

FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★★ Association, Inc.



VOLUME 48, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER — NOVEMBER — DECEMBER
1994

"THE THREE B's"
BOLTE'S BIVOUACING BASTARDS

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

bulletin

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*Deceased

IVAN AND JOE - 50 YEARS AGO



Party celebrating meeting of Soviet and American forces. Notice center left GI with 69th insignia on helmet.



American and Russian officers dance with Red Army women. Far right, notice 69th shoulder patch.

News From The Editor's Desk



by — Clarence Marshall
Membership Chairman

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

Robert H. Siglow, 4026 Hill Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43607 — L-271st: I was in Company L, 271st from Shelby until being sent to the 29th Division after V.E. Day.

I noticed in the last bulletin that there may be some copies of the 271st Regimental History available. I wrote to Mary Kuchmuk regarding a copy, however, I haven't heard from her. If any of you fellows know if there is a copy available, please advise me of how I may obtain it and the cost and I will forward the money.

I am extremely proud of the 69th and our accomplishments in the war. My wife is disabled, therefore I cannot attend the reunions. I do thoroughly enjoy the bulletins and want to thank the guys that make it possible.

Walter M. Haney, 990 Novarese Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38122 — M-271st: I recently received a letter from **Crandon Clark** who gave me your name. I was in the 69th, 271st, Company M. I would like the names and addresses of any of the members that you have. I would also like to become a member of the Association. If you will let me know how much the membership dues are, I will send you a check.

I was with the 69th from Camp Shelby until the end of the war. I really appreciate your help. Thank you.

James E. Woodford, 5999 Emerson Street, #310, Bladensburg, Maryland 20710 — K-271st, 5th Platoon: I am delighted to hear that the 69th Infantry Division is not a ghost and I never knew that reunions are held every year in various places. I salute all of your effort in making reunions possible.

Some of the fellows in my platoon were: **Johnny White**, **Christopher Joseph**, **John Teare**, **Roland Hartford**, **William Lampley** and **Oscar Wiegand**.

Jack H. Hartzog, 520 West Lindenwood Avenue, Sikeston, Missouri 63801 — L-273rd: The May-June-July-August bulletin recently received was very interesting and informative. I have enjoyed reading it.

Perhaps I have mentioned this before and have asked the following before. If I have, please forgive and chalk it up to advancing years. I joined the 69th at Camp Shelby in September or October 1944 and went overseas with the division. My Company (Co. L, 273rd) was sent to Basingstoke, England. In late December 1944 or early January 1945 I, along with a lot of others in my unit, was pulled out and sent to the continent as a replacement in some of the units that were

shot up badly during the Battle of the Bulge. I ended up in Company F, 310th Infantry Regiment of the 78th Division with which I served my combat time. I would like to know if there is a roster of Association members from which could be extracted a list of those who were in Company L, 273rd? Come to think of it, I believe I did ask you and you sent me the name of one of the former members of that unit; or perhaps he just saw my letter to you and wrote me. I don't think I remember him. Maybe other Company L, 273rd members have since joined the Association.

Another question: (I may have asked this before too.) When the "Yank" magazine came out in May or June 1945, the front page carried a picture of the 69th GIs meeting the Russians on the Elbe. The most prominent American soldier in the picture was a sergeant who I strongly believe was a **William B. Freynak** who was a non-com in Company L, 273rd. I wonder if anyone remembers and can verify or repute my belief? **Sergeant Freynak** was from St. Louis as I recall and I have tried to locate him in the voluminous phone book there but have been unable to do so. There are so many sections to the phone book because of the many suburbs of St. Louis, that it is like trying to find a needle in a haystack.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Anyone from Company L, 273rd or anyone else who can be of some assistance to Jack, please write him and help him out.)

Robert I. Bassindale, 222 Fairfield Avenue, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126 — H-272nd: For some reason I'm one of the bivouacing bastards who didn't receive a "dues envelope" but as you clearly stated in the last two Bulletins, the special dues envelope isn't needed for dues payments. My enclosed check is for my 1994-1995 dues. As your records should show, I paid my 1993-1994 dues a year ago.

I will try to make the next reunion, although I can't be certain that I can attend. Our family is having a number of summer events and expenses and I may not make Nashville. My last reunion was in 1991 in Biloxi, Mississippi which was very heartwarming and fun.

As your records surely indicate, I was a member of H Company of the 272nd Infantry and one of the contributions I made after the reunion was a picture of Company H, 272nd to the Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby. Below is a copy of the nice thank you letter I got from the museum curator. Dear Mr. Bassindale,

Your gift of the picture of Company H, 272nd Infantry has arrived. I do appreciate this gift. It will be displayed along with the other items concerning the 69th Division when we move into our new building. Thanks again.

Yours truly,
Dr. Betty S. Drake, Curator
Armed Forces Museum, Camp Shelby, MS

Dr. Robert Ross, 460 West 34th Street, 12th Floor, New York, New York 10001 — I have recently returned from a visit to the Normandy Beaches on June 8th.

I had a chance to view Omaha Beach where our Troops came ashore with approximately a mile of absolutely no cover. Two of the German Divisions which fought on the Russian front had just had a six week vacation in Germany and replaced the German Troops that were there. What amazed me was that Field Marshall Rommel and his staff prepared for the invasion starting in 1941. No orders were given as to where the Troops were supposed to go except to go forward. It took us two months to capture the first town in France which was only 14 kilometers from the beach. I thought you might want to pass this information along in your next newsletter.

(Continued on Page 3)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 2)

Louis A. Cavagnaro, 20479 North 105th Avenue, Peoria, Illinois 85382-9778: I am an author writing a book on the Holocaust. My book concentrates on an area of the Holocaust in an unusual format. I am seeking statements from former prisoners who were Non-Jew, such as prisoners, resistance fighters, political prisoners, prisoners of war, masons, gypsies, etc.

I want to identify the military units that liberated these camps. Not only the military units, but the men in these units who were there, giving them the opportunity to express their thoughts and emotions at that time. While the book concentrates on non-Jewish victims of the Holocaust, it inevitably does include them. For the simple reason they were members of some of the various groups mentioned above. There are too many others to mention in this letter.

A recent article in the "Daily News Sun" which serves the Sun Cities and Northwest Valley encouraged anyone with information related to my book to please contact me. The information would become a part of history recorded in print. A copy of the article is enclosed.

Immediately after the article, I received information that said there was a possibility that you might be able to help me.

In your official capacity, you periodically contact members of your organization. Please consider asking the men and women of the unit to contact me and express their thoughts at the time. Or possibly make photographs available.

History is too important to be lost in time.

Garland J. Gable, 2820 Kendall Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903-8925 — G-271st: I joined the 69th Division in July of 1944 at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. I was a member of Company G, 271st Infantry.

I am sending you a picture of Company G and hoping to hear from any of the fellows that were with Company G who might remember me. Even if they don't remember me, please write. After the war we were given a booklet of our history during the war. I want a copy of that booklet.

If you can help me I would appreciate it very much. I served through the war with no loss of time. I saw a lot of combat.

Also I was wondering if there was going to be a get-together of our 50th Anniversary on the Elbe River in 1995.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *Garland, there is information on these get-togethers elsewhere in this issue of the bulletin.*)



Garland Gable

Leonard Braverman, 28104 Espinoza, Mission Viejo, California 92692 — A-724th: As a member of the 724th Field Artillery Battalion attached to the 69th Infantry Division, we were occasionally sent out with our 155mm cannons to back up other Battalions with less firepower. This happened when the 2nd Battalion requested heavy firepower to help in their efforts to dislodge the Germans from a heavily fortified hill near Ramscheid. We were warned that a turn in the road leading to the town was called Dead Man's Corner, and as we neared the corner, our jeep driver floored the gas pedal and the German 88's missed us. We drove into town under heavy shelling, and then parked the jeep. I put the 610 radio on a sled and heaved it over my shoulders and started walking toward the hill where the Germans were entrenched. We walked down the middle of the road with me in the center and then I almost died — literally. I stepped on a land mine and in a few seconds I expected it to jump 3 feet and disembowel me, but nothing happened. Apparently it had been set for vehicles and I wasn't quite heavy enough. We continued up the snowy hillside. Near the top, being unbalanced with the radio, I slipped and fell and was saved by a small tree from falling 300 feet. When I got to the top of the hill, my legs locked and I couldn't move, so I set my radio down and decided to broadcast from that spot. Meanwhile the Germans kept pelting us with machine guns, 88's and 150mm howitzer shells, and then suddenly, I thought the world had come to an end. They started firing "screaming meemies" at us. These were rockets that would kill you if they landed near you, or the sound, similar to flying freight cars, could cause you to go crazy. Luckily, I missed on both counts. The next day we were relieved and we returned to our Battery to continue our drive across Germany, culminating with our meeting with the Russians at Torgau.

Victor Ostrow, 1612 Lemontree Lane, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904-1440 — Hq. Co., 2nd Bn., 273rd: I just returned from an exceptional reunion in Nashville, Tennessee and missed your presence. It was a fun-filled week of excitement and pleasure. When we arrived on Monday at the hotel, the place was humming with excitement. A live movie was being made at the hotel featuring movie stars Ann Margaret, Brenda Vaccaro, George Seigel and directed by Lee Grant.



*Garland Gable's Company G Photo, 3rd Platoon, 3rd Squad - somewhere in Germany
He's hoping someone can identify this picture and will write to him.*

(Continued on Page 4)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK
(Continued from Page 3)

Cameras, lights, makeup artists hustling about and work crews setting up equipment. Extras were standing by when scenes were taken during the filming.

I am happy to say we had two First Timers from my company with their wives attended, Samuel Johnson and William Studenic. We sat at the same banquet table along with Dottie and Earl Witzleb. It was good seeing Earl after all the problems he's had with his heart. Each of us have had our share of medical problems. Thank God we can get together and enjoy the camaraderie and wartime stories.

I have located another member of the 69th who lives close to my home. Please send him a membership application and itinerary of the 69th activities. He was with Company K, 271st and he is Bernard Citrenbaum, 1004 Venice Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland. I look forward to seeing you at our next reunion in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.



Victor Ostrow in Nashville taken at Opryland Hotel.

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

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.

The Citizens Flag Alliance

An Important Message to All Veterans

Submitted By: George T. Blume

Headquarters Battery, 880th Field Artillery
315 Owens Street, #A, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060-3512

The synopsis below was presented to the Board of Directors for possible action taken by the Association by George Blume. It was decided that the 69th would not act directly, but that we would encourage our members to get involved on an individual basis. Please read this important message below.

An important undertaking took place in Washington D.C. during our recent Association's 47th Annual Reunion. For on August 24th, the Citizens Flag Alliance Inc. was officially introduced to the American Public. This event was nationally televised from the Senate steps of the Capitol.

By definition, the CFA is an apolitical, non-partisan confederation of American organizations and individuals who wish to protect the U.S. flag from public intentional desecration. These people believe that our flag is more than a piece of fabric, and support a simple and a narrowly phrased constitutional amendment giving back to the States and Congress their original right to pass laws outlawing public acts which deface and denigrate the flag.

Since the 1990 Supreme Court's 5 to 4 decision declaring Public Law 101-131 unconstitutional, and several months later both the House and Senate failing to muster the sufficient two-thirds majority needed to pass a constitutional amendment, this has left the challenge for such to be undertaken by various groups and individuals at the grassroots level.

This challenge has been met. Since 1990, 44 State Legislatures have now passed memorialized resolutions asking Congress to allow the citizens of this nation to voice their opinion on the necessity for a constitutional amendment. The majority of citizens clearly want such an amendment. Results from two Gallup Polls, the latest undertaken last February, with a plus or minus 3 percentage error, show that 78 percent of the citizens polled favored the passage of an amendment allowing the government to enact laws to protect the flag. Moreover, if put to a vote, 81 percent stated they would vote for such an amendment.

The CFA is willing to assist organizations and individuals with their grassroots efforts. To date 56 national and state organizations have already affiliated with the Alliance. Currently many local organizations and individuals have already contacted their congress representatives, and are now engaged in circulating petitions seeking an amendment which will not only protect first amendment rights, but also to protect the flag that over one million American citizen soldiers have died for.

As a confederated organization, the CFA is funded by donations from individual citizens. Interested 69ers who wish to affiliate or wish to learn more about the CFA are encouraged to call toll free 1-800-424-FLAG.



*Preserve
Our Heritage
and
Preserve
Our Flag!*

1994 Nashville Reunion Report

Compliments Of:

Victor Ostrow, News Reporter
Headquarters Co., 2nd Bn, 273rd Infantry
1612 Lemontree Lane
Silver Springs, Maryland 20904-1940
Telephone: 301/384-4654

We arrived on Monday, August 22nd at the Sheraton Music City Hotel during the filming of a movie starring Anne Margaret, Brenda Vaccaro, George Seigel, and directed by Lee Grant. Stage crews rushing around setting up equipment, cameras, lights, stage hands milling about and extras awaiting their cues to enter. The scene make-up artists rushing about to get the headliners ready for the take of various scenes "Quiet Please, we are rolling" - terminology used in film making. The visiting 69ers were in the background of the hotel lobby enjoying all of the action.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23rd

Merv Griffin's Casino Riverboat Cruise which was a two hour bus trip to Metropolis, Illinois. A delicious buffet luncheon and then aboard the Sidewheeler Riverboat for some gambling fun. We played the slot machines and after several hours playing, we managed to win seven dollars.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24th

Our First Tour - Franklin, Tennessee and the Carnton Mansion that was used during the "Battle of Franklin" as a hospital and Confederate Cemetery. Next to the property is the Carter House located on the sight of the conflict which received the second highest casualties of the Civil War. We visited the museum and saw a video of the historic Battle of Franklin and the plantation home of Andrew Jackson with its beautiful white pillars, spacious halls and southern architecture.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25th

HISTORIC NASHVILLE TOUR

We boarded buses for the city of Nashville through Music Row viewing the homes of Minnie Pearl, Ronnie Milsap, Tammy Wynette, Dolly Parton, Barbara Mandrell, etc.



Victor and Olga Ostrow and Margaret Moore outside the Ryman Auditorium.



A view from the walkway of The Opryland Hotel

We visited the Ryman Auditorium (former home of the Grand Ole Opry) which will be reopened in the near future. Exhibits feature over 60 years of country music history. We had lunch at the Oasis Mall and the women did some shopping. Then we boarded our buses for a trip to Opryland Hotel. What a magnificent place to tour with close to 3,000 rooms, spacious winding walkways, waterfalls, beautiful foliage in the conservatory with acres of beautiful gardens, giving the impression of being in Hawaii.

The evening Beer Party was another outstanding event with Catherine and Bill McCall at our table enjoying the music, dancing and six piece band.

The Early Bird Buffet was attended by three to four hundred of us. We enjoyed the evening meal, the camaraderie and festivities. It was a time to reflect and see each of us recounting the old and the new with First Timers present.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26th

OPRYLAND THEME PARK

We visited the musical theme park accompanied by our good friends Margaret and Leo Moore who were very gracious taking us in their car for our evening meals. At the park huge crowds, young and old, enjoyed country music featuring Bluegrass, Country and the 50's Rock 'n Roll, plus rides, gift shops and restaurants. It was really enjoyed by all. We attended two super shows, "And The Winner Is" and "Country Music U.S.A.," clapping and stomping our feet to the rhythm of the music. Thirteen to fourteen busloads of us went to the Grand Ole Opry.

The Hospitality Rooms were spacious with plenty of free flowing spirits, beer and soft drinks. It was a great place to gather and often filled to capacity. Liquor baskets, cheese trays and gifts were auctioned off to help support the room.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27th

MEN'S AND LADIES MEETING

Prior to the meetings we all had coffee and danish.

President Curt Peterson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Bill Snidow's opening prayer. The minutes were read and accepted as was the Treasurer's Report. Next year's reunion site will be Myrtle

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1994 NASHVILLE REUNION REPORT

(Continued from Page 5)

Beach, South Carolina in October. Future sites considered were Schaumburg, Illinois and Boston, Massachusetts Bill Beswick outlined the European Trip for 1995. At the conclusion of the meeting, Beswick was approached by many members who signed up and he gave a precise picture of the planned tour.

The evening banquet was a huge success with over 700 people attending. Dottie and Earl Witzleb were seated at our table along with several First Timers: Ethel and Samuel Johnson of California and William and Helene Studenic of Ocala, Florida with whom I had served in Headquarters Company, Anti-Tank Battalion. They enjoyed the dinner and the entertainment.



Helene and William Studenic, First Timers and Olga Ostrow



Ethel and Samuel Johnson, First Timers

The Honor Guard Presentation of the Colors was well presented and an Air Force Sargeant gave a stirring speech about "Old Glory" and a rendition of "God Bless America." Then it was the lighting of the candles for the deceased and the retiring of the colors.

All in all it was one of the best reunions we ever had and I am sure everyone enjoyed themselves as much as we did.

With all good wishes for the coming year,

Yours in comradeship,
Victor Ostrow



Dottie and Earl Witzleb



Sheraton Music City Hotel

Thanks From Your Nashville Reunion Chairpersons

Our heartfelt thanks to all you visiting 69ers who supported us in our efforts at the Nashville Reunion. You are what it's all about. If you had a good time, we feel rewarded.

Thanks to you, our committee members, who were so versatile and such devoted workers. It was your reunion.

Many thanks!

Joe and Virginia McMurry, *Co-Chairpersons*
James and Geneva Bilbrey, *Co-Chairpersons*

Nashville Memories



Bill McCall, George Hepp and Fred Avery



Diane Panganiban, Ed and Tory Stagg



Ed Lucci, Jane Matlach and Bill Matlach



Bob McCarty and Floyd McCalip



Ann and Sam Woolf



Ellen and John McCann

Photos Compliments of Chester Yastrzemski

Nashville Memories



*Chuck Pierson, Roger West, Fred Butenhoff, Chet Yastrzemski
Company E, 272nd Infantry*



*Anabel Pierson, Mavis Butenhoff, Ruth West, Barbara Yastrzemski
Women of the Company E, 272nd Infantry*



In the Registration Room



Chet Yastrzemski with Acuff and Pearl Statue



Lucious and Lewis Mae Murphree



John and Florence Walters

Message from the President



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

My wife, Evelyn, and I wish to thank everyone for their concern following her accident in Nashville after the banquet Saturday night, August 27th, 1994. Your thoughts, prayers, cards, telephone calls and visits are greatly appreciated.

Evie sustained a fracture in the neck, of the femur in her left leg and a cracked bone in her left foot. Sunday morning after the accident, she had surgery and 3 pins were inserted into the femur. I was able to bring her back to the hotel Tuesday noon and we left for home Wednesday morning. She was fairly comfortable on the drive home. She had an appointment with our Orthopedic Surgeon on September 7th, 1994 with positive results, but must continue using the walker for 6 weeks and of course follow-up visits to the doctor.

John Kastanakis, 569th Signal, who had a heart attack while at the reunion, was able to leave the hospital in Nashville and return to Huntsville. He had surgery and is doing well according to the last report. Our thoughts and prayers go out to him for a speedy recovery.

Now we can reminisce about our 47th Reunion. Over 700 attended, the hotel facilities were some of the best we have had, and the tours were great and were handled very well. Many thanks to the Co-Chairmen **Joe McMurry** and **Jim Bilbrey**, their wives and all of the committee members for the outstanding job they did. The Nashville Reunion was excellent and very well run.

I was again happy to see so many "First Timers" and to see that they were being greeted and made to feel so welcome. This is very important and leaves a lasting impression.

Plans are being completed by two groups, one from the East and one from the West to return to the Elbe. The tours are different but both plan to join forces for ceremonies at Torgau and Strehla. Due to medical reasons, I will not be able to join them. However, if needed, **Bob Pierce**, Vice President of the Association, will stand in for me.

I overlooked, in previous bulletins, that **Bernard Zaffern** was appointed Assistant Legal Advisor with **Gene Butterfield**. These two gentlemen, along with others of their choosing, will review the future of our organization and present their recommendations at our next meeting.

See you all in Myrtle Beach in '95.

The Vice-President's Corner



Robert L. Pierce
144 Nashua Court
San Jose, California 95139-1236
Telephone: 408/226-8040

WOW! Would you believe that Nashville reunion? Thanks to **Joe and Virginia McMurry** and **Jim and Geneva Bilbrey** who are to be commended for outstanding achievement by a Reunion Committee. All the accolades are equally deserved by their committee members. What energy and what nice people. Thank you all.

By now most of you know our 1996 Reunion will be at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Schaumburg, Illinois. My next task is to secure a location for the 1997 Reunion. **Henry Putula** volunteered to sponsor a reunion in the Greater Boston area, predicated on acceptable hotels within our price range and sufficient accommodations and banquet facilities. Proposals will also be requested from Atlanta hotels that meet our criteria. This will provide the Association with a back-up site in the event adequate/costly accommodations cannot be obtained in Boston.

The Reunion Site Survey results were interesting but not conclusive. There were 135 individual members, approximately 40% of the attendees, who signed the survey sheets. The sample size is good, but the confidence level is low if you consider the total attendees could represent the same members returning every year. The statistics are:

East: Boston	58/43%
Atlanta	47/35%
St. Paul	37/27%
West: Seattle	43/32%
Las Vegas	42/31%
San Antonio	37/27%
Salt Lake City	29/21%
Albuquerque	22/16%

The Reunion Site Survey for the Western U.S.A. will be conducted again at Myrtle Beach in 1995 but on a limited basis. The choices will be limited to Seattle, Las Vegas and San Antonio which were the three most popular choices. Further, only 69'ers who did not sign the Reunion Survey sheets in Nashville will be requested to vote. The aggregate of the two surveys may give a better indication of it, or where a Western U.S.A. Reunion might be successful.

Attention members in the Chicago area. Your Association needs your help! We need a Reunion Committee Chairman for the 1996 Reunion and at least eight (8) other members who are willing to assist conducting the Reunion. Please call or write to me. The hard part of contracting or negotiating will have been completed, but we still need someone to manage and work the program.

**1995 69th Infantry Division
Division's 48th Reunion
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA
October 22nd through 29th, 1995**

Elbe River Trip Report June 1994

REGARDING MEMORIAL PARK AND 50th ANNIVERSARY PLANS

Submitted by: **Edgar A. "Bud" Parsons**
Company A, 272nd Infantry
1913 South Lakeshore Drive
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514
Telephone: 919/942-5472

This is a trip report to **Bill Beswick**, Chairman of the 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund and Bulletin readers concerned with the Strehla Memorial Park developments and the status of Torgau and Strehla plans for the 50th Anniversary, April 25th, 1995. Both Burgermeister Gerstenberg and Burgermeister Haberland had been re-elected in the elections this spring. I met them separately, in their respective offices, with Mr. Heinz Richter serving as interpreter.

1. The two mayors have exclusive responsibility for the plans and schedules for Monday, April 24th and Tuesday, April 25th, 1995. The Elbe Day Committee, under Dr. Niedersen and Mr. Schone, have primary responsibility for events prior to April 24th.

2. There is an extremely close working relationship between Torgau Burgermeister Gerstenberg and Strehla Burgermeister Haberland.

3. Burgermeister Gerstenberg has formally invited President Clinton to the proceedings. Burgermeister Gerstenberg is working with German government officials to obtain the highest ranking official participation from all parties.

4. Burgermeister Gerstenberg welcomes the schedule for the Beswick 69th Division group to spend the nights of April 24th and April 25th in Torgau. I reported the tentative number of 100 to 125 persons. Gerstenberg would like to have firm numbers as soon as feasible, and the February, 1995 date for that information, as earlier discussed with Beswick would be satisfactory for the appropriate number of Torgau rooms to be blocked out. It might be necessary for some 69th'ers to be housed in "bed and breakfast" type accommodations. A new hotel is under construction. According to Gerstenberg, Torgau accommodations will be provided, regardless of the status of that new hotel construction.

5. Burgermeister Gerstenberg will forward to Beswick the names, addresses and telephone numbers of those supplying the hotel and meals, so he may make the necessary arrangements for payment.

6. With respect to the April 25th schedule, and the evening meal, Burgermeister Gerstenberg had already anticipated complexities of moving the group back from Strehla to Torgau, and suggested the April 25th banquet be held in Strehla. He anticipated no particular difficulties in that regard. It may be recalled that Strehla had opened a Best Western Motel in 1993, where a reception had been held by Burgermeister Haberland. In 1991, **Bill Matlach**, **Crandon Clark**, **Bob Haag**, **E.R. Sams**, **Charles Chapman**, others and myself had lunch at a Strehla club site that had a large dining room.

7. Gerstenberg is hopeful of being able to release to the press an updated schedule, superseding a May 1994 schedule, in late July or early August. He handed me the May schedule, but I am not reproducing it for distribution, as it is no longer pertinent.

8. Mr. Kreig, the "three flagpoles" fabricator, had temporarily assembled the "three flagpoles" for the inspection of myself and Heinz Richter. A newspaper reporter had also been notified. This report includes that news story, as well

as an English translation. Mr. Kreig had received payment in his bank account from the Texas A&M fund drive initiated by **Sam Lewis** for the purpose of paying for the "three flagpoles" that **Sam Lewis** has designed.

9. Burgermeister Haberland stated that in general, all was going well. He has financial support problems, but assured me that all essential work will have been completed. He had received a letter from **Sam Lewis** some time earlier, giving suggestions for phasing the work in case there was an insufficiency of funds prior to the April 1995 date.

10. Haberland did not anticipate any disruptions from "skinheads" as had been rumored. He stated that such individuals were limited to the large cities. The bronze tablets used for the 1993 groundbreaking had been removed to reduce the possibility of damage from the roadway proximity, and not because of vandalism apprehensions.

11. To both mayors, I stated my recommendation that they consider the participation of German World War II veterans as co-equal participants in the 1995 ceremonies. Both mentioned the concern of Chancellor Kohl and many others in Germany that Germany had not been invited to participate in the D-Day commemorations. Both indicated they would consider the matter. My impression is that both were pleased at the prospects of German World War II veteran participation. I attempted to make clear that this recommendation was my personal thought, and that it had no "official" status, although I had mentioned the subject to a few 69th'ers.

12. Dr. Niedersen would very much like to have **Bill Robertson**, **Del Philpott**, **Bill Beswick** and as many other 69th'ers as possible in Torgau as early as April 21st, to participate in his Elbe Day program. He also mentioned **Bob Haag** and **E.R. Sams**, and asked for their addresses so special invitations could be sent to them. If other 69th Division members wish to be a part of the Torgau "Elbe Day" festivities, they are welcome and it is suggested they write to Dr. Uwe Niedersen, Stadtverwaltung Torgau, Forderverein Europa Begegnungen e. V., Rosa-Luxemburg Platz 16, D-04860, Torgau, Germany, or FAX (03421) 6055.

13. I reported to both mayors the plan of the 50th Anniversary Committee of World War II to plant trees in Washington and Moscow on April 8, 1995. They wished to consider the possibility of tree planting as a part of the April 24th-25th program. It is noted that the Washington-Moscow date of April 8th was chosen to permit American and Russian Veterans to be present prior to their departure for the Elbe River April 25th, 1995 activities.

A University of North Carolina botanist has informed me that tree species suitable for Moscow-Elbe River-Washington climates include Norway Spruce (*Picea abies* Karsten), European Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), European Ironwood (*Carpinus betulus*), White Pine (*Pinus Strobus*), and Scotch Elm (*Ulmus globos* Hudson), and this list was handed to the Burgermeisters. Present plans are to purchase the tree(s) locally, and eliminate the probable aggravations of transportation and plant quarantine. This listing of trees has also been given to the 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Committee in the Pentagon.

14. Shortly after returning from Germany, I received a letter from **Bill Robertson** enclosing a "Proposal" from Major General Alexander Olshansky of the Russian War Veterans Committee. That proposal matched closely the schedule contemplated for April 25th, 1995. One noteworthy addition is the plan for flyovers of NATO and Russian Federation aircraft at the Strehla Link-Up Memorial Park dedication.

(Continued on Page 11)

A Ring Showing World War II Nations Bound Together

Americans Inspecting Work Accomplishments On Their Ordered Memorial

*Translation of a story in Torgauer Kreisblatt
Torgau, Germany - 27 June 1994*

Submitted By: Edgar A. "Bud" Parsons
Company A, 272nd Infantry
1913 South Lakeshore Drive
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514
Telephone: 919/942-5472

The picture was shown around the world when Russian and American soldiers met at the destroyed Torgau Elbe River Bridge and shook hands in 1945. Edgar A. "Bud" Parsons, a lieutenant of the 69th Infantry Division, remembers very well the end of World War II as if it were yesterday. But he's also well aware that it was not Torgau where the very first link-up took place, but it was several miles upstream in Strehla. He knows the circumstances as to why Torgau became so famous and not the other little river town of Strehla.

A memorial fabricated by the Kathewitz Company, "Metalbau Arzberg" is to be dedicated April 25th, 1995 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the link-up next year at Strehla. "The first ideas arose in 1991," Bud Parsons explained last Friday in Kathewitz. "It was during the time when the Russians and Americans signed various disarmament agreements." Veterans were then starting 50th link-up anniversary planning. The concept of a memorial park was initiated by a Russian sculptor closely associated with the Soviet War Veterans Committee, and supported by the former Soviet Government. Both mayors of Strehla and Torgau, Mr. Haberland and Mr. Gerstenberg, had an open mind for the realization of these activities planned by the Americans and Russians. Last year, the groundbreaking ceremony took place at the Strehla site where a prominent feature of the memorial - a flagpole assembly - will be erected.

Sam Lewis, a former lieutenant of the 69th Division, who is also an architect, made the designs for this flagpole assembly and organized a fund-raising campaign for the flagpoles at Lewis' former university, Texas A&M, that is also the university of Lieutenant Buck Kotzebue, the leader of the first link-up patrol at Strehla. In cooperation with the Russian War Veterans Committee, the sculptor, Vladimir Sorovtsev, and the town of Strehla, the 69th Infantry Division veterans raised funds for extensive metal casting and landscaping work that are major components of the overall memorial park design.

What does this flagpole assembly show us? Starting from a base, three aluminum poles of equal size run straight into the sky. They are bound together by a ring, and then separate and extend upward and outward. On top of them, the Russian, American and German flags will be flown.

"The idea is that all share a common root in Mother Earth in spite of different national goals and aspirations," Bud Parsons explained. "The ring demonstrates that we are all bound together." Though the occasion was the link-up of Russian and American soldiers, the veterans want to celebrate together with German World War II veterans the dedication of the memorial on the occasion of the 50th anniversary.

(Anyone with questions of the Memorial Park can contact Bud Parsons at the address and phone number above.)



The flagpole assembly was fabricated in Kathewitz. Pictured are Bud Parsons, left, and Mr. Hartmut Krieg, right. Bud Parsons and wife, Fran, inspected the completed work last Friday at the company of Hartmut Krieg.

Funds Still Needed To Complete Memorial Park

I want to make one more attempt to raise a little more money for the Memorial Park to be erected in Strehla, Germany. We will need to raise a little more because of the problems that the Russians have encountered. Of course, everyone realizes that their economy has gone down the tubes. We surely want to see our Stars and Stripes flying over where we were, if we are ever in that area. I am sure that many of our people will want to go there at some time or other.

So, PLEASE dig a little and send me your check to help complete our project. We will need a few more dollars to complete the earth work and landscape. It is great that the German people are helping to get this project done. Besides donating the land on the Elbe River. Many thanks.

Send Your Checks To: William Beswick

*Chairman and President of the Memorial Park
P.O. Box 576, West Point, Virginia 23181-0576*

Payable to: 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc.

1995 European Tour of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division

THIS IS THE TOUR AS IT WILL BE BASICALLY. THERE MAY BE SOME ADDITIONS.

The Cut-Off Date for signing up for the tour is JANUARY 31, 1995.

If you find that you are able to sign up after that date, give it a try. Call me at 1-804/843-2696.

Submitted by: William R. Beswick — P.O. Box 576, West Point, Virginia 23181-0576

APRIL 12th — Depart Dulles, Washington, D.C., unless you have made other arrangements with Joao Freites of American Express to meet us in London, England. I will suggest that you talk with Joao and purchase your air tickets from him, to save confusion and he will know how many are going. It may also save you problems.

APRIL 13th — Arrive in London. You can rest or anything on your own. Visit some of the points of interest such as The Tower of London and the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace. The Palace is only open to visitors during the summer months. There may be some sights that we can see on our arrival day. Spend the night in London.

APRIL 14th — Split the Buses. Visit Winchester Cathedral, Reading, Salisbury Cathedral and town. The buses may join at Salisbury. Finish visiting the Covent Gardens, Trafalgar Square and whatever else we can see. Night in London.

APRIL 15th — Travel through the New English Channel to Caen, France. Arrive Caen, visit the Normandy Beaches, Museum at St. Marie Du-Mont, Cemetery at St. Laurent-Sur-Mer and Normandy Memorial Museum at Caen. Night in Caen.

APRIL 16th — St. Malo, France. Visit Mont St. Michel Abbey, Cherbourg, Normandy Beaches, etc. Night in St. Michel, France.

APRIL 17th — Paris. Visit Cathedral of Notre Dame, Louvre, Arc de Triumph. Have a night cruise on the Seine River with dinner. There are many sights to see.

APRIL 18th — Visit Versailles. May see Notre Dame today instead of April 17th. Night show and a possible night tour of Paris, for those that want to go. Night in Paris.

APRIL 19th — Brugge. Visit an interesting Medieval Town, one of the most historical towns of Europe. Night in Brugge.

APRIL 20th — Aachen, Germany. Visit Henri-Chapelle and Margraten cemeteries. They are not in Germany, but in Holland. Also close to Aachen. Then visit Bastogne, Malmedy, Schmidtheim, Reischied, Meischied, Geischied and possibly the Hollerath areas to view the Dragons Teeth. Visit The Cologne Cathedral, Remagen Bridge and Museum along the way. Night in Aachen.

APRIL 21st — Koblenz. Visit Bad Ems for a short shopping stop. Fort Ehrenbretstein, which overlooks the junction of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers and is known as the "German Corner." A perfectly beautiful sight. Night in Koblenz.

APRIL 22nd — Kassel. Spend the night. Visit Witzzenhausen.

APRIL 23rd — Arise, Breakfast. Depart Kassel about 7:30 or 8:00 a.m. Visit Witzzenhausen. Travel and visit Hercules Monument and Buchenwald Concentration Camp. This is about a 200 to 240 mile trip, the longest one of our tour. With a couple of short stops, we should arrive in LEIPZIG between four and five o'clock, in time for the Choral Choir at the "Monument of Nations." Dinner at the hotel about 7:00 or 7:30 p.m. Night in Leipzig.

APRIL 24th — Breakfast. Visit the Railroad Station, Old and New Town Halls, St. Thomas Church, all in the morning. Shopping trip for a while, in the Leipzig town square. Have lunch, on your own. Depart Leipzig for TORGAW about two o'clock. Visit St. Mary's Church, Hartenfels Castle and Museum. Visit some of Torgau's small shops for gifts and souvenirs. Dinner about 7:00 or 7:30 p.m. Night in Torgau.

APRIL 25th — Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. VISIT THE "ELBE RIVER" MONUMENT for welcoming speech by Mayor Gerstenberg of Torgau and Mayor Haberland of Strehla. Presentations and a general program by the two mayors. Visit Joe Polowsky's Grave and the Russian Cemeteries, place a wreath. Mayor Gerstenberg will host a reception from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Then we will depart Torgau for STREHLA at 4:00 p.m. Mayor Haberland will host a reception, followed by the DEDICATION OF THE "FIRST LINK-UP MEMORIAL PARK." The banquet will be served following the Dedication Ceremony.

APRIL 26th — Leave for Berlin, stopping to visit Wittenburg. I understand that Berlin is a very popular area to visit at this time, especially since the reunification of the two Germanys. Night in Berlin.

APRIL 27th — Berlin. There are many sights to see in Berlin. We will see them as we come upon them. I will not try to list them all. Visit Pergammon Museum and much more. Sans Souci Palace and new palace.

APRIL 28th — Home - for those that are not traveling to Moscow.

APRIL 28th — Those that are going to Moscow will depart Berlin for Moscow on this date.

APRIL 29th — Arrive in Moscow. Visit the various points of interest. Visit Lenin's Tomb, Kremlin, Moscow Memoria' Museum, Red Square and various other points of interest.

APRIL 29th — Moscow. Finish visiting the places that you have not seen.

APRIL 30th — Volgograd, (formerly Stalingrad). Visit the various Museums and Sights.

MAY 1st — Volgograd. Sightseeing. Maybe observe May Day festivities.

MAY 2nd — Kiev. Visit Old Town. This is the "Mother of Cities" and has many sights to see. The old structures and old buildings.

MAY 3rd — Tour, and a half day on your own to shop or whatever.

MAY 4th — RETURN HOME.

THE TIMES AND EVENTS OF THIS TOUR ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, FOR THE BETTER, OR TO MAKE IT MORE INTERESTING.

INFORMATION

The main tour group will depart from Dulles Airport, Washington, D.C., on British Airways. We will not go through JFK in New York. If you decide that you want to travel on your own and join us at the hotel in London, England, that's fine. But, I suggest that you make your travel arrangements with Joao Freites of American Express Travel Services 1-800-288-8796, so that no mistakes will be made. He will be pleased to assist you. The more people going, the cheaper the rates will be.

The events listed and the sights to see are just a few that you will see and participate in. I hope there will be some surprises that will make it interesting.

(Continued on Page 13)

1995 EUROPEAN TOUR OF THE 69th INFANTRY
(Continued from Page 12)

Some of us have talked about not having too many one night stops. This was thoroughly discussed and it was decided that some one night stops would be necessary if we are to see some of Europe. The trip should be interesting to everyone. You will see sights and places that you have never dreamed about and some that you never knew about to dream about in the first place.

COST - FIRST PORTION OF TOUR

The cost of the first portion of the tour, from April 12th to April 28th, 1995 will be from \$2400.00 to \$2500.00, depending on what we do, plus airfare. The airfare and tour price may vary up or down. One night was added since the tour was arranged. I am sorry that I may have misled anyone on the original price. It was not done intentionally. We attempted to use the cost sheet of the 1990 tour and it could not be done. The other countries of the world are trying to recoup their losses from their recent recessions that they have endured. Thence, everything has gone up, as well as we have added several places to see and things to do. We may never get to do these things again. Many people wanted to know the itinerary and cost figures, plus I wanted to get them in the Bulletin. I should not have done this. I am sorry for the inconvenience that I may have caused. It should have been figured positively before being published.

REGISTERING FOR THE TOUR

To sign up for this tour, make a check out for \$250.00 per person for the tour. Make it out to American Express Travel Services and send it to me,

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

All registration checks are to come through me, whether you join the tour at Dulles Airport, Washington, D.C., or the hotel in London, England. Airfare is a separate charge. This \$250.00 per person will be applied to your total price and is only to show us of your intent so arrangements can be started.

RUSSIAN PORTION OF TOUR

I will list the Russian portion cost here also. The tour price plus one ticket will be \$1225.00 per person, plus the first portion. There is another air ticket. We do not know at this time how much it will cost. It is an in-Russia ticket. But, at this time, the State Department is discouraging us from going to Russia, due to the maintenance on their aircraft. Their airline is aeroflot and takes all passengers within Russia.

There will be more information later. I'm hoping that this gets everyone interested. Contact me for further information or for any questions at 1-804-843-2696.

I was informed by the Tour Agent that we could reserve space as soon as possible and we would be assured of the low airfare.

Check your passport. I read that there should be at least six months before maturity, so you would not run into any problems in Europe.

I do believe that the final figure will be this amount, maybe cheaper I believe.

COME ON!! LET'S GO!! LET'S ENJOY OURSELVES!! MOST OF ALL "LET'S ENJOY SPENDING OUR CHILDREN'S INHERITANCE!!!!"

Best Regards,
William R. Beswick

Link-Up at the Elbe River Commemorations Days

Edgar A. "Bud" Parsons
Company A, 272nd Infantry Regiment
1913 South Lakeshore Drive
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514
919/942-5472

Below you will see two reproductions from the Briefing Book of the 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Committee that give the key dates for the planning of that Committee, as follows:

Link-Up at the Elbe River, April 8th, 1995, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, when a tree planting is to be observed.

Link-Up at the Elbe River, May 9th, 1995, in Moscow, Russia, as a part of Russia's VE Day Commemoration.

The date of April 8th, 1995 was selected to enable the largest possible number of 69th Infantry Division members to attend, instead of the actual 50th Anniversary date of April 25th, 1995. The Commemoration Committee is aware that many 69th Infantry Division veterans will be attending the ceremonies on the Elbe River, Germany on April 25th, and the April 8th date will enable those interested to attend both events.

As indicated, these activities will be in addition to the ceremonies at Torgau and Strehla, in Germany.

United States of America
50th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Committee

Linkup at the Elbe River April 8, 1995

Location: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington Virginia
Theme: To Commemorate U.S.-Russian Cooperation during WWII
Veterans: 69th Infantry Division, Persian Gulf Command,
Atlantic Convoy Merchant Seamen
ODVs: TBD
Sequence of Events: Tree Planting and Plaque Dedication Ceremonies

"A Grateful Nation Remembers"

United States of America
50th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Committee

Linkup at the Elbe River May 9, 1995

Location: Moscow, Russia
Theme: To Commemorate U.S.-Russian Cooperation during WWII
Veterans: 69th Infantry Division, Persian Gulf Command,
Atlantic Convoy Merchant Seamen
ODVs: TBD
Sequence of Events: Large Scale Parades and Ceremonies Planned
(Tied into their VE-Day Commemorations)

"A Grateful Nation Remembers"

Details of Samuel L. Warren's Distinguished Service Cross and the Distinguished Unit Citation of Co. F, 273rd

Submitted by: Walter and Shirley Harpain
2274 West Dovewood, Fresno, California 93711-2810
Telephone: 209/432-2133

My wife Shirley and I enjoyed the Nashville reunion and hope everyone else did also. It was great to see so many First Timers at the reunion and we are looking forward to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in 1995.

On the cover of the last bulletin was a photo of Samuel L. Warren receiving the Distinguished Service Cross from Major General Reinhardt. Many people at the reunion commented on that cover to us since we had submitted it, and asked what he had done to receive the DSC, (Distinguished Service Cross).

Below is a copy of the citation that he received and also a copy of the Unit Citation received by Company F, 273rd, as they are directly related, both occurring at the same event in Leipzig. I hope this clears things up for some of our members.

Lieutenant Warren and his wife Elizabeth attended the Nashville reunion as First Timers. They thoroughly enjoyed it and are planning on being in Myrtle Beach next year.

HEADQUARTERS NINTH UNITED STATES ARMY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL



Award of the Distinguished-Service Cross Citation

FIRST LIEUTENANT SAMMIE L. WARREN, 0-1822647, Infantry, while serving with the Army of the United States, distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in Germany on 18 April 1945. Although making a perfect target for the enemy, Lieutenant Warren fearlessly manned the machine gun on the tank on which he was riding and killed a small number of the enemy. When the company commander was seriously wounded, Lieutenant Warren assumed command and began forming defensive positions. In spite of sniper fire directed at him, Lieutenant Warren moved among the men seeing that the wounded were cared for, revamped the numerical set-up of the platoons and in view of a possible enemy panzerfaust ambush, cleared a building for use as a Command Post. The extraordinary heroism and courageous action of Lieutenant Warren reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS 69th INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 417 U.S. ARMY

26 August 1945

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 97:

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Sec IV, WD Circular #333, dated 22 December 1943, as amended, the Distinguished Citation is awarded to:

Company "F", 273d Infantry Regiment, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy, on 18-19 April 1945, in Leipzig, Germany. Boarding tanks and tank-destroyers, Company "F" crashed through murderous fire from machine guns, panzerfausts and 20-millimeter guns situated on both sides of the avenue used as the route of attack. Suffering heavy casualties and greatly outnumbered, they reached their destination in the heart of the city. There the battered and decimated company reorganized and repeatedly attacked the fortress-like mediaeval Town Hall, being thrown back each time with heavy casualties from the enemy's practically point-blank fire. Cut off from the parent unit, they continued their efforts through the night until the enemy's superior force capitulated, destroying the keystone of the city's defenses.

By command of Brigadier General MARAIST:

GORDON D. INGRAHAM
Lt. Colonel GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ Glenn A Henry
Major, AGD
Adjutant General

New Book, "Hands Across the Elbe"

Submitted by: Dr. Delbert E. Philpott
Company A, 271st Regiment
P.O. Box 2014, Sunnyvale, California 94087-5212

A new book, "HANDS ACROSS THE ELBE," will soon be available. It contains stories by participants of the link-up in 1945 and post link-up events in many of their lives. The book was edited by Dr. and Mrs. Delbert Philpott and will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the historic meeting of Americans and Russians that split Nazi Germany in half. Stories by Germans, as well as Russians, are included. Many years of research have gone into editing this historic book. The book will be a 6 x 9 soft-bound printed on #1 grade paper.

This book will be available through Turner Publishing Company, the same company that published the 69th Infantry Division History Book and are the world's largest publishers of military veterans association histories having published over 200 titles for all branches of the Armed Forces.

For more information on prices and ordering or to reserve your copy, write to:

HANDS ACROSS THE ELBE
TURNER PUBLISHING COMPANY
P.O. Box 3101
Paducah, Kentucky 42002-3101
Telephone: 502/443-0121

DON'T WAIT! RESERVE YOUR COPY NOW!

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

This year's reunion in Nashville turned out to be the largest, longest, and perhaps best in a number of years. The final resolution of the numbers has not yet been completed, and the list of attendees will probably appear in the next bulletin, but I generally judge the "size" of the reunion by the attendance at the Saturday night banquet. This year the hotel billed us for 670 meals, which was quite close to our ticket count. The best we have had during the past three years was 612 at Rochester. This year we had a total of 17 tours and events, starting with the first on Monday morning and ending with the Breakfast Buffet on Sunday morning. For some, it was truly "no rest for the weary."

However, in spite of the large number of activities scheduled, everything seemed to move in good order and I heard few complaints. But then, my hearing is not what it used to be and perhaps **Joe McMurry, Jim Bilbrey** and the rest of the Reunion Committee may have a different story to tell in their reunion report. It appeared to me that they all did a very fine job, even providing entertainment in the Hospitality Room by auctioning gourmet baskets shaped like violins or guitars and a large assortment of gifts. It was a fine team effort with the required tasks broken down and delegated to individuals, so that everything was covered. My heartfelt thanks go out to the Reunion Committee: **Joe McMurry, Jim Bilbrey, Jim White, Hugh Milstead, Joe Conner, Lamar Wallis**, a number of others whose names I do not remember, and **Virginia McMurry** who spent her reunion at the Registration Desk with other ladies of the committee.

During the course of this past year, **Ed Lucci** (our Auditor) and I had several meetings at which we discussed the annual Treasurer's Report and what could be done to simplify it. Each year, when it is presented at the reunion, there arises a great deal of discussion regarding the financial condition of the Association, whether we made a profit or loss, etc. We came to the conclusion that this has been primarily due to the dates of the fiscal year being reported, that is, August 1st through July 31st of the following year. This fiscal year always shows parts of the receipts and expenses of two succeeding reunions mixed together in one year, with the second reunion showing a large amount of advance reservations on the asset side. This tends to give the impression

that a great deal of "profit" has been made. This is not true, because as soon as the impending reunion takes place, a number of bills will be received wiping out the apparent "profit." For the current year we decided to use a fiscal year of January 1st, 1993 through December 31st, 1993 and prepared the Treasurer's Report to that format. The result is a great improvement in clarity: the report only contains the receipts and expenses of one reunion (1993-Rochester) and no excess of advance reservations. The status of the Treasury is plain to see and it can also be readily observed that the 1993 reunion had a loss of about \$530.00, which is quite close to our general objective of breaking even. To achieve a presentation of the current status of the Treasury, an additional report was prepared for the partial year January 1st, 1994 through July 31st, 1994 which, of course, again showed the confusing unbalanced condition. I proposed to the membership that the fiscal year be changed in the By-Laws to January 1st through December 31st. The motion was approved, and the Parliamentarian will take the necessary processing steps to incorporate the change.

As far as the Treasury is concerned, in spite of the fact that the past year was the first year with the dues at \$10.00 instead of \$5.00, we collected dues from 2,655 members as compared to 2,662 last year. I think that is quite good considering that in addition to our dues being raised, our mailing roster decreased from 5,497 at last year's reunion to 5,396 at the mailing of this year's third bulletin. That means a paying population of 49%, compared to 48% last year. (So there, **Bob Kurtzman!**)

The decrease in the size of the mailing roster is primarily the fault of the Bulletin Editors who keep increasing the size of the "Taps" page(s), but I'm afraid there is not much we can do about that. Our age bracket is also causing a large number of cancellations of reunion reservations due to illnesses. (I cannot blame this on the Bulletin Editors.) I had to issue checks for over \$4,000.00 in Reunion Refunds. As a matter of fact, **Thomas Brannan**, who reserved 13 banquet dinners and 13 Sunday breakfast buffets (for all of his children and grandchildren), ended up in a hospital shortly before the reunion and I had to issue him a refund check of \$764.00. Father time is dealing quite harshly with some of us. I hope Tom has recovered by now.

Meanwhile, all we can do is play it by ear as it comes, and whatever comes, keep sending in the dues: Regular \$10.00, Auxiliary \$5.00, and any donations to our Postage/Bulletin Fund will be appreciated.

Sincerely,
William R. Matlach
Treasurer

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Bill, we like this picture better. Earl and Dottie)

NEW DUES YEAR

1994-1995

August 1, 1994 to July 31, 1995

Regular Dues: \$10.00

Auxiliary Dues: \$5.00

Keep the Bulletin Coming!!

Don't Forget to also Make Donations to the Postage/Bulletin Fund.

“2221” Negro Volunteers for Infantry - World War II, Plan First Reunion

Submitted By: J. Cameron Wade
Reunion Chairman

1st Infantry Division, 16th Infantry Regiment, Company B
P.O. Box 167725, Irving, Texas 75016-7725
Telephone: 214/255-5719

SENT TO: The Infantry Associations of the 1st Division, 2nd Division, 8th Division, 9th Division, 69th Division, 78th Division, 99th Division, 104th Division, 12th and 14th Armored Divisions.

The “2221” represent the number of Negro soldiers who responded to the ‘call’ for volunteers to join white Infantry Companies at a time of need for replacements to fight shoulder to shoulder against the Germans, during the Battle of the Bulge. Yes, we were the first to integrate the Infantry. (See Stars and Stripes article below).

The remaining members of that group will have its first reunion during the week of JANUARY 5th, 1995 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Those volunteers who have not been contacted, please send your name, address and phone number to the address above.

Also, we are inviting those white soldiers who fought shoulder to shoulder with us to join us shoulder to shoulder at this reunion. Please contact me at the above address and provide name, address, and phone number, even if you cannot make it. We would just like to hear from you anyway.

Part of the Weapons Platoon, Company B, 273rd Infantry

Submitted by: Rex J. Roberts, Sr.
300 East Bayou Avenue, Satsuma, Alabama 36572



Rex Roberts

Photo right

Standing - R. Milligan, Walters, Theims, Roberts, Lipinski, Sgt. Eckholm, Al ?.

Kneeling: Sgt. Brannon, Dills, Parrish, Nissman, Taylor, Magalish

This picture was taken at a fortress-like castle high on a hill.



Negroes Join Front Units as Infantry

By Allan Morrison, Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH FIRST U.S. ARMY, March 18 — White and Negro infantrymen are fighting shoulder to shoulder against the Germans.

This break with traditional Army policy of separation of units according to race became a reality with the assignment of Negro platoons to rifle companies of infantry divisions of the First and Seventh Armies.

Long contemplated, the plan of mixing white and colored doughboys was launched as no experiment in race relations, but as an answer both to the needs of the military situation and repeated requests by Negro service troops for an opportunity to get into combat.

Negro recruits for infantry training were drawn from thousands of Com Z troops who applied in response to an appeal last December 28th by Lt. Gen. John C.H. Lee, Com Z commander.

Lee offered Negroes who already had infantry training the privilege of joining front line divisions as reinforcements to help “deliver the knock-out blow.”

Thousands of applications were received from men in port battalions and truck companies.

In all, 2,500 Negroes were given a refresher infantry course with emphasis on weapons training. During the six-week course, they were trained as platoons under non-coms and officers sent down from the divisions to which they were to be assigned.

Dottie and Me



Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.

Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr., *Bulletin Coordinating Manager*
Post Office Box 69
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
or
R.D. #3, Box 477
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606
Telephone: 412/455-2901
(Evenings after 7:00 p.m. and Weekends)
Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike

It was a very good reunion in Nashville. The committee was really a rookie group having no experience with the exception of probably **Jim Bilbrey**, who has run some 880th Battery-A weekends. It resembled the group from the Milwaukee Reunion some years back. Dottie and Me say thank you to the Nashville committee for a good reunion and one that ranks high in attendance. They say if all the members who came for only a day would have signed registration sheets instead of being walk-ins, the reunion would have numbered around 800. We did have 700 plus for the dinner dance banquet with some members leaving on Saturday for home due to long drives and other commitments.

We are lacking committee members for the Myrtle Beach reunion and at present, as far as I know, the Schaumberg, Illinois reunion for 1996 has no committee. Up until just recently, we had to have a committee consisting of a chairman and eight to ten couples before we would consider a reunion site. Your committee has to come from the reunion area, so please, members living around Myrtle Beach, call **George Wolff** and those in the Schaumberg-Chicago area, call our Vice President-Site Committee Chairman, **Robert Pierce**, to volunteer your services. You set up the reunion and all of the attendees make it what it is. The 69th has been fortunate in having all good reunions, let's keep it that way.

We also need to let our President **Curt Peterson** know who would be interested in taking over staff offices, for one never knows when a replacement is needed. Think about it members, then let **Curt** know what you would like to do. He could pass it on to the next president.

Curt's wife was seriously injured banquet night. We pray for **Evelyn** that she may have a very good recovery and be herself once again soon. Read the beginning of the President's Message in this bulletin.

We do want to see all in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina next year in October 1995.

Dottie and I received a few letters from the membership that we would like to share with you:

* * * * *

Mr. and Mrs. Witzleb and 69th Infantry Division Association:
Your Bulletin Volume 47, #3 was received and read from cover to cover with great interest. Perhaps our brief encounter

with the 69th might be of interest too. I am the widow of **Irving Siegelbaum**, #32900086, Company F, 271st Infantry. Irv was with the 69th for Basic Training only, from April through September of 1943.

From Shelby he was sent to Fort Meade in Baltimore with a small detachment. Then on to Africa for a short while and on to Allied Forces Headquarters in Italy where he remained for two long years.

While his time with the 69th was of a short duration, he never forgot the 69th and was always interested in their whereabouts. If he wasn't with them physically, he certainly stayed with them in spirit. The 69th was close to my heart too. I spent that hot summer of '43 in Hattiesburg and worked in camp at the Quartermaster Corps offices. Then I went on to Baltimore to be as near as possible to Irv. I remained in Baltimore working in the PX Office at Holabird Signal Depot until Irv returned in October 1945. Then back to New York to continue where we left off.

My respect and interest in the 69th will always be with me. To keep this contact with a part of Irv's past, I'm enclosing my dues and current address.

Mrs. Blanche Siegelbaum
77 Third Street, Apt. J6
Stamford, Connecticut 06905

* * * * *

I wish to compliment everyone connected with the fine job which made the Nashville Reunion such a success. It was obvious that a great deal of planning, time and effort was expended by all involved.

As my wife Dottie and I were "First Timers," we would like to thank all the members who greeted us and made us feel at home. This was particularly true of the members of B Company, 271st Infantry, who accepted us after a 49 year absence.

Please continue to turn out your quality 69th Bulletin which I am sure all members thoroughly enjoy.

With fond regards,
Elmer and Dottie Miller
16 South Whisper Court
Columbus, Georgia 31909

* * * * *

Dear Dottie and Earl,

Just a short note to say that my wife **Helene** and I were so glad that we attended the reunion in Nashville. Even though it was our first reunion, everyone made it a point to welcome us "First Timers."

It was a great reunion and we really enjoyed ourselves, along with **Sam and Ethel Johnson**. They were also First Timers and we hadn't seen each other since the 69th was broken up at the end of World War II.

Hopefully this note finds both of you well and recuperated from the reunion.

Bill and Helene Studenic
11430 S.W. 75th Terrace Road
Ocala, Florida 34476

**Holiday
Greetings
to All 69ers
and their
Families!**



Where Were You During The First and Second Reunions in New York City?

Submitted By: Robert L. Pierce, Company I, 273rd Infantry
144 Nashua Court, San Jose, California 95139-1236

NEW YORK CITY
SEPTEMBER 25th, 1948

A couple of years ago Earl Witzleb published a list of all our past reunions from 1948. The missing information on his list is the name of the hotels for 1948 and 1949. There was also a copy of General Reinhardt's letter in the last bulletin that formed the Division Association. I would like to fill in some of the blanks and recall some of my 46 year-old memories and experiences to the best of my ability.

When General Reinhardt formed the 69th Infantry Division Association in 1948, he appointed General Bolte Honorary President and himself Treasurer. Membership and funding was the key to establishing an Association. At the first membership meeting September 25th, 1948, General Reinhardt was elected President effective January 1949. Enclosed is a copy of my original membership card (right) signed by General Reinhardt as President; January 3, 1949 through January 1, 1950. This card was issued after the 1949 reunion.

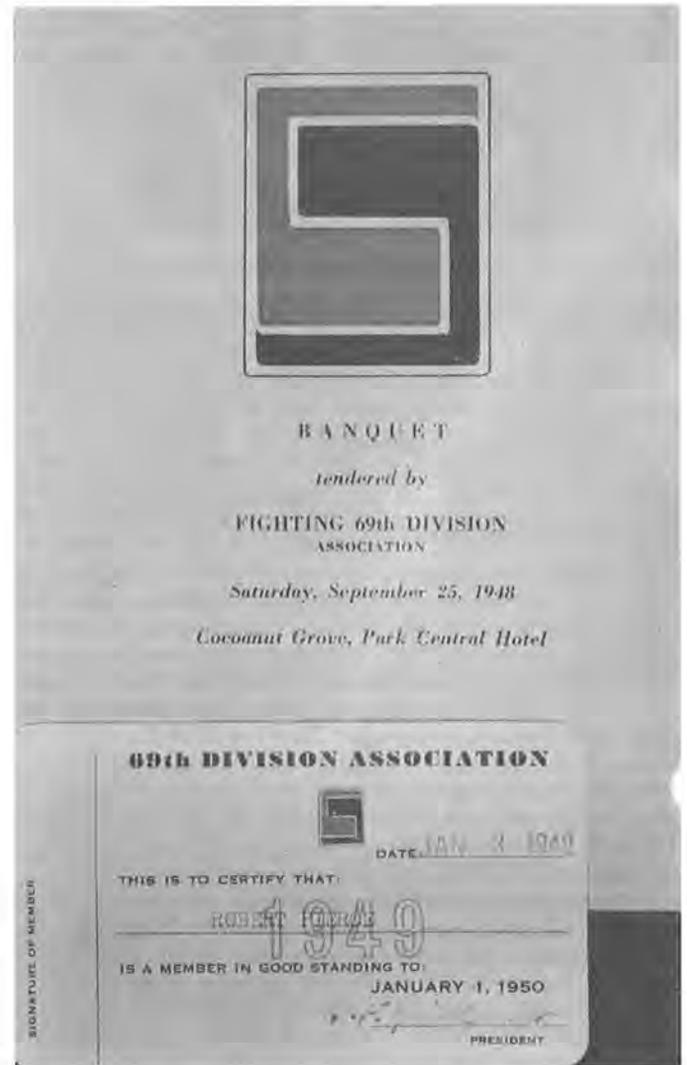
Notice of the reunion was very exciting. It was the first opportunity most of us had to get together with our buddies and lie about how we fought the war. Most of us were single and full of vinegar. I wrote Erwin Sanborn in Laconia, New Hampshire and told him to get his butt down to New York City; he showed up 38 years later at Williamsburg, Virginia. I picked up George Pursey in Cleveland, drove to Youngstown and literally plucked Ray McCutcheon off a telephone pole (he worked for Ma Bell). Three wild small-town guys were headed for the big city.

Our first experience with the typical "hand-in-your-pocket" New Yorker came when the toll taker on the Holland Tunnel said: "Is this all it's worth to get into New York City?" He wanted a tip! Not to be discouraged, we headed for a hotel I stayed at on leave in 1944, the Ashby Hotel on 54th Street just off 7th Avenue. We got a mini-suite with a bedroom and living room with a hide-a-bed for \$8.00 a night. To match the Big City theme, we succumbed to local advertising and bought a six pack of both Ballentine Ale and Carlings Red Cap Ale; we were really living.

The first membership meeting of the 69th Division Association was held at 23rd Street and Lexington Avenue in the World War I Fighting 69th Infantry Regiment Armory. You cannot believe the excitement, the walls were covered with pictures and memorabilia of the famous fighting force that had become our Division standard and allowed us to also be called "The Fighting 69th."

Now, to fill in one blank, where was the first Reunion held? I have submitted a copy of the Banquet folder and menu that records our first Banquet was held in the Coconut Grove Room of the Park Central Hotel. As I recall, it was near 57th Street on either 7th Avenue or Avenue of the Americas. Can you imagine, we had a turkey dinner!

Being wild guys loose on the town, we only stayed for the dinner because I had called a girl I met in New York in 1944 and had her get dates for my buddies. She lived on Ocean Avenue across from Prospect Park in Brooklyn, sounds simple, right? We couldn't find our way out of Manhattan! We finally stopped a taxi and paid him to lead us to Ocean Avenue. We planned to see the night life in Greenwich Village but the girls only knew how to get there by subway. New York City dwellers typically do not own cars. Again, we hired a



First Banquet Menu/Program and Membership Card Issued by the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association

MENU		
★		
Miami Fruit Salad		
Hearts of Celery	Salted Almonds	Queen Olives
Potage Jardinere		
Roast Vermont Turkey, Celery Dressing		
Garden Peas	Candied Sweets	Cranberry Sauce
Salade de Luxe		
Apple Pie a la Mode		
After Dinner Mints		
Coffee		
★ ★ ★		

(Continued on Page 19)

WHERE WERE YOU DURING THE FIRST AND SECOND REUNIONS IN NEW YORK CITY?

(Continued from Page 18)

taxi to lead us there. We spent the evening in the Nut House and had a great time. It was my first experience with raw humor. As we left the club, the doorman (who was sitting on a barrel by the door) grabbed my coat tail and said: "Hey, buddy, how about a tip for the doorman?" In my most gracious style I gave him a modified "short-arm salute" and walked away. We arrived back at our hotel about 6:00 p.m. In the elevator there was a stack of Sunday papers. I picked one up and dropped a quarter in the elevator operator's cigar box. He became very insulting. These papers were his he had bought for resale and were \$1.00 each. I put the paper back and we departed the elevator. We all turned around and "saluted" him.

NEW YORK CITY REUNION, 1949

The second year our reunion was more organized. Everything was in one place which included hotel rooms at a conference price. The 1949 reunion was held at the Commodore Hotel which was part of the Grand Central Station complex on 42nd Street. George Pursey and I shared a room for \$11.00 a night. My reunion program has long since been misplaced,

but I do remember the hotel and the banquet. Chester and Olive Ritchie and George Houseal from Company I, 273rd, were also there.

This year we were more sophisticated, no carousing, only high-brow stuff. We were told that every visitor to New York City will sooner or later visit the Cross Roads Bar at 42nd and Broadway. I don't remember exactly why but we spent a lot of time there looking. Jack Dempsey's Bar was a must, just hoping to see that champ. We were never sure if we saw him or not because there were a lot of pugs hanging around with cauliflower ears and crooked noses. We did pick up a lot of his postcards stacked on the bar that pictured him posing with Jess Willard before the 1919 fight where he won the heavyweight championship boxing title.

Yes, we went to see the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall. We bought cheap seats so high up we had nose bleeds before we reached our seats. The aiseways were so steep I was afraid to stand up so I crawled the last two balconies. The best time we had was dinner and the show at the Latin Quarter until the waiter threatened to throw us out for flirting with the cigarette girls.

I guess you can say, "I remember the first two New York City Reunions."

Rationing during World War II redefined "need"

□ Rationing would be tough today.

By Irene Michel, Contributing columnist (paper unknown)

At a family gathering the other day the topic of rationing came up. It would be a pretty safe bet to say that the youth of today have no idea what life was like during World War II. Even as bad as those years were, the people in the United States were fortunate, at least in one respect. We did not experience bombings in this country.

Rationing was a way of life back then. The war had placed a heavy demand on many products. To ensure that the remainder was equitably divided on the home front, the government imposed rationing as an emergency measure. Ration boards were set up to issue certificates for certain items and coupons for others.

While looking through some of my late mother-in-law's records recently, I found several old ration books, along with the stub of an application for a ration book. A three-cent postage stamp was in the upper right corner. The Office of Price Administration (OPA) Mailing Center was in Dallas, Texas. A written notice directed applicants to use two cent postage if mailed in Dallas and three cents postage elsewhere.

Some of the things for which certificates were needed included automobiles, trucks, tires, stoves and typewriters. One of the ladies in the group recalled that her husband, a farmer, needed a certificate to buy a truck. However (and she marveled at this) he didn't need a license to drive it.

Coupons were used to buy food, gasoline and shoes. The coupons were valid for a certain length of time — somewhat

like food stamps for the needy today. Other things that were rationed included bicycles, fuel oil, kerosene and many food items. While most rationing ended in 1945, sugar was rationed the longest, until 1947.

"A Message to Every Ration Book Holder" was a small sheet of paper explaining why the government took action to ration goods and establish legal prices on "practically every food item in the family market basket." The message ended with a request for ration book holders to keep this pledge: "I will accept no rationed foods without giving ration stamps. I will never pay more than legal prices."

I don't think our household felt the sting of rationing as much as most. We were a large family and we were accustomed to doing without. Even with coupon books, if you didn't have the money you still couldn't get the goods.

Although most people were willing to abide by the government regulations concerning rationing, there were, unfortunately, some who resorted to "black market" purchases. In the instructions for use of the ration books it stated that any attempt to violate the rules was an action which, "like treason, helps the enemy."

"If you don't need it, DON'T BUY IT" was the admonition printed at the bottom of the back cover of the ration books issued during World War II by the OPA. Actually, don't you think it could still be a good motto for sensible living?

Today if we lived by the admonition, "If you don't need it, DON'T BUY IT." I wonder how many of us would have reason to complain about lack of money, or of closet space, for that matter. First though, we might have to redefine the word need.

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. #3, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

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

By-Laws Changes

From the Office of the Vice President
ROBERT L. PIERCE

144 Nashua Court, San Jose, California 95139

RESOLUTION/BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Mr. Joseph Wright, *Chairman*
Route 4, Box 1973
Forsyth, Missouri 65653

SUBJECT: Recommended Changes to the Constitution of
the 69th Infantry Division Association

Mr. Chairman:

It has come to my attention there is a shortcoming in the assorted membership description and/or criteria that requires correction. During the California Western Chapter Membership Meeting April 16, 1994 the question of Associate Membership was mentioned. A 69th Division member requested his son be approved for an Associate Membership to our Chapter. His son is a Vietnam Veteran and an officer in the Arizona Highway Patrol. His request is being processed through their Board of Directors and there does not appear to be a problem because their Constitution allows them to nominate and approve Associate Chapter Membership.

The problem arose when members asked if daughters were also eligible to become members because Article III of the 69th Division Association Constitution specifically says "the children of an active member." My first reaction was to say sons can become Associate Members and daughters can only become members of the Ladies Auxiliary. An undertone of sex bias discrimination rumbled through the meeting. Further discussion was tabled and the membership advised this question would be referred to the 69th Infantry Association Resolutions/By-Laws Committee.

After reading the 69th Division Association Constitution several times, I came to the conclusion it must be changed. If for any reason you do not agree, please provide me with a written statement why "heirs" and "children" do not include females so I can respond to the open question requested by the Chapter members.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION:

ARTICLE III(a). Active Members.

1. Change last sentence to read: "Upon notification of the death of an active member of the Association, an Associate membership shall be made available to his son(s) who must be of blood relation."

ARTICLE III(c). Associate Members.

2. Change the first sentence to read: "The Board of Directors of the Association or any of its branches shall be authorized to approve as an Associate member, the son(s) of an active member, limited to and ending with the first generation."

Enclosed is a copy of my analysis with supporting reasons.

Robert L. Pierce, Vice President

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM:

ARTICLE III(a.) Active Members.

1. All individuals who at any time served with the 69th Infantry Division in World War II or in units attached to the Division in World War II, - - - - shall be eligible to active membership in the Association. Upon notification of the death of an active member of the Association, his membership shall be made available to his heirs who must be of blood relation.

ANALYSIS/CONCLUSION:

- a. All active members must be male because no females served in the 69th Division during WWII.
- b. Upon a member's death, his wife cannot become a member because she is not a blood relative.
- c. A son or daughter is an heir and a blood relative, as well as a brother or sister; therefore, he/she/and they are all eligible to become active members (not Associate or Honorary). "His membership shall be made available." This ambiguous statement also implies, in fact, the Association will/can continue to be perpetrated for a second generation by the heirs of members becoming active members. This was never the intent when the organization was formed.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM:

ARTICLE III(c). Associate Members.

The Board of Directors shall be authorized to approve as an Associate Member, the children of an active member, limited to and ending with the first generation.

ANALYSIS/CONCLUSION:

- a. Associate Chapters and branches are vested with the authority to determine membership. (Reference Article III(a)3.
- b. Chapters and branches have the authority to nominate and elect Honorary members. (Reference Article III(b).
- c. Chapters and branches do not have the authority to nominate, approve, or elect a member's child as an Associate member as defined in Article III(c).
- d. The word "children" is plural and is not defined by gender. Under this clause, first-generation children (both sons and daughters) are eligible to become Associate members. The legalese here does not exclude daughters from becoming 69th Infantry Division Association Associate members.
- e. Daughters are, however, eligible to become members of the Ladies Auxiliary under Article XIII.

Super-Grower John Turner

From *The Tomato Club Newsletter*

April 1994

We received an article from Coy Horton about John Turner, Battery C, 724th FA. It seems that John is well known for growing huge fruits and vegetables as well as big sunflowers. He is shown here proudly displaying one of his giant "love apples."

Wonder if John would mind if we wrote to him with our gardening questions? It is good to see that many of our members are still enjoying life to its fullest.



69th Infantry Division Association 48th Annual Reunion MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

Landmark Resort Hotel - Best Western
1501 South Ocean Boulevard, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 19577
Telephone: 803/448-9441 • 800/845-0658 • FAX: 448-6701

COMMITTEE:

George and Rita Wolff, Co-Chairpersons
Company A, 271st Infantry
1132 Forest Drive
North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29582
Telephone: 803/272-4247

Frank and Joan Alfiero, Co-Chairpersons
Battery B, 880th Field Artillery
1394 Southwood Drive
Surfside, South Carolina 29575
Telephone: 803/650-7031

The Landmark, a Best Western Motel, is right on the ocean beach. The ocean water and air temperatures are very pleasant in October. The airport is about three miles away and the hotel has complimentary vans to and from the airport. Myrtle Beach is well within driving distance from the middle and northeast Atlantic states. For example, about a ten hour drive from Philadelphia.

Room Rates: Single and Double, Ocean View \$42.00
Ocean Front (based on availability) \$52.00
Plus add 7% Tax

Hospitality Room, Tours, Early Bird Dinner, PX Party, Shows, Memorial Service, Banquet Dinner Dance, Golf, Shopping and there is free parking for hotel guests.

The committee has met with the Hotel Sales Manager and has finalized or partly finalized the following activities.

1. Registration and Hospitality Room — Open all week. Hours to be set later.
2. Trips to Charleston, Brookgreen Gardens, a plantation, an evening show and shopping have been made. All costs will be comparatively reasonable and will be finalized early in 1995.

We want to see as many as possible at this reunion just as always, so make an extra effort to be there.

Y'all come

Company G, 273rd Infantry

Submitted By: **Orville Schultz**
1085 Fair Oaks Avenue
Arroyo Grande, California 93420

We thank the committee very much for a great reunion and a job well done. All of the tours were exciting and very professional. The attendance as almost unbelievable.

We are equally excited about the new California Western Chapter and intend to be present at those meetings.

Looking forward to another promising get-together in Myrtle Beach. See you there.



Top Photo:

Jim Kane, Orville Schultz, Joe Panganiban, Al Aronson, Ray Hotter, Ed Stagg, Bill Beecher. Not pictured but present: Howard Klopp

Bottom Photo:

Dorris Beacher, Beaulah Schultz, Betty Kane, Betty Aronson, Diane Panganiban, Tory Stagg. Not pictured, but present: June Ainley



THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE



Dottie Witzleb

by — Dottie Witzleb
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 Lakewood, Ohio 44107
 Telephone: 216-228-6024



Edith Zaffern, Sunshine Lady
 22555 Hallcroft Trail
 Southfield, Michigan 48034-2011
 Telephone: (Please send to Dottie)



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

Ellen McCann, Secretary
 39 Mayflower Road
 Woburn Massachusetts 01801
 Telephone: 617/933-2312

A Message from your Auxiliary President, Alice R. Wolthoff

Dear Ladies of the Auxiliary:

I enjoyed reading the last bulletin. I was surprised it came so early. Gosh, the suitcases weren't done yet.

I believe we all enjoyed ourselves at the reunion and also enjoyed the city of Nashville. There certainly was plenty of things to do and I am sure, we as the whole, didn't see everything.

Joe McMurry and all of his co-workers should get a big round of applause for a job well done and everything was under control.

Thanks to Robert Pierce for bringing greetings to the ladies and Jim Boris for the finals on the Ladies Golf scores and encouraging more ladies to participate.

Anyone living in the area of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, give George and Rita Wolff a hand on the reunion. It certainly will be appreciated by them. Many hands will make light work for all concerned.

Any First Timer who did not fill out the blue card, send information to the Sunshine Lady or me, your president and I'll get them to her. Anyone that wishes to belong to the Auxiliary, send dues of \$5.00 to Bill Matlach. The information on the blue card is his and her birthdays and anniversary.

As suggested by the Sunshine Lady, Edith Zaffern, and approved by the Auxiliary, the greetings for birthdays and anniversaries will be mailed on regulation postcards to save postage.

Financial Statement

January - December 1993 \$1070.00
 January - July 1994 \$1699.00

The attendance: 160 regular ladies and 27 First Timers

We had 65 lap robes, 15 bibs, 19 pairs of slippers and 1 bed jacket. They were delivered by our chairmen, Joe and Virginia McMurry, to the Nashville V.A. Hospital along with a check for \$500.00 for personal items for the veterans.

Lap robes are 36 x 45 (baby quilts are usually the correct size). I have the slipper instructions for anyone wanting them. Write to me and I will see that you get them.

(Continued on Page 23)

SUNSHINE LADY NOTICE - EDITH ZAFFERN

If you are not receiving birthday and anniversary greetings, or if you are but there are errors in the names, addresses or dates, please let me know so that I may update our records. Write to my address above. Thank You

Thanks to the ladies who pro-temp for me.

Let us all keep our president's wife, Evelyn who was injured at the banquet in our prayers, along with the gentleman who had a heart attack and also Jean Brannan, our Chaplain, whose husband Tom is very ill in the hospital in Mobile, Alabama.

Let me, at this time, wish everyone out there "HAPPY HOLIDAYS and HAPPY NEW YEAR." May the New Year be a healthy and a happy one.

Sincerely,
Alice R. Wolthoff
Ladies Auxiliary President

P.S. May I please ask my officers who have not sent a picture into Dottie Witzleb, to do so. It will be returned.

Also, anyone having pictures of the robes, please send me the negative. I lost my complete film.

- In Memoriam -

It was voted on and passed at the Ladies Auxiliary meeting in Nashville that an "In Memoriam" column be started on the Ladies Auxiliary page. In the passing of a member's loved one, please notify: Dorothy Witzleb, P.O. Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069.

LADIES' "TAPS"

Mrs. Rita Blain

wife of Alfred Blain, Cannon Company, 271st Infantry

Mrs. Dorothy Hepp

wife of George Hepp, 569th Signal Company

Mrs. Mayreta Kitner

wife of Paul Kitner, Battery A, 724th Field Artillery

MP's - We Need Your Help Does Anyone Know WILLIAM O'BRIEN

Catherine O'Brien Neal
251 Sky Valley
Sky Valley, Georgia 30537
Telephone: 706/746-6501

Dear Fighting 69th:

I am researching my family history and I need some help - please! My uncle (my father's brother) William O'Brien of New York City was in World War II in the 69th Infantry. I do know he was an MP and was shot in the leg somewhere in Europe. His family is gone now and my father can't remember a lot. So I have nowhere to turn for a bit of information about him.

I found out the Division was retired and to my surprise, came upon a gentleman with a 69th shirt on. I spoke to him and he gave me this address. If there is anyone who may have an old photo of him, I would really appreciate it. Also, if you have a history of the Division in World War II, I would love to have a copy for his section in our family history book.

He came from Rockaway Beach, New York and was born in 1908 or 1909.

If there is a charge please let me know. Thank you very much.

Catherine O'Brien Neal

Ross Scholarship Awarded

At the General Membership Meeting of the 1993 reunion in Rochester it was voted to suspend the Ross Medical Scholarship because during the previous two year period, in spite of repeated publicity in the bulletin, we had not had a single applicant return completed Ross University applications. To announce this decision, an article was placed in the Bulletin (Volume 47, No. 1, Fall 1993) describing the situation.

In spite of this article, during the past year we have received letters from two potential applicants asking for application forms. These inquiries were answered advising that the scholarship had been suspended as stated in the bulletin.

In the middle of June of this year, Bill Matlach received a letter from the widow of a 69er stating that her grandson had been accepted into Ross University, scheduled to start in January 1995, and she asked to apply for a scholarship. Within a few days, before any action on our part, a letter was received from Dr. Robert Ross stating that he had granted the young man a Medical Scholarship. Apparently, the widow had written simultaneous letters to Matlach and Dr. Ross, and Dr. Ross, observing that the student was already registered in his university, decided to grant the award he had promised back in 1990.

The winner of the award is CHRISTOPHER P. CORBITT who is the grandson of Dale F. McGee who was Company Commander of E-271st and who also served in HQ-271st. Dale McGee passed away in 1990, but his wife, Mrs. Dale McGee, made the application for her grandson. As previously stated in bulletin articles describing the Scholarship, the value of the scholarship approaches \$50,000.00, which will provide a great deal of assistance to the student, to say the least. Congratulations, Christopher. We offer you our best wishes for successful completion of your medical education and an outstanding future in the medical field.

Presentation of this award culminates Dr. Robert Ross' 1990 offer of a scholarship to either the School of Medicine or the School of Veterinary Medicine of Ross University. We sincerely thank Dr. Ross for his initial proposal for the Scholarship, for the cooperation he has shown during the past four years, and for his ultimate award of the Scholarship promised on behalf of the 69th Infantry Division.

Company K, 271st Infantry



Worley Smith, Herb Pickett (C.O.) and Bob Bishop met for the first time since 1945 at the Nashville Reunion.

Submitted By: Robert Bishop
180 Calkins Road, Palmer, Massachusetts 01069-9314

Company A, 273rd Infantry

Submitted By: Jerome Ghedotti
25672 29th Street South
Kent, Washington 98032

*Right: Standing is Audrey Johnson.
Behind him are German prisoners on the
Mulde River, Wurzen, Germany.*



*Jack
Houghton -
Holzehsusen,
Germany*



Jack Hubbard - Wurzen, Germany



*Walter Reardon, John Durst, William McDermott
Grimma Germany - May 1945*



*Crossing Germany: Elwood Sowers,
Jerome Ghedotti, Frank Reibstein*



*In Wurzen, Germany
Harry Hall*



*Jimmy Brooks, Forest Mooney
Grimma, Germany, 1945*

Ed Lucci's name was also on the back of these photos, so we are not sure who sent them, although Jerome's name and address were on the back to return to him.

New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

Domenic V. Dezio — Company A, 272nd Infantry
22770 Almond, East Pointe, Michigan 48021

Garland J. Gable — Company G, 271st Infantry
2820 Kendall Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903-8925

Martin P. Jackson — Company C, 273rd Infantry
5212 25th Avenue, S.E., Lacey, Washington 98503

Sherwood Brownfield — 569th Signal Company
1000 Kings Highway, #263, Port Charlotte, Florida 33980

Warren C. Betterton — Company A, 271st Infantry
Route #1, Walling, Tennessee 38587

N.C. Harrison — Company G, 271st Infantry
10463 Old Highway 52 E., Westmoreland, Tennessee 37186

Wendell G. Allison
17853 Deer Trail, Flint, Texas 75762

James A. Pitton — Company K, 271st Infantry
20411 Bayview Avenue, Santa Ana, California 92707

Homer Lind — Company K, 271st Infantry
18936 Connie Drive, Grass Valley, California 95949

Louis Lodigiani — Company B, 271st Infantry
70 Clarence Street, W. Springfield, Massachusetts 01089

George F. Schneider — 273rd Infantry
237 Willow Valley Drive, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17602

William Britt
1404 Converse Avenue
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28303-3009

Walter M. Haney — Company M, 271st Infantry
990 Novarese Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38122

Howard Klopp — Company G, 273rd Infantry
2666 South Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18104

Vincent J. Mazza — Company B, 272nd Infantry
3502 Russell Thomas Lane, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

James R. Yakle — Headquarters, 3rd Bn., 271st Infantry
1668 McKay Court, Dunedin, Florida 34698

Joe Ezzo
5380 Joes Creek Drive N., St. Petersburg, Florida 33709

John C. Floyd
7025 Georgia Road S., Birmingham, Alabama 35212

Charles Smith
818 N. 19th Street, Murray, Kentucky 42071

Carl Bugg — Company E, 273rd Infantry
501 Alexander Avenue, Morganton, North Carolina 28655

Edwin M. Hill — Company G, 271st Infantry
3907 Westridge Meadow, Clemmons, North Carolina 27072

Bernard Citrenbaum — Company K, 271st Infantry
1004 Venice Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

Louis C. Souder — Company F, 273rd Infantry
135 Flinders Reef, Ocean City, New Jersey 08226

Lloyd L. Whitely
1001 North Highland, Amarillo, Texas 79107

Rev. Wendell Meggs — Company K, 273rd Infantry
1215 White Boulevard, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37129

Orvis Davis — Company B, 271st Infantry
Route 4, Box 216, Kyser, West Virginia 26726

David Burk — Company H, 271st Infantry
3367 Vermontville Highway, Pottersville, Michigan 48876

Tom Erdley — Company L, 272nd Infantry
R.D. #1, Box 707, Port Trevorton, Pennsylvania 17864-9615

Donald W. Martin — A Battery, 461st AAA
1326 Mt. Jackson Road, New Castle, Pennsylvania 16102

John M. Worman — Company G, 272nd Infantry
2727 Sand Road, Port Clinton, Ohio 43452

Winifred L. Smith — Company D, 273rd Infantry
138 Cardinal Circle, Quitman, Texas 75783

Herbert Wegelin — Company C, 272nd Infantry
6 Creekside Drive, Orchard Park, New York 14127

Herbert Moss — Company I, 272nd Infantry
Brighton Towers #405, 2834 Atlantic Avenue
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401

Robert J. Maul
100 Hermosillo Drive, Santa Barbara, California 93108

Ike Andrews — Battery C, 881st Field Artillery
138 Fearington Post, Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312

Steve Gilman — Battery C, 881st Field Artillery
148 Morningside Lane, West Buffalo, Illinois 60089

Lawrence Verheye
12351 Pierce Road, Wakarusa, Indiana 46573

Battle Patrol and Company B 272nd Infantry

Submitted By:
Nick Giannone
102-00 Shore Front Parkway, #10J
Rockaway Park, New York 11694

This photo was taken at the 1994 Nashville Reunion. From left to right they are: Bob Tarr, Dick Hadley, Nick Giannone, Vince Mazza, Bill Higgins, Leo Moore and Crandon Clark.



Patrol Rosters that linked up with the Russians at the Elbe

Submitted By: Alfred F. Aronson

Company G, 273rd Infantry

200 Winston Drive, Cliffside Park, New Jersey 07010-3217

Telephone: 201/886-2040

Below is a list from the original rosters of each of the patrols that linked up with the Russians on 25 April 1945.

In preparation for the upcoming 50th Anniversary next year, perhaps there is hope of reuniting those who remain of the three patrols' personnel.

Lieutenant Kotzebue's patrol of 36 men were predominantly G and H Companies, 273rd Infantry. Lieutenant Robertson's patrol consisted of 4 men, all from Headquarters, 1st Battalion. Major Craig's patrol consisted of 51 men predominantly from H & E Companies, 273rd Infantry.

I know many years ago Joe Polowsky tried to organize this group of 92 men but I don't know what success he had. Perhaps an article in the Bulletin might lead to some success in locating them.

* * * * *

The officers and men listed below were the first Americans on the Western Front in World War II to contact the forces of the Red Army along the line of the Elbe River and thereby divide the German Armies in Europe.

PATROL #1

The following named officer and EM were members of the patrol which contacted the Russian Army at Lockwitz, Germany, at 1130 on the 25th of April 1945:

*1st Lt. Albert L. Kotzebue - Co. G Houston, TX
*T/Sgt. Frederick W. Johnston - Co. G Bradford, PA
S/Sgt. Alfred E. Aronson - Co. G New York City, NY
S/Sgt. William E. Weisel - Hq., 2nd Bn. Norwood, OH
Sgt. John J. Peters - Co. H Brooklyn, NY
Sgt. Jack B. Tyson - Co. H Columbia, VA
Cpl. Christopher R. Twardzik - Co. H ... Shenandock, PA
Cpl. Stephen A. Kowalski - Med. Det. ... New York City, NY
T/5 Robert D. Stuart, - Hq., 2nd Bn. Scranton, TX
Pfc. Nicholas Supron - Hq., 2nd Bn. Scranton, TX
Pfc. James W. Kane, Jr. - Co. G Overbrook Hill, PA
Pfc. J.P. Thomas - Co. G Blue Springs, MS
Pfc. Emmett P. Thompson - Co. G Merkel, TX
Pfc. Joseph W. Johnson - Co. G Excelsior, MI
Pfc. Van D. Rye - Co. G Clarksville, TN
Pfc. Harold R. Brummel - Co. G Lee's Summit, MO
*Pfc. Joseph P. Polowsky - Co. G S. Minneapolis, MN
Pfc. Byron L. Shiver, Sr. - Co. G Lakeland, FL
Pfc. Carl L. Robinson - Co. H Lancaster, SC
Pfc. John Wheeler - Co. H Winstead, CT
Pfc. Edwin Jeary - Co. H Detroit, MI
Pfc. Robert Haag - Co. H Washington, IN
Pfc. William Matousek - Co. H Glendale, CA
Cpl. Melvin Roseland - Co. H Senca, SD
Pfc. Jesse W. Best - Co. H Grampian, PA
Pfc. Harold B. Pemberton - Co. H Fort Worth, TX
Pfc. Edward P. Ruff - Co. H Riverside, NJ
Pfc. Otha N. Phillips - Co. H Quitman, VA
Pfc. Charles G. Attara - Co. H Patterson, NC
Pfc. Charles H. Schultz - Co. H Dubuque, LA
Pfc. Rudolph Hoyos - Co. H Los Angeles, CA
Pfc. James R. Gilmore - Co. H Great Bend, KS
Pfc. John B. Adam, Jr. - Co. H Rockingham, NC
Pvt. Larry Hamlin - Co. G Towaoc, CO
Pvt. Robert S. Legal - Co. H Georgetown, MA
Pvt. Peter M. Calasciona - Co. G Los Angeles, CA

*Deceased

(NOTE: Ones marked deceased are those known dead by Mr. Aronson only from his patrol and does not constitute a complete list of those deceased of these patrols.)

PATROL #2

The following named officer and EM were members of the patrol which contacted the Russian Army at Torgau, Germany, at 1600 on the 25th of April 1945.

2nd Lt. William D. Robertson - Hq., 1st Bn. ... Los Angeles, CA
Cpl. James J. McDonnell - Hq., 1st Bn. Peabody, MA
Pfc. Frank P. Huff - Hq., 1st Bn. Washington VA
Pfc. Paul Staub - Hq., 1st Bn. The Bronx, NY

PATROL #3

The following named officers and EM were members of the patrol which contacted the Russian Army at Clanzschwitz, Germany, at 1645 on the 25th of April 1945:

Major Fred W. Craig - Hq., 2nd Bn Friendship, TN
Capt. George J. Morey - Hq., 273rd Dumont, NJ
Capt. William J. Fox - Hq., V Corps Brooklyn, NY
2nd Lt. Thomas P. Howard - Co. E ... Lake Cormorant, MS
M/Sgt. Paul H. Murdoch - Hq., 273rd Los Angeles, CA
Sgt. Edward J. Lang - Co. E Boston, MA
Sgt. Bennett Thompson - Co. H Athens, TX
Sgt. Robert F. Bender - Co. H Des Moines, IA
Sgt. Andrew Marriock - Co. H Hudson, NJ
Sgt. Albert Harzog - Co. H Brooklyn, NY
T/4 Howard J. Auclair - Hq., 273rd Tupper Lake, NY
T/4 Robert L. Mayer - Hq., 273rd Wheaton, IL
Cpl. May L. Weinstein - Co. H Long Island, NY
Pfc. Jaun A. Arrandondo - Co. H Laredo, TX
Pfc. Harold C. McCord - Co. H Newark, NJ
Pfc. Richard L. Parent - Co. H Trenton, NJ
Pfc. Lawrence J. Wilson - Co. H Durham, NC
Pfc. Elijah R. Sams - Co. H Pinnaele, NC
Pfc. Edward R. Pollard - Co. H Needham, MA
Pfc. Murry Schulman - Co. H Brooklyn, NY
Pfc. Fred Warren, Jr. - Co. H Myrtle, MO
Pfc. Arthur E. Reinhardt - Co. H Leehman, NJ
Pfc. Ronald Williams - Co. H Fairport, NY
Pfc. Dewey Crause - Co. H Lincolnton, NC
Pfc. John W. Mowrey, Jr. - Co. H Sutton, WV
Pfc. Simon M. Talamantee - Co. H Corpus Christi, TX
Pfc. Robert H. Walters - Co. H Minneapolis, MN
Pfc. William W. Horton - Co. H Philadelphia, PA
Pfc. Vincent S. Smithisler - Co. H Cleveland, OH
Pfc. Abraham L. Collins, Jr. - Co. H Rupert, WV
Pfc. Paul J. Peters - Co. H Waterville, ME
Pfc. Stanford J. Silvestri - Co. E Brooklyn, NY
Pfc. Edward Rasmuss - Co. E Naticoke, PA
Pfc. Edward J. Berger - Co. E Hallettsville, TX
Pfc. Auston B. Johnson - Co. E Fort Payne, AL
Pfc. Igor N. Belousovitch - Co. E San Francisco, CA
Pfc. William Seiter - Hq., 1st Army Detroit, MI
Pfc. Alex Hotes - Co. E Messmore, PA
Pfc. William J. Head - Co. E Knoxville, TN
Pfc. Jesse J. King - Co. E Liberty, KY
Pfc. Clarence L. Houseknecht - Co. E Hughsville, PA
Pfc. Charles C. Forrester - Co. E Creer, SC
Pfc. Donald J. Champeny - Co. E Milwaukee, WI
Pfc. Richard R. Chambers - Co. E Marathon, TX
Pfc. Joseph Winnicki - Co. E Buffalo, NY
Pvt. Joe F. Hamay - Co. E Ellsworth, PA
Pvt., Claudie Moore - Co. H Newburn, TN
Pvt. Ernest E. Newman - Co. H Matinez, GA
Pvt. Harold B. Ellison - Co. H Williamson, WV
Pvt. Lonnie Upton, Jr. - Co. H Washington, NC
Pvt. Jesse A. Gum - Co. H Alton, MO

NOTE: Due to the poor quality of the copy of this original list, some of the letters were hard to make out and therefore, some names may be misspelled.



Honor a veteran today



Register for the Wall of Liberty The Battle of Normandy Foundation

1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036

Fifty years have passed and two generations have been born since D-Day, June 6, 1944, marked the beginning of the end of World War II and paved the way for the liberation of Europe.

To ensure that the lessons of World War II are never forgotten, The Battle of Normandy Foundation, a non-profit organization founded in 1985, has built **The Wall of Liberty**. Supported by American citizens and veterans, the Foundation with its 50,000 members brings its mission of commemoration and education to the American people through such projects as the Memorial Museum in France, World War II scholarship programs, historical research and traveling exhibitions.

In 1990, when the U.S. Congress created the WWII 50th Anniversary Commission, The Battle of Normandy Foundation was asked to coordinate a private sector initiative to honor the American veteran who served in the European Theater of Operations and instill within future generations World War II's role in the restoration of freedom and the protection of human rights.

During the 1940's, millions of men and women across the United States left their homes and loved ones to serve their country in World War II, a war that would determine the future of civilization.

As a permanent recognition of those who made the journey to liberate Europe from the forces of Nazi tyranny — risking everything for the freedom and democracy of others, The Battle of Normandy Foundation erected **The Wall of Liberty**.

To commemorate the spirit and the achievements of this mighty force, you are invited to place the name of an American veteran - your own, if you were there in that historic time, or a grandparent, parent, spouse, sibling, family member or friend who was there - on **The Wall of Liberty** and thereby into the record of history. **The Wall of Liberty is for all Americans who served in the European Theater of Operations (ETO includes North Africa, Mediterranean and Europe).**

Prominently situated in Normandy, France, near the invasion beaches where American forces landed on D-Day, June 6, 1944, **The Wall of Liberty** will stand forever as a tribute to the individual veterans, living or deceased, who changed the world forever.

The cost of registering a name on **The Wall of Liberty** is \$40. The name or names you designate will be permanently engraved on **The Wall of Liberty**, and you will receive a handsome personalized "Certificate of Registration" for each name submitted by you. All American ETO veterans deserve to have their names on **The Wall of Liberty**.

THE WALL OF LIBERTY IS OUR PROMISE THAT IN THE FUTURE THIS HISTORIC FIGHT FOR FREEDOM WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.

For further information call:

The Battle of Normandy Foundation

202/728-0672 or 1-800-WW2-VETS

or write us at

1730 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Suite 612
Washington, DC 20036



THE WALL OF LIBERTY

In years and centuries to come, The Wall of Liberty will stand as a dramatic monument to America's contribution to peace, the return of democracy and human rights.

Alden Angline Speaks Out

Alden Angline

D Battery, 461st AAA Battalion

34 Forest View Drive, Asheville, South Carolina 28804

I am writing this exactly one month after having attended the great 50th Anniversary of D-Day and the landings in Normandy, France. Please let me assure you that this was the most unusual experience of my life.

First, let me remind you that we members of the 461st Anti-Aircraft Battalion, whom you adopted into your great Division from the time we were assigned to serve with you as you came on line the first part of 1945, and up until the end of the war, truly appreciate the status you have afforded us as worthy to be included on your beautiful monument so recently erected at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and for having elected me to serve on your Board of Directors.

May I remind you that members from Batteries B, C and D of the 461st formed a provisional Anti-Aircraft force, and taking light anti-aircraft weapons, went in the first wave of the initial assault with the First Division on Omaha Beach. My own Battery Commander, Captain John E. Hammond, led this group. Fortunately, all survived.

Immediately upon the breach of the coast defenses, the whole battalion joined with the First Division and remained three hundred and twenty-six days in front line combat.

My trip to and from France, as well as those days spent there, were almost beyond description. The comradeship of those returning was something great. The reminders at the cemetery Coveille Sur Mer was the saddest of all. There are nearly 10,000 twenty year old fellows buried there.

The brightest and happiest experiences came from the French people themselves. From the Air France pilot who halfway across the Atlantic introduced me to the three hundred people on the Airbus, to the people of the village of Caumont L' Evente, where I spent my days, nothing was too good for me. One group paid my hotel. Another provided my food. Another drove me about everywhere and any time. They even hand wrote me declarations of their love and appreciation for all we had done for them back on June 6, 1944. And such as this followed me from my departure from home and all the way back. Believe me, no one has forgotten us at all!

From this background, I want to respond to the article in the last Bulletin of May-August 1994, entitled, "Wartime Secrets of France Exposed."

I am fully aware that this is a complicated matter, indeed, and I do not propose to understand all of its ramifications. I do know that if this article is not read and searched with great care, it comes out as a blanket indictment of the French nation as a whole. I think we are treading on very thin ice to accept and publish this article sent out to all of our Veteran's Organizations and even down to the combat units such as ours, and this without explanation as to why we appear to endorse it in its entirety.

I am against this having been accepted so readily and presented as if it were altogether true. After my recent visit to France, I am altogether satisfied that along with Britain, these people are our greatest friends and allies until this day. I can recount that the ardor and esteem of the French people as a whole has not diminished one bit since the day of our landings there June 6th, 1944. To assume anything else will be to our own great loss.

We have always been aware of the unfortunate happenings in that position of France under the Vichy Government during the occupation by Germany. We know that that area around Toulouse was under terrible suppression by the enemy at that time. Many things took place under the pressure of wartime experience. Just consider our own treatment of our own Japanese Nationals in the internment camps to which we banned them during those years. Time has revealed that we were altogether wrong in what we did.

My contention is that we are being careless to publish verbatim these accusations by an Australian born French National, who, although he has suffered the great loss of his parents, here is doing everything possible to continue an animosity that should have long been laid to rest. I am ashamed to allow this to continue as a blanket indictment of France, as it so clearly appears.

Let me ask, where does this leave the great deeds of the French Resistance? Where does it leave the great achievements of the Free French Army that fought so brilliantly in Italy, Africa, Belgium, Holland and finally, back on its own soil beginning June 6, 1944?

What does this say about the 40,000 faithful French who lost their lives from our own bombing as we sought to aide them in wresting their homeland back from the Nazis?

Let me say this about the French National Police Force, better known as the Gendarmerie. My greatest and happiest experience during my entire visit to the D-Day Celebration was with this organization. This organization is made up of 100,000 men who serve nationwide and in all the provinces. These young men are superbly trained and serve with a unanimity that is remarkable, far exceeding the politically influenced sheriffs we tolerate from county to county. Right now we have five of our people from that many counties of the western part of our state in the penitentiary for having stolen the elections that put them in office. This national French police force serves under one administration, and is a model of efficiency and record. They must have sent five thousand men down to Normandy to help in the celebration, where they specialized in being helpful and offering real friendship. I am thoroughly impressed with the organization.

The first morning on the beach the highest ranking officer and two of his aides picked me up and drove me about for three hours. He then invited me to have lunch with them, and as I started to leave, he brought out a beautiful Florentine bronze medallion especially cast for the Gendarmerie organization to commemorate the anniversary of the Invasion. He told me he wanted to present it to me as the representative of our people from the states who had come to share the celebration of the anniversary of the restoration of freedom to their nation.

More recently, the Director General himself, has written me expressing the gratitude of their organization for what we did back in 1944. Also, he sent a number of photographs his men had been taking of me while I was with them that day. I had not realized that was being done. Without reservation I say that I believe that today the French nation is right at the top in world leadership. They are still in Sarajevo and we have left. They are first among all who are trying so hard to give assistance in Rawanda, and they are the first almost every time to respond to needs called for by the United Nations. Not only do I believe France to be a world leader, but I believe President Mitterand to be a world class president.

I do believe France deserves better than we are likely to believe from that article.

Mr. Angline: Apparently, you do not understand the way the Bulletin handles material. We print what we receive, provided we have the space. We feel that the members of the 69th are intelligent enough to read articles for what they are. We are an American publication, and as all American publications, newspapers, etc., we do not censor material. No where in that article does it state that the 69th endorsed what was printed. Nor did we give an opinion on it. We do not feel that we were being careless to publish it "verbatim." By publishing it in any other way, we would have been expressing an opinion, which we did not and which we never do. Our job is to inform 69th members of what is going on in the world pertaining to World War II, good and bad. You ask where it leaves the great deeds of the French Resistance, etc., etc. Exactly where their great deeds remained, as great deeds. We did not, and never would condemn France. Keep in mind, this is America. And after all, as you can see, we printed your letter "verbatim." Is not that one of the things we fought for?

TOP PHOTO, CENTER

Company H, 272nd Infantry Camp Shelby, Mississippi October 1944

Submitted By: Joseph F. Reading
13 Ramson Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08628

Joseph was not a member of the 69th but his brother, James J. Reading who recently passed away, was. Joseph sent the following letter and the large photo in the center.

I just received your Association Bulletin, Volume 47, No. 3, from the postmaster in D.C. where my brother lived until I moved him via medical van to Trenton on February 27th to a nursing home. He suffered from cancer of the lung, which traveled to his brain, and he passed away on May 7th.

I am so proud of him and, indeed, the 69th, that I have enclosed a check in his honor. It was surprising to me to read the bulletin and actually read about things Jim had put in a small handwritten diary I found among his possessions when I cleaned out his apartment in D.C., he being a bachelor and living right next door to where my wife and I lived for eight years after the war. I have enclosed a page from that diary along with a clipping from the bulletin because he mentions the 777th Tank Battalion.

On April 26th he wrote: "Passed through the town of Eilenburg approximately 30 kilmos west of Torgau on the way to meet the Russians. Taken after a hard fight by 271st Infantry. White flags hung from windows; infantry went in. Flags withdrawn; MG's opened up. Inf. withdrawn; flags come out. Inf. went in again and same thing happened. The CG ordered all artillery in the Corps laid in on the town. 15,000 rounds were laid down in a two-hour barrage. Town kaput, just one pile of rubble now."

Things like that, and more in the diary. He never mentioned any of it to me, like a true combat soldier I guess you would say. And to think I talked about our convoy being attacked by the Japs on the way to the invasion of Leyte, P.I.

GOOD LUCK to the 69th.



Page from James Reading's diary with drawing of Leipzig sign. Underneath it read: "Sign erected on Wurzen Strasse, Leipzig after city surrendered to Col. Brie (?) on April 18 or 19, 1945. Taken by 271st and 272nd plus 777th Tank Battalion. Task Force Zwiebel took City Hall after bitter fight."

BOTTOM PHOTO, CENTER

Medical Detachment 272nd Infantry Camp Shelby, August 1944

Submitted By: Mrs. Wanda T. Karas
6328 Alderwood Street, Spring Hill, Florida 34606-3923

Mrs. Karas is the widow of Stanley Karas, Company E, 272nd Infantry. We did not receive a letter with this. Only the photo.

Steve Kwasiborski receives Community Impact and Service Award

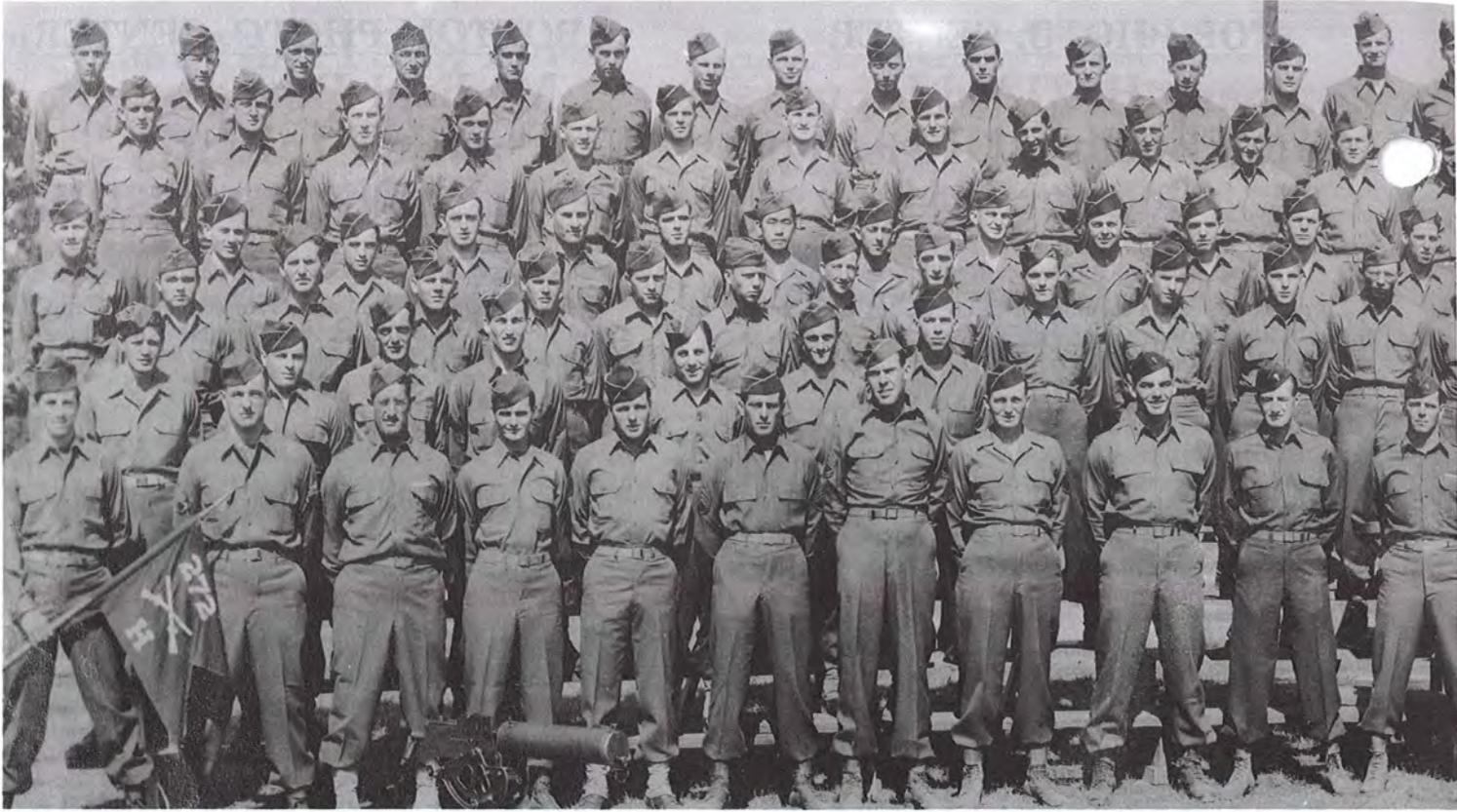
Stephen Kwasiborski
Company F, 273rd Infantry
2654 East Ontario Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19134

Stephen Kwasiborski (Kwasi) or (Uncle Curly), was born on September 2nd, 1920 and is presently 72 years young. He grew up in the neighborhood around Salmon and Lehigh Streets in Philadelphia and attended the schools of Stephen A. Douglas, St. Laurencias and Penn Treaty Junior High. Steve served in the Army during the Second World War and was attached to the Fighting 69th. Steve is a retired truck driver, or as he always put it (a commercial chauffeur) and ran the roads for 44 years with the same company, The Fox Transport System and was affiliated with teamster Locals 107 and 500. Steve has been associated with numerous Community, Citizen and Veteran organizations over the past 47 years. They are: The Lithuanian Republic Assn., Joseph A. Pilusaski Fraternal Organization, V.F.W., and the Polish Army Veterans Post 12, with whom he has marched in every Memorial Day Parade in Port Richmond except for 1991 when he was hospitalized with a heart and lung condition.

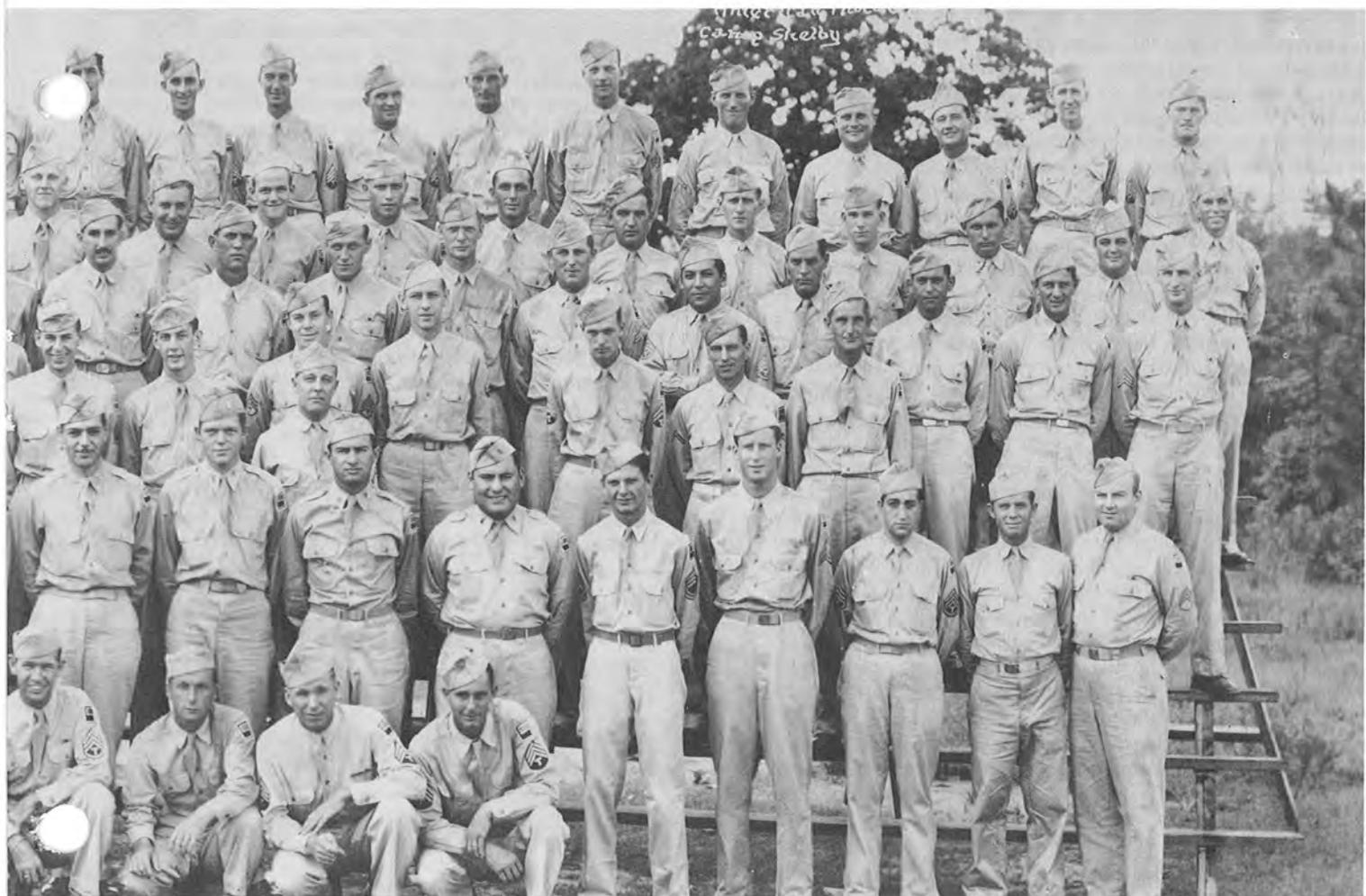
Steve has received numerous awards for his service and dedication to his community. Several of these awards were: a congressional award presented by U.S. Congressman Robert A. Borski. He was honored by the Polish Army Veterans. He was also honored by the Chapel of Four Chaplains. He received numerous plaques and letters of recognition from the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Society for his personal contribution to the memory of our Vietnam Vets. One of his undertakings was having I-95 recognized as the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Highway, and went so far as Governor Thornburg's office to be heard.

One of Steve's greatest accomplishments was his unflinching dedication to the fundraising for the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. He dedicated his efforts to the Vietnam Vets and a nephew who served two tours in Nam and eventually died because of it. Steve turned his wife's living room into a store and prior to the dedication of the "Wall" raised \$32,000 (now \$100,000) from the sale of the hats, T-shirts, mugs, pins, etc. and as a result made the front page of the Daily News on October 24, 1987. Steve celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary to Laura (Strenk) Kwasiborski on October 18, 1993. Steve and Laura are proud parents of three children, Theresa Mauer, Ronald E. Kwasiborski and Diane Dempsey. They are also the proud grandparents of 10 beautiful grandchildren.

We are proud to recognize Steve's unselfish, energetic contribution and service to the veterans' community. It is with great pleasure that we present Stephen (Kwasi) Kwasiborski with the 1993 Vietnam Veteran Memorial Community Impact and Service Award.



Top Photo: COMPANY H
272nd INFANTRY
CAMP SHELBY — OCTOBER 1944



The Last Time I Saw Paris?

Submitted By: Joe Wright

Route 4, Box 1973, Forsyth, Missouri 65653

Hitler is said to have ordered that Paris be burned but history has honored the General who disobeyed his orders and spared the "City of Light" and we are happy he did.

In the late 40's or early 50's, Lanny Ross, a popular TV singer had a top recording of Kern and Hammerstein's nostalgic song "The last time I saw Paris." Hearing it on our record player brought to mind the first time I saw Paris. Our boys had just completed the "mopping up" of the remnants of the retreating German army and as our Division Headquarters group entered the town of Schmidtheim, described in my earlier narrative. Our aim was to set up the General Staff Headquarters in the Schloss just ahead. Imagine our surprise when an MP (Military Policeman) told us we had better wait until the town had been cleared and there was no resistance. We did and finally set up our Command Post in the beautiful square sided two storied building that housed the local Baron.

The day after I was informed we could send eight men from our group on a 3 day R&R to Paris, so I did and they were taken on a 2½ ton Army truck to a railroad station in nearby Belgium and from there by train to Paris where they were housed and fed in what was called a Red Cross Club. Our waiters were young French boys and they were still using our own GI food so as not to deprive the French who were still on limited rations but somehow, they made it taste different. Another group was sent and returned and that was repeated a third time when I decided I would like to see Paris.

My officer, Colonel Casper, agreed I could so I arranged to have one of my sergeants take over for a few days. Riding by truck is a long way from luxury transportation but it got the job done and though the carriages (as described in my narrative) were far from those shown in the movie, "Murder on the Orient Express," they were adequate.

At the Red Cross Club we were given the address of a Military Laundry and a paper showing how to get there by subway (Metro). We took off all of our clothes, keeping our boots and handkerchiefs, and were given well fitting replacements, however, all of our insignia, stripes, Division patches, etc. were still on our soiled clothes left behind, so when we returned to our outfit, we were as bald as buck privates. When an outfit enters a battle zone, an effort is made to send up the simple necessities in what they called PX supplies - toothpaste, shaving cream and even candy bars and cigarettes but no cigars, so when I went to Paris I had about 15 cartons that I hoped to trade for cigars (even the "old man" smoked cigars). But at the Red Cross one of the guys said there were no cigars available but we could trade them for French Currency. Hence, when I returned to "camp" I had 1500 Francs, about \$300. I used some while in Paris because we were paid in "Invasion Currency" printed for the purpose in every country we entered. When we entered Germany, we were required to turn it in for Marks. We even had to use the stuff while in England. In fact, while in England we guessed the equivalent between English coins and paper money with ours and we played poker using both.

As an aside, not pertinent to the immediate subject, when I was on my way home for discharge, I saw a crap game at Marseilles in which I saw at least 5 kinds of invasion paper currency in the game including the then Persian Gulf Command.

My employers did a wonderful job of keeping its servicemen informed and I heard from a couple of our guys in the Air Force who somehow got through to my headquarters by

phone, and I recalled seeing the address of one of our office (Chicago) secretaries, Jessie McDonald, who said she would like to hear if one of us was in Paris. I was somehow able to reach her at a WAC headquarters which was in a nice little hotel near the Arc De Triomphe. She invited me for a meal at the Headquarters (again the GI food, but expertly prepared) and suggested going to a theatre where they were doing "Rose Marie." Fortunately, I had seen the McDonald-Eddy Production at home because as one might expect, this was done in French, but, of course, the music was the same. I still have the program from the show.

After the show, I hurried back because of the unfamiliar transportation schedule and that was fortunate because the next night, she wanted me to go to the GI nightclub where the entertainment, food and drinks were reasonable on Paris standards. It was fun but we stayed a bit too late and I had to take the elevated train back. It stopped at midnight and a trainman told me in "halting" English he thought my hotel might be nearby. By then the Red Cross had transferred me to a little hotel by the name of "Dore." When I got off the train, I met an MP. I remember the elevated station was "Pigalle" in a not too respectable neighborhood near the "Gare DuNord" which means the North Station. I showed the MP my pass and he very capably directed me to follow the train shed about half a mile to the street where my hotel was located. While the subject may not be considered too delicate, the room had a Bidet, but the bathroom was down the hall.

After a day on the town looking for allowable French cooking and the famous French pastry, we boarded our truck to the train station and got back only to learn that our Command Post had moved forward to another town, but we found it. It was back to work and also to get another set of sergeants' stripes and a 69th Division shoulder patch.

So I finally got to see Paris and 20 years later, we saw it again on a 69th Division Association "Return to the Elbe" Tour which was planned to show our wives where we met the Russians and thus, ended the war in Germany.

The aforementioned Jessie McDonald got a better job and never returned to our office. However, she was remembered as a fine hostess and as I learned later, she was a bright spot in the war for a lot of our guys. She was a fine Christian lady.

A note in favor of the MPs - They were often criticized for what they had to do policing away from camp, but they did an expert job directing traffic and since they were a part of our Special Troops and lived with us on our "Company Street," I found them good friends and helpful as above at Schmidtheim and elsewhere.

I remember going out to check on 45 automatic pistol training, which was part of my job, when I asked my friend, Lieutenant Randall, to let me try. As a result, I was lucky and qualified as a marksman and got credit for it on my record, although I was never armed with one.



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.

(Other States Invited Too)

Earl E. and Dottie Witzleb, Jr., *Coordinators & News Reporter*
R.D. No. 3, Box 477
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

or

P.O. Box 69
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
Telephone: 412/455-2901

(Call anytime, day or night; weekends or holidays)
Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Sorry to report that the Tri-State weekend planned for May 18th to 22nd, 1994, had to be canceled by **Brownie Parsons** due to a lack of attendees. It would have been a very good weekend but only a handful of members answered the flyers mailed out. Dottie and myself were not allowed to make the trip to Charlestown, West Virginia due to doctor's orders of my condition. I know those that mailed in reservations were disappointed that not enough members responded.

Our 1995 weekend will be June 7th to 10th at Belden Village Holiday Inn next to a shopping center. Tentative functions must be completed but a trip through the Amish area with a family style dinner for either noon or evening is planned. Golf nearby is planned and a van run to the Football Hall of Fame or any other place of interest for those who attend.

The two Bobs, **Bob Kurtzman** and **Bob Shaffer** along with wives **Vivian** and **Jean** will be in charge.

Anyone wanting your name on the Tri-State roster please send your name, address and telephone number to Earl and Dottie. Even if you gave it to us at Nashville, please send it on to us again.

Company D, 272nd Infantry

Byron E. Gutshall, *News Reporter*
428 East Gordon Street
Covington, Virginia 24426

51st REUNION ANNIVERSARY

The 51st Reunion of Company D, 272nd Infantry Regiment of the 69th Division was held at the Natural Bridge Hotel in Natural Bridge, Virginia on June 9-12, 1994. **Byron Gutshall** of Covington, Virginia was this year's host. The early birds enjoyed dinner at Howard Johnson's Restaurant.

Friday we visited the Natural Bridge Wax Museum and Bridge which is one of seven of the natural wonders of the world. The evening meal took place at the hotel for the seafood buffet.

Saturday we traveled to VMI Chapel and Museum. We also visited George C. Marshall Museum on VMI campus. Our banquet was held in the Jefferson Room at the hotel. Twenty-seven (27) guys and gals attended and was enjoyed by all. Several door prizes were given away. The longest distance went to **Richard Bell** of South Dakota.

Sunday we drove to the Blue Ridge Parkway to see the rhododendrons in bloom and had lunch at the Peaks of Otter Lodge which was very nice.

Most of the group attended the showing drama, "Dawn of Creation," during our visit there. Some had to leave Sunday morning, others delayed until Monday. It was a nice and pleasant atmosphere for our reunion and everyone had a wonderful time.

Our next meeting will be the third weekend in June 1995 at McHenry, Illinois. This reunion will be hosted by:

Arthur Burkman, *1st Sergeant*
3016 Kama Avenue
McHenry, Illinois 60050-2820
Telephone: 815/385-6793

Hope to see everyone next year!

Company A, 273rd Infantry

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

The 47th Annual Reunion is history, but for Tryhard Able, it was the best turnout ever. A total of 20 - 12 men and 8 lovely ladies. They reside in 11 of our states:

Jim and Mary Carroll Texas
Jim and Allamae Ezell Arkansas
Ray Fahrner Pennsylvania
***Wilbert and Rosie Haas** Iowa
Charles and Kathryn Hammond Nebraska
Ed Lucci New York
George and Delores O'Bryan California
Bill Nettles Mississippi
Art and Dorothy Pfeifer Massachusetts
Pierce Rice Virginia
Bob and Jean Rosane Vermont
Bernie and Marcella Srubar Texas

First Timer, **Wilbert Haas** met with guys who last saw him 49 years ago (1945). He was **Ed Lucci's** radioman in the 2nd Platoon. **Delores** (first timer) met all the guys, but she

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only had eyes for **George** (loverboy). **Marcella**, **Bernie**, and **Ray** all lost money on the riverboat casino. **Bill Nettles**, 4th Platoon leader, spent 24 years in the Army. He retired a Colonel. The **Pfeifers** and the **Rosanes** made it to two reunions in a row. They were first timers in Rochester. Nice going and keep it up.

Saturday and Sunday it was farewells until Myrtle Beach in 1995. The ranks are thinning, but the replacements keep coming with the BBB spirit.

Be sure you all say a prayer for **Evelyn Peterson** who was seriously injured due to a fall from the speakers platform at the banquet. I understand that she is doing well and is almost fully recuperated, which we were pleased to hear. **Curt Peterson**, our President, has reported on her progress in his message in this bulletin.

NOTE: I still have 273rd Regimental Crests for sale. With postage approximately \$5.00. I will bill you after shipping the crests.

269th Engineers

Frank and Stefania Nemeth, Coordinators

66 Gaping Rock Road
Levittown, Pennsylvania 19057
Telephone: 215/945-3809

Hi Y'all,

Another 69th Reunion went by and it sure was good to see everyone was doing O.K.!

We had a nice turnout of Engineers with **Marian and Ward Peterson**, **Mary and Ernie Krause**, **Helen and Al Winchester**, **Faye and Bob Winslow**, **Bill Riggle** and **Grandson Kyle**, and last, but not least, **Ted and Frank Nemeth**, all from B Company. From A Company we had **Gloria and Sam Pharr**. And really, that **Sam** just never changes.

I found time to go out and look up one of my buddies from the Second Platoon, **Johnnie Jones**. We had a lot of laughs over things that happened at Camp Shelby during basic training.

It was disappointing that **Gloria and Sam Pharr** were unable to sit with us at the banquet on Saturday night, but when they arrived, the seating charts were already made up. I tried to locate them after the dinner to invite them to our table for conversation, but didn't have any luck. SORRY **Gloria and Sam**.

The photos in this article are from Nashville of **Ernie Krause**, Radio Man and **Al Winchester**, Jeep Driver, both of the 3rd Platoon and of **Johnnie Jones**, Jeep Driver and yours truly of the 2nd Platoon, just after we got together after many years. **Johnnie** is the only one who kept his weight down. We were all 130 pounders in the Army but look at us now after 50 years, 190 pounders.

So, start saving for Myrtle Beach where the rates will be just great, under \$40.00! A golfer's paradise, over 80 courses, boardwalk, many eating places and **LADIES - SHOPPING, SHOPPING, SHOPPING.**

Take care and hope to see ya soon,
Frank Nemeth
Company B, 269th Engineers



Ernie Krause, Radio Man and Al Winchester, Jeep Driver, both of 3rd Platoon, Company B, 269th Engineers.



Frank Nemeth, Tool Corporal and Johnnie Jones, Jeep Driver, 2nd Platoon, Company B, 269th Engineers.



Ward and Marian Peterson, Company B, 269th Engineers at the Nashville Reunion.

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Mary and Ernie Krause, Company B, 269th Engineers



Al and Helen Winchester, Company B, 269th Engineers



Ted and Frank Nemeth, Company B, 269th Engineers

Mid-West Group

Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

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

1994 SPRING MEETING

The Midwest Group met at the Oshkosh Hilton and Convention Center in Oshkosh, Wisconsin May 19th, 20th and 21st, 1993.

A new attendee was:

Jim Sharpe Company E, 271st Infantry
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

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

Chuck and Pat Walsh 777th Tank Battalion
Glendale, Wisconsin

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



1994 Spring Meeting: Chuck Walsh, Curt Peterson and Ralph Plugge watching Biloxi Reunion Videos.

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Arrivals enjoyed refreshments in the Hospitality Room when they found Oshkosh on Thursday, and we had dinner in the hotel that evening. Golfers had their day on Friday and the rest of us visited the Oshkosh Museum and the Museum of the Experimental Association. Dinner was at the Granary.

Tom Yelcich of Livonia, Michigan had sent copies of his video tapes of the Biloxi Reunion to Phil Sparacino, so Phil brought them to Oshkosh. We had a good time reliving the tours of Biloxi, Shelby and New Orleans.



Ralph Plugge and Gene Mischke at the 1994 Oshkosh Meeting

**May 18th, 19th and 20th, 1995
MIDWEST GROUP SPRING MEETING
WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WISCONSIN**

Wisconsin Rapids is located in central Wisconsin on the Wisconsin River. The area has a combined population of 47,410. It is 108 miles north of Madison on U.S. Highway 51 to State Highways 73 or 54. Distances to major cities are: Chicago - 246 miles; Milwaukee - 158 miles; Minneapolis - 178 miles.

HOTEL - THE MEAD INN
451 East Grand Avenue
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494

The rates are:
Tower - \$69 single or \$82 double, plus 10% tax.
West Wing - \$45 single or \$52 double, plus 10% tax.

There will be a moderate fee to cover the rental of the Hospitality Room for two nights.

Reservations: Write to the Mead Inn or call 715/423-1500 or 800/843-6323. A block of rooms will be reserved until May 5th, 1995.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

- Paper Mill Tours
- Museums
- Grotto Gardens
- Rainbow Casino

PROGRAM

Thursday, May 18th: Check-in Time is 3:00 p.m.
Hospitality Room
Dinner at the Mead Inn

Friday, May 19th: Golf at a course to be selected.
Sightseeing for non-golfers
Hospitality Room
Dinner at a restaurant to be selected.

Saturday, May 20th: On Your Own
Check-out time is 12:00 noon

For questions about the meeting contact:

John Barrette
930 25th Place
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494
Telephone: 715/423-4921

California/Western Chapter

Bob and Theresa Pierce, President and News Reporter
144 Nashua Court
San Jose, California 95139-1236
Telephone: 408/226-8040

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

The California/Western Chapter continues to move and expand their horizons. More members, more good times and more interesting round-up events. We are always looking for new 69th Infantry Division members. Instead of membership dues, we depend on voluntary contributions. The success of our Chapter and annual functions are supported entirely by the generosity of our membership.

Our 1995 Round-Up will be held in California's Golden Capitol City of Sacramento Wednesday, May 31st through Saturday, June 4th, 1995. The hotel is a short walk to historic Old Sacramento. Cost is \$60.00 per night with complimentary breakfast. The Hospitality Room will be open Wednesday through Saturday with a fully stocked complimentary bar, snacks and hors d'oeuvres. Planned activities are: State Capitol Tour, Sutters Fort and Indian Museum, Sacramento Paddleboat Happy Hour River Cruise, Friday Night Pool Party, and a Saturday night Banquet Dinner at the "Jazzman's Art of Pasta," a Jazz Supper Club in Old Sacramento.

Old Sacramento is 15 blocks long and about 3 blocks wide along the junction of the American and Sacramento Rivers. The area is closed to all but foot traffic and oldtime horse-drawn carriages. It's a journey back in time to the blustering Gold Capitol of the world in the mid-1800's. For those who enjoy shopping, there is a traffic-free, two-story mall starting near Oldtown and running for 10 blocks.

Anyone interested in attending the California/Western Chapter Spring Round-Up should contact either **Robert Pierce** or **Del Philpott**. A complete package to include agenda, programmed events, costs and reservation forms will be sent to all members and inquirers in February 1995.

EUROPEAN BATTLE TOUR

The California/Western Chapter is organizing a Battlefield Revisited Tour to commemorate our 50th Anniversary of combat experiences in World War II, February 12th - April 25th, 1945. Come join us in retracing our line of march from the Siegfried Line to the Elbe River.

This tour is not in competition or conflict with the 69th Infantry Division Association Tour sponsored by **Bill Beswick**. It is intended that both groups will unite at the Leipzig Monument of Nations and jointly participate in the 50th Anniversary Celebration commemorating our first meetings with the Russians at the Elbe River. The mayors of Strehla and Torgau are hosting ceremonies to be held at both cities April 24th and 25th, 1995.

Travel to Europe should not be all work and no play so we have scheduled some sightseeing along the way. A brief synopsis follows: Three nights in Paris; Reims and the German

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Surrender Room; the Maginot Line; Luxembourg with visits to General Patton Monument, Bastogne and Battle of the Bulge Museum; the Siegfried Line with an extended tour of the battlefield sites of each unit; Liege with visits to Margraten and Henri-Chappelle Cemeteries, Aachen; visit at the Cologne Cathedral, along the Rhine River to the Remagen Bridge and Museum, Koblenz and Fort Ehrenbreitstein; A Rhine River Cruise at Boppard and visits to Bad Ems and Nassau; follow the battle route of the 69th through Wetzlar, Marburg, Luttenberg and Witzenhausen to Kassel; continue the route of battle to Leipzig with pertinent stops along the way.

At Leipzig, there will be individual unit side-tours to the sites of our last big combat engagements: Weissenfels, Eilenberg, Colditz, Wurtzen, etc. There will also be a day side-tour to the Meissen China Factory and city tour of Dresden. April 24th and 25th will be exclusively dedicated to the programmed events planned by the Mayors of Strehla and Torgau; and, the 50th Anniversary Commemoration Committee of the 69th Infantry Division Association.

If you have not already submitted your contribution for the "69th Infantry Division First Link-Up Memorial," please do so now. For those of us who will be at Strehla for the dedication, we will take great pride in knowing that we had an active role in this accomplishment. The tour will end in Berlin with a city tour of both sides of what used to be East and West Berlin.

For information regarding the California/Western Chapter 69'ers Tour contact:

Galaxy Tours

P.O. Box 234, Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087-0234
Telephone: 610/964-8010

Company D, 273rd Infantry

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

It looked for a while like Nashville might be a high-water mark for Company D reunion attendance. Although illness kept many of our regulars from even contemplating coming,



Company D, 273rd - Nashville Reunion at O'Charley's: Allan Blackmar, Mary Blackmar, Betty Jo McCarty, Fran Collard, Ken Sawyer, Art Ayres, Bob McCarty, George Johnson and Harry Chandler.

we hoped that newcomers would make up the difference. Then five members had to cancel out in August leaving us with a nominal attendance of twenty.

We did have three newcomers: **Harry and Alberta Chandler** and **W.L. (Wimpy) Smith**. The **Chandlers** flew in from Redmond, Washington and **Wimpy** drove up from Quitman, Texas. **Harry** and **Wimpy** are former members of the third platoon. The other members hope this is a harbinger of a larger turnout of our mortarmen.

Other members attending the reunion were: **Art Ayres** from Reeders, Pennsylvania; **Allan and Mary Blackmar** from Pine Plains, New York; **Ed and Mary Case** from Washington, Pennsylvania; **George and Barbara Johnson** from Petersburg, Virginia; **Bob and Betty Jo McCarty** from Gretna, Louisiana; **John and Helen Oplt** from Swansee, Illinois; **Lew and Mary Tenney** from Columbus, Indiana and **Ken Sawyer** and **Fran Collard** from Melbourne, Florida.

Old Timers delighted in welcoming the newcomers into our close knit group. Besides breakfasting together every morning, we had one dinner at O'Charley's and another at Rhett's Restaurant at The Opryland Hotel. On three evenings we took advantage of our own hospitality room to socialize some more. The old company spirit is still alive.

We would like to see a bigger turnout in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in '95. Some potential newcomers are toying with the idea of joining us. (Do it!) With the recovery of those presently ailing coinciding with climate more friendly to those with lung conditions, we could hit 30. It all comes together in Myrtle Beach: beautiful location, great season, low cost, splendid accommodations, and no crowds. You really can't afford to miss this one. See you there!

Company M, 271st Infantry

William "Bill" and Reba Sheavly, News Reporters
218 Sacred Heart Lane
Reistertown, Maryland 21136
Telephone: 301/833-2771

We had another very successful reunion in Nashville and Company M had one of the largest turnouts that we have had in recent years. In attendance were **Jim Stacey, Jim Shoemaker, Walter Haney, Henry Thomas** and myself, and all were accompanied by their wives.

It's not too early to extend to those who did not attend a cordial invitation to attend the reunion which will be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in October 1995. Please check your copy of a future Bulletin for further details. With the reunion being held in the East and on the coast we are hopeful that you can make those plans early to attend. We had 43 "first timers" in Nashville and we know that they had a good time and will return, so we are therefore hoping you will favor us with your attendance. The old expression "it's later than you think" is becoming more evident each year as most of the members are in their 70's. The war is over, in the event you had any animosity toward anyone, *forget it*. This is just a big social group having a good time.

Please give it a lot of thought NOW, and if I can furnish more personal details for you please do not hesitate to write to the address above.

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69th Cavalry Recon Troop

Lewis "Boyd" and Stella Ellsworth, Coordinators

Route #1, Knoxville Road
Steubenville, Ohio 43952-9801
Telephone: 614/282-2327

Harold and Jeanne Gardner, News Reporters

2929 Mason Avenue
Independence, Missouri 64052-2962
Telephone: 816/254-4816

The 43rd annual reunion of former members of the 69th Division Recon Troop is now history. It will go into the records as one of our better reunions. Our hosts were **Charles and Bobbie Fox**. The dates were September 22nd-25th, 1994 and the Troop was billeted at the Best Western Old Colony Inn located in Alexandria, Virginia.

A few of the Troopers arrived on Wednesday and the majority came in at various times on Thursday. It was great to be in the lobby of the hotel and greet the Troopers and their ladies as they arrived. After checking in, we gathered in the hospitality room where **Bobbie Fox** had the goodies laid out waiting for us. Some of our ladies also brought some of their usual snacks. While **Charles** was taking care of a myriad of other duties, **Bobbie** was the maitre d' of the hospitality room. She made sure that there was always a good supply of snacks and beverages on hand at all times. On Thursday night some of us feasted on hospitality room snacks, some ate in the hotel dining room and some ventured out to some of the local eating establishments.

Charles Fox had prepared packets of materials describing some of the many and interesting places and things to see in the area. Needless to say, there is a lot to see in the Washington, D.C. and Virginia area and the packets were a great help. A person could spend weeks in this part of our great country and probably still not see it all.

After **Charles** explained the Metro system and Tourmobile routes to us, we were on our way. He also took a group to the Holocaust Museum. **Charles** just seemed to be everywhere whenever he was needed. A large group of us took the tourmobile covering the Washington, D.C. area. We were able to view a large number of important buildings and monuments on the route. The tourmobile also traveled through Arlington National Cemetery. The narrator pointed out and described the large quantity of gravesites and monuments of noted persons interred within the cemetery.

On Friday night we had a "forced march" of approximately two blocks to the restaurant where we enjoyed dinner. A "pretty young thing" entertained us with her singing and then announced that it was "karaoke" night, which meant that patrons were invited to participate in the entertainment. It was fun to sing along with the songs shown on TV monitors. Some of our group were part of the show. Namely **Sy Bellin, Richard Clark, Charles Rice, Harold Gardner** and **Allen Lewis (D.B.'s son-in-law)**. A good time was had by all.

We returned to the bivouac area where the Troopers assembled for our usual business meeting, the main topic of which was the selection of the site for our 1995 reunion. After much discourse, it was decided we would meet in either Oklahoma City or Tulsa and **Charles Rice** and **Lloyd Abbott** would be our co-hosts. We will hear from them later when they begin with preliminary arrangements.

On Saturday morning a large group of us took the hotel shuttle to the Metro station and the subway to Arlington National Cemetery. There we boarded a tourmobile for a very interesting and informative narrative tour of the cemetery. We detrained and gathered at the Tomb of the Unknowns, where we witnessed the changing of the guard ceremony. This was very impressive and is a must for everyone visiting that area. We also witnessed the placing of a wreath on the tomb by a representative of the Third Armored Division.

After the ceremony at the tomb, we walked to the gravesite of **General Charles L. Bolte**. We paused to reflect on the memory of this gentleman who was our Commanding General when the 69th was activated at Camp Shelby. We also visited the gravesite of **President John F. Kennedy** and his brother, **Robert Kennedy**.

In a more pensive mood, we returned to the hotel and the hospitality room for more visiting, reminiscing and recalling experiences of Camp Shelby and overseas. Some of our remembrances seem to change over the years. Sometimes they seem to grow or become more dim in our memories. Maybe we can blame the time span for that.

Some of our ladies went to "Old Town" Alexandria to see just what the shops had to offer. **Charles Rice** went to the Capitol and sat in on a session of the Senate. He got to hear his home state senator argue for a particular bill. **Charles** said the chamber was practically empty, but he got to see and hear his senator.

Our Saturday night dinner was a very delicious buffet in a private dining room. The food was delicious, plentiful and attractively arranged. **Bobbie Fox** was on the ball making sure that everything went well and as she had instructed the hotel. Thanks much **Bobbie**, you "done good."

After dinner, as is the established custom, **Charles Fox** requested that each of the Troopers relate family events during the past year or he gave them the option of relating some interesting experience they had during their time in Camp Shelby or overseas. Some did both. A couple of the fellows seemed to dwell on the fact that they didn't receive any "hot chow" for six or eight weeks. All they got was "C" and "K" rations. (Fellows, you could have always put the "C" ration can on the Jeep or M-8 exhaust manifold and they'd get real hot. - HG)

We then assembled by platoons for some picture taking. We got some candid shots of the entire group and also of the ladies. A very interesting observation is always what platoon has the largest representation at the reunions. Headquarters and First Platoon have done well in this category in the past years. This year we had a total of 18 Troopers present and eight were from the First Platoon, five from Headquarters, Third Platoon had three and Second Platoon had two.

Later we gathered again in the hospitality room. **Fox** had obtained some video tapes covering some of the engagements involving the 69th Division in Europe and also the meeting at the Elbe River with the Russians. They were very interesting. Portions of the tapes had been shown on various television commentaries over the years and during the 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Mary Paradine reported that **Rodney's** condition continues to deteriorate, but he still enjoys hearing from his buddies. She reads our cards and letters to him which he seems to partially comprehend. Drop him a card or a note. He and **Mary** would appreciate it. We surely do appreciate **Cecil** and **Jean Paradine** (**Rodney's** brother) bringing **Mary**. Please come again folks. You're always welcome.

Also **Lenke Treible** and **Nancy Lou Makris** were with us again this year. **Lenke** says the Recon was very important

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to Art and she feels very much at home with our "family." Nancy Lou was accompanied by Richard Clark. It's always great having you folks with us.

Roll call was answered by the following:

Charles and Bobbie Fox Maryland
 Boyd and Stella Ellsworth Ohio
 Sy Bellin Massachusetts
 Gordon and Fern Ewing Florida
 Harold and Jeanne Gardner Missouri
 D.B. and Betty George Maryland
 Morris and Gertude Kaiserman Illinois
 Bert Lippincott New York
 Mike and Mary Moscaritolo New Jersey and Florida
 Herb and Eileene Norman Colorado
 Floyd and Evelyn Opdyke New Jersey
 Charles and Pat Rice Oklahoma
 Murray Schmieder New York
 Bones and Mable Schueler Ohio
 Hap and Maxine Stambaugh Pennsylvania
 Cowboy and Janet Vaughan Virginia
 Bob and Jean West Ohio
 Fred and Fran Wohlers Florida

We also had some other visitors. Carolyn, Chris and Rachael Tillery, daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter of Charles and Bobbie Fox. Norma and Allan Lewis, daughter and son-in-law of D.B. and Betty George spent several days with us. Hap and Maxine Stambaugh's daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Jim Springer were in our midst. Also Herb Norman's nephew and family, Mike, Linda and Megan Brackett visited for a short time. It was very nice having all you folks with us. Please feel welcome to be with us whenever you can.

Bing T. Poon, a former member of E Company, 271st was also with us at different times. He resides in Washington, D.C.

You will notice that the names of Hank and Lillian Weiman are missing from the list of attendees. We greatly missed our "Ole Sarge" and his lady this year. Lillian had recently undergone surgery and had not recovered sufficiently to enable them to travel. You folks are a very important part of our "family" and were both missed very much. We pray for a rapid recovery for Lillian.

Now, just a little reminder to all you Troopers. Write, call or visit some of your buddies. Some of our folks are physically unable to make it to a reunion, but they would like to hear from you. Start working towards next year's reunion in Oklahoma. Charles Rice and Lloyd Abbott will get some information out to you at a later date when they start making the preliminary arrangements. Why don't you drop either or both of them a note so they will make sure you are on their mailing list.

At times we have talked about which of our Troopers travels the farthest to attend our reunions. Over the years some have traveled all the way across the country. At this reunion Herb and Eileene Norman traveled about 1700 miles from Fort Carson, Colorado. Charles and Pat Rice were about 1400 miles from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. A number of the others traveled anywhere from 700 to 1,100 miles to Alexandria.

An interesting incident happened to Harold and Jeanne Gardener on their flight home. Harold was wearing his 69th Recon cap and one of the flight attendants asked if that was the "Fighting 69th?" Answering in the affirmative, Harold

asked what she knew of the 69th. To make a long story short, she said her grandfather was a cousin of General Collins. She asked if I was at the Elbe River. I told her I was and that our Recon Troop was involved in escorting American military VIPs, including General Collins, to meet the Russians. She was well versed on WWII and I only wish we could have talked longer. She was a history major in college, has a Masters Degree and is working on her Doctorate with an eye on becoming a college level history teacher. Her boyfriend is in the service and is a member of the Special Service Forces. I'm sorry I didn't ask for her name and address so I could have sent her more information on the 69th. Maybe someday we'll be on another TWA flight and she will again be the flight attendant. WHO KNOWS?

Again Charles and Bobbie, thanks for a grand reunion. It is impossible to see everything in the D.C. area in just a few days, but you sure had us seeing a lot of the important things.

Take care, be good to each other, enjoy life, keep in touch and may God hold us in the palm of His hand.

Harold and Jeanne Gardner

Late Note: In a letter received from Bones Schueler after we got home, he enclosed from his local newspaper a picture of President Clinton and Russian President Yeltsin at the White House ceremony honoring veterans of WWII from both countries. President Yeltsin was holding up a picture familiar to all we Recon Troopers. It was the picture of members of the First Platoon of the Recon walking down the street in Torgau arm in arm with members of the Russian Army. Bones said he also saw the same picture on TV. His comment was "The Recon has made history again!!"

Headquarters Battery, 880th Field Artillery

John J. O'Connor, *President and News Reporter*

9321 Jefferson Avenue
 Brookfield, Illinois 60513
 Telephone: 708/387-7809

Headquarters Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion held their annual reunion in conjunction with the national reunion and a very good time was had by all. Our breakfast meeting was attended by 21 persons and our dinner banquet was attended by 20 persons.

Our Election of Officers was also held and the officers for the next term are: John J. O'Connor - *President*, Robert McKee - *Vice President*, and Eugene McGreevy, *Secretary-Treasurer*.

At the dinner banquet Stanley Bratt read his Chapter Four of the exploits of Headquarters Battery during our combat days. It was very interesting and all enjoyed hearing Stan's memoirs. George Blume had written a play which was acted out by four of our members: Bob McKee, John Cooper, Michael Bendrick and Stan Bratt. The play was hilarious and the actors did a very fine acting job for amateurs. George Blume also talked about the Constitutional Flag Amendment which is to be considered by the House of Representatives. This is a bill to support. This item was brought to the attention of the 69th Association officers but was tabled and not brought up to the general membership at the meeting. Possibly in the future.

In attendance at the Headquarters Battery events were: Stan and Georgia Bratt, Gene and Carolyn McGreevy, Bob

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

(Continued from Page 39)

and Marilyn McKee, John and Peggy O'Connor, Margaret Powell, John and Doris Cooper, Art and Mary D'Antonio, George and Edna Blume, Stanley and Verla Crouch, Mike and Lucille Pendrick and Bill and Loretta Stump (Service Battery). Art and Mary D'Antonio attended our reunion for the first time and it was a pleasure to see Art after 49 years and to meet his charming wife, Mary. Thanks for being there.

I am sorry to report in this letter that Dorothy Supinsky passed away about two weeks ago in August. She was the wife

of Stanley Supinsky, one of our members of Headquarters Battery. Any cards of sympathy may be sent to Stan at the address listed on your membership roster. The sympathy and condolences are sent from our members to Stan on his deep loss. Also there is another death in our former members of our Battalion, if this has not been announced as yet. Glenn Blake, our former Battalion Executive passed away after a long illness. Glenn passed away June 7, 1994.

We missed seeing Clarence Marshall at the reunion. Hope that all is well with you Clarence. Our best to you.

Congratulations to the National Committee which put all the details together for the reunion. They did an excellent job.



Headquarters Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion. Seated: Gene McGreevy, Mike Pendrick, Stan Bratt, Stan Crouch. Standing: Bill Stump, Bob McKee, George Blume, John O'Connor, John Cooper, Art D'Antonio.



New Officers and Wives: Seated - John O'Connor, Marilyn McKee, Bob McKee. Standing - Peggy O'Connor, Gene McGreevy, Carolyn McGreevy.



Wives of the 880th: Lucille Pendrick, Georgia Bratt, Mary D'Antonio, Verla Crouch. Standing: Carolyn McGreevy, Loretta Stump, Edna Blume, Doris Cooper, Marilyn McKee, Peggy O'Connor.



Mary and Arthur D'Antonio

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

(Continued from Page 40)



Verla and Stanley Crouch



Bill and Loretta Stump, Service - 880th

**Battery C,
724th Field Artillery**

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

Coy Horton, Co-Chairman
1705-A Highview Street
Burlington, North Carolina 27215-5652
Telephone: 910/227-7785

Battery C, 724th Field Artillery Battalion's reunion was held in conjunction with the 69th Infantry Division's reunion August 21st through August 28th, 1994 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Battery C had a luncheon meeting in the Belair Restaurant at the Sheraton Motel in Nashville, Tennessee.

The following were in attendance on Saturday: John and Neta Turner and their daughter Charlotte Turner, Al and Polly Diloreto, Bob and Libby Inyart, Bob Hollister, Louis Psaltis, and Coy and Erline Horton.

Also joining Battery C for lunch were: Charlie Miller, 272nd Infantry and Lou Roger, Battery B and Headquarters, 724th. This was his first reunion.



Erline and Coy Horton at Saturday Dinner Dance



Polly and Al Diloreto



Libby and Bob Inyart

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

(Continued from Page 41)



Battery C, 72th Field Artillery Luncheon: Louis Psaltis, Coy Horton, Erline Horton, Polly Diloreto, Al Diloreto, Charlie Weaver, Bob Inyart, Libby Inyart, Bob Hollister, Neta Turner, John Turner.



Bob Hollister enjoying the banquet.



The Fellas of the 724th: Bob Inyart, Coy Horton, Bob Hollister, Al DiLoreto, John Turner and Louis Psaltis.



Erline Horton with Country Star, Mike Snider at Opryland Amusement Park.



Neta and John Turner



Charlotte Turner, Neta and John Turner's daughter

Chris Van Kerckhoven contacts our editor

Chris Van Kerckhoven
E.J. Van Gansenstraat 21
B-2260 Westerlo
Belgium

Dear Mr. Marshall,

Not until the beginning of August did I receive from Dr. Delbert E. Philpott the very sad news that my close friend and talented historian, Alan H. Murphey, of Fairborne, Ohio, had passed away on June 12th.

Shortly before I had already lost another great friend, namely Sam F. Popkins of Company A, 271st Infantry.

I have meanwhile sent my warmest sympathy to both families.

A few days ago I received from Mrs. Murphey the 69th Division magazine, "Bulletin" Volume 47, No. 3. In the past Alan used to send me an extra copy whenever a new bulletin number was published.

In the magazine I read where you had still not received a reply of your letter of April 28th. You are right, and I apologize for this. You see, I do have a very, very busy life and weekly, I am receiving so many letters that sometimes I can hardly find time to reply to them all. Occasionally I even forget to reply. A bad habit of mine. Also, the writing of English letters is not easy at all for an inhabitant of Flanders (northern Belgium), who speaks the Dutch language. It costs me much of my time and attention.

Mr. Marshall, at the moment I am still in touch with more veterans of the 69th Infantry Division and over the years I have made many good friends in your Division. Regularly, I am still visiting the Ardennes/Eifel region and certainly those places in particular where the 69th Infantry Division was engaged in heavy fighting in February 1945. On July 25th I made another trip to the Eifel villages of Buschem, Hollerath, Ramscheid (municipality of Hellenthal). Whenever I make a trip to the Siegfried Line, I take photographs and by year's end I have hundreds of photos of the area of Hellenthal. On request many of these photos (reprints) have been sent to veterans of your division.

The past months I have also been doing a lot of research work for Mr. Brian Lindner from the Historical Society of Waterbury Center, Vermont. I came in touch with Brian after Alan had sent me a copy of an article written by Brian in the 69th Infantry Division Association Bulletin Vol. 45, No. 1, September-December 1991. It was called "The Story of 2nd Lt. William Ricker of Company F, 271st Infantry." Ricker was killed on February 19th at Buschem and his body was brought over to the U.S.A. in 1950. I have taken some copies of my correspondence with Brian and the results of my research work can be read in the letters.

Also the touching story of Post photographer, Don Halasy published in the latest Bulletin on page 2, caught my attention. If his father was killed at the Belgian/German border, (although I have my doubts, the gravestone mentions April 8th) maybe I could find out where exactly his dad was killed. In any case, I have written a letter to Mrs. Betty Foster.

I would very much like to take a subscription to the Bulletin. You know I am very, very interested in the history of the 69th Infantry Division. I would consider this an honor. You veterans fought for our freedom, I'll never forget.

Once again my respect and admiration to all the veterans of the 69th Infantry Division. May God bless you all.

A friend of the Americans,
Comradeshiply greetings - Chris

We Salute You, Chris

In the packet that I received from Chris, was his total correspondence with Brian Lindner, who had written the story on the death of 2nd Lieutenant William Ricker that appeared in Bulletin Volume 45, No. 1, Sept.-Dec. 1991. Chris went out of his way, at his own expense, went to the town of Buschem and found the exact location where Lieutenant Ricker was buried before his body was brought to the U.S. in 1950. He took photos, got the names and addresses of the townspeople of the area who had information, sent maps, etc. and relayed everything back to Brian Lindner for the Ricker family.

Apparently, Chris has been doing a lot more for the 69th than many of us are aware of.

Sam Popkins, before his death, wrote a letter to Dutch Hawn when he was Association President expressing his admiration and respect for Chris. Excerpts from that letter include:

"The time, effort and resulting researched materials being sent to Alan Murphey and myself is just plain outstanding. As Chris does not live very far from Udenbreth, Mieschied, Ramschied, or Hollerath (actually he lives over a 2 hour drive!) all just inside the Belgium/German border, his access to this area and the resulting aid to Alan and myself is most commendable. You, no doubt, recall the most informative article Alan wrote recently for the Bulletin, Udenbreth revisited. The photos and much of the research for this article was provided by Chris. Chris is now working with me to supplement and supply information concerning the area around Hollerath. This early period of our combat time is most difficult to research and sort out and then find it on the grounds actually. I can't begin to tell you how important a FIND Chris is to the factual account of the DIVISION'S Historical Recordings."

I could go on and on. Chris has received commendations from our own Infantry Division and many divisions thereof, the Armed Forces Museum Foundation, Inc. and General Emmet H. Walker himself.

One very interesting item he received was a certificate that states:

THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

This is to certify that the accompanying flag was flown over the United States Capitol on April 25th, 1994, at the request of the Honorable James P. Moran, Member of Congress.

This flag will be presented to Chris Van Kerckhoven of Belgium on the occasion of the Anniversary of American and Soviet Armies meeting at the Elbe River, Germany 1945.

George M. White
Architect of the Capitol

Chris is a special individual indeed, with an insatiable appetite for every tidbit of information he can gather on World War II and the American Veterans.

I think that Dutch Hawn, our former Division President, who wrote a letter to Chris thanking him in October of 1992, said best what we need to say to Chris. His letter read:

"It was my distinct pleasure to learn of the superb assistance you have rendered in support of the efforts of members of our Association in reconstructing much of the history of the 69th Infantry Division in World War II.

Without the efforts of individuals like yourself, our ability to reconstruct much of the history of that important part of our past would be virtually impossible.

I would, therefore, like to extend my appreciation on behalf of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association for dedicated and successful efforts in assisting in the recovery of some of our historic past." **THANKS, CHRIS**

WWII Relic Hunting In Belgium

By Chris Van Kerckhoven

Editor's Note: From time to time, one will find a remarkable personality such as Chris Van Kerckhoven from Westerlo. He collects everything connected to World War II. Here follows the story of this energetic and talented man.

* * * * *

I was born in Geel-Zammel but for quite some time have lived in Westerlo. There I went to the Saint-Lambertus High School and afterwards was trained as a gents hairdresser in one of Belgium's most famous barbershops. Nowadays, I am wholeheartedly engaged in a project for the unemployed in Westerlo. My interest in WWII dates from early youth, which I inherited from my grandfather, the village teacher of Zammel. This man was the proud owner of an impressive bookcase full of war literature, in which I browsed for hours and hours. It was there that my interest took shape, and I dreamed of becoming an historical archeologist.

What definitely set the ball rolling was my purchase of a C-Scope VLF/TR 990D metal detector in 1982. In the beginning, the results were rather disappointing. Not that the detector didn't meet my expectations; on the contrary. But one has to learn how to get results. It is most important to know where to search and this is only possible if you are well informed. I tested my detector on some local historical sites, such as in chapels and the nearby Norbertiner Abbey of Tongerlo. It is here that I made my first valuable finds, such as century-old coins and musket bullets.

From there I went to Geel, a small town not far from my homestead, where the Germans and British fought a big battle in September 1944. I discovered mortars, hand grenades, bullets, and unexploded bombs. On the territory of Geel alone, I had to call in the police on more than ten occasions as each time I had found dangerous munitions.

In Ten Aard, a hamlet of Geel, lying on the Maas-Scheldt canal, I have also made some surprising finds in recent years - not only in the surrounding fields, but also in the center of Ten Aard. In a small park, a playground for many children, I unearthed hundreds of bullets, Bren chargers, intact British hand and mortar grenades - all witnesses to a bloody past. These munitions rested only centimeters underneath the surface. For this reason, I always "play it by the book" and immediately contact the police, who in turn notify the demining services.

As recently as last year, I unearthed many, many intact grenades in Lichtaart. Via a friend, I learned that after the war left-behind munitions had exploded in the surrounding woods. Some unexplained exploding shells had been scattered by that blast and were covered by a layer of earth no thicker than 10 centimeters. A year earlier, I had found nearly 15 grenades in that same neighborhood. Through these woods wind a lot of footpaths and rides, and even on these tracks I found some shells. If these had been tread on by horses, the risks of an explosion would have been immense. In the case of a forest fire, they most certainly would have exploded. I have now combed the whole neighborhood and, through my hobby, have helped make the region a lot safer.

Soon I began looking for wider horizons and went to the plateaus of the Ardennes, where in December 1944 and January 1945 the "Battle of the Bulge" was fought. In that area, I made some valuable discoveries.

I found not only bullets, shells, grenades, and remainders of rifles, but in abandoned infantry dugouts I discovered gas masks, boots, knives, mess tins, canteens, toothpaste tubes, and a lot of satchels marked 'Bouillon Powder', packaged by Block Drug Company, Inc. New Yearsey, N.J. - U.S.A.' Fascinated, I made inquiries and eventually tracked down the Block Drug Company in the U.S. The company was able to furnish additional historical information and were delighted to hear of the discovery. In a letter, they said that "we as a company have always taken pride in all aspects of product development and appreciate learning that our packaging withstood the test of time."

In 1986, I was fortunate enough to make another remarkable find. In an infantry dugout in Losheimergraben, near the Belgian-German border, I unearthed an American soldier's dog tags, which were entwined with the remainders of a scarf. They had belonged to a soldier

Left: Chris and some of his World War II finds.

(Continued on Page 45)



**WORLD WAR II
RELIC HUNTING IN BELGIUM**
(Continued from Page 44)

named Oscar M. Hahn from Lamont, Iowa. I found them, together with some bullets, American uniform buttons, shaving soap, and a gas mask, during my excavations in this German-speaking part of Belgium.

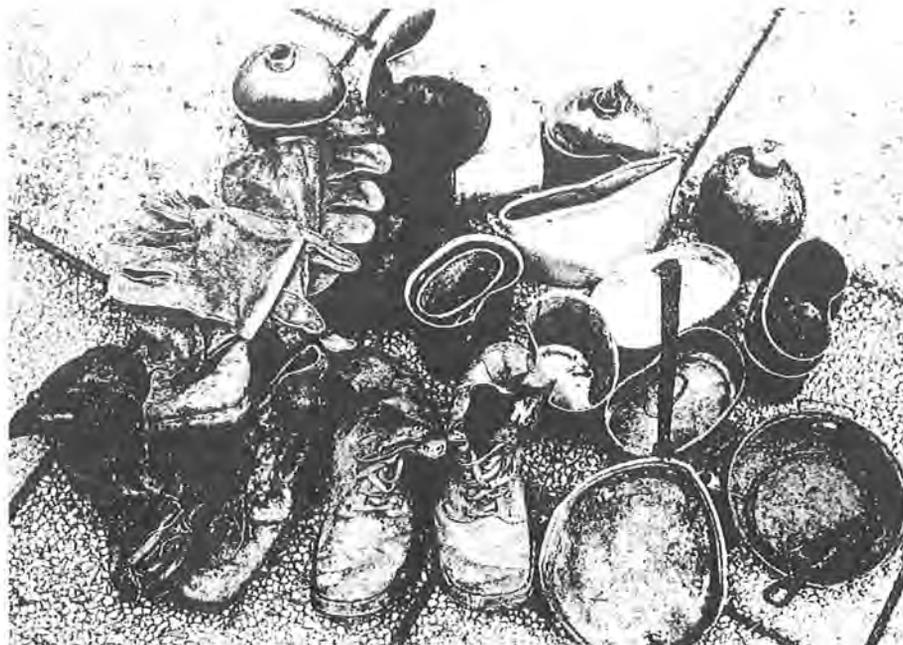
I immediately contacted the Ministry of Home Affairs and asked for information about Oscar M. Hahn. The Ministry received a reply from the States, telling them that the American authorities could give little or no information, as the major part of their archives had been destroyed by a fire in 1973. Via intensive research, I got the address of the Mayor of Lamont, Iowa, whom I at once contacted by letter. A month later, I received an unexpected letter from Arizona, signed by the widow of Oscar M. Hahn.

Next, in 1988, I again made an interesting discovery. In the same area at Losheimergraben, I discovered in a foxhole an American aluminum canteen, on which was engraved the name of an American soldier, BASCOM TESTER, and his serial number, AS7382. After a year of intensive research, and with the help of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, I finally succeeded last year in locating Basom Tester, who's living now in Hurley, Virginia.

In his first letter to me, Tester wrote that it was a complete surprise to hear from someone in Europe interested in something that "belonged to him" during World War II. Bascom, who was trained as a medic at Camp Barkley, was transported to the European Theatre of World War II in 1943 with the 60th Infantry Division, Medical Detachment, to aid the fallen soldiers at the front lines of war in France and Belgium. His wife, Pearl, recently said, "Tester is more patriotic today than ever... he flies the flag every day." Tester braved through illness in 1984, when a brain tumor was located and removed, leaving him debilitated. "It's been hard for him," Pearl said, "but the discovery of the canteen has brought back some of the memories for him ... it's just tickled him."

I don't like half-finished work, so I continue digging into the past. Furthermore, since 1982, I have managed to put together a network of contacts with war veterans from England, Scotland, Germany, and the United States, and also correspond with many national and international historians. As a result of this intensive search, I have become a consultant on these matters to various newspapers and magazines, and my work has been very well received by official researchers.

In September 1988, I succeeded in bringing together more than 200 British war veterans and their relatives at the latest festivities of the Liberation Days of Geel-Westerlo-Kasterlee. On this occasion, the Minister of State, Mr. Jos Dupre, and



This small collection of American war material was dug up from the woods of Losheimergraben, Belgium.

I were the first Belgians to be made Commander in the Order "Antiquum Sancti Andreae" by the Scottish Grand-Master of the Order, Col. Cameron Stewart. The Burgomaster of Geel, Mrs. Maria Daems, became a Grand-Commander in the same order. I also received a medal from Minister Jos Dupre and was appointed a Member of Honour of the English tank regiment, the Nottinghamshire Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, and the Normandy Veterans Association, Grimsby and District No. 1 Branch.

In encouraging other searchers, I should say that a good metal detector is of primary importance. My C-Scope detector came up to all my expectations. Furthermore, it is necessary to be well informed; otherwise, you will try to find a needle in a haystack. My searches for war material are largely successful because I use survey maps and military reports.

The shelves of my bookcase are now sagging under the fruits of year-long daily correspondence. Detailed military reports and studies from both England and America and Germany, old technical literature, and the most recent publications are also to be found in my steadily expanding archives.

In conclusion, I want to emphasize that, from the multitude of items found, I only take home small objects and light material. When I discover heavy ammunition or explosives, I immediately warn the competent authorities — and I distance myself explicitly from people who do not respect these rules.



*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year.
May the coming year be filled with
peace and good health for all 69ers.*



In the last issue of the bulletin, we announced the death of Alan Murphey who wrote articles in conjunction with Chris Van Kerckhoven of Belgium. We also expressed that your editor, Clarence Marshall, had tried to reach Chris to continue these valuable publications but as of the last bulletin, we had had no word from Chris. Fortunately, Chris Van Kerckhoven did contact Clarence and thus, we received several articles from Chris. One of these articles follows.

* * * * *

LOMMEL German War Cemetery

Photo-reportage by: Chris Van Kerckhoven
E.J. Van Gansenstraat 21
B-2260 Westerlo
Belgium

The History of the Cemetery of 39091 Fallen Soldiers

During the fighting in Belgium and West Germany, especially near Aachen, in the Hurtgen Forest and the bridgehead of Remagen, the American War Graves Commission buried the fallen German soldiers who were found in their battle area temporarily in four cemeteries: Henri-Chapelle, Fosse, Overrepen and Neuville-en-Condroz.

From these four mentioned places, the fallen Germans were put to Lommel in the years of 1946/47. After the American Graves Commission had handed over these provisional places of assembly to the responsible Belgian authorities, they themselves reburied fallen or dead soldiers who had died on Belgian territory during 1939/45 from the various parts of the country to Lommel by liquidating old grave yards - additionally 542 German dead of the first world war leaving a small war cemetery in Leopoldsburg.

For each two dead, one concrete cross was set. The original enamel plates with the names of the dead were changed for metal name plates in the years 1978 through 1980.

The metal name plates show the ranks, dates of birth and death and the grave number. A total of almost 20,000 crosses stand on the grave field measuring 16 ha. (= approximately 40 acres).



Guard of Honor on top of a crypt lead to the grave field.



Me and my girlfriend, Rosa. Rosa accompanied me during a visit to the cemetery on September 18, 1994.

The Identification of Unknown

At the beginning, 13,000 of the 39,000 German fallen were unknown. After the German-Belgian War Graves Agreement, the "Volksbund" succeeded in identifying 7,000 of them with certainty. In many other cases, procedure of identification is not finished yet, thus the final number will probably be higher.

The Battle Against the Quicksand

The Flemish village of Lommel, situated in the north-eastern part of Belgium in the province of Limbourg, counts about 22,000 inhabitants and is the third largest community of Belgium with its expansion of 10,000 ha. (= approximately 25,000 acres).

One has to walk more than 10 kilometers from one end of the villages to the other. The road-net of the community measures a total of 300 kilometers, lying in a larger heather area which is influenced by quicksand. The area of the German War Cemetery at the southern edge of the village, at the street to Leopoldsburg also suffered from quicksand. Wide areas in which the wind blew the sand in front of him changed with areas in which hard grass and reed grew up almost one meter.

The Cooperation of Youth

Already in the early autumn of 1952, immediately after the War Graves Agreement with Belgium, the "Volksbund" started to clean the field from weed, a work during which youth movements of Schleswig-Holstein as well as young people from 15 other nations brought together in youth camps by V.M.C.A. and "Kolpingwerk," assisted in the summer months of 1953, 1954 and 1955 under the supervision of "Volksbund" specialists. The young people also lent a hand at the construction of a protecting wall of 1130 meters around the graveyard to stop the quicksand and to make planting possible.

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**LOMMEL,
German War Cemetery**
(Continued from Page 46)

In addition, 5000 trees and bushes, especially birch trees, oak, maple, spruce and juniper were planted. 15,000 bales of peat and almost 2000 cubic meters of forest earth were spread across the whole area giving the necessary nutritive power to the ground. The larger cemetery close to the German border at some days counts thousands of visitors.

In the entrance building with its two aisles the visitor finds the office of the administrator and a recreation room where the books with names of the fallen are laid out. A yard of honour bounded by a crypt which leads to the grave field joins right behind the entrance building.

The crypt carries a crucifixion group out of basalt almost 6 meters high. The single figures of the group, Mary and John, are 3.30 meters high and weigh 7 tons each. The crucifixion group was broken out of 4 stone blocks, which weighed 93 tons. The finished group weighs 39 tons. In the center of the crypt lies the figure of a fallen soldier.

To the construction of the war cemetery Lommel, the German pupils have provided an important contribution through their annual "Offering Penny."



Tremendous view of the German War Cemetery at Lommel.

The German government also allows the "Volksbund" considerable assistance.

In September of 1959, the largest German War Cemetery of the 2nd World War was opened to the public during a ceremony. A feeling of security goes out from the endless wide grave field and at the same time an insistent admonition.

**BEWARE IN YOUR CONSCIENCE
THE ADMONITION OF THE CROSSES FOR PEACE**

Source: Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgraberfursorge

Chris writes to Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby

*From the Museum News
Letters from Members and Friends Column*

The Editor writes: The foundation has been exchanging correspondence with a most interesting person, as the following excerpts of one of his letters will show. He has sent us a number of relics excavated in the Ardennes Forest. He has also sent beautiful photographs and copies of reports on his searches and findings. He established contact with us through a relationship he has developed with the 69th Division Association. Below is his letter.

Armed Forces Museum
Foundation Incorporated

Dear President Walker,

I am Chris, 38 years old and living in the northern part of Belgium called Flanders. We, the Fleming, are Dutch-speaking and therefore I hope this letter will be readable because my English is not very well.

I want to thank you very much for your nice letter dated December 1st as well as for the enclosed membership card. In your letter you wrote me that the museum would be pleased to receive the donation or loan of any artifacts, souvenirs or items of historical interest. Maybe I could help you a little.

I am a person with great interest in the history of the Second World War and the Battle of the Bulge in particular. The past ten years I have been doing a lot of research work in this battle. Armed with a metal detector, many times a year I drive to the south of Belgium to the Ardennes, where in

December 1944 through January/February 1945 the Battle of the Bulge took place. With my metal detector I am doing excavations of relics of this battle. In the past I already made some interesting discoveries and more than once I also got deeply moved when in these deep forests in and around disappearing foxholes, I could still see the results of a bloody war.

I am enclosing some published articles on my historical research of the Second World War. I hope you'll find it of some interest. Also you'll find some information on my connection with the 69th Infantry Division. You may keep everything. If your museum could use original relics of the Battle of the Bulge excavated on the battlefield itself, please, don't hesitate to contact me. If you are interested, I only ask that you don't sell or give away these relics.

I close this letter now and wish you and the Armed Forces Foundation all the very best for the coming new year.

Also, my deepest respect and admiration to America's veteran soldiers who fought and still fight and give their lives for our freedom, democracy, justice and right.

I shall never forget!

Yours sincerely,
Chris Van Kerckhoven

(69th EDITOR'S NOTE: Anyone interested in writing to Chris, feel free to do so. As you can see, his enthusiasm for the history of the war we fought in is great and I am sure he would be happy to hear from anyone wanting to write.)

Area man reaches softball Hall of Fame

DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE, ROCHESTER, NY
SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1994

Arthur Held

Company G, 272nd Infantry, 2nd Squad, 3rd Platoon

Held played for 46 years and pitched 102 no-hitters

Art Held played fast-pitch softball for 46 years. He had help along the way from friends and sponsors, but his wife of 46 years, Theresa, also had a lot to do with it.

"It's unbelievable what you end up doing for a lifetime," said Held. "She figured I was going to quit after a certain amount of time."

According to the Amateur Softball Association, Held didn't quit pitching until after he won approximately 1,400 games in 1,800 starts. Playing for more than 40 teams, Held pitched 102 no-hitters and played in a total of six National and World tournaments.

Today the 68-year-old Held will be inducted with four other state softball legends at the sixth New York State Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame/Honor Banquet in Binghamton.

"It's a great feeling," said Held. "The award should go to my wife for letting me do that. To be married at the same time was a lucky break. I'm thankful that she let me play."

In the first 20 years of Held's playing days, Theresa used to bring their five children to the games. But as Held got older, she stayed away. "It was an exciting sport, but I stopped going because I was afraid he'd get knocked out," she says. "Softball was my life. Everyone used to say to him that he had such a nice wife for letting him go, but they never knew what he had to go through in order to go."

Held said he started to become a softball fiend in 1946, after pitching for a team in his hometown of Elmira. During a tournament in Watkins Glen, Held was brought in from center field to pitch. It wasn't exactly a sparkling debut.

"I was walking all these guys when my mother came up to me," Held said. "She said, 'It's bad enough that my teammates will hate you if you don't get the ball over the plate, but I'll hate you if you don't get the ball over the plate.' That made me practice pitching in the winter, wherever I could for the next 40 years."

"Like local softball legends Harold "Shifty" Gears, Tommy Castle, Richard Colline and Tony Pignone, Held became a big part of the Rochester Major Fast Pitch League when he moved here in 1953.

In 1975, the league was displaced from its long-time home at Kodak Park. After a year-long search by the league, Held, Red Fedele, Chuck Smith Sr. and Charles and Ann Allyn built Gears Park, the league's present site.

"We spent hours and weekends building that park up," say Smith Jr. "Just before we opened we all lined up our cars and put on the high beams in order to finish the place."

Although Held's career spanned 4½ decades, it was not an injury-free one. Beside breaking ankles, wrists, and shoulders throughout his career, Held also badly injured his right bicep (his pitching arm) in 1962. To straighten out the damage to his wheels, Held had three operations on his feet and two on his knee.

"My wife would say to me, 'Quit you old duck before you get hurt bad,'" Held said. "I could never tell my wife that I got hurt or that would've been it."

A knee replacement surgery finally ended his career in 1992. He was 66.

"I just looked at it as a game," Held said. "I did overdo it going away on weekends and things. But I figured that we were lucky to be doing this because some people don't get a chance to do what they want to do all their lives."

Submitted By: Theresa Held

1319 Ridgeway Avenue, Rochester, New York 14615

Ex-Sox Player, Donald Kolloway Dies

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

JULY 3, 1994

Donald Kolloway, Medics, 271st Infantry

Donald M. Kolloway Sr., 75, of Blue Island, a former White Sox second baseman whose fielding skills earned him the nickname "Blue Island Bird Dog" died Thursday in St. Francis Hospital, Blue Island.

Mr. Kolloway began his baseball career in 1934, when he joined the minor leagues at age 16, according to Jack Thompson, a longtime friend and self-described Donald Kolloway expert.

Mr. Kolloway worked his way up through the White Sox minor-league program until 1940, when he broke into the major leagues, Thompson said. He played 10 games with the White Sox before he was sent back to the minor leagues to hone his skills, Thompson said.

In 1941, he said, Mr. Kolloway rejoined the White Sox and played with the team until 1943, when he was drafted into the U.S. Army.

Mr. Kolloway served in the Army for about two years during World War II. He returned to the White Sox in 1946, Thompson said. He remained with the team until 1949, when he was traded to the Detroit Tigers halfway through the season. In 1953, he signed with the Philadelphia Athletics. He retired from baseball later that year.

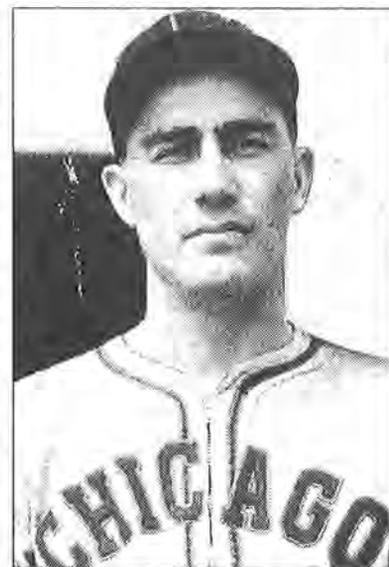
Mr. Kolloway probably is best known for stealing second base, third base and home in the same inning during a game in 1942, Thompson said. No White Sox player has repeated the feat since, he said.

That same year, Mr. Kolloway led the American League with 40 doubles, Thompson said.

"He was fast. He was a big guy and fast," Thompson said.

Mr. Kolloway owned a tavern in Blue Island called Kolloway's from 1956 to 1969, according to his daughter, Kimberly Fischer-Thomas. He worked in voter registration for Cook County until his retirement a decade ago, she said.

He was a member of the Blue Island Sports Hall of Fame. Other survivors include three daughters, a son, a sister and five grandchildren.



Donald Kolloway in 1943

Annual Meeting of Officers and Board of Directors 69th Infantry Division Assn. August 25th, 1994 Sheraton Music City Hotel Nashville, Tennessee

President Curt Peterson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. with 23 Board Members present and quorum was declared. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joe Wright and the invocation was given by Chaplain Snidow.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the meeting held in Rochester, New York on August 12th, 1993 were not read inasmuch as these minutes appeared in Volume 47, Issue #1.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The report was covered by Treasurer Matlach and balances were reported. Two reports were given to the attendees, #1 for period of January 1st, 1993 to December 31st, 1993 and #2 for period of January 1st, 1994 to July 31st, 1994. These reports gave a clearer picture of the financial situation as the income and expenses are reported within the same period as they occurred. Treasurer Matlach made the motion that the By-Laws Article V be amended to read "the fiscal year shall commence with January 1st and end December 31st of the same year." Motion was seconded. Unanimous approval was made after a lengthy discussion. The financial report as submitted becomes part of the minutes of this meeting.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: In the absence of Clarence Marshall no report was given, however based on information available, membership is approximately 5350.

BULLETIN REPORT: Earl Witzleb gave a general report and advised he will continue for one more year. He continues to get accolades on the material in the Bulletin.

RESOLUTIONS AND BY-LAWS: Joe Wright had no report. However, Bob Pierce presented the following motion to amend the By-Laws as follows: Article III-(a) and Article III-(c) "on the death of an active member an association membership shall be made available to his son or sons who must be a blood relation." A lengthy detailed discussion was made and clarification of By-Laws was made. At the conclusion the motion was seconded and approved.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Bill Matlach explained regarding the Scholarship Program at Ross University. He reminded us that an article was placed in the Bulletin that the Ross Medical Scholarship was suspended. However, he received a letter from Dr. Ross that a scholarship had been approved by him. The winner was Christopher Corbett, grandson of Dale McGee. There will be an article in the Bulletin regarding this award. Motion made to accept report, it was seconded and passed.

LEGAL ADVISOR: Eugene Butterfield had no report.

REUNION AND SITE ACTIVITY:

1995 — Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Plans are going very well and everything is falling into place.

1996 — Proposal is made for Schaumburg, Illinois for the period August 18th to August 25th, 1996 at the Hyatt House (rates less in September). This motel has a discount program for veterans organizations. Senior discounts. Estimated room rates are to be approximately the same as the rates in Nashville. Final price yet to be determined. Motion made and seconded. Motion approved that the 1996 reunion be held in Schaumburg, Illinois.

1997 — Henry Patula has volunteered to handle a reunion in the Boston area and further information will be forthcoming.

Bob Pierce advised he is working on an instruction manual covering procedures and guidelines for upcoming reunions. This will greatly assist reunion chairmen and will ultimately improve the overall handling of events.

OVERSEAS FLOWER FUND: Secretary Sheavly reported graves decorated on April 25th, 1994 as scheduled. The balance of the fund in escrow in Paris is \$248.68. In order to keep this fund fully active motion was made for \$150. Motion was seconded and approved.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Report was made by Bill Snidow and the following members were nominated for the Class of 1997:

271st Infantry	Arthur Holgate
272nd Infantry	Ray Olson
273rd Infantry	Edward Lucci
Division Artillery	Charles Chapman
269th Engineers	Earnest Krause
661st Tank Destroyers	Joe Jenei
777th Tank Battalion	Gaylord Thomas
69th Special Troops	John Moriarty
461st AAA	Guy Stamey

OLD BUSINESS: Clarence Marshall's typewriter is inoperative, and after much discussion, the solution was offered by Bill Matlach that he ship his machine to Clarence. Bud Parsons made the motion that an appointment of a committee to review the future of the organization, as the membership continues to lessen. Motion seconded and passed.

NEW BUSINESS: Bud Parsons advised that a special tree planting ceremony will be held at Arlington National Cemetery on April 8th, 1995 and that all members of the 69th have been invited. Additionally, on May 9th, which is recognized by the Russians as the end of the war, the Russians will have a special ceremony and parade in Moscow in 1995. Members of the 69th have been invited. Details will appear in a future issue of the Bulletin.

There being no further business to transact, motion was made that the meeting be adjourned and it was seconded. Motion approved by the Board of Directors and meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

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

Special Meeting of the Board of Directors August 27th, 1994

This special meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Curt Peterson regarding the request by the Turner Publishing Company to produce an additional 69th history book. This proposal is to be called "50th Anniversary" and would not include information in the prior book. This proposal was to concentrate on the "Return to the Elbe."

Bill Matlach pointed out that on the last book they were to have had people for research, which apparently did not happen. Bob Kurtzman advised we were to furnish liaison and Crandon Clark was the liaison and submitted expenses for \$1300. We in turn received \$1258 from Turner for the profit, so in effect we had a net loss on the book's printing.

A thorough discussion was made of this proposal and motion was made and seconded that we reject the initiative made by Turner Publishing Company for an additional History Book.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Annual Meeting of General Membership 69th Infantry Division Assn. August 27th, 1994 Sheraton Music City Hotel Nashville, Tennessee

President Curt Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joe Wright. Invocation was given by Chaplain Snidow.

RECOGNITION OF FIRST TIMERS: The Reunion had 43 First Timers in attendance and they were recognized by a round of applause by the membership.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Although the minutes appeared in Volume #47, Issue #1, a request was made by Bill Matlach that they be read in their entirety. This was done. Corrections were as follows: George Weston resigned because of health reasons. Under Ross Scholarship, it should read as follows: "... because no completed applications had been received during the two years of effort, Bill Matlach proposed motion to suspend the scholarship until further notice." Under Good of the Order it should be noted that the statue "Spirit of the Elbe" was also presented to President Yeltsin in the Kremlin, by 69th members Dillard Powell, Bill Snidow and Bud Parsons. The motion was approved by the membership. With these changes the minutes from August 14th, 1993 were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Matlach advised that during the year there were actually two treasurers. Presently there are some unpaid bills, some expenses were a bit higher. In one case Bob Kurtzman had bought a large quantity of dues notices. The CD's that Kurtzman had were redeemed and no new ones have been purchased until rates can be examined. Motion was made that the By-Laws, Article V be amended to read "the fiscal year shall commence January 1st and end December 31st of the same year." Motion was seconded by John Walters and approved by the membership.

AUDITOR'S REPORT: Auditor Lucci advised that the transaction between the treasurers went very well and he acknowledged the dedicated work by both. Membership acknowledged with applause.

BULLETIN REPORT: Earl Witzleb advised he will put out three more Bulletins. No changes or suggestions were offered. Earl's work was acknowledged by the membership. Earl further advised that he will continue for one more year. After that date a replacement must be found.

MEMBERSHIP: In the absence of Clarence Marshall, Curt Peterson advised the membership that we have 5395 members.

RESOLUTIONS AND BY-LAWS: Joe Wright stated no new resolutions or By-Laws.

ROSS SCHOLARSHIP: Bill Matlach explained regarding the Scholarship Program at Ross University. He reminded us that an article was placed in the Bulletin that the Ross Medical Scholarship was suspended. However, he received a letter from Dr. Ross that a scholarship had been approved by him. The winner was Christopher Corbett, grandson of Dale McGee. There will be an article in the Bulletin regarding this award.

SOUVENIRS: Frank Nemeth reported that sales were going well. He expressed his thanks to all who had purchased items, and thanks those who had assisted. He advised that

he will handle the souvenirs through the Myrtle Beach Reunion. After that date, he is resigning.

GOLF TOURNAMENT: Jim Boris advised that 40 people played golf and that there were 10 women. Gift certificates to be redeemed at the Souvenir table were given to winners of the various contests, i.e. closest to the pin and accuracy shot. Boris encouraged others to participate and he looked forward to additional members playing at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

OVERSEAS FLOWER FUND: Secretary Sheavly reported roses were placed on the graves on April 25th, 1994 as scheduled. Further that we now have pictures of all the grave sites of 69er's in Margraten and Henri-Chappelle Cemeteries. Motion was made that we add \$150 to our escrow account in Paris, seconded by Sam Wolfe and motion approved.

RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS: All in attendance were recognized with applause. The Association lost three former presidents during the last year, Harold Starry, Bob Myers and Bill Foster.

SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE:

1996 — Proposals from three hotels. The Hyatt Regency in Schaumberg, Illinois (west of Chicago) was approved by the Board and needs to be approved by the membership. Hyatt offers veterans associations reduced prices, also reduced food menu. Room prices are to be comparable with Nashville. Reunion will be held the period of August 18th to August 25th, 1996 (August is less expensive than September). Association to receive usual complimentary rooms. Hotel has been very accommodating to make our reunion a success. A committee chairman is needed for this reunion, along with about eight members and wives. Motion was made by Bob Pierce to have the reunion in Schaumberg, seconded by Walt Doernbach. Motion approved.

1997 — We have a sponsor for the Boston area, Henry Patula. With the membership in that area, there should be little problem in forming a full committee.

1998 — There are several areas under consideration: San Antonio, Texas, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Salt Lake City, Utah and Seattle, Washington. Further information will be forthcoming next year.

1994 — Report on Nashville by Joe McMurry. Attendance 798, 437 veteran members. He recognized his Co-Chairman Jim Bilbrey and all other committee members. Membership responded with applause. Harold Ruck, seating chairman, spoke on the importance of sitting exactly where assigned, advised that 687 were signed up for the banquet.

1995 — Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. George Wolfe reported that he had a contract with Ice Show. Firming up trips to Art Center, Georgetown, Charleston, rice plantation. Is getting extended rates for before and after the reunion for those interested in golf and other activities.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Bill Snidow reported for the Nominating Committee. He reminded the membership that the committee is made up of outgoing members of the Board. The following names were submitted for the Class of 1997.

271st Infantry	Arthur Holgate
272nd Infantry	Ray Olson
273rd Infantry	Edward Lucci
Division Artillery	Charles Chapman
269th Engineers	Earnest Krause
661st Tank Destroyers	Joe Jenei
777th Tank Battalion	Gaylord Thomas
69th Special Troops	John Moriarty
461st AAA	Guy Stamey

(Continued on Page 51)

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE - AUGUST 27th, 1994**
(Continued from Page 50)

There being no nominations from the floor, motion was made by **Walt Doernbach** that the membership approved the nominations plus all other reports. Seconded by **Neil Shields**. The motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: **Earl Witzleb** advised that the Ladies' Auxiliary will have a "Taps" section in the Bulletin to recognize deceased wives. Membership agreed to let **Earl** handle it.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: **Pat Lushbaugh** suggested that the Hospitality Room be rendered smoke-free. Committee should handle, local ordinance may apply. First timer **Ray**

Smith, 569th Signal, had a plaque presented by the Department of Defense designating 569th Signal as a WWII Commemorative community. **Bill Beswick** covered selected items on the proposed tour of Europe beginning in April 1995. Itinerary has been published. **Curt Peterson** appointed **Bob Kurtzman** to be Assistant Membership Chairman. He will get a new roster printed and was accepting the appointment under his conditions. **Bud Parsons** spoke on the status of the monument at Strehla and also about April 8th, 1995 wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. All members are invited, details in Bulletin.

There being no further business to transact, motion was made by **Bill Beswick** and seconded by **Neil Shields** that we adjourn. Motion passed and adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Sheavly, Secretary

Nashville Reunion Smiles



Tom and Helen Heath



Marjorie and Jack Fain



Anees and Barbara Barakat



Mavis and Fred Butenhoff in the chow line at Piccadilly.

Former POW Released by 69th Located

Submitted by: Charles Chapman
Headquarters Battery, Division Artillery
7412 Exmore Street, Springfield, Virginia 22150-4026

The several link-ups between the 69th Division and the Soviet Army were not the only important events to take place on the Elbe River on 25 April 1945 - at least not to over 1450 prisoners at Ft. Zinna, Torgau Prison/Elbe. The military prison at Fort Zinna was administered by the Wehrmacht, its last commanding officer being a Lt. Col. KLUT. Before their liberation, 35 allied officers and men, 71 Frenchmen and over 100 Poles, enlisted by force in the German Army, 4 Luxemburgers, about 200 German officers and over 1,000 German enlisted men were interned at this fortress. Most of the prisoners had appeared or were to appear before the Reichskriegsgericht, and this highest German military tribunal determined the regime of the prison. On 29 April 1945 in Weimar four allied officers prepared a report on the administration of this military prison. These officers were Captain Andre LEVACHER (French), Capt. Louis LEE-GRAHAM (British), Lt. Jacques ADLER (French) and Ensign George PECK (U.S. Naval Reserve). Their report was classified Confidential and remained so until it was declassified on 1 February 1984.

In April 1993, after participation in the groundbreaking ceremony for the memorial at Strehla on the Elbe commemorating the first 69th-Soviet link-up on 25 April 1945, our group visited Torgau Prison. At the time none in our party was really interested in such a tour as we were anxious to retrace our wartime steps to the west. Since the tour had already been scheduled, we went reluctantly. However, this visit and subsequent events proved to be worthwhile.

Fort Zinna was not the usual POW camp. It was a maximum security prison and was used primarily to house German officers and enlisted men who had disobeyed their military supervisors or had otherwise fallen into disfavor with the authorities. Our group even met and talked to a former German enlisted prisoner who had been imprisoned there.

The Assistant Director of the prison, Frau Gabrielle Beyler, told us that a history of the prison was being prepared in two volumes - Volume I is to cover the time from the prison's beginning to 1933 and Volume II will cover 1933 to the present. The prison authorities asked for our help in locating an Ensign George T. Peck, USNR, so they could obtain his first-hand description of events/conditions/treatment, etc. If he could be located, this certainly represented an opportunity for Ensign Peck to document his views and experiences for posterity. Although the Germans usually had excellent records, many documents were destroyed in the terrible confusion at the end of World War II and the subsequent Soviet occupation. There was no serial number, no social security number, no hometown - nothing other than a copy of the 29 April 1945 Weimar report which had been obtained from the National Archives in Washington, DC. I agreed to try to locate Ensign Peck for them.

Our group included Leland Jones, Bill Matlach, Bob McCarty and Ken Sawyer (all from the 273rd), Ray Olson and Bud Parsons (both from the 272nd), Bill Snidow (661st) and myself. We all pondered certain puzzling questions, such as:

1. Why was Peck here rather than in a regular POW camp?
2. Wasn't it just a little unusual for a naval officer to be here? (Certainly possible but not probable)
3. Why was so little known about Peck?

The answer to these questions would become obvious ten months later.

Since Senator John Warner (R-VA) had at one time been Secretary of the Navy, I requested his assistance in locating Peck. Senator Warner asked the Navy to investigate, and the Navy eventually responded, merely stating that Peck was released from active duty on 24 October 1945 and resigned from the Naval Reserve on 20 April 1948 with the rank of Lieutenant (junior grade). The latest correspondence in Peck's service record was dated 18 January 1975. The Privacy Act (5 USC 552A) precluded disclosure of Peck's address without his specific written consent. The Navy did, however, forward a letter I had prepared, sending it to Peck's 1975 address. The letter never reached him.

Later, Leland Jones suggested I contact a firm called "Find People Fast" in St. Louis, who, for a fee, will enter a name in a gigantic data base holding drivers' license records, telephone book listings, direct-mail advertising lists, magazine subscription lists, and other information. I phoned the company and they sent me a list with 164 George Pecks, but only four George T. Pecks. Ironically, the George T. Peck we wanted was not on the list, but on the first phone call I reached his son in New York, who gave me his father's address and phone number.

I then called the missing George T. Peck, who now lives in Pennsylvania, and learned that he is in reasonably good health. He stated he was in the OSS (Office of Strategic Services - the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency). He was captured on 5 April 1945 in the Italian Alps near Turin while attempting to infiltrate the German lines. He was first taken to Regensburg, Bavaria and then to Torgau, where he was awaiting trial for espionage, and released by the 69th on 25 April 1945. He said, "I was really glad to see you guys because they would certainly have shot me."

Mr. Peck said he would be glad to cooperate with the Torgau prison authorities in compiling this particular portion of the prison's history, and I so advised Frau Beyler. Both Frau Beyler and Dr. Voigt, her superior in charge of the period of the German Reich's Court Martial and the War Prison Camp, Fort Zinna, were delighted with this news, and they are establishing direct contact with Peck. They hope he can take part in the events of the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Link-up in Torgau in 1945.



Director of Torgau Prison, Dr. Voigt, and Assistant Director, Gabrielle Beyler, April 1993.

Golfer's Corner

Submitted by: James E. Boris, *Golf Chairman*
 Headquarters, 881st Field Artillery Battalion
 6800 Henry Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19128

Welcome to the second issue of the Golfers Corner. The tournament in Nashville was a huge success at a fine local golf course set up by our local Golf Coordinator, Harold Moore, pictured at right with your chairman.

In the men's division the following winners were awarded gift certificates from our Division Souvenir Shop

Low Gross	Wayne Weygandt
Low Net	Bill Higgins
Closest to the Pin	Art Holgate
Straightest Drive	Jim Boris

In the ladies' division, of which we had 9 competing:

Low Gross	Barbara Johnson
Low Net	Rosemarie Mazza
Closest to the Pin	Patty Nagy
Straightest Drive	Teddy Nemeth

To those not familiar with golf scoring or terms, I will try to explain what they are.

Low gross is the total low score shot with no changes made in the scoring.

Low net is the total score shot by that golfer with certain holes deducted from his score, chosen by lottery, and these same holes are deducted from all scores depending on what you shoot as a total. Some have 1 hole, some 2 holes and so on, again depending on your score.

Closest to the pin is that golfer who hits his ball closest to the flag on a certain hole which all must shoot at to compete.

The same applies to straightest drive, only there is a spray painted line down the middle of a certain hole, and the closest to that line in the fairway is used to determine the winner.

I hope this helps you non-golfers to better understand what we do when we enjoy this wonderful game of golf.

You have heard me say in the meetings, which I would like to repeat at this time. In our advanced years, golf can add many years to your life - you are in the fresh air, getting exercise, with nice people. What more could you ask for. See you in Myrtle Beach, I think, the Golf Capital of the world.

1994 - NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



Allan Blackmar, Bob McCarty, Barbara and George Johnson



Golf Coordinator Harold Moore, Golf Chairman Jim Boris



Frank Nemeth, Teddy Nemeth, Tillie Boris, Jim Boris



Roy Gilstrap, Bill Higgins,
 Rosemarie Mazza, Vince Mazza

(Continued on Page 54)



Al Gwynne, Emil Zerenga, Art Holgate, Carl Rapp



Earl Hansen, Marty Buol, Ken Curran, Orrie Pullen



Emery Nagy, Pat Nagy, June Slichter, Marv Slichter



Stan Bratt, Jim Walsh, Wayne Weygandt, Gene Mischler



Emil Matys, Walter Haag, Ursula Goebel, Ralph Goebel



Jim Shoemaker, Don Daley, Reba Sheavly, Bill Sheavly



Dave Scazena, Libby Inyart, Bob Inyart

Anyone that has some information that they would like to add to our Golfer's Corner can write to Jim Boris at the address on the top of the previous page.

Attention Old Car Buffs

Ralph Utermoehlen
 Company I, 271st Infantry
 2221 Stone Post, Manhattan, Kansas 66502
 Telephone: 913/537-8814



*Ralph in Summer of 1944
 Taken at Camp Hood, Texas*

THEN AND NOW

Fifty added pounds and fifty years later could be the title for the pictures shown of **Ralph Utermoehlen**, Company I, 271st who lives in Manhattan, Kansas.

The picture on the left was taken at a PX in Camp Hood, Texas during the summer of 1944.

The other picture was taken May 14, 1994 at the 50th Commemoration of D-Day in the Eisenhower Center at Abilene, Kansas.

Ralph is shown in uniform with his 1941 Willys MB Jeep that was a part of the World War II Display at the D-Day Commemoration.

Utermoehlen acquired the jeep 20 years ago from a farmer who had removed all the military equipment many years before. Ralph and a friend worked the past year acquiring and reinstalling all the missing military parts as well as O.D. painting the vehicle and its army trailer.

Ralph's jeep is the 3,013th Willys jeep made and was issued to the military December 10, 1941 for \$739.00. A total of 646,965 WWII jeeps were made. Of that total, Willys manufactured 362,840, Ford manufactured 281,450 and Bantam manufactured 2,675.

General Eisenhower credited the jeep, the M1 rifle and the C-47 airplane as the three most essential things toward victory in World War II.

Utermoehlen, who recently retired from Kansas State University, is a member of the World Wide Military Vehicle Preservation Association and he also owns several antique cars. Ralph would be interested in hearing from other 69th old car buffs. Write or call at the address above.



Lieutenant John Mellin Company D, 273rd Infantry

John Mellin has apparently accomplished a lot in 50 years and we thought some of you might be interested in what one of our members and former comrades is doing.

Mr. Mellin's career has been divided into two complementary categories: journalist/historian and citizen/soldier. He received a Master's degree from the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University after World War II, and later attended the School of Advanced International Studies at John Hopkins University.

During the war he was a noncommissioned officer in the U.S. Army, earning a Combat Infantry Badge and a Bronze Star in Belgium and Germany. In 1978, he retired as a reserve lieutenant colonel in military intelligence. Twelve years later he was elected commander of the Annapolis Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars; he is now Historian/Archivist of the Department of Maryland. He also holds a commission in the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels.

As a civilian operations officer he served in the Central Intelligence Agency for 24 years with assignments in the

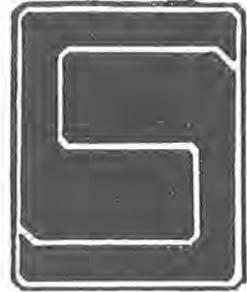
Middle East, Europe and Asia, as well as at Headquarters where he was assistant to the director responsible for (not so) public affairs. After retiring from the CIA in 1974 his foreign travel included extensive sailing experience in the Atlantic.

In 1982 he began writing a weekly column for the *Capital* and the *Maryland Gazette* (the nation's oldest newspaper) about little-known historical developments in the Chesapeake Bay area. As a by-product of research for this column he is currently working on two books: one about "the good old days when railroads and steamboats delivered passengers - and the mail - on time" and the other about military installations in Maryland and Delaware during the Civil War. He also lectures on these and related subjects at meetings of academic, social and patriotic groups. To provide background for these columns, as well as for feature articles in a variety of other publications, he collects all sorts of antique paper items (pictures, postcards, pamphlets, timetables, photos, maps, etc.) He belongs to and serves on the boards of several historical societies.

He and his wife Ethel live in the historic community of Sherwood Forest on the Severn River six miles upstream from the Maryland capital. Two of his sons are lawyers and the third is an investment banker.



FIGHTING
FOR THE



For those of you not familiar with the Tramp Script, it was a newspaper put together by the 724th Field Artillery Battalion during the War. We think much of the material contained in this newspaper will be interesting and bring back memories for all 69ers.

Editor Pfc. Roy Hovey
Managing Editor T/Leonard Braverman
Associate Editor T/5 Paul M. Nollert
Sports Editor T/5 Robert S. Philipson
Staff Photographer T/5 Edison J. Nunez, Jr.
Staff Artist Cpl. Michael G. Makuh

* * * * *

Eilenburg . . .

As we dashed across Germany, the towns in our path surrendered with sporadic resistance to advance units of Armor and Infantry. It wasn't until we reached Eilenburg, at the end of the line, that we were forced to apply the full power of our threatening Artillery. Among other things, Hitler had promised "nothing but ruins, rats and epidemics," and "Give me 5 years and you will not recognize the face of Germany." In Eilenburg, these promises were fulfilled in a short two hours of the most devastating barrage ever fired by our Artillery.

After two days of limited advances, strategic withdrawals, and mounting casualties, the attacking forces (consisting of one battalion of Infantry supported by 4.2 mortars, tank destroyers, tanks, and six battalions of Artillery) held the western edge of Eilenburg. This was the beginning of the bloody battle for the city on the Mulde River.

At noon on April 24th, Col. Dunlap, in a humane effort to save many lives, sent ten women and the burgermeister to the defending forces of SS, Wehrmacht, and sniping civilians, with an ultimatum: "Surrender or the city will be annihilated." The answer was an emphatic "NO." It was decided that an example would be made of a city refusing to surrender and the Artillery was given the order to fire. Mission — annihilation!

Promptly at 1300 as the warning expired, the first shell whistled ominously over Col. Dunlap's withdrawn forces. It was the harbinger of over five thousand rounds of death-dealing high explosives. Shells rained into the city and burst with one intense continuous roar, as each Artillery piece fired on its 5-mile zone. After two hours the barrage lifted and the doughs cautiously advanced through the ruin and rubble that was once buildings. Only four shots were fired by snipers who were quickly eliminated by incendiary grenades thrown by the GIs. This was Eilenburg! A short time before it had been a seething, working city; now it was a crumbling mass of ruin with no house standing, and no roof intact. The dust settled slowly on the heads of the cringing supermen as they marched, hands upraised, to the rear.

Investigators Dig for War Crime Evidence

That's human guts Medical Expert Major H. Bolker of the War Crimes Investigating Team is examining. As a member of the WCI Team, Major Bolker has been doing a lot of dirty work poking around in stinking piles of corpses, performing autopsies, and so forth. The Team's mission is to investigate, define and expose Fascist war crimes, in order to provide evidence for the trials of war criminals. Lawyer Major Vowell, in charge of the WCI Team, and Major Bolker conducted a slide-illustrated lecture on Fascism at the Battalion Auditorium Tuesday afternoon. The lectures pointed out that not only the SS, but also the Wehrmacht and all Germans had a hand in the beating, starving, and killing of millions of innocent people that took place here during the Fascist regime. It was emphasized that Fascism is not confined to people under Fascist governments, but is an attitude in the minds of people living in all parts of the world — the United States included.

Americana ...

The Government's 50% increase in gas coupon values has a big catch to it — tires to be replaced this month are 33% short of the number needed to keep civilian cars on the road through the summer months.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower arrived in Washington, D.C. Tuesday, and was greeted by thousands of people in cheering crowds along the boulevards. Addressing a joint session of Congress, General Eisenhower said he was the personal representative of 3 million American citizens in Europe who expected World Leaders to preserve the peace which the soldiers are winning.

Bob Hope and his troupe of entertainers including Jerry Colonna and the new singing star Gail Roberts, started this week on another tour of Europe. Hope says that no unit is too small and he will arrange shows anywhere anytime.

The War Production Board announced the war shortages that the U.S. public, judging by complaints, have found hardest to bear: window screens, alarm clocks and wash tubs.

The U.S. Government announced that 370 ships were being marshaled to redeploy troops to the States, including England's Queens and the former German luxury liner Europa. All we need is a compartment on a Liberty ship.

In Richmond, Virginia, Mrs. Pauline E. Conlon, a professional dance teacher, sued for divorce from her 15th husband, claiming that he beat her once too often with his artificial leg.

(Continued on Page 57)

MORE FROM THE "TRAMP SCRIPT"

(Continued from Page 56)

POINTS

It is on a basis of discharge eligibility under the point system that the reorganization of our outfits is taking place. With the influx of pointsters, we have all become more point-conscious, if possible, than before. The system, we think, typically contrasts the functioning of our democracy with the functioning of the dictatorships we're fighting against. A dictator, faced as we are with the task of shifting millions of troops from one side of the globe to the other, wouldn't worry about evaluating individual contribution toward winning the war. Such foolish coddling of people is what makes the decadent democracies so inefficient. It would be better to hand the veterans (who know fighting best) a medal, and honor them with an opportunity to fight with their unit for glory on new battlefields.

In general, the point discharge system is mathematically expressive of American ideals. Time spent in the army, away from home, and in battle; plus family responsibility, determines the order in which we return home. It's true that we haven't ironed out all of the problems connected with justly fitting ten million GI's with points. Maybe you sweated out Camp Shelby or the Moors while some guys at headquarters in London were getting more points: maybe you were laid up in a hospital for the same amount of credit others got for a scratch; or maybe you don't exactly approve of the way medals are dished out. Just the same, when you add up your points, you'll most likely get a pretty fair idea of when it's your turn to shed your OD's and get back into mufti.

* * * * *

Cannoneer's Eye-View of Air Story

At Reims, we watched great formations of British and American bombers wheel overhead, as they assumed their formations and headed east. At Krewinkel, we glorified at the sight and sound of neat high-flying formations of forts roaring across the lines to deliver their deadly cargoes deep



T/5 Sid Apfelbaum

in the heart of enemy territory. Not all of the story was glorious there, however.

One day we saw one of the forts fall, on the return trip; and six parachutes followed to come to earth, perhaps, among the Germans. The formations did not always return in neat 38's either; nearly always there were some missing. When we reached Durrenberg, we saw hundreds of reasons why. The Jerry ack-ack positions are deserted and the guns are harmless now, pointly silently skyward. Once they had filled the air around the attacking craft with toll-taking flak. The Germans gathered the plane wreckage in piles beside railroad tracks to be salvaged and utilized, they hoped, to build and repair the Nazi war machine. When the Allied armies drew near, some of the fallen fliers were buried in flower-decked graves, from which they are to be exhumed and taken to France.

Such from a cannoneer-eye point of view, is the story of the great fortress armadas and the airmen who pioneered the way to victory. They had to destroy the enemy's industry, eliminate his luftwaffe, and paralyze his transportation before we could advance.

* * * * *

How About That 15%?

There has been some notice in the "Stars and Stripes" in fine print about the pass set-up for troops in the ETO. It mentions passes being stepped up to 15% from 7%, and we are wondering when we start on the 7%. There has been some time on our hands since combat and as long as we're in the midst of continental Europe and have chances for seeing the world, how about this 15%?

We've been to Leipzig on a day's tour which was a good deal, and assurance was given us that trips will be continued to other points of interest. There are some notorious prison camps in the neighborhood of Buchenwald which we're interested in seeing. Let's make this more of an educational and pleasure tour and less garrison confinement.

* * * * *

The oldest inhabitant was talking to the new neighbor. "I'm 97 years old, and I haven't an enemy in the world," said the old man.

"What a beautiful thought," said the new neighbor.

"Yes sir," was the answer. "I'm glad to say I've outlived them all."

loud 'n clear

To all you 69ers, many of you do not know that our Bulletin Editor, Clarence Marshall, has devoted a full 30 years now to editing our bulletin. Hundreds of inquiries have come from our ranks to Clarence concerning lost buddies, addresses, etc. Plus hundreds of phone calls, and he has cheerfully answered them all to the best of his ability. He has never asked for a reward of any kind.

He was severely wounded in combat, but is always cheerful and ready to help. His heart and soul are with the 69th, and lately he has had to cancel many reunions. As many of you well know, having to miss one is painful.

Why not sit down and write him a note thanking him or give him a call. It will brighten his day. Don't think about it, do it!

Anonymous

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE

May I just make note to all Leaders of Chapters, Groups, Branches, Companies, Battalions, Regiments, Recqs, 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.

1995

JANUARY 15, 1995

Deadline for news material and pictures for this bulletin.
 Bulletin Volume 48, Number 2
 January - February - March - April 1995
 Myrtle Beach Committee Chairmen must have all information plus prices to the bulletin on or before January 15.
 Bulletin expected mailing Date late March or early April.

* * * * *

MAY 18, 19, 20, 1995

MIDWEST GROUP MEETING

The Meade Inn
 Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin
 451 East Grand Avenue
 Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494

Rates: Tower, \$69.00 Single or \$82.00 Double plus 10% tax.
 West Wing, \$45.00 Single or \$52.00 Double plus 10% tax.

Reservations: Call or write The Meade Inn at 715/423-1500 or 800/843-6323

Committee:

John Barrett
 930 25th Place
 Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494
 Telephone: 715/423-4921

* * * * *

JUNE 7, 8, 9, 10, 1995

TRI-STATE GROUP WEEKEND

Belden Village Holiday Inn

Committee:

Robert and Vivian Kurtzman
 610 West Maple Street, Box 105
 Wilmot, Ohio 44698-0105
 Telephone: 216/359-5487

Robert and Jean Shaffer
 711 38th Street N.W.
 Canton, Ohio 44709

* * * * *

JUNE 1995 (Third Weekend)

COMPANY D, 272nd INFANTRY

Location: McHenry, Illinois

Committee: Arthur Burkman

3016 Kama Avenue
 McHenry, Illinois 60050-2820
 Telephone: 815/385-6793

**October 22, 23, 24, 25,
 26, 27, 28, 29, 1995**

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RATES

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 Ocean View: \$42.00 plus 7% tax
 Tours are now being planned.
 See front of bulletin for other details.

COMMITTEE:
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 Company A, 271st
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 Telephone: 803/272-4247

Fran and Joan Alfiero, Co-Chairpersons
 Battery B, 880th Field Artillery
 1394 Southwood Drive
 Surfside, South Carolina 29575
 Telephone: 803/650-7031

**MORE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE NEEDED.
 PLEASE VOLUNTEER NOW, CAROLINIANS.**

1996

AUGUST 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 1996

**69th INFANTRY DIVISION 49th ANNUAL REUNION
 HYATT REGENCY WOODFIELD
 SCHAUMBERG, ILLINOIS**

Chicago Area Members - A committee chairman or co-chair persons are needed plus eight couples or members complete the committee. Please call or write our Vice President, Robert Pierce at 408/226-8040.



"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.

PAST PRESIDENT

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Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 272nd Infantry

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C-461st

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W. Collingswood, New Jersey
E-271st

Judson Bartholomew
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S. San Gabriel, California
724th F.A.

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H&S-A 269th

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1640 Alderbrook Road
Atlanta, Georgia
H & Cannon-273rd



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