit my thigh came out through my hip but didn't hit any bones. I spent thirty days in a hospital not far from Leipzig, and many more months in England and back in the states before getting home.

Bob remembers a lot that I don't. He said we went on lots of patrols together. He said that when Captain O'Donovan wanted something special done, that he always called on me. I was not aware of that. The thing I remember about patrols was that I should avoid them if possible. I did what I was asked to do, but I didn't go looking for work.

*(Continued on Page 45)*

**FOUND - A WARTIME BUDDY**

*(Continued from Page 44)*

In the Foreward to my memoirs, the last paragraph reads: War is a terrible thing. I remember thinking when I finally returned home, that I wouldn't take a million dollars for my experiences, but, if I had that much, I would give it all not to have to go through it all again. One day, one close call is enough war for any man. And, although my contribution was small in comparison with others, I am none the less proud of what I did during this time. I did what I was asked to do. I was shot at, and endured shelling, but I never quit, never turned tail and ran, and I believe I had the respect of the 37 men under my command. They followed where I led and did what they had to do. In the final analysis, I can honestly say I was an Officer and a Gentleman, and I was a good soldier.

After hearing Bob's laudatory comments, I thought, 'By golly, maybe that is true.'

Several pages further in my memoirs, after I described the rest of that day in Leipzig, are these two paragraphs.

"I guess now is as good a time in this narrative to mention a very profound feeling I became aware of during the time that I relived those hectic moments in Leipzig when I was so frustrated at not being able to get to or aid my wounded man.

I had not had the occasion or opportunity so far in the war to aim my rifle at a German soldier and pull the trigger. I sometimes wondered if I could do that. Well, as I look back and remember firing those eight shots through the window, I know in my mind, I was blowing that machine gunner's head off. I know for a fact, had a German soldier appeared in my rifle sights, I would have fired to kill. And, I have thanked God many times that it did not fall my lot to do so. He not only protected me many times from harm by the Germans, but at least once, protected some German from harm by me. I wonder now if that particular machine gunner did survive."

**EPILOGUE**

The reader will notice a few differences in the two accounts of this "FINDING." One however is not apparent. In my original account of the Leipzig experience, I had Bob's name wrong. In 1982, I simply could not remember what it was. I called him Timms. The sound is close. And I knew I was probably wrong as I knew a high school buddy by that name,

and figured I was confusing the two. But how was I to know I would be found out? Anyway, in this account, I fudged a bit and used his right name. And I was wrong about the stretcher we used. And in my book, I say I commanded the first platoon in B Company, 273rd. But I have been corrected by Bob, it was the second platoon. I find that a bit embarrassing. So, wherever there is a conflict in our stories, you should take Bob's version as gospel. Except on one point. He says our Captain's name was Donovan, and I thought maybe I was wrong on that too. But, I have a letter signed, Florence O'Donovan, his widow, and she should know.

Also, in my memoirs, I mentioned that "I hoped to get him his sergeant stripes." So I bought a new pair of stripes, mounted them on a red background and put it in an 8x10 picture frame. Below the stripes, on a piece of parchment paper, was this note: "After 47 years and 3 months, Pfc. Bob Grimm is hereby promoted to 'Buck Sergeant' by order of Lieutenant Sam Lewis, Company B, 273rd Infantry Regiment, 69th Infantry Division" Soon after we arrived at his house, sitting by the river bank, I stood up and told Bob to "stand at attention." He did, and I gave him his stripes. I also told him there would be no back pay.



*Sam and Bob's son "Smokey" look on as Bob gets his sergeant stripes.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**A&P Platoon, Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 271st Infantry**



*Front: John Byron, Edwin Weiss, Doug Doran. Back: Sgt. Hank Jones, Joe King, Sgt. George Paul, Al Murray.*



*David Gordon, Jerry, Edwin Weiss  
Front: George Paul*

# Reminiscences of My World War II Service

## PART III

By JOE WRIGHT

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

Our next stop was Markkleeberg, a suburb of Leipzig. It was a fashionable town and a lovely house, and although the family had to move, they asked permission to send over a maid to do the housework. We suspected she was also there to keep an eye on us and his belongings. He was wasting his effort because Colonel Casper would not allow anyone in or near his quarters to loot.

Our next stop was Naunhof already described in earlier pages. On or about May 10th when it was again safe to have such a formation, several of the men of Division Headquarters who were eligible were lined up in the street and awarded Bronze Star medals for various activities and each was accompanied with a citation spelling out his specific individual combat accomplishment. I was one of those men. Noteworthy among the others was Corporal Joe Sousa, Colonel Casper's driver, who got the first Star in the company because when he was ordered to take a certain route, regardless of enemy fire or land mines, he followed orders.

Let's consider this a sequel to end all sequels, although there are still a few tidbits that could be told.

### "SPIRITUAL" SEGMENT

Matters "religious" are not always spiritual and inspirational such as a worship service should always be regarded, and for that reason these incidents have not been included in my narrative. Eleanor had already told of her contribution musically in the Camp Shelby Chapel and in Hattiesburg churches. Due to being kept busy in our military duties, about the only noteworthy effort was our attempt to organize a men's quartet which we did, but we never got to perform publicly except as mentioned much later.

The creating of Special Troops gave us a chaplain and one of my men was his assistant and driver, and that is how we were assigned a rabbi, and although his duties were only for our Special Troops, he unselfishly served the entire Jewish personnel of the Division. The first one we got was strictly Orthodox especially in the food he ate, so he could not go overseas with us because most of his supplies were shipped to him by the Rabbinical Society in New York, but it sure benefitted me when I had to have an impacted wisdom tooth surgically removed. It was at Thanksgiving time and when he learned that mess hall food was too hard for me to chew, he gave enough cans of soft food to last several days. And that is why my 1943 Thanksgiving dinner was strictly Kosher.

One of the times we were on bivouac a Jewish Holiday occurred and he took what I believe he called the elements for the "Feast of Esther," which consisted of wine and cookies, to the entire Jewish personnel that he could reach. At the time we were not under practice blackout restrictions, so we had a campfire, and as we sat around it he returned to bring us a sample. The cookies were adequate, but the wine was served in tiny cups like those used in some Christian churches, and not unlike an incident to be related later, the amount of wine was disappointing but the fellows from many denominations respected the effort.

Our next bivouac lasted seven days and was under strict blackout conditions where even lighting a match outdoors was a No-No!! An interesting interlude at that time was Jim Althouse, the chaplain's assistant and organist, testing out the field organ from the nearby chaplain's tent. The strains of the popular tune, "Poinciana," echoed through the trees

of the DeSota National Forest. Jim was Eleanor's organist when she sang at the camp chapels and also at the USO in Hattiesburg. It was his relatives who took her in when we were at Kilmer getting ready to go overseas. After the war he finished his education at Temple University and became a Minister of Music in the Lutheran Synod. Another test of blackout was a movie tent somewhere on the grounds. It was a good picture, but when one got outside on a black moonless night it was a challenge to find one's little pup tent. It also was considered "training."

There were two chaplains assigned to Division Headquarters. The Division Chaplain was Father Quinn and the assistant, Captain Westby (Lutheran), both of whom were introduced to me. When I had a chance I asked Chaplain Quinn if he was related to a Father Quinn in nearby Biloxi, to which he replied, "He's my brother." Thus began a lasting acquaintance. I had met the other Father Quinn through a business associate, and through circumstances too lengthy to relate, I had made one of his dreams come true by taking him to a Notre Dame-Minnesota football game in South Bend, Indiana.

In our narrative Eleanor tells of Mrs. Westby's kindness in letting her have her train reservation to Philadelphia in November 1944 when I went to Camp Kilmer.

The camp chapels kept us in the habit of Sunday devotions, and unless we were on duty we attended regularly, and the daily services on shipboard en route to Europe were very comforting. Typical of English schools there was a lovely little chapel at West Downs School which was put to daily use so we never attended services at Winchester Cathedral, but we did hear our bands giving a concert there. The beautiful cathedral was built in Norman times about 1300, and it was interesting hearing the brass reverberating off those ancient stone walls. I had little opportunity to attend church while we were advancing toward our objectives, but the chaplains did an excellent job taking services to the field. Each had a jeep equipped with a portable altar and even in some cases, an electric organ and hymn books. Whenever it was safe to do so, the chaplains used local churches for services, and I recall one such when I saw one of our most profane talking guys sitting nearby and wondering what he was doing in a church. On closer inspection I saw a bullet crease in his helmet (they were to be worn inside and out during combat). The incident must have given him "instant religion." Also at that service it was rumored they would be serving real wine and it brought out a good attendance. Many of the attendees were from different denominations, and as related earlier, they were disappointed at the small amount allowed each person.

Just before we went into action the Jewish chaplain asked if he could use the large hall, in the corner of which I had my office and field desk, to hold a memorial service. I was on duty with nothing else to do but be there on alert, so I agreed. The back pages of the testament issued by the Army contained some Hebrew characters that apparently were to be spoken or chanted, so when the service was almost finished, they sang a plaintive tune that was repeated several times and I found myself singing along, much to the amazement of Ike Zalion, the chaplain's assistant. The next day he told the rabbi, "Sergeant Wright was singing along with us." The rabbi had considerable latitude in his dietary observance so he was able to serve overseas. After the war he had a synagogue in Chicago, so we remained close friends until he died in 1990. Since he was made a Division Company Chaplain, he even helped in some of our annual Reunion Memorial Services.

One of the days we were in Markkleeberg near Leipzig awaiting developments, a soldier called and told me he was George Rico whom I remembered as a Mexican kid from our church in Chicago. He was a regimental chaplain's assistant and had an errand to do at a nearby Division Headquarters and wanted to stop in and say hello. He told me he was giving a concert on a very big organ in a church at Borna, and since

*(Continued on Page 47)*

**REMINISCENCES OF MY WORLD WAR II SERVICE**  
(Continued from Page 46)

we had a piano, he played one of his selections for me. He gave me a printed program which I still have. My colonel was resting in an upstairs bedroom and later asked me who was playing the piano. He thought it was quality music and he would know because he was a grand opera buff.

While we were in Leipzig our group finally got together and sang at one of our church services at the St. Thomas Church. I still remember the selection was "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" by Shelley. It was an ambitious undertaking since this is the church where J.S. Bach played. A more modern organ is now installed, but Bach keeps watch from his nearby statue (which didn't crumble as we made our feeble offering).

Two incidents in this area before we moved on to Nauhof and the war's end included a Sunday when we had reserved seats at the church for a presentation of Johann Sebastian Bach's "St. Matthew's Passion." The church was packed with the music-starved people crowding the aisles. The performance, which lasted four hours, was outstanding with nationally

\*\*\*\*\*

Following is the official record as written from Camp Shelby.

**HEADQUARTERS  
CAMP SHELBY TRAINING SITE**

Training Site Commander  
Camp Shelby Training Site 601 584-2000  
Camp Shelby, MS 39407-5500 Autovon 921-2210

**69th Infantry Division**

15 May 43 activated at Cp Shelby Miss and trained under VII and IX Corps; staged at Camp Kilmer, N.J. 23 Nov 44 until departed New York P/E 1 Dec 44; arrived England 12 Dec 44 and landed in France 24 Jan 45; crossed into Belgium 9 Feb 45 and entered Germany 8 Mar 45; returned to New York P/E 16 Sep 45 and inactivated at Cp Kilmer N.J. Sep 45.

Campaigns: Rhineland, Central Europe  
Aug 45 Loc: Naumburg Germany

**Typical Organization [1944/45]:**

- 271st Infantry Regiment
- 272nd Infantry Regiment
- 273rd Infantry Regiment
- HQB Division Artillery
- 724th Field Artillery Battalion (155mm)
- 879th Field Artillery Battalion (105mm)
- 880th Field Artillery Battalion (105mm)
- 881st Field Artillery Battalion (105mm)
- 69th Reconnaissance Troop, Mecz
- 269th Engineer Combat Battalion
- 369th Medical Battalion
- 69th Counter Intelligence Corps Det
- Headquarters Special Troops
- Hqs Company, 69th Infantry Division
- Military Police Platoon
- 769th Ordnance Light Maintenance Co
- 69th Quartermaster Company
- 569th Signal Company
- 777th Tank Battalion (attached 29 Mar 45-15 June 45)
- 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion (attached 7 Feb 45-16 Jun 45)
- 461st AAA Auto-Wpns Battalion  
(attached 11 Mar 45-30 Jun 45)

**Overseas Wartime Assignments:**

- 12th Army Group - 18 Jan 45
- Fifteenth Army - 7 Feb 45
- V Corps - 7 Feb 45
- VII Corps - 28 Apr 45

known artists, the Gevandhaus Orchestra, the Thomaskirche Boys Choir, and a famous organist. I still have the printed program in our scrapbook. Twenty years later when we made our "Return to the Elbe" tour with the boys from the 69th Division Association, that part of Germany was still behind the Iron Curtain. We were invited to the church to hear the organ and our guide, an obvious East German girl, told us the church had been fully restored. She didn't realize some of us in her audience knew better because, although the stained glass windows had been removed for safety reasons, not one panel of the other glass had been damaged, and we were there after the bombing ceased. It was a tribute to our Air Force that they damaged only military targets, and while we saw many devastated areas like the Krinkelt Church mentioned in our narrative, they were many nearby churches including St. Thomas undamaged.

The next church service was at First Christian Church in South Bend with my wife.

*With sincere thanks to my sister-in-law Leslie Wright for editing and typing, and to Eleanor Wright for her help and patience through and since the war years.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Commanders: MG Charles L. Bolte: May 43  
MG Emil F. Reinhardt: Sep 44  
BG Robert V. Maraist: Aug 45

Killed in Action: 341  
Wounded in Action: 1,146 Died of Wounds: 42

**69th Infantry Division Combat Narrative**

The division landed at Le Havre France on 24 Jan 45 and advance elements moved to Montenu Belgium 6 Feb 45 to relieve the 99th Inf Div in Line on 11 Feb 45. The division then held defensive positions in the West Wall, making limited attack on the ridge east of the Prether River to ensure the safety of the Hellenthal-Hollerath Highway 27 Feb 45. The heights were secured from Honnigen to Reschied by 3 Mar 45 as the 271st Inf took the last high ground position.

The division attacked with three regiments abreast on 6 Mar 45 and pushed rapidly to take Schmidtheim and Dahlem which fell the next day. The division then mopped up, sent the 272nd Inf to take Waldorf and Hungersdorf south of the Ahr on 8 Mar 45, and patrolled and trained in its zone. On 21 Mar 45 the division moved to the Rhine and relieved the 2nd Inf Div. The 272nd Inf crossed the Rhine 26 Mar 45 and captured the Luftwaffe Citadel and the Lahn River towns of Bad Ems and Nassau the next day. The entire division followed across 28 Mar 45 and mopped up rear stragglers, and then began movement to a new zone near Weilburg 30 Mar 45. It relieved the 9th Armd Div at Naumburg on 3 Apr 45. After relieving the 80th Inf Div in the Kassel area it attacked 5 Apr 45, less the 272nd Inf which was guarding installations. On 7 Apr 45 the division reached the Werra River from Hann Muenden to Witzehausen and the 273rd and 272nd Inf crossed at both localities respectively. Following in the wake of the 9th Armd Div the division continued to drive forward, the 271st Inf battling through Weissenfels 14 Apr 45 and the 272nd Inf reaching the Weisse River at Luetzkewitz. The division ran into the outer defenses of Leipzig at Zwenkau on 16 Apr 45 and captured the city of Leipzig after house-to-house fighting by 19 Apr 45. It then relieved the 9th Armd Div in line along the Mulde River 21 Apr 45.

The 271st Inf secured the east bank of the Nulde after the Battle for Eilenburg on 23 Apr 45 and Wurzen surrendered to the the 273rd Inf the following day. The division made patrol contact with the advancing Soviet Army near Riesa and Torgau on 25 Apr 45. The division then patrolled and policed its area until hostilities were declared officially ended 7 Mar 45.

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

**1993**

**August 8th thru 15th, 1993**  
**69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**  
**46th ANNUAL REUNION & 50th ANNIVERSARY**  
**Holiday Inn - Genessee Plaza**

**120 East Main Street, Rochester, New York 14604-1699**  
**Telephone: 716/546-6400 Fax: 716/546-3908**

Program and details are complete.  
 See map in front of bulletin.

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

**Committee:**

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

**The following attend the reunion and hold their mini-reunions in conjunction with the 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION. Other minis, why don't you join us, try it, you might just like it.**

California/West Coast Group — Robert L. Pierce .....	408/226-8040
Central Pennsylvania Branch — Carl Stetler .....	215/373-7908
Tri-State Group — Earl E. Witzleb, Jr. ....	412/455-2901
Mid West Group — Fran Enright .....	414/541-9598
269th Engineers — Frank Nemeth .....	215/945-3809
661st Tank Destroyers — Bill Snidow .....	703/626-3557
569th Signal Company — Carl Stetler .....	215/373-7098
E Company, 271st Infantry — Paul Shadle .....	412/335-9980
M Company, 271st Infantry — William Sheavly .....	301/833-2771
E Company, 272nd Infantry — Chester Yastrzemski .....	516/283-3875
A Company, 273rd Infantry — H. Raymond Fahrner .....	215/855-9696
E Company, 273rd Infantry — Earl E. Witzleb, Jr. ....	412/455-2901
H Company, 273rd Infantry — Jacob Stark, Jr. ....	717/939-4802
I Company, 273rd Infantry — Robert Pierce .....	408/226-8040
724th Field Artillery — John W. Turner .....	404/378-3543
880th Field Artillery, Hq. Btry. — Stuart and Elinor McGowan .... R.D. #2, Box 402, Eagle Bridge, New York 12057	
881st Field Artillery Battalion — Walter W. Haag .....	415/589-7657

(Continued on Page 49)

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS  
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE

(Continued from Page 48)

AUGUST 27, 28, 29, 30 1993

OR

AUGUST 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 1993

69th CAVALRY RECON TROOP WEEKEND

Oshkosh Hilton and Convention Center  
One North Main Street  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901

Reservations: Call the Hilton Direct at  
414/231-5000 or 800/365-4458

Rate: \$56.00 per night plus tax

Committee:

Jerome "Jerry" Leib  
22335 South Vermont Avenue, #22  
Torrance, California 90502  
Telephone: 301/328-9877

Ed Sivas  
26648 Indian Peak Road  
Rancho Palos Verdes, California 90274  
Telephone: 213/378-4979

or

1991 Orgen Drive  
Cambria, California 93428  
Telephone: 805/927-8466

More Details at a Later Date

\* \* \* \* \*

SEPTEMBER 23, 24, 25, and 26, 1993

880th FIELD ARTILLERY, A BATTERY

Shoney's Inn  
2753 Richmond Road  
Lexington, Kentucky 40509

Committee:

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

John Barnett, *Secretary-Treasurer*  
6374 Brandywine Trail  
Norcross, Georgia 30092  
Telephone: 404/448-6513

\* \* \* \* \*

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

\* \* \* \* \*

SEPTEMBER 23, 24, 25, 26, 1993

880th FIELD ARTILLERY, BATTERY C MEETING

Sheraton Inn  
Route 30 East  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Committee:

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

\* \* \* \* \*

OCTOBER 8, 9, and 10, 1993

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY AND MEDICAL  
DETACHMENT, 461st AAA AW BN

Quality Inn

179 Sheraton Drive, Salem, Virginia 24153  
Telephone: 703/562-1912

Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Leave Sunday or stay over.  
Leave I-81 at (Old) Exit 41 and go south on SR-419 to motel.  
A block of rooms has been reserved. Good Rates.  
Meeting Room will be the Montgomery/Franklin Room.

Committee:

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

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

\* \* \* \* \*

OCTOBER 14, 15, and 16, 1993

661st TANK DESTROYERS BATTALION MEETING

Quality Inn - Roanoke Salem, Virginia

179 Sheraton Drive  
Salem, Virginia 24153  
Telephone: 703/562-1912  
Fax: 703/562-0507

Southside of I-81 at Exit 139 and Route 419

Committee:

Bill and Ellen Snidow  
Route 1, Box 303  
Pembroke, Virginia 24136  
Telephone: 703/626-3557

\* \* \* \* \*

**1994**

MIDDLE OF MAY

TRI-STATE SPRING WEEKEND

*Tri-State Blue is the FUN 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 50 States invited too, including New England,  
Eastern States, Mid-West, Mountain States, Far West,  
Alaska, Hawaii, Texas and ALL OF THE SOUTH).

Site Location: Charleston, West Virginia

Program details to follow in future Bulletins

Projected Sites: A Swing Through the State of Ohio

Committee: Any Tri-State or 69th Member or Couples willing  
to put a three or four day program together including golf  
day, a tour, shopping for the ladies, a Saturday Banquet  
Program, and a Sunday Bye-Bye Breakfast. Help is always  
available. Weekend years for 1995, 1996, and so on.

Contact: Earl E. and Dorothy "Dottie" Witzleb, Jr.  
R.D. #1, Box 477, Acme Pennsylvania 15610-9606  
Telephone: 412/455-2901

Committee for Charlestown:

Brownie and Anna Belle Parsons  
1143 Mulberry Circle  
Charlestown, West Virginia 25314  
Telephone: 304/342-5573

or

Earl E. and Dorothy "Dottie" Witzleb, Jr.  
at address and phone number directly above.

(Continued on Page 50)

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS  
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE

(Continued from Page 49)

+++++

**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 Opry Being Featured

Sunday Going Home Breakfast

**MUCH MORE TO COME**

**IN LATER BULLETINS**

**Room Rates: Single, Double, Triple, Quads**

**\$72.00 plus 11¾% 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**

+++++

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 NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS.

\*\*\*\*\*

**San Francisco**

**1992 Reunion Memories**



*Vic Woo and daughter Judy*



*Floyd and Catherine McCalip*



*Al and Florence Lasseigne*

# "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.

## 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**

**Thomas Maguire**  
77 Utter Avenue  
Staten Island, New York  
Hq., 2nd Bn., 273rd

**Emory McCuskey**  
606 South Fulton Street  
Lacon, Illinois  
569th Signal Co.

**George Bogdewiecz**  
1413 Romano Drive  
Bridgeville, Pennsylvania  
H-273rd

**Dr. Everett S. Lipman**  
Newburgh, New York  
Medic-271st

**Stanley Schatz**  
924 Le Brun Drive  
Jacksonville, Florida  
C-272nd

**E. George Wood**  
Route 1, Box 93-G  
Hawarden, Iowa  
B-272nd

**W. C. Bray**  
274 North Bush  
Fresno, California  
D-369th

**Sylvan D. Goldstein**  
6717 Prestonsire Lane  
Dallas, Texas  
A-271st

**Kyle Ellison**  
110 Olympia Drive  
Beckley, West Virginia  
L-272nd

**John J. Kearney**  
575 Grove Street  
Clifton, New Jersey  
Hq., 3rd Bn., 271st

**Garrell Bruce**  
321 Redland Road  
Landrum, South Carolina  
AT-271st

**Herman E. Spurrier**  
P.O. Box 47  
Whitesville, Kentucky  
G-271st

**Frank Shipman**  
4810 Finley Drive  
Richmond, Virginia  
Service-272nd

**Fred J. Schoepf**  
5651 Camino Del Sol  
Boca Raton, Florida  
Hq.-879th

**J. Harold Weiant**  
7599 Violet Circle  
Macungie, Pennsylvania  
Hq.-369th

**Titus Cousineau**  
144 Jefferson Avenue  
Massena, New York  
B-461st

**Robert A. Anderson**  
312 Trail West  
McPherson, Kansas  
A-661st

**W. Charles Ellis**  
1114 Bolling Avenue  
Norfolk, Virginia  
B-269th

**Hollis Arnold**  
509 Isbell Street  
Howell, Michigan  
H-271st

**Irvin Schwartz**  
R.D. #1  
Pine Grove, Pennsylvania  
AT-271st

**John Sepanek**  
805 Boulevard Street  
Mattydale, New York  
A-273rd

**Harry Carozzo**  
R.R. #1, Box 22  
Avondale, Pennsylvania  
C-879th F.A.

**Rayburn E. Hughes**  
1228 45th Avenue  
Ellenton, Florida  
Hq.-661st

**Lee Fitch**  
3925 North Linden Drive  
Columbia, Georgia  
F-272nd

**Archie Harris**  
1 Kimberly Court  
Warren, Pennsylvania  
569th Signal Co.

**George T. Loss**  
2116 14th Street  
Everett, Washington  
D-461st

**Permon Chavious**  
Route 2, Box 506  
Neeses, South Carolina  
I-271st

**Robert C. Maxwell**  
649 Royal Palm Place  
Vero Beach, Florida  
Hq., 2nd Bn., 271st

**James A. Musa**  
1545 Elm Street  
Utica, New York  
C-881st

**Edward H. Turek**  
1316 West Sheridan Court  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
F-273rd

**Adam Manz**  
400 Circle Drive  
Ellwood City, Pennsylvania  
Div. Hq.

**James E. Wilkins**  
R.D. #1, Box 740  
Hunker, Pennsylvania  
Medic-271st



*the 69th*

INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

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

DO NOT FORWARD - ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID

PITTSBURGH, PA.  
Permit No. 456

\*\*\*\*\*3-DIGIT 448

LOWELL MC FARLIN  
89 N. HIGH ST. BOX 236  
JEROMESVILLE OH 44840

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



*World War II Veteran, Cy Abrams, Company C, 269th Engineers, pays his respects to former comrades at National Cemetery.*