

FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★★ *Association, Inc.*



VOLUME 47, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER — NOVEMBER — DECEMBER
1993

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

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

bulletin

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*Deceased



BEAUTIFUL VETERANS MONUMENT

located in Marlborough, Connecticut

designed and rendered by

WILLIAM R. NYSTROM

Headquarters Company, 273rd Infantry

*Honoring the American Soldier from the
Revolutionary War through the Persian-Gulf War*

Mr. Nystrom spent many hundreds of hours on this project.

See inside front cover for letter and pictures.

Bill Nystrom Writes

First of all, I would like to thank those who write and put together the copy and the pictorial layout of the Association's Bulletin. Memories are sometimes the only thing we "old timers" have left.

I served with Headquarters Company, 273rd Infantry, under Colonel Shaughnessy, Captain Hitchcock and Sergeant Baum who were my immediate "bosses" in the Operation Section. Later, when overseas, Lieutenant Sullivan took me under his wing. After actual combat ceased, a few of us under Major Delfino were given the job at an airfield in Polenz of repatriating and arranging transport for those allied prisoners being released from German POW camps in our immediate area. Here, I got to know Alan Murphey better. Alan, as you know, has been writing a detailed accounting of the part we played in Germany, from the Siegfried Line to our first contact with the Russians, all of which you have been publishing.

I stayed away from veterans organizations until my oldest son was sent to Vietnam. Then I joined both the Legion and the VFW in my small Connecticut township.

Probably the most outstanding community project that we both undertook in 1984-85 was to build a veterans monument. I had the O.K. and the pleasure of designing and rendering the artwork on the monument. I spent over 800 hours just doing the central relief - first in plastilene, then a plaster reverse followed by an epoxy glass-cloth laminate back into the positive image again. This I donated to the town for free. (You will note that the soldier holds an M-16 and not a Garand. This I did in deference to my son and those who served with him in Vietnam).

Then the two veteran outfits got behind me and we spent hundreds of hours doing benefit dances, tag sales, selling commemorative buttons, seeking out donations, etc. Within a year we had about \$4,500.00 and found ourselves a mason who would complete the job for that price.

The Memorial was dedicated in the spring of 1985 and each year I rejoice when I see almost the entire town gather in front of it to observe Memorial Day Ceremonies at the conclusion of our yearly parade. We try to have 'special' people place the remembrance wreath on the Monument each year. One year it was the widow of a B-17 pilot who was shot down over Berlin. Another year it might be a new Eagle Scout or a 6th grade student who had just won a prize for her essay on "What it means to be an American."



We always ask the State's Adjutant to include some active "Guard" troops to march with us on Memorial Day and sometimes they do just that. Three years ago the detachment that he assigned to us bore the familiar box-like 69th logo, and it was like old times for me to shoot the bull with those young men and marvel that our Division was still very much active. One cannot relive the past without remembering those comrades and friends that never made it back.

William Nystrom, Box 327, Marlborough, Connecticut 06447

Who dat?! Where was dat?!

Attention 69th Members: When you send in any written information or photographs, be sure your name, address and date are clearly written on them. Be especially sure that your name is written clearly. We all tend to scrawl when it comes to autographs. Often times we receive photos that tell us nothing of the area where it was taken. These photos are virtually useless, as everyone was not in the same place at the same time. Or there are names written on the backs of them from way back when, that are totally illegible. We do our best to decipher these, but it is a frustrating endeavor. Make our job a little easier by clearing up these things before you put them in the mail. If you can't read it, chances are we can't either.

News From The Editor's Desk



by — Clarence Marshall
Membership Chairman

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

Robert C. Heidrich, 7404 West Winnemac Avenue, Harwood Heights, Illinois 60656-3427; B-273rd: In reading the May/August 1993 Bulletin I was pleasantly surprised to find the article written by **Sam B. Lewis**. The fact that struck me the hardest was that he and I fought in the same company. If you can provide his address, it would be my pleasure to write to him. Thanks for any information you may be able to provide.

Dallas Shelton, P.O. Box 67, Dahlgren, Illinois 62828 — AT Co., 272nd: I recently learned of the 69th Association and feel that I am a part of it, as the first quarter bulletin is in my hands, but there is no information on dues, joining, etc.

I joined the 69th in Camp Shelby from Keesler's Field and I was with the division until high points allowed me to join the 29th Division for the trip back to the U.S.

I probably can't make the Rochester Reunion, but maybe next year, I would appreciate further available information and wish you and the Association a big success at Rochester.

Eugene Butterfield, 22449 Lake Road, Rocky River, Ohio 44116 — Div. Hq.: I found another 69er for you and he belongs in the Association. I'm still trying to get \$10.00 out of him for dues, but let's get him a little more interested. He is: **George Pohlchuck**, 5220 West 16th Street, Parma, Ohio 44134, Telephone: 216/741-6792.

And guess what. He's another Railroader, now retired and a very active member and officer in a small group of retired men who have worked in the transportation industry, at least at some point in their lives. I told him about you having been a "P" Company man before your days in the military and your not being able to return to your job after you were released from the Veteran's Hospital. So we three have something in common. We all served in the 69th Division and we all were Railroaders.

George was in the Headquarters Company of the 269th Medical Battalion from May 12th, 1943 (he was one of the original members of the 69th) until July 3, 1944. Notice that he was still with the Division when you and I arrived from Keesler Field. He left as Cadre to form a new Medical Unit with an Army Corps.

I'm trying to get him to the reunion in Rochester, so will you get the latest bulletin off to him so that he has all of the data and maps, reservation forms, etc. I am short on all of

these forms. The last bulletin I received was Volume 46, No. 2 for the first quarter of 1993 and we used all of the forms for our own reservations, so I can't even show him the activities that are planned for the week. Thank You.

Lt. Col. William A. Doyle, Jr., 527th MI BN, CMR 456, Box 1164, APO AE 09157 (son of **William A. Doyle, Sr.**): I regret to inform you of the death of my father, **William A. Doyle** (Division Headquarters), last year on June 22, 1992. My father served in the 69th Counter-Intelligence Corps (CIC) Detachment, under Division G-2, and was with the division from Camp Shelby through occupation duties, receiving a battlefield commission in March, 1945. A story that his family often forced from him was the surrender of a column of Germans, to him and **T/Sgt. Abraham Hoffman** on the far side of a river (the Mulde?) in the last days of the war. I have the pistol which the German lieutenant colonel leading the column surrendered to my Dad.

I have corresponded at some length over the last few years with **Mr. Ellis Benson**, the only other member of the 69th CIC Detachment who is a member of the Association. Other members of the Detachment were: **Captain Andrew Duvall**, **Lt. Stokes**, **Lt. Shay**, **T/Sgts. Arthur Appelgate**, **Kulikowski** (reportedly deceased), and **Abraham Hoffman**; **S/Sgts. Henning A. Knudsen**, **Kent Rosenthal**, **William Weriskopf**, and **Paul Titman**; **Sgts. Duane O. Littell**, **Max M. Grossman**, **Edmund Galicki**, and **Kurt Burnheim**. I got these names from the G-2 photo album produced at the end of the war.

As a serving Military Intelligence officer with over twenty years of service, including the Persian Gulf War, I am interested in carrying on my father's association with the 69th Infantry Division. Please ask the Board to consider me for Associate Member status.

Being stationed in Augsburg, Germany, I follow with interest the upcoming commemorations in Torgau (1995) in your outstanding bulletin. I hope to attend some of these events. Please include me as a bulletin subscriber, for which I enclose a \$10.00 check.

The Rev. Edward V. Dorsey, Sr., 30430 Daphne Lane, Princess Anne, Maryland 21853-2844 — A.T. Co., 273rd: I was a member of the 69th Infantry Division at Camp Shelby, Mississippi from April of 1943 to July of 1944, at which time I left to attend The Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

During my tour of service with the 69th I was assigned to the Anti-Tank Company of the 273rd Infantry Regiment. I was one of the first group of privates assigned to the 69th and achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant before leaving to attend OCS at Fort Benning.

Subsequent to being commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant at Benning, I was assigned to Company B, 20th Armored Infantry Battalion, 10th Armored Division in the European Theater of Operations.

I am interested in becoming a member of the 69th Infantry Division Association. I send warmest personal regards and best wishes.

Elmer C. Miller, 16 South Whisper Court, Columbus, GA 31909 — B-271st: I have just rejoined the Association after 45 years during which I was on active duty and never saw mention of the organization or its reunions. I have just received the Bulletin for May, June, July, August 1993 and wish to congratulate you and your co-worker for a truly fine publication, which I read with interest from cover to cover. I am interested in obtaining back issues, if available, at any reasonable cost. I am also interested in any other publications that have been written about the 69th Division in World War II and/or the 271st Infantry in particular, and their availability.

(Continued on Page 4)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 3)

I was hoping that before my traveling days are finished, I might be able to retrace the route of B Company, 271st Infantry from the Seigfried Line to the juncture of the small and large Mulde Rivers at the end of the war. The pontoon bridge at Bad Niederbreisig was interesting to me because B Company was billeted there while it seemed like hundreds of our tanks crossed, then we loaded onto vehicles and also crossed that bridge. We could see barrage balloons in the air north of us and were told it was the Remagen Bridge, which meant nothing to us then.

I noticed that most of the letters you receive are from the "old timers" who were with the Division at Camp Shelby. I am attaching my memories as a replacement Infantryman.

Again, congratulations on the production of a superior publication and any information you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Frederic W. Scherer, 11 Westmoreland Avenue, Montvale, New Jersey 07645 — Co. F, 273rd: Just a short note - How are you? Well, I hope to see you in Rochester. I am arriving on August 10th in the evening.

I am enclosing a picture I am sure you will be interested in. It's a picture of my car with a special state license plate issued to me by the state of New Jersey - BBB 69. Maybe we can start something for fellow former members of the 69th and get them to apply to their state vehicle department for brother plates to mine. Only 49 more will be allowable - one for each state. Let's see how many more we can get, if you would be so kind as to publish this picture in our bulletin.

See you in Rochester.



* * * * *

John J. O'Connor, 9321 Jefferson Avenue, Brookfield, Illinois 60513 — Hq. 880th: Hope this letter finds you in good spirits and in good health considering what you have gone through. It was great to see you in Rochester and to have an opportunity to speak to you on a couple of occasions. At the reunions it is pretty hard to have long conversations due to the number of people one wants to say hello to. The reunion was very nice and we enjoyed seeing all the people that we knew. The banquet was very nice but towards the end it got

too warm in the grand ballroom. This was probably due to the large number of people in the hall. However, all of our group enjoyed the festivities. My wife and I visited Niagara Falls after the reunion and spent two days there and visited the Canadian site which is very nice. However, it was a rainy cloudy day on Monday when we crossed the border so it wasn't the best of weather.

I have a couple of reasons to write to you, other than to say hello. My 69th Bulletin arrived a couple days after I arrived home and I read it cover to cover as I always do and I especially enjoyed the article by **Joe Wright** about his World War II service. Especially about **Father Quinn**, as **Father Quinn** was one of my uncle's brothers, through marriage, so it was very interesting to me.

On page 47 there appears to be a typo as to the date of the end of the 69th combat narrative as it shows 7 Mar 45 and I believe it should be 7 May 45. Am I correct?

I hope to send some pictures from the reunion in Rochester to insert in the bulletin if I can get them to you in time.

Richard J. Hopkins, Jr., 298 Lafayette Drive, Roseville, California 95678-1115: Co. F, 273rd: Yes, it's that Company F, 273rd G.I. writing once again! This seems to be the appropriate time to send the following serious information to you on this special day. This last week I received word from the wife of a Weapons Platoon buddy of mine that he had died as a result of prostate cancer on March 22, 1993. She sent this data to me in response to a common letter that I had sent to twelve members of Company F. The deceased's name is **Edward Turek**. He was a Sergeant Squad Leader of one of the machine gun squads in the 4th Platoon.

Ed's Army career was unique. He was drafted in 1941 and later did combat duty with the 7th Infantry Division in the Pacific on the Aleutian and Marshall Islands. He was slightly wounded and, during hospitalization, he applied for and was accepted into the Army "Flying Cadet" program. He was returned back to the states and, shortly after his arrival at Hickam Field, the program was closed. He was then sent to our 69th at Camp Shelby and was assigned to the machine gun section of Company F.

I have indicated to his wife, Mary Ann, that I would send this information to the Division Association so that **Ed's** name would appear in a future edition of the bulletin Taps listing.

Thank you again for your time and patience, **Clarence**. I may attend the reunion in Rochester and hope to see you once again.

Harris B. Timmer, 1815 Sherwood Drive, S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506 — Co. I, 271st: I received your name and address from the Vets page in the American Legion Magazine. During World War II I was a member of Company I, 271st Regiment of the 69th Division. I served with I Company for about nine months in Camp Shelby and then went overseas with the Division in November of 1944. I was able to stay with the unit until we finally disbanded in 1945.

I was told that there is to be a reunion this summer in California, but that will not fit into our plans this year. I am wondering if there is some sort of Division Association that I could join so that I could be advised of reunions at an earlier date. Thanks for any help that you can give me.

George D. LaMoree, 4241 Edenhurst Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90039 — Hq., 3rd Bn., 272nd: In volume 46, Number 2, Page 50 of the Bulletin, you published a picture of then **Lieutenant Colonel Edward S. Thompson** and most of his staff. Will you please note in the next bulletin that I will be glad to send prints of this picture to any interested parties. Please write to me at the above address.

(Continued on Page 5)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 4)

Harry Chandler, 22212 Union Hill Road, Redmond, Washington 98053 — Co. D, 273rd: I just recently found out that the 69th Division has a reunion every year, (you've had 46 of them, all of which I missed). Needless to say, I immediately joined the Association and looked forward to attending the August reunion, except my own family reunion was scheduled for the very same week.

Having 4 children and 13 grandchildren coming to my home in Redmond, Washington from some distances, I stayed home and fulfilled my obligation to them. They in turn didn't want to disappoint me so they made it a family and a 69th Division Reunion.

Enclosed is a picture of 5 of my grandkids with their 69th Division T-shirts. I'll see you next year in Tennessee.



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.

New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

- Elijah Dalrymple** — Company C, 273rd Infantry
7385 Hummingbird Drive, Nineveh, Indiana 46164
- Louis Brewster** — Company A, 269th Engineers
17401 Saddlewood Lane, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55345
- Ray Clement** — Company F, 272nd Infantry
26 England Street, Cumberland, Rhode Island 02864
- Dallas Shelton** — A.T. Company, 272nd Infantry
P.O. Box 67, Dahlgren, Illinois 62828
- Francis A. Atkins** — Company C, 461st AAA
173 North Baxter, Sutton, West Virginia 26601
- Emanuel Rind** — Company I, 272nd Infantry
320 Central Parkway, Newport News, Virginia 23606
- Elmer C. Miller** — Company B, 271st Infantry
16 South Whisper Court, Columbus, Georgia 31909
- Stanford Silvestri** — Company E, 273rd Infantry
57 Normandy B, Delray Beach, Florida 33484
- Philip Jacobowitz** — Hq. Company, 661st Tank Destroyers
174 McVeigh Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10314
- George Pohlchuck** — Hq. Company, 369th Medical Battalion
5220 West 16th Street, Parma, Ohio 44134
- Alfred T. Khoury** — Battery A, 880th Field Artillery
180 Marine Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11209-7706
- Andrew J. Sherosky** — Company K, 271st Infantry
Box 4960, Route 46, Cortland, Ohio 44410
- Bill Fox** — Battery C, 881st Field Artillery
7 Goodhue Street, Addison, New York 14801
- Victor A. Losco** — Battery B, 724th Field Artillery
200 West 86th Street, 11K, New York, New York 10024
- Philip Post** — 569th Signal Company
24 Joline Road, Kendall Park, New Jersey 08824
- William R. Vroom** — Company I, 272nd Infantry
P.O. Box 6165, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807
- Harris B. Timmer** — Company I, 271st Infantry
1815 Sherwood Drive, S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506
- Clarence Boerding** — Headquarters Divarty
3061 Westminster, St. Charles, Missouri 63301
- U. Cholakis** — Company E, 272nd Infantry
33 Timber Trail, Port Orange, Florida 32127
- Clarence Matarozzi** — Headquarters Divarty
33 West Chestnut Avenue, Apt. 128
Vineland, New Jersey 08360
- John E. Melanson** — C Battery, 879th Field Artillery
9235 North 101st Place, Scottsdale, Arizona 85258
- Robert S. Hill** — Company F, 273rd Infantry
P.O. Box 488, Benton, Illinois 62812
- Wayne Ledrow** — 272nd Infantry
715 Shirley Drive, Aberdeen, Maryland 21001
- Richard M. Roberts** — Company C, 273rd Infantry
1900 Casey Key Road, Nokomis, Florida 34275
- Robert H. Siglow** — Company L, 271st Infantry
4026 Hill Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43607
- Gordon E. Granger, Jr.** — Hq. Company, 272nd Infantry
2402 Lourdes Road, Richmond, Virginia 23228
- Raymond F. Smith** — 569th Signal Company
3 Stockmill Road, Apt. I, Baltimore, Maryland 21208
- William Gregg** — Headquarters Divarty
103 Harbob Lane, North Wales, Pennsylvania 19454

Company F, 271st Infantry

Submitted By: Raymond C. Norris
624 Law Street, Aberdeen, Maryland 21001



The Spoils of Battle north of Leipzig, Germany



*Sergeant Norris and members of the Third Squad,
2nd Platoon, 2nd Battalion at Camp Shelby*



Two Veterans — Combat Patrol, Medical Battalion



Mascot of the Medical Battalion - Regimental Combat Patrol



The Americans meet the Russians, 1945.



Two soldiers from Texas Combat Patrol, 2nd Battalion



*Private Dorn at Camp Shelby
Came to 69th after serving in the
Pacific Theater.*



*Little "Beets Matthews" and
Squad Leader Raymond Norris
2nd Platoon, Camp Shelby*



*Sergeant Shea from Boston
and Another Soldier
3rd Platoon, Camp Shelby*

Company G, 273rd Infantry Had a Great Time at the Rochester Reunion

Orville and Beulah Schultz
1085 Fair Oaks Avenue, Arroyo Grande, California 93420

We thank the committee for a great reunion and well done. It's always good to see and be with old friends. It seems that we always have the same ones year after year. We contact others between reunions and will continue to do so, hoping they will join us. Now that we have established the California, Western Chapter, it may help to bring more to the national reunion.

Thank you for the 50th reunion bulletin. It arrived at our home on our 50th Wedding Anniversary.



Orville and Beulah Schultz



*Joe Panganiban
Ed Stagg
Al Aronson
Bob Ainley
Orville Schultz
Bill Beacher*

1993 Rochester, New York Reunion a Big Success



Victor and Olga Ostrow

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

We arrived on Monday, August 9th at the Holiday Inn-Genessee Plaza, Rochester, New York, checked in and were immediately greeted by our friends and first timers. We received the itinerary for the entire week from Vivian Kurtzman and her staff, a tireless group of workers.

Tuesday, August 10th

Trip on board the Sam Patch Cruise Ship, cruising along the Genessee River and Erie Canal, viewing the city of Rochester from the city dock on the historic Corn Hill. An hour of leisure seeing the new and old sights of the city.

Wednesday, August 11th

A bus trip to the Finger Lakes Wine Country excursion and wine tasting at the local winery. It was an overlay of the history and folklore of Indian culture. Beautiful lakeside city of Canaudaiqua and the history of restored homes and mansions. During our noon lunch break, we stopped and ate at Wegman's - combination grocery store and restaurant. We had five busloads and they were able to accommodate all of us. I must say this store fascinated me - the opulence of fine foods from around the world - at least 30 or more grocery checkout counters. The eatery was simply amazing, food of all kinds - freshly prepared Chinese, Italian, American and Mexican cuisine. As a former owner of a fancy food and fruit basket shop, I couldn't help but admire the ambiance of such an operation.

Thursday, August 12th

Rochester Museum Tour. We visited the Margaret Strong Museum and were amazed at the Victorian furniture, glassware, ceramics, and oriental objects. There was a fascinating collection of toys and approximately 20,000 dolls. My wife enjoyed the doll collection because my daughters are avid collectors. One of the highlights was the Eastman-Kodak Museum of Photography and the George Eastman House. It is the finest museum of photography in the world from the world's first camera to the earliest days of cinematography - Hollywood movies and their equipment.



City of Rochester



Gardens of the George Eastman House

Friday, August 13th

The Grand Tour of Rochester, New York. We visited the home of Susan B. Anthony, University of Rochester, High Falls Parks and restored areas of East Avenue and Corn Hill. Rochester did turn out to be a beautiful city with lots to see and do.

(Continued on Page 9)

1993 ROCHESTER, NEW YORK REUNION BIG SUCCESS
(Continued from Page 8)

Saturday, August 14th

Morning Meeting. Coffee and pastries. Discussion of future sites for 1995 - Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Installation of new officers. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 noon.

I failed to mention the hospitality rooms. The bartenders were supplied by the Holiday Inn with well stocked spirits, beer and wine. There were plenty of snack items, pretzels, popcorn and potato chips. The rooms overlooked the scenic Genessee River and pedestrian overpass. Ample chairs and tables for members and guests to chat and meet new first timers, were supplied.

Sunday, August 15th

Breakfast was served at the Holiday Inn for the 69th guests. The food was very good. Last goodbyes, tears and well

wishes for continued good health until we meet again in Nashville, Tennessee. On our return home we flew to New York and visited our long lost cousins for three days who graciously invited us to be their guests. Another wonderful reunion.

A Note from Victor and Olga Ostrow

Another reunion has come and gone, but always the highlight of our vacation. I would like to thank everyone, Tri-Staters and our Sunshine Lady, for all your cards and good wishes on our 50th Wedding Anniversary. We have the greatest organization of men and women who help make the Fighting 69th a great team. It's a time when old friends get together and reminisce about the old days. Grace Glaum, sister-in-law Doris, Sumner Russman, Bill Beswick, Nat and Rhoda Green, the McCalls, Bing Poon, etc. were in attendance.

We hope everyone had as good a time as we did in Rochester. Try to make it next year. Don't put it off too long, or you may never get to go. See you all in Nashville in 1994.



George Eastman House



Water Falls in Rochester



Railroad Car Shopping Area



High Falls Historic District

Rochester, New York Reunion - August 9th-15th, 1993



Honor Guard at the Banquet Memorial Service



Nava Raul and Arlene Fuller



Mr. and Mrs. Garrit Maas



Steve and Ceil Hudzena, First Timers



Mr. and Mrs. Joe Aiello

Rochester, New York Reunion - August 9th-15th, 1993



Taps Honor Guard



Lighted Candles - Memorial Service



Joe Wright, Dutch Hawn and Gene Butterfield



Patsy and E.L. Bocek



Alex and Florence Lasseigne



Bill and Reba Sheavly at shopping mall

Message from the President



Curtis E. Peterson, President
4900 Wallace Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53716
Telephone: 608/222-7957

Thank you for giving me the honor to serve as your President for the next two years.

Jack Duffy and his Committee did an excellent job for our 46th reunion in Rochester, New York. Everyone in attendance had an enjoyable time, seeing the sights and renewing friendships which started years ago.

It was nice to see Clarence Marshall. He was brought to the reunion by Paul and Marian Shadle.

Earl Witzleb has given us notice of his planning to retire as Coordinating Manager of the bulletin in two years. Therefore, any member who may desire to take this position should contact Earl or Clarence Marshall, Editor, or myself, before or during the 1994 reunion in Nashville.

I have noticed that the First Timers at times are not being greeted warmly. Please, in the future, make an effort to greet them and make them feel welcome, as they are our future in keeping the reunions going.

The Nashville Committee Members are working hard, tying up loose ends and deciding on interesting activities for us. The 1994 reunion in Nashville should be great. See you there.

Committees for 1993-1995

BULLETINS

Clarence Marshall, Editor
69th Division Headquarters Company
101 Stephen Street
New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068
Telephone: 412/335-3224

Earl E. Witzleb, Jr., Past President
Coordinating Manager
Company E, 273rd Infantry
R.D. #1, Box 477
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606
Telephone: 412/455-2901

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Joseph Wright
Headquarters Division Special Troops
Route 4, Box 1973
Summit Ridge Drive
Forsyth, Missouri 65653
Telephone: 417/546-4529

LADIES' AUXILIARY LIAISON

Robert Pierce, Vice President
Company I, 273rd Infantry
144 Nashua Court
San Jose, California 95139
Telephone: 408/226-8040

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Frank Nemeth
Company B, 269th Engineers
66 Gaping Rock Road
Levittown, Pennsylvania 19057
Telephone: 215/945-3809

PRESIDENTS AWARDS

Curt Peterson, President
569th Signal Company
4900 Wallace Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53716
Telephone: 608/222-7957

LEGAL ADVISOR

Eugene Butterfield
Headquarters Company, 69th Infantry Division
22449 Lake Road
Rocky River, Ohio 44116
Telephone: 216/333-5723

RESOLUTIONS / BY-LAWS

Joseph Wright, Chairman
Headquarters, Division Special Troops
Route 4, Box 1973
Summit Ridge Drive
Forsyth, Missouri 65653
Telephone: 417/546-4529

Eugene Butterfield
Headquarters Company, 69th Infantry Division
22449 Lake Road
Rocky River, Ohio 44116
Telephone: 216/333-5723

Gaylord W. Thomas
Headquarters Company, 777th Tank Battalion
432 Doty Street
Waupun, Wisconsin 53963
Telephone: 414/324-4056

REUNION ACTIVITIES / SITE SCREENING

Robert Pierce, Vice-President - Chairman
Company I, 273rd Infantry
144 Nashua Court
San Jose, California 95139
Telephone: 408/226-8040

Henry Putala
777th Tank Battalion
1139 River Boulevard
Suffield, Connecticut 06078

Paul Eagon
Company I, 273rd Infantry
1435 North Avenue
Waukegan, Illinois 60085

(Continued on Page 13)

**FIGHTING 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN., INC.
COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 1993-1995**

(Continued from Page 12)

OVERSEAS FLOWER FUND

William C. Sheavly
Company M, 271st Infantry
218 Sacred Heart Lane
Reistertown, Maryland 21136
Telephone: 301/833-2771

Philip A. Colombo
879th Field Artillery
15620 65th Avenue
Flushing, New York 11367
Telephone: 718/886-0363

Richard F. Hadley
Company B, 272nd Infantry
3784 South Depew Street
Denver, Colorado 80235
Telephone: 303/986-7130

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Chet Yastrzemski, Chairman
Company E, 272nd Infantry
29 Skinner Street
South Hampton, New York 11968
Telephone: 619/485-6165

Thomas Yelcich
Company I, 272nd Infantry
18093 Country Club Drive
Livonia, Michigan 48152

**CHARLES HERRING
MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Jim Boris, Chairman
Headquarters, 881st Field Artillery
6800 Henry Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19128
Telephone: 215/483-2064

George Johnson
Company D, 273rd Infantry
1213 Hermitage Road
Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834
Telephone: 804/526-5211

Carl Rapp
Company M, 272nd Infantry
2981 S.W. Ann Arbor Road
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34953

Joseph Wright
Headquarters Division Special Troops
Route 4, Box 1973
Summit Ridge Drive
Forsyth, Missouri 65653
Telephone: 417/546-4529

1994 REUNION, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Joe H. McMurray, Jr., Co-Chairman
Company I, 271st Infantry
110 Fountain Place
Jackson, Tennessee 38305
Telephone: 901/668-3606

James Bilbrey, Co-Chairman
Battery A, 880th Field Artillery
R.D. #3, Box 289-B
Celina, Tennessee 38551
Telephone: 615/243-2250

1995 REUNION, MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

George J. Wolff
Company A, 271st Infantry
c/o Myrtle Beach Area CVB
710 21st Avenue, North - Suite J
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29577

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 1994 (NASHVILLE)

William E. Snidow, Chairman, 661st T.D.
Route 1, Box 303
Pembroke, Virginia 24136

Carl A. Miller, 69th MP
1016 Marion Road
Bucyrus, Ohio 44820

George W. Weston, 271st Infantry
173 Tanglewood E.
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854

Edgar A. Parsons, 272nd Infantry
1913 South Lakeshore Drive
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

Pierce G. Rice, 273rd Infantry
2106 South Fifth Avenue
Arlington, Virginia 22204

Marvin Slichter, 369th Medical Battalion
144 Main Street
Mohnton, Pennsylvania 19540

J.S. Rollman, Divarty
2613 Springridge Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89134

Frank Packard, 269th Engineers
203 Bechan Road
Oakham, Massachusetts 01068

Charles White, 777th Tank Battalion
P.O. Box 875
Crescent, Oklahoma 73028

Alden Angeline, 461st AAA
34 Forest View Drive
Asheville, North Carolina 28804

**NOTE: The Rochester Reunion
Attendees will appear in the
next issue of the bulletin.**



*69th Division Sign in the Reunion Hotel Lobby
Photo sent in by: Harold J. Early - C Battery, 881st*

Annual Meeting of Officers and Board of Directors 69th Infantry Division Assn. August 12th, 1993 Rochester, New York

President Hawn called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with 17 Board members present and quorum was declared. Present were E. Lucci, C. Miller, J. Jenei, M. Schlichter, E. Chando, W. Peterson, A. Kormas, N. Shields, H. Putala, E. Parsons, R. Goebel, F. Avery, W. Homlin, R. Kurtzman, W. Hawn, C. Peterson and W. Sheavly. The invocation was given by W. Snidow and Pledge of Allegiance led by J. Wright.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the 1992 meeting in San Francisco were read by Bill Sheavly and were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The report was read by Treasurer Bob Kurtzman and balances in accounts reported. Ed Lucci (Auditor) pointed out about the relationship in the dates, that income was in one period and expenses in another, not giving a true picture. Fiscal year to remain, financial year to be January 1 to December 31. Further action by the Resolution Committee was recommended to clear up By-Laws.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Clarence Marshall reported that membership had declined by 200 since the 1991 Biloxi Reunion.

BULLETIN REPORT: Earl Witzleb gave a brief report, and stated that the current Bulletin was late due to operational problems. Further, at this time Earl offered his resignation from handling the Bulletin. He has served faithfully since 1977. Therefore he is asking someone to step forward and take over this *very important responsibility*.

RESOLUTIONS AND BY-LAWS: Joe Wright had no report.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Bill Matlach reported that a total of four persons had requested the application packet for the Ross Scholarship, however, none of those had been returned. The scholarship still remains open for qualified applicants.

LEGAL ADVISOR: No report. Gene Butterfield did speak briefly on behalf of the "Wall of Liberty Committee." This committee is committed to getting names of five million who served in Europe. Application fee is \$40. This is not a 69th project. Further information will be found in the Bulletin.

REUNION AND SITE ACTIVITY:

Manhattan, Kansas will not meet our requirements and will be rejected at this time.

Nashville, Tennessee. (1994) Progress is being made on this reunion, further report to be made at General Membership Meeting.

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina: (1995) Curt Peterson gave details on this city, recommendation is for reunion to commence October 22, 1995 inasmuch as hotel rates decline. Cost at this time is \$42 per night for ocean view room, ocean front room \$52. Blocked 275 rooms, additional overflow handled next door. Working on suggested tours.

OVERSEAS FLOWER FUND: Report was given by Bill Sheavly, balance in fund as of April 7, 1993 was \$381.68. No additional request for funds was made at this time. In addition he pointed out that the pictures of all grave sites are complete and available for the membership to see.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Walter Homlin reported that his committee had the following names to submit:

President Curt Peterson
Vice President Bob Pierce
Treasurer Bill Matlach
Secretary Bill Sheavly
Membership Clarence Marshall

Board of Directors - 1995/1996

Division Headquarters Seymour Nash
271st Infantry Scott Gresham
272nd Infantry Richard Hadley
273rd Infantry Eugene Mischke
Division Artillery James Boris
269th Engineers Frank Nemeth
661st Tank Destroyers Chuck Yannul
777th Tank Battalion Robert Weise

1993/1994 Replacement

271st Infantry Charles Walsh
(1 year to replace George Weston who resigned)

GOLF TOURNAMENT: No report.

Bob Myers urged recognition of Bob Kurtzman for his untiring work as Association Treasurer. Applause for recognition of his work over the past years.

Motion by Henry Patula, seconded by Phil Columbo that we accept all the reports submitted, motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: Refresh of sending Bulletins to non-dues paying persons on roll. There was much discussion, pro and con. It was determined that we will some day have to clear the rolls, and cut mailing to non-dues paying members. Recommendation was to form committee to review Bulletin mailing.

NEW BUSINESS: Name of Steven Arndt (son of former member-deceased) proposed for honorary membership. Motion made and seconded, motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: President Hawn stated that he has film owned by Colonel Dameron, will try to show it to interested members.

Secretary Sheavly spoke briefly on request by the Dept. of the Army for historical and personal information. This information is to be compiled and added to historical records of WWII. Questionnaire made available to Board, additional copies may be obtained by contacting Secretary.

Bob Pierce presented request for California Chapter formation. An excellent Constitution and By-Laws was presented. All requirements were met. Approved by Board.

Bud Parsons gave update on April 9th, 1993 meeting with Russian War Veterans and members of the 69th.

Bill Beswick reported on Strehla Monument fund. Audited by Ed Lucci, balance in account approximately \$6800.

With no further business. Motion made to adjourn by Neil Shields and seconded by Phil Columbo. Motion unanimously carried.

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

NOTICE

If anybody in the Association is a publisher or affiliated with a publisher, please contact:

William R. Beswick
P.O. Box 576, West Point, Virginia 23181
Telephone: 804-843-2696

Annual Meeting of General Membership 69th Infantry Division Assn. August 14th, 1993 Rochester, New York

President **Hawn** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance led by **Joe Wright**.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the 1992 meeting in San Francisco were read by **Bill Sheavly**. In the interest of brevity the minutes were highlighted, since all of the minutes appeared in the Bulletin, and reading would entail duplication.

TREASURER'S REPORT: **Bob Kurtzman** covered the financial report highlighting the prime areas of interest. He pointed out that the postage fund is well supported and hopes that members will continue in their financial support.

AUDITOR'S REPORT: **Ed Lucci** audited the Treasurer records and all funds were properly accounted. He pointed out that the fiscal report ending June 30, 1993 is in error as money received prior to that date is not disbursed until after that date. Additional report will be prepared for period ending December 31, which will give a more accurate financial situation. Thanks were given to **Bob Kurtzman** for his dedicated work over these many years.

BULLETIN REPORT: **Earl Witzleb** advised that the recent Bulletin was late due to some operational problems. At this time he advised he was giving two years notice, as he has been working on this since 1977. Therefore we will have to find someone to replace Earl and he is requesting that someone step forward to assume this *very important responsibility*.

MEMBERSHIP: Report given by **Clarence Marshall** that membership has declined to 5,500, down 200 since the reunion at Biloxi in 1991.

RESOLUTIONS AND BY-LAWS: **Joe Wright** advised no recommendations had been received, therefore everyone must be satisfied with them as written.

ROSS SCHOLARSHIP: Report presented by **Bill Matlach** regarding the medical and veterinary scholarships. Four persons had requested packets for application, however none were returned. Interest has been low, but we will continue if applicants are interested.

SOUVENIRS: **Frank Nemeth** thanked those who had helped this year so he could take tours. Sales have been brisk, and thanks expressed for purchases. **Al Kormas** advised that the sale of jackets and shirts have been good and encouraged everyone to make their purchases early so they could have a sell-out.

GOLF TOURNAMENT: **Jim Boris** reported that we had 46 participants and that 12 of them were ladies. The course was good, and he thanked **Jack Duffy** for the good job in making the arrangements. Some of the winners were **Neil Shields**, **Jim Walsh**, **Bob Stern**, **Frank Nemeth**, **Carl Rapp** and **George Johnson**. Golf program is self-supporting and no funds are taken from the organization treasury.

OVERSEAS FLOWER FUND: Report given by **Bill Sheavly** that the balance in the fund was \$381.68 as of April 7, 1993. Roses are placed on graves on April 25th of each year.

RECOGNITION OF FIRST TIMERS: Approximately 25 first timers were recognized and a cordial welcome extended by **President Hawn** for their interest and participation.

RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS: All past presidents in attendance were recognized and thanks expressed for their past service to the organization.

SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE: **Curt Peterson**
Manhattan, Kansas: Tabled this site due to inadequate motel facilities.

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina: (1995) Proposal by Best Western-Landmark for period of October 22 thru October 29. \$42 per night for ocean view, \$52 per night for ocean front, plus applicable taxes.

Schaumburg, Illinois: (1996) Located west of Chicago. Committee will be reviewing the details regarding this proposal and further information will be forthcoming.

Nashville, Tennessee. (1994) Arrangements for reunion are coming along. Further work is to be done on the tours. **Joe McMurry** gave a brief report on this reunion.

Rochester, New York: **Jack Duffy** reported large attendance. Count showed 312 rooms used with 620 guests. Banquet 569 attendees. PX party 432 tickets sold. Music supplied at no expense to association by 98th Division Band.

Sites are always required. Please step forward if you want a reunion in your area.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: **Walter Homlin** reported that his committee had the following names to submit:

President **Curt Peterson**
Vice President **Bob Pierce**
Treasurer **Bill Matlach**
Secretary **Bill Sheavly**
Membership **Clarence Marshall**

Board of Directors - 1995/1996

Division Headquarters **Seymour Nash**
271st Infantry **Scott Gresham**
272nd Infantry **Richard Hadley**
273rd Infantry **Eugene Mischke**
Division Artillery **James Boris**
269th Engineers **Frank Nemeth**
661st Tank Destroyers **Chuck Yannul**
777th Tank Battalion **Robert Weise**

1993/1994 Replacement

271st Infantry **Charles Walsh**
(1 year to replace **George Weston** who resigned)

Frank Nemeth made motion, seconded by **Bill Beswick** that the slate of officers be accepted. Motion passed.

George West made motion that all the reports be accepted, seconded by **Neil Shields**, motion was passed.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion by **Stan Olszewski**, seconded by **John Sneary** that Myrtle Beach be accepted for the 1995 reunion site. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: **Bud Parsons** reported U.S. was visited by Russian War Veterans. Statue of "Spirit of the Elbe" was presented to former President **George Bush**. **Bob Pierce** expressed thanks for the Board approving the Western Chapter of the 69th Infantry Division Association. **Bill Beswick** reported briefly on the Strehla monument fund. **Bill Sheavly** spoke on the request by the Dept. of the Army for personal and historical information. Questionnaire is available to membership, interest was great and all available forms were given out. If additional forms are needed, please contact the Secretary.

Since there was no further business to be transacted the motion to adjourn was made by **Gene Butterfield** and seconded by **Al Faison**, motion was carried.

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

Treasurer's Message



William R. and Jane Matlach

William R. Matlach, Treasurer
Post Office Box 474
West Islip, New York 11795-0474
Telephone: 516/669-8077

Those of you who attended our Annual Reunion in Rochester, New York this past August should already be aware that **Bob Kurtzman** finally found someone willing to relieve him of his responsibility as Treasurer of this fine Association, namely me. **Bob** brought on his long term of his own accord; because he worked so hard and did such a fine job, the membership was reluctant to replace him with anyone else!

But **Bob** and I both know from past experience that the job of Treasurer of the 69th Infantry Division Association requires long hours of tedious work, brought to a climax of still more work at the Annual Reunion. For this reason, it is difficult to find anyone to take over the position, and re-election is a certainty. **Bob**, I want to congratulate you and thank you for the wonderful job you have done for the past eight years. Furthermore, I am sure that you could not have done as well without many hours of patient support and assistance from your wife, **Vivian**. During the past eight years, I can hardly remember a Registration Table without **Vivian** sitting behind it.

You will note that the picture at the beginning of this section includes not only a handsome photo of me, but also includes my beautiful wife, **Jane**. I wish to introduce her to those who have not previously met her because I am sure that she, like **Vivian**, is going to pass through an appreciable amount of suffering while I am Treasurer. By the way, this experience is not going to be completely new to us because we previously went through it when I was Treasurer in the 1960's. I am the first Treasurer to take the job twice — it must be senility setting in!

A few words about the Rochester Reunion: a fine reunion, and I enjoyed myself immensely. There is nothing I enjoy more than sitting and chatting with old friends (and new ones too), rehashing the old days. Somehow, I always find out a little more about what really happened in 1945.

After the reunion, **Jane** and I planned to return home to West Islip, Long Island by driving by way of Vermont and New Hampshire, which are states we have never visited before. I had a wonderful itinerary all worked out covering visits to all points of interest, including the White Mountains,

Mount Washington, etc. However, we had just about entered Vermont (Bennington) when we found that the reverse gear on our car had faded away to nothing. All forward speeds on the automatic transmission appeared to be normal, but I decided that I did not care to drive up Mt. Washington with a defective transmission, so we made a right turn, headed south, and drove over 200 miles home without a problem, as long as we did not try to go backwards. We will have to make that trip some other time.

Since this is my debut, I have avoided discussing unhappy subjects such as dues. Suffice it to say that dues are currently \$10.00 and you may have already received a personal dues notice envelope which **Bob Kurtzman** has been kind enough to send out for me as a farewell gesture. Perhaps you will like to select one of the alternate options which are listed therein. If you have mislaid your dues envelope, never fear, you may still send me your dues in your own envelope to the address shown at the beginning of this article. Checks should be made out to the 69th Infantry Division Association, Inc.

William R. Matlach
Treasurer

A Fond Farewell from Bob and Vivian Kurtzman

Post Office Box 178
Wilmot, Ohio 44689
Telephone: 216/359-5487

To all of our 69th Association Members with whom I have corresponded with and met at the reunions in the past nine years, it has been my pleasure to have served you all.

I thank you for your many notes and letters, thanking me for my efforts as your Treasurer.

I truly enjoyed every minute of my time that I spent for you and the Association, yes I will miss it, but now **Vivian** and I can attend a reunion totally relaxed and even take in a tour or two which we haven't done since 1984.

I'm quite sure **Bill Matlach** will also serve you well and he has stated that he wishes to carry on with the same pattern at the reunions that we started in 1986. Please give him your support.

As of October 15th, 1993 everything has been turned over to **Bill** and we even supplied him with over 3,000 new file cards complete with addresses, units, phone numbers and wives names where applicable. I know he appreciates the extra work we have done to make his start as Treasurer easier, but I'm sure that once he receives 200 or more dues letters in one day he will realize that the Treasurer's job is not as easy as it was when he had the same job many years ago.

My special thanks to **Tony Keller** and **Ed Lucci** for their expertise as Auditors during my tenure. They both helped me more than they know. We hope to attend all the future reunions. We attended our first reunion at the William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh in 1967 and have not missed one since.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES,
Bob and Vivian Kurtzman

1993-1994 Dues Year
August 1, 1993 to July 31, 1994
Dues: \$10.00

If you did not receive a dues envelope, send your dues to **WILLIAM MATLACH** at the above address.

Dottie and Me



Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.

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

FIRST OFF IS A VERY IMPORTANT MEMO FOR ALL 69th MEMBERS. Starting January 1st, 1995 all bulk rate mail, which is the way our bulletins are mailed to each of you, must have the 9 digit zip code or they cannot be sent bulk rate. Each member should check the zip code of this issue for correct zip and if you don't have the 9 digits, better get it from your post office and send that to Clarence Marshall so that he can make the change of your address. No number two bulletins January, February, March, and April 1995 can be mailed unless the correct zip is on your address. This is an important bulletin to each member for it gives all the information of the coming 69th reunion in 1995 which will be at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Dottie and I thank each of you for being concerned about our health. We do hope that what you saw of us in Rochester makes you all feel better seeing us first hand. We both feel good and are much improved from a year ago when you all were at San Francisco. We hope to see not just those of you that were in Rochester but all 69ers and wives or friends at Nashville, Tennessee. Who knows, this could be our last time to see one another or close to being it, so do come out by the thousands in 1994 at Nashville. You know there is much to see and why not put on a big splurge just one time or just one more time.

If at all possible, please send a photo of yourself or with your wife so that we know who you are when mailing us news material. Other photos would also be nice to receive for publication. Pictures make our bulletins.

What happened to the Site Committee meeting or meetings at Rochester? I asked to be notified so that I could make a pitch for Charleston, West Virginia. We are having our 1994 Tri-State weekend in Charleston and I talked to

Brownie Parsons about a national there if we could get the Tri-State people to be the committee, and I am sure they will do it. You know Tri-State members have been involved in some way or another in many of the past reunions. I have trained my people well in helping or running a 69th national reunion. They have done very well in running Tri-State weekends and I know they can run national week-long reunions. With Tri-State running a reunion in Charleston, it could mean the start of minis running nationals which can help our problems of finding committees and locations.

Rochester was a very nice reunion. How about all that room for the hospitality room. I heard only pleasant remarks of the tours so I do know they went off well. I spent my dollars at the track only to make them back by the end of the day and come out a winner by twenty cents. I had a good time though and the rain held off until the last race when a few of our 69ers got involved by being honored at that race.

I can't complain of the over 600 in attendance as it resembled years gone by. We then saw a lot of each other as was the case at Rochester. I still can't believe with a membership still of 5,700 we don't go over the 1,000 mark with members and double that with wives and guests. I just talked to a friend the other day and their reunion had 1,500 attending. He stated they are going to Williamsburg next year at the Fort Magruder Inn. I asked him some questions about the Inn and he stated that many changes have taken place over the last couple of years. I also think he said they have new owners now.

Remember, fellows, dues are now \$10.00 and since I have received many, I can't figure out why you didn't make the check for \$12.00 so your wife could be a member of our wonderful Ladies Auxiliary. Their \$2.00 dues will go to \$5.00 next year at Nashville so it will cost you a check of \$15.00 which is \$10.00 for you and \$5.00 for the wife. Guests are free and you can bring them with you to all reunions for they are welcome. Why not bring the entire family to Nashville. Opryland U.S.A. Musical Park makes for a fine family reunion with rides, shows, entertainment, restaurants and all you could ever expect for one all day fee. That is per person and I hope Dottie and me will see you enjoying a pizza, hot dog, a beer, or a fine dinner meal. Take one of your free days to go to Opryland Park. Your grandchildren will love you pappy and grannie. SEE YOU ALL AT NASHVILLE AUGUST 21st THRU 28, 1994 WITH DOTTIE AND ME.

NOTICE

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

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.

President George Bush, President of Russia, Boris Yeltsin, The 69th Infantry Division and 1995 Plans

Submitted by
Edgar A. "Bud" Parsons
1913 South Lakeshore Drive
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514
Telephone: 919/942-5472

"The Spirit of the Elbe"

On April 9, 1993, members of the 69th Infantry Division and the Russian War Veterans Committee presented to President George Bush one of two especially commissioned statues, "The Spirit of the Elbe." The presentation was made in Houston, Texas. The statue will be a prominent and permanent part of President Bush's Museum and Library now being constructed on the campus of Texas A & M University at College Station, Texas.

One month later, May 5, 1993, a similar presentation of the second statue was made to President Boris Yeltsin at his offices in the Kremlin, Moscow. The statue will be featured in a new military museum under construction in Moscow.

The base of the statue incorporates a metal plate describing the symbolism of "The Spirit of the Elbe" and relevance to members of the 69th Infantry Division. The metal engraving reads as follows:

THE SPIRIT OF THE ELBE 1945-1992

THIS IS ONE OF TWO IDENTICAL STATUES REPRESENTING AN AMERICAN AND SOVIET SOLDIER AT THE FIRST MEETING IN WORLD WAR II OF AMERICAN AND SOVIET ARMIES, APRIL 25, 1945, AT STREHLA, GERMANY ON THE ELBE RIVER. THE 69th INFANTRY DIVISION, FIRST U.S. ARMY AND THE RUSSIAN 58th GUARDS DIVISION, FIRST UKRAINIAN FRONT, WERE THE LINK-UP UNITS. FOR 47 YEARS, THE ELBE RIVER VETERANS HAVE BEEN UNITED IN THE "SPIRIT OF THE ELBE," TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES PEACEFULLY WITHOUT MILITARY CONFRONTATIONS.

THESE COMMEMORATIVE STATUES OF SOLDIERS, WITHOUT WEAPONS, WERE COMMISSIONED BY AMERICAN AND SOVIET ELBE RIVER VETERANS FOR PRESENTATION TO PRESIDENT BORIS YELTSIN, AND PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH, IN APPRECIATION OF THEIR POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS SYMBOLIZING THE "SPIRIT OF THE ELBE."

DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS, ENDING THE "COLD WAR," AND REDUCING THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR

Concept and Sculpture by Vladimir A. Sorovtsev
Moscow, Russia

The "Spirit of the Elbe" is about one-fourth life size, is made of bronze, and weighs approximately 165 pounds.



President George Bush reading the identification plaque describing "The Spirit of the Elbe" statue. From left are Bud Parsons, Bill Beswick, the President, Marshal Skomorokhov, Major General Olshansky, Vladimir Sorovtsev and Bill Snidow.

The three man delegation from Russia was headed by Air Marshall Nikolai M. Skomorokhov, Chairman of the Russian War Veterans Committee, and twice decorated as a Hero of the Soviet Union. Major General Alexander Olshansky, Head of the Elbe River Veterans Group, and Vladimir A. Sorovtsev, the statue's sculptor, were the additional members.

Many members of the 69th Infantry Division will recognize the name of Major General Alexander Olshansky. Olshansky was a Staff Sergeant in 1945, and the first Soviet with whom the first American link-up patrol leader, Lieutenant Albert Kotzebue, shook hands on that long ago Strehla mid-day of April 25, 1945. General Olshansky has been a key Soviet/Russian participant in almost all of the various meetings of 69ers in Strehla, Torgau, Moscow, and the United States. Sculptor Sorovtsev is currently preparing the mural, or mosaic, that will be a salient attraction of the "Link-Up Memorial Park" at Strehla, Germany, for which the ground breaking ceremony was held April 25, 1993, and is described elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Marshal Skomorokhov presented the "The Spirit of the Elbe" to President George Bush on behalf of the Elbe River veterans of the Russian War Veterans Committee, and cooperating members of the 69th Infantry Division. Air Marshal Skomorokhov's World War II record includes credit for shooting down 42 German aircraft, and more recently being Commanding General of the Soviet Air Forces. He also presented to President Bush the flag of the Air Forces of the Soviet Union. In accepting the Soviet flag, President Bush recalled that Marshal Skomorokhov was a much better wartime pilot than he (President Bush) was, as President Bush had been "shot down."

General Olshansky also had presents for President Bush. General Olshansky's 1945 duties included mapping, and he

(Continued on Page 19)

THE SPIRIT OF THE ELBE

(Continued from Page 18)

gave to President Bush his 1945 wartime leather map case, still containing the actual map recording the 69th Division and Russian 58th Guards Division link-up at Strehla. In addition, General Olshansky handed to President Bush his wartime canteen flask, commemorating that it had been used to toast the Americans with vodka from that same canteen.

President Bush accepted these gifts most graciously. He stressed that they would be prominent displays in his Library and Museum on the Texas A & M campus. It is believed that President Bush was impressed not only by the unique gifts but also by the sincerity of World War II combat veterans acting as individuals, without any formal Government funding and support. Before meeting President Bush, the participants were told that President Bush would have only a few moments for this presentation, but the President seemed in no hurry whatsoever, and invited the group to follow him into his office, "to see where I work."

Inside his office, and on an outside terrace, President Bush told the group to "take all the pictures you want." He asked if there were any items we wished him to autograph. He directed one of his staff members to start taking Polaroid pictures of each member of the group with him, and as the picture dried, President Bush signed it. To each of the group, he gave a tie clasp and/or cuff links bearing the Seal of the President of the United States.

For Air Marshall Skomorokhov, President Bush said he had a special present, and excused himself to leave the office to obtain it. This special gift was the President's flight jacket, bearing President Bush's signature on the left breast, and the Presidential Seal on the right breast. The Marshal was most



"The Spirit of the Elbe" presentation party on President Bush's veranda: From left, Bill Beswick, Lawrence Munsey, Bud Parsons, Lorraine Lewis, Sam Lewis, Major General Alexander Olshansky, President Bush, Marshal Skomorokhov, Marisa Fushille, Vladimir Soroutsev and Bill Snidow.

pleased. He immediately took off his Russian military jacket with its numerous rows of "fruit salad" decorations. President Bush held his former flight jacket, while the Air Marshall put it on, with both pronouncing it a "perfect fit."

The 69th Infantry Division participants were William Beswick (661st TD), William Snidow (661st TD), Edgar A. "Bud" Parsons (A-272nd) and Mr. Sam Lewis (B-273rd). Mr. Dillard Powell (AT-271st), facilitated the meeting by innumerable FAX sending and receiving to the Russian War Veterans Committee, but was unable to attend. Mr. Lewis and his wife, Lorraine, live in Lockhart, Texas, and served as Texas hosts for this event. Lorraine Lewis assisted as photographer for the group. The proceedings were made possible by the translations, international phone calls, FAXes, and associated voluntary help of Mrs. Marisa Fushille, of Austin, Texas. The Lewis' hosting included accommodation arrangements, a VIP tour of the Houston Space Center, transportation to the Texas A & M campus, and special VIP tours and campus housing for the visiting Russians.

It will be recalled that Mr. Sam Lewis is a retired architect, and has drawn plans for the "three flagpoles" triangular design, and other construction features of the Memorial Park at Strehla.

* * * * *

THE MOSCOW PRESENTATION TO PRESIDENT BORIS YELTSIN

For the presentation to President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow, the Russian War Veterans Committee made arrangements for the 69ers most directly concerned, (Beswick, Powell, Parsons and Snidow), to be the guests of President Yeltsin during the Russian May Day World War II commemorations. Unfortunately, Bill Beswick's health made his attendance impossible. Parsons and Snidow were in Torgau, Germany during the April 25th Elbe Day "Down By The Riverside" festivities and the associated ground-breaking for the "Link-Up Memorial Park" some 16 miles to the south of Strehla.

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Major General Olshansky presents to President Bush the World War II map case, containing the actual map showing the first American-Soviet ground forces link-up, at Strehla, on April 25, 1945. Major General Olshansky then was a Staff Sergeant, in communications, with the 58th Russian Guards Division. Left to right are Sam Lewis, Bill Beswick, Marisa Fushille, the interpreter, President Bush, and Major General Olshansky.

THE SPIRIT OF THE ELBE

(Continued from Page 19)

President Yeltsin's invitation included Russian military air transportation from the Russian military airport outside Berlin direct to Moscow, for Parsons and Snidow. Previous commitments precluded Powell from participating in the German activities, and Powell flew directly from the United States to Moscow.

A luxurious Kremlin reception room featuring red brocaded walls, gold-leaf chair arms and backs, with matching red brocade-covered cushions had been prepared for the presentations of "The Spirit of the Elbe" statue to President Yeltsin. One side of the room was crowded with members of the media, with bright lights of TV cameras and flash cameras. Unlike assemblies of United States media in the White House, the Kremlin media was restrained behind a single rope barrier. Further, the media were strictly observers, and recorders. They were entirely silent, except for polite requests for slight movements to facilitate photography. No questions were asked. Mr. Yeltsin obviously commanded great respect.

After the presentation of "The Spirit of the Elbe" to President Yeltsin, the media were evidently signaled to leave, and they did so quickly and quietly, and in a manner notable for its marked contrast to the behavior of the White House press corps.

Bud Parsons made "The Spirit of the Elbe" presentation to President Yeltsin, on behalf of the 69th Infantry Division members, and the Russian War Veterans Committee. Parsons comments essentially paraphrased the identification plate engraving. Parsons remarks were communicated through a most capable interpreter. Although Parsons and President Yeltsin had shaken hands earlier, it was obvious that President Yeltsin was most impressed with "The Spirit of the Elbe" gift, as President Yeltsin then shook Parsons hand again, and drew Parsons close to him in a classic Russian "bear hug."

Following the presentation, and the disappearance of the media personnel and cameras, several trays bearing flutes of champagne appeared. Brief toasts were made to one another. All concerned were most pleased.

After many months of efforts, and innumerable international communications, visas, security clearances, and travel arrangements, these two unique gifts had been presented personally to each of the two Presidents. Both Presidents, and their staffs, were impressed and appreciative.

The three Americans and three Russians (Air Marshal Skomorokhov, Major General Olshansky, and Sculptor Vladimir A. Sorovtsev) were then taken on a tour of Kremlin rooms not ordinarily shown to members of the public.

It is noted that the Americans brought additional gifts for President Yeltsin, but minutes before going into the reception room, the gifts were taken away from us, with the positive assurance they would be given to President Yeltsin. The group was informed that it was deemed inappropriate for such gifts to be handed directly to President Yeltsin. Russian protocol apparently requires the President to give a gift in return; but there may also have been security considerations.



Presentation of "The Spirit of the Elbe" statue to President Yeltsin. Bud Parsons is on the left; immediately behind the statue are Marshal Skomorokhov, head of the Russian War Veterans Committee; Vladimir Sorovtsev, the sculptor; and President Yeltsin, with the Kremlin interpreter.



The commemorative World War II anti-tank obstacles marking the farthest advance of the Germans toward Moscow - 41 kilometers from Red Square. Left to right are a Russian interpreter, Vladimir Sorovtsev the sculptor, Bill Snidow, Bud Parsons, Dillard Powell, and Major General Alexander Olshansky, the first Russian to shake hands with Lieutenant Albert Kotzebue, the 69th Infantry Division patrol leader at Strehla, Germany.

(Continued on Page 21)

THE SPIRIT OF THE ELBE (Continued from Page 20)

Among the gifts were a red "Fighting 69th Infantry Division" jacket from Snidow believed sized appropriately for President Yeltsin; a "Fighting 69th" cap; a pewter "Carolina Cup" especially engraved from the Governor of North Carolina; the key to the city of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Proclamation from the city of Cary, North Carolina, a pewter tray, a Cary pin, an especially woven North Carolina State University book marker, "Spirit of the Elbe" Resolution, documents describing the "Spirit of the Elbe" and various other items.

As guests of President Yeltsin, the three Americans spent the first two days of their Russian visit in the dacha compound of former President Leonid Brezhnev, on the Volga River, about 125 miles northwest of Moscow. For two evenings, the Americans were President Yeltsin's guests at the Bolshoi Ballet, and the Moscow Circus. Departure from Moscow was through the VIP lounge, with all problems of customs, tickets, seating, and so forth handled by especially assigned personnel.

The Russian May Day holidays featured special recognition of the Class of 1923, those Russians born in 1923, and conscripted for service in the "Great Patriotic War" of 1941-1945. The three Americans (Powell, Snidow, and Parsons) and by reference, the 69th Infantry Division, were honored by an invitation to accompany the Class of 1923 survivors in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Russian equivalent of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The memorial is adjacent to the walls of the Kremlin, with an eternal flame of remembrance. The Class of 1923 became 18 years of age in 1941. The year the Germans attacked the Soviets. The Class of 1923 is reported to have suffered 95% casualties. Each of the several hundred survivors were given a wrist watch. Upon inquiry of the three Americans, it developed that Bill Snidow was born

in 1923, and Snidow was promptly given an especially designed wrist watch.

Several hundred members of the Class of 1923 had been assembled in an auditorium of the Russian World War II museum, to hear expressions of gratitude and recognition by senior members of the Russian military, including Air Marshal Skomorokhov. The three American 69ers were recognized in this assembly by the totally unexpected request to one of them, Parsons, to address the Class of 1923.

Parsons comments included awareness of the high World War II casualty rates of the Soviet Army, and the probability that many more Americans survived the war than would have been the case had not the Soviets been victorious against the German Army in many battles prior to the Allied landings in France. He observed that many Americans seem unaware of the history of our two countries being allies in the fight against German Nazism, but most combat veterans are aware of that American-Soviet alliance. That alliance enabled many of us in this room, Americans and Russians alike, to survive World War II. Some Americans, and perhaps others, may forget that war-time American-Soviet alliance, but combat infantry veterans do not forget their good fortune.

Parsons noted present-day Russian-American friendliness, the end of the "cold war," reduction of the threat of nuclear war, and the beginnings of disarmament negotiations. He expressed the hope that our respective national leaders would be enabled to resolve inevitable differences without military confrontations, and was optimistic that the former Soviet Republics would be enabled to solve the economic challenges of moving to a free enterprise, market economy with the same success demonstrated 50 years ago in overcoming the military threat of Nazi Germany. Parsons concluded by thanking the members of the Class of 1923 for their thoughtfulness in inviting the three visiting 69ers to be a part of their ceremonies.



69ers with selected members of the Russian Class of 1923. In the back row are an unidentified Russian, Dillard Powell, General Alexander Olshansky, and Bill Snidow. Bud Parsons is immediately in front of Snidow. Also in the picture, second row, fourth from the right is the Military Attache from the U.S. Embassy, Colonel John C. Reppert.

(Continued on Page 22)

50th ANNIVERSARY OF
THE AMERICAN-SOVIET LINK-UP

The Government of Russia, acting through the Russian War Veterans Committee, plans for the 50th anniversary of the link-up of American-Soviet Armies, April 25, 1995 to be an especially noteworthy event. Plans are now being made for a large contingent of Russian veterans to be present at Strehla and Torgau for the completion and dedication of the Memorial Park at Strehla.

The Elbe River link-up will also be one of the World War II highlights of the United States' 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemorative Committee, for which events are now being planned by the United States Department of the Army. This Commemorative Committee has primary cognizance for such activities, and it has been described in earlier issues of the Bulletin.

Among the items discussed in Moscow with the Russian War Veterans Committee were possible reenactments by

Part of the Story Behind Our Tours

By Bill Beswick

I learned about the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association from a friend of mine, Arthur Malechek, a member of the 881st Field Artillery Battalion during the winter of 1956. He did not know who to contact, only that there was an association. I immediately started looking for anyone that knew who to contact. Several months later I saw a short notice in the newspaper, to contact Cyril Barron. I did and received the nicest letter in return that I had ever received from anyone, BUT, it was several more years before I could get away to attend a reunion.

During the fall of 1963, I was contacted by a Mr. Balitnikov, from the Soviet Union. He wanted to know if I could join them in Moscow for May 7th, 1964. I could not. At this point in time, I had received an excellent promotion and could not leave. Besides, I did not feel that I should go to this expense with money that could be used for much more important things for my family. They also wanted to know if they could come to my home, meet me and my family and interview me. But I was able to put them off.

A couple of years later, a news network from England contacted me to see if I could or would accompany them through Europe to Torgau. I did not think that I knew enough about what they wanted to know, besides, again I could not get off work. As before, I had recently received another nice promotion that I had worked for.

Again, during the fall of 1973, I received another phone call from a Russian, (note that each time it was at ten year intervals). I finally asked them how they came up with my name. He told me and I quote, "We have all of your fellow names in the Politburo." Again, they wanted to know if I could or would join them in Moscow. I could not, because I had two children in college and one in high school. I did not feel that I could take the money away from them. So, I said "NO." I had them contact Loar Quickle. Loar contacted another man that went. The Soviets paid all of his expenses for thirty days from his home and return. It was great that he could go. But, at the same time, I was sad because they would have paid my wife Jo's way as well as mine.

After those three incidents, I decided that if anything of this nature occurred again, I was going. Of course I was able to go next time.

cadets or other young soldiers, of the link-ups at both Toragu and Strehla. Invitations to the Presidents of the three countries are to be issued. Also being explored is the feasibility of some Americans retracing with Russians the Soviet Army routes from Stalingrad to the Elbe River; and some Russians retracing, with Americans, the route from England to the Elbe River.

It is not too early for interested 69ers to explore travel plans for themselves and interested family members to participate in these 1995 events.

No monies contributed to the 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc. for communications, travel, or any other expenses associated and necessary for the preparation of "The Spirit of the Elbe" sculptures, and their presentations to President Bush and President Yeltsin have been utilized in the events reported above. All of the expenses were borne by the 69ers most directly concerned. Expenses of the Russian War Veterans Committee members after their arrival in the United States were defrayed by the directly participating 69th Infantry Division individuals, and Texas A & M University.

Sure enough, during November of 1983, I received a phone call from a man named Leroy Wolins, inquiring if I knew Joe Polowsky and that he had died. Joe wanted to be buried on the Elbe River at Torgau. I told Leroy that I did not know Joe Polowsky, but had heard of him. He asked me if I could or would attend Joe's funeral at Torgau, as a friend of the family. I told him that I would. All of my expenses were paid, up to a point. At this point, I had to obtain my passport, etc. It was hectic, as I had to go to Washington, D.C., which is about 140 miles from here. I found a plane ticket waiting for me at the Richmond airport. I flew into Chicago to meet up with the others that were going and met the Polowsky family. They were extremely nice to me and had me to their house for Thanksgiving dinner with them.

We flew into Luxembourg airport on Iceland Airways. Then took a bus to Frankfurt, where we boarded a night train for Leipzig. I attempted to get some sleep, which was difficult. I finally dozed off for about thirty seconds, when the compartment door was slammed open by an "East German" soldier, hollering, "Passports, Passports." Can you imagine being suddenly awakened, with a soldier standing with a gun at Port Arms, hollering very gruffly?

After this was settled, which proved difficult, I attempted to go back to sleep and could not. So, I thought I would shave. It had been thirty-eight years since I had shaved in ice water. There was no hot water on the train. The last time I had shaved with cold or ice water was in Germany in 1945. I had come in a complete cycle. After shaving, I stood in the vestibule of the train car, at 3:30 a.m. in the morning. All at once, I realized that we were going right through Gotha, Erfurt, Weimar, Apolda and Lutzen, before arriving in Leipzig. This was very exciting for me, because these were the towns that we had liberated during our dash across Germany in World War II. We traveled through these same towns on our return trip.

This started me thinking. I would surely love to come over and visit these towns at a more leisurely pace. The more I thought about it, the more I wanted to do it. And I thought if I wanted to do it, maybe more 69ers would like to. There is much more attached to this, but I won't bore you to tears.

This is what prompted me to organize a return to the Elbe trip.

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PART OF THE STORY BEHIND OUR TOURS
(Continued from Page 22)

The tour of 1985 was a highlight of my life, as well as the one in 1990. I thoroughly enjoyed every minute and especially enjoyed meeting all the wonderful people that took the trip with Jo and me.

I hope some of these same people, as well as some additional people join us in what I hope will be as interesting as the ones on 1985 and 1990. Don't forget, this will be our "FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY" of "EAST MEETS WEST." It will be a milestone of our life.

We may be able to make another trip in five more years. But, don't forget. Pretty soon, some of us will be "SENIOR CITIZENS."

COME ON, LET'S SHOW THE WORLD WHAT WE CAN DO AS 69ers.

* * * * *

Partial Plans for Our Tour

We are planning a "Return to the Elbe" tour, plus any other sights that may be of interest to many people. We will make every effort to have something for everyone.

There will not be over one or two one night stops and these will be only for a night in travel, to keep from traveling too great a distance. Maybe only one and not that, if American Express can figure otherwise.

The proposed itinerary has to be studied, so that the people that went on the other tours will not visit over one or two sights they have seen before. They must be accommodated as well as the newcomers.

We will visit Normandy and their museums. We will visit Henri-Chappelle and Margraten Cemeteries to place wreaths and give our respects to our friends and comrades. We will visit Torgau and attend their festivities. We will visit Strehla and re-dedicate the "Memorial Park," that many of us have given donations to. These are a few of the "Must Dos."

I was told at Rochester that I did not publicize the 1985 trip enough. I did not because I did not want to take up too much of the bulletin's space. I wanted to leave space for other people.

We must have a cut-off date for this trip, due to the anticipation of a shortage of rooms in the Leipzig area. So be sure to get your reservations in early, if you are interested, after receiving the data, which will be published in the next issue of the Bulletin. OR YOU CAN WRITE TO ME AND RECEIVE THE INFO.

In the future bulletins, I will list the names of those, going (bulletin space available). I will list the names and units, but not their home addresses. Their address is private. But, if you want a friend's address to make plans with them, please write me and I will send it to you. I have my reasons.

Contact: WILLIAM R. BESWICK
P.O. Box 576, West Point, Virginia 23181
Telephone: 804-843-2696

Looking for Someone

Several people approached me after the 69th Membership meeting in Rochester about donations for the "Memorial Park" in Strehla, Germany.

One gentleman gave me a nice donation. I neglected to acquire his name and address. Will he please identify himself by the amount he gave me, so that I can send him a receipt and the tax exempt number. There was so much going on, I just plain forgot. Sorry about that. Please contact Bill Beswick at the address above.

— WANTED — Articles for a New Issue of "Yanks Meet Reds"

Needed:

1. Articles by people who have not written before as well as previous authors.
2. New ways, if any, of looking at the impact and importance of the link-up.
3. Photos, especially any that haven't been published.
4. How the link-up affected or changed your life.

Please send your articles and copies of photos by January 15, 1994 to:

DR. DELBERT E. PHILPOTT
P.O. Box 2014
Sunnyvale, California 94087-0014

Material submitted will be forwarded to Dr. Niedersen in Torgau, Germany.

Mini-Reunion of the 1st Platoon, H-273rd at Princeton, New Jersey



Left to right: Bernie Shamanowitz, Richard Henderson, Steve Wythe, Charlie Locke, Leland Jones, Bob Andrew, Bert Eckert, Ed Dragasitz.

NOTE: We were especially happy to have Lieutenant Leland C. Jones join us following his return from Torgau, Germany.

HELP WANTED

Anyone who knew or formerly served with Ted Mix of the 69th Quartermaster Company, please contact his daughter:

Mrs. Marge Schwankl
2 Moccasin Drive
Ephrata, Pennsylvania 17522
Telephone: 717/733-6436 or
800/325-9004

**69th Infantry Division's
47th Annual Reunion
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
August 21 thru 28, 1994
Sheraton Music City Hotel
SIGHTSEEING TOURS DESCRIPTION**

**TOUR #1
COUNTRY MUSIC SPECTACULAR TOUR
TUESDAY, AUGUST 23rd**

9:00 a.m. — Board our awaiting motorcoaches for a full day of sightseeing. You will drive by the homes of the stars such as Minnie Pearl, Ronnie Milsap, Tammy Wynette, The Governor's Mansion and more. You will also see historic downtown Nashville including admission to the Ryman Auditorium (former home of the Grand Ole Opry). Continue touring with a drive by the State Capitol, Parthenon and then to Music Row. You will drive by the recording studios used to make some of the greatest country hits. A stop will be made and admission included to the Country Music Hall of Fame. Built in 1967 to memorialize the industry's outstanding performers and leaders. The museum features exhibits covering over sixty years of country music history. A stop will be made to have lunch on your own and to shop at some of the gift shops on Music Row. After lunch, board your coach for a tour of the Opryland Hotel. You will explore the winding walkways and view the waterfalls and foliage in the conservatory, a two acre garden under glass. Then visit the Cascades, the two acre theme area under a one acre skylight. Return to the hotel at 3:00 p.m.

**TOUR #2
HALF DAY SIGHTSEEING TOUR**

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23rd and 24th

10:00 a.m. — Board our waiting motorcoaches for a sightseeing tour of Nashville. You will drive by the homes of the stars, through historic downtown Nashville, by Music Row and much more. Return to the hotel at 1:00 p.m.

**TOUR #3
JACK DANIEL'S DISTILLERY TOUR
and MS. MARY BOBO'S LUNCH**

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23rd and 24th

9:00 a.m. — Board our waiting motorcoaches for Lynchburg, Tennessee. You will enjoy a personally guided walking tour of the Jack Daniel's Distillery (the oldest registered distillery in the United States). You will see the Jack's famous whiskey making process but don't expect to buy or drink any of Jack's whiskey because Lynchburg is in a dry county. You will enjoy a family style lunch at Ms. Mary Bobo's Boarding House featuring all the southern favorites. After lunch, enjoy a leisurely ride by some of Tennessee's most beautiful walking horse farms. Return to the hotel at 4:00 p.m.

NOTE: Keep in mind that the Jack Daniel's Tour involves over 250 steps during a one hour period (approximately 175 are down and 75 are up).

**TOUR #4
HISTORIC NASHVILLE TOUR**

WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY, AUGUST 24th and 26th

9:00 a.m. — Board our awaiting motorcoaches for a look at Nashville and the surrounding area's history. Our first stop will be in Franklin, Tennessee for a tour of the Carnton Mansion. This house was built in 1826 by Randall McGavock.



It was used during the Battle of Franklin as a hospital and a two acre Confederate Cemetery is on the property. Our next stop is the Carter House located on the sight of the Battle of Franklin and at one time during the war was used as a Union command post. The house was built in 1830 and features a museum and video on the history of the Battle of Franklin and its effect on southern lifestyles. A stop will be made at Cool Springs Galleria for lunch on your own and time to shop in some unique store in the Galleria. Board your coach for the Hermitage. You will step back in time and history with a visit to the 625 acre plantation home of Andrew Jackson. The mansion features beautiful white pillars, wide verandas, spacious front hall and graceful southern architecture. Return to the hotel at 4:00 p.m.

**TOUR #5
GENERAL JACKSON RIVERBOAT LUNCH CRUISE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 25th**

11:00 a.m. — Board our awaiting motorcoaches for the General Jackson Showboat. You will enjoy an all you can eat buffet lunch, scenic cruise down the Cumberland River, and live musical production by Steve Hall, Shotgun Red and The Shotgun Red Band. Return to hotel at 3:00 p.m.

**TOUR #6
OPRYLAND THEME PARK**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26th — 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Boards at 9:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27th — 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Boards at 12:30 p.m.

Board our awaiting motorcoaches for Opryland U.S.A. Musical Theme Park. This park features a wide variety of shows (Country, Bluegrass, Fifties Style Rock 'n Roll and more), dozens of rides, gift shops, restaurants and more. No other place in the world has so much fun to entertain everyone.

**TOUR #7
GRAND OLE OPRY**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26th

5:45 p.m. — Board our awaiting motorcoaches for the world famous Grand Ole Opry. Watch the greatest stars in country music as they perform on stage. Radio's longest running show is broadcast live on AM 650 WSM from the Grand Ole Opry House. Return to the hotel at 9:30 p.m.

**NOTE:
TOUR FORM WILL APPEAR IN NEXT BULLETIN.
PRICES NOT YET CONFIRMED.**

THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE

by — Dottie Witzleb
Ladies Auxiliary Editor

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

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



Dottie Witzleb

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

Ellen McCann, Secretary
 39 Mayflower Road
 Woburn Massachusetts 01801
 Telephone: (Please send to Dottie)

Edith (Jean) Brannon, Chaplain
 720 Grand Bay Wilmer Road
 North Mobile, Alabama 36608
 Telephone: (Please send to Dottie)

Margaret Kormas, Asst. Chaplain
 12500 Edgewater Drive
 Apartment #503
 Lakewood, Ohio 44107
 Telephone: 216-228-6024



Alice Wolthoff, 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

Our Sunshine Lady, Margie McCombs, will be Sunshine Lady for the rest of 1993. Then a new ladies auxiliary member will be taking over. Please let me know her name and address plus telephone number. If new supplies are needed, please let me know as in the past, either Margie or the new person. Ladies officers, please send pictures and telephone numbers. Dottie

A Message from your Auxiliary President, Alice R. Wolthoff

Dear Ladies of the 69th:

First I feel real honored to serve as your President for the next two years. With everyone's help, I'm sure it will be successful.

I'm sure everyone had a good time at Rochester, I know I did. Our thanks go to Jack and Mary Duffy, chairpersons, and all their helpers.

I received a lovely thank you note from our Sunshine Lady, Margie McCombs, thanking us for the Nativity Set (Precious Moments).

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Nashville, Tennessee in 1994.

Ladies, keep the knitting needles clicking on those lap robes size 36 X 45. Anyone needing instructions for the bibs or slippers can send me a note and I'll forward the instructions to you.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all of you. May the New Year be healthy and a happy one.

Sincerely,
 Alice R. Wolthoff, President
 Ladies Auxiliary

A Message from your Past President, Maria Keller

Dear Ladies and Friends of the 69th Auxiliary:

This will be my last letter to you as President of the Ladies Auxiliary. I want to thank you for your support over these last two years and to especially thank the officers who served with me. We look forward to working with Alice Wolthoff of St. Petersburg, Florida who was elected President.

Rochester was a beautiful city for a reunion. Mary and Jack Duffy planned a nice program for us. There were 151 in attendance at the meeting on Saturday - 11 of them first timers. The food program presented by Chef Matea was different and interesting. We collected 48 lap robes, 13 pairs of slippers, 2 scarves and assorted soaps for the Batavia V.A. Hospital. Mark Frances, Public Affairs Officer, came to accept them along with a \$500 check for personal items for the veterans.

I will be completing the collection of Bulletins for the Camp Shelby Museum and also getting Joe Wright's delightful story (published in the last three bulletins) ready for their files.

Margie McCombs was presented with a special gift in appreciation for her work as Sunshine Lady. Margie will soon

(Continued on Page 26)

THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE
(Continued from Page 25)

be moving into smaller quarters and we will be on the lookout for a new Sunshine Lady. Thanks Marge. A gift of appreciation was presented to Dottie Witzleb for her work as Editor of the Women's Page.

We voted to increase the dues to \$5.00. It would be nice to have all of the wives send in dues to the new treasurer. We thank Bob Kurtzman, Treasurer, and his wife Vivian, for their work and support.

I appreciate my plaque for serving as President. The friendships made compensate for all the work that has gone into the past seven years that I served as an officer.

Sincerely, Maria G. Keller



Mark Francis of the V.A. Hospital accepting lap robes from Maria Keller.



New Officers — Ladies Auxiliary

Alfred Blain Writes

I am writing you this short letter to let you know that my wife, Rita M. Blain, passed away September 13th, 1993 and hope you can put it in the next bulletin so all her friends in the 69th Division Association would know. Thank you and may God bless you.

Alfred J. Blain, Cannon Company, 271st Infantry

A Letter from Colonel David E. Bolte

Colonel (Ret.) David E. Bolte
836 Herbert Springs Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22308

Dear Maria and 69th Ladies:

The card from the 69th Infantry Division Ladies Auxiliary was most welcomed by my Mother, and also by her offspring. That card, each year, signed by so many, is a recurring reminder of the friendship among the members of the Division Association and their wives and helps to soften the sometimes difficult condition in which my Mother survives. Perhaps that makes it sound too grim, for she maintains her poise and confidence and her generosity of personality. I see her almost every day, sometimes as much as three or four times a day, depending upon daily travels. She is in the retirement community only two and a half miles from our house. My sister gets in from nearby Leesburg, about 40 miles west of Washington, usually a couple of times a week. In fact, she is coming today, and will bring my Mother down to the house for supper.

My Dad was pretty faithful in attending at least part of most of the more recent reunions. My Mother went to most of those with him. In the later years, either my brother and his wife, or Mary Lee and I, accompanied him, or them, to make the trip easier. Unfortunately, though Mary Lee and I did make the Biloxi reunion, we have not attended the last - can it be the last two? We did not go to Denver, nor to San Francisco, nor to Rochester. It is hard to keep up with those associations of my Dad's service while attending to one's own associations. We had children and grandchildren here during the Rochester Reunion and could not be away.

My Mother does keep up her spirits quite well, despite the difficulties of her physical condition. She is legally blind, and has such pain in her back that she has much difficulty moving about. And, of course, the less "exercise" one takes, the less use of the limbs and muscles, the more difficult and more limited movement is. She worked hard in her life to make a success of her family and there is no doubt it "took it out of her." She always was so active and energetic physically, from the days when she rode horseback, played tennis, swam, and cavorted with children, to later days when needlework absorbed her energies, along with raising mastiffs and doing yardwork, which my Dad seemed to avoid, at least to some extent!

I see that the next reunion is in Nashville. My brother recently has settled in the far northwestern part of South Carolina, so perhaps he will be able to and interested in attending that. And it is not so long a drive, and less of a flight, from Washington, if we can arrange it. With children in Boston, Miami Beach, Virginia, and Colorado, we find we cannot travel enough to be with them and the grandchildren as we would like. Travel really is out of the question for my Mother, as it has been for several years. When my Dad died in 1989, I think she felt that most of her responsibility had ended, which is a reasonable feeling, though she still works on we three siblings from time to time.

I tried to read off all the names on the card to my Mother, and, of course, she remembered many, and I was able to remind her too. Including the clipping from the Bulletin in which the award of the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal was described was a touching reminder, although she insists that she does not understand why the award was made. Thanks again for the card.

California/Western Chapter "Round-Up" San Diego, California April 14-17, 1994

Come join the Western Round-Up of friends and wartime 69er buddies for a mini-vacation in the sun. It's appropriate that our first official round-up be held in the first Spanish settlement in California at the location of the first Mission built in 1769. The round-up will be held at the Vacation Inn in "Old Town" San Diego.

San Diego has great weather, an almost unlimited list of attractions and many nearby golf courses. The "Old Town Trolley Tour" is a must. It circles the areas around Old Town through Balboa Park, past the Zoo, Aero-Space Museum, downtown San Diego over to Coronado Island, along the sea, and back to Old Town. Take a Harbor Cruise or Dinner Dance Cruise. Visit one of 10 theaters, the world-famous Zoo, equally famous Wild Animal Park, or enjoy a Brewery or Winery visit. Heritage Park next to Old Town is a must also to see the old "Victorian" part of town. An enjoyable afternoon can be spent on Mission Bay with a visit to Sea World.

Any interested member of the 69th Infantry Division Association can obtain copies of the schedule, agenda, hotel registration form, Chapter "Round-Up" registration form, and San Diego literature by sending a letter to: **Delbert Philpott**, P.O. Box 2014, Sunnyvale, California 94087-0014.

HELP WANTED Men of the 271st

Anyone knowing the location of former **Captain Donald C. McCoppen** who served in Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 271st, please contact:

Charles Kooles
1148 Andrews Avenue
Port Charlotte, Florida 33948

Company M, 271st has successful get-together in Rochester

This photo is of the attending members of Company M, 271st at the reunion in Rochester. This was the largest group that had ever attended, even though one was missing from the picture. With some work that I want to do in 1994, we hope we can double this.

Standing in back: Reba Sheavly, Bill Sheavly, Jim Shoemaker and Ivo Petrucci. Seated: Dottie Stacy, Jim Stacy, Mrs. Petrucci and Mary Nell Shoemaker. Missing from the picture is John Boyle. Jim Stacy was our Company Commander.



Impressions of A First Timer

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

Impressions of a First Timer on the Occasion of the 69th Division's 50th Anniversary Reunion at Rochester, New York

We gather here who now must seek to mend
the ravages of three score years and ten
For we who fifty years ago were spry
now peer through multifocal lens and try
with all the strength our age-dimmed eyes allow
to recognize the wrinkled cheek and brow
of long-lost friends who look expectantly
for signs of recognition, though it be
unlikely that on this erased slate
We'll find the name of that now balding pate.

But no more talk of aging or old-timers
Ague or gout or imminent Alzheimers
We're here to celebrate our mere survival
and drink today to memory's revival.
Recall old Shelby? Oasis of the South?
Where Mississippi chiggers filled their mouth
with Fighting 69th Division skin.
The greatest red bug feast that's ever been!

Recall the nights our Don Juans made their bed
with Reading's generous Regimental Red.
Recall the blue of vamping fraulein eyes
that tempted purest hearts to fraternize.
Recall the day we forged the final link
and watched the sagging German fortunes sink.
Yes, now we may relive those fateful years
and savor them with joy that's mixed with tears.

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

Into the Past with the Tramp Script, the 724th F.A. Battalion Newspaper

Submitted by: Mike Makuh
2618 Hearthstone Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

I was in the 724th Field Artillery Battalion, A Battery. After we met the Russians and V-E Day, we had the opportunity to publish a battalion newspaper "Tramp Script - 724th F.A. Bn." and later into the 29th Division the "Lilac Times." Len Braverman of New York was editor and I was photographer and art cartoonist. We used commercial German printing facilities. I am enclosing a few copies of the pages which contain news of our action when it was fresh.

The February/March 1992 issue of "American Heritage" Magazine had a few pages, including photographs, of our meeting the Russians and actually noted the 69th Division.

I am enclosing a photo of Bob Hope and Jerry Colonna reading our paper when they entertained the troops in Bremen, Germany on 17 July 1945.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We could not reproduce the original pages because of the quality of the copies. However, the articles below are typed word for word from the newspapers as Mike Makuh sent them.)

* * * * *

Sunday, 22 July 1945

Bob Hope And Troupe Wow GIs!!



Jerry Colonna and Bob Hope

Photo by Makuh

Show at Nordenham Huge Success

"He came, we saw, he conquered" — no more fitting phrase could be appended to the performance given by ace comedian Bob Hope and company last Thursday in nearby Nordenham. Yes, from the very moment Bob took the stage to the grande finale, he and his wonderful troupe of entertainers had the audience gleeful and in a perpetual state of convulsed hysterics. But wait, we're getting a bit ahead of our story!

For about thirty minutes just preceding the show we had the pleasure of listening to some of the grooviest music we have heard in many a moon. The 399th band, an all colored ensemble ran the gauntlet of jump, swing and sweet music in as fine a manner we have heard from any service outfit.

Then came the "Irium" kid, himself. And you can believe us, it wasn't long before Bob had the boys rolling in their chairs (there weren't any aisles) with his laugh provoking line of chatter. We don't think that there is a better morale builder in the ETO.

The next four "dishes" in this full course serving were, in the order named: June Brunner, a gal who really can pound the keys; Patty Thomas, a pert little tap dancer with gobs of personality; Ruth Denas, whose accordian playing and rendition of "I Said No" tore down the house; and Gail Robins, who melted 800 hearts when she sang "Embraceable You." For the GI who has been yearning for the sight of some of that good old American pulchritude - here was a gravy train. And with each gal, Hope made the most of the "situation" with his improper gags at the proper time."

And then came another big moment in the show: Jerry "The Mustache" Colonna really had the joint rocking when he sang (or should we say - shouted) his own inimitable version of "On the Road to Mandalay." From here on out it was anybody's guess as to just what would happen. One of the choice bits that Bob and Jerry did together was the enactment of two long lost brothers finally being reunited. Then they were joined by Jack Pepper, an entertainer with a swell voice, in a trio which was fashioned after the Ink Spots, the Andrew Sisters and the Hall Johnson Choir all rolled into one (we were going to mention the Westminster Choir here, too, but they really don't need the publicity).

And all too soon came the hilarious finale. This was a take-off on the various and sundry "commercials" we don't get in our overseas broadcasts. Here Maestro Hope led his "glee" club (made up of the entire cast) in a manner which would have made even Fred Waring swoon (with horror or envy - we're not saying). At any rate it was this act that brought the mirthful show to an end.

Did someone say, "Was it that good?" Why, as Jerry Colonna himself would say — "Terrific!"

* * * * *

69ths FIRST COMBAT DIARY

The 12th of February was the first day of combat for the Fighting 69th. It was a slushy, muddy setting for the greatest production ever performed. Thawed ground was dug for defensive positions, guns were laid and readied. Excitement rose as the first fire mission was prepared. The order to fire was given, the lanyard jerked and the gun belched. Number one was on the way - the first of the 9,406 rounds dispatched to enemy territory. This was our artillery tuning up for the series of concerts it would give to the Jerries: this was our answer to German might and militarism; this was voicing our vehement disapproval of Nazi war aims.

The first dog fight in the air was observed here and a Flying Fortress was seen to burst into flames while its crew members bailed safely out into enemy territory. A lone plane called "Bedcheck Charlie" made his rounds at night in search of tell-tale lights that would give our position away.

So the days went by in comparative safety, the Observation Post parties had a look-out in Hollerath overlooking the Prether River valley. Artillery volleys were exchanged but no major activities resulted. Then the first jump-off was planned for the morning of the 27th of February at 0600. This was H-hour when the 69th Division would really earn its title, the Fighting 69th.

A prelude to the attack consisted of the symphony of whistling shells over the heads of our advancing troops punctuated with the staccato of propellant blasts and detonating explosions. The infantry crossed the valley and edged up the opposite hillside. The going was tough and discarded gas masks and overshoes marked the path up the slippery incline. Opposition was met on the summit. A rugged time was had by the O.P. parties along with the leading elements. Wiremen had difficulty in maintaining their lines that were being subjected to the pounding of artillery, mortar and screaming meemie shells.

After some bitter fighting the objective was taken. Bushem, Honningen, Giescheid, Oberreferscheid, and Recheid

(Continued on Page 29)

INTO THE PAST WITH THE TRAMP SCRIPT
724th F.A. BATTALION NEWSPAPER
(Continued from Page 28)

were the first of the towns on the long list of objectives taken by the 69th.

The dauntless doughs were fast making progress and on the 1st of March the artillery moved out for previously-dug positions in the Ardennes Forest on the Siegfried Line. This convoy wound up treacherous, muddy hills with engineer's tape marking off mined areas, passing crippled Tiger tanks, going by a dead Jerry in sleeping pose, accordingly nicknamed "Hoiman the Voiman," dashing across Purple Heart Corner, slithering through the dragon's teeth, and ending up in a pillbox area just a few miles west of Hollerath. Dugouts were made in the woods and solid houses built with heavy logs in preparation for a long stay. But we had hardly time to finish the construction when the order came to CSMO.

* * * * *

MARCH DOWN THE RHINE

March 28th was the eventful day that the 724th Field Artillery Battalion crossed the Rhine River. The pontoon bridge at Bad Godesberg was just wide enough to accommodate the army trucks. Anti-aircraft units were everywhere. We followed the river on the opposite bank coming across miles and miles of vineyards - the guys' hopes perked up - this being the center of the wine industry maybe we could pick up a drop or two.

It was a long stretch through small winding streets lined with stone houses. German people looked sullenly at the intruders as we gave them a "Heil." The trip ended in the wee hours of the morning at a barracks area near Fort Ehrenbreitstein. This, incidentally, was the place our American troops had vacated in 1927 ending their occupational stay. Despite the long hours of travel the GIs made an inspection shakedown of the area and came across everything from museum costumes and swords to German ordnance shops to wine cellars. So we added a few items to our growing collections. After a few days of hilarity we moved out to Dietkirchen near Limburg.

Easter Sunday fell on April 1st and the peaceful holiday was spent in quiet retrospect. It was in these homes that we came across German loot from all surrounding countries - chinaware, radios, and beautiful linen from Belgium and France. The howitzers had plenty of swab rags then. We were told that we would play a leading role in the dash across Germany right on the heels of the spearheading 9th Armored Division.

The short stays and frequent moves from the next run of towns was a nightmare of hectic incidents - Anraff, Phillipiendorf, Simmerhausen, Lutterburg and Kaufunger Wald outside of Steinberg. There was a spooky place. Our rapid thrust made us apprehensive of our surroundings and reports of Krauts were constantly being heard.

We crossed the Werra River and pulled into position at Marzhausen - always eastward - then to Freinhagen.

From here it was necessary to transport our doughboys in our follow up. It was our first contact with the real soldiers of this war and we drank in all the stories of their experiences.

Wingerode was just a stopover for the night and we continued onward to Buchel. From there was a dash through dense woods and cross country passing up a bunch of Wehrmacht with their hands in the air. We obligingly picked them up. Having to stop for a while waiting for further orders we pulled off the road and spread out. Luckily so, because a short time elapsed when four ME 109's spotted us and were about to start trouble but our ack-ack held them off.

Uichteritz was reached and it was from this position that we fired on Weissenfels - 191 rounds. Enemy planes kept us on our toes and there was one plane that flew so low we could almost see the surprised look on the pilot's face. Baker

battery chanced upon a small arms plant in their area and requisitioned a few.

From here on our mission was to concentrate on the capture of Leipzig. It was to be the biggest prize of all and the division started picking off the surrounding towns that compromised its outer ring of defense.

* * * * *

AFTERMATH OF WORLD WAR II

The Camp De Walde at the airdrome of Polenz had been an Allied prisoner of war center with freed Americans, British, French, Dutch and Polish prisoners. Here was our first close contact with Allied prisoners and we heard first-hand the stories of rough times at the hands of the enemy. The bestial treatment they had to put up with was bitterly related by all. Chow was a rare commodity to the unfortunates and efforts to keep them ignorant of the advance of the Allied Armies were carried to the extreme. Leaflets dropped from our planes were strewn over the areas where the prisoners worked but it was death to the ones who picked them up.

Most of our boys had been captured in the Ardennes Bulge. Their listless eyes and dejected mien denoted their harrowing experiences. What price victory! They looked forward to getting their promised trips back home and it was encouraging to feel that we had been instrumental in gaining their release.

Samples of German ingenuity were seen in the immense hangars. All variations of planes - jet propelled and midjet liaison lay crippled along the fields. All the landing strips were mined and had aerial bombs placed in staggering intervals to prevent any Allied plane from landing. This was reputed to be the largest airport in Germany.

On orders to move, the 724th went to Bad Durrenburg. This town had an unusual installation - a huge wall half surrounding the city filled with closely packed boughs. Water filtered through the network depositing salt on the surfaces. This served the dual purpose of humidifying the air and making the water more potable.

Each battery had its own area to patrol and maintain surveillance. Outposts continued picking up newly discharged Wehrmacht and bigger and better boodle became liberated. Some of the boys got some close calls in contact with some armed refugees. SS troops showed up with their tell-tale blood type tattooed on their arms and were dealt with severely.

The autobahn through this part of the country which was a convenience built for the German Army in quickly moving supplies and troops, now accommodated the American Army equally well. Periodic craters in the engineering masterpiece displayed the pin-point accuracy of Allied bombing.

A trip to Leipzig was revealing - there were numerous 88 positions that were outposts for protection against air raids on Leipzig.

Rusting depressed gun barrels typified the picture of a defeated Germany. It could be seen that it had once been an elaborate set-up with complicated range finders coupled to the guns aided by powerful searchlights. Leipzig itself is divided in two parts by a park and small river - on the one side the residential section which had been spared the brunt of the Allied air raids - and the other half, in stark contrast lay the ruins which had once been the industrial business area.

Twisted beams and bricks littered the blocks and sidewalks. The aggregation of bricks gave us the rightful title of "Brickmakers." Our boast - we'll take any big building and make little bricks out of it.

The "Battle of Nations Monument" was a "must" on the 69ers tour of Leipzig. The fortress looked imposing on the hill overlooking the city. The structure was built as a dedication to the strength of the German Army. We changed its appearance with numerous dents and holes to add our contribution in dedicating American might.

(Look for more of the Tramp Script in the next Bulletin.)

69ers Get Together for a Trip through Germany

Kenneth A. Sawyers, *News Reporter*
Company D, 273rd Infantry
2935 Turtle Mound Road
Melbourne, Florida 32934
Telephone: 407/254-7175

Bob McCarty and I joined up with six other 69ers headed by Bud Parsons and we spent the period of April 23rd to May 1st in Germany. The details concerning ceremonies and conferences held in Torgau and Strehla will be found in Bud's report. I will limit myself to those portions of the trip that I think would be of the most interest to fellow company members.

Heading west from Torgau on April 26th we crossed the Mulde River and headed south to Bennewitz. There we recrossed the river to get a view of the Mulde River where the pontoon bridge was located. The area looked much the same as in 1945. We tried to locate our quarters, but our memories were faulty. I think we passed the street we wanted on our way south of town. We had better luck in Grimma. With less of an idea of direction than we had in Bennewitz, we stumbled upon the apartment building we once occupied. The warehouse building across the street remains. The apartment building looks the same but older.

Bob and I noticed familiar terrain in the vicinity of Hann-Munden, but there is more change in that area, making it difficult to pinpoint actions there. There was no such problem on the Siegfried Line. Of course the area looks far more prosperous than it did many years ago. Looking through far different eyes we could see that it rates well as a resort area. I took pictures of the old house in which the company



In Berlin (clockwise) Heinz Richter (driver, interpreter) Charles Chapman, Ken Sawyer, Bill Matlach, Ray Olson and unidentified German.

CP (battalion, too I believe) was located along the highway paralleling the German border. We were tempted to trespass across the field to see if any signs remained of the dugouts we occupied in the woods. Instead we proceeded down the nearby lane to Miescheid. The layout is recognizable, but the buildings are all tidied up. After picture taking between and on the dragon's teeth barrier we went on to look at a destroyed bunker. No attempt was made to retrace our steps across the hill and field on the way to the Rhine.

It is time to make plans to attend the reunion in Rochester. I expect a good turnout from the first and second platoon. I had phone calls from a few third platoon members since I last wrote. If Rochester doesn't bring them, maybe Nashville will. The years are rolling by, fellows.



Apartment building we stumbled upon on our trip that we once occupied in Grimma.

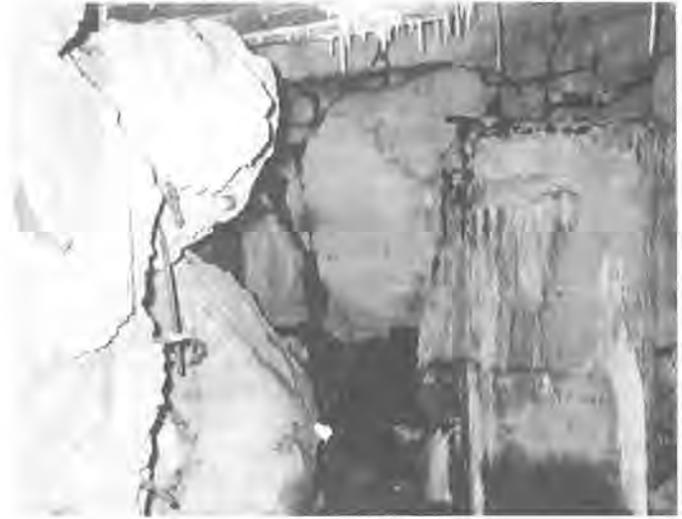


Company D, 273rd Infantry CP on the Siegfried Line near Miescheid

(Continued on Page 31)



Mulde River - Pontoon bridge was near the bend in the river.



Inside a destroyed bunker.

Memories of a Replacement Soldier

Company B, 271st Infantry Regiment

Submitted by: Elmer C. Miller

16 South Whisper Court, Columbus, Georgia 31909

I took my Infantry Basic at Camp Blanding, Florida from September to December 1944. I went on Christmas leave and then reported to Camp Miles Standish, Massachusetts, where we were issued two complete issues of clothing. One issue in a duffle bag, the other in our pack. Under supervision, we put a can of dubbing on each pair of new combat boots, then spent several hours walking around in the snowy woods at night to break the boots in. We were loaded onto the USS West Point at Boston. Our voyage to Scotland was unescorted, then we took a train to Southampton, then were loaded on a British freighter and held in the channel because of heavy fog. We were fed potatoes and one can of salmon for eight men. We had no bunks, the bulkheads were wet and no one could sleep on deck. We debarked LeHavre carrying the damnedable duffle bag to a huge warehouse where we unloaded the duffle bag, piece by piece, onto large piles of similar items. I was issued an M-1 rifle covered with cosmoline to strip and plunge into hot water. Under the cosmoline I found clotted blood on the stock.

We were loaded on 40 x 8's and got off somewhere in Belgium, then loaded on 2½'s and taken to some small village. As we unloaded, the driver was raising hell to hurry as they were within artillery range. They left and we all stood around dumb-founded because no one met us as the driver said they would. About dusk this man, I believe a corporal with heavy lens glasses, called names assigned to B Company. He told us to maintain close contact with the man in front of us because it was getting dark and he had to follow the commo wire between the Battalion and the Company. After a short distance, he yells "incoming" and we hit the ground as it seemed like 6 or 8 shells exploded just ahead of us. My helmet fell off and rolled down into a small stream where I recovered it. The commo wire had been severed and he had us stay in place while he hunted for and found it.

We finally got to the platoon and I was made Assistant BAR man. My instructions were to carry X number of magazines and to keep up with the BAR man who had long legs and a bushy moustache. I was glad I was young and in good condition.

My next memory — stop where you are and sit. We are in a mine field. We spent the night, cold as ice. The next morning we walked away without explanation. I remember we were in a 1½ ton truck on a switchback towards the Rhine and the brakes gave out and the driver brings it to a halt with the gears, emergency break and running the side of the vehicle against the bank. Great job.

At one time much of the company had the GIs. The medics brought paregoric. I lucked out and decided I would sleep in the barn the mess had set up their stoves in. Someone found some eggs and wanted the cooks to fry them. They lit the stove which flared and caught the hay in the mow overhead on fire. A yell woke me as I was in my sleeping bag. I yanked the zipper which opened but the bag snagged on my hunting knife and I couldn't extract myself. I was jumping as if in a sack race when two men at the door grabbed each side of the bag and threw me bodily out the door. My boots and rifle were still in the barn as was my machine gun and mortar ammunition. It was the 4th of July, early in 1945. It was a number of days before I received replacement boots and I marched in overshoes after I put on a number of pairs of heavy socks liberated from the farmhouse.

Then on to Kassel and the heavy odor of death, bulldozers clearing the streets of rubble. A small farm town named Ziegelroda sticks in my mind. Leipzig with the Denkmal held by the SS and the good chocolate, sardines and cigars we received after their surrender.

Then on to Eilenberg, where after being fired upon, the artillery and 4.2 mortars did a job starting just over the bridge and working their way up the slope. Then we were in German positions looking over a small river, believed to be the Mulde. I was on OP as dawn broke and saw horsedrawn 88 artillery pieces on the other side. It was reported and the response was, don't fire on them. They were Russians going towards Colditz.

The war ended and we were all given a physical. I had developed a hernia and was taken to Merseburg and flown to Rheims, France and on to the 241st General Hospital in Sissonne. Two months later I returned to B Company and a group of high pointers had been transferred in on the way home. I was sent to C Company, 15th Infantry in Arolsen, still a Private. I retired from the U.S. Army 1 August 1968.

Camp Shelby 69th Video Tape 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:

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

TAPE AVAILABILITY:

Tapes are available for the price of \$15.00 now. If you place an order and do not get your tape within 20 days you should let me know.

MEMBERS, GET THEM WHILE THEY LAST! YOU MAY NOT HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE!

The Recon Bottle

Submitted by: Harold Gardner
2929 Mason Avenue, Independence, Missouri 64052-2962
Telephone: 816/254-4816



A number of years ago, Trooper Bones Schueler purchased an expensive bottle of French Cognac. He had it encased in a wooden stand and a brass plate attached. The plate reads: "69th Cavalry Recon Troop 1943-45 - THE LAST TROOPER." The result was shown in the above picture. This bottle is always on display at our annual reunions. It was originally intended that his bottle would be opened by the last trooper, and he would drink a toast to all his fallen buddies.

In a 69th Bulletin in 1988, Mike Moscaritolo commented about this bottle and at that time several of the fellows discussed the possibility that maybe it should be opened by the last TWO Troopers and they would have the toast. This might not be a bad idea and we'll bring up the subject for discussion at our reunion in Oshkosh.

If any of you are fans of the television series M*A*S*H, you may remember the episode in which the bottle was sent to the Colonel who was the last member of his WWI unit. He drank a toast by himself to his "old" buddies and then drank a toast with and to his "new" friends. It was quite an emotional scene in the series.

It is possible that some of the other units in the 69th also have something like this. Our thanks again to Bones Schueler for obtaining the bottle and having the stand made so it can be displayed.

A Look Back at 1945 from R.H. Fredrikson's Memoirs

Company H, 272nd Infantry
2734 Hollydale Drive
Homewood, Illinois 60430

In cleaning out some of my files, I came across this copy of a letter that I wrote to my fiancée who later became, and still is, my wife. At the time this letter was written, I was CO of Company H, 272nd Infantry Regiment. We were billeted in the town of Mockrehna which was 14 kilometers east and a bit south of Torgau.

The letter was typed on a liberated German typewriter while I was sitting in my second story room in a house which was the Company CP and located on the main road or street that ran through the town. Most, if not all, of the men and officers spent quite a bit of time at Torgau on both sides of the river and thoroughly enjoyed a companionship with the Russians including getting a bit drunk together on German liberated booze. Quite a few of us managed to horn in on the big banquet that was held on the east side of the river. Female Russian MPs were guarding the area but we just flashed any piece of paper in front of them and they let us pass. Many of the men in Company H joined in the dancing that is referred to in the letter.

The good part of this letter is the fact that it is not based on sometimes faulty memories but is a document produced at the very time of the events that are therein described.

During the few days we were in Mockrehna the Division issued orders to turn in all captured German vehicles in our possession. Our Company did have an almost new German made Ford truck with an enclosed body all in excellent condition. We used it to haul all of our surplus booty and other goods we liberated. The reason given for the order to turn in those vehicles was that the unit mechanics were spending more time repairing these prizes than they were spending on our own trucks and jeeps. I believe every unit had one or more vehicles from large trucks such as ours, to motorcycles. Some of the units even had some of the original Volkswagens.

While I have not been active in the Association's endeavors other than paying dues, I most certainly enjoy reading the Bulletin. I do appreciate the time and effort that you and the other Association Officers and personnel have devoted to the Association.

Following is the letter described above.

* * * * *

Watching the Russians in Deutchland

5 May 1945

Dear Dark Eyed Rebel:

Today has been very dismal with rain falling spasmodically and a chilly wind blowing through the town. For the past several days we have not had a warm day and even though the sun has poked itself through the heavy clouds occasionally it has failed to warm up the long days.

Since meeting up with the Russians we are going through a period of inactivity in comparison to what we have been doing in the past two months. Much speculation has been going on as to what we are going to do in the very near and distant future. Naturally rumors flow like water among the men and of course all of them are "most reliable." It is extremely difficult to accurately forecast our movements as there are so many factors involved that can change our plans and situation without much notice.

The past few days have been spent in watching the Russian Army go about its business of living, moving and the

general way they conduct themselves. I can assure you that it is truly an education. They are by far the most motley, carefree, unorthodox and mixed group of men (and women) ever organized under command and questionably called an army. All day there has been a continuous procession of them moving through this town and I have been observing them from my room with great interest and wonder. My interest has been centered on their strange manners, appearances and their various types of equipment while I wonder how they have managed so successfully to push the Germans as far as they have.

In the columns that have been rolling by my window there has been every vehicle that the unlimited mind of man has ever conceived and constructed. Dog carts, hand wagons, horse carts of all sizes, shapes, colors and degrees of condition, bicycles, motorbikes, motorcycles, farm tractors pulling huge trailers, buses, cars, Model "A" Fords trucks by the dozens, lend-lease American trucks and jeeps, captured German vehicles of all types, trailers and many more. Then there are men marching in formation, in small groups, and singly while others ride horseback. The uniforms that they wear range from smartly tailored standard Russian uniforms to civilian clothes. It appears that many of the released Russian prisoners have rejoined their Army right where they were released.

There seem to be more four-wheel, two horse carts or wagons than any other type of conveyance. The items that they carry in them would undoubtedly furnish material for Ripley for many months. In the carts will be a bundle or pile of hay, some sacks of feed of some type, blankets, boxes, ammunition, supplies of many types and many other objects that are covered with canvas or other covering. I am having difficulty in describing them as they have to be seen to get the true and accurate picture. Despite how they appear to us, they do have discipline and control which any successful army must have to accomplish their assigned missions.

Yesterday I had two Russian Captains for dinner and we learned a great deal about each other through an able interpreter that I so fortunately have in the company. They admire our equipment very much and commented on the conduct and appearance of our men. They have quite a few Studebaker 2½ ton trucks that were the result of lend-lease and which are almost identical to the GMC truck that we use so much. They think that the Studebaker is a wonderful "machine" as they use it to tow their heavier equipment and they do not refer to it as a truck but they call it a "Studebaker." It was quite apparent from their manners at the table that they are used to a much rougher life in all respects except the actual fighting, than we are. They seem to have a great deal of respect for the American fighting ability and the accomplishments that we have been accredited with. Most of their officers come up from the ranks as our officers do and the relationship between them and their men is not unlike ours. They salute each other more as a matter of greeting than between ranks. Of course the junior salutes the senior but many salutes are exchanged between privates. In other words, instead of a "hiya Joe" as we do, they will give a salute.

In regards to the women (a most interesting subject) there are quite a few of them with the front line units who serve as telephone operators, MPs, a few snipers and other "not too tough jobs." Many of them are quite nice looking but most of them are more or less built on the heavy side and it isn't fat by any means. Unlike our military women, theirs are armed (with firearms) and I can assure you that they know how to use them. Most of them are armed with sub-machine guns and I wouldn't relish the idea of tangling with one of them if she suddenly took a dislike to me.

(Continued on Page 34)

**A LOOK BACK AT 1945 FROM
R.H. FREDRIKSON'S MEMOIRS**
(Continued from Page 33)

Wherever they stop they bring out the ever-present accordion and the dancing, singing and festivities start. A group circle is formed in the street or wherever they may be and first one man or woman starts to dance and soon a couple will come out in the circle and it goes on and on endlessly with only a few in the circle at one time. Some of our men will join them and everyone has a good time. There has been no friction of the slightest degree between the Russian and the American soldier as each look at each other in wonderment and considerable friendliness. They do quite a bit of heavy drinking and they have a standard issue of cognac which will knock the average man on his ear. They drink it like water but they do not get drunk.

The personal looks and characteristics of the men vary quite a bit due to the great expanse of the Soviet Union and the variety of people that live there. Many of them apparently come from the Siberian area as they are of that particular type or they might have come from the Mongolian country. Their wild and businesslike look is enough to give us part of the answer why the Germans went back so rapidly. They are definitely people that we were anxious to make friends with.

Their kitchens are of the "soup kitchen" variety which consist of one huge cooker heated by coal or wood in which most of their food is placed and comes out as a one dish meal. The cooker is mounted on a two or four wheel cart and is pulled by horses.

You must bear in mind that the above description of what we have seen is of only one unit in one small area and it might not be a true representation of the Russian Army. We have seen a few of their armored vehicles and their medium guns both anti-tank and artillery. What we have seen however, is not our conception of what a modern, hard fighting, winning army should look like.

Since we have seen all of the allied armies in the field we have come to one conclusion that has not been based upon what we read or are told but what we have actually seen and that is that the American Army is by far the best clothed, equipped and fed army in the world. To see all that we have seen makes many of the men very thankful that we have what we have and their appreciation for it is intensified.

I have no objection if you care to show this letter around or publish it in the paper as there might be some people who would like to know what we have seen at this historic meeting place of two great armies.

Wire Section of C-879th Gets Together in Rochester



Front row, left to right: Chuck "Syd" Thompson - Wire Section, Don Masterano - 105 Howitzer, Jim "Root" Jones, Wire Section. Back row: Bob Stern - Gun Sergeant, John Runden - Survey, John Melanson - Wire Section

Above is a picture of fellows from the Wire Section and #2 Gun of C Battery, 879th Field Artillery that was taken at the National Reunion in Rochester, New York. Some months ago Chuck "Syd" Thompson got my address and we have been communicating with each other since then to locate others from our Battery in hopes that many of us could get together at the National for a first time Reunion. Seven of us did attend although Frank Kruger did not make the photo session.

It was truly wonderful to see our old buddies after almost fifty years and the reunion itself was one of the best that I have attended. God Bless and stay well.

Submitted by: Jim Jones
3818 Nautilus Trail, Aurora, Ohio 44202

Company L, 273rd Infantry Buddies Get Together



Julian Godsey and Eldon Atwood reading the 69th History Book together.

Enclosed please find a photograph taken recently at the home of Julian Godsey of Hanover, Virginia. The occasion was a reunion of Company L of the 273rd Regiment. Both of us served together throughout the war and have remained friends ever since.

We are both retired now, which enables us to hold these "reunions" periodically and it is a great time to reminisce about days long gone by.

Eldon M. Atwood
2909 First Avenue, No. 4-B
San Diego, California 92103

The 273rd Infantry Regiment in the Siegfried Line

By Alan H. Murphey

Photos furnished by
Chris Van Kerckhoven

NOTE

All comments and questions regarding historical information in this series should be addressed to the author, Alan Murphey, at 1339 Hemlock Drive, Fairborn, Ohio 45324. For those with questions about photographs, relics found in the 273rd area and wartime landmarks as they exist today, please write Chris Van Kerckhoven, at E.J. Van Gansenstraat 21, B-2260, Westerlo, Belgium. This is his new address and is effective 1 October 1993.

PART 4

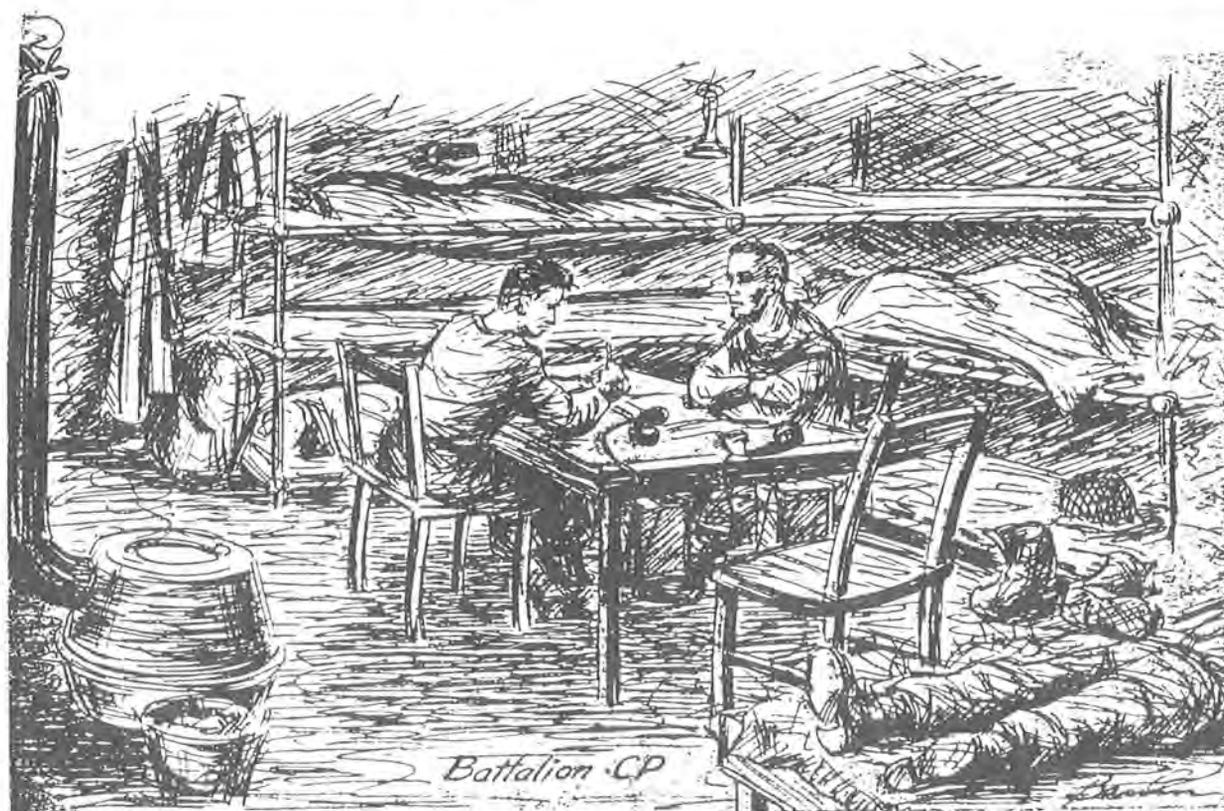
Late on the afternoon of February 19th, a liaison officer from the 273rd Infantry arrived at the 69th Division CP at Murringen. In his briefcase, he carried an overlay showing German pillbox locations. At the CP, the officer briefed Major Victor Conley, the assistant G-3 officer, on the regiment's plan of attack for that night and the following day. The plan called for Company I, at midnight, to occupy pillbox 25 at the north end of Udenbreth. Although believed to be unoccupied, the pillbox would be approached with explosives and a flame thrower in case any Germans remained. A second pillbox, pillbox 17, was assigned to Company A. An assault

team from that company would attack it before dawn on the 20th. An acknowledgement that the overlay had been received and a notation of 273rd Infantry's attack plan was duly entered in the Division G-3 Journal. The entry was the first reference to pillbox 17 to appear in the 69th Division Journal. Both regiment and division were aware of pillbox 17's strategic importance. Positioned on the knob of a hill southwest of Kamberg, it overlooked Miescheid, Udenbreth and a portion of the road to Dahlem. With a revolving turret and two firing embrasures, the fortification had an 180-degree field-of-fire to the west. The number "17" was an American identification number. The U.S. Army did not use the same pillbox numbering system as the Germans. On German army maps, pillbox 17 was Bunker 35, identified as a "Gefechstand" (command post) bunker with "Kampfraum" (combat room). Major Conley was hopeful that Company A would be able to neutralize pillbox 17 in its dawn attack the following morning.

With the arrival of darkness, the regimental front became relatively quiet. Shortly before 10:00 p.m., at the south end of Udenbreth, a low humming sound was heard coming from the east. The sound grew more ominous. Then, suddenly, a long fiery streak flashed overhead. It was a German "buzz bomb" headed for a city in Belgium. Company I was the first to report the sighting to the battalion CP. The report was confirmed by a wire crew and others who had seen the V-1. The bomb was estimated to be at an elevation of about 5,000 feet when it passed overhead.

About an hour after the buzz bomb sighting, Lt. Col. Shaughnessey received some depressing news. Third Battalion had suffered more casualties that day than during any previous 24-hour period since entering combat. Fortunately, no one had been killed. In all, 13 men - 12 wounded and

(Continued on Page 36)



Two soldiers man telephones inside the 3rd Battalion command post bunker at Udenbreth while others sleep in tiered bunks along the walls. The bunker was built in 1939 for use as a command post and had no firing embrasures. The roof and walls were made of 6'-2 feet of reinforced concrete (sketch drawn by SSgt. Rudolph Baum, 3rd Battalion operations sergeant, about May 1945).

**THE 273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT IN
THE SIEGFRIED LINE** (Continued from Page 35)

1 combat exhaustion case - were listed on the battalion casualty list:

2 Lt. Robert Lerouax I Company
2 Lt. Edward L. Karp L Company
Sgt. Walter B. Zeven K Company
Pfc. Frederick C. Egan I Company
Pfc. J.D. Geater L Company
Pfc. Lars T. Kristiansen L Company
Pfc. Gene Morgan K Company
Pfc. Joaquim A. Neves K Company
Pvt. Phillip J. Bigtrack K Company
Pvt. William B. Jones I Company
Pvt. David Keller L Company
Pvt. Stanley M. Orszulsk I Company
Pvt. John A. Wiegund I Company

Of the 12 wounded, 11 had been evacuated to the 97th Field Evacuation Hospital and dropped from assignment with the battalion. One individual, 2nd Lt. **Karp**, had been returned to duty with L Company after a doctor at the clearing station dressed a flesh wound in his thigh.

The only good news for 3rd Battalion that day was the night attack on pillbox 25. As planned, just before midnight, an assault team from Company I stormed the small pillbox close to the road leading north out of Udenbreth towards the Schwalenbach stream. As hoped, the concrete structure was found to be empty. The team reported that nearby pillboxes "show no signs of activity."

However, I Company's operation was a "cakewalk" compared to the task assigned to A Company. Before dawn, an A Company combat patrol reached the tree line below pillbox 17 after a 300-yard climb. As the patrol approached the pillbox, the Germans opened up with small arms. From the intensity of the fire, it was obvious the enemy had drawn an imaginary line in the sand. They would not give up pillbox 17 without a stiff fight. Soon, a salvo of rockets fell in the vicinity of the assault team. In an attempt to reorganize, the team withdrew to a position on the reverse slope of the hill. Here again, they were subjected to rocket fire. One GI was wounded by a mine, another by rocket fire. Unable to reorganize prior to daylight, the patrol was ordered to return.

Word that the attack on pillbox 17 had failed reached 1st Battalion at 7:05 a.m. Additional details were radioed in by the patrol during the next half hour. Lt. Col. **Salladin** told regiment that he planned to re-attack the pillbox that evening at dusk. This information was immediately passed up the chain of command. The operations officers at V Corps at Eupen received the news via telephone at 7:55 a.m.

The failure to neutralize pillbox 17 was a setback for 1st Battalion and the regiment. However, the Germans were having their own share of problems. At least a dozen men from the 989th Volksgrenadier Regiment deserted to 273rd Infantry lines on February 20, a trend that the German unit could ill afford. The first deserter, a lone German soldier waving a white flag, reached 3rd Battalion lines before 8:00 a.m. A little over three hours later, at 10:10 a.m., a group of Germans with a white flag were observed making their way towards Udenbreth from the northeast. As if to warn the German deserters to return to their lines, German artillery began crashing into Udenbreth at 10:20 a.m. In all, at least 30 rounds fell on 3rd Battalion. Apparently the barrage in



German boy stands at entrance door to farmhouse used by 3rd Battalion as an OP at Udenbreth in 1945. (1960 photo from Herr Mueller of Udenbreth via Van Kerckhoven.)

front of them frightened the Germans off, as they changed direction, heading instead toward 1st Battalion positions at Miescheid.

Twelve minutes after the German barrage began, a German shell smashed into the I Company command post. The shell demolished the building and knocked out all communications. When the dust cleared, it was evident that one man had been mortally wounded - **Sergeant Sam E. Tindell**. A shell fragment had hit him in the head. He died soon after from his wound. **Sergeant Tindell** was the first man in Company I to be killed in action, although 11 from the company had been wounded since arriving at Udenbreth.

In the meantime, 5 bedraggled but happy German deserters reached Miescheid. When questioned by members of B Company who took them prisoner, the Germans said that they had come from Rescheid.

At the northern end of the regimental front everything was quiet that morning. Close to the Ramscheid church, Pfc. **Hubert Porter** from 273rd Anti-Tank Company, had seen the earlier flashes of German rockets being fired from beyond Kamberg to the southeast. These probably were those fired at the Company A team attacking pillbox 17. Glancing to the west, he was surprised to see a group of American P-47 fighter planes circling the sky. To **Porter**, the planes looked like they were "dog fighting among themselves." A few minutes later, **Porter** watched the planes roar eastward and dive on German positions. Suddenly, puffs of anti-aircraft fire were visible in the sky east of Giescheid. Observers at the regimental OP at Ramscheid saw the action and passed the information to regiment:

(Continued on Page 37)

THE 273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT IN
THE SIEGFRIED LINE (Continued from Page 36)

"At 11:27 flak observed at approximately 109 degrees azimuth, 3000 yards. Quite a bit. Seven P-47s strafing at this position."

Based on the azimuth and the presence of flak guns, the planes appear to have attacked German artillery and rocket positions around Oberwolfert, east of Giescheid.

The slow flow of German deserters continued. At 12:15 a.m., 2nd Battalion called regiment to say that an F-Company OP had seen German soldiers waving a white flag to the south of their post, "in front of 2nd Battalion." By the end of the day, a total of 6 POWs had passed through Ramscheid on their way to the rear.

What precipitated the increase in German deserters crossing to American lines on February 20th is not known. Neither the regimental S-3 or divisional G-3 Journals tell if those taken prisoner had been on line for some time or had just arrived. However, the 273rd Journal does contain some clues that something was going on behind enemy lines. These are found in an increase in military traffic. In a four-hour period beginning at 12:00 a.m., 20 German soldiers were observed moving on foot in groups of two or three along the Rescheid-Schnorrenberg road. Most of the soldiers were walking north from Schnorrenberg to Rescheid. Only a small percentage went south in the opposite direction. These observations indicate that units were being relieved. As a certain degree of confusion is inherent in such moves, there were more opportunities to desert, if a soldier wanted to take advantage of them.

What was unknown to the 69th Division G-2 on February 20th, was that the German 89th Infantry Division on the 277th's left flank were being pulled out of line and moved north. Elements of the 89th had been manning two pillboxes (82 and 83) along side the Dahlem road and a strongpoint on Rauher Berg. In early February, the Germans developed a plan to break up the remaining elements of the understrength 89th and assign them to the 277th Volksgrenadier Division facing the 69th. The idea was to increase the fighting strength of

the 277th "by reducing and combining the Divisions' staff and their troops, particularly the signals sections." However, practical implementation of the plan proved too difficult and the plan was abandoned. Instead, another division, the 26th Volksgrenadier, was ordered to side-step north and take over the positions held by the 89th.

At 4:00 p.m. a battery of 105mm howitzers from the 881st Artillery Battalion near Murringen opened up with a brief barrage. With a shrill scream, the first shell passed over the International Highway and hit the hillside due east of Miescheid. The target - pillbox 17. At 4:11 p.m., an artillery observer called and reported, "PB 17 received a direct hit!" In retrospect, the artillery fire may have been counter productive. Even the direct hit obviously did no damage to the Germans inside, protected by 6 feet of reinforced concrete. What it did, was alert the enemy that the Americans might be preparing to attack a second time that day.

When, at 4:30 p.m., the assault team from A Company began moving forward in its final approach on the pillbox, they were greeted by a hail of fire. Pressed against the hillside, the platoon was hit by machine gun, mortar and 88mm fire. They managed to place "a couple of hits on enemy embrasures" but were unable to move forward. Pfc. Alden Beverly of Company A had lugged his 21-pound Browning automatic rifle up the hill and was tired. This was the second time he had done so. Ten hours earlier he made the climb as a member of the unsuccessful pre-dawn attack. Beverly could not understand why they had been sent out again, this time while it was still light. With the final approach to the pillbox in the open, the Germans could see every move they made. From what Beverly could observe, the only good thing was that the team was safe from German small arms fire as long as they remained in a kind of sloping, U-shaped gully just below the crest of the hill:

"We were able to crouch down and the Germans could not lower their guns to reach us."

However, to Beverly and the rest of the team, it was obvious that the attack had failed again. About an hour later, exhausted by the harrowing ordeal, the combat patrol reached the relative safety of A Company's positions along the International Highway. Regiment was notified at 5:15 p.m.

that the mission had failed. A detailed report was phoned in by Major Male, 1st Battalion exec officer at 5:50 p.m. Regiment passed the report to Colonel Richard J. Conran, the Division G-3, a half hour later.

During this period, Miescheid was hit by a 15-round rocket barrage which ended at 5:45 p.m. This undoubtedly was a German response to the attack on pillbox 17. The "screaming meemies" were launched from a position opposite 271st Infantry. This indicated that the morning P-47 attack probably had knocked out enemy rocket positions near Giescheid and Oberwolfert, which normally fired on 273rd positions.

That night regimental recon patrols reported increased German activity along the front. A 3rd Battalion patrol heard the Germans digging some kind of emplacement close to the Dahlem road in the vicinity of pillbox 82 and 83. Another night patrol got close to Rauher Berg and reported, "enemy very active on hill and in some strength." A patrol from 2nd



Ammunition and upper half of mess kit excavated by Chris Van Kerckhoven in forest close to International Highway (Rt. B-265) west of Udenbreth. Photo taken 30 May 1993.

(Continued on Page 38)

**THE 273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT IN
THE SIEGFRIED LINE** *(Continued from Page 37)*

Battalion code-named "Willie," made it to the outskirts of Giescheid, which they found shrouded in heavy fog. Crouched in a ditch, the patrol observed what they described as "increased activity" in the village.

It was still dark when the Germans began their morning barrage early on Wednesday, February 21st. The first enemy shell hit 3rd Battalion at 5:10 a.m. At 5:35, the artillery barrage ceased, after an undetermined number of shells fell on Udenbreth. When daylight arrived, visibility was poor. However, this was caused by morning ground fog, a common occurrence on winter mornings in the Ardennes-Eifel region. Within a couple of hours, the fog lifted and German positions became visible. Along the regimental front, observers with binoculars scanned the countryside to the east searching for movement. They were not disappointed. An exceptional number of sightings were made that day. Between 9:15 a.m. and 4:45 p.m., 28 individual reports were received by regiment. In all, 80 German soldiers were seen in 28 different sighting reports. Again, foot traffic on the road between Schnorrenberg and Rescheid was brisk. Seventy-five percent of the traffic was observed moving north toward Rescheid, including one Volkswagen seen at 1:15 p.m. One report was significant. A 69th Division Artillery observation plane reported considerable activity at Neuhaus, 1300 yards southeast of Schnorrenberg. About two squads of soldiers with packs and bedding

were seen entering a house — a good indicator that a unit was being relieved.

At the 69th Division command post at Murringen on February 21, there was a growing impatience to knock out pillbox 17. After lunch, Major Conley called the 273rd Infantry CP requesting information on future plans to attack the elusive pillbox. Major J. R. Sykes, the regimental intelligence officer, gave him a brief description of their proposed operation for the next day. A couple of hours later, Colonel Conran, Division G-3, visited Major Craig, the 273rd S-3, to obtain a first-hand briefing on the regiment's plan to knock out pillbox 17.

Starting at dusk, 2nd Battalion at Ramscheid received intermittent machine gun and mortar fire. But as the evening progressed, the enemy guns fell silent. Following this, white and yellow flares lit no-man's-land along the regimental front about every ten minutes. This continued until 10:00 p.m. when the front returned to inky blackness. Third Battalion used this period to continue its seizure of abandoned pillboxes. At 11:30 p.m., an assault team from L Company, armed with flame throwers, reached pillbox 40, only to find it "filthy and unoccupied." Just after midnight, the team reached nearby pillbox 39. Not only was the pillbox unoccupied but was "found to be partly demolished with two dead Germans outside."

— **TO BE CONTINUED** —

(See next page for map of event locations)

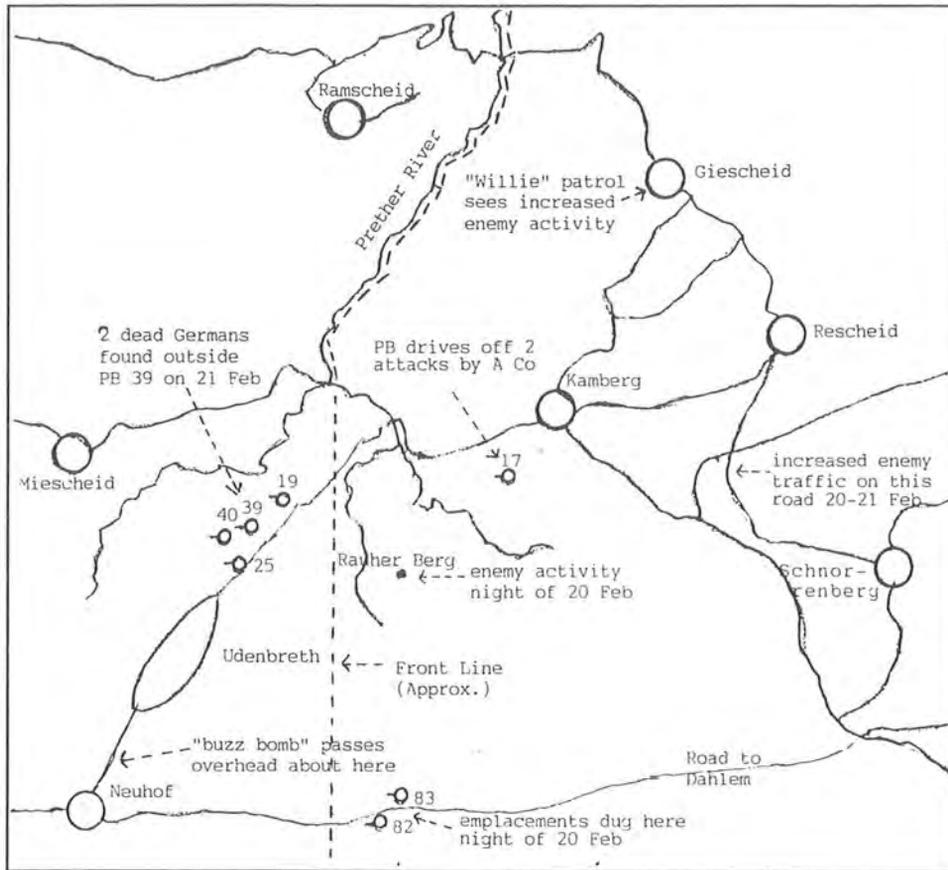


Snow-covered dragon's teeth still guard German frontier just east of the International Highway (now Bundes Rt. 265). Photo taken a few yards north of the Udenbreth turn-off on 22 February 1992.

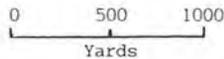
Notice to Members of 1st Battalion, 273rd Infantry who were at Wurzen on 24 April 1945

On the morning of 24 April 1945, the Burgermeister of Wurzen, Dr. Armin Graebert, and a small group of Germans crossed the Mulde river and surrendered the town to Major Conley, newly-appointed commander of 1st Battalion, 273rd Infantry. The surrender reportedly took place at Bennewitz on the west bank of the Mulde opposite Wurzen. Later, discussions about subsequent organization of the town took place at the Wurzen Town Hall.

According to German accounts, photographs of the surrender were taken by American soldiers. Does anyone have photos of the surrender or any showing American and town officials together? If so, please write to Alan Murphey, 1339 Hemlock Drive, Fairborn, Ohio 45324 with details.



**273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT
EVENT LOCATIONS
19-21 FEBRUARY 1945**



○ - Pillboxes & numbers mentioned in article

Surprise visit

Submitted by: James M. Carroll
569th Signal Company
207 Tanglewood Lane
Levelland, Texas 79336

Mary and I had a very pleasant surprise on March 6, 1993. Glenn Hunnicutt, a 69th member of the 271st, and his wife Nadine of Hastings, Nebraska stopped and visited with us for a few hours. We had a good time talking about our 1990 69th tour of Germany and other places in Europe.

While they were here we went out to the barn and looked over a 1960 John Deere tractor that I have restored.

May I suggest that 69ers who are traveling stop and visit other 69ers when possible.

Mary and I will not be able to make the reunion this year. Maybe next year though. Thank you for your help and work for the 69th.



Glenn and Nadine Hunnicutt of Nebraska on our tractor.



American Photo Co.
Camp Shelby

Headquarters & Headquarters Btry. - 69th D

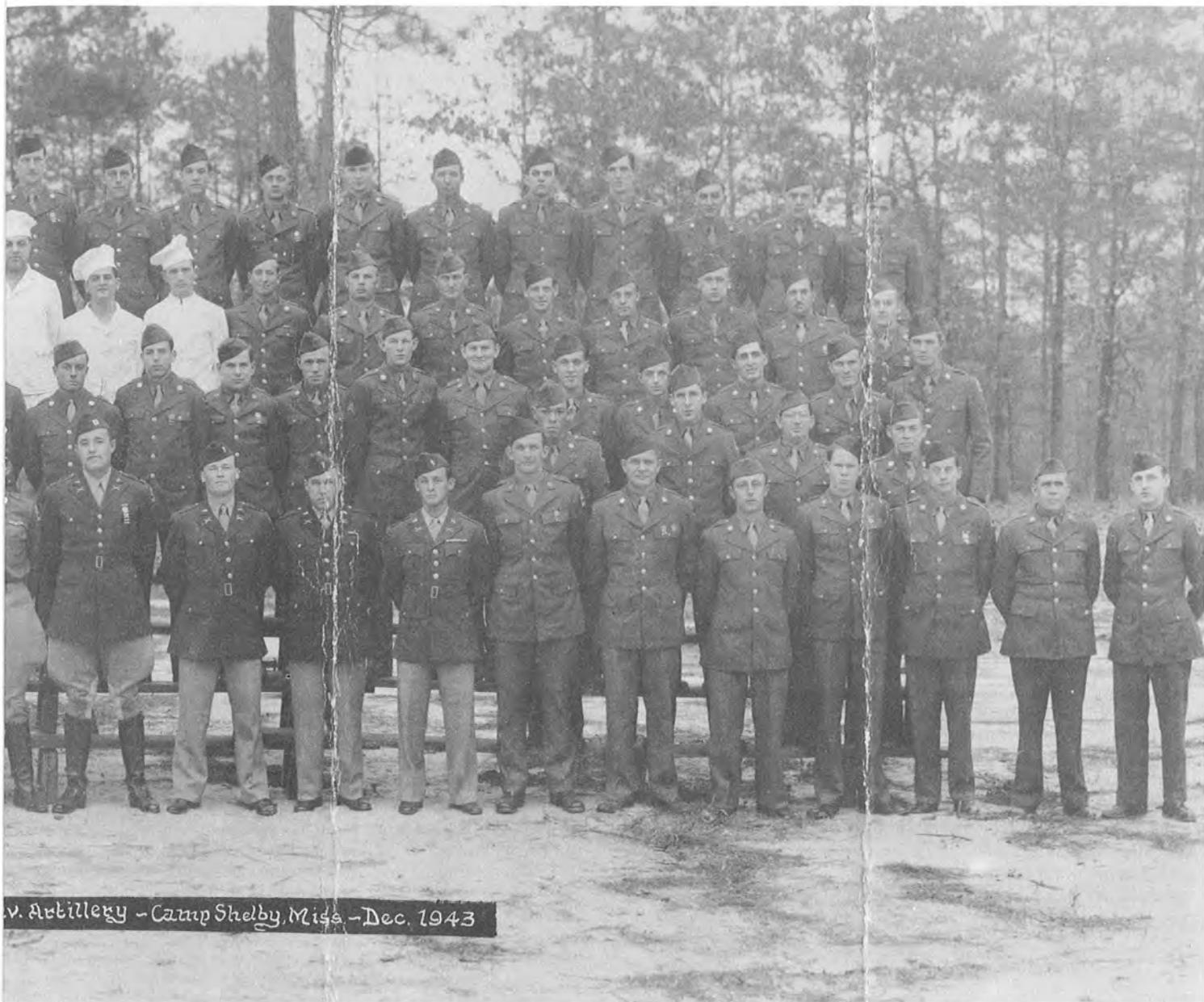
*The Best to All
69ers in the
Coming New Year*



**Headquarters and H
69th Division
Camp Shelby, Mississ**

Submitted by: C
7412 Exmore Street, Spring





v. Artillery - Camp Shelby, Miss - Dec. 1943

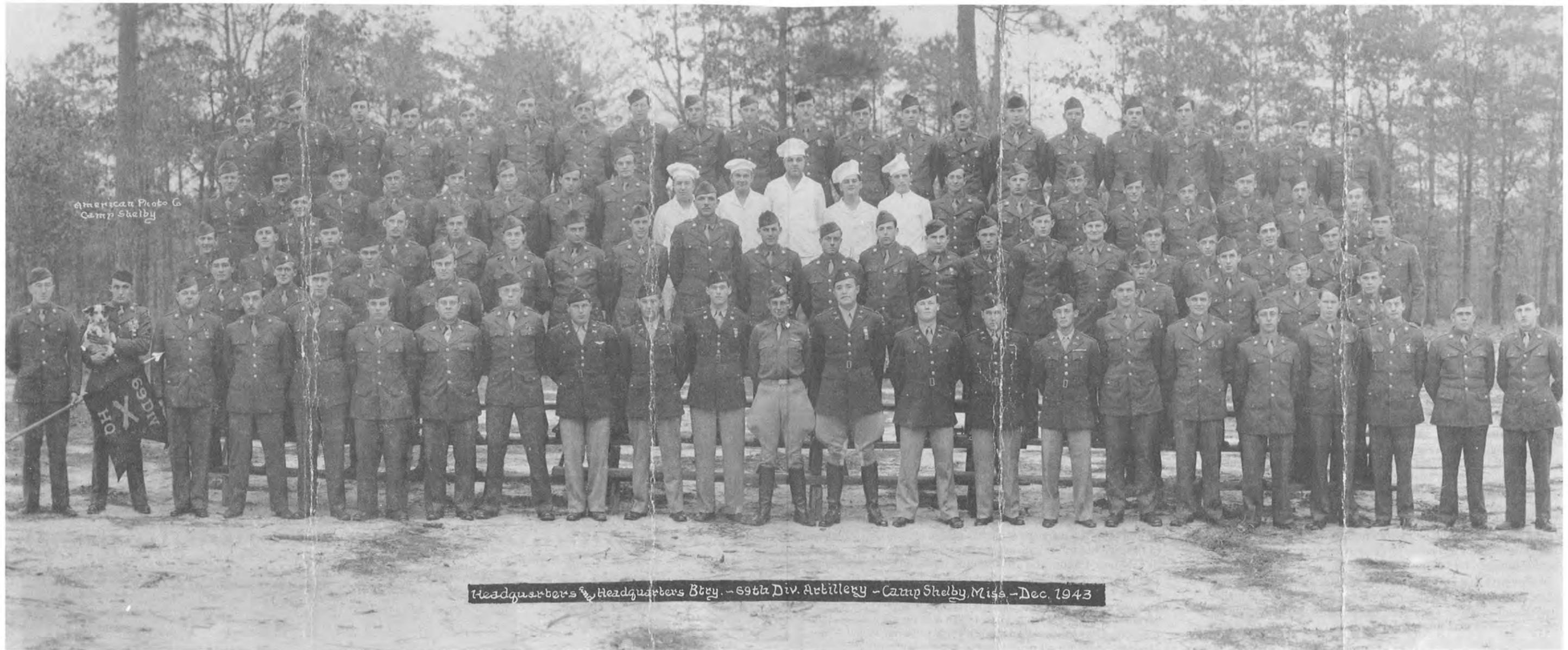
**Headquarters Battery
on Artillery
Mississippi - December 1943**

Charles Chapman
gfield, Virginia 22150-4026



*Wishing You
A Wonderful
Holiday Season*





American Photo Co
Camp Shelby

Headquarters & Headquarters Btry. - 69th Div. Artillery - Camp Shelby, Miss. - Dec. 1943

**Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
69th Division Artillery
Camp Shelby, Mississippi - December 1943**

Submitted by: Charles Chapman
7412 Exmore Street, Springfield, Virginia 22150-4026

*The Best to All
69ers in the
Coming New Year*



*Wishing You
A Wonderful
Holiday Season*



KP (Kitchen Police)

By Howitzer Al Kormas

Battery C, 880th Field Artillery

12500 Edgewater - 503, Lakewood, Ohio 44107

Prior to entering the service, we all heard and dreaded the word KP, and it sure proved that on first assignment, up at 0430, and getting out at usually 2030 hours. Cooks and Mess Sergeants throwing their weight around on rookies and doing pots, pans, washing dishes and silverware and coffee mugs for about 150 GIs. Then getting initiated on doing the grease trap, which many men refused to do this, putting your arm almost up to your shoulder in stinking grease. Always work to do and don't ever get any refuse or garbage in the wrong GI cans, and make them shine. Finally when discharged (from kitchen, not service), and a long lathering hot shower, you still had grease on your body, hair, and clothes right into your laundry bag. But as time went on, it had some humorous moments also.

For example from a personal point: The first time on leaving for our first 20 mile hike, and we were lined up ready to go, and a KP became ill, **First Sergeant E. Stark** took out the detail book and looked at me and said, get into the kitchen - and away I went. What an easy day that way until they came streaming in during the evening carrying one or both shoes and groaning.

On Christmas Day in England I found myself on KP at Brock Barracks at a joint 879th and 880th mess with my good buddy "Filthy" Gray, and he had gotten a quantity of bottled ale and we hid it all over the mess area and by noon we were pretty well loaded. With a surplus of turkey, I threw about a 20 pounder out the back storeroom window into the snow, plus bags of tea, sugar and oranges and bananas. We finished at 2039 hours and I gathered it all up into a duffle bag and took it to the English lass's home and her mom cried and asked if she could invite the neighbors in for a feast, which we did. Many came and I will never forget a 5 or 6 year old boy holding up an orange and asking his mother what it was.

Our first rest at Schmidtheim after crossing the Siegfried Line, **Sergeant Stark** was telling me to take the jeep and trailer full of empty water cans back to the water point and hurry back as water was needed for noon chow. My mistake was taking my good buddy "Bigfoot" Parker along. It was a few miles back over lousy muddy roads. We came upon a large winery with all kinds of GI vehicles and all hauling out wine from large barrels in cellars. As a result, we got back hours late and all the cans were full of wine. Some were not closed properly and wine was all over the trailer. Not to mention the one we opened in the jeep and **Bigfoot** just about passed out. As you probably know, this did not sit too well with the brass and **Sergeant Stark** and **Captain Thomas** issued an order to have the men bring their canteen cups. As for **Parker** and I, we received the usual reaming out and extra duty.



Al Kormas at Camp Shelby, Mississippi in 1944 on KP

Prior to leaving Camp Kilmer on our last night, we were supposed to be restricted to an area, but myself, **Bigfoot Parker**, **Filthy Gray**, **Juggie Powers** and **Shorty Hartman** shall we say, got "caught" out of the area in a PX drinking beer and were marched over to this large messhall and put to work. Needless to say, every time this Mess Sergeant separated us in five minutes we were together again with a few pitchers of beer we hid in various areas there. Finally in desperation, he told us, "I know you are shipping out tomorrow morning. I will give you all an easy job, just do that, and I will not bother you at all." To this we agreed. All of us were in a room and were to crack eggs into the large GI cans for morning scrambled eggs. This quantity of eggs was for a few thousand men. Needless to say we got comfortable until one yelled "Fire Mission," and we all proceeded to send a few eggs crashing into a wall. In the morning none of us ate the scrambled eggs as many an egg went into the GI cans shells and all. They seemed to enjoy them.

So all you 69ers who dreaded KP soon came to find out it had great moments, too. I am certain those few incidents will bring back many a humorous moment to you and remind you of your buddies. So get to the phone and get back into contact with the ones you haven't heard from or seen in a long time. It's later than you think. I recently lost two of my closest.

My GI Buddy

Written by an ETO combat infantryman, unknown — Submitted by Howitzer Al Kormas

I wonder where he is today, that GI buddy of mine
Is he still that happy carefree guy or did he change with time.
I remember the hours we marched along
The nights we went to town
Sleeping in a fox hole on that hard and snowy ground.
I can remember the many times we laughed and once,
we even cried. But somehow we made it. My buddy Joe and I,

I wonder if life has been good to him or did he have troubles too.
Wherever you are my buddy Joe, I often think of you.
The time we said farewell we embraced and said goodbye
We didn't try to hide it, the tears that were in our eyes.
Did he find true love or did she pass him by
I pray the Good Lord has been good to him
My GI buddy and wonderful guy.

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. 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.

Tri-State Group

TRI-STATE BLUE IS THE FAMILY GROUP

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

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

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

SO 'YA ALL COME - HEAR



Earl E. and Dottie Witzleb, Jr., *Coordinators & News Reporter*
R.D. No. 1, Box 477
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606
or
P.O. Box 69
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
Home Telephone: 412/455-2901
(Call anytime, day or night; weekends or holidays)
Dottie's Work Telephone: 412/433-1713
(Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

When passing through the Keystone State, stop and see us. Dottie and me welcome all 69ers in the mountains of Acme-Champion, Pennsylvania "WHERE AMERICA BEGINS."

Is it ever going to get here?? What!! The Tri-State weekend at Canaan Valley. Oh yes, it's been here and gone, for June 9th through 13th, 1993 didn't wait for anyone.

A small group of 61 happy members wondered where the time went. When your having fun it goes like, you know what. Wednesday saw about 11 rooms being occupied with the remainder coming in on Thursday and Friday, and three couples on Saturday for the banquet only. It was the usual Canaan Valley treat with everything going well and the food

was fine. Many of the group went on their own Thursday and again on Saturday traveling to see the many wonders of West Virginia in the area.

Roughly 8 to 10 traveled to the French Creek Game Farm near Elkins on Thursday but to some extent, many were disappointed since usually only a pair (2) were in each pen and hard to find. It was hot and they were in the cool spots. We then stopped at a fish hatchery on our way back seeing many thousands of trout just waiting for the time they will be put in streams for the fishermen. It was something to see for the first time, gold trout. We also met a beautiful young girl who was on her knees taking pictures of the fish. It really made our trip when we all left at the same time from the hatchery and Harold Wepler got her on the CB. Like Harold, she was a trucker in Virginia until her parents made her quit that job and get another. We found out her handle was Butterfly for she flew all over the country hunting men. What a time we did have with her as she followed us on 33 and when we turned off on 32 to head for Canaan, we did keep our fingers crossed hoping she wouldn't come our way. She did go straight heading for Virginia, so you Virginians, you watch out for Butterfly.



First timers Charles and Frances Yannul take time out to get a picture with Earl and Dottie. Left to right, Earl Witzleb, Frances Yannul, Dottie Witzleb and Charles Yannul.

The golfers got a day in on Thursday and again on Saturday. We do like our golfing at the Tri-State level for it is practice for the big Chuck Herring Memorial golf day at all national reunions and coming up is Rochester and Nashville. We do like to think of our golfing as the Chuck

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Herring Memorial Junior practice rounds since Chuck and Lottie were good Tri-State members. Hopefully we will see Lottie and all our old timers at a weekend soon for time is running out on we 65 plus adults. Do attend our next 1994 weekend at Charleston, West Virginia in May with Brownie and Anna Belle Parsons in charge. It will be a good weekend and talking to Brownie just recently, if Tri-State goes over big, we as Tri-Staters may just run a National in that city in the near future. It all depends on a few things.

Now to tell you other 69ers who attended our Tri-State weekend last June 1993:

Paul and Mayreta Kitner, 724th Field Artillery, Battery A
West Lawn, Pennsylvania

Brownie and Anna Belle Parsons, 724th Field Artillery,
Battery A
Charleston, West Virginia

Harold E. Wepler, 724th Field Artillery, Battery C
Genoa, Ohio

Al and Margaret Kormas, 879th Field Artillery, Headquarters
Lakewood, Ohio

Enrico and Anne D'Angelo, 880th Field Artillery, Battery C
Saltsburg, Pennsylvania

Lester E. Hart, 881st Field Artillery, Battery C
Williamsfield, Ohio

Clarence Marshall, 69th Headquarters
New Kensington, Pennsylvania

Phil O. and Minnie Sessler, 69th Headquarters, Medical
Fairmont, West Virginia *(First Timers)*

Carl and Mildred Stetler, 569th Signal Company
Reading, Pennsylvania

Charles and Frances Yannul, 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion
Bellmawr, New Jersey *(First Timers)*

L. Boyd and Stella Ellsworth, 69th Recon Troop
Steubenville, Ohio

Carl and Ruth Miller, 69th M.P.
Bucyrus, Ohio

Helen and Dan Evers, 269th Engineers
Brookhaven, Pennsylvania

Frank and Ted Nemeth, 269th Engineers, Company B
Levittown, Pennsylvania

Ward and Marian Peterson, 269th Engineers
Glen Mills, Pennsylvania

W. Kenneth and Barbara Bernhardt, 271st Infantry, Co. F
Emington, Illinois

(Note: We hope you two did not get flooded out. Please let us know as well as others living in the Mississippi flooding area.)

Cecil A. and Alene Cottle, 271st Infantry, Company F
Portsmouth, Ohio

Ash and Arlene Fuller, 271st Infantry, Company F
Reinholds, Pennsylvania

L. Vaughn and Betty Woomer, 271st Infantry, Company F
Tyrone, Pennsylvania

Robert N. and Wanda L. Grimm, 271st Infantry, Company L
Lancaster, Ohio *(First Timers)*

Vernon L. and Norma Hanlin, 271st Infantry, Hq. Company
Mt. Storm, West Virginia

Arthur and Nancy Holgate, 271st Infantry, AT Company
Kendall Park, New Jersey

George and Virginia Weston, 271st Infantry, AT Company
Piscataway, New Jersey

Leroy and Estaline Park, 271st Infantry, Company G
Weirton, West Virginia

Paul and Marian Shadle, 271st Infantry, Company E
New Kensington, Pennsylvania

Bill (Mr. Secretary) and Reba Sheavly, 271st Infantry, Co. M
Reistertown, Maryland

John W. and Mary R. McGolerick, Jr., 272nd Infantry, Co. K
Knoxville, Maryland

Charles E. Weaver, 272nd Infantry, Company C
Columbus, Ohio

Thomas Yeleich, 272nd Infantry, Company I
Livonia, Michigan

Charles and Lorraine Goodhart, 273rd Infantry, Hq. Company
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Glen and Jean Knepp, 273rd Infantry, B Company
McClure, Pennsylvania

Harold and Pegg Sprang, 273rd Infantry, Company E
Shiloh, Ohio *(First Timers)*

Earl E. and Dorothy A. Witzleb, Jr., 273rd Infantry, Co. E
Acme-Champion, Pennsylvania

Looks like F Company, 271st Infantry won the banner again having four couples present. You may take \$10.00 per person off of next year's weekend, F Company.

271st Infantry also ran away from the rest of the field in attendance with eleven couples present. Sorry, no second place prizes. Come on you other units, call your buddies and get them out to the Tri-State weekend at Charleston, West Virginia next May 1994.

271st did it again since L. Vaughn and Betty Woomer won the Tri-State plaque for 1993 due to running the Altoona weekend in 1992. This was the closest race ever with four other groups coming real close in votes. One year the Gallaghers and Lynchs won plaques along with the Roccas having tied on votes. The Gallaghers ran the Industry-Van Port weekend years ago and the Lynchs and Roccas ran the Erie weekend a few years back. L. Vaughn and Betty thought they might like to run another weekend in a few years. You too, can run a Tri-State weekend by letting Earl and Dottie know your intentions. We like to find new locations in Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana, Kentucky and Virginia to visit. The Jim Kidds and Charles Yannuls please take notice. Also in 1995 we would like to take a swing through Ohio then back into Pennsylvania in the following years.

We were sorry to have sent refunds to Mr. and Mrs. George Murphy and to Kevin Schrock, Jr., in the passing of Dorothy Schrock. Tri-State sympathy was extended to the Schrock family.

Getting back to our weekend, Friday's two tours at West Virginia Power Company, Mt. Storm, West Virginia and Westvaco Paper Mill, Luke, Maryland, proved to be very successful and educational. L. Boyd Ellsworth was very happy to once again see the paper mill, since he worked on it as a construction many years ago. At that time he lived in Mt. Salvage, Pennsylvania and would go home only on weekends to see Stella. John C. Marini was the Labor Relations Coordinator at the paper mill and son of John Marini, a 69er from Stamford, Connecticut. John, Jr. was trying to get John, Sr. to come to Canaan Valley and surprise Ray Szkudlarek but neither showed up as well as the Starks.

Saturday was the usual on your own day until banquet time. Many visited other areas or golfed. Thanks to Vernon Hanlin for arranging the tours and entertainment. After the

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Sunday breakfast goodbyes were said, then it was the journey home only to see each other again at Rochester, Charleston, and Nashville. We believe everyone had a good trip home.

NOTE: I have been told by Dottie that we did have two other guests that spent part of a day with us which gives us a total of 63 attending instead of the 61 that I have named. He was **Norman Walker**, Post Office Box 194, Wardensville, West Virginia 26851. He would be a first timer and came with his son. Nice having you two for the day and do join us in Charleston, West Virginia next year at the Marriott from May 18 or 19 to 22, 1994. Walker is from Company C of the 271st Infantry.

It is official now. May 18 or 19 to 22, 1994 at the Marriott, Charleston, West Virginia. Start saving your pennies now for **Brownie and Anna Belle Parsons** are now hard at work making the plans to show us a good time in Charleston. It's just off of Interstate 79 and 64 and ladies, just across the street from a big shopping mall.

In 1995 we will start a swing from western Ohio on eastward into Pennsylvania which will consume several years. **Ray Szkudlarek** said he would look for something in 1995. Any other Tri-Staters interested in having a weekend in Ohio please let me (Earl) know so we can mark the year, location and hotel/motel. We do plan for 50 rooms with maybe a little more or somewhat less when the time arrives.

Company A, 273rd Infantry

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



The Rochester reunion is now a fond memory. Not without the normal gliches, especially in the seating arrangements for the Early Bird dinner and the Banquet. The hospitality room was quite large and usually full. The camaraderie was still present, with men from different units sitting at the same tables. They all had one thing in common - they were part of the 69th team.

The Company had eight members and four ladies present. There were two first-timers with their wives (shown with **).
George O'Bryan California
Art and Dorothy Pfeifer** Massachusetts
Bill and Wanda Leet** New York
Ed Lucci New York
Ray Fahrner Pennsylvania
Bennie and Marcella Srubar Texas
Bob and Jean Rosane Vermont
Pierce Rice Virginia

Lord willing, I'll see you in Nashville.

Mid-West Group

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

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



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

MIDWEST GROUP 1993 SPRING MEETING

The Midwest Group met at the Holiday Inn in Wisconsin Dells on May 13, 14 and 15, 1993. New attendees were:

- Mike and Eva Jung** Company L, 271st Infantry
Dickinson, North Dakota
- Paul and Betty Wolf** 777th Tank Battalion
Evansville, Indiana

The regulars present were:

- John Barrette** Hq. Company, 271st Infantry
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin
- Fred and Mavis Butenhoff** ... Company E, 272nd Infantry
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Fran and Zita Enright** Battery A, 881st Field Artillery
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Eugene and Marilyn Mischke** ... Company B, 273rd Infantry
Spring Valley, Illinois
- Curt and Evelyn Peterson** 569th Signal Company
Madison, Wisconsin
- Ralph and Jo Plugge** Company G, 271st Infantry
Calumet City, Illinois
- Gene and Ethel Pierron** 661st Tank Destroyers
Belgium, Wisconsin
- Phil and Harriet Sparacino** ... Battery B, 881st Field Artillery
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Gaylord and Ruth Thomas** 777th Tank Battalion
Waupun, Wisconsin

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Chuck and Pat Walsh 777th Tank Battalion
Glendale, Wisconsin

Wayne Weygandt and Thora Miller ... Co. B, 271st Infantry

The hospitality room became well stocked and noisy as people arrived on Thursday afternoon. We had dinner at the motel that evening.

On Friday morning, the golfers went out and survived a few rain showers while completing their games. The remainder of the group visited the Crane Foundation near Baraboo, which raises a large variety of rare cranes. Following that, they went to the Circus World Museum for a circus performance and a tour of old circus artifacts.

Gaylord and Ruth Thomas did a great job in setting up this meeting. Read on for information on the 1994 Spring Meeting of the Midwest Group.



Gaylord Thomas and Paul Wolf at the Spring 1993 Mid-West Meeting. They were both in the 777th and hadn't seen each other since 1945. Paul and Betty Wolf visited the Thomas' before joining us at the Spring Meeting.



Mid-West Group at the 1993 Spring Meeting

**MAY 19, 20, and 21, 1994
1994 SPRING MEETING
OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN**

Oshkosh, with a population of 55,000, is on the shore of Lake Winnebago. It is 80 miles north of Milwaukee on U.S. Highway 41. Distances to major cities are: Chicago - 166; Minneapolis - 234; Detroit - 444; St. Louis - 450.

HOTEL - OSHKOSH HILTON

Located downtown on the Fox River. Use the Ninth Avenue exit from Highway 41.

The rates are \$59.00 per night plus 10% tax, double or single. There will be a fee of approximately \$7.00 per couple to cover the rental cost of the hospitality room for two nights.

Reservations: Call the Hilton at 414/231-5000, or write to:

The Oshkosh Hilton and Convention Center
One North Main Street
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54091

Use a credit card or pay a \$59.00 deposit to guarantee a reservation. A block of rooms will be reserved for our group until May 5, 1994, and it may be difficult to get a room after that date, so make your reservations before the deadline.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

- Museum of the Experimental Aircraft Association, with airplanes from both world wars plus other historic or interesting aircraft.
- Manufacturers Marketplace, with approximately 60 outlet stores.
- Historic buildings.
- Museums.
- Other interesting cities around the shore of Lake Winnebago.

PROGRAM

Thursday, May 19: Check-in time is 3:00 p.m.
Hospitality Room
Dinner at the Hilton

Friday, May 20: Golf at a course to be selected.
Sightseeing for non-golfers.
Hospitality Room.
Dinner at a restaurant to be selected.

Saturday, May 21: On your own.
Check-out time is 12:00 noon.

For answers to questions about the meeting, contact:

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

Note from Earl: Now with a California group, possibly or probably the states on the west coast and neighboring states of California would wish to join the California group. Last report only 1,208 members live in the west and I do believe this is west of the Mississippi River. If you live in the middle area, try both groups. You'll like them I am sure which will give members and wives a good idea of our national 69th reunions which are on a larger scale of a mini and running for a week. You do not have to attend the entire week. Our new President, **Curt Peterson**, hails from this Mid-West group so let's give him our backing at the next two national reunions, 1994 being in Nashville and 1995 in Myrtle Beach.

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461st AAA Battery B

Larry W. and Milly Brown,
News Reporters

538 Burns Avenue
 Clarkston, Washington 99403
 Telephone: 509/785-2180

Don and Gerry Castellaw, *Co-Chairmen*
 1993 Western Weekend
 804 E. Street
 Moscow, Idaho 83843

On June 17th, 18th, and 19th, 1993 the Western get-together of the 461st AAA - Battery B, was held at Couer d'Alene, Idaho.

Our small group included 8 people from east of the Mississippi River and 9 from the western side of the country. **Bob and Margaret Weigand** came the greatest distance from St. Petersburg, Florida. They were joined by 6 people from the state of Pennsylvania. This made our gathering a great success.

One day was spent at Castellaw's summer place on Lake



461st AAA Battery B — June 18, 1993

Coeur d'Alene and another at seeing the sights of the Idaho resort town, including the renowned floating golf green and the longest boardwalk on water.

The hospitality room at Day's Inn was the center of action and many memories were renewed.

We were very disappointed that you two (Dottie and Earl) were unable to attend. Perhaps next time?

69th Cavalry Recon Troop

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

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



Harold and Jeanne Gardner

OSHKOSH B'GOSH!!!! Oshkosh, Wisconsin that is. That was the location of the 42nd Annual Reunion of former members of the **69th Infantry Division Recon Troop** which was held August 25-29, 1993. Our co-hosts were **Jerry Leib** and **Ed Sivas**. Plaudits are also due **Judie Leonard** and **Nancy Sivas**.

Judie did the job of preparing and distributing advance information prior to the reunion and at Oshkosh she was our "CEO." She and **Jerry** ran errands, made trips to the airport, and shopped for the hospitality room along with **Ed** and **Nancy**. They were all quite busy taking care of the myriad of details necessary to keep things humming. **Ed** was our "CFO." That means he was the money man. Collector and disburser of funds. **Ed** and **Nancy** made a trip to Oshkosh prior

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Lewis "Boyd" and Stella Ellsworth

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to the reunion to review arrangements and Jerry and Judie came in early to ascertain that everything was in order. A very successful reunion was the result of all their efforts.

Some of us arrived on Tuesday and it was great to be there early and greet other Troopers and their ladies as they arrived.

Activities in the area pretty much kept us on the go and when we were not away from the command post, we congregated in the hospitality room to reminisce and refight World War II, which we just happen to believe could not have been won without Recon. Some people may question that, but not us.

Some of us motored to the Green Bay area and donated dollars to the Indian casino. Others toured attractions around Oshkosh and of course some of our ladies located shopping areas. We had a guided tour of the EAA Air Adventure Museum. The museum displays various types of aircraft from prior to the Wright Brothers to jets. Sport planes, gliders, racers and aerobatic planes as well as military, antique and

ultra-lights. Some of the aircraft were replicas, and others had actually flown. Our troop picture was taken as we posed with a B-17 of World War II fame and the American flag in the background.

After the museum tour, we boarded the Pioneer Princess for a luncheon cruise on Lake Winnebago and the Fox River. It was a delightful cruise and did not resemble the "cruise" we took on the U.S.S. LeJeune back in 1944. No one got seasick on this cruise.

Friday night was a delightful evening and a time enjoyed by all. We were treated to a delicious buffet dinner appropriately classified as "A Touch of Germany." The buffet included items of a German origin which were all delicious and diets were all but forgotten.

After dinner we were treated to a very enjoyable program. We had a fashion parade highlighting the women's fashions and styles of the 40's and the people who wore them. Included were Rosie the Riveter, Eleanor Roosevelt, Carmen Miranda, Hedda Hopper and Mae West. Also modeled were service women uniforms and fashions worn by other ladies of that era. Then appearing was the best known and well liked pin-up

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69th INFANTRY RECON TROOP AT EAA AIR ADVENTURE MUSEUM IN OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN
Kneeling: Sy Bellin, Hank Weiman, Morris Kaiserman, Jerry Leib, Harold Gardner. Standing: Floyd Opdyke, Bones Schueler, Hap Stambaugh, Bob West, Cowboy Vaughan, Lewis Hill, Ed Sivas, Herb Norman, Charlie Rice, Wally Pepper, Boyd Ellsworth, Gordon Ewing, Mike Moscaritolo, Charlie Fox, Getty Glotfelty

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of every GI. None other than "Betty Grable" made her appearance wearing the white bathing suit and assuming the poses which made her famous. Needless to say the striking blonde was the hit of the show for the troopers present.

After the fashion parade we were entertained by a husband and wife team who sang some of our favorites from the "Big Band" era. The male singer appeared in an Army khaki uniform. The only thing missing was the 69th shoulder patch. They were very entertaining and professional.

The next person on the stage was "Sophie Tucker" and her piano accompanist who entertained us with songs and jokes the original bawdy saloon singer was famous for. Our own Charlie Fox was invited to participate in one of her renditions and we had the feeling that he enjoyed himself immensely.

All the singers then led us in a sing-a-long of some of the "oldies." It was rather apparent that we troopers do not have the voices we had in the days of the BBB's when we used to sing around the bivouac camp fire down in the DeSoto National Forest.

The show participants, except Charlie, were local entertainers and were all very good. We wish to express our appreciation to Nina Leib for setting it up.

On Saturday at 0900, the Troop assembled for our business meeting. Discussion centered around selection of a reunion site for 1994.

Lewis Hill made an offer to host a reunion in the Lubbock, Texas area. Since the last reunion in the east coast area was 1989 in Orlando, Florida, it was the consensus of the group that possibly we should return to the eastern area for a year or so. Discussion centered around the Washington D.C. area and Charlie Fox was approached with the possibility of his hosting a reunion in that area in 1994.

After more discussion, Charlie agreed that he and Bobbie would be receptive to hosting a reunion in that area. Charlie was given a free rein in the selection of location, lodgings and dates for our 1994 reunion. Charlie and Bobbie have hosted a number of reunions and have always done a good job to assure a good turnout. We look forward to another good one.

Our appreciation was extended to Lewis Hill for his offer, and that it would be considered for a future reunion site. It was noted that our eastern troopers always made a good showing wherever our reunions are held, and it is hoped that our folks from west of the Mississippi and the other sections will turn out in good numbers for 1994. We look forward to seeing you there.

Saturday night we had a delicious dinner in the dining room. Lots of pictures were taken for future remembrances and after dinner we had our usual procedure of each of the troopers relating the happenings within their families during the last year or so. It was great to have our First Sergeant Hank Weiman and Lillian with us after an absence of a couple of years. Also Charlie and Bobbie Fox, another of our regulars, were back after missing two years.

Mary Paradine reported that Rodney's condition remains about the same and she puts in a lot of time at the nursing home where he is. She said he really enjoys cards and letters from the troopers. We appreciate Cecil and Jean Paradine bringing Mary. Lenke Treible was with us again this year. She said that she feels Art would want her to be with his buddies. Nancy Lou Makris was also with us this year. It was great to see her. She was accompanied by Richard Clark. We are

always pleased to have you ladies with us. You are a part of our family.

"First Timer" Sy Bellin said that he didn't realize what he had missed all these years. It was the first time we had seen Sy since 1945. He says he will be with us next year and will make every reunion he possibly can. His son, John Stocks, who lives in McFarland, Wisconsin was with us part of the time. It sure was good to see you Sy.

Mike Moscaritolo read portions of a poignant and yet very up-beat letter from Jim Haight, in which Jim related his illness to us. Jim and Mary had planned on being with us but the last medical report he got was not good, and they were unable to make the trip. Jim and Mary, our thoughts and prayers are with you. God Bless!!

Prior to our concluding the evening activities, we paused to observe a moment of silence for those of our family who are no longer with us and for those who have serious health problems. May God be with all of them.

We then adjourned to the hospitality room for more reminiscing, picture taking, looking at pictures and just being together. It was noted that our hospitality room empties earlier at night than it did in past years. What could this mean?

Some goodbyes were said Saturday night due to some of the folks leaving early Sunday morning. Some of us didn't leave until Sunday, so we had more goodbyes then. Goodbyes are always tough.

Answering roll call in Oshkosh were the following:

Jerry Leib and Judie Leonard	California
Ed and Nancy Sivas	California
Boyd and Stella Ellsworth	Ohio
Hank and Lillian Weiman	New Jersey
Seymour Bellin	Massachusetts
Gordon and Fern Ewing	Florida
Charles and Bobbie Fox	Maryland
Harold and Jeanne Gardner	Missouri
Getty and Lucy Glotfelty	Washington State
Lewis and Janie Hill	Texas
Morris and Gertrude Kaiserman	Illinois
Mike and Mary Moscaritolo	New Jersey-Florida
Herb and Eileene Norman	Colorado
Floyd Opdyke and Evelyn	New Jersey
Wally and Carolyn Pepper	Florida
Charles and Pat Rice	Oklahoma
Bones and Mable Schueler	Ohio
Hap and Maxine Stambaugh	Pennsylvania
Cowboy and Janet Vaughan	Virginia
Bob and Jean West	Ohio
Mary Paradine	Michigan
Nancy Lou Makris	Connecticut
Lenke Treible	Ohio

We would be amiss if we did not thank Rocky and Nina Leib, brother and sister-in-law of Jerry. They handled some reservations, travel accommodations and set up some programs and excursions for our enjoyment. Special thanks to Nina for our Friday night program. Rocky was in our midst each day, serving as escort, chauffeur or doing things to make our stay enjoyable. They also presented each of us with a red or blue bandana on behalf of their travel agency. Thanks folks. We also enjoyed having other relatives of Jerry's with us at different times.

Troopers, write, call or if possible visit some of your buddies. We have some troopers who are physically unable to make a reunion. They would love to hear from us.

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We know that **Charlie and Bobbie** will work up a good reunion for us. Let's help by working on our "no-shows." Maybe we can get some of them out in 1994. There is so much to see and do in our nation's capital and we know that we'll enjoy it. We will be hearing from **Charlie and Bobbie** at a later date when they begin to set the affair in motion.

Again, **Jerry, Ed, Judie and Nancy**, thanks for a good reunion. Everything was top-drawer. It was great to be together again. It is amazing and yet understandable how the camaraderie and warmth of our group continues to grow with each reunion. Our ladies share this same closeness. Our ladies are a very important part of our reunions and we love them all. We are truly a family.

TAKE CARE, BE GOOD TO EACH OTHER, KEEP IN TOUCH AND MAY GOD HOLD EACH OF US IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND.

Harold Gardner

Late Note: We also had another visitor in our midst several times. **Jim Thorp**, Company E, 271st, lives in Oshkosh and dropped in to offer his time in any way he could. He gave us information on things to see in the area and also took some of our ladies to local attractions. **Thanks much, Jim!**

California/ Western Chapter



Bob and Theresa Pierce, President and News Reporter
144 Nashua Court
San Jose, California 95139
Telephone: 408/226-8040

Delbert E. Philpott, Co-Chairman
P.O. Box 2014
Sunnyvale, California 94087-0014
Telephone: 408/739-0308

The 69th Infantry Division Association is now nationwide with the formation of the new California/Western Chapter. The California 69ers efforts to form a Western Chapter were a huge success.

Our first Chapter gathering at San Luis, Obispo, California, May 13-15, 1993 was attended by 38 people. There

were 20 members, 16 wives and 2 guests. We also received letters requesting membership from 11 others who were unable to attend the first meeting. The California/Western Chapter roster now has a total of 71 members.

After our first Chapter meeting, our Constitution and By-Laws were submitted to the 69th Infantry Division Association for approval. At the Board of Directors meeting Thursday, August 12, 1993 at the Rochester, New York Reunion, the President, **Dutch Hawn**, presented our request for Chapter approval to the Board. Approval was unanimous. The California/Western Chapter is now officially chartered as a Chapter of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association.

Membership is open to any member of the 69th Infantry Division in any Western State who is not already a member of another Chapter. This invitation is open not only to members in states bordering California, but to every Western state including Alaska and Hawaii. There are no dues, we intend to support our treasury through voluntary contributions.

The first Chapter meeting was very productive with 19 members attending. Officers were elected, the Constitution and By-Laws were prepared, and a committee was appointed to select candidate locations for our 1994 Chapter Reunion. California/Western Chapter Officers are:

- Robert L. Pierce** *President*
- Delbert Philpott** *Vice President*
- John Tounger** *Secretary*
- Lee Wilson** *Treasurer*
- Directors** *William D. Robertson,*
William G. Ruebsamen, Earl W. Ramsey



California/Western Chapter officers: Bill Robertson, Earl Ramsey, Bill Ruebsamen, John Tounger, Del Philpott, Bob Pierce, Lee Wilson.

The Reunion offered a combined registration and hospitality room with snacks and an open bar. A pool-side beer party planned for Friday evening was cooled by the ocean breeze, so a retreat to the hospitality room sufficed. Saturday evening was typical with a Memorial Service ably conducted by our volunteer Chaplain, **Bob Shaw**, assisted by **John Pieriera**, followed by a dinner choice of steak, fish, or vegetarian. **Del Philpott** was our after-dinner speaker, with a very interesting discussion on his and **Donna's** visit to Strehla, Germany, for the April 23, 1993 dedication of the "First Link-Up Memorial Park." **Del** supported his presentation with many April 1945 Link-Up pictures and new pictures of both **Strehla and Torgau**.

Attendees took advantage of the location to visit both Pismo Beach and Moss Landing for their famous clam and

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other seafood delicacies. San Luis Obispo unknowingly cooperated by holding their Annual Festival Parade and Antique Car Display that same weekend.

Attendees were:

- Robert and Theresa Pierce San Jose, California
- Delbert and Donna Philpott Sunnyvale, California
- John and Dena Younger Oakland, California
- Allan and Bobbi Gwynne Novato, California
- William and Pat Reubsamen Murrieta, California
- John and Mary Pereira Napa, California

- Orville and Beulah Schultz Arroyo Grande, California
- Stanley and Lois Hawk Lemoore, California
- Eldon and Marjie Atwood San Diego, California
- Henry and Esther Orsi Los Gatos, California
- Earl and Matilde Ramsey Lake View Terrace
- Leonard and Alma Braverman ... Mission Viejo, California
- Keith and Mary Lou Mower Van Nuys, California
- John Rosenbrock North Hollywood, California
- Harold Faulkner Walnut Creek, California
- William Robertson Culver City, California
- Lee Wilson Stockton, California
- Robert Shaw San Jose, California
- Epi and Connie Granvillo Mesa, Arizona
- James and Nancy Bann



CALIFORNIA/WESTERN CHAPTER ATTENDEES - MAY 15, 1993, SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA

Company D, 272nd Infantry

Blake L. Morrison, News Reporter
2307 Chatham Drive
Greensboro, NC 27408-6901

The Quality Inn-Biltmore, Asheville, North Carolina was the site for the Company D, 272nd Infantry Reunion, held June 10-14, 1993. This reunion was hosted by **Blake Morrison** assisted by his daughter and son-in-law, **Randy and Lisa Barnett**.

Early bird arrivals on Thursday ate at the Smoky Mountain BBQ & Bluegrass and were then entertained by mountain cloggers. Friday was spent sightseeing and then dinner was enjoyed at the Black Forest Restaurant. On Saturday, the group toured the Biltmore House and Gardens and then ate box lunches at the Pavillion. A color guard from nearby Enka High School opened the banquet on Saturday night in the Vanderbilt Room of the Quality Inn. On Sunday morning, the group was treated to a light breakfast in the hospitality room of the hotel. A lunch was then served in the courtyard of the hotel. Sunday afternoon was spent sightseeing by small

groups. The group enjoyed Sunday night dinner at McGuffey's Restaurant. From all reports, this may have been the most enjoyable meal of all. After breakfast on Monday morning, the group exchanged goodbyes and left for home or other points of interest in this beautiful part of the country.

The reunion was attended by Company D veterans, wives and guests. A total of 43 people were present representing 14 states. They were:

- Richard and Lucielle Bell Florence, South Dakota
- Arthur and Alice Burkman McHenry, Illinois
- Jack and Cele Burris Arenzville, Illinois
- George and Marge Estell Hazlet, New Jersey
- Herbert and Kate Frye Dundalk, Maryland
- J.P. and Mildred Geoffroy Erath, Louisiana
- Byron Gutshall Covington, Virginia
- James and Mildred Headland ... Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania
- Oscar and Doris Hill Charlotte, North Carolina
- Lowell and Billie Jackson Ft. Wayne, Indiana
- Cecil and Lucy Loudermilch Anniston, Alabama
- John and Joan Mason Berkeley, California

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- Blake Morrison Greensboro, North Carolina
- Dean and Janet Nelson Mountain Rest, South Carolina
- Bill and Pat Patton Chevy Chase, Maryland
- Ralph Pearson St. Paul, Minnesota
- Henry and Louise Schenck Berwick, Pennsylvania
- Ralph and Grace Schollenberg York, Pennsylvania
- Douglas and Dot Singletary Florence, South Carolina
- Robert and Evelyn Trate Wilmington, Delaware

The following people were guests of Company D members:

- Mr. and Mrs. Alden Angline Asheville, North Carolina
(461st AAA)
- Randy and Lisa Barnett Asheville, North Carolina
- Margaret Lauseng Watertown, South Dakota
- Nelle Geoffroy Erath, Louisiana

The 1994 Reunion will be held in Lexington, Virginia, hosted by:

Byron Gutshall
428 East Gordon Street
Covington, Virginia 24426
Telephone: 703/962-3382.

Company D, 273rd Infantry

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

Company D had a fairly good turnout at the Rochester Reunion. There were eighteen of us at the Saturday night banquet. A total of twenty-two put in an appearance during the week. However, the Lohrbachs and their guests were unable to stay beyond Friday.

Those attending the banquet were Art and Katie Ayres from New Jersey, Al and Mary Blackmar from New York, Ed and Mary Case from Pennsylvania, Paul and Elaine Gornbein from New York, Roland and Jan Hendrickson from Oregon, Charlie and Bertha Hoefler from New York, George and Barbara Johnson from Virginia, Hank and Julie Kaminski from Pennsylvania, and Ken Sawyer and Fran Collard from Florida.

Although we don't advertise it as such, the annual reunion serves as a mini-reunion for Company D, 273rd. We discovered three very good restaurants that were able and eager to provide separate seating for up to twenty people. We also made full use of the hospitality room to enjoy each other's company. After the Saturday morning meeting, we all gathered in Hank and Julie's room for a feast of cold meats, cheese, crackers, pastries and a wide selection of drinks.

One missing member was on everyone's mind. Bob McCarty underwent surgery on Wednesday of that week. This was his second bout with cancer. He came through it in good shape, and the prognosis is excellent. He and Betty Jo hated to miss the reunion and promise to make the next one. They are probably our most faithful members.

Rochester was within convenient driving distance for many of us. Traveling to Nashville should be the same. Some of those people living in the Carolinas might take advantage of the proximity and make an effort to attend. It would be great to have a few first-timers join us in Nashville, Tennessee in 1994.

Company G, 273rd Infantry

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

Our Rochester Reunion is but a pleasant memory now to those of us that attended: Bob and June Ainley, Betty and Al Aronson, Bill and Dorris Beecher, Ruth Johnston, Joe and Diane Panganiban, Orville and Beulah Schultz and Ed and Tory Stagg. Our "True Grit Award" goes to Bob Ainley and Joe Panganiban, each of whom is recovering from major surgery performed earlier this year, and to Ed Stagg, who checked himself out of the hospital, for their attendance at this reunion. They personified the meaning of the words "My Buddy." What a treat it was for us to have them be part of our "G Company Family" at the Rochester Reunion.

It's sad to note that our roster includes so many fellows from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania who failed to show up. We'll just have to consider them AWOL and hope that they will be able to be with us in Nashville next August. We'll keep prodding.

We all enjoyed the tours of the Finger Lakes Region and Rochester proper but I believe our evening on the town Friday night at The Old Toad Pub, thanks to Dorris Beecher, was most enjoyable. The atmosphere brought back memories of the "Fox & Hound Pub" at Crawley Court in England; the food and service were excellent and the price was right. Who could want more.

As always, our week together passed too quickly but we are looking forward to Nashville in '94. We're anxious to see the rest of our "G Company Family" there too: Ray Hotter, Hugh and Mary Frances McKee, Bill McLaughlin, Jim Kane, Bill McHugh, Eli Eliot, Ollie and Pearl Young, Frank Barbee, Joe Shepherd, Steve and Sophie Sauerzopf, Truett Thompson, "Red" McCarthy, Joe Johnson and Ralph Savino to mention a few.

The expression "Time Marches On" takes on a new significance for each of us as we grow older and, with the help of our Lord, we can get together and have a good reunion in Nashville.

Looking further ahead, 1995 is of particular importance to those of us in G Company. We will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Link-Up with the Russians that began with Lieutenant Kotzebue leading a combined patrol of our fellows and a support group from H Company to the Elbe River. Let's not forget it.

Best wishes to all during the coming holidays and let's get the adrenaline going for Nashville in August 1994.

Headquarters Battery, 880th Field Artillery

John O'Connor, President and News Reporter
9321 Jefferson Avenue
Brookfield, Illinois 60513
Telephone: 708/387-7809

Our Headquarters Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion held their mini-reunion in conjunction with the national reunion at Rochester, New York August 11th to the 15th, 1993 and a great time was had by all present. We had our breakfast meeting on August 13th and it went very well. However we did miss our Secretary-Treasurer, Stuart McGowan and his

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wife Elinor. They were dearly missed by all. Stu had major surgery and could not attend. We did not have a Treasurer or a Secretary report as papers sent to me were lost in the mail and have not arrived as yet. We also missed having the Coopers, Adlers, Powells, Suckels and others.

Those in attendance were Mike and Lucille Pendrick, Emil and Peggy Paoletta, John and Peggy O'Connor, Bob and Marilyn McKee, Gene and Carolyn McGreevy, Stan and Georgia Bratt, Anthony and Alma Indivino, Al and Marge Kormas and Rico and Anne D'Angelo. The Indivinos were first timers to our mini-reunion dinner on the evening of August 13th. It was a pleasure to welcome the Indivinos as we had not seen Anthony since 1945.

The dinner went very well with the service being excellent. The highlight of the evening was Stan Bratt's reading of chapter three of his combat diary which was well listened to by all present. Thanks much to Stan. The other entertainment was provided by a couple of piano players recruited by Rico D'Angelo. One of the piano players was Gil Rocco of Battery B, 881st. His renditions were welcomed by all. Thanks Gil. A thanks also to Rico for his recruitment ability.

I am sorry to report the passing of Neno Sassone of Osyka, Mississippi. Neno had attended a few reunions with his wife Mary Helen. Our condolences and sympathy go out to Mary Helen and her family. Neno passed away July 28, 1993.

Dues for our members are now due for those who have not paid as of yet. Please send your dues of \$10.00 to our treasurer, Stuart McGowan, Route 1, Eagle Bridge, New York 12057, who has agreed to stay on until the next election which will be held in conjunction with the national reunion in Nashville, Tennessee in 1994 from August 21st through the 28th.

This reunion will be a lot closer, so please try to attend. It's later than you think. Best wishes to all members and their families.



First row: Emil Paoletta, Rico D'Angelo, Stan Bratt, Gene McGreevy. Second row: Al Kormas, Anthony Indivino, Bob McKee, Mike Pendrick, John O'Connor



Seated: Alma Indivino, Georgia Bratt. Standing: Lucille Pendrick, Peggy O'Connor, Anne D'Angelo, Marge Kormas, Peggy Paoletta, Carolyn McGreevy, and Margaret McKee



Gil Rocco of Battery B, 881st, piano player and soloist entertained the 880th Headquarters Battery in Rochester.



Anthony and Alma Indivino, First Timers

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269th Engineers

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



Hope this finds you all in good spirits and all going well! Another reunion has gone by and we hope everyone is looking forward to going to Nashville in 1994. The reunion at Rochester went well and sorry some of the guys had to cancel out at the last minute due to being under the weather. I know you'll try your best to make it to Nashville.

We had eight Engineers present and did expect a few more, but for some good reason, they didn't make it. In attendance we had Ward and Marion Peterson (Co. B), Al and Helen Winchester (Co. B), Frank and Ted Nemeth (Co. B), and Bob and Fay Winslow (Co. B) dropped in and spent the day with us. It was good to see Ray Lottie of Company A once again and know he's doing alright. We missed Ruth not being present. From H&S Company we had Walter Holmlin, Jim and Dottie Eibling and Bill Foster and daughter Bonnie. We sure missed not seeing Betty and hope all is going well for her! I'm sure we can do better in Nashville, since it will give all our southern men a shorter distance to travel and it will be nice to see them after 50 years.

The photo of Jim McCarty was furnished by Ray Lottie and I'm sure some of you from Company A will remember him.



Thank you to Al and Helen Winchester for the beautiful rugs they donated to the 69th Infantry Division to use as a fund raiser. The first one was awarded at Rochester after the banquet. Thanks to all who took chances to win it. It took in a tidy sum! The second rug will be chanced off in Nashville by the committee there and some lucky person will be made happy when they win that beautiful rug.

The 269th sure could use a few good golfers for the 69th Golf Tournament. Dan Evers, Jim Eibling and I give it our best, but we just can't seem to win the big "Honor!" So bring your clubs to the next reunion in Nashville and help us out, OK! So take care and we hope to see you soon at one of the reunions somewhere.

Your "Ole" Buddy,
Frank

Battery C, 724th Field Artillery

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

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

Battery C., 724th Field Artillery Battalion's reunion was held in conjunction with the 69th Infantry Division Reunion August 8th through August 15th, 1993 in Rochester, New York.

Battery C had a dinner meeting in the restaurant at the Holiday Inn in Rochester. The following were in attendance for the dinner Friday, August 13th: John and Netta Turner and their daughter Charlotte Turner, Daniel O'Shea, Eugene and Myrna Parker (first timers), Al and Polly Diloreto, Bob and Libby Inyart, Tony and Grace Visconti, Gladys Heliseva, widow of John Heliseva, Bob Hollister, Harold Wepler and friend Edna Butzin, and Coy and Erlene Horton. Also joining Battery C for dinner were Charles Miller, 272nd Infantry, Bob Bement and Al Faison of 724th Headquarters and Bob Bement's son Bob Bement, Jr.

We would like to encourage all Battery C guys and families to plan to join us next year in Nashville, Tennessee.



Coy and Erlene Horton

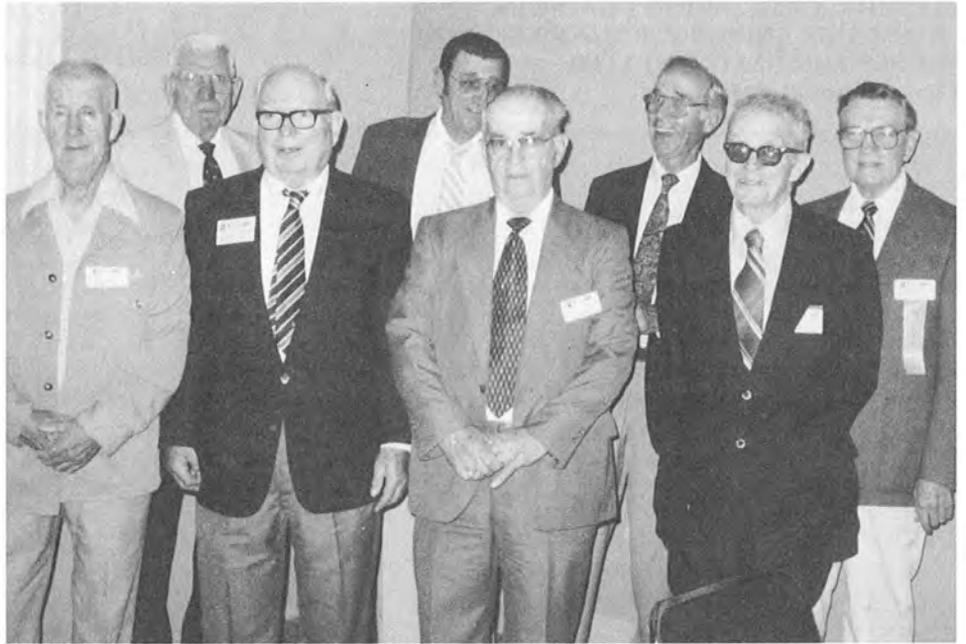
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BATTERY C
724th FIELD ARTILLERY



Daniel O'Shea



Front row: Bob Hollister, John Turner, Coy Horton, Daniel O'Shea. Back row: Harold Wepler, Al Diloreto, Bob Inyart, Gene Parker



Bob Hollister



Gladys Heliseva



Bob Bement



Al and Polly Diloreto



Neta, Charlotte and John Turner

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**BATTERY C
724th FIELD ARTILLERY**

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Harold Wepler and friend Edna Butzin



Bob and Libby Inyart



Tony and Grace Visconti



Al Faison and Bob Bement, Jr.



Myrna and Gene Parker



Charlie Miller and Bob Hollister

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880th Field Artillery, C Battery

Enrico and Anne D'Angelo, Coordinators

516 Chestnut Street
Saltsburg, Pennsylvania 15681
Telephone: 412/639-3037

Lowell McFarlin, News Reporter

89 North High Street
Box 236
Jeromesville, Ohio 44840
Telephone: 419/368-7363

To all our good friends of C Battery,

It does not seem possible that just two weeks ago (September 23-26, 1993) many of us had the privilege of being together at Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Time passes oh so quickly, but we are thankful that forty-four of us were able to gather together for such a well organized reunion. **Anne and Rico**, we wish to again say "THANK YOU!" It was a job very well done. It is another reunion that we can place with the rest in our treasure of memories.

Since returning home, I have been pretty much sidelined by a bout of inner ear troubles - a dizziness that doesn't seem to want to go away. However, I am able to sit and reminisce, so this is a good time to get at the following newsletter.

For those of you that attended the reunion, this run down will be old news, but for the rest of you it will be a way of saying that we missed you and hope you will enjoy hearing of our good time.

Upon arriving at the Sheraton Inn on Thursday afternoon we found several already had checked in and were waiting in the hospitality room to greet others as they arrived. The well stocked room was alive, well, and noisy! Later in the evening we all gathered in a banquet room for a light lunch, and some entertainment from a very talented young ventriloquist. We were very happy to have **Rose and Frank Kushler** join us for the evening. Friday morning we awakened to a beautiful morning for our bus trip to Pittsburgh.

We had a dinner cruise on the *Majestic Riverboat* of the Three Rivers. Following the dinner, several of our members found the floor show to be quite exciting and entertaining. Right, **Willie**? Upon returning to the bus, our good driver took us on a guided tour of downtown Pittsburgh - a first for many of us. After a brief stop at the Sheraton, we picked up **Bill, Barb and Little Ray Pugh** and bussed on to a restaurant where we had the place all to ourselves for another fine lunch. Once again, we had a great time Friday evening picking and trading gifts. The red tie returned and **Bill Sells** ended the evening with the prized possession. **Bill** called upon a very surprised **Enrico** to be the recipient of his famous "care package."

Saturday morning was off to a good start with the whole group eating breakfast together. The men remained for our annual business meeting and the women headed for the mall. After the meeting, six of us fellows enjoyed a good round of golf. The rest of the day was spent visiting, shopping, and relaxing. Saturday evening we had a great time together at our banquet - a fine meal, a lively waitress, and good entertainment from a group of senior citizens. They chose a program of patriotic songs. **President Bob Williams** presented **Anne and Enrico** with a floral arrangement from the group in appreciation for their work for us.

Lew Pugh then presented **Bill Sells** with a gift for all his efforts at entertaining all of us with his packages. **Bill** appeared to be surprised, but not nearly as surprised as he was when presented with a "care package" of his very own from the rest of us. Wasn't it strange that everyone knew about this but you, **Bill**!!

A very emotional time for all present was when **President Willie** put in a call to **Jack Runkle**, one of our dear friends who is now recovering from a stroke. The call was placed on a speaker phone so we could all hear **Jack**. Several of us were able to speak to **Jack** and say hello to him. We all wish you and **June** well, **Jack**. You are in our prayers and thoughts.

Sunday morning came all too soon and that meant departure time again. We again all had breakfast together and then our fond farewells for another year. The end of a wonderful time together.

Those attending were: **Bob and Irene Williams, Anne and Rico D'Angelo, Cliff and Katherine Eley, Lew and Fern Pugh, John and Helen Wallace, Bill and Correne Leslie, Henry and Lucille Abbe, Bud and Millie Henson, Joe and Dottie Damato, Marv and Mary Reber, Lee and Betty Meyer, Florence, Ray and Patti Kubacki, Ralph and Dorothy Cowin, Bill and Inez Sells, Lou and Jean Hoehing, Ray Mills, Leroy Goetz, Bill, Barb and Ray Pugh, Frank and Rose Kusher, Lowell and Marjorie McFarlin** and guests **Bill and Jo Beswick and Dan and Helen Evers**.

Thanks again **Anne and Rico**.

Mac

* * * * *

A NOTE FROM ANNE and RICO

To those who came, contributed and made our recent reunion at the Sheraton Inn of Greensburg, Pennsylvania a beautiful success. Thank You. We had a wonderful time putting the weekend together from the "Welcome Party" to the "Till We Meet Again Breakfast."

Thank you too for the very pretty floral piece given to us. We hope you all enjoyed the reunion too! We love you all. God Bless.



*Some of C Battery people having dinner at Davoli's.
Robert and Irene Williams, Bill and Correne Leslie, Henry
and Lucille Abbe, Lowell and Majorie McFarlin.*

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Dan and Helen Evers, guests of C Battery, 880th



Ray Mills enjoying scenes of Pittsburgh from the Majestic



Robert Williams looks on as entertainer sings to him on the Majestic.



Bill Beswick, guest of C Battery and wife Jo, enjoying the company of an entertainer on the Majestic.

461st AAA, Battery D (AW)

John and Verna English
444 South Higley Road, #119
Mesa, Arizona 85206

Greetings from the sunny state of Arizona, where the sun paints the sand a galaxy of color and the skies are not cloudy all day.

We had hoped to write you all much sooner but it has been a rather drastic and frightening year for the English family. Verna was in and out of the hospital for most of the year with many health problems including Crohns disease, phlebitis (numerous blot clotting), angina, diabetes, hiatal hernia, serious lung problems affecting her breathing and on top of all this and other problems, you name them, pneumonia struck her a very serious blow. She is back home now and is doing as well as can be expected. She is on oxygen 24 hours a day for the present and will be under guarded surveillance for some time. We will report her progress later.

As you all know, I was struck with the idea late in 1978 to try to locate some of our Battery D men for the purpose of reunification. That was 33 years after the war and prospects

were a long way from being bright after so long a period of time. We did, however, manage to beat the odds and find all but 17 of our total number of 220 enlisted men.

Our first reunion call was made in June, 1979 and 42 men and several of their wives attended. Seven other reunions have been held since then. As a means of keeping in touch and holding the men together I devised the idea of a newsletter (quarterly) to which a number of the men volunteered funds to operate. It is sad to relate now, however that all of our efforts may have been in vain after all. Lack of news from you has deprived us of most of our ingredients for news and our funds to defray the costs are nearly depleted. It appears that we will have to go out of business very soon now ... so be it.

I want to thank all of you who have been so kind and courteous over the years and I promise you that I will make every effort to keep in touch with you always in the future.

Until better times loom ahead, may God keep you forevermore in his good graces and our love and devotion to you, always

Your friends and comrades,
John and Vera

Ross Medical Scholarship Suspended

At the 1990 annual reunion of the 69th Division, Dr. Robert Ross, one of our members, offered to present a scholarship to members of the Fighting 69th to attend either the School of Medicine or the School of Veterinary Medicine of Ross University. A committee was appointed to investigate and organize a plan to take advantage of this offer. It was determined that the scholarship had an estimated value of \$40,000 to \$48,000.

At the next reunion, Bill Matlach, Chairman of the committee, presented to the General Membership of the Association a plan for implementing the proposed scholarship for which children and grandchildren of 69ers could compete. The plan was readily accepted by the membership and the committee was advised to proceed.

During the next two years extensive articles were published in the 69th Division news bulletin describing details of the Scholarship, value to the student, and means for applying. A number of inquiries were received (only one inquiry this past year) and Dr. Ross sent each potential applicant catalogs of the university and standard entry application forms which show that the applicant has completed academic requirements for entry to a medical school. To date, none of these applications has been returned to Dr. Ross.

At the recent annual reunion in Rochester, Bill Matlach reported the current status of the Scholarship to the membership and stated that, at last contact, Dr. Ross was still willing to continue his offer in spite of the lack of response. After some discussion, it was decided to place the Ross Medical Scholarship in abeyance until such a time as interest may be shown. We thank Dr. Robert Ross profusely for his kind offer and for the cooperation he has shown during the past three years, but, alas, for the time being, the 69th Infantry Division Ross Medical Scholarship is suspended.

POSTSCRIPT:

Bill Matlach sent a letter to Dr. Robert Ross explaining the decision to suspend the Ross Scholarship and thanked him for having proposed the Scholarship and for his kind efforts on our behalf. The following letter was subsequently received from Dr. Ross.

Dear Mr. Matlach,

With reference to your letter dated September 15, 1993, regarding your meeting held in Rochester, I agree with you that we should discontinue the announcement since there has been a lack of interest. I am sorry that prospective students never took advantage of this offer.

I would like to give you some additional information as to what is transpiring in the educational field. A few months ago in the New York Times there was an article which stated that 42,000 applications were sent to the 126 U.S. Medical Schools, and only 16,500 applicants were accepted by the U.S. Medical Schools, which many of these students were qualified but denied admission because the U.S. Medical Schools have quotas on admissions.

The Ross University School of Medicine enjoys the largest enrollment it has ever had. As a matter of fact, we are turning down qualified students because of the tremendous enrollment and interest.

Over the last ten years I have had the pleasure of granting Honorary Degrees in Humanities to three former Presidents, President George Bush, President Gerald Ford and President

Jimmy Carter and to 35 Nobel Prize Laureates including such distinguished individuals as Former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, President of Costa Rica, Oscar Arias Sanchez and Archbishop Tutu. At our next graduation ceremony which will take place at the United Nations Building in January 1994, an Honorary Degree will be presented in absentia to Mr. M. Gorbachev.

I do want to take this opportunity to thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

With best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,
Dr. Robert Ross
Chairman of the Board

Farewell Comrades, Howitzer Al's "Last" Ad for Jackets and Shirts

Yes, at last it is time to wrap it up for posterity, after many years and no help, it is the end. There are a few items left which were not sold at the Rochester maneuvers, and here they are. Only a few, no color selection guaranteed.

ITEM	STOCK	PRICE
CAPS — red or blue	3 of each	\$ 5.00
SHIRTS — white only		
Medium	1	\$15.00
Extra Large	4	\$15.00
JACKETS — Blue		
Large	3	\$20.00
Extra Large	6	\$20.00
JACKETS — Red		
Extra Large	4	\$20.00
Extra-Extra	3	\$20.00
Large for well fed members		

All orders shipping cost is \$3.00. Make checks payable to 69th Division Association and mail to:

Howitzer Al Kormas, *Ex-Supply Sergeant*
12500 Edgewater - 503, Lakewood, Ohio 44107

That is it - no more unless your fearless leaders want more next year. Only a court-martial will change my mind.

Fellow veterans, buddies, pals and tough leaders, with heavy heart, I must now bring to a close (excuse me while I wipe the tears away) of having to sell at reunion, having packed hundreds of mail order boxes, scrounging for boxes, going to the Post Office and UPS, and in the 5 or 6 years getting the monies to our now retired treasurer, Safari Bob Kurtzman, Jr. Now to get out my old G1 olive drab hanky and sob, and sob. We've come a long way as veterans and many now gone, and so many now ill. God be merciful and good to we remaining. God love y'all.

NOTE: How many times will Al Kormas hand us this X-Supply Sergeant Routine? Who out there believes that he will ever give up this distinguished and dignified position? Stay tuned to the next bulletin

Battery C, 881st Field Artillery at the Rochester Reunion



Row 1: Arlene Schumaker, Fondina Moore, Mary Ann Early, Daniel Jones, Joan Jones. Row 2: Arthur Moore, Harold James Early. Row 3: Jennie Vasil, Josephine Molinari, Joan Kollar



First timers Arthur Moore, William Pendall and Bill Fox



Harold James Early, wife Mary Ann Early, with first timers Arthur Moore and wife, Fondina Moore



Harold and Mary Ann Early holding 69th flag at the Banquet.



Bill Pendell, Harold James Early, Bill Fox, Carl Schumaker



Row 1: Jennie Vasil, Mary Ann Early, Dorothy Milstead, Hugh Milstead, Josephine Molinari. Row 2: Sybil Conner, George Vasil, Paul Molinari, Lester Hart, Arthur Moore, Fondina Moore, Joe Conner at George Eastman Mansion.

69th Division Participation at Elbe Day Torgau "Down by the Riverside" and Groundbreaking of First Link-up Memorial Park, Strehla, Germany

Submitted by: Edgar A. "Bud" Parsons

1913 South Lakeshore Drive, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514 • Telephone 919/942-5472

A TRIP REPORT: In late April, 1993, several groups of 69ers traveled to Germany with a major purpose of attending the groundbreaking of the First Link-Up Memorial Park, Strehla, Germany, scheduled for April 25th, a Sunday. Visits were made to other locations, but this report is concerned primarily with events of the "Down By The Riverside" weekend in Torgau, climaxing with the Sunday afternoon groundbreaking ceremony at Strehla.

THE 69ers: Our group of 69ers had made arrangements to be chauffeured in a Mercedes minivan driven by Mr. Heinz Richter, a retired collective farm manager from Kathewitz, a small village near Torgau. Mr. Richter is fluent in English and Russian. He was extremely helpful to the 69ers that visited the Torgau-Strehla areas in 1991, when the First Link-Up Memorial Park was first beginning to be discussed seriously with the Germans and the Russians.

The "Richter Group" consisted of the following: **Charles Chapman** - Headquarters Divarty, **Leland Jones** - Company H, 273rd, **William "Bill" Matlach** - Company E, 273rd, **Robert "Bob" McCarty** - Company D, 273rd, **Ray Olson** - Company A, 272nd, **Edgar A. "Bud" Parsons** - Company A, 272nd, **Kenneth Sawyer** - Company D, 273rd and **William Snidow** - Battery B, 661st.

Others traveling independently included **Delbert and Donna Philpott** - Company A, 271st, **Ralph and Ursula Goebel** - Cannon Company, 272nd, **James and Mary Carroll** - Company A, 273rd, **James Ezell** - Company A, 273rd and his wife together with an additional couple believed to be 69th, but I have no further identification in my notes.

Special note is made of the presence of three other individuals not members of the 69th Infantry Division, but who were present at Torgau and Strehla. Two are noteworthy (Major General Alexander Olshansky and Lieutenant Alexander Silvasenko) because of their unique historical participations in the April. 25, 1945 link-ups at Strehla and Torgau, respectively.

The third individual, Vladimir A. Sorovtsev of Moscow, has demonstrated unusual initiatives and undertaken considerable personal financial risks and professional commitments to commemorate, permanently, the historical link-up of the 69th Infantry Division with the 58th Russian Guards Division.

For those 69ers who have not had the opportunity to attend Soviet-American "reunions," General Olshansky was a staff sergeant at the time of the first Soviet-American link-up at Strehla. He is the first Soviet with whom Lieutenant **Albert Kotzebue**, the 69th Division patrol leader, shook hands.

General Olshansky is also the head of the Elbe River Group of the Russian War Veterans Committee, the Russian organization with responsibilities on behalf of World War II and other veterans affairs. General Olshansky is now a



69ers and Jazz Band at Torgau Soviet Monument: Left to right, Ray Olson Ralph Goebel, Charles Chapman, Bill Matlach, Bud Parsons, (Alexander Silvasenko), Leland Jones and Bill Snidow with camera.

retired Professor from Moscow University. He has major official responsibilities for the First Link-Up Memorial Park and the ceremonies contemplated for the 50th Anniversary of the Link-Up.

Lieutenant Alexander Silvasenko became world famous, together with Lieutenant **Bill Robertson**, because of their meeting in Torgau several hours after the Strehla link-up and the highly publicized photographs associated therewith. Silvasenko is a retired history teacher and has hosted members of the 69th Division and their spouses at the collective farm in ByeloRussia where he now lives.

Mr. Vladimir Sorovtsev is the son of a Russian World War II veteran, and is internationally recognized for his many artistic works as a sculptor. He is currently working on the mold for the bas relief, or mural, that will be a main feature of the First Link-Up Memorial Park. Sorovtsev conceived the concept of the American and Russian soldier symbolizing "The Spirit of the Elbe" statues for presentation to President Bush and President Yeltsin in April and May of 1993. He prepared the statues. He facilitated the presentation arrangements in many ways.

Equally important, Sorovtsev, together with General Olshansky, have provided initiatives and the know-how for the gift of the First Link-Up Memorial Park land from the German government, obtaining financial support at a time when the Soviet Union was dissolving, and a new nation, Russia, was being formed and continually overcoming numerous bureaucratic and other obstacles necessary to make

(Continued on Page 62)

**69th DIVISION PARTICIPATION AT ELBE DAY
TORGAU "DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE" AND
GROUNDBREAKING OF FIRST LINK-UP MEMORIAL
PARK, STREHLA, GERMANY**

(Continued from Page 61)

the First Link-Up Memorial Park a reality. Sorovtsev's efforts have been critical to memorializing the unique World War II historical record of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division.

Without Sorovtsev, it is highly probable there would be no First Link-Up Memorial Park, and only a plain bronze historical marker to mark the event.

(Special mention is also made of the unique contributions to the First Link-Up Memorial Park of Sam Lewis, B-273rd, although Sam was not able to be in Germany in 1993. Sam is a professional architect. He "translated" the artistic concepts of Sorovtsev into practical construction drawings, and also conceived the unique "three flagpoles" construction. The project is international, with other 69ers making critical contributions far beyond space and other allowances of this trip report.)

TORGAU, ELBE DAY and "DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE"

Beginning in 1985, the civil authorities in Torgau have capitalized on their Russian-American role by publicizing annually a series of events known as the April 25th Elbe Day "Down By The Riverside" program. The events feature jazz bands and attract several thousand persons. In 1993, the crowds included several bus loads of Americans from the Berlin area.

For the last several years, the bands have included American and United Kingdom musical contingents from the NATO military groups in the former Federal Republic of Germany, Soviets and/or Russians, plus several "civilian" jazz bands from Hamburg and other locations in the now-united Germany.

In 1993, the Elbe Day proceedings began on April 22nd. Under the leadership of the Burgermeister of Torgau, Herr

Wolfgang Gernstenberg, the events included seminars, movies, remembrances, and reflections on the totally unexpected Soviet - Russian - American - East Germany - West Germany happenings of the last two years. Del Philpott had made arrangements to attend several of the scheduled events. As a 69er, Philpott was given extensive newspaper publicity associated with scheduled participations and addresses at the series of meetings. Philpott's contributions brought good credit to the 69th.

Saturday morning, April 24th, featured an assembly in the Torgau cemetery, where Joe Polowsky is buried. Flowers were laid on Joe's grave.

The weather was sunny. The temperature was ideal. In an open area of the cemetery, a grand piano had been positioned on artificial grass, near a central mound topped by a plain Christian cross. The pianist provided musical interludes. The crowd numbered several hundred.

High-ranking German officials, including their Minister of Education, commemorated the common losses of World War II, and expressed hopes and commitments to peaceful relations among all nations in the future. Similar expressions were made by Major General Alexander Olshansky and Alexander Silvashko. Del Philpott represented the Americans and the 69th Division in making comparable appropriate remarks. Mr. Robert W. Becker, the United States consul from Leipzig, was also present but to the best of the writer's recollection, was not one of the speakers.

About one kilometer distance, there is a separate Soviet Torgau monument with nearby graves honoring the World War II and other dead of the Soviet Union. In past ceremonies of this kind, it has been customary for the crowd to reassemble at the Soviet monument for a wreath-laying observance at that memorial. On this occasion, the agenda did not schedule such an observance. However, Matlach, Olson and Parsons located the Soviet monument the next day and noted that a new wreath of white flowers had been placed there not many hours earlier.

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Starting to march across the Torgau Bridge - Holding the Stars and Stripes are Charles Chapman, Bill Matlach, Bud Parsons, Ralph Goebel, Ray Olson and Ken Sawyer.

**69th DIVISION PARTICIPATION AT ELBE DAY
TORGAU "DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE" AND
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(Continued from Page 62)

During the last several years, the Torgau "Down By The Riverside" activities have featured an informal and symbolic march across the Torgau Elbe River bridge by soldiers and veterans from Germany, Russia and the United States. The United States participants are 69th Infantry Division veterans and the Torgau authorities go to considerable trouble to ensure their recognition and participation.

The march across the bridge followed the cemetery proceedings. The bridge had been cleared of all automobile and pedestrian traffic. Three flags were utilized to lead the parade - The United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, and the white, blue and red of Russia. The flags were joined to stretch horizontally across the width of the bridge. The flags are held chest high by veterans and/or soldiers from the three countries. Behind the flags were approximately 1,000 marching participants and spectators.

To the accompaniment of small bands, the procession slowly walked across the bridge and then made a right turn towards the Torgau link-up monument that has been featured in many photographs. Typically, a small crowd lines the street and sidewalk areas leading to the monument.

At the monument, one or more of the jazz bands assembled for these festivities usually lingers near the base of the monument where the marchers disperse to listen to the music. The photo at the beginning of this article shows some of the 69ers and an informal pick-up jazz band.

Beginning early in the evening, there is a "battle of the bands" with eight or nine bands providing musical entertainment. This year both the United States Air Force and the Berlin Brigade provided bands for this "contest." The mood is festive and light-hearted.

LUNCH WITH THE RUSSIAN GARRISON

On Sunday, April 25th, the Americans were invited by arrangements facilitated by General Olshansky to visit the Russian army garrison and compound in Torgau. So far as can be determined, this is the first time any 69ers have been inside this Russian military installation.

In mid-morning, we assembled in a large auditorium. Entertainment was provided by Russian and German musicians. In addition to the Americans, the audience consisted of Russian soldiers, their families and a large number of German children.

Many of the school children had previously prepared letters in English and addressed them to President Clinton. The messages were to continue to work for peace and invitations to visit their country. Many of these letters were given to various 69ers for delivery. Also included were names and addresses inviting "pen pals" relationships with American children of comparable ages. *(See Mr. Carroll's article and picture of children elsewhere in this bulletin.)*

The Americans were also invited to lunch with the Commanding Officer of the Russian garrison. Preceding the meal were several toasts with vodka and wine. It was most enjoyable.

Following picture-taking on the parade ground of the Russian compound, the Americans traveled to Strehla, about 16 miles south of Torgau where the first Soviet-American link-up occurred 48 years earlier.

THE STREHLA GROUNDBREAKING

At Strehla, a crowd of several hundred persons had assembled. They were on the location that will be the site of the "three flagpoles" roadway plaza of the First Link-Up Memorial Park.



Strehla Burgermeister Andreas Habeland flanked by Heinz Richter and unknown interpreter. Note copper cylinder awaiting emplacement.

The Burgermeister of Strehla, Andreas Habeland, is a relatively young man. He performed the groundbreaking. The crowd centered on him, a sign in German that identified the location as the site of the link-up and the First Link-Up Memorial Park and the "three flagpoles" location.

Around the "three flagpoles" site, three metal tablets had been placed temporarily on the ground. The tablets, one each in English, German, and Russian identified the area as the link-up where the first meeting of American and Soviet ground forces occurred on April 25, 1945. In the center of the three-tablets area was a cement foundation level with the ground. In the middle of the foundation was a hole about five inches in diameter.

The center hole was to receive a copper cylinder about five inches in diameter and 15 inches long. Burgermeister Habeland described the copper cylinder to the crowd. The cylinder contained documents recording the 1945 link-up, and other materials concerning the historical significance of the area. The insertion by Burgermeister Habeland of this copper cylinder into the hole and then covering the hole with cement comprised the groundbreaking ceremony.

Before inserting the copper cylinder, Burgermeister Habeland described the importance of this ceremony to the assembly. His words were translated into English and also in Russian.

The Americans and Russians were then invited to a reception and buffet at a new Best Western hotel some 150 yards away. Mayor Habeland and his wife who teaches English, served as hosts for this event. Champagne, wine and hors d'oeuvres were in abundance.

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**69th DIVISION PARTICIPATION AT ELBE DAY
TORGAU "DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE" AND
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Burgermeister Andreas Habeland finishing the task of covering the copper cylinder hole with cement. Note two of the three metal descriptive tablets.

**FABRICATION, SHIPPING AND ASSEMBLY
OF THE "THREE FLAGPOLES" IN STREHLA**

While these refreshments were being enjoyed by most of the 69ers, several others met with General Olshansky, Mr. Sorovtsev, Burgermeister Habeland and the Strehla officials concerned with the emplacement of the "three flagpoles" in the finished First Link-Up Memorial Park.

Among the items discussed were the height of the "three flagpoles." Burgermeister Habeland wished the height to be 20 meters, the same as nearby lighting fixtures.

Also discussed briefly was the concept of a fourth flagpole. The fourth flagpole would be for the United Nations flag, in recognition of the coincidence that the United Nations Charter was officially voted into being in San Francisco on the same day, April 25th, 1945, as the first Soviet-American link-up occurred on the Elbe. No decisions were made.

The cost of shipping the "three flagpoles" to Strehla from the manufacturer was discussed, as well as the responsibility and cost for assembly and emplacement on the specially designed concrete foundation. Tentative agreement was reached that these costs would be borne by the Fighting 69th Memorial Fund, Inc.

Arrangements for inspection of the work and approval of satisfactory completion were also discussed together with means for transferring the funds and obtaining a receipt that meets the IRS requirements of a tax-exempt not for profit corporation.

**APRIL 26th, MEETING WITH
TORGAU BURGERMEISTER GERSTENBERG**

The Americans were informed that Burgermeister Gerstenberg wished to meet the Americans and almost all of the Americans, together with spouses, met in his office on the following morning. Coffee and cookies were served. The 69ers were welcomed to Torgau. It developed that the Burgermeister was concerned about plans for the 50th Anniversary of the link-up and invited suggestions to make the event memorable.

Burgermeister Gerstenberg plans to utilize the 50th Anniversary as a means of publicizing Torgau and its historical attractions.

He was assured that we in the 69th Division would attempt to encourage attendance by 69th Division members and their families. However, we could make no commitments of any kind. Although we were confident there would be an organized tour of some kind to Torgau, we were not knowledgeable of the status of such preliminary planning.

(Separate from this meeting, several 69ers were informed that the teachers of English in Torgau were interested in hosting children of 69ers - and probably more accurately, their grandchildren - in Torgau homes, with English-speaking young people of comparable ages, for several days. This hosting might be done during the 1995 50th Anniversary activities, to give these young Americans an opportunity to meet Germans of their own age and obtain the maximum benefit of travel outside the United States.

However, this necessarily tentative hosting invitation was not limited to the Elbe Day period. This is now being explored further. If any 69er is interested, please write or call Bud Parsons at the address accompanying this report.)

Burgermeister Gerstenberg was informed of the general plan of the United States Department of Defense to observe the Soviet-American link-up as one of the notable 50th Anniversary events of World War II. Beyond that stark fact, we were not cognizant of planning details.

At the Rochester Convention of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association, Inc. meeting in August, 1993, it was announced by Bill Beswick that he is initiating the planning of a 1995 tour that will include Torgau, and of course, the completion of the First Link-Up Memorial Park in Strehla.

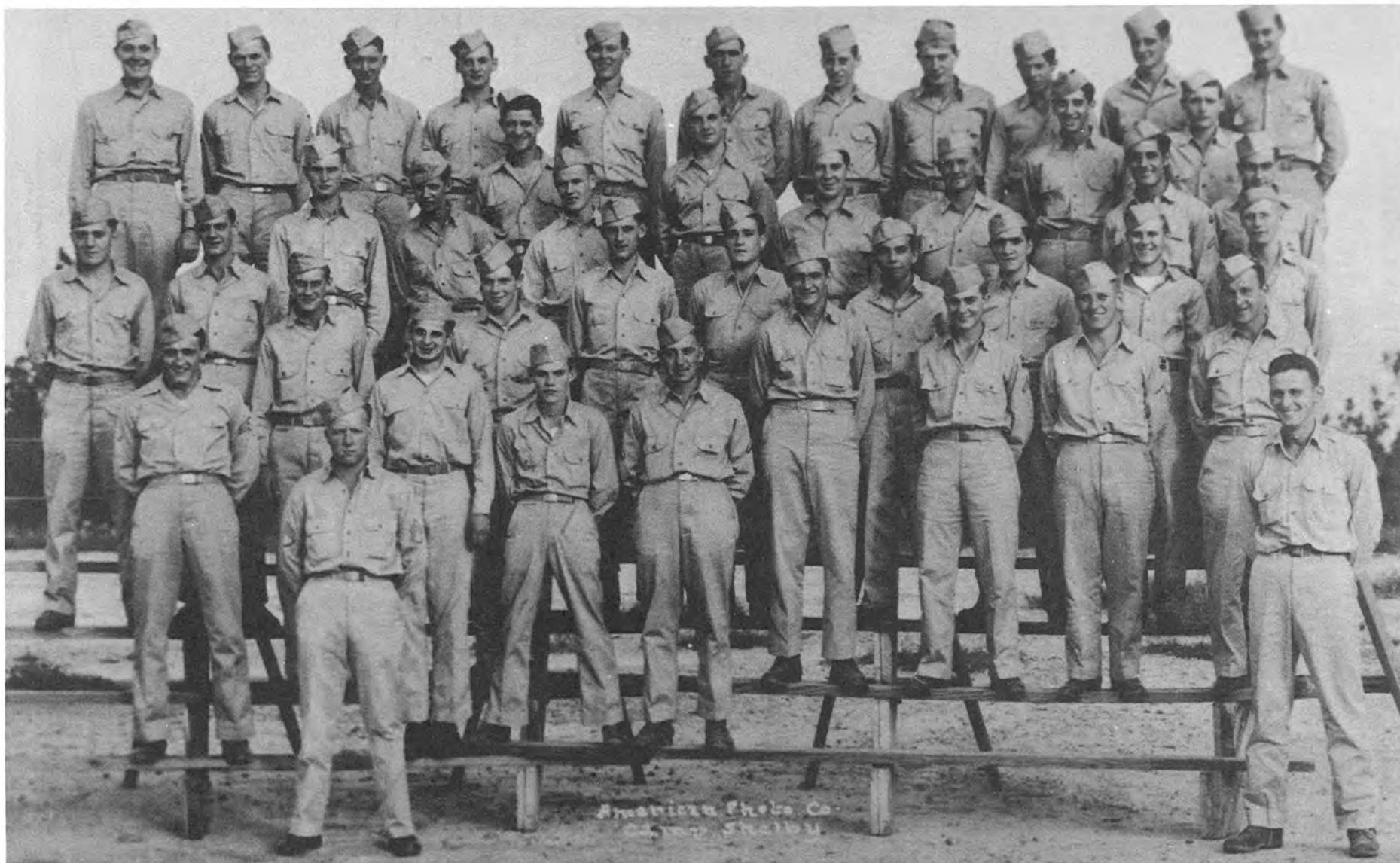
Burgermeister Gerstenberg repeated his welcome invitations to members of the 69th Division and their families to visit Torgau at any time. It is noted that in 1985, before Herr Gerstenberg became Burgermeister, that he undertook the initiative to set aside two rooms in the museum in Hartenfels Castle for memorializing the 69th Infantry Division and its link-up with the ground forces of the Soviet Union.

World War II members of the 69th Infantry Division are encouraged to plan to visit the Torgau area in 1995. If they go at some other time, the Torgau authorities would appreciate it if they would make their presence known to the Torgau visitors center. A picture book, "Torgau," has recently been published and an English translation has been made by Mr. Heinz Richter. Also very helpful to 69ers interested in Torgau is a booklet in English with many pictures obtainable from the Torgau Information Service, "The City of Torgau - A Short Walk Round."

The address for obtaining Torgau descriptive materials is Torgau Information Service, Schlosstrasse 11, 0-7290, Torgau, Germany. It is suggested that 69ers interested in traveling to Torgau and/or Strehla are invited to contact others that have made the trip. For supplemental information please feel free to contact Mr. William Beswick, Box 576, West Point, Virginia 23181, Telephone 804/843-2696; or Edgar A. "Bud" Parsons, 1913 South Lakeshore Drive, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514, Telephone 919/942-5472.

NOTE: No monies contributed to the 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc. have been utilized in any of the events described. Communications, travel and other costs necessary for the groundbreaking of the First Link-Up Memorial Park and construction coordinations critical to the Park's completion in 1995 were borne by interested individual 69ers. If you have not contributed, please join with your wartime buddies to memorialize permanently the role of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division in World War II, and to keep the Stars and Stripes flying forever on those faraway banks of the Elbe River.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We received a lot of coverage on this trip to Germany. Some pictures that were sent were duplicates and therefore we tried to split them up between the articles. See Mr. Carroll's article for pictures pertaining to this article.)



COMPANY I, 272nd INFANTRY - 1st PLATOON Camp Shelby, Mississippi

Submitted by: Bill Vroom
Box 6165, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807

Bill Vroom is the
seventh man in the top row.

Bill writes: I served with the 69th, Company I, 272nd Infantry from May 1943 to October 1943 at Camp Shelby. I just found out about the 69th reunions and spoke to **Bob Kurtzman**. I could not make this year's reunion but I sure hope to be in Nashville. I am looking forward to meeting you people in the near future. I have tentative plans to go to Camp Shelby to see the monument dedicated to the men of the 69th.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Sorry Bill, but we could not list the names from the photo you sent. So many of them were illegible that we felt it best not to do so.)

Headquarters Company, 724th Field Artillery

Submitted by: Charles Tanzi, Sr.



*Fort Dix the day I was discharged.
Thus, the smile.*



A view of one tent area. Camp Shelby 1942.



*Standing: Jackson, Barton
Kneelig: Hadjuk, Berky, Hagel, Sheppard, Ellis*



No identification on this photo.



No identification on this photo.



Charles in Holland, 1945



George Ellis, Germany 1945



Park Hotel - Bad Durrenberg - Germany, 1945

A Friend in Leipzig

Submitted By: Ray Fahrner
 Company A, 273rd Infantry
 Forge Gate Apartments, 33E1
 Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19446

Company A, 273rd Infantry, was attacking the city of Leipzig. As a member of the light machine gun squad, fourth platoon, we were in the vanguard of the Company. We had been on the move since early morning, working the houses and yards of the towns on the outskirts of the city. Now, I was lying on a sidewalk next to a building on one of the avenues of Leipzig. I was manning the gun and in hold position waiting for the tanks to catch up, as we needed their cannon for support.

I reached for my canteen and it was empty. I realized that we had not received chow that morning, hence we had not replenished our water supply. I was lying alongside a casement window, so I knocked on it. It opened and a little, old white haired man looked up at me. I said, "Wasser, haben sie wasser?" I had asked for water. He replied, "Wasser nichts gut, maken sie kronk." He told me that the water would make me ill. I said, "Tricken, haben sie ein tricken?" I had asked for a drink. The casement window closed and I thought to myself, well that's the end of that. Suddenly, the window reopened and the gentleman handed me a tall brown bottle with a cork in it. I removed the cork, and being suspicious I smelled the contents, then took a small sip. It was cool apple cider. I took a gusty swig, put the cork back in, and passed it back to the rest of the squad.

In a short time, the bottle, with the cork intact, was passed back to me - empty. I knocked on the window and it opened. I handed the bottle down, and said, "Danka, Papa." Thank you, father. With a smile on his face, he replied, "Bitte, Amerikaner." You are welcome, American. The window closed, I picked up the gun, and went back to the grim business of war.

Army Navy Game 1992

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA



Jane Matlach and Dottie Witzleb

It was a cold one but Army came from behind and won the game. Seven of the Army's loyal 69th Infantry Division members attended the game. They were Edward Lucci and Ray Fahrner from A Company, 273rd, John Moriarty from the M.P.s, Bill and Jane Matlach, and Earl and Dottie Witzleb from E Co., 273rd. Just like we won the war, that is World War II, we cheered Army to victory in the fourth quarter. Due to the cold weather, Ray Fahrner and John Moriarty left early in the second quarter for the Holiday Inn in Lansdale.

This year, 1993, we will once again see Army win at the Meadowlands in New Jersey. Jane and Dottie will go shopping in New York. Ray will stay at home and watch it on TV while Bill, Ed, Ed's son and a friend, John, Bill and myself (Earl) will take in the game. We all enjoyed a nice weekend and will do the same this December 3rd, 4th and 5th.

NEW TREASURER - WILLIAM MATLACH

If you did not receive a Dues Envelope or you are a new member, send your dues to:
 WILLIAM MATLACH, P.O. Box 474, West Islip, New York 11795-0474

Do not send dues to Clarence Marshall. He is the Membership Chairman. Send him your address change and new member names.

Steven P. Arndt made Honorary Member



David Arndt, Steven Arndt and Luisa Arndt at the banquet during our San Francisco California Reunion, 1992.

Many of you may remember Steven, Louisa and David Arndt attending and participating in our reunion in San Francisco in August of 1992. Steven is the son of Theodore L. Arndt (deceased) who was in Battery C, 724th Field Artillery Battalion from May 1943 until after World War II ended in Germany in May 1945.

Steven asked me to present his name to the Board of Directors at our reunion in Rochester in 1993 for Honorary Membership.

On August 12th, 1993 at Rochester, New York I presented Steven's name to our Board of Directors for Honorary Membership. They voted by an overwhelming majority for Steven P. Arndt to be an Honorary Member of the 69th Infantry Division Association.

We look forward to Steven, his wife Louisa and son David being with us at the reunion, and our Battery C get-together and dinner in Nashville in August 1994, and many others.

John W. Turner
Battery C, 724th F.A. Bn.



HAROLD CAPP designed this plate. 2 Meadowlark Lane, Hendersonville, North Carolina 28792

More Rochester Reunion Fun



Ursula and Ralph Goebets on Sam Patch Cruise Boat



Fred and Mavis Butenhoff



Jim Boris and Jack Duffy

Three 69th Couples Enjoy A Tour of Germany

Submitted by: James M. Carroll
207 Tanglewood Lane, Levelland, Texas 79336



Left to right: Allamae and James Ezell, Mary and James Carroll and Zelma and Zane Gray.

On April 18th through the 20th, 1993 three 69th Infantry couples toured Germany. They were James Ezell of the 273rd and his wife Allamae, Zane Gray of the 271st and his wife Zelma and James Carroll of the 273rd and his wife Mary.

We rented a van at Frankfurt and went to Wiesbaden on the Rhein. We checked out the castles, vineyards and beautiful scenery along the Rhein. We stopped at Fort Ehrenbreitstein and went through the fort and museum. We observed the Mosel River's entrance to the Rhein.

Next we went down the Rhine to the Remagen bridge remains and the area where the 69th crossed the Rhein in 1944. Then we went to the Siegfried Line and Meisheid. We found the barn which was blown up and moved on to Kamberg, the first town Company A of the 273rd took in Germany.

At Kassel we saw the monument to Kiser Willham II. We drove to Munden on the Werra River. This was where our lead scout for Company A, 273rd fell off the autobahn bridge and was killed. We crossed the river at Laubach and moved on with our mission. Next we went to Heinebach where James Ezell and I located the house where he stayed after the war. We went on to Leipzig where some of us climbed to the top of the Monument of Nations.

When we arrived in Torgau we found that the Celebration Committee had made arrangements for us to stay with a German family in Trossin. We had a nice place to stay and breakfast for 60 Duesch marks per night. We attended the festivities in Torgau and the laying of the cornerstone for the monument at Strehla. At Torgau school children from the fifth grade gave all the American veterans a letter they had written to President Clinton. They were asking him to come to Torgau in 1995 for the 50th Anniversary of the Elbe Link-up so that he might play his saxophone and encourage friendship among all nations. They encouraged the veterans to ask their grandchildren to write letters to President Clinton about the 50th Anniversary.

I have two granddaughters in the Levelland schools. I went to each of their teachers and asked them if they would encourage their students to write letters to the president. Both classes wrote letters and I mailed them to President Clinton.

We toured Berlin and visited several other places on our way back to Frankfurt. We located lots of places we were in during the war and had a real nice time.



James Ezell, James Carroll, Zane Gray
Siegfried Line near Miescheid where the 69th went on the line.



Miescheid where a barn blew up and 51 soldiers were killed.
The German lady pictured lived in the house built over part
of the barn.



Old house in Kamberg, the first town Co. A, 273rd took.

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THREE 69th COUPLES ENJOY TOUR OF GERMANY
 (Continued from Page 69)



This family lives in the house in Heinebach where Company A, 1st Platoon stayed after the war ended.



American and Russian soldiers at Strehla for the ground-breaking and the laying of the cornerstone for our monument.



American and Russian Veterans with School Children of Torgau.

- Adults:*
 James Ezell
 Zane Gray
 Alexander Silwaschko
 Bud Parsons
 Delbert Philpott
 James Carroll
 Alexander Olshansky
 Kenneth Sawyer
 Mary Carroll

(Continued on Page 71)

Dear Mr. President

Russian and American soldiers met on April 25th, 1945 in TORGAU. A few days later the Second World War was finished.

One of the soldiers, an American taxi driver, Joe Polowsky, spent a lot of time in his life for the idea of friendship and understanding. Every year a meeting has taken place in TORGAU - in memory of this event. Jazz bands from many countries have come to this public festival on the theme: "Down by the Riverside." In 1995 there is the 50th anniversary of this day. We want to celebrate this great day in a united Germany with guests from all over the world. Your representation in TORGAU would be our dream - playing saxophone on the new bridge - near the historical one. You can realize our dream. We invite you to come to TORGAU in Germany in April 1995.



Above is a reduced copy of the letter the children of Torgau sent to President Clinton. It reads:
 Dear Mr. President,

Russian and American soldiers met on April 25th, 1945 in TORGAU. A few days later the Second World War was finished. One of the soldiers, an American taxi driver, Joe Polowsky, spent a lot of time in his life for the idea of friendship and understanding. Every year a meeting has taken place in TORGAU in memory of this event. Jazz bands from many countries have come to this public festival on the theme "Down by the Riverside." In 1995 there is the 50th anniversary of this day. We want to celebrate this great day in a united Germany with guests from all over the world.

Your representation in TORGAU would be our dream - playing saxophone on the new bridge - near the historic one. You can realize our dream. We invite you to come to TORGAU in Germany in April 1995.

Local students helping veteran

LEVELLAND COUNTY NEWS May 30, 1993

James Carroll, retired South Plains College instructor and patriot has enlisted the aid of Levelland school students in inviting and encouraging President Bill Clinton to be a part of the 50th anniversary of the historic link-up of the 69th U.S. Infantry Division with the Russian Army at the Elbe River on April 25, 1945.

The celebration will be held on the Torgau Elbe bridge and will be a world event for peace and global understanding.

The historic link-up in 1945 cut Hitler's collapsing Germany in two and effectively signaled the end of World War II. Five days later Hitler killed himself in Berlin.

Earlier this spring Carroll, a veteran of the "Fighting 69th" Infantry Division, received a letter from German students asking him to encourage local students to write the president and ask him to join the international community in celebrating the historic link-up. Carroll took the idea to two classes in which his granddaughters are enrolled. As a result, Mrs. Kay Schreier's class at Capital Elementary and Mrs. Janelle Phillips sixth grade class at the Middle School, became involved in the special project.

In the process, they learned a little bit about World War II history and met someone who interrupted his life, as did millions of others, to fight for freedom during World War II. During the final visit to Mrs. Schreier's class, Carroll wore his World War II uniform and took the time to answer questions about what the medals, stripes and patches on that uniform mean.

"I thank you for writing these letters. I will make copies and will send the originals to President Clinton," Carroll said.

Both Mrs. Schreier and Mrs. Phillips told him that the students had fun on the projects, which were executed in different ways. "We're trying to get him (Clinton) to join us in promoting friendship among all nations," said Carroll.

Carroll attended the 45th anniversary of the link-up in April, 1980 and has kept in touch with planning groups ever since. That celebration attracted an estimated 20,000 visitors, many of them American and Soviet veterans who recalled the terrible price paid by all mankind to restore peace to Europe and the world.

He is already making plans to return to Europe and Torgau, whose name stems from the Slavic word *torg* (market) because Germans and Slavs traded there on the riverbank in the 12th century.

During the anniversary celebrations, war veterans reaffirmed their allegiance to the pledge made by their comrades in arms on April 25, 1945, to dedicate their lives to furthering friendships between the people of the USSR and USA so that wars never again happen.

World War II cost mankind fifty million lives. Carroll says it is absolutely critical that mankind learn to live with one another.

That is the reason he is so interested in involving young people in his campaign to get President Clinton involved in the celebration. He is also concerned that citizens are forgetting the soldiers who gave their lives for freedom. Their cause, and the years he gave to his country, will always be a part of him and his memories.



Mrs. Janelle Phillips Sixth Grade Class



Mrs. Kay Schreier's Class

* * * * *

Copy of letter sent to the President by James Carroll

Dear Mr. President,

I recently went to Germany with two other World War II veterans and our wives. We revisited the areas where we were during the war and attended celebrations at Torgau and Strehla. We were joined by ten other U.S. veterans. At Strehla we set a cornerstone for the First Link-Up Memorial Park on the Elbe River. Enclosed is a copy.

While we were meeting with the Russian Garrison in their barracks two teachers from Torgau brought their students. The students presented the American veterans letters addressed to you. The one I received is enclosed. (on previous page)

My two granddaughters and their classmates are writing letters to you about this celebration. They are in the third and sixth grades.

If it is possible I would like for you to reserve April 25, 1995 to attend our 50th anniversary of the link-up of the Russian 58th Guards Division and the American 69th Infantry Division. This link-up ended World War II in Europe.

Sincerely,
James Carroll

James Carroll receives correspondence from family in Heinebach, Germany

Since we returned from Germany we received a letter from Gerald and Andreja Schmidtkunz. The picture on page 70 titled "This family lives in the house in Heinebach where we stayed after the war" is their picture. The picture below is of the family who lived in the house in 1945. The fourteen year old boy in the picture is the father of Gerald Schmidtkunz.

They have done some research on World War II and the capture of Heinebach by the 273rd Infantry. Their letter is enclosed. I would like to have some feedback from the members of the 69th involved in the capture of Heinebach.

Letter from the Schmidtkunz's follows.

Dear Mr. Carroll,

Very unexpectedly on June 22, 1993 you and Mr. Ezell visited us at our house in Alheim-Heinebach. At that time we were really surprised when you told us that you stayed at our house in the year of 1946. You know, we always thought that events like your visit only happen to other people, or, for example, in a scene of a Hollywood movie.

Therefore, after you left we were sorry that we were unable to tell you some historical facts about our village, respectively about the people who lived in our house. We thought that perhaps you were still interested in those facts so we read books and also asked our father about what happened in the last few months of World War II. Now, if you please, you may read what we found out and probably you will find these things corresponding to your reminiscences.

Good Friday, 1945 - March 30, 1945

A handful of German infantrymen installed automatic weapons and light cannons at strategic places of the village. Meanwhile, the American Army placed batteries on the other side of the river Fulda. Their tanks were hidden on the southwestern hills. Obviously everything was prepared to build up a bridgehead on the eastern side of the Fulda.

But at 11:00 a.m. a heavy detonation destroyed the Fulda bridge. The German soldiers had arranged the blowing-up of the bridge's middle arch and then they escaped into the eastern direction without firing a single shot.

However, on the American side the commander was told that a complete SS-division (5000 men with tiger tanks) was waiting for him in an ambush behind Heinebach. For that reason the commander didn't dare send his forces into the village. Instead of that he sent the burgermeister of Sterkelshausen with the request to abandon.

Yet, instead of the capitulation of Heinebach, the burgermeister got his sentence of death. Just at the moment he should have been shot, the American artillery took the village under fire. What good luck for Burgermeister Bachmann and what a misery for Heinebach, where there had never been an SS Division.

Fortunately, as suddenly as it hit the village, the American fire ceased. As fast as they could, Heinebach's inhabitants waved their white flags of capitulation.

Alas, Heinebach too had its Nazis first and last, and they removed the white flags again. This action, however, irritated the American commander and so the village was taken under fire again. It began at 7:00 p.m. with phosphorous grenades. It was miraculous that only a few persons died and several houses burned down. The next day, without further violence, the American Infantrymen occupied the village and took Burgermeister Heckmann as their hostage. A short time later many inhabitants had to leave their houses and make a place

for the occupational forces. Needless to say, the main street was the best place for the troops and so it came that our ancestors slept in tents in the garden while U.S. soldiers took up quarters in our house.

In 1946 our father George was a boy of 14 years and he was fond of the American GIs. One of them, he remembers, was a long and tall man who always told stories about America and its various possibilities. Naturally the GIs gave chocolate to our father and some other little things a young boy "really needs."

Our father's grandpa was less convinced about America's role in World War II. But as a "Christian artilleryman of the Kaiser Wilhelm" he nevertheless repaired German weapons, which the GIs captured on their way through Germany. Meanwhile Grandma was trying to prevent the plundering of her household.

However, our father was deeply impressed with that tall GI and his stories and so in 1972 he made a trip to New Orleans. The result was that he still is fond of America. Perhaps he found the GI's stories to be true.

We think that you can imagine that our father was really sorry that he didn't meet you at Heinebach! There was the possibility that you and our father know each other.

By the way, it is unlikely that you and Heinrich Schmidtkunz shot at each other, because Heinrich was busy trying to survive the Russian expedition. Yet, old Heinrich succeeded in making his way home from Stalingrad on foot missing the helping hands of Russian farmers. At home the American MPs imprisoned him and one year later in the winter of 1946 he was set free.

We send you and Mr. Ezell our best wishes and many greetings to your families and to Mr. President's state, Arkansas! Also, many greetings from our father George.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: There were several other pictures that accompanied this article, however, they were photo copies of the pictures and they could not be reproduced in that state.)



Heinrich and Elisabeth Schmidtkunz and son George. This is the family that lived in the house you occupied in 1945.

Company M, 272nd Regiment

Submitted by: Warren Roberts
780 Stinson Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43214

Company M liberating a brewery in Leipzig, Germany. Behind the trailer left to right are Lido Dalporto, John R. Smith. In front of the trailer is Wilson C. Harrel and behind the jeep is Oliver Cessna.



Company M members who were transferred into an ordnance company are shown taking photos and preparing to load into trucks on return from Butzbach, Germany to USA. March 1946. Left to right: Lido Dalporto, Matthew Zalenski, Pat Marketto (not in 69th) and Anthony Fernandez.



Company M personnel walking by the river in Zeitz, Germany. Left to right, Joseph R. Campbell, Warren Roberts and Justin J. Kuhn.



Wilson C. Harrel beside jeep and behind jeep Oliver Cessna taking a break near Zeitz, Germany.

Photo left: 1st and 3rd platoon sitting in front of their living quarters in Zeitz, Germany. Left to right Roy L. Hawk, Warren Roberts, Conley M. Cowan, unidentified member from 3rd Platoon and Albert Naganosis.

69th M.P.s

Submitted by: Lamar W. Williams
4365 Ruth Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35213

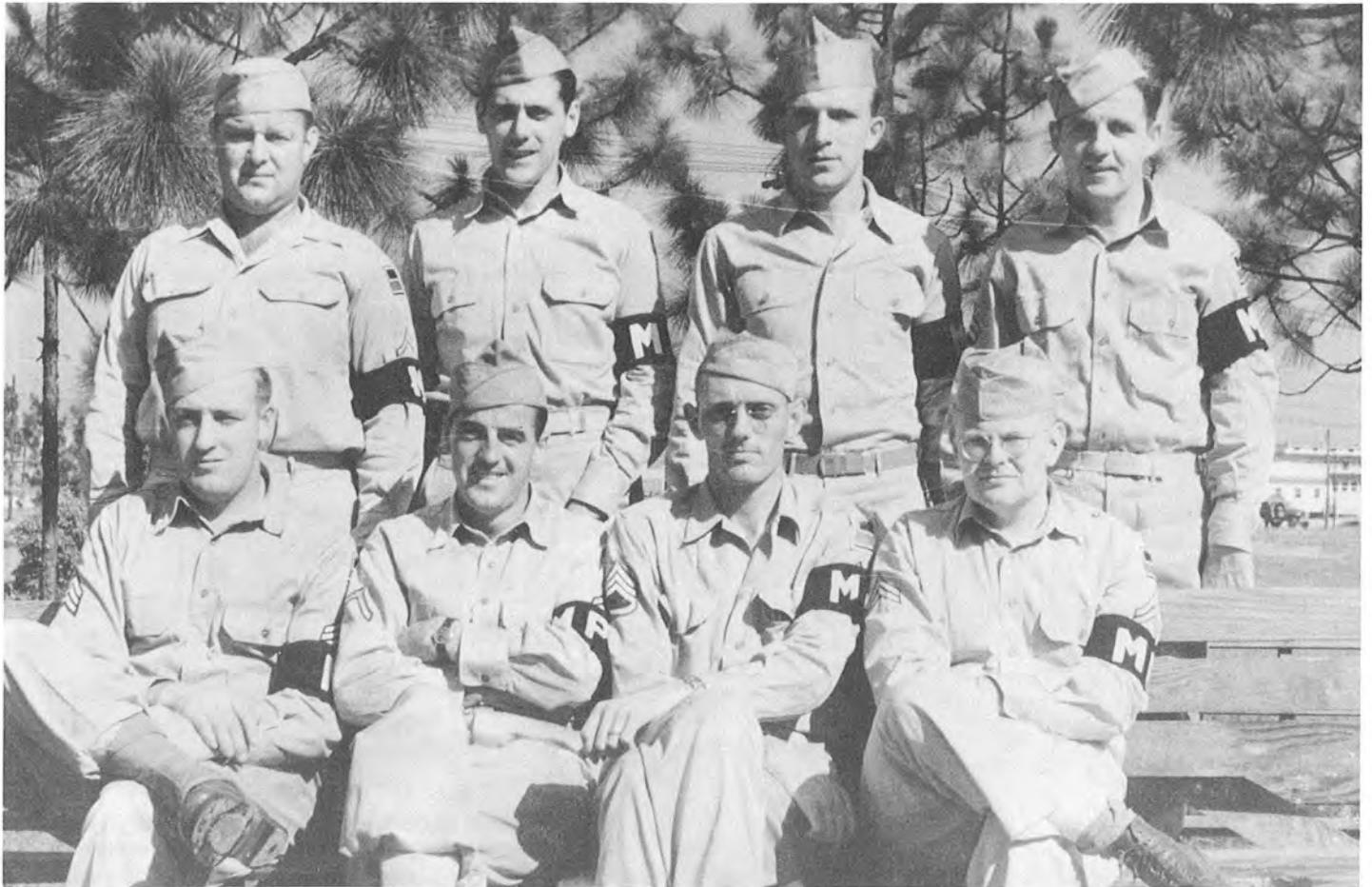
I am sending you six pictures of the M.P.s to be used in the bulletin. All of these photos were taken at Camp Shelby.

Thanks for your important contributions to the Bulletin.



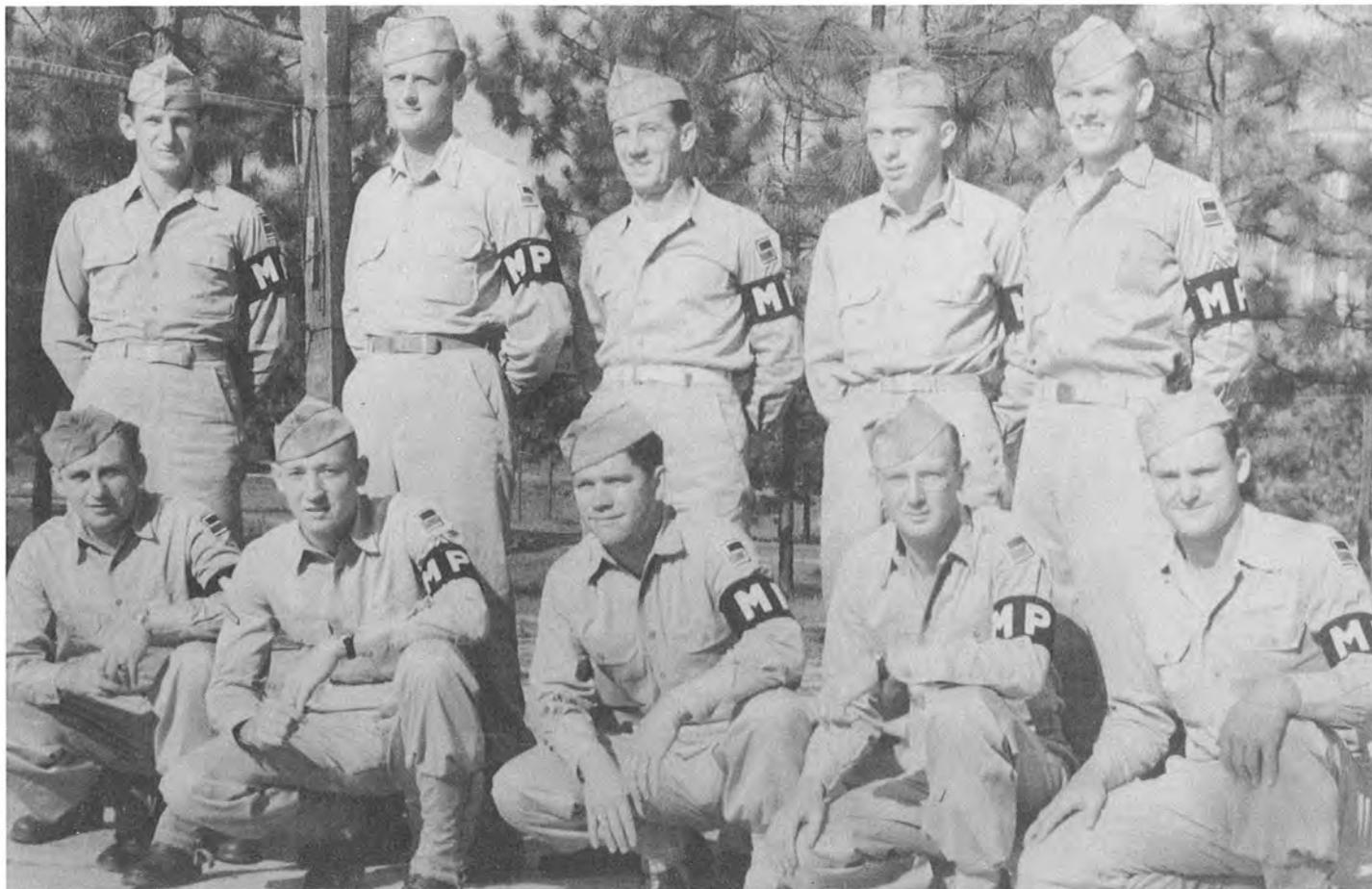
69th M.P. PLATOON OFFICERS

Left to right: Lieutenant James W. Warren, Major John O. Tower, Provost Marshall, Lamar W. Williams, Lieutenant (Commander)

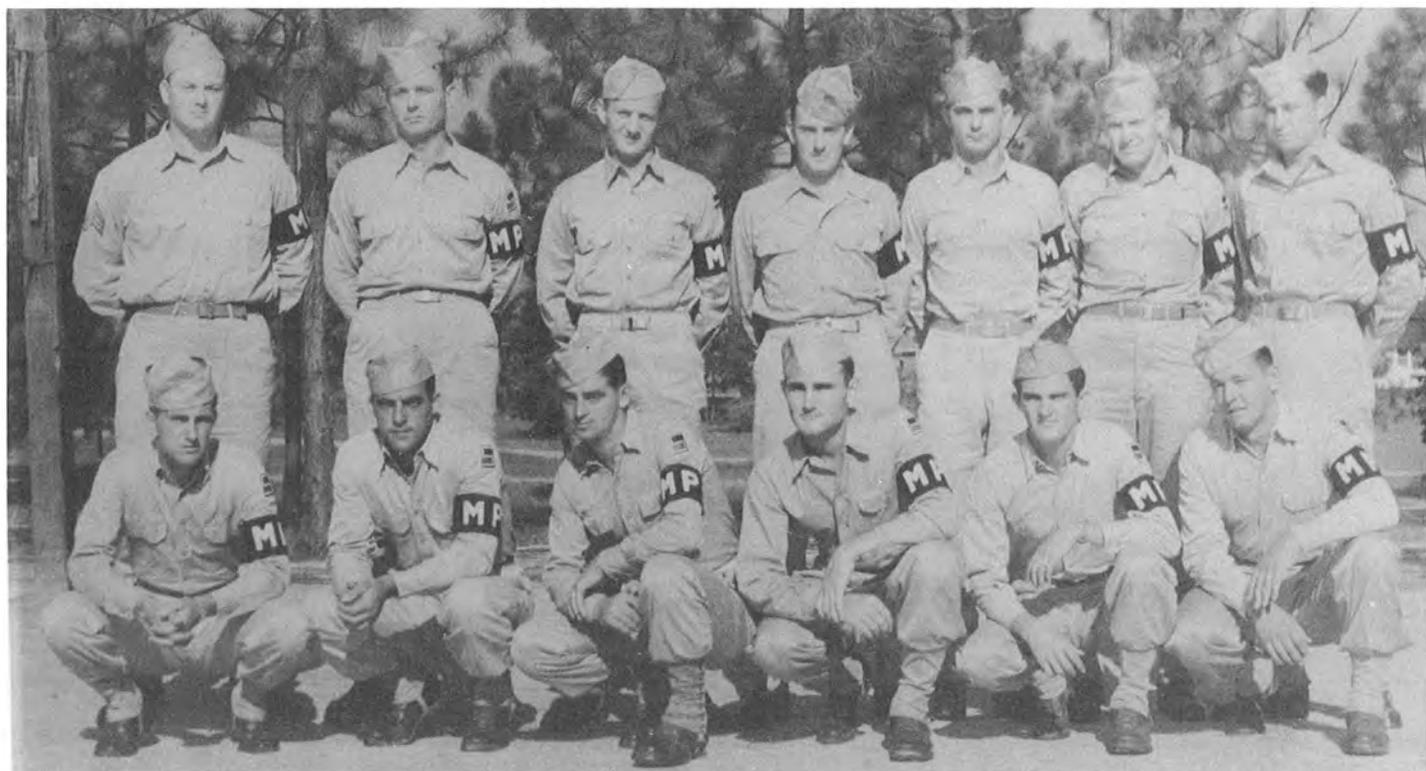


HEADQUARTERS SECTION, 69th M.P. PLATOON

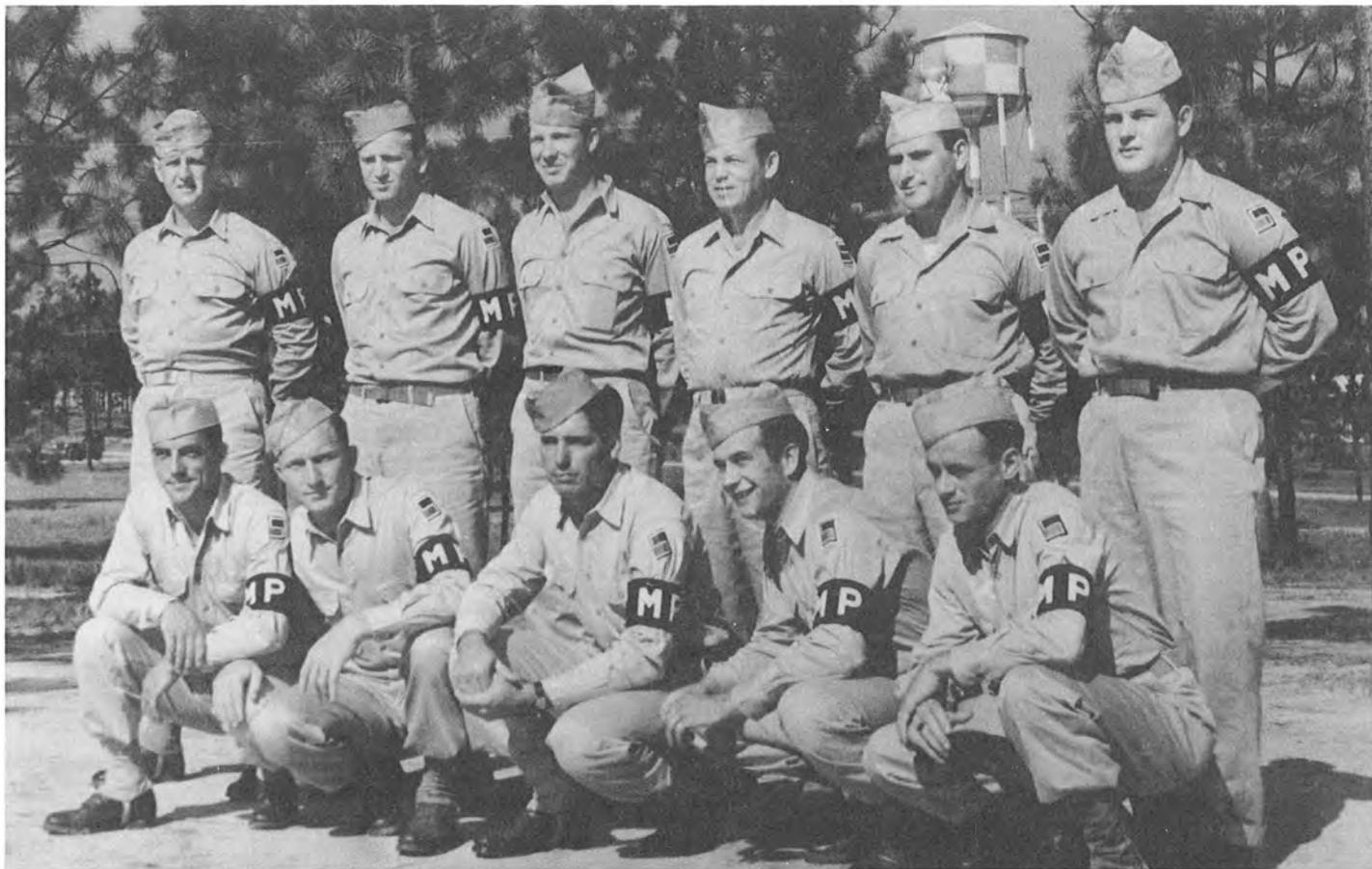
*Left to right, sitting: Sergeant Brundige, Private Lee, S/Sergeant Stevenson, Corporal Keller
Standing: Privates Kerscher, Freedman, Leitz, T/5 Burns*



CORPORAL ALLEN'S SQUAD — 69th M.P.s: *Left to right, kneeling: Privates Lenart, Swineford, Franks, Cope, Corporal Allen. Standing: Privates McCarty, Jackson, Monsolovich, Craig, Corporal Coles*



SERGEANT CRANFORD'S SQUAD — 69th M.P.s: *Kneeling: Privates Salts, Turner, Kalakowsky, Skrovina, Mayfield, Sapalio. Standing: Sergeant Cranford, Corporal Moody, Privates Stott, Paschal, Royer, Everett, Coleman*



SERGEANT KENNEDY'S SQUAD — 69th M.P.s: *Sorry, names not available.*



SERGEANT MINTER'S SQUAD — 69th M.P.s: *Kneeling: Privates Broadus, Gallagher, Ed Brandt, Corporal Keller, Private Bell, T/5 Burns, Private Freedman. Standing: Sergeant Minter, Privates Kwasniewski, Service, Hynds, Hartley, Morrison, Lisi, Corporal Disspayne*

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

Slipped by us as have all the other years. Sixty-seven of them for me. Get to a National Reunion fellows, before it is too late. You'll like them as we love you, your wife, family and your friends. Bring them all to Nashville August 21st through 28th, 1994.

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

WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS.

1994

JANUARY 8, 1994

Deadline for news material and pictures for this bulletin. Bulletin Volume 47, Number 2
 January - February - March - April, 1994
 Bulletin due out in March 1994.
 Members should have plans made for Nashville reunion and vacation week.
 This is the bulletin that tells it all for Nashville.
 Nashville Committee should have all material, prices, tours, eating places, other things to do, and so forth, ready for this bulletin. The next one will be too late.

* * * * *

APRIL 14, 15, 16, 17, 1994

**CALIFORNIA WESTERN CHAPTER
 "ROUND-UP"**

Vacation Inn in "Old Town"
 San Diego, California
 See article in another section of this bulletin.

For more information contact:

Delbert Philpott
 Post Office Box 2014
 Sunnyvale, California 94087-0014

* * * * *

APRIL 15, 1994

INCOME TAX DEADLINE

Is yours in and did you get a refund?
 Are you going to use it to come to a 69th Division Reunion?

* * * * *

APRIL 30, 1994

Deadline for news material and pictures for this bulletin. Bulletin Volume 47, Number 3
 May - June - July - August, 1994
 Bulletin due out end of June 1994 before printing company goes on vacation July 4th week. We do not want the same situation in 1994 that we had in 1993.
 It could be too late for Nashville.

MAY 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 1994

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).

Charleston Marriott Town Center

200 Lee Street East
 Charleston, West Virginia 25301
 Telephone: 304/345-6500

Hospitality Suite complimentary May 19, 20, 21, 1994
 Room Rates: \$62.00 plus tax for single, double, triple, quad.
 Yeager Airport only three miles away.

Traveling on Interstates 79, 77 and 64 brings you to the front door via Washington Street and Civic Center.

Details to follow in Tri-State flyer due out March 26, 1994.

INVITATION: We extend our welcome to other minis wishing to unite with us once and other 69th members, wives, family and guests from any state.

Committee:

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

or

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

Projected Sites: We want to make a swing through the state of Ohio for two or three years, then into Pennsylvania for a few years. We will also go to neighboring states if any Tri-Stater or 69th member or couples are 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 Goodbye until next year breakfast.

Weekend years are still open for 1995, 1996, and so on. Ray Szkudlarek says he may be interested in a weekend for one of the years. Contact Earl Witzleb at address above.

* * * * *

DATES - UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME

69th CAVALRY RECON TROOP

"National Capital Weekend"
 Washington, D.C.

Committee:

Charles and Bobbie Fox
 8700 Georgia Avenue, Apartment #301
 Silver Springs, Maryland 20910

(Continued on Page 78)

**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE**
(Continued from Page 77)

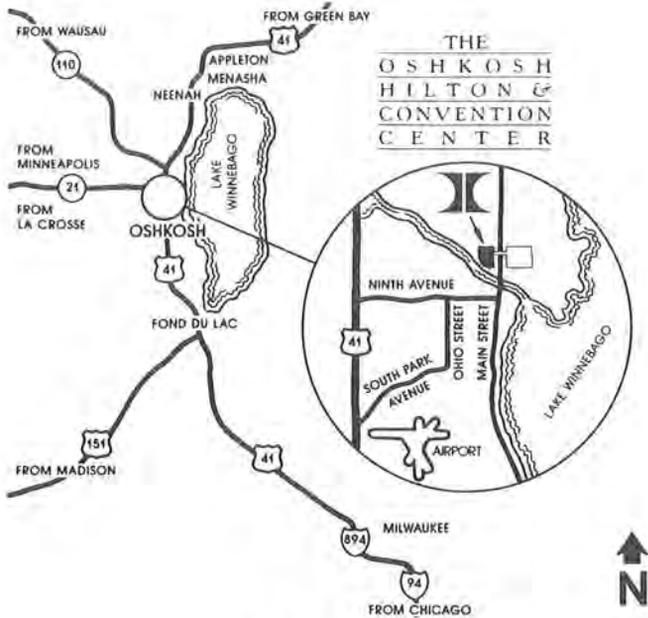
**MAY 19, 20, 21, 1994
MIDWEST GROUP SPRING WEEKEND**

Oshkosh Hilton
One North Main Street
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54091

See write-up in another part of this bulletin.

Committee:

Franand Zita Enright
7304 West Georgia Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53220
Telephone: 414/541-9598



* * * * *

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

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

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

Will be renewed in the fall of 1994. Sorry, nothing for 1993 since your host gave it up too late to do anything this fall.

PLEASE NOTE: No mini weekend should be scheduled one month before the National 69th Reunion or one month after it. Membership at the 69th Reunions is getting disturbed at the lack of attendance from mini weekend units. When the national reunion is in your area, kindly schedule your mini at the national and see what fun and fellowship you have with all 69ers who helped win World War II. You didn't do it yourself, nor did your unit. We would like to see more members from minis who only have one or two attend or some that have no one attend start coming. You are getting a lot of publicity in our bulletins and many of you, please start paying dues of \$10.00 for members and \$2.00 for the wife to be a member of the Ladies Auxiliary. Enough said. Thanks for giving the national 69th a chance.

+++++
+ **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 12 1/4% State and Local Taxes** +
+ Nashville International Airport nearby. Hub for +
+ several airlines. Complimentary transportation to +
+ and from the Airport. Free Parking at Hotel. +
+ Many Interstates north and south, east and west, +
+ pass by Nashville. Nashville is centrally located +
+ in the States. Not too far from Chicago, New +
+ Orleans, Kansas City, Norfolk, Florida, Eastern +
+ Seaboard, Great Lakes, New England, Texas, +
+ Plains States, Mountain States and the Pacific +
+ West Coast. **SEE YOU ALL IN NASHVILLE!** +

+ **Committee:** +
+ **Joe 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** +

+++++
1995

1994 48th ANNUAL 69th DIVISION REUNION
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

No confirmation on dates or details as of yet.

No report to date on any other minis. Let's start planning folks and get those reports in.



“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.
Thanks and praise for our days
'neath the sun, 'neath the stars,
'neath the sky.
As we go, this we know. God is nigh.**

William A. Doyle, Sr.
8509 Tallwood Road
Lutherville, Maryland
Div. Hq.

Camille Guidry
California
A-880th

Eddie Heidemann
44 Russells Path
Brewster Massachusetts
C-880th

Harold Robison
19690 North Highway 99
Acampo, California
A-880th

Joseph Zidian
50 Colonial Estate Drive
Poland, Ohio
A-880th

Joseph I. Ramboldt
Box 365
Goodman, Missouri
C-724th

Walter D. Fackler
5811 S. Dorchester Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
Div. Hq.

Robert E. Crandall
Gulfport, Mississippi

Bernard Dzido
14142 Eastview Drive
Fenton, Michigan
G-271st

James B. Shuman
Route 8, Box 65
McAlester, Oklahoma
Hq. Divarty

Michael A. Colasuonno
3311 Campbell Drive
Bronx, New York
Hq. Divarty

PAST PRESIDENT

Robert E. Myers
10453 Cumberland Drive
Sun City, Arizona
Division Headquarters

Millard Carter
P.O. Box 64
Lorenzo, Texas
G-272nd

James Mongelluzzo
2123 S. 64th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
C-661st

Glenn H. Bookmeyer
404 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Marion, Ohio
D-273rd

W. E. Huggins
Route 2, Box 267
Honey Grove, Texas
B-269th

James O. Grooms
1209 Porter Court
Paris, Tennessee
C-273rd

Lee Dobbins
855 Fairfax Avenue
Spartanburg, South Carolina
C-879th

Norman W. Chronister
1416 Lyncrest Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi
Hq. Divarty

Neno Sassone
P.O. Box 83
Osyka, Mississippi
Hq.-880th

Herman K. Thompson
3910 Harrington Quick Rd.
Monroe, North Carolina
A-272nd

Nunzio Blos
Route #1
Sarahsville, Ohio
C-880th

Leon Majeski
43-26 157th Street
Flushing, New York
D-273rd

Joseph Smiderle
1583 Redding Way
Upland, California
69th QM

Gerald L. Campini
845 Cleveland Drive
Cheektowago, New York
C-879th

Ralph LaGreco
24 Bellows Lane
Cherry Hill, New Jersey
C-879th

Rocco V. Motto
89-01 96th Street
Jamaica, New York
C-879th

John Primics
14-30 139th Street
Whitestone, New York
C-879th

Arthur A. Capaccio
40 Adueduct Place
Peekskill, New York
B-777th

Richard Bell
28 Grand Avenue
Leipsig, Ohio
A-269th

John J. Bijack
4519 Miller Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
B-269th

Stuart W. McGowan
Route 1, Box 402
Eagle Bridge, New York
Hq.-880th

Ormond E. Cecil
803 Gramercy
Toledo, Ohio
AT-272nd

Paul Meyer
1439 Charlemont Avenue
Hacienda Hgts., California
AT-273rd

Joseph T. Kassel
405 Anderson Avenue
Phoenixville, Pennsylvania
Hq. Divarty

Gregory Lampasona
1036 Hasting Street
Baldwin, New York
G-272nd

Walter J. Jeskiewicz
3054 West Street
Weirton, West Virginia
H-271st

John E. Powell
1397 Pinegrove Court
Jacksonville, Florida
Hq.-880th

Merrill E. Wysong, Sr.
505 East Christy Street
Marion, Indiana
G-272nd

Walter J. Scott
1082 Jason Avenue
Akron, Ohio
369th Medics

Charles A. Tanzi
R.R. #1, Box 260B
Enfield, New Hampshire
Hq.-724th



the 69th

INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

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

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Second Reunion of Company A, 369th Medics in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania - Sept. 24, 25, and 26, 1993



*Standing, left to right: Roland Fracalossi, Sam Rasken, Dr. Lauren Brown, John Chermol
Front row: Adam Adamsky, Bernard Hook, Earl Schwartz, Charles Hasting*

Any member interested in next year's reunion contact:
Sam Rasken, 8703 Roper Road, Parkville, Maryland 21234

Picture furnished by
Adam Adamsky

NOTE: For some time in our bulletins, you may have noticed that we have been publishing a box explaining that the membership voted to keep the bulletin at no more than 60 pages. You may be asking yourself, why is this bulletin 80 pages? We were simply overwhelmed with material. Not wanting to disappoint too many people, we decided to ask for approval to make this bulletin larger. Thus, the 80 pages. Still we did not get all the material in that we received. Therefore, if you submitted material for this bulletin and did not see it published in this issue, it will be published in a future issue of the bulletin.