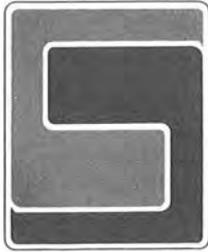


FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★★ *Association, Inc.*



VOLUME 48, NO. 2

JANUARY — FEBRUARY — MARCH — APRIL
1995

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

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

bulletin

Meeting the Russians at the Elbe



Submitted by: Emil Zerenga, Company A, 271st Infantry Division
33-08 Bell Boulevard, Bayside, New York 11361

Emil Zerenga is in the background. Leonard Kessler is in front.

Hoping some of you will be taking part in some of the local celebrations in your area commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II. We have a lot to be proud of as members of the Fighting 69th and a lot to look back on! Enjoy your bulletin, fellows.

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*Deceased



69th Infantry Recon Troop and Russians of the 58th Division in Torgau

Submitted by: Elmer F. McClain, 1901 Aden Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76116

This photo was taken by a United Press International (UPI) photographer in Torgau, Germany on the afternoon of April 26, 1945. Depicted with the Russians of the 58th Division of the First Ukrainian Army are six members of the 69th Infantry Reconnaissance Troop which had earlier in the day escorted General Reinhardt and other brass to that day's meeting with Russian brass on the east bank of the Elbe. The Americans are from left to right: James Fikes, Frank Veazey, the writer, John Veres (deceased), Ed Sivas and Robert (Bones) Schueler. This scene has been printed in Yank, August, 19, 1945, 1945 Continental Edition, The Army, page 13; Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Edition, Pictorial History of World War II, Vol. 1, The War in Europe, 1951, page 382; Newsweek, May 17, 1965 (partial print), page 81; Newsweek, June 14, 1965 (with a letter from me to Newsweek), page 11; and Stern (a German Magazine), March 21, 1985, pages 72 and 73. The latest print of this photo is on the dust jacket of the recently published book, March to Victory, the Final Months of WWII.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Elmer says it is time to print this in our bulletin. Elmer, this photo has appeared in the bulletin before, but due to the 50th Anniversary, and possible members who have not seen it, we decided it would be a good idea to print it again. Thanks for sending it in.)

News From The Editor's Desk



by — Clarence Marshall
Membership Chairman

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

William J. Edge, Sr., 525 Woodbury Way, Bel Air, Maryland 21014-4451 — I-272nd: My wife, Dolly and I want to express our gratitude for the outstanding service and devotion you have unselfishly given to the 69th Infantry Division Association for the past 30+ years. With your answer to my inquiry several years ago, my wife and I became interested in the Association and became members.

Since then we have had the pleasure of meeting buddies and friends I have not seen in the past 50 years. We have tried to attend all the reunions. However, we painfully missed several.

Dolly and I both missed you at the Nashville Reunion and we wish you the best of health, so that we may see you at Myrtle Beach in October.



Dolly and Bill Edge enjoying the 1994 Nashville Reunion.

A.W. Bummara, 508 Cambridge Road, Turnersville, New Jersey 08012 — E-273rd: Congratulations on your 30 years as our Bulletin Editor and thanks for doing one hell of an excellent job. I, like most of us sixty-niners, look forward to it every four months.

Since we are approaching the 50th Anniversary of the meeting with the Russians on the Elbe River on April 25th,

1945, I thought you might be interested in the Stars & Stripes headline on that day. I have the original if you wish to publish it in our next Bulletin. Copy is attached.

I would also like to know if our 69th outfit intends to have any kind of commemorative celebrations or ceremonies around April 25th, 1995 on this 50th Anniversary. My V.F.W. Post #4189 of Turnersville, New Jersey has been designated a 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemorative Community by the U.S. Department of Defense and we might like to join in the remembrance, if any. Waiting to hear from you.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: All celebrations that we knew of were published in our last bulletin, Volume 48, No. 1. As for the article you sent to be published, please see Volume 47, No. 3, May-June-July-August 1994. It was printed then, including the headline, on pages 36 and 37.)

Sergeant Harold May, 9755 Larsen, Overland Park, Kansas 66214 — C-271st: Thanks for the article on Don Kolloway. I was sorry to read of his death, but it brought back some memories for me. I played third base on the 271st Regiment baseball team with him. I remember Don as a regular guy in spite of his major league status.

We had some other professional players on that team. Herb Hawkins was a relief pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals during the era of Dizzy and Daffy Dean. His blazing fast ball along with his thick glasses, struck fear in the hearts of opposing pitchers. Billy Seals, our shortstop, played in the Southern Association. He was an excellent defensive player from Kansas City, Missouri. Our catcher, whose name escapes me, was under contract with the AAA Newark team and received \$75 a month from them while in the service. Our first baseman, Hamm, and several outfielders also had played professional ball.

For a kid fresh out of high school who had played baseball all his life, playing with these pros was quite a thrill.

Thanks for the memories.

John H. Harvey, 3265 Park Chase Drive, Alpharetta, Georgia 30202 — L-273rd: Recently, for the first time, I learned from George J. Wolff of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, a fellow 69er, of the existence of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association. This was very welcome news.

I served in the 69th as a Squad Leader in the 273rd Regiment, L Company, 1st Platoon, 2nd Squad. I still display proudly, my helmet with my rank and the 69th Division insignia emblazoned thereon. I also have a notebook I carried containing the names of all the members of my squad, as well as the number of prisoners our squad took during our tour of duty. Periodically, I have tried to contact some of my squad but I have not been very successful.

The purpose of this letter is to inquire about membership in the Association, and to ask if there is a roster of members in the Association that were in the "Right Flank" 273rd, L Company. Please send me information on membership in the 69th Division Association and also advise if a roster is available. Thank you very much from a "Right Flank" member of the 69th Division.

John Kurey, 17 Marlborough Drive, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania 15012 — H&S, 269th Engineers: I was in H&S of the 269th Engineers and was wondering if you could help me. I've been trying to remember a little farm town that our outfit was in during the winter of 1944 and 1945. I think it was in Belgium, but I am not sure. It was where Sergeant Rothman was killed while disarming a mine or bomb just as I was driving by. It was about a two-street farm town that we had to clean up as there were dead livestock all over, including on the second floor of some homes. This is one little town of all that I was in, that I would like to revisit. Any help from anyone would be greatly appreciated. There are not too many of my outfit left and I was just about the youngest.

(Continued on Page 4)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 3)

Walter H. Hart, 23 Cottonwood Drive, Avon, Connecticut 06001 — H-271st: I know you won't believe this, but for a long time each time I get the bulletin I thought about dropping you a line to thank you for all the work and effort you've put in over these many years, and as the last issue said — "Just do it," so here goes!

Anyway, I can't be telling you how much I've enjoyed each issue, and I hate to think how many years have gone by since I received the first one. I have not been able to make too many reunions, perhaps five or six in all, although we did manage to make the 1975 and 1985 "Return to the Elbe" trips, so the bulletins have kept me in touch with some old friends and many new ones from the reunions. They have brought back many wonderful memories and filled many an hour with recollections of events long past. As we get older, these memories seem to take on a deeper and more meaningful relevance and your bulletins have been the major factor in making all this possible.

For all your efforts over these past 30 years I can only offer a **Great Big Thank You**, and hope that for the foreseeable future, you'll want to continue editing the bulletin.

Mr. John Oplt, 1617 Schobert Drive, Belleville, Illinois 62220 — D-273rd: Just thought I would drop a few lines to say you fellows are doing a fine job.

After seeing the pictures on the cover of the bulletin this time, I thought maybe some fellows may be interested to know that it was almost not a joyous occasion for D Company, 273rd. What happened was we had two cases of tracer ammo that we had been trying to get rid of along the way and when we linked up with the Russians at the Elbe River, our two squad leaders decided to dump it in the river off of the pontoon bridge that was set up. The sergeant and the drivers had just gotten back to our side when all hell broke loose. The Russians thought we were trying to blow the bridge up and in a short time, they had dug in and had guns set up for more action. It was almost World War III until the drivers retrieved the case and we explained what had happened to the Russians. It was really a hairy situation for a while. So not all of it was a big celebration that day.

On the subject of the release of POWs at the Elbe River - it was an extra happy occasion for one of the American POWs. He must have been Air Force. One of the 273rd men spotted him in the group and he was a buddy of his. I believe from up in New York, where they grew up together. So for the brief time they spent together, he got a chance to catch up on some hometown news.

George H. Allen, 420 North Binney Street, Palm Bay, Florida 32907 — B-269th Engineers: We just received the latest copy of the 69th Infantry bulletin. In regards to the article on page 26, it is far from being complete. My husband, T-4 George H. Allen, was in the 269th Combat Engineers, Company B, and was also there when the Americans met the Russians. He and several other men built the raft so the men could get across the river.

I really think credit should be given where due. I just thought I would let you know. We always look forward to receiving the magazine.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Sorry about that. We printed it exactly as we received it. You know how the Army kept records, though! I'm sure other names are missing.)

Art Pfeifer, R.R. 1-119, Johnson Road, Becket, Massachusetts 01223 — C-273rd: Dorothy and I want you to know how much we appreciate all the efforts it takes to put out the Bulletin!! We have really enjoyed participating in the Rochester and Nashville reunions ... and looking forward to Myrtle Beach!

We took a "Westward Ho" vacation in the spring of 1992 across the top of the U.S. to Mount Rushmore in South Dakota, then south to Texas, Fort Knox and General George Patton's Museum. We took this photo of all the various military units associated with the general which includes the 69th Division Patch installed upside down!

We wish you the best of health. Please take time from the bulletin to enjoy the holidays!



Marvin A. Riggs, 5440 Raymond Road, Jackson, Mississippi 39212-Hq. Co., 271st: I realize that it is practically impossible to keep up with everyone who was part of the 69th, but can you help me locate any or all of the following? I realize that they may no longer be living because I am 83 and they were approximately my age. Grady H. Jones, Hq. Co., 271st, whose last address was Rocky Mt., North Carolina; Archie B. Williford, Chaplain, 271st; Glen C. Trasher, Hq. Co., 1st Battalion, 271st. I have a chance to visit Camp Shelby quite often and unless you have been there recently, you would not recognize it from how it was in 1943-44. Thanks for your help and we appreciate your faithful work.

Garnet Whitley, Jr., 27435 Pretlow Road, Franklin, Virginia 23851-4102 — A&P, 2nd Bn., 273rd: Hope this finds you hale and hearty and that you and other 69ers had a wonderful reunion in Nashville. I had surgery and was unable to attend but the Good Lord willing, I will be at Myrtle Beach for the '95 reunion.

J.C. Phillips, 1563 Fernando Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32303 — C-879th F.A.: His wife, Evelyn, writes: J.C. has been in a nursing home for the past five months. He is in the hospital at the present time. He is very ill. Please pray for him. He has always been a wonderful husband and father. We have been married 57 years and have a son and two grandsons.

Edwin M. Hill, 3907 Westridge Meadow Circle, Clemmons, North Carolina 27012 — G-271st: I just found out about the 69th Division reunion. I always remember the Division had the 3 B's. If you have any information, please send it to me. If there is a Company G picture available, I would like to have one. I hope to attend the reunion in Myrtle Beach next year. I would like to receive the publication and would like to hear from Cyrus Johnson, William (Bill) Seale and Captain McCoppen, of Company G.

(Continued on Page 5)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 4)

Lloyd L. Whiteley, 1001 North Highland, Amarillo, Texas 79107 — M-271st: I did not know about the Association until recently or I would have been a member long ago. So glad to be a part of it now.

Herbert H. Wegelin, 6 Creekside Drive, Orchard Park, New York 14127 — C-272nd: The bulletin has been published for about 47 years and I never heard about it before about a month ago. I wish I had. I imagine I missed quite a bit.

Ike F. Andrews, 138 Fearington Village, Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 — C-881st F.A.: To former 69th Division colleagues: I was wounded in combat near the end of February 1945. I was sent to a field hospital, then Paris and then spent the remainder of the war in the Churchill Hospital in Oxford, England. I re-joined C Battery, 881st, near Leipzig around the Fall of 1945. I received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star, but still had too few points to get home (I wasn't 18 until September 1943). I and some others were transferred to Brake, Germany near Bremen. That Division was called the Blue and Silver. I can't remember the number, maybe the 29th. I was discharged in the Spring of 1946. I entered and finished UNC Business and then law school. I have practiced law and been in politics since. I was in the North Carolina Senate and House for 10 years and the U.S. Congress for 12 years, 4th District of North Carolina including Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill. I have a wife, two daughters and two grandchildren. They all reside in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. We are eight miles away in Fearington Village.

**FOUND A NEW MEMBER?
HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS?
THIS SHOULD BE MAILED TO:
Robert J. Kurtzman
P.O. Box 105
Wilmot, Ohio 44689
Telephone: 216/359-5487**

MOVING

Please print your new address below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please send this form and your old address label to:
Robert Kurtzman, P.O. Box 105,
Wilmot, Ohio 44689

Please allow six weeks advance notice.

NOTE: Clarence Marshall is still our Editor, and therefore you should still send letters of interest, articles and photos to him at the address at the beginning of this article.

G.I. identified in photo on last bulletin cover

Sent by: Jim Telenko

3rd Squad, 2nd Platoon, K Company, 273rd Infantry
P.O. Box 476, Jerome, Pennsylvania 15937

The last bulletin cover, Volume 48, No. 1, shows a G.I. with the 69th insignia on his helmet. I'm 99% sure he was Lieutenant Dwight Brooks who was Platoon Leader for the 2nd Platoon of Company K, 273rd Infantry. He was wounded by an anti-personnel mine while returning from a Recon Patrol during our time in the Siegfried Line in February 1945.

After recuperation, he was assigned to Division Headquarters, but I'm not sure what his duties were.

Dolphus S. Jones of Hq., 272nd, needs your help

Dolphus S. Jones

Headquarters Company, 272nd Regiment
Star Route A, Box 251-A, Atmore, Alabama 36502

In World War II, I came in as a replacement to the 69th Infantry Division, 272nd Regiment, Headquarters Company, as a Platoon Sergeant. My platoon was formed to guard and protect Headquarters Company.

On or about March 8, 1945, we were ordered to move forward. My platoon leader, 1st Lieutenant Gene Hundhausen, ordered me to move Lieutenant Colonel Sidney Kennedy's tent to a road where it could be loaded on a truck. Most of my men were suffering from a virus which caused them to be physically weak. The tent was covered with snow and ice so we folded the tent the best we could. We placed a pole through the tent ropes and I placed two men on each end of the pole. They were too weak to carry the tent, so I called a soldier, Private Smith, over to help me carry the tent to the road. When we set the tent down, I had sharp pains in my back. Early the next day we moved into Dalhm, Germany.

When nature called, I passed lots of blood. I went to see our medic. I wanted this to be recorded on my medical records. All I can remember about our medic was his given name, Joe. He was in the I&R Platoon. After we talked about my back problem, he said I should go to the hospital. I told him that maybe the pain would leave me. That I didn't want to leave my men. I now know that I should have gone to the hospital. But at that point in time, even today, I did the right thing. I only lost one man and one wounded.

I had to retire early from my job with the Postal Service because of pain. The V.A. tells me if I could find one man that was with me on that day to back me up, I could get my pension. I found one person, he is Lieutenant Colonel Gene Hundhausen. He wrote a story about the colonel and his potty. I am sure you remember this. At that time he lived in San Diego, California. I wrote to him at 3737 Sports Arena, San Diego, California 92110. He wrote to me, but when I answered his letter, it was returned - Moved, left no address.

Is there any way that you can help me? Could I do anything after all these years? I have been a member of the 69th Association for many years. When I get the bulletin, I read it from cover to cover. It makes my day. I will reimburse any cost to you or the bulletin at once.

Come on men. Anyone who has information that could help Dolphus, whether it be this memory from the past or a lot of insight or information on V.A. pensions, please write to him A.S.A.P. and help him out. We all have to stick together and help each other out. That's what the Association is about.

Message from the President



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

Fifty years have passed since our Division and attached Units were in combat. According to World Leaders and the Media, this conflict was, once again, the war to end all wars but there is still unrest throughout the world. Let's hope and pray that our efforts, fifty years ago, somehow, will bring a cease to the turmoil around the world that is still occurring.

Plans are now being finalized by groups from both the East and West, for the return to the Elbe. From information received, the tours will be very interesting and the ceremonies at Strehla and Torgau impressive. I recently talked to the Department of Defense and they are looking forward to the Link-Up Reunion. Thanks to the Coordinators of the tours and the Ceremony Committee for their work.

In addition to the Return to the Elbe, are two other activities that members, who are not going to Europe, may be interested in. First, there will be an Elbe River Link-Up Ceremony on April 8th, 1995 at the Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C. It will commence at 10:30 a.m. in Section 7A at the Cemetery. Additional information is shown elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Next, I received word from **Ralph Utermoehlen**, that Kansas City is having a Victory in Europe Parade on May 6, 1995. Details are still sketchy but if you desire more information, contact **Ralph** at: 2221 Stone Post, Manhattan, KS 66502, Telephone: 913/537-8814.

Members of our Association should attempt to attend one of these ceremonies in their area, as representatives of our Association.

Clarence Marshall's health is not very good at the present time and **Bob Kurtzman** has taken over his duties as Membership Chairman. Changes of address, new members located, etc. should be sent to him or **Bill Matlach**, our Treasurer. Keep in mind though that **Clarence** is still handling the Bulletin along with **Earl Witzleb** and will still be our Editor as always, so send your letters and Bulletin information to **Clarence** or **Earl** as you always have.

Have an enjoyable trip to Europe and hope to see you all in Myrtle Beach.

The Vice-President's Corner



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

**HELP WANTED,
NO EXPERIENCE
NECESSARY!**

Your Association urgently needs volunteers to assist **George Wolff** in conducting the Myrtle Beach Reunion. There are 30 dues-paying members in the state of South Carolina. It only seems reasonable that enough of you could be depended upon to take some of the burden off of **George and Rita Wolff**. Please step forward and be counted. **George and Rita's** address and phone number appear in several places in this bulletin.

There is a similar problem in the Chicago area where volunteers are needed to conduct the 1996 Reunion. We have three volunteers but need at least five or six more; plus, a responsible member willing to be the sponsoring Reunion Committee Chairman. Chicago should be an easy location for volunteers because there are 36 dues-paying members within the suburbs surrounding the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Schaumburg, Illinois. Please contact me as soon as possible.

The 1997 Reunion Site Screening task is shaping up much better than expected. Boston is one of the highest cost cities on the East Coast and there is always a demand for hotels to host numerous conventions. These conditions create a tough market for price concessions. Of the four (4) hotels solicited, one was rejected as too expensive and one mutually withdrew their offer. We are still working with one hotel in Boston and another in the suburb of Danvers, Massachusetts. The most encouraging is the Danvers Hotel. They have agreed to the concessions, facilities, and complimentary considerations expected. The price is comparable with what we have obtained on an average over recent years.

Henry and Jean Putala volunteered to be the 1997 Reunion Committee Chairmen. Both are to be commended for the time and effort already put forth to bring the 1997 Reunion to the Boston area. They have made many trips from their home in Suffield, Connecticut to survey the facilities, discuss Reunion events and meeting rooms requirements with Management, and react to inquiries from both the hotels and the Reunion Site Screening Committee. I have every confidence that **Henry and Jean** will have this Reunion completely planned and ready long before the site is presented to the membership for consideration.

Henry also needs volunteers to conduct the Boston Reunion. He is presently contacting members in the local area for support. Where are the members who made the 1979 Boston Reunion such a success? How about you guys contacting **Henry** and offer your help and expertise.

The address is:

Henry and Jean Putala
1139 River Boulevard
Suffield, Connecticut 06078

Hope to see everyone in Myrtle Beach this year with lots of volunteers showing up for the upcoming reunions.

**69th Infantry Division
48th Annual Reunion
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA
THE LANDMARK RESORT HOTEL
October 22nd thru October 29th, 1995**



TOURS

CHARLESTON TRIP

Tuesday, October 24th, 1995

Enjoy the charm of Charleston, the wealthiest city in the Colonies, busiest seaport in the Old South and cradle of the Civil War.

The historic Charleston City Sightseeing Tour will be narrated by our guide. Market place shopping, browse through booths filled with wares in open-air markets. Walk on the narrow streets to the shops and galleries. Eat at quaint restaurants enjoying the southern cuisine.

MAGIC ON ICE SHOW

Wednesday, October 25th, 1995

Two hours of dazzling feats by Olympic and world champions. Also skating clowns that will keep you on the edge of your seat. Illusions that delight and amaze.

BROOKGREEN GARDENS-PLANTATIONS

Thursday, October 26th, 1995

Brookgreen Gardens is a year round treasure. The Sculpture Gardens are situated on the grounds of a 200 year old rice plantaton. Wildlife park, plants and animals are seen within their native swamp. National Historic Landmark.

Plantation Tour – Step back in time to the 1700-1800's and days of rice production and southern grandeur as you visit Hopsewee Plantation. See moss-draped live oaks, slave street with cabins and a chapel.

BAREFOOT LANDING SHOPPING

Friday, October 27th, 1995

Barefoot Landing is a shopping paradise of over 100 shops and excellent restaurants located on the Wetlands. This spot includes a floating bridge and overlooks the Inter-Coastal Waterway.

**GOLF TOURNAMENT
Friday, October 27th, 1995**

Golf at Whispering Pines, a former Air Force recreational golf course, one of eighty golf courses on the Grand Strand. Thirty-five dollar fee includes green fee, cart and prizes. The course is located by the hotel.

* * * * *

Your reunion committee will assist you in any way possible. If you have any questions, or need some assistance write to:

George and Rita Wolff, Co-Chairpersons
Company A, 271st Infantry
1132 Forest Drive
North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29582
Telephone: 803/272-4247
or
Fran and Joan Alfiero, Co-Chairpersons
Battery B, 880th Field Artillery
1394 Southwood Drive
Surfside, South Carolina 29575
Telephone: 803/650-7031

We would love to see everyone make it to Myrtle Beach and we are sure that you won't be disappointed.

**Robert and Anne Ross
visit Normandy Beach**

Anne and I embarked on a Scandinavian Cruise and the last visit on the cruise was to La Havre, Normandy Beaches on the morning of June 8th which was two days after the official ceremonies on June 6th.

The visit to Normandy Beaches took me back down memory lane to the time of World War II when I was just a kid landing in La Havre. It is very difficult for me to remember anything that was similar to my actual first day in La Havre fifty years ago when I went to the Replacement Center where I was told I would be stationed with the 69th Infantry Division.

Anne and I visited the place where the British and Canadians landed and then went on to the museum that has captured that period in time. It was at the Harbor where Anne and I saw some of the ships that were sunk in the Harbor during the invasion.

Many of the young men that were at Normandy Beaches (on the 8th of June) were dressed in full military wear and rode around in the tanks, jeeps and other military trucks that were used during the World War II period. Just watching this brought me back to the time when I was there and uncertain of the outcome of my stay. We went down to the bunkers and observed the battle area.

Our last visit was to the cemetery where 9,500 soldiers are laid to rest that were killed in the invasion. Anne and I saw so many grave sites of unknown soldiers and their tombstones read, "Only God Knows Their Name."

The memories of Normandy Beaches will stay with me for the rest of my life. The visit brought me back to the stark reality of what war is.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dr. Robert Ross
Ross University School of Medicine
460 West 34th Street, 12th Floor
New York, New York 10001
Telephone: 212/279-5500

**69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 1995
 48th ANNUAL REUNION
 461st AAA BN. - 661st T.D. BN. - 777th TANK BN.
 Landmark Resort Hotel
 MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA
 OCTOBER 22nd thru OCTOBER 29th, 1995
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 (All rooms plus 7% tax)

Print full names of ALL persons sharing room: _____

NOTE: Special accommodations required: (if available)

HANDICAPPED _____ NON-SMOKING _____ OTHER REQUEST _____

I / We plan to arrive (day) _____, October _____, 1995. (Check in after 3:00 P.M.)

I / We plan to depart (day) _____, October _____, 1995. (Check out time - 1:00 P.M.)

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

If possible, I/We wish to be quartered near other guests: _____
 (Specify guest(s) name)

Send Confirmation to: (Please Type or Print)

Name: _____

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

City / State / Zip: _____

Telephone / Area Code: _____

IN ORDER TO CONFIRM RESERVATIONS, One of the Following MUST Accompany This Form:

Check or Money Order (One Night's Lodging) Payable to the LANDMARK RESORT HOTEL OR Major Credit Card Number and Date of Expiration.

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

Credit Card Name _____ Number _____ Expires _____

I authorize the LANDMARK RESORT HOTEL to make charges on my Credit Card.

Your Signature _____

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

Reservations must be received not later than September 22, 1995. If a particular type of room is unavailable, the next most suitable room will be assigned. No particular room, room type, or location can be guaranteed. Deposit returnable on 48 hours cancellation notice prior to your arrival date. If LANDMARK rooms have been filled when this form is received, it will automatically be turned over to the hotel right next door and you will receive your confirmation from them.

69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 1995 REUNION 48th ANNUAL REUNION

461st AAA BN. - 661st T.D. BN. - 777th TANK BN. LANDMARK RESORT HOTEL — Myrtle Beach, SOUTH CAROLINA OCTOBER 22nd thru OCTOBER 29th, 1995

Registration form to be mailed to: **William R. Matlach, Treasurer**
P.O. Box 474, West Islip, New York 11795-0474 • Telephone: 516/669-8077

I/we will attend the 69th Infantry Division Association Reunion in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina during the week of October 22nd-29th, 1995 and will attend the following activities.

Name: _____

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

City / State / Zip: _____

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

Unit: _____ Wife's Name: _____

Guests: _____

* * * * *

Daily Events	Per Person	Number Persons	Amount
Registrations: Monday thru Saturday (Expo A Room), 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Check Bulletin Board			NO CHARGE
Sunday, October 22nd — Early arrivals on your own. Check Bulletin Board.			
Monday, October 23rd — Check Bulletin Board and Hospitality/Social Room			
Tuesday, October 24th — CHARLESTON TOUR — 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Lunch on your own)	\$ 15.00	_____	\$ _____
Wednesday, October 25th — MAGIC ON ICE — 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	\$ 20.00	_____	\$ _____
Thursday, October 26th — BROOKGREEN GARDENS and HOPSEWEE PLANTATION — 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Lunch on your own)	\$ 23.00	_____	\$ _____
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING — 4:00 p.m. EARLY BIRD DINNER	\$ 26.00	_____	\$ _____
Friday, October 27th — BAREFOOT LANDING SHOPPING 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Lunch on your own)	\$ 6.00	_____	\$ _____
GOLF TOURNAMENT — 9:00 a.m.	\$ 35.00	_____	\$ _____
P.X. BEER PARTY — 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. (Tickets Required)	\$ 5.00	_____	\$ _____
Saturday, October 28th COFFEE AND DANISH — 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. GENERAL MEETINGS — 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon CASH BAR — 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Tickets Required) MEMORIAL SERVICE — 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. DINNER DANCE - 7:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.	\$ 30.00	_____	\$ _____
For Special Diets — FISH _____ VEG. _____			
Sunday, October 29th — FAREWELL BREAKFAST - 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m..... Y'ALL COME BACK	\$ 11.00	_____	\$ _____
Replacement Cost for Lost or Broken Permanent Badges	\$ 4.00	_____	\$ _____
SUPPORT YOUR HOSPITALITY ROOM: DONATIONS PLEASE!			\$ _____
DUES		Reunion Sub-Total	\$ _____
New Dues Year - August 1, 1995 to July 31, 1996			
Regular Membership	\$10.00	_____	\$ _____
Ladies Auxiliary	\$ 5.00	_____	\$ _____
Postage and Bulletin Donation (up to you)		_____	\$ _____
		Total Amount Paid	\$ _____

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

If you do not have a plastic badge from earlier Reunions, please check box.

Permanent badges will only be made if your request is accompanied by an advance prepaid Reservation. Failure to attend Reunion will result in a \$4.00 charge for each badge ordered, and will be deducted from your refund. Please fill out this form and mail it with your payment in full, no later than thirty (30) days prior to the Reunion. By doing this, it will make our job much easier, and save you time at the Registration Desk.

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

The membership has made a fine response to the first dues notice sent out this year. In a manner similar to last year, there was an initial surge which swamped me with work, but this year I did not fall two months behind in processing the receipts — only one month. Last year I started out trying to do it all myself but this year I knew better and Jane started to help me right from the beginning, so we are only one month behind! But please do not try to relieve my work load by not sending your dues — we need every dollar, especially with the increase in the postage rate this year.

In a recent bulletin, I included in the Treasurer's Message two letters I had received from young men who had received Scholarship Awards from the Association a number of years ago, Bill Halainen and Neil S. Goldstein. In the article, I mentioned that Neil Goldstein had received the very first Scholarship Award, a gold medal. The following letter I received recently from Joseph Monteleone (A-269th) should serve as an addendum to that statement:

Dear Bill,

Sorry I missed the Nashville Reunion. I am advanced in years, 84 to be exact, so my travels are limited.

I read your column in the last Bulletin concerning the early scholarship awards. With due respect to Neil Goldstein and the success he has achieved (a credit to his father, a true and compassionate man), there were two Scholarship Award Medals given that year, 1958.

The male award was given to Neil Goldstein, and the female award was given to Mariann Monteleone.

My daughter's achievements were: after receiving her Masters in Psychiatric Nursing, she left for California and joined the staff of the Department of Psychiatry, San Francisco General Hospital, where she advanced to become the Director of Psychiatric Emergency Service. In 1992 she returned to the East Coast and is now connected with the Friends Hospital in Philadelphia.

Hope all is well with you and your family. Best wishes.

Yours truly,
Joseph Monteleone

1320 Beverly Road, Warminster, Pennsylvania 18974-3908
Telephone: 215/672-1531

P.S. I am sending Frank Nemeth two photographs one of John Buller, age 88, whom I believe could be the oldest living 69th Division member and myself, age 84. We have been friends since 1943. Frank can include them in the column he writes for the 269th Engineer Battalion.

(Pictures are elsewhere in this issue of the bulletin.)

Our thanks go to Joe for writing and telling us how Mariann has fared since receiving her Scholarship Award. All of our Scholarship recipients appear to be doing extremely well, which gives us a warm feeling that gathering and distribution of the funds for the awards was a justifiable effort which provided significant assistance to the student at the time that he or she was establishing the basis for a future career.

To those of you who have not yet sent in your dues: Current dues are \$10.00 per year, Ladies Auxiliary dues are \$5.00, and we will appreciate any donations to our Postage/Bulletin fund. Checks should be made out to 69th Infantry Division Association, Inc. and sent to William R. Matlach at the address shown at the beginning of this article.

* * * * *

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.*

Kurt Nolke writes . . .

Kurt Nolke

Gartenstr. 11, 36179 Bebra-Weiterode, Germany

Dear Mr. Kurtzman,

Thanks for your letter of 3rd January 1995. I am very sorry to hear that Mr. Marshall is having trouble with his eyes. Please give him my warmest regards. I look back at our reunion in Pittsburgh in 1986 with fond memories.

I have received the past five bulletins and would like to express my thanks with this letter. Please send me all future bulletin copies. I will, of course, pay for the expense.

As you already know, I am in touch with many members of the 69th Division, particularly with Ed Lucci and the soldiers of E Company of the 272nd Regiment, as this unit was stationed here in July/August 1945. Maybe someone can remember the visit of the "Torgau" group in 1990 in Bebra.

We are glad that 50 years after the war, we are bound by friendship and not animosity. As a member of our village committee I am naturally interested in photos and other details of the soldiers' stay in our region.

I was also interested to read about your 48th Annual Reunion in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, in October 1995. Not far away from there lies a place called "Ehrhardt Town." The founder of this town, Conrad Ehrhardt, was born in Weiterode and immigrated to South Carolina in 1851. I have visited Ehrhardt Town twice with my family. We were also in Myrtle Beach, at the Hampton Inn.

I wish all 69th Division members much success.

United States Postal Service to issue Commemorative Stamp of Torgau Bridge Meeting of the Russians

Submitted by: Paul Staub, I & R Section, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 273rd Regiment
20 Snowbird Lane, Levittown, New York 11756

I received the latest bulletin and as usual, enjoyed each and every page and photo. I am enclosing a picture that I took at Torgau when Bill Robertson, Frank Huff, James McDonnell and myself made contact with the Russians at the Elbe. If you look closely, you can see the Americans and the Russians meeting just about the center of the bridge.

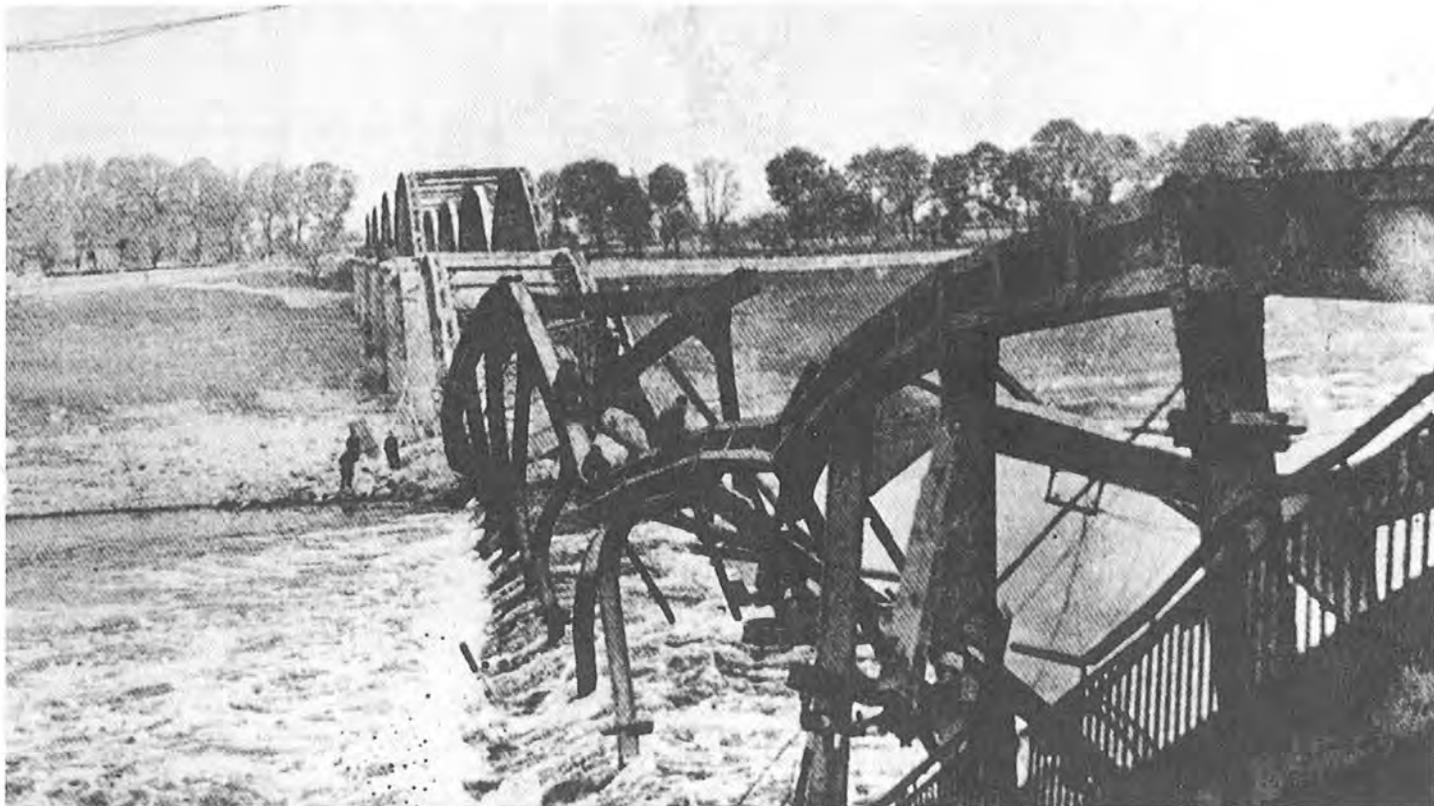
Through the years, this picture has been used in several publications. Recently I have been informed that it will now be used for a United States postage stamp. This will be issued

sometime in 1995, and it will be part of the 1945 Victory Commemorative Series.

Needless to say, I take great pride that my picture is to be a U.S. Stamp. It does me great honor as it also honors the 69th for being a participant in such a momentous event.

Clarence, once again thanks for the 30 years of enjoyable reading you have given me. Wishing you the best of health, and many many more years.

Thank You



Back: ?, Paul Staub, Herbst, Charles Goodhart, ?. Front: James McDonald, Ensminger, Frank Huff.



Paul Staub and Charles Goodhart
Both photos: I&R, Hq. Co., 1st Bn., 273rd Infantry

Harry L. Sokol writes . . .

Harry L. Sokol
 Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion,
 271st Regiment, Anti-Tank Platoon
 3632 Hayvenhurst Avenue, Encino, California 91436



Harry Sokol meeting two Russians at the Elbe.

After almost 50 years I just learned by accident that there is a 69th Division Association. I often wondered about it. I joined the 69th at Camp Shelby in the summer of 1944 and went overseas with them till the meeting at the Elbe. I received a Purple Heart in a German mortar attack but was able to continue in combat. I remember distinctly capturing the radio station in Leipzig and finally that glorious day at the Elbe. I will never forget the Russians laying down a rubber raft bridge across the Elbe and crossing in Studebaker trucks (our lend lease). I was also there dancing with Red Army women as shown on the photo of your last Bulletin.

Suffice it to say, I was delighted to learn of our Association and proud to be a member. Any history or photos available of the 271st, specifically of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, would be appreciated. Thanks to your service to the 69th.



Company I, 272nd Infantry Regiment in Nashville



Front row: John Duespohl, Tom Yelcich, Bob Kurtzman, Tom Reardon, Dewey Hardin, Ed McDonnell. Back row: Harold Ruck, Pat Lushbaugh, Adrian Eckhardt, Dennie Haltiwanger, Wendell Freeman, Forrest Frentress and Bill Edge. Absent when picture was taken: Joe Martin, Jerome Love and Fred Feidler. Photo sent by: Robert Kurtzman and also William J. Edge

THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE

by — Dottie Witzleb
Ladies Auxiliary Editor
 P.O. Box 69
 Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
 or
 R.D. #3, Box 477
 Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606
 Home Telephone: 412/455-2901



Dottie Witzleb



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 7412 Exmore Street
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Ellen McCann, Secretary
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 Woburn Massachusetts 01801
 Telephone: 617/933-2312



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

A Message from your Auxiliary President, Alice R. Wolthoff

Dear Ladies of the Auxiliary:

Greetings again as we start the New Year. May it be a healthy and happy one for all of us.

It may only be January when I am writing this, but my thoughts are on the next reunion in October at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

I certainly am looking forward to seeing you all again. This is simply a reminder - don't forget our lap robes, size 36 x 45, slippers and bibs for our boys in the V.A. Hospital. Lap robes can be knitted, crocheted or tie quilted and should all be washable.

To the Past Presidents of the Auxiliary, I thought it would be nice if we had breakfast together with the present officers on the Friday morning of October 27th, 1995 at the upcoming Myrtle Beach reunion, while the men are golfing. If you have any comments, feel free to write to me.

To all that have been ill, I wish you a speedy recovery. See you all in Myrtle Beach, I hope.

Sincerely,
Alice R. Wolthoff, President
Ladies Auxiliary

Ladies' Auxiliary Meeting Nashville, Tennessee August 27th, 1994

President Alice Wolthoff called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer were led by Edith Chapman in the absence of our chaplain, Jean Brannan.

Alice welcomed all of the regular members and also our 27 First Timers - 157 members in all.

The Officers at Head Table were introduced:

Alice Wolthoff *President*
 Edith Chapman *Vice President*
 Ellen McCann *Secretary*
 Edith Zaffern *Sunshine Lady*
 Virginia Weston *Substitute Chaplain*

Unfortunately our Chaplain, Jean Brannan and our Assistant Chaptain, Margaret Kormas, were absent.

The Vice President of the Association, Bob Pierce, addressed the ladies, followed by a report on the Golf Tournament results by Jim Boris. He complimented the ladies on their golfing and also commented on the excellent job the Reunion Committee did.

(Continued on Page 14)

LADIES' AUXILIARY MEETING

(Continued from Page 13)

The Secretary's Minutes of the Rochester, New York meeting were read by Teddy Nemeth along with a note of appreciation from the Department of Veterans Affairs of Batavia, New York and a Thank You Note from Margie McCombs.

A Memorial Prayer was offered for the Auxiliary Members who died during the past year:

- Rita M. Blain September 13, 1993
- Myrtle T. Kelma October 6, 1993
- Dorothy Hepp February 18, 1994

Sunshine Lady, Edith Zaffern, sent out approximately 2,500 cards this year. A motion was made to send postcards instead of enclosed cards at a savings of \$1400 in stamps alone. The motion was passed by a hundred percent show of hands.

Vivian Kurtzman gave us a report on the welfare of Mrs. Bolte who at 96, is remarkably alert and she wished to be remembered by us all. We all wish her well.

Rita Wolff reminded us to mark our calendars for Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on October 22nd through October 29th, 1995. They are planning on an Ocean Front Hotel and interesting tours such as the Charleston Plantation.

Representatives of the V.A. Hospital were unable to make the meeting but a \$500 check from the Association plus 60 lap robes, 15 bibs and 6 pairs of slippers will be forwarded to the hospital.

The gifts were distributed to all of the ladies and during this time, we reminded the ladies to be sure to notify Dottie Witzleb of any deceased members so that we can put the information in the bulletin.

For the benefit of the new ladies, the measurements of the lap robes were given again, 36" x 45."

The Closing Prayer was offered by Virginia Weston

The ladies enjoyed a program on Beauty Control by Rhonda Horton. We will be the most beautiful Senior Citizens around.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen McCann
Secretary

- 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. MARY ALICE HOWELL

wife of Jonnie G. Howell, Company I, 273rd Infantry

**Whoops!!
Somebody Goofed!!!**

In the last issue of the Bulletin, Volume 48, No. 1, we had received information that Merle E. Douglas of Headquarters, 369th Medical Battalion, had passed away, and therefore, we listed him under "Taps." Seems that Merle is very much alive. Sorry about that Merle. Welcome back to the world of the living!!

Ross Medical 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, grandson of Dale F. McGee, who was Company Commander of Company E, 271st Infantry and who also served in Headquarters, 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, 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.



With his dues, Miles L. Hummel, 69th M.P., sent in this photo of himself. He claims he is 80 years old. Do you believe him?

Miles L. Hummel
1321 East Grand Avenue, Tower City, PA 17980-1227

69th Infantry Division 2nd Annual Reunion 1949 — Commodore Hotel, New York City, New York



*Top row: D.J. Jones, unknown, C. McDaniel (deceased), J. Griffith, H. Moran
Bottom row: Unknown - possible Brenner?, D. Griffin, Siegel, Unknown, unknown*

Photos sent by:

Daniel J. Jones

26 Pheasant Court

Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055

C Battery and Headquarters Battery

881st Field Artillery Battalion

Daniel states that if anyone can identify any of the unknowns from the photo above, please contact him.

The photo to the right was taken in March 1945 or late February.

This is the Fire Direction Center of the 881st, "The Sergeant's Club," somewhere in Germany. Bill Turnage is not shown. I know Harry Greenwood from Ohio has passed on but do not know the whereabouts of Dan Griffin or Joe Woerner. Hope someone does and will contact me.

Photo right: D.J. Jones, Joseph L. Woerner, Harry Greenwood and Dan Griffin.



MIA Status Solved 50 Years After Disappearance

Submitted by: Brian Lindner

Waterbury Historical Society, Inc.

R.R. #1, Box 4316, Waterbury Center, VT 05677-9719

Telephone: 802/229-3880

Gentlemen:

In Volume 45, No. 1 of your newsletter for the Fall of 1991, you published an article on page 42 which I donated. The story covered Lieutenant William Ricker, (Company F, 271st Infantry) and how he had been reported as MIA then POW and finally KIA.

With excellent assistance from Mr. Chris Van Kerckhoven of Belgium, we now have found additional details which brings us an even more detailed ending to the tragedy of Ricker's disappearance on 19 February 1945.

Enclosed is an update to my previous story and some photos for consideration. As with the previous article, please consider this as a contribution to the Association in the name of Lt. Bill Ricker.

* * * * *

On 11 February 1945, Company F, 271st Infantry arrived in their first front line positions, directly in front of the tiny German village of Buschem. On 19 February, Colonel A.E. McCormick called for volunteers to mount a patrol which he ordered to proceed to a specific point before Buschem and then return. Thirty-two year old 2nd Lieutenant Bill Ricker of Waterbury, Vermont, volunteered to lead the mission.

In civilian life, Ricker had been a professional radio and newspaper man so the Army had pegged him as a Public Relations expert. Since his enlistment in June of 1942, he had steadfastly rejected all attempts to be forced into the PR role. In a deep patriotic sense, he had enlisted to become a *combat* soldier and was probably denied promotions because of his attitude toward PR type responsibilities. With this patrol, Ricker would finally find himself in the combat role for which he had enlisted.

In the Fall of 1944, the Army gave in and approved his request to transfer to the infantry. Ricker arrived in Camp Shelby, Mississippi only to find soon thereafter that the division moved to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey for final training prior to crossing the Atlantic. It was due to this timing that Ricker may never have received the in-depth infantry training that his fellow officers had undergone.

Short months later Ricker's patrol of 13 men moved out across a small stream and up a long gradual hill to the south of Buschem and then disappeared from sight. Shortly thereafter, the sound of gunfire and mortars penetrated the mid-afternoon quiet. Within minutes, the remains of Ricker's patrol came running back to the 271st lines. [Official documents and the eyewitness accounts vary about the number of survivors from the patrol. Sgt. James McKenna

told his family before his death that he had been the only survivor but Army documents clearly state that eight men survived.] *(If any other survivor remains alive, the author would very much like to hear from them.)*

Ricker's patrol had mistakenly gone beyond the point specified by Colonel McCormick and had actually gone beyond Buschem and nearly into the next town. The patrol had reversed direction and within minutes entered Buschem from the southwest. There remains some controversy about the fact that Ricker's captain may never have passed along Colonel McCormick's orders not to proceed beyond a specific point.

Several young German soldiers of the 277th Division had watched the progress of Ricker's patrol almost from the moment they first stepped out of American lines. (Buschem sits at the high point of the land and even today is completely surrounded by large open fields.

The Germans watched the approach of Ricker's patrol through open farm fields. Quietly, each enemy soldier prepared for the impending chance to spring an ambush.

Ricker's patrol stopped at the first house on the right, the home of Joseph Metz. The civilians inside told Ricker that German soldiers were in the town. The patrol then entered a second house which was found to be empty. A flag appeared from a third house but was followed immediately by machine gun, rifle and mortar fire. It was a classic ambush.

A survivor of the patrol later reported that Ricker had been seen to fall to the ground after a grenade or mortar had exploded next to him. A German soldier ran into the street and took Ricker's carbine which he then used to fire on the other Americans. Ricker was seen by his men as he attempted to get up but after a burst of enemy rifle fire, was seen to collapse and not move again. That evening, Ricker was declared "Missing In Action" when he failed to return and no new information was received.

Four members of the patrol had been killed outright in the ambush. S/Sgt. David H. Hyde, Pvt. Milton J. Ulfeng, Pvt. Glenn T. Burton and Pvt. James O. Durkee.

(Continued on Page 17)



Looking north at the Metz home.

Photo by Chris Van Kerckhoven

MIA STATUS SOLVED 50 YEARS AFTER DISAPPEARANCE

(Continued from Page 16)

Several days later, the 271st advanced through Buschem and found where these four soldiers had been buried in a common grave under a thin layer of frozen dirt in an old shell hole. No evidence was found to indicate the fate of Lt. Ricker himself. Colonel McCormick interviewed a German priest who told a very convincing story of how Ricker had received chest wounds but had survived the ambush and when last seen was able to sit up, smoke a cigarette and even manage to walk. McCormick then updated Ricker's status from "Missing In Action" to "Prisoner of War." When WWII ended, it was learned that the German Army had absolutely no records showing Ricker as a POW. In late 1945, the Army changed his status back to "Missing In Action" but with his body not recovered.

RICKER'S REMAINS

After researching a number of civilian and government files, the following story has been pieced together of what happened to Ricker.

He died in Buschem of chest wounds on the evening of his patrol. He had been buried behind the Metz residence and when the 271st advanced through the town, his clearly marked gravesite had been overlooked because of its location some distance from the shell holes containing the other Americans' remains.

In July of 1946, an Army Graves Registration team visited Buschem and was shown Ricker's gravesite. In the process of removing his remains from Buschem and forwarding them to Belgium, his dog tags were lost. Incredibly, at the same time, the Army misplaced his file so that Ricker ended up as Unknown Soldier #X-2699 when reburied in a U.S. cemetery in Belgium.



One of the civilian informants who showed U.S. Army personnel the grave of Ricker in 1946 was Kathe Putzer. She is shown here with Joseph and Frau Metz behind his house and in front of the apple tree under which Ricker was buried. In 1945, she would have been 15.

Photo compliments of Kathe Putzer Konn

Three years later, in mid-1949, the Army found his missing file and it is obvious that a very thorough and carefully detailed review of his remains was then done to prove beyond any doubt that X-2699 was Lieutenant Bill Ricker. In June of 1950 his body was returned to Vermont for burial with no explanation of where he had been for five years or what had been his fate.

HIS FATE

With the full cooperation of 1) the Ricker family in helping to obtain the lieutenant's government files, 2) several officers and men of the 69th Division plus, 3) the current owner of Ricker's radio station, I was able to piece together the bulk of this story but critical details were still missing.

A real break came in early 1994 when I received a letter from Mr. Chris Van Kerckhoven of Belgium. He outlined how he had researched several stories relating to the 69th Division and was curious to see if he could help in uncovering the remaining facts about Ricker's death. He also located Erwin Muller who was able to relate even more of the missing details. (Putze was living in the Metz home and heard Herr Metz talking to Ricker. Muller lived directly across the street. Muller's own father disappeared on the Russian Front.)

The priest who convinced Colonel McCormick that Ricker has initially survived the ambush was identified as Father Schumacher who died several years after the war. The owner of the home at which Ricker had stopped was Joseph Metz who also died many years ago. Father Schumacher had told McCormick the truth in February of 1945.

Ricker did receive a severe chest wound. While the bodies of the deceased members of his patrol were buried in a shallow, common grave, civilians took Ricker into the Metz home and provided medical care to the best of their ability. Despite their efforts, he rapidly lost ground only to die under their care some time later that night. They wrapped him in a mattress cover and pinned his dog tags to the outside. A grave was prepared in the backyard under an apple tree which stood only 20-30 feet from the house. With proper religious services, he was lowered into the grave which was then closed as a white cross was placed to mark the site. There he remained until July 1946.

FINAL RESTING SPOT

Since 1950, Ricker has lain within one mile of the Capitol building at Montpelier, Vermont. Motorists traveling north on I-89 through the Green Mountains always look to the north and up the valley to see the golden dome of the Capitol but few realize that the grave stone, seen in the back row of the nearby hillside cemetery, which has a Christmas wreath in the winter and flowers in the summer, is the final resting spot of 2nd Lt. William Ricker, combat soldier of the 69th Division who was Killed In Action exactly 50 years ago. He left a young widow with three children who grew up never knowing what happened to him, until now.



Chris Van Kerckhoven with his metal detector.

New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

- Joseph R. Ellis — Unit Unknown
2201 Primm Road, Charlotte, North Carolina 28216
- Vincent Romano — Company L, 271st Infantry
16 Piper Place, Old Bethpage, New York 11804
- Henry B. Jurkiewicz — Unit Unknown
954 56th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33703-2119
- Robert G. Hagberg — Company I, 273rd Infantry
440 W. Evelyn Avenue, Hazel Park, Michigan 48030-3109
- Claude Storey — Company I, 273rd Infantry
4316 Tolsom Lane, Knoxville, Tennessee 37521
- Edwin Murphy — Company G, 271st Infantry
3907 Westridge Meadows Circle
Clemmons, North Carolina 27012
- William D. Wooden — Company L, 272nd Infantry
1735 Wycliffe Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21234-6943
- Ray M. Leonard — Company A, 879th Field Artillery
1710 Nanticoke, New York 13760
- Harry L. Sokol — 1st Battalion, Headquarters, 271st Infantry
3632 Hayvenhurst Avenue, Encino, California 91436
- John H. Harvey — Company L, 273rd Infantry
3265 Park Chase Drive, Alpharetta, Georgia 39292
- Lawrence L. Gillen — Company K, 271st Infantry
38145 S. Mountain Site Drive, Tucson, Arizona 85737
- Oscar Morales — Company B, 271st Infantry
7122 North Loop, El Paso, Texas 79915
- James E. McCathern — Company I, 271st Infantry
400 Elm, Hereford, Texas 79045
- Bruno J. Stefanoni — AT Company, 272nd Infantry
98-05 63rd Road, Rego Park, New York 11374
- Robert L. Perry — AT Company, 272nd Infantry
251 Riggs Drive, Clemson, South Carolina 29631
- Marvin F. Gordon — Company G, 273rd Infantry
1053 Tanager Lane, Potomac, Maryland 20854
- Alexander Milne
190 Summer Street, Andover, Maryland 01810
- Bernard F. Citrenbaum — Company K, 271st Infantry
1004 Venice Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904
- George E. McDermott
24 Balch Avenue, Groveland, Massachusetts 01834

Sherman Lawrence sends “kudos” to Bulletin Staff

Sherman S. Lawrence, *Company B, 272nd Infantry*
1550 Avenue of the Americas, 26th Fl., New York, NY 10019

Dear Clarence:

It's been a long time since I welcomed you to a 69th reunion. I look at the bulletin and I realize that only one person was responsible for all this and one person responsible for the continuity of the 69th and that is you. With all kinds of reasons why, I have not been able to get to a 69th reunion I remember the many reunions we shared together.

May you be blessed with health and personal happiness. You above all have done a tremendous job and we who served in the 69th are grateful. I sent a donation to your Memorial Fund. I see many of my old friends still active and I will be a member for life and thanks to you, I am able to keep in touch through your bulletin.

Dear Bill and Jane (Matlach): (Our Treasurer)

With your picture staring me in the face from the bulletin I could not help but tell you, you both look wonderful and thanks to Clarence, I have been the recipient of every bulletin since I was there. Perhaps this year I will shock everyone and show up this October.

It was a personal pleasure to spend the time reading and to see that you are very active. I hope this coming year is a healthy and happy one for both of you. Enclosed please find my dues.

Dear Bud and Bill: (Edgar Bud Parsons and Bill Beswick)
On the Memorial Park Project

As someone who was very active in the 69th, I am really indebted to you who are carrying on so beautifully. Looking at the list of Past Presidents, I am the oldest surviving one, but I can assure you I feel young at heart and hope perhaps this year, since the reunion will be in October rather than in August, I can at least share the weekend with all of you.

Your project on the Memorial Park is a very well conceived one. I add my contribution and hope that it will be fully funded by the time you dedicate it.

Congratulations to all of you and I am proud of my buddy, Clarence Marshall, who was instrumental in taking this Association to the heights it is and his complete devotion from its inception.

AT COMPANY, 272nd INFANTRY

Sent by: Roy L. Bush
1321 Clayview Drive, Liberty, Missouri 64068-3410



Nashville Reunion: Ray Sansoucy, Roy Bush, Joe Huber, Frank Novak, Mel Shultz, Russell Koch, Russell Meinecke (of Company L.)



Back row: Ray Sansoucy, Ed Sarcione, Dallas Shelton, Roy Bush. Front Row: Janet Sansoucy, Laura Nell Shelton, Dolly Sarcione, Friend of Frank Hadden, Frank Hadden, Marge Bush

Submitted by: Allan F. Blackmar

Company D, 273rd Infantry

Church Street, POB 118, Pine Plains, New York 12567

I met Herman Harrington a number of years ago in our exchange of Legion business, but a year ago in Syracuse, New York at a Legion convention where I had a 69th pin on and was talking Legion business, he noted the pin and stated he was a 69er from Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 272nd Infantry. I am forwarding this article on what he is doing. A very profile job on behalf of Veterans. He is a Past Department Commander in the Department of New York (1972-73) and a very sought-after speaker.

* * * * *

Enola Gay script still missing target

The American Legion DISPATCH November 10, 1994

By Joe Stuteville, *Editor*

INDIANAPOLIS — "What is lacking in those responsible for writing this script is reality — and that is breaking the faith with the anguished voices of those still trapped in the hull of the *Arizona* at Pearl Harbor."

With those words, Herman G. Harrington of New York, seemed to sum up the sentiments of many American Legion leaders in response to the Smithsonian Institution's plans for a WWII exhibit at the National Air and Space Museum next May.

Harrington, who chairs the National Internal Affairs Commission, also represents the Legion voice on a project demanding that the controversial exhibit is historically accurate and void of political balance. His remarks were made before the National Executive Committee meeting October 19th-20th, at National Headquarters.

"What I would like to do is to augment my written report with a more personal presentation," Harrington said. "What I wish to say to the Smithsonian about this controversy is that the controversy profoundly affects the WWII generation and should serve as a warning to all Americans."

The controversy has been detailed in a series of articles appearing in the *DISPATCH* and other publications around the country. The Legion became involved last summer when it learned that curators had written a script for the exhibit — which also includes the display of the fuselage section of the *Enola Gay* — which downplayed Japanese aggression in the Far East and portrayed the decision to use atomic weapons as unnecessary and racially motivated.

Harrington, who saw combat in Europe as an Army infantryman, was slated for transfer to the Pacific theater for the planned invasion of the Japanese islands. The mission over Hiroshima hits close to home with Harrington.

"It saved my life," he said, a view shared by many WWII veterans.

"The *Enola Gay* and inevitably all WWII veterans have been used - prostituted - to make a political statement about the horrors of atomic warfare," Harrington said in an emotion-packed moment.

"The Smithsonian's mistake was including WWII veterans. It was a mistake to surgically display the *Enola Gay*, which ended the bloodiest event on this planet."

The NEC responded by unanimously adopting Res. 26, empowering the National Commander to determine the final position of The American Legion on the exhibit, *The Last Act: The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II*. That resolution was among the 35 adopted by the NEC during its two-day meeting.

That mandate followed on the heels of Res. 390, adopted by delegates to the 76th National Convention meeting in Minneapolis last September, which authorized the Legion to offer its assistance to the Smithsonian in suggesting ways to make the exhibit more accurate.

National Commander William Detweiler, Harrington, and Hubert R. Dagley II, director of the National Internal Affairs Division who has provided staff support in working with the Smithsonian met with Smithsonian Undersecretary Constance Newman and NASM Director Martin Harwit at National Headquarters during the meeting. The group had conducted exhaustive meetings in Washington in late September and last month and the Smithsonian has agreed to several changes in the script.

"We still oppose language in the script that questions the morality of President Truman's decision to use the atomic bomb to end that bloody war," Detweiler said moments before entering the meeting with Newman, Harwit and curators.

They seemed to totally forget what American men went through during the war when writing the script and seemed to ignore how we suffered and died for all those years.

"The American Legion is not going to allow the honor of World War II veterans to be dishonored."

Meanwhile, curators have gone back to the drawing board for a sixth revision of the script, which, at press time, Legion officials were waiting for a chance to review.

A news crew from the Japanese national television station NHK, shadowed Detweiler and several Legionnaire WWII veterans during the NEC meeting as part of a documentary on the museum display.

News crews from *Nightline* and the *MacNeil-Lehrer Newshour*, also were on hand for the meeting and interviews with Detweiler, Harrington, and other Legion leaders.

Detweiler, who appeared with Smithsonian Secretary Michael Heyman in the *Nightline* interview, emphasized the Legion's sole interest in the exhibit was to ensure accuracy and avoid judging the morality of using the bomb. The Legion is expected to announce its position on the exhibit in late February.

The Smithsonian exhibit proposal also would display artifacts loaned by Hiroshima and Nagasaki museums. But that plan might be scrapped, too, according to reports from Japan. Museum officials have said they may not loan the artifacts - including a schoolboy's jacket, metal crumpled by shock waves and a broken wall clock - because revised Smithsonian scripts do not meet the museum's criteria for participating in the exhibit.

In an interview with the *DISPATCH* (October 20th edition), Harwit said the exhibit would include two-minute video messages from the mayors of both Japanese cities.

In his opening remarks to the NEC, the National Commander encouraged all Legionnaires to promote Legion programs outside Post meeting halls.

"It's important to pass along information about our programs internally, but we also must get out and talk to other groups about who we are and what we do. This is the most important and effective way of signing up new members," Detweiler said.

Meanwhile, the NEC tackled a variety of other issues of concern to the Legion and acted upon the reports and resolutions of the organization's various standings.

Herman Harrington's address is:

22 Clinton Street, Rensselaer, New York 12144

Telephone: 518/449-2166

He is Chairman of the Internal Affairs Commission of the American Legion

Survivor of 1st V-2 bombing recalls his terror

Sent by: Lester Hart

Battery C, 881st Field Artillery

7916 North Hayes Road, Williamsfield, Ohio 44093

THE PLAIN DEALER Tuesday, September 6, 1994

By Lou Mio, *Plain Dealer Reporter*

AVON LAKE — Peter Lloyd was a happy 12-year-old. He was back home.

His family had been living in a small, rented apartment in Windsor about 30 miles from London, England, to avoid Germany's newest weapon, the V-1 pilotless flying bombs. They resembled a small aircraft and were nicknamed "buzz bombs" because of a droning jet engine.

In September 1944, Lloyd's father decided they should return to Barnes, a suburb southwest of London.

"The buzz bombs had stopped a few days before," said Lloyd, 62, of Avon Lake. "There hadn't been any air raids for some time. Things were going well in Northern France (after the invasion on June 6), and he decided it was time to go home. So we did."

On September 8th, Lloyd and his parents returned to their home, built just before the start of World War II. It was battered, but still standing. One corner of the roof had been lifted out of place by a bomb blast that had destroyed a neighbor's home early in the war.

"In that explosion, all were killed, two parents and two kids," Lloyd said.

Lloyd recalled what happened to the neighbor's home in an account he wrote recently about his memories of the war years.

"I remembered ... our thick concrete underground shelter and how it had seemed to lift up and be slammed back into the ground as the flash explosion and blast turned our quiet back yard into a hell on Earth. For years after, we would find their cutlery and small ornaments as we dug our vegetable garden.

"But for today, (Sept. 8) we were the lucky ones. We had survived, and so had our home. We headed straight for the kitchen ... and my father went outside again to turn on the water and gas mains so that we could make the first pot of tea. We sat around the kitchen table and just grinned at each other like idiots, not being able to find words sufficient to match the intensity or our feelings on being home again, and together."

Then their tranquil homecoming exploded.

"The house shook, crockery clinked on the shelves, the windows rattled," Lloyd wrote.

After five years of war, the youngster could tell by the sound if the Germans were dropping high-explosive, delayed-action or incendiary bombs. And he knew this was not a buzz bomb, which was powered by a pulse-jet engine that cut out a second or two before the bomb fell to earth.

"This explosion was unique," Lloyd wrote. "We could tell it was caused by a lot of explosive - about the same as a buzz bomb. But this noise was like two explosions at the same time, and continuing long after was another noise, an ear-shattering rumble that one could almost feel, which slowly died away until it sounded like distant thunder. There had never been anything like it."

He was right. Fifty years ago, Germany hurled its latest *Vergeltungswaffe* (reprisal weapon) against England, ushering in the era of long-range ballistic missiles.

Chiswick, just across the Thames River from the Lloyd home, was the first English city hit by the V-2, a liquid-fuel rocket aimed at London.

England could defend itself against buzz bombs, which killed 6,184 people. The Royal Air Force shot down 1,771 V-1s between June 13th and September 5th, 1944. Others were destroyed by anti-aircraft fire.

But there was no defense against the V-2, a forerunner of the post-war intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). The 46-foot-long V-2s packed a 2,145-pound warhead. Many were fired from mobile units a couple of hundred miles away. In a few minutes, they rose to an altitude of about six miles and reached a speed of more than 3,000 mph.

No one knew this on September 8th, 1944.

"Almost before the house stopped shaking, my father yelled, 'Out!'" Lloyd wrote. "We grabbed what we could, ran to the car and within minutes were on our way back to Windsor."

Several hundred miles away in Northern Germany, Walter Hecker was an 18-year-old pilot trainee for the Luftwaffe. He could have told Peter Lloyd what had happened. In 1944, Hecker served for three months in a chemical laboratory in a research facility named Pennemunde on the Baltic Sea.

It was there that German rocket scientists, led by Werner Von Braun, developed and tested the V-2. It was an eye-popping assignment for Hecker, who loved science fiction but had no idea his country was building rockets.

"I saw the first V-2 being launched," said Hecker, 68, of Willoughby Hills. "I was tremendously impressed. There was such a roar. I couldn't imagine something like this could be built."

He watched a test firing from about six miles away. Hecker, an electronics engineer who has been in America for 32 years, left Pennemunde before the first V-2 was launched against England.

After that first missile hit England, British officials told the public that a gas main had exploded.

"No one believed it," Peter Lloyd wrote. "As days went by, more and more 'gas mains' started blowing up all over London - all with the same peculiar sound. Eventually, the government had to admit: London was being bombarded by a new German secret weapon, the V-2."

The "peculiar sound" was caused by the rocket's supersonic speed, Lloyd wrote. Anyone near the target heard the explosion first, followed by the roar of descent and the rumbling of the V-2 re-entering the atmosphere.

Yvonne Kent of Middleburg Heights remembers that sound.

"You never forget it," said Kent who joined the RAF at 17 and later served with the American Red Cross. "It's in your brain somewhere, permanently."

"The V-1 was a flying bomb you could hear and see," said Kent, 70. "The V-2 ... made no noise whatsoever until it hit something and exploded. If you heard it, you knew it had already exploded someplace else, so it wasn't really going to get you."

The rocket campaign against London killed almost 3,000 people and seriously injured more than 6,000. Other rockets were launched against Brussels, Paris and Antwerp, a key Belgian port for the Allies. About 6,000 V-2s were produced. The last was fired March 27, 1945, less than two months before Germany surrendered.

Fortunately, the missile's accuracy was bad.

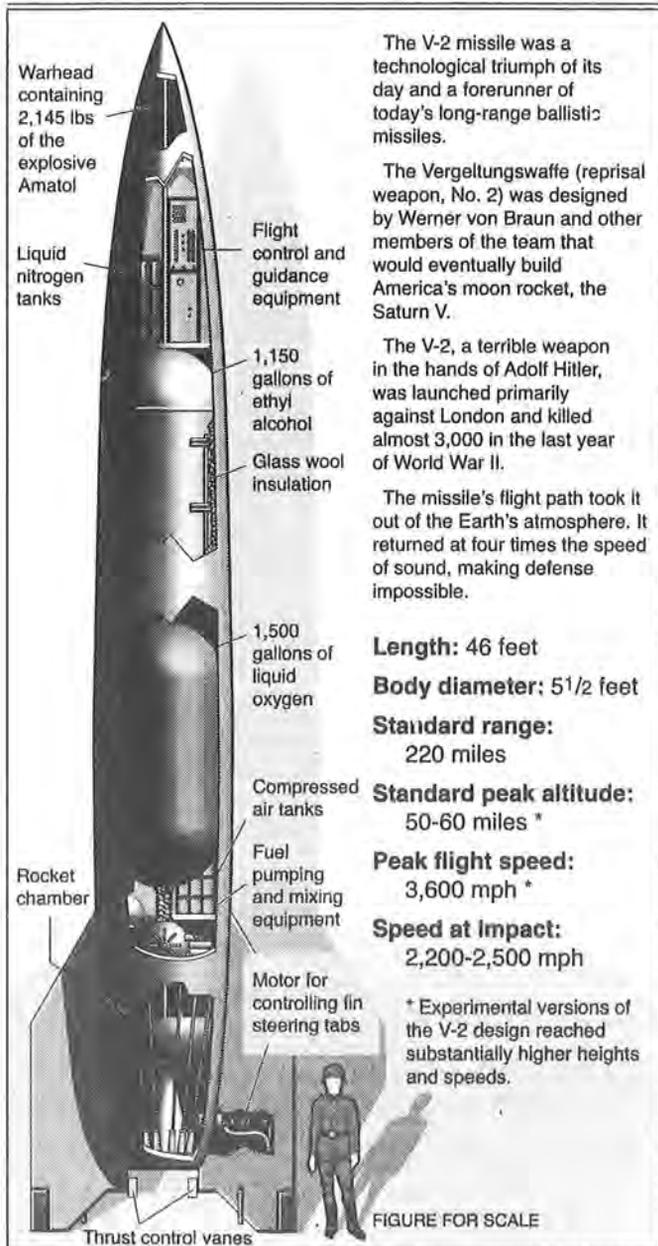
(Continued on Page 21)

SURVIVOR OF 1st V-2 BOMBING RECALLS TERROR
(Continued from Page 20)

"The V-2 had a very crude guidance system which only operated while the rocket engine was burning, and so would land anywhere within about 30 miles of its target," Lloyd wrote. "Every V-2 landed like the first one, suddenly, completely unexpectedly, at any time of the day or night, during a busy rush hour or on a quiet Sunday morning." They were designed to terrorize London, the main target. But Lloyd doesn't think the tactic worked.

"Londoners had been through so much over the previous five years that it would have taken hundreds of V-2s a day to shake their morale," he wrote. "The new factor they had to learn to deal with was the random surprise." And, Lloyd wrote, there was another death count in addition to the British civilians. That was the 20,000 or so slave laborers who died building the V-2s in underground construction sites.

He concluded: "This ghastly terror weapon was (further) developed after the war in the U.S.A. and in Russia, and was the precursor of the Saturn V rockets which took Americans to the moon. Little did I realize, that very happy afternoon in our kitchen, that the Space Age was about to touch my life for the first time."



The V-2 missile was a technological triumph of its day and a forerunner of today's long-range ballistic missiles.

The Vergeltungswaffe (reprisal weapon, No. 2) was designed by Werner von Braun and other members of the team that would eventually build America's moon rocket, the Saturn V.

The V-2, a terrible weapon in the hands of Adolf Hitler, was launched primarily against London and killed almost 3,000 in the last year of World War II.

The missile's flight path took it out of the Earth's atmosphere. It returned at four times the speed of sound, making defense impossible.

- Length:** 46 feet
- Body diameter:** 5 1/2 feet
- Standard range:** 220 miles
- Standard peak altitude:** 50-60 miles *
- Peak flight speed:** 3,600 mph *
- Speed at impact:** 2,200-2,500 mph

* Experimental versions of the V-2 design reached substantially higher heights and speeds.

Germany's Tribute To the First Division

Sent by: David F. Himebaugh

Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 273rd Infantry

In looking through my Dad's things, I came across this letter he had kept all these years from his World War I days.

He was in the 18th Infantry, 1st Division, and served two years coming out as a Sergeant. He received a Purple Heart and Silver Star, both with an Oak Leaf Cluster on them.

I thought maybe some of you would be interested in this draft.

Headquarters 1st Division
 American E.F.
 October 10, 1918

Germany's Tribute to the First Division

Today a captured colonel of the German army arrived at our Division Cage. He was cold, hungry and broken in spirit. After four years of severe fighting and constant service to the army, he was taken prisoner by the troops of the victorious First Division.

The following is the substance of his remarks:

Yesterday, I received orders to hold the ground at all costs. The American barrage advanced towards my position and the work of your artillery was marvelous. The barrage was so dense that it was impossible for us to move out of our dugouts. Following this barrage closely were the troops of the First Division. I saw them forge ahead and knew that all was lost. All night I remained in my dugout, hoping vainly that something would happen that would permit me to rejoin my army. This morning your troops found me and here I am, after four years of fighting, a prisoner.

Yesterday I knew that the First Division was opposite us, I knew that we would have to put up the hardest fight of the war. The First Division is wonderful, and the German army knows it. We did not believe that within five years the Americans could develop a division such as the First Division. The work of its infantry and artillery is worthy of the best armies in the world.

* * * * *

The above tribute to the First Division comes from one of Germany's seasoned field officers. It is with great pleasure that we learn that even our enemies recognize the courage, valor and efficiency of our troops. The work done by the First Division during the past few days will go down in history as one of those memorable events which will live in the hearts of the American people for generations to come.

Every member of this command well deserves the enthusiastic congratulations from, and the high respect in which it is held by our comrades in arms and by the entire American Nation.

The above will be published to every member of this command.

By command of Major Summerall
 THOS. R. GOWENLOCK
 Captain, Infantry, U.S.A.
 A.G. of S., G-2.

1995 69th Division Reunion
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
October 22nd thru 29th, 1995
PLEASE TRY TO MAKE IT!!

Company B, 2nd Platoon, 271st Infantry Regiment

Sent by: Orvis Davis, R.R. #4, Box 216, Keyser, West Virginia 26726

I was glad to see my name in your bulletin of New Men Relocated. I was unaware of the 69th Infantry Association. I was a member of the 69th, 271st Infantry Regiment, Company B. I joined the 69th in France in 1945. I was with the 69th until it was disbanded in or around July 1945. In the photo I am in the third row from the bottom and third from left in the photograph. I was 19 years of age the day after this photo was taken. This photo was taken the 20th day of June 1945 in a town called Langerhstadt, Germany. I would appreciate hearing from anyone that was in the photograph.



If you were born before 1945

WE ARE SURVIVORS! Consider the changes we have witnessed. We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees and the PILL. We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens, before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be? In our time closets were for clothes, not for 'coming out of.' Bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens. Designer Jeans were scheming girls named Jean or Jeanne, and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along well with our cousins. We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent and Outer Space was the back of the Riviera Theatre.

We were before house-husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. We were before day-care centers, group therapy, and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt, and guys wearing earrings. For us time sharing means togetherness - not computers or condominiums, a 'chip' meant a piece of wood, hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word. In 1940 'made in

Japan' meant junk and the term 'making out' referred to how you did on your exam. Pizza, MacDonaldis, and instant coffee were unheard of.

We hit the scene when there were 5 & 10 stores, where you bought things for five and ten cents. Saunders and Wilson's sold ice cream cones for a nickle or a dime. For one nickle you could ride a street car, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi, or enough stamps to mail one letter or two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600.00 but who could afford one. A pity too, because gas was 11¢ a gallon!

In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, GRASS was mowed, COKE was a cold drink, and POT was something you cooked in. ROCK MUSIC was a Grandma's lullaby, and AIDS were helpers in the Principal's office. We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but we were surely before the sex change. We made do with what we had. And we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby!

No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap today. BUT WE SURVIVED!! WHAT BETTER REASON TO CELEBRATE?

Submitted by: Mr. John J. Moriarty
P.O. Box 393, Holden, Massachusetts 01520

50th Anniversary Celebrations to be held in Kansas City Missouri

Submitted by: Ralph Utermoehlen
2221 Stonepost Road, Manhattan, Kansas 66502-3538

I just found out the preliminary schedule of the Department of Defense and the Eisenhower Center's Commemorative Committees only official U.S.A.'s V.E. Day Commemoration Event to be held in Kansas City, Missouri, which is handy for 69ers or any other veterans to reach.

Since we were the link-up unit, I feel our members should be aware of this event.

Any 69er who is interested in a get-together while there, I would be glad to make some arrangements for such if you would write me the details of where you plan to stay while there. The 800 number is for the National V.F.W. office which is located in Kansas City. It is my understanding that they are handling the accommodations.

The other event which is a last chance for 69ers to be recognized and have fun is the Eisenhower's Homecoming event. If any of you members want to be a part of this event, write to me and I will put together a 2 or 3 day gathering of that time which will include a free tour of the Eisenhower Center, Fort Riley's Modern Infantry Training Center plus the Combat Air Museum in nearby Topeka, Kansas and other activities, that might be of interest to old soldiers here in the plains of Kansas.

50th Anniversary Commemoration May 5th-7th, 1995 Kansas City, Missouri

Department of Defense
50th Anniversary of World War II
Commemorative Committee has identified
Kansas City, Missouri as an official
V-E Day (Victory in Europe) Anniversary site.

For those of you who will still be interested at this late date, there are many things happening and this will prove to be a big event. There will be many displays of military items, World War II film festivals, car displays, military aircraft flyovers, Avenue of Flags display, WW II reenactment camps, military vehicle displays, memorial services, patriotic concert and veterans tribute, and many things just too numerous to mention over this three-day period.

For further information call:
1-800-767-7700

* * * * *

Parade to Commemorate Eisenhower's 1945 Homecoming August 21st, 1995

The parade to commemorate Eisenhower's 1945 Homecoming will be held in conjunction with the annual Central Kansas Fair parade on August 21, 1995. The parade begins at 4:00 p.m., but assembly will be about two hours prior to the parade, etc., but we will have that information in a few weeks.

We would like all members of the 69th possible to be with us, and you can either march (walk) in the parade, or we will furnish a flatbed truck to ride on. We will also make some

identification banners for the 69th so the people will know who we are.

There will be floats representative of the 1945 parade, 1st Infantry Division units, the 1st Division Band, WWII vehicles and many special guests. There will also be the normal parade which is quite large. There will be a reviewing stand for "Ike" and we believe the governor will be here as well.

As I mentioned in my letter, please write to me at the address in the left column, and if you want, we can put together a mini-reunion of anyone who is interested in attending.

Ralph Utermoehlen

69th Division Meeting the Russians at the Elbe

Submitted by: Art Pfeifer
Company A, 273rd Infantry
Box 566, Otis, Massachusetts 01253



Left, Lieutenant W. Robertson shaking hands with Sub-Lieutenant Tamarov. In the right rear is Sergeant Art H. Pfeifer. The date was April 29th, 1945.

- SICK CALL -

We have been informed by Marth Harwood, that her husband **Jim Harwood** of Division Headquarters is now in a nursing home after serious heart surgery. Anyone who would like to write to him, it would be much appreciated by both he and his wife. His address is:

James K. Harwood, Sr.
Vermont Veterans Home
325 North Street
Bennington, Vermont 05201

Attendees by State at the 1994 Nashville, Tennessee Reunion

STATE	MEMBERS	ATTENDANCE
Pennsylvania	51	99
Florida	32	63
Tennessee	29	60
Ohio	29	58
New York	26	47
California	21	39
New Jersey	21	38
Virginia	17	32
Illinois	16	31
Wisconsin	14	28
Georgia	12	27
Texas	14	24
North Carolina	12	25
Michigan	11	20
Maryland	10	22
Missouri	9	22
Indiana	9	20
Massachusetts	9	15
Colorado	7	16
Connecticut	7	13
Alabama	6	12
Arkansas	6	12
Arizona	5	10
Iowa	5	9
Louisiana	5	8
West Virginia	4	9
Washington	4	8
Nebraska	4	8
Oklahoma	4	6
Montana	3	6
Kansas	3	6
Minnesota	3	6
Kentucky	3	5
South Carolina	2	6
Rhode Island	2	4
New Hampshire	2	4
Mississippi	2	3
Idaho	1	2
Vermont	1	2
Oregon	1	2
Washington, D.C.	1	1
TOTAL	422	828
First Time Attendees	64	99
East of Mississippi	327	644
West of Mississippi	95	184

ATTENDANCE AT TOURS AND ACTIVITIES

Player's Riverboat Casino	115
Jack Daniel's Distillery	72
Half Day Sightseeing Tour	62
Historic Nashville Tour	232
Country Music Tour	226
Opryland Theme Park	134
Grand Ole Opry	579
PX Beer Party	364
Early Bird Buffet	375
Banquet-Dinner Dance	694
Farewell Breakfast	293

1994 Reunion Attendees Nashville, Tennessee

The following is the list of attendees at the 1994 Reunion in Rochester including Members, Wives and Guests. If your name does not appear it is because you failed to fill out a registration form during your visit.

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

69th DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Fred Avery Virginia
 Archie Brook Virginia
Guest: Vivian Brooke Bailey
 Eugene and Norma Butterfield Ohio
 Walter Doernbach, Sr. New Jersey
Guest: Walter Doernbach, Jr.
 Dutch and Jeanne Hawn Colorado
 George Loikow Virginia
 *Louie Rodgers Tennessee
 Dr. Sumner Russman Oklahoma
 Joe and Eleanor Wright Missouri

69th MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

Carl and Ruth Miller Ohio
 John Moriarty Massachusetts
 Frank and Helen Williams Pennsylvania

69th QUARTERMASTER

Warren Alford Louisiana
 Keith and Mary Mower California

269th ENGINEERS

Ernest and Mary Krause Illinois
 Frank and Stefania Nemeth Pennsylvania
 Ward and Marian Peterson Pennsylvania
 Samuel and Gloria Pharr Tennessee
 William Riggle, Sr. Indiana
Guest: William Riggle, Jr.
 Albert and Helen Winchester Pennsylvania
 Robert and Faye Winslow Florida

369th MEDICAL BATTALION

Ralph and Janice Pinion Missouri
 Marvin and June Slichter Pennsylvania

569th SIGNAL COMPANY

Robert and Margaret Ambrose New Jersey
 Ruth Combs Georgia
Guests: Carolyn Lee, Louise Disharoon
 Adolph and Madelyn Eichhammer Florida
 Frank and Jerry Fisher Indiana
 George Hepp New York
 Edmus Hoskins Texas
 John and Jean Kastanakis Alabama
 Joseph and Marlen Kotsko Ohio
 Kenneth and Hester Manning West Virginia
 Seymour and Doris Nash New Jersey
 Curt and Evelyn Peterson Wisconsin
 Donald and Lois Pierce Pennsylvania
 Margie Redmond West Virginia
 *Raymond and Betty Smith Maryland
 Carl and Mildred Stetler Pennsylvania
 Herbert and Lola Wheeler Florida
 Jack and Freda Wilhoit Florida

(Continued on Page 25)

1994 REUNION ATTENDEES
 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
 (Continued from Page 24)

769th ORDNANCE COMPANY

Oran and Ruth Jones Alabama

271st INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

John Barrette Wisconsin
 John and Barbara Davis Pennsylvania
 Ray and Bertha Jones Pennsylvania
 Edwin and Sue Lanford Tennessee
 Lee Wah New Jersey

COMPANY A

Allan and Bobbie Gwynne California
 Delbert and Donna Philpott California
 George and Rita Wolff South Carolina
Guests: William and Leslye Bowman
 Emil and Elena Zerenga New York

COMPANY B

Lumir and Patsy Bocek Nebraska
 Martin and Rogene Boul Florida
 Ken and Dorothy Curran Florida
 Phil and Ruth Delphey Pennsylvania
 *Roger and Theresa Dupre Connecticut
 Thomas and Lorraine Hancock Illinois
Guests: Chip and Sue Ann Kostkamp
 Earl and Millie Hansen Tennessee
*Guests: Ernest and Lauretta Pate,
 Ralph, Paula and Jessica Hill*

Charles and Peggy Mabe Pennsylvania
 *Glenn Markham Texas
Guests: Don and Frankie Markham
 *Elmer and Dorothea Miller Georgia
 Harold and Cynthia Moore Tennessee
Guests: Marietta Ledbetter, Judy Allen
 Charles and Bobbie Nicely Pennsylvania
 William Noone Pennsylvania
 Orrie Pullen Michigan
 Ken and Lillian Upton Louisiana
 Charles and Patricia Walsh Connecticut
 James and Barbara Walsh Connecticut
 Wayne Weygandt Illinois
Guest: Thora Miller
 James and Dorothy White Tennessee

COMPANY C

Neal Crowley Florida
 *Donald Daley Ohio
 *James and Della Richmond Texas

COMPANY D

John and Jean Butkovich Washington
 Frederick and Ann Collet Michigan
 John and Shirley Fleming Pennsylvania
 Marty and Edythe Miller Colorado

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2nd BATTALION

Donald Connelly Arizona

COMPANY E

Elmer and Erma Broneske Colorado
 Bob and Betty Dimmick Georgia
 Robert and Julia Hosea Colorado
 Joe and Janet Kurt Iowa
 Thomas Maupin Virginia
 William and Catherine McCall New Jersey

Charles and Kathy Moore Ohio
 Bing Poon Washington, D.C.
 Paul and Marian Shadle Pennsylvania

COMPANY F

Cecil and Alene Cottle Ohio
 Ash and Arlene Fuller Pennsylvania
 *Thomas and Pat Gitchell Arkansas

COMPANY G

Clif and Pauline Barbieri Virginia
Guests: Lisa Barbieri, Robert Hamilton
 *Arnold and Jean Curtis Tennessee
 Garland and Martha Gable Arizona
 Clarence and Lena Goon Ohio
 Scott and Ann Gresham Virginia
 Nathan Green New York
 Zane and Zelma Grey Arkansas
 *N.C. Harrison Tennessee
Guest: Loudine Thompson
 Glenn and Nadine Hunnicutt Nebraska
 Clarence and Shirley Jensen New York
 Lucious and Lewis Mae Murphree Mississippi
 Emery and Pat Nagy Tennessee
 Ralph and Josephine Plugge Illinois
 David and Mary Kay Scatena Pennsylvania

COMPANY H

John and Helen Hayes Florida
HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION
 Charles and Norma Woolery Arkansas

COMPANY I

Douglas and Nathalie Buckstad North Carolina
 Richard and Jane Haines Massachusetts
 Jack and Geneva Harrison Texas
 *William Jackson Indiana
 Harold and Lou Jones Tennessee
 *Robert and Phyllis Jorgenson Wisconsin
 Hy and Mae Rita Kurfirst New York
 *Robert and Carol McMillan Ohio
 Joe and Virginia McMurry Tennessee
Guests: Erving and Evelyn Anderson
 Eugene and Mary Lou O'Leary Pennsylvania
 *A. Leigh and Mae Tenney Arkansas
 *Dale and Peg Thompson Florida
 *Harris and Hazel Timmer Michigan
 Ralph and Doris Utermoehlen Kansas
 George Vlad New York
 *Frank Warther New Jersey

COMPANY K

Robert and Irene Bishop Massachusetts
 Herb and Pauline Pickett Arizona
 Worley and Mae Smith Michigan
Guest: Connie Brough

COMPANY L

Robert and Wanda Grimm Ohio

COMPANY M

*Walter and Dorothy Haney Tennessee
 Bill and Reba Sheavly Maryland
 James and Mary Nelle Shoemaker Florida
 James and Dottie Stacy California
 Henry Thomas Florida
 *Lloyd Whiteley Texas

(Continued on Page 26)

1994 REUNION ATTENDEES

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

(Continued from Page 25)

271st INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

- Edgar Biles Arizona
- Arthur and Nancy Holgate New Jersey
- *Joe Huber Wisconsin
- George and Lina West Pennsylvania
- George and Virginia Weston New Jersey
- James and Betty Yagle Florida

CANNON COMPANY

- Alfred Blain Massachusetts
- Harold and Nancy Faulkner California
- Guest: Harold Faulkner III

SERVICE COMPANY

- Leroy and Maria Keller Virginia

272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

- *Vernon and Margaret Hutton, Jr. Tennessee
- Joe and Anne Lipsius Georgia

COMPANY A

- Jim and Mary Battin California
- *Domenic Dezio Michigan
- Sanford and Nancy Firsichbaum New Jersey
- Ray and Eileen Olson Ohio
- Bud and Frances Parsons North Carolina
- Guy and Pauline Steele Missouri
- Guests: George, Gene, Glenn and Michelle Steele
- Allen Whitehead Tennessee
- Guest: Dave Whitehead

COMPANY B

- Crandon and Jane Clark New Jersey
- Nicholas and Kathryn Giannone New York
- Richard and Gerry Hadley Colorado
- William and Jeanne Higgins Nebraska
- *Vincent and Rosemarie Mazza Maryland
- Leo and Margaret Moore Ohio
- *Robert Tarr Florida

COMPANY C

- F.J. and Jane Seeba Georgia
- Charlie Weaver Ohio

COMPANY D

- John and Joan Mason California

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION

- Bret and Betty Everson New York
- Guests: Gordon and Sue Church,
Robert and Deanna Retzliff
- David and June Wittman Montana

COMPANY E

- Fred and Mavis Butenhoff Wisconsin
- Charles and Glenna Pierson Florida
- Roger and Ruth West Michigan
- Chet and Barbara Yastrzemski New York

COMPANY F

- Norman and Dorothy Allen Wisconsin
- Guests: Margo Horan, Sandra Ballinger
- Herb Callaway Texas
- Ray and Ruth Clement Rhode Island
- Joseph and Anne Nunes Rhode Island

- Donald and Mary Jane Rettman Florida
- Neil Shields Pennsylvania
- Guest: Lillian Jones
- David and Jeanne Theobald California
- Edward and Elaine Wade Kentucky
- Guest: Zenba Harris
- Melvin and Louise Wardin Michigan

COMPANY G

- Anees and Barbara Barakat Pennsylvania
- Clarence Burke Pennsylvania
- Fredda Carter Texas
- Guest: Kay White
- Will Frazee Ohio
- Clement Hudacek Missouri
- Ray Lehman Iowa
- *John Worman Ohio
- Guest: Alma Jowett

COMPANY H

- Hollis and Audrey Durant New Hampshire
- Leonard Stahl Pennsylvania

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION

- James and Jane Berry Tennessee
- *Wade and Marcia Drysdale Washington
- John and Florence Walters Michigan

COMPANY I

- Reggie and Dorothy Bailey Tennessee
- John Duespohl Pennsylvania
- Adrian and Marion Eckhardt New Jersey
- Bill and Dolly Edge Maryland
- Guests: Charles and Joeline Moore
- *Fred Fiedler Wisconsin
- Wendell and Sally Freeman Georgia
- Forrest and Marilyn Frentress Colorado
- Dennie and Elsie Haltiwanger Florida
- Dewey and Irene Hardin Missouri
- Robert and Vivian Kurtzman Ohio
- *Jerome and Willia Mae Love North Carolina
- Pat and Janice Lushbaugh Maryland
- Edward McDonnell New York
- *Joe and Mildred Martin Georgia
- Thomas and Jeanne Reardon Pennsylvania
- Guest: Jane Walker
- Harold and Ethel Ruck Tennessee
- Eugene and Ada Wilson Virginia
- Thomas Yelcich Michigan

COMPANY L

- *Thomas Clews Oklahoma
- Russell and Rosanna Meineke Missouri
- Guest: Winnie Hoskins
- John and Elizabeth Nelson New Jersey
- Bernard and Edith Zaffern Michigan
- Kenneth and Marcella Ziems Virginia

COMPANY M

- Lido and Louise DalPorto West Virginia
- *George and Genevieve Golias New Jersey
- Harold and Aldora Gonsalves California
- Norville and Myrtle Kendrick Florida
- Floyd McCalip Mississippi
- Joseph and Katheryn Makosky Pennsylvania
- Thomas and Wilma Moore Tennessee
- Carl and Dorothy Rapp Florida
- Warren and Kathryn Roberts Ohio
- Richard and Claire Sodorff Idaho
- Ray and Alice Wolthoff Florida

(Continued on Page 27)

1994 REUNION ATTENDEES
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
(Continued from Page 26)

272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

Roy and Marjorie Bush Missouri
Frank Hadden, Jr. Georgia
*Joe Huber Wisconsin
Russell and Betty Koch Missouri
*Frank Novac Connecticut
Raymond and Janet Sansoucy Massachusetts
Edward and Dolores Sarcione New York
*Mel Schultz Ohio
*Dallas and Laura Shelton Illinois

CANNON COMPANY

Ralph and Ursula Goebel Minnesota
Frank and Blanche Sniadecki Indiana
*Charles and Elyne Syers Alabama
*Charles and Mary Wentz North Carolina

272nd MEDICS

Jack and Barbara Theisen, Jr. Minnesota

SERVICE COMPANY

Heywood and Helen Dedman Alabama

273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Norman and Kay Barratt California
*Donald and Verabell Boyd Virginia
Bennie Foy North Carolina
Guest: Ralph Mash
Norm and Juanita Pickford Illinois

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1st BATTALION

Roy and Sara Gilstrap Georgia
John and Janet Havey Arizona
Guests: Anna Havey, Mary and Tom Herthel
Davis and Lois Himebaugh Washington
Ralph and Cecelia Scholtz Florida
Art and Barbara Seidenstricker Pennsylvania

COMPANY A

James and Mary Carroll Texas
James and Allamae Ezell Arkansas
Ray Fahrner Pennsylvania
*Wilbert and Rosemary Haas Iowa
Charles and Kathryn Hammond Nebraska
Edward Lucci New York
George O'Bryan California
Guest: Delores Spratt
Arthur and Dorothy Pfeifer Massachusetts
Pierce Rice Virginia
Robert and Jean Rosane Vermont
Bennie and Marcell Srubar Texas

COMPANY B

Arthur and Billie Hall Oregon
Glen and Jean Knepp Pennsylvania
Eugene and Marilyn Mischke Illinois
Leo and Margaret Moore Ohio
Bob and Lynn Peason New Jersey
Leo Wrightshouse Kentucky

COMPANY C

Stanley and Gloria Czyzyk New York
Elijah and Joan Dalrymple Indiana
Kent O'Kelly North Carolina
*Richard and Patricia Roberts Florida
Guests: Geoffrey Roberts, Kim Aldrich

COMPANY D

Arthur Ayres Pennsylvania
Allan and Mary Blackmar New York
Ed and Mary Case Pennsylvania
*Harry and Alberta Chandler Washington
George and Barbara Johnson Virginia
Robert and Betty Jo McCarty Louisiana
Vivian and Bonnie Motley Texas
John and Helen Optl Illinois
Kenneth Sawyer Florida
Guest: Fran Collard
*Winifred (Wimpy) Smith Texas
Lew and Mary Tenney Indiana

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2nd BATTALION

Samuel and Ethel Johnson California
Victor and Olga Ostrow Maryland
*William and Helene Studenic Florida

COMPANY E

*William Alldredge Tennessee
Joseph and Virginia Aiello New York
Robert and Doris Bumbara New Jersey
Robert Crowe Massachusetts
Arthur and Marian Hume Michigan
William and Jane Matlach New York
Harold and Peggy Sprang Ohio
Earl and Dorothy Witzleb Pennsylvania

COMPANY F

Gilbert and Marion Clark Pennsylvania
Jack and Marjorie Fain Florida
Thomas and Jean Graves North Carolina
Walt and Shirley Harpain California
Richard and Dottie Israel Virginia
Frederic and Mary Ellen Scherer New Jersey
*Sam and Elizabeth Warren Arizona
Samuel and Anne Woolf New York

COMPANY G

June Ainley Indiana
Guests: Ron Reagan, Leslie Ann Ainley
Alfred and Elizabeth Aronson New Jersey
Willard and Dorris Beecher Florida
Raymond Hotter Illinois
*Jim and Betty Kane Pennsylvania
*Howard Klopp Pennsylvania
Joe and Diane Panganiban California
Orville and Beulah Schultz California
Edson and Tory Stagg New Jersey

COMPANY H

Robert and Roberta Andrew Pennsylvania
*Joe Bell Florida
Bert and Rhoda Eckert New York
Harold and Gladys Ellison North Carolina
Robert and Maxine Haag Indiana
*Carl and Bernice Hansen California
Thomas Hoffman Florida
Leland and Lola Jones Kansas
Howard and Jane Keyser Pennsylvania
Charles and Agnes Leskus Pennsylvania
Charles and Doris Locke New Jersey
Anthony and Elizabeth Mruk New York
E.R. and Jacqueline Sams North Carolina
Murry and Helene Schulman New York

(Continued on Page 28)

1994 REUNION ATTENDEES

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

(Continued from Page 27)

273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION

Marvin and Miriam Freeman Connecticut
Joseph and Caroline Gawek North Carolina

Guests: Bob and Susan Sweeney

Sidney and Thadda Groom Oklahoma

*Wallace Hall Indiana

Guest: Larry Hall

Charles and Patricia Hoffman Florida

David and Miriam Malchick New York

John and Marjorie Mihm Pennsylvania

*Robert and Judy Miller Maryland

Tod and Pauline Morgan Ohio

*Donald and Doris Penny North Carolina

John and Judy Sneary Ohio

Earl and Anna Walters Pennsylvania

COMPANY I

William and Beverly Armstrong Iowa

*Fred and Margaret Bidwell Georgia

Justin and Robbie Bloom Maryland

George and Janet Houseal Pennsylvania

Carl and Bernice Macknair Pennsylvania

Robert and Theresa Pierce California

Erwin and Carmen Sanborn New Hampshire

COMPANY K

*Howard and Elnora Cordova Texas

Hurley Dawes Kentucky

*Lloyd Lippman Montana

Guest: Jeannie Pfeffer

*Ewell Meadows Alabama

Lawrence and Doris Smith Tennessee

Phillip Weaver Tennessee

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

George Endres Florida

*Dan and Doris Penney North Carolina

CANNON COMPANY

Arlie Boswell, Jr. Illinois

*Kermit and Alice Nordeen Illinois

*Dermot Troutman Tennessee

Lee Wilson California

SERVICE COMPANY

*Harold and Phoebe Sorenson Wisconsin

Guest: Dr. Karen Sorenson

*C. Lamar and Mary Elizabeth Wallis Tennessee

DIVARTY

Robert and Thelma Bement Colorado

Guests: Rob and Harriet Bement

Charles and Edith Chapman Virginia

Edward Gibson Texas

Douglas Hall Louisiana

724th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

BATTERY A

William and Dorothy Harsch Florida

Paul Kitner Pennsylvania

*Joseph Marion Arizona

Woodrow Mitchell Texas

Brownie and Anna Belle Parsons West Virginia

William and Patricia Ruebsamen California

BATTERY B

Ricaldo and Josephine Cagno Florida

Thomas and Helen Heath New York

BATTERY C

Al and Polly DiLoreto Ohio

Robert Hollister New York

Coy and Erlene Horton North Carolina

Robert and Elizabeth Inyart Illinois

Louis Psaltis Illinois

John and Neta Turner Georgia

Guest: Charlotte Turner

879th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Dell and Mary Balzano Ohio

BATTERY A

G.P. and Margreg Frasier Tennessee

BATTERY C

Fred and Patricia Cane Iowa

Robert and Alice Stern Ohio

Guest: Thomas Anzalone

SERVICE BATTERY

Bruce and Mary Young West Virginia

880th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

BATTERY HEADQUARTERS

George and Edna Blume Virginia

Stanley and Georgia Bratt Illinois

John and Doris Cooper Illinois

Arthur and Mary D'Antonio Florida

Eugene and Carolyn McGeevy Maryland

Robert and Marilyn McKee Maryland

John and Margaret O'Connor Illinois

Michael and Lucille Pendrick Arkansas

BATTERY A

James and Geneva Bilbrey Tennessee

Guest: Dock Little

SERVICE BATTERY

Bill and Loretta Stump Indiana

881st FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

BATTERY HEADQUARTERS

Cecil and Mary Lou Ammons Alabama

Guest: Joan Wheeler

BATTERY A

Francis and Zita Enright Wisconsin

BATTERY B

James and Tillie Boris Pennsylvania

Walter Haag California

Lou and Jean Lineburgh Ohio

James Moen Montana

Guest: Don Backer

*John and Margaret Nelson Kansas

Phillip and Harriet Sparacino Wisconsin

Daniel and Margie Sparks Pennsylvania

Eugene and Jacqueline Tabacchi Pennsylvania

(Continued on Page 29)

881st FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION (Continued)

BATTERY C

- Joseph and Sybil Conner Georgia
Guests: Larry and Gail Conner
- Pleas and Mildred Copas Tennessee
- Harold and Mary Early Ohio
Guests: Frank and Mary Fejes
- Ruth and George Ehll Missouri
- Lester Hart Ohio
- Albert and Charlotte Jones South Carolina
- Daniel and Joan Jones Pennsylvania
- Hugh and Dorothy Milstead Tennessee
- Paul and Josephine Molinari Connecticut
- *Donald Pomes Texas
- Carl Schumaker Wisconsin
- Eugene and Arlene Shollenberger Pennsylvania
Guests: Joan Kollar and Donald Stortz
- Donald and Elaine Taylor Pennsylvania
- George and Jennie Vasil Massachusetts

661st TANK DESTROYERS

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

- William and Jo Beswick Virginia
- George and Marie Mackey Michigan
Guest: Jaime Kiel

- Eugene and Ethel Pierron Wisconsin
Guests: Jeff and Patti Pierron
- Charles and Francis Yannul New Jersey

COMPANY B

- Peter and Carolyn Besket Pennsylvania
- Bill and Ellen Snidow Virginia

COMPANY C

- Joseph and Marian Jenie Ohio

777th TANK BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

- James and Thurlo Bristol Pennsylvania
- Alex and Florence Lasseigne Louisiana
- Gaylord and Ruth Thomas Wisconsin
- Robert Weise New York
- Charley and Edna White Oklahoma

COMPANY C

- John and Ellen McCann Massachusetts
- Henry and Jean Putala Connecticut

COMPANY D

- Andrew and Laura LaPatka Pennsylvania
- Victor Tedesco Minnesota
Guest: Ed Eberhardt

Notes from Your Nashville Reunion Co-Chairpersons

Hello 69ers:

In this issue you can see who you are, what unit you belong to and where you came from. Regardless, you are the ones who made our Nashville, Tennessee Reunion a success.

We must explain to you why we made some changes in the Hospitality-Social room operation. Tennessee does not allow any form of gambling - not even bingo. Therefore, we could not have a raffle or any games of chance. That is the reason we held the daily auctions to offset some of our expenses. We appreciate your participation.

Thanks to Tennessee businesses, you were given "freebies" in the Hospitality-Social Room and we also

distributed some packets of rice in the registration room that were donated by Arkansas rice grower, Jim Ezell.

All of this information is about the differences in state laws that can affect the reunions you future chairmen will host in your states.

Thanks again.

James and Geneva Bilbrey, Co-Chairpersons
 880th Field Artillery, Battery A

R.D. #3, Box 289-B, Celina, Tennessee 38551

Joe and Virginia McMurry, Co-Chairpersons
 Company I, 271st Infantry

110 Fountain Place, Jackson, Tennessee 38305



THE
 NASHVILLE
 COMMITTEE
 from left to right:

- Earl Hansen, Harold Jones,
 James White, Lou Jones,
 Dot White,
 Dorothy Milstead, Hugh Milstead,
 Ethel Ruck, Harold Ruck,
 Wilma Moore, Marshall Moore,
 Geneva Bilbrey, James Bilbrey,
 Harold Moore, Cynthia Moore,
 Virginia McMurry, Joe McMurry,
 Sybil Conner, Joe Conner

Not Pictured:
 Emery and Pat Nagy
 Larry and Doris Smith



Company C - 273rd Infantry - Camp Shelby, Miss. - Oct. 1944

COMPANY C, 273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT
Camp Shelby, Mississippi
October 1944

Submitted by: Elijah E. Dalrymple
92 Lakeside Ranch, Winter Haven, Florida 33881

Weapons Platoon, Company B, 272nd Infantry

Sent by: Leo B. Moore, 845 West Spring Street, St. Marys, Ohio 45885-2051

Hope you all enjoy these photos. All of these men were in the Weapons Platoon with Lieutenant Gray as our leader. My wife and I have been to all of the reunions since Niagara Falls, New York but two, one in California and the other in Biloxi, Mississippi. We hope to keep going to more if our health is good and we can make it. We have a great time at all of them. Also, I am glad to meet all of the men that I was with over across the water and also in the states. We are sad to see all of the names in the back of the book every time it comes. Hope you are feeling O.K. and stay in good health.



Doran, Mitchell, Spillman, Dwyer



Chow line in Grosskayna



Do not know names of these fellows.



Edward Mitchell giving out tea.



*Pfc. Harry W. Morrow, Pfc. Bernard LaDue,
Pfc. Me! Me!, Pfc. James C. Smith*



Doran, Mitchell, Spillman, Dwyer

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. #3, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606, as early as possible. Then follow through with a write-up immediately after the event(s).

880th Field Artillery, A Battery

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

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

Battery A, 880th Field Artillery Battalion, held its 9th Annual Reunion in Concordia, Kansas, September 21-24, 1994. Our hosts were Izzy and Ruth Bombardier. Izzy is a former mayor. Thirty-eight veterans, wives and visitors attended. On hand were Frank and Joan Alfiero (*first-timers*), John and Pat Barnett, James and Geneva Bilbrey, Izzy and Ruth Bombardier, Frank and Dorothy Cavlovic, Forest Crawford (*first-timer*), Bill and Shirley Dunn, Tom and Betty Ellis, Lloyd and Janice Gerth, Margie Harreld, Hugh Hawkins, Vince Ignatosky, Delmar and Betty Jeffries, Herb Kroenke and Bonnie Geiss (*first-timers*), Bob Maul (*first-timer*), Joy Northern, Frank and Bertha Olson (*first-timers*), Rex and Ruby Sausaman, Bill and Loretta Stump (*first-timers*), and Henry and Irene Tipperreiter. Visitors were Tim and Peggy Pangle, Dock Little, and Frances Riley. Thirteen of our states were represented.

On Thursday morning a bus tour of Concordia was conducted by Izzy Bombardier. We then toured the Brown Grand Theater, built in 1907. Lunch was served at the Concordia Senior Citizens Center, where we were welcomed by local civic and veterans representatives. After lunch we visited the excellent local museum. American Legion buses took us back to our motel and battery command post. Dinner was served at a local restaurant and the evening was spent at the Bombardiers' spacious home playing bingo and enjoying lots of reminiscing.

On Friday morning our comfortable new bus took us to Abilene, Kansas. On the way we stopped at a buffalo ranch. As it was raining, the host farmer enticed about 25 buffaloes to approach the fence where we were parked. Although the skies were cloudy all day, we did get to see the buffalo roam. We then proceeded to Abilene and toured the Eisenhower Center. One could spend hours in the fabulous museum. A delicious lunch was served at the historic Kirby House in downtown Abilene. We then visited a nearby Salina shopping mall for some R & R.

Friday evening was spent in our motel conference area sipping Bilbrey tea (a famous Tennessee concoction) and enhancing old war stories.

We had arrived in Concordia at a most opportune time. On Saturday, the annual Fall Fest was celebrated with a downtown parade. Izzy had painstakingly constructed a float

specifically for "A" Battery and all men mounted up and paraded majestically through town with a U.S. flag and battery guidon flying. Our float was pulled by Izzy on his tractor. He wore his World War II uniform (one of the two or three present who could have possibly worn their old attire).

Our usual Saturday night banquet and subsequent business meeting was held at the Bombardier home. Our meeting was begun with remarks by our president, James Bilbrey. We then had a rousing rendition of the Field Artillery Song, which was dedicated to First Sergeant Bill Johnson. Then a personal message on White House stationery addressed specifically to "A" Battery, 880th F.A. Bn., and signed by President Bill Clinton, was read and a copy given to each veteran. A moment of silence was observed to honor the 41 dead of our battery. Acknowledgment was then made of a \$200 anonymous gift to our treasury. Term limits were again disregarded and President Bilbrey and Secretary-Treasurer Barnett were again perpetuated in office. Members were reminded that 1994-95 dues were payable to John Barnett. After some debate, it was decided that our 10th reunion would be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in October 1995, in conjunction with the 69th Division National Reunion.

We departed Sunday for home with warm thoughts and treasured memories. Tribute is due to the prodigious efforts of our hosts, Ruth and Izzy Bombardier, and members of their family who helped greet and entertain us. They ensured that each day was a happy and memorable event. All of us were impressed with Concordia and the pride and industry of its citizens. We are already looking forward to next year!

Battery C, 880th Field Artillery

Ray Mills
217 North 8th, Apt. 4
Vincennes, Indiana 47591

Lewis and Fern Pugh
640 Grant Street
Cadiz, Ohio 43907

The 1994 Reunion in Lexington, Kentucky

Our 880th Battery C reunion was held September 7, 8, 9 and 10, 1994. The weather for this week was beautiful and it definitely fit right in for another outstanding reunion and time together. First off, our many thanks to Ray Mills and Lew and Fern Pugh for the many hours of effort and planning to make everything work out so well. THANKS AGAIN!

Upon arrival each car load was met with hugs and warm welcomes. Visiting in the spacious hospitality room started then immediately and continued for the remainder of our stay. The "goodie table" attracted much attention, too. Thursday

(Continued on Page 34)

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

(Continued from Page 33)

morning we went by motorcade to the beautiful Kentucky Horse Park. The tour of the huge park was on our own as there was much to see and do. We all gathered together at noon for a reserved sitdown dinner and then continued our tour of the park. We viewed a movie about the history of the horse, saw different shows of various kinds of horses, walked through a very interesting museum, saw craft persons at work, and of course, visited the gift shops. The hospitality room was again lively with fun and laughter, and we were entertained by Bill Pugh and his two sidekicks, Cliff Eley and Marv Reber. It seems that more talent is surfacing all the time.

Friday a motorcade was again arranged for a trip to Berea for the majority of the group for the purpose of shopping and sightseeing. Many craft stores were visited and the group had a nice dinner at the Boone Hotel. Eight of the "more athletic" (??) members stayed behind and played a round of golf. They enjoyed a very nutritious meal of a candy bar and soft drink. Don Johnson took top honors for the day. Friday evening we once again gathered to have our White Elephant exchange. As usual, this was another fun time.

Saturday was a day for everyone to do as they chose. Some rested, some visited, some shopped, and some took short tours of the city. Our banquet was held at the Coach House. After returning to the motel we all gathered again in the hospitality room for picture taking, more visiting and bidding our farewells to those who were leaving early in the morning. Final "see you next year" greetings were Sunday morning as all too soon everyone was going their separate ways.

Those attending were: Henry and Lucille Abbe, Ralph and Dorothy Cowin, Enrico and Anne D'Angelo, Joe and Dottie Damato, Cliff and Katherine Eley, LeRoy Goetz, Frank and Marie Habay, Bud and Millie Henson, Lou and Jean Hoehing, Don and Flo Johnson, Bill and Correne Leslie, Lee and Betty Meyer, Lowell and Marjorie McFarlin, Ray Mills, Lew and Fern Pugh, Bill, Barb and Ray Pugh, Marvin and Mary Reber, Bill and Inez Sells, John and Helen Wallace and Bob and Irene Williams.

Guests included: Bud Cowin, Don and Noi Henson, Patty Scarpato, Al and Marge Kormas, and Bob and Vivian Kurtzman.



Frank and Marie Habay, First Timers



Bill Sells presents Ralph Cowin with a "surprise" package.



Resting at Horse Park. Correne Leslie, Lee Meyer, Ralph Cowin, Dorothy Cowin, (name left off photo back), Katherine Eley, Cliff Eley.



Cliff Eley entertaining the group.

(Continued on Page 35)

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

(Continued from Page 34)



*White Elephant Sale - Our Annual Event
Bill Leslie, Louis Hoehing, Jean Hoehing, Betty Meyer,
Mary Reber, Marvin Reber and Lee Meyer.*



Mary and Marvin Reber, Betty Meyer, Louis Hoehing

**B Battery,
881st Field Artillery**

Eugene and Jacqueline Tabacchi, News Reporters
200 Rex Avenue
Wintersville, Ohio 43952

Baker Buddies, we have lost one of the buddies who was with us when the division was activated and who has been a regular attendee of our reunions in recent years.

Bob Murphy, our Camp Shelby mail clerk and King of Prussia bartender, has died. He had been treated for a tumor on his lung, or near it. The radiation treatment took care of the tumor but left him in a very weakened condition aggravated by the loss of appetite. Kathleen, his wife, said he literally starved himself to death. Bob left us in Shelby with the first group of replacements and served most of the rest of his time with the 45th Division in Italy.

For those of you who were not in Nashville a couple of months ago, you missed Walt Haag, Paul Mallard, Phil Sparacino, Jim Moen, Jim Boris, Sparks, Emil Matys, Lou Lineburgh, Hugh Millstead, Gene Tabacchi and first timers John Nelson and Al Jones, who was with C Battery most of the time. John was a gunner corporal and section chief. People who planned to attend but had to defer until next year are Barney DeStefano who was undergoing medical treatment and Raymond Derr had to remain home with his wife Marian who recently had a knee replaced, and Dick Stoddard and Gil Rocco, both of whom had to attend family functions.

Others from the Battery who remain in contact with some of us are George Newman, Ted Pohlman, Dick Dalton, Bill Bell (our executive officer), Hank Sarnicki and Jean Kohl.

Some bad luck has plagued Kohl since the San Francisco reunion. He suffered a stroke shortly after that and the road to recovery has been slow. He walks with a walker with difficulty; his vision was affected but has come back a long way. Despite it all, in a phone call just before Nashville he seemed very upbeat. Also, earlier this year his house was in the path of a tornado and damaged extensively. The insurance company put them up at a Holiday Inn, but Jean chomped at the bit and was allowed to return home where he and his wife made do in their bedroom, which apparently sustained a lesser amount of damage. As the tornado struck, Jean's son, Dusty, was able to help him to safety in the basement. Kohl's wife Mildred, suffered cuts to the legs and arms from flying glass.

Perhaps Barney and Marian Derr will be in good health next year and will join us at Myrtle Beach. It should be near perfect - the tourism rush will be over and the heat will have moved south. There is a lot of history in the Carolinas and a lot to see enroute. Most of us have our allotted "three score, ten." Let's make the most of our remaining borrowed time and turn next October's bivouac into the best ever.

269th Engineers

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

Hello:

Wishing you and yours the very best in 1995, in health and prosperity.

The Nashville Reunion was well done and everything went well, except we didn't have a large turnout of Engineers. So - I'm hoping that your plans are in the making for Myrtle Beach in late October. The rates are good, the best we have had in years and so much to do there and nearby, not to mention all the good eating places and, if you like golf, this is the place to go.

On the following page are a few photos of "A & B" Company men that you'll enjoy. I was asked who was the oldest 269th Engineer that I knew of. Well, I'm sure I'll hear from some of you guys who are older than Herman Burkett '88', John Buller '88', Cy Abrams '87' and Joe Monteleone '84.'

The Tri-State Reunion will be in Canton, Ohio on June 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th and since we had a lot of guys from Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Indiana and Illinois, it sure would be nice to have a large showing of the 269th Engineers attending the reunion. So write or call Bob Kurtzman, Bob Shaffer or Earl Witzleb and get a form with all the details. Their names are listed in the Bulletin.

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,
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(Continued from Page 35)

Sorry to have to report that **Jim Eibling** passed on in late October. He always attended the reunions, some even before my time. He was Company Commander of different companies in the Battalion and also served in H&S Company. He will be missed by all who knew and served under him. We send our condolences to Dottie and his family.

Hope to see 'ya all in June in Canton, Ohio at the Tri-State. Take care and hope to see you soon.



John Buller - Company A, 88 Years Old



Joe Monteleone - Company A, 84 Years Old



*Ed Davis with Herman Burkett who is 88 Years Old.
Company B, 269th Engineers*



*Company A, 269th Engineers - Camp Shelby 1944
Standing, left to right: Ed Wagner, White, Davis
Kneeling: Joe Monteleone, Frank Evans, Don Williams*

Headquarters Battery and Medical Detachment 461st AAA Battalion

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

"How do we do it? Every year our reunions seem to get warmer and better. Our 1993 reunion is going to be a hard one to better."

The above was the first paragraph in our 1993 article. Well, I believe we beat our 1993 reunion and that is covering quite a bit of ground. This was one to remember. Our only regret is that everyone could not be there. We did have 66 people attend with 57 attending the Saturday evening banquet.

This year we met at the Quality Inn in Salem, Virginia. After our arrival and a gala round of greetings, it was time for supper. All present piled into a half dozen cars and vans and we were off to Morrison's Cafeteria near downtown Roanoke. With supper accomplished, it was back to the motel and our hospitality room.

In our previous 461st newsletter we had proposed that people bring both wartime and family albums and any photographs of interest of any size. What a surprise we had in store! The display took up nearly the whole front of the room which was a lot of space.

Tom Musselwhite and Allen Whitley brought boxes of Virginia apples and Paul Lovelace brought a box of chestnuts that we all enjoyed. The albums, brought by many, were very interesting. Saturday morning the Bruce Marshall family arrived and son, John Scott, provided us with an album of pictures of the articles he has made in a local shop teaching blacksmithing. His brother Travis, had pictures he had drawn. A number of photographs were exhibited, among them some

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,
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beauties of flowers. One of these photos was a 20" x 30" made by Steve Lucas who also is now getting his fingers into aerial photography. Frenchy Breyette, an accomplished nature photographer, brought four black and whites 11" x 14" on 16x20 mounting board, all taken of the Teton Mountains in Grand Teton National Park. In addition, he had six framed cibachrome 8x10 prints made from colored slides of silk moths, butterflies, spiders and desert flowers. All in all it made for a really marvelous display. Our appetite for next year is whetted!

We all owe deep thanks to Allen Whitley. Late this summer Allen, along with his son George, flew to Normandy, France. During this visit, while sitting at the top of the bluff overlooking Omaha Red Beach and remembering those terrible hours and days, he shed some tears, which every veteran of Normandy will do whether he wants to or not. Later he walked down to water's edge and filled a box with 24 pounds of pebbles from the shoreline. He returned with these pebbles and all who wanted were invited to help themselves to a few. What a beautiful gesture this was. From all of us Allen, deepest thanks and God Bless! I took three and I cannot tell you how much they mean to me. You can bet there were GI feet on these. Steve and Cyndy Lucas had updated our coffee mugs which were splendid.

Saturday Eddie Griffin provided us with a beautiful buffet lunch which was greatly appreciated. At 6:30 Saturday evening we sat down to our usual banquet. Ed Moore gave the invocation and following our dinner, we proceeded with our business meeting. This year we lost three men - George Fong, Carl Mosher and Lewis Woodson. Mac Morris led us in prayer for their families.

Ed Griffin gave a short talk, and was given our appreciation for a job well done in arranging the reunion. He also agreed to handle the reunion in 1995. Our thanks, Ed. Our Master of Ceremonies, Louis Jones, did himself proud and Francis Breyette gave a talk. Also Bill Hopkins made a few remarks. We also sang a Happy Birthday for Elsie Chambliss. Margaret Bryson and Linda Truitt had gifts for all the women.

We had three first timers this year. Robert Wolkow who came with Clarice Bruns and Wilda McClelland, wife of Bill McClelland. Welcome!

Sunday most of us drifted away to home but 15 diehards stayed over till Monday and left near noon. Sunday evening a group dinner was held at the Cracker Barrel some 17 miles down the pike. All in all this was really a reunion to remember.

Following is a list of all those attending the 1994 reunion:

- Francis and Ruth Atkins Sutton, West Virginia
- J.D. and Phyllis Blackwell Dolphin, Virginia
- Francis and Eleanore Breyette Golden Valley, Minnesota
- Joseph and Margaret Bryson Elkton, Maryland
- John and Elsie Chambliss Victoria, Virginia
- Conley and Viola Gamble Marion, Virginia
- Ed Griffin Canton, Ohio
- Bill, Ellen, Sarah and Hanna Hopkins Stanley, Virginia
- Louis and Ruth Jones Greenville, North Carolina
- Paul and Bertha Kowalchek Baltimore, Maryland
- John and Connie Lane Newport News, Virginia
- Paul and Ethel Lovelace Saltville, Virginia
- Steve and Cyndy Lucas Canton, Ohio
- William and Wilda McClelland Fallbrook, California
- Bruce, Susie, John Scott,
- Travis and Hannah Marshall Scottsville, Virginia
- Cecil and Hilda Moore Roanoke, Virginia
- Edward and Belle Moore Abingdon, Virginia
- Mac and Madge Morris Arlington, Virginia
- Tom and Patrick Musselwhite Roanoke, Virginia
- Katherline Trail Marion, Virginia
- Ben and Linda Truitt Elkton, Maryland
- Cecil and Irma Twigg LaVale, Maryland
- Wallace and Betty Ullery Cumberland, Maryland
- Allen and Dorothy Whitley Marion, Virginia
- Robert Wolkow and Clarice Bruns ... Brookings, South Dakota
- Lutie, Carolyn and Debra Woodson ... North Garden, Virginia
- Ralph and Isabel Yingling Frederick, Maryland
- Karon Wadl and Sarah Ellen *(part of Yingling family)*
- Bob and Lucie Bosserman *(friends of the Hopkins family)*
- Roger and Dana Stamper *(friends of the Gamble family)*
- Jack and Gladys Dee *(British friends of Hilda Moore)*
- Carrie Scott *(aunt of Dorothy Whitley)*

**569th Signal Co.
at the
1994 Nashville
Reunion**

Raymond Smith
#3 Stockmill Road, Apartment I
Pikesville, Maryland 21208

This photo is of members of the 569th Signal Company with their World War II commemorative flag, taken at the Nashville Reunion.

Left to right:

*Raymond Smith, Robert Ambrose,
Ed Hoskins, Carl Stetler, Joe Kotsko,
Adolph Eichhammer, Donald Pierce*



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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,
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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 photos below are of the Cavalry Recon Troop's 43rd annual reunion which took place in Alexandria, Virginia in September of 1994. The article pertaining to their reunion and events as they happened appeared on page 38 and 39 of the last bulletin.

*1st Photo Below: 69th Recon Troop Reunion
Alexandria, Virginia - September 22nd thru 25th, 1994*

*Back Row: Harold Gardner, Bob West, D.B. George,
Cowboy Vaughan, Bones Schueler, Gordon Ewing, Floyd
Opdyke*

*Middle Row: Charles Fox, Mike Moscaritolo, Boyd
Ellsworth, Charles Rice, Bert Lippincott, Herb Norman*

*Murray Schmieder, Hap Stambaugh, Fred Wohlers,
Morris Kaiserman, Sy Bellin*



The Ladies

Back Row:

*Stella Ellsworth, Mary Paradine,
Maxine Stambaugh, Bobbie Rice,
Jean West, Janet Vaughan, Fran
Wohlers, Fern Ewing, Nancy
Makris, Evelyn Opdyke, Betty
George, Pat Rice, Mable Schueler*

Front Row:

*Lenke Treible, Gertrude Kaiser-
man, Mary Moscaritolo, Jeanne
Gardner, Eileene Norman*

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,
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661st Tank Destroyer Battalion

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

The T.D.s held their reunion in Killeen, Texas near Fort Hood where we trained before being attached in Europe. Pat and Mac Marbury of Houston were the hosts and everyone really enjoyed being back on the old stomping terrain ground and the Parade on Veterans Day. It was a real nostalgic trip. The terrain is still the same but sure looks different after all these passing year's use. It is an open post, so we could go anywhere except the impact areas and we took advantage of that privilege on our own, in addition to a gratis escorted bus

tour. Fort Hood is much larger now with two full divisions being quartered there. We enjoyed a very delicious banquet at the Park Inn. I lost my registration list of names who attended but think there were around fifty people at the banquet. Also, we had at least three first timers. Our sincere thanks to Pat and Mac for a very memorable reunion and searching for Pidkoke mount, sugarloaf, antelope mounds along with North Camp and the surrounding communities. Killeen had about 350 people when the camp started and now has 350,000. They have two excellent museums and more Russian armament that I've seen anywhere else.

We drove to Texas and had intended to go by western Kentucky to see a very good buddy who was in my tank crew - first called to see if he would be at home and was informed that he had died in 1980. His name was Garnet W. Pierce, Company B, 661st Tank Destroyers, of Sturgis, Kentucky.

The 1995 Tank Destroyer mini reunion will be in Weeki Wachee, Florida in October 19-21, the week preceding the Association Reunion so that all vets going south can take advantage of both. Host for the Tank Destroyers are Fred and Nancy Baumgartner, 1465 Ferguson Avenue, Spring Hill, Florida 34609. Address of the motel is: Holiday Inn, 6172 Commercial Way, (U.S. 19), Weeki Wachee, Florida 34606 and Telephone is (904) 596-2007. Rooms will be \$50.00 plus tax.

Company E 273rd Infantry at the Nashville Reunion

Sitting
**Marian Hume, Doris Bummara,
Peggy Sprang, Virginia Aiello, Dottie
Witzleb**

Standing
**Bill Matlach, Jane Matlach, Tony
Bummara, Harold Sprang, Robert
Crowe, Joe Aiello, Art Hume, Earl
Witzleb, Bill Alldredge**



Virginia Aiello, Marian Hume, Peggy Sprang, Doris Bummara



Jane and Bill Matlach and Doris Bummara

History of the 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion

Submitted by: Hubert J. McEntee

806 East High Street, #H, Lockport, New York 14094

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Hubert sent us a copy of a booklet that we believe was printed in Europe at the end of the war.)

THE COAT OF ARMS OF THE 661st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION!



Superimposed upon a shield of yellow are the symbols indicative of the battalion's service in the ETO. Across the top of the shield is a pillbox and dragon teeth representing the Siegfried Line of the Western Front where the battalion fought in February 1945. At the bottom of the shield is a church steeple indicative of the battles of the battalion from the Siegfried Line to the Rhine River through such towns as Dickersheid, Rescheid and Oberrefferchied. The curved band with the wavy line represents the Rhine River which the

battalion crossed in March, 1945. The monument at the top of the shield is a silhouette of the Monument of Nations in Leipzig. It symbolizes the actions of the battalion which spearheaded the drive of the 1st U.S. Army into Leipzig in its campaign to the East and meeting with the Army of the USSR.

* * * * *

The 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion, though young, has a proud history. The Battalion came into being as a result of a need in the United States Army for a fighting element so equipped and trained as to effectively combat and destroy the Panzer Korps of the Wehrmacht of Adolph Hitler's Germany.

It was on the 17th of April 1943, that the thirteenth newly activated Tank Destroyer Battalion - the 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion - was organized at Camp Bowie, Texas. Men from almost every state in the Union were recruited to form its ranks, and in due time they embarked on a training program that, although essentially centered around Camp Hood, Texas, seat of the Tank Destroyer Center, was destined to carry them through a succession of training areas.

Through long hot weeks under the scorching sun of the Lone Star State, the training progressed from Basic to Advanced, and at no time was there a failure of all elements of the Battalion to meet the standards required of the Army Ground Forces. The esprit de corps was high, and the desire to face the combat test was great. It was soon to come.

As other battalions fell by the wayside, the 661st forged ahead. From the schedules of Advanced Training it emerged successfully to engage in a seven-week program of rigorous maneuvers at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. Confidence in field operations was engendered, and further strengthened by additional training at Camp Swift, Texas. Combined operations with Armor at Camp Bowie, Texas, and Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, rapidly brought the Battalion to the climax of its training career.

On December 22nd, 1944, the 661st entrained for Camp Shanks, New York, and on January 9th, 1945, embarked for the European Theatre of Operations. Early in the morning of January 23rd, at Le Havre, France, the Battalion set foot for the first time on foreign soil. On February 9th, after two weeks of preparation at scattered points along the Normandy coast, the 661st began a long, arduous march from the interior of France to the combat zone at Bullingen, Belgium. Hard

pressed for time by higher authority, the men of the Battalion turned stevedores in order to get their equipment off the ships, only to launch a forced march of more than 350 miles immediately thereafter, without respite. Through snow and rain the long convoy toiled forward, arriving safely at its destination in the late afternoon of Sunday, February 11th.

It was five days later - February 16th, 1945 - that the grim test of combat came. The Battalion entered the line in the vicinity of Krinkelt and Rocherath, Belgium, in support of the 69th Infantry Division of the First United States Army. In their initial encounter with the enemy on February 25th, the men of the 661st were impressively successful. Machine gun nests were destroyed, pillboxes neutralized, prisoners taken. Quickly following this engagement, a swift advance was effected through the Siegfried Line, and early in March the Battalion was well inside Germany at Schmidheim.

On March 23rd, after a few days' rest, the 661st again moved into the line, supporting the 69th Infantry Division's spearhead offensive against the Rhine River, and on March 27th the Battalion crossed this historic water barrier to unleash a series of onslaughts that toppled such famous landmarks as Ehrenbreitstein, Nieder-Lahnstein and Bad Ems. Many other towns and villages fell as the First United States Army drove for a juncture with the Ninth in the north: Eschenau, Wetzlar, Giessen, Fritzlar and Naumberg.

From the Naumberg sector was projected the eastward push to Kassel and the Werra River. Over extremely hilly terrain, and against constantly stiffening opposition, the Battalion closely supported the 69th's advance until the temporary objective was attained in the crossing of the Werra River, April 9th. Prisoners were plentiful.

There followed again a succession of towns and cities captured by the marching 661st as it pressed closely behind the armored elements in the push toward the heart of Reich. Heiligenstadt fell, then Dinglestadt, Freyburg, Schlotheim, Kolleda and Weissenfels, where the famous old castle became a fortress for fanatical youths of the Hitler Jugend and Volkssturmers. Then Pegau, on the highroad to Leipzig, was taken.

At the approaches to Leipzig the Battalion met its sternest opposition. German flak batteries roared into action in a frantic attempt to check the advance. Initial progress was slow. Constant air bursts made it difficult for the destroyers to maneuver into suitable gun positions and engage targets. Nevertheless, flak batteries and enemy strongpoints met destruction from the Battalion's guns, and on April 18th the infantry closed in on the historic city of Leipzig.

In all, 120 flak guns were destroyed or neutralized. Prisoners poured in. As the assault of the city proper entered its final stages, elements of the 661st were engaged in striking to the heart of the beleaguered metropolis. Under the terrific bombardment, the City Hall, nerve center of Leipzig's defenses, capitulated. Other elements of the 661st aided in the systematic reduction of strongpoints at the railroad terminal and at the Battle of the Nations monument. Many prisoners were taken. Many of the Nazi defenders who fanatically resisted were destroyed.

Up to the present time, the Battalion as a whole fought its most impressive engagement at Leipzig, and has reason to be proud of its efforts in the taking of this city, historically famed for its resistance in the Napoleonic battles of the 19th century.

As of this date, April 25th, 1945, the 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion has taken 727 prisoners, destroyed or neutralized many machine gun nests and strongpoints and marched over 1200 miles. All this in but three months.

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**HISTORY OF THE 661st
TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**

(Continued from Page 40)

Here this history pauses. But there is every prospect that succeeding chapters will be most eminent. As the 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion stands along the Mulde River east of Leipzig awaiting the historic merger of the East and West Fronts, there is a strong sense of Victory - Victory in which the 661st Tank Destroyer has played a brief but contributory part.

* * * * *

Commanding the Battalion is Lt. Colonel DONALD B. MILLER, a graduate of West Point, with 6 years service. Before coming to the Tank Destroyer Center and activating the 661st, Lt. Colonel MILLER served with the 9th Infantry Regiment of the Second Infantry Division, commanding the AT Company and later the 2nd Battalion with a tour as the Regimental Operations Officer.

Lt. Colonel MILLER has attended the Infantry School, the Tank Destroyer School and the Command to General Staff School.

* * * * *

ROSTER OF BATTALION STAFF

- Lt. Colonel Donald B. Miller *Commanding Officer*
- Major Phillip M. Sleet *Executive Officer*
- 1st Lt. Ralph N. Kent *S-1*
- Captain George F. Higgins *S-2*
- Captain William A. Connolly, Jr. *S-3*
- 1st Lt. Anthony J. Polito *S-4*
- Captain Robert L. Doupe *Motor Officer*
- 1st Lt. Legrand G. Woolley *Bn. Surgeon*
- 1st Lt. Gilbert J. Romero *Ln. Officer*
- CWO Earl Lazar *Personnel Officer*
- M/Sgt. Estel H. Snyder *Sergeant Major*
- M/Sgt. John P. Hughes *Motor Sergeant*
- T/Sgt. William F. Mongale *Supply Sergeant*
- T/Sgt. Joseph C. Skinner *Operations Sergeant*
- T/Sgt. Robert J. Gould *Intelligence Sergeant*

* * * * *

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

661st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

- Captain Joseph L. Marquis *Commanding Officer*
- 1st Lt. Gerald V. Albertson *Executive Officer*
- 1st Lt. John F. O'Shaughnessy ... *Communications Officer*
- 1st Lt. Robert L. Stone *Transportation Officer*
- CWO Wesley R. Strange *Motor Officer*
- 1st Sgt. Robert M. Barrows *1st Sergeant*
- T/Sgt. John G. Becker *Personnel Sergeant*
- T/Sgt. Walter J. Gorski *Motor Sergeant*
- T/Sgt. Arthur A. Drennan *Communications Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. John J. Ryan *Supply Sergeant*
- T/4 Arthur M. Athey *Mess Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Harland R. Kumm *Motor Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Joseph L. Blanke *Radio Chief*
- S/Sgt. William A. Wells *Assistant Supply Sergeant*
- Sgt. Harry M. Curnow *Message Center Chief*
- Sgt. James L. Hogan *Transportation Chief*
- Sgt. Emmett W. Farley, Jr. *Ammunition Sergeant*
- Sgt. Ralph L. Kennett *Surgical Technician*

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COMPANY "A"

661st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

- Captain James A. LaDu *Commanding Officer*
- 2nd Lt. Harold C. Clark, Jr. *Executive Officer*
- 1st Lt. Cuy W. Nowels *Platoon Leader*
- 1st Lt. Harold A. Molin *Platoon Leader*
- 1st Lt. John F. Sherlock, Jr. *Platoon Leader*

- 1st Sgt. Clifford C. Guerra *1st Sergeant*
- T/Sgt. Howard J. Beesley *Motor Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. J.H. Schoenenberger *Supply Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. John M. Agee *Mess Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Dan H. Bush *Platoon Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Joseph F. Carrol *Platoon Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. William L. Blakeman *Platoon Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Sylvanus P. Baker, Jr. *Recon Sergeant*
- Sgt. James L. Justmann *Radio Sergeant*
- Sgt. Roy A. Billington *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Bernard E. Caylor *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Rex M. Conner *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. John A. Kluchanovich *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Mike Kotnik, Jr. *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. William J. Layer *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Ralph Migliaccio *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Richard L. Nowadnick *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Rodney E. Pipher *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Jack T. Sutor *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Warren E. Tuthill *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Earl A. Wolfe *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Howard E. Cain *Security Sergeant*
- Sgt. Fred A. Major, Jr. *Security Sergeant*
- Sgt. Paul Rickin, Jr. *Security Sergeant*

* * * * *

COMPANY "B"

661st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

- Captain William J. King *Commanding Officer*
- 1st Lt. Walter W. McFarland *Platoon Leader*
- 1st Lt. George W. Reaves, Jr. *Platoon Leader*
- 2nd Lt. James McManus *Platoon Leader*
- 1st Sgt. Carlo Scampini *1st Sergeant*
- T/Sgt. Charles W. Wilkins *Motor Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. James T. Leach *Supply Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Ralph G. Nicholas *Mess Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. John Harpootlian *Radio Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. William H. Bass *Platoon Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Ralph W. Bragg *Platoon Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Thomas A. Caddick *Platoon Sergeant*
- Sgt. Lawrence Aldenhoevel *Recon Sergeant*
- Sgt. Roland De Carie *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Roscoe B. Doebler *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Elmer E. Ehrhard *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Richard Furman *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Phillip J. Gagliardi *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Hallie B. Haire *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Rufus T. Holcomb, Jr. *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Andrew W. Laurich *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Charles G. Setliff *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. William E. Snidow *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Charles B. Stuart *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. William T. Thompson *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. William C. Alexander *Security Sergeant*
- Sgt. Carl A. Repman, Jr. *Security Sergeant*
- Sgt. Stanley C. Werstler *Security Sergeant*

* * * * *

COMPANY "C"

661st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

- 1st Lt. Verle L. McNealy *Commanding Officer*
- 1st Lt. Robert H. MacLeod *Executive Officer*
- 1st Lt. Alan D. Cameron *Platoon Leader*
- 1st Lt. Howard K. Matlack *Platoon Leader*
- 1st Sgt. Paul Miller *1st Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Robert Henderson *Radio Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Charles E. Shearer *Mess Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Grant T. Bridgers *Supply Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Gordon L. Cashman *Platoon Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Thad J. Maciejewski *Platoon Sergeant*

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**HISTORY OF THE 661st
TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**

(Continued from Page 41)

COMPANY "C" (Continued)

- S/Sgt. Kenneth D. Morgan *Platoon Sergeant*
- Sgt. Stanley R. Anderson *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Lee Barczewski *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Rodney G. Hord *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Donald D. Klump *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. John A. Ledford *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Marcel W. Pugsley *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Romaine F. Repair *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Mark J. Ringelstetter *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Julius R. Slopek *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. LeRoy E. Stevens *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Louis A. Tyree *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Andrew G. Walandy *Gun Commander*
- Sgt. Stephen A. Sadowski *Security Sergeant*
- Sgt. Claude G. Wilson *Security Sergeant*
- Sgt. Charles M. Turley *Security Sergeant*

* * * * *

**RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY
661st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION**

- Captain Eugene E. Oja *Company Commander*
- 1st Lt. Almon S. Hougard *Executive Officer*
- 1st Lt. Robert M. Wilkins *Platoon Leader*
- 1st Lt. James L. Carlin *Platoon Leader*
- 1st Lt. James D. McAlexander *Platoon Leader*
- 1st Lt. Anthony Zielkiewicz *Platoon Leader*
- 1st Sgt. Eugene A. Jackson *1st Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Hubert J. McEntee *Radio Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Andrew M. Fraser *Mess Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Thomas P. O'Hearn *Supply Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Phillip J. Todd *Motor Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Soles H. Howlett *Platoon Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Richard W. Hoffman *Platoon Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Oscar M. Hauenstein *Platoon Sergeant*
- S/Sgt. Frank A. Krebs *Platoon Sergeant*
- Cpl. Frederick W. Baumgartner *Section Sergeant*
- Cpl. Fred H. Domianus *Section Sergeant*
- Sgt. Charles E. Clemmer *Section Sergeant*
- Sgt. Bernard E. Epperly *Section Sergeant*
- Sgt. Theodore Sabulsky *Section Sergeant*
- Sgt. Burnell T. Scott *Section Sergeant*
- Sgt. Benjamin J. Armour, Jr. *Section Sergeant*
- Sgt. Robert M. Yabroud *Section Sergeant*

* * * * *

CITATIONS

Bronze Star Medal for Heroic Achievement

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1st Lt. Anthony Zielkiewicz | 1st Lt. Howard K. Matlack |
| Sgt. William E. Snidow | Sgt. LeRoy E. Stevens |
| Sgt. Mark J. Ringlestetter | Pfc. Jack C. Mucia |
| Sgt. Burnell T. Scott | Pfc. Ignatius C. Alletto |
| Pfc. Henry G. David | Sgt. Lewis A. Tyree |
| Pfc. Floyd L. Smith | Sgt. Romaine F. Repair |
| Pfc. Edward S. Teixeira | Pfc. Arthur D. Crager |
| 1st Lt. Verle L. McNealy | |

Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lt. Col. Donald B. Miller | 1st Lt. Guy W. Nowels |
| Capt. Robert L. Doupe | 1st Lt. Ralph N. Kent |
| Capt. James A. LaDu | S/Sgt. John H. Schoenenberger |
| Capt. William J. King | T/Sgt. John Gramata |
| 1st Lt. Harold A. Molin | Sgt. Elmer E. Ehrhart |
| T/5 John W. Roth | Sgt. Richard Furman |
| Pfc. Henry J. Newstein | S/Sgt. Ralph W. Bragg |
| Sgt. James L. Hogan | T/Sgt. Charles W. Wilkins |

PROFILE OF GLENN L. FELNER

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**Study in Rwanda leads
Glencoe man to offer help**

GLENCOE NEWS Thursday, September 22nd, 1994

By Bob Brettschneider, *Staff Writer*

It was the "lure of adventure" that first took Glenn Felner to the tiny African nation of Rwanda, where he climbed mountains to come face-to-face with gorillas.

Today, however, the Glencoe resident's interest in the nation is more pressing, working to raise money to assist its traumatized populace in the aftermath of war.

Felner is now awaiting the last of U.S. State Department paperwork that reauthorizes him as an honorary consul of Rwanda.

The post basically makes him the country's representative in this country while retaining his U.S. citizenship. It entails assisting travelers with visas and handling inquiries from businesses.

He acknowledges it's hard to talk about the possible extinction of the animals in light of the people massacred over the summer. But his love for these beasts remains strong and he is also working to raise money to forestall their extinction.

"At last count there were only 600 gorillas left in the world," he said, adding that half the gorilla population lives in Rwanda's Virunga National Park.

"We don't know how many there are now," he said of the war's impact on the gorillas, but he added it is not promising.

"For want of wood, people are cutting down the forests which the gorillas rely upon for food. If these gorillas are gone, they are gone forever."

Felner, a World War II veteran decorated with the Bronze Star, adventurer, pilot, scuba diver and world traveler, decided to travel to Rwanda in 1987 after reading Diane Fossey's book, *Gorillas in the Mist*.

"I went alone, I had no reservations and took a plane into Kigali from Nairobi. Then I rented a car and headed for the mountains.

"I loved the country, its hills and forests, its beautiful people," he continued.

"I had a wonderful experience spending two days within arm's length of gorillas without bars between us. I found them to be very gentle creatures."

It was during the trip that he met and talked with Rwandans affiliated with the U.S. Embassy.

They met again in this country and Felner gave them tours of Chicago, both on the ground and in a plane he piloted. A short time later he was appointed the first honorary consul for Rwanda in the United States.

This past April, however, the war and collapse of the old regime forced Felner to resign his post. As he awaits the formalities of again becoming honorary counsel, he expressed optimism the nation can enjoy a lasting peace.

"There is still a danger (militants) will want to retake the country," Felner cautioned, "but hopefully, with the help of other nations, we can again make Rwanda a pleasant place to be."

Those interested in assisting the people and gorillas of Rwanda may contact Felner at the address above.

Memories from Company K, 273rd Infantry

Submitted by: Wendell Meggs

1215 White Boulevard, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37129

Dear Mr. Marshall,

A few days after the Nashville meeting of the 69th Division Association, I learned for the first time that there is a Division Association, and that it had just met in Nashville. Ewell Meadows found out from Roy Gibbs that I live in Murfreesboro, only 30 miles from Nashville. He called me from Nashville, and we had a "mini-reunion" by phone. A few days later Meadows sent me copies of the articles about the 273rd in the Seigfried Line. They were very interesting. He also sent me information about membership.

I then wrote to Earl Witzleb, sending the membership fee. Earl sent a few back issues of the Association Bulletin. I have enjoyed reading them.

All that prompted me to write some of my own memories of those days in the 69th. I am enclosing a copy of what I wrote. As you can see from the article, I was in the Division from late December 1943 until mid-July 1945. I was a medical aid man with K Company of the 273rd. I was as proud of my Combat Medical Badge as any of the infantry GIs were of their Combat Infantry Badges.

Incidentally, if you have not done so, perhaps you could run a picture of the Combat Medical Badge, much like what was in the Bulletin in the May-August 1993 issue, about the Combat Infantry Badge. The "little" history of the Division, which came out many years ago, showed at least five medics who were killed in the 273rd alone.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Wendell, if you would like to see an article on the Combat Medical Badge, please research this and send us the information. All of our articles come from members of the 69th. Good luck.)

Following is Wendell's story.

* * * * *

In the May-August 1993 issue of "The 69th Division Bulletin," William Muldoon wrote of ASTP men coming to the division to replace those who had been sent out to other units in the Fall of 1943. I was one of those ASTP-ers. I arrived in the last week of December 1943. I had a medical aid-man MOS number, so I was assigned to the Medical Detachment of the Third Battalion of the 273rd Infantry Regiment. Shortly, I was assigned as one of three "medics" in K Company. The Second Platoon became "my platoon." Some of the men in the platoon were Podlack, Redeker, Telenko, Hadjamacha, Moyers, Franz and Mahlum.

I quickly learned the BBB nickname for the Division, and how appropriate it was. Within five or six weeks of my arrival, that is in February, we were in the field for a lengthy stay. And that would be true again and again. "The field" was the DeSoto National Forst. On one occasion, in a night exercise, it was so dark that each one had to hold onto the pack of the man in front to keep from getting lost. Unfortunately we had to cross a stream which was three or four feet wide. As each man jumped across, the hand on the pack pulled him into the water.

Also in the Spring of 1944 we had the "privilege" of a march from Camp Shelby to the Pascagoula, Mississippi area, a distance of about 100 miles. We got a weekend pass once we got there, so that helped. And we got to ride back to Shelby.

On D-Day 1944, we were in the field. The Battalion was gathered for the announcement. The Chaplain prayed for those involved in the invasion.



Wendell Meggs - May 1945 at Altenhain, Germany

In 1944 the Division continued to send out replacements, and to get others into K Company and other units. Some like Sergeant Redeker were sent out. Some like Sergeant Carl Colpeen came in; in his case he came from the Air Corps.

In the Fall of 1944 the Division left Camp Shelby heading overseas. On the way we rode Pullman cars. Two men to a Pullman berth was the rule. That trip through Camp Kilmer, New Jersey and Southampton, England, finally led K Company to the Basingstoke, England area, some forty miles southwest of London.

Even there we were called on to send out replacements. This time it was to help in the Battle of the Bulge, around Christmas of 1944. General Reinhart gave the men who were leaving a great send-off.

In January 1945, K Company, and the rest of the 69th, left England. K Company landed at Le Havre, France. It was a wreck. In fact, we got off the transport ship by going down those big cargo nets and going on into the beach by LCI. After we landed, K Company climbed aboard open semi-trailer trucks. It was a cold, cold ride that night. We wound up at a chateau in northern France. After a couple of days there, we went on to Sisonne, France.

Two things come to mind about Sisonne. One is the mud. It was thick, and it was everywhere. Even the ground inside the tents was as muddy as the outside. The other memory is that we received some replacements there to fill vacancies left by those who went to help in the Battle of the Bulge. Some of those who came into second platoon were Meadows, Maxwell, Gibbs, Parrott and Cordova.

As others have told, K Company and the rest of the 69th went into the front line combat position, barely inside Germany, on February 12, 1945. We relieved the 99th Division.

K Company was at Neuhof, at the junction of the road to Udenbreth and the road to Dahlem, Germany. "My part" of the second platoon occupied a bunker right at the junction. Right behind us in the junction were two burned out U.S. tanks. One had a hole in the turret where a German 88 round had gone through. Light in the bunker was supplied by a wine bottle filled with gasoline and a cloth wick stuck in the top. It gave a little light and a lot of black smoke, which we had to breath.

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MEMORIES FROM COMPANY K, 273rd INFANTRY

(Continued from Page 43)

Our latrine was a makeshift affair just outside the door of the bunker. We did not want to get far from the bunker, because there was shelling all along. The Germans, of course, had our positions zeroed in with their artillery and rockets. One day a shell exploded right in the bunker doorway, sending shrapnel flying inside. Fortunately no one was hit.

A night or two after getting to the front, K Company sent out a patrol; it was second platoon men. Before they got back, **Ralph Bishop** was dead, and platoon **Sergeant Podlack** was wounded in the legs. He never got back to the company. The next night another patrol was sent out to retrieve **Bishop's** body.

After several more days of patrols, being shelled, being re-supplied and fed at night, the time came to push out. According to records it was February 27th, 1945. K Company was attacking a pillbox out in front of our position.

We left our bunker before daylight. Just as it was beginning to get light a bit, the attack started. There was a mine field in front of the pillbox. It was made up of those mines which stuck above the ground eight or ten inches, and were set off by loose trip wires. In the emerging light we could make out the mines but not the wires. Over to my left, one of the second platoon squads started through the mine field. Everyone made it fine except the last man in line. He was **Joseph Stull**. He hit a wire and the mine blew up right at his feet. There was a call for "medic" over that way and I went over. **Stull** was lying in the middle of the mine field. Stepping very carefully, and expecting an explosion any second, I went to him, and bandaged his wounds as best I could. Litter bearers got to him a bit later, but he was too badly wounded in the upper legs and lower abdomen to make it.

K Company moved on with the rest of the 273rd. A day or so later, as we prepared to attack a town, word came that we should drop our packs for easier movement. When we got our packs back they had been looted by someone. I lost a small camera, pictures of the "dragon teeth," and souvenirs from our stay in the bunker.

Some days later we were at the west bank of the Rhine. While we waited for the crossings, we put aside infantry duties and took up road work with the engineers. The road to Bonn was being widened to accommodate our vehicles. So we wielded jack hammers and shovels instead of rifles and grenades for a few days.

K Company crossed the Rhine near Koblenz. It was night and we went across in LCIs. The next thing I recall is being at Bad Ems.

From Bad Ems, we headed northeast up the Lahn River valley toward Kassel. We walked a lot. It was March, and the weather was warming up; cherries were blooming; no fighting; it was nice. Along the way we began to see where GIs ahead of us had dropped their overcoats and gas masks. Some of us followed suit. One of our stops was at a lakeside hotel. It was there that we saw our first VW car. **Roy Gibbs**, who was a mechanic, wanted to look it over. He opened up the front and saw the spare tire and storage space. He went to the back and opened it, and there was the engine. He even got it started. Fortunately there were no booby traps. The end of that leg of our journey was at the airfield at Kassel.

After a day or so, we and elements of the 9th Armored Division joined forces to push on to the east. K Company left Kassel riding on Sherman tanks. It was night. In some ways this was better than walking, but anyone who happened to be near the exhaust really got heated up. We were going through the Kaufunger Forest on the way to the Werra River and Hedemunden where there was a bridge. K Company was at the front of the column.

Next morning we approached a crossroad in the forest. As our small lead tank came into the junction, a German tank off to the left fired its 88 and knocked out our tank. The column stopped, and the infantry, K Company, was told to dismount and go deal with the tank. We were an angry bunch of GIs. All we had were rifles, 30 caliber machine guns and a bazooka. We were angry because those 9th Armored GIs had anti-tank weapons as well as other large guns on their Shermans.

The German tank was a hundred yards or so up that side road. Second platoon went up to where we could see it through the trees. Of course, we had visions of it charging out and running over us. But it just sat there waiting. Our bazooka man (I think it was **Kellerman**) could not get a clear shot, so he ran across the road for a better chance. The German tank opened up with its machine guns and hit the bazooka man. He managed to get on across and into the trees. I was watching, and when he went down I ran across to him. The tank did not fire at me. (Many will recall that medics had red crosses painted on their helmets and a red cross arm band.) After a bit, the German tank withdrew, and our column moved on.

That afternoon, still in the forest, still riding the tanks, we came around a curve in the road and ran into an ambush. We were hit with rifle and machine gun fire. **Sergeant Paul Beck** was killed. **Sergeant Andrew Mahlum** was shot through the upper part of his mouth and all his upper teeth were torn up. I bandaged him, and rode the jeep back to the Aid Station with him. He had become platoon sergeant after **Sergeant Podlack** was injured. **Sergeant Mahlum** and I had been tent mates on many a bivouac and overnight stop. He gave me the binoculars he carried. (I still have them. I saw **Sergeant Mahlum** in May of 1952 at his home in Moorehead, Minnesota. He had made a good recovery from his wound, though he spent a long time in the hospital.)

Later that same day, we had another encounter. We had gotten to the Werra River. It was dark, and we were walking down hill along the road which sloped down the face of the bluff on the west side of the river. First platoon was leading, then second, then third. **Sergeant Lawracy** of third platoon was right behind me as I brought up the rear of the second.

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Kneeling: Moyers with child where we stayed in Gerterode in June-July 1945. Back, left to right: Meggs, Parrot, Maxwell, and Cordova.

MEMORIES FROM COMPANY K, 273rd INFANTRY

(Continued from Page 44)

He whispered that he heard movement on top of the bluff to our left. A moment or two later we heard an explosion up ahead, along with some shots and men shouting.

Just as the point man of first platoon was about to step onto the bridge, it blew up in his face. Everyone stopped, of course. Then there was a call for "medic" up ahead. I went up to help the first platoon medic. One of their men had a gun shot wound and a broken leg. Two or three of their men stayed to help. We bandaged the man and made a splint for his leg. By that time the Aid Station had word and had sent a jeep with a litter. We got our man on it and went back up the hill. The next day we learned from a prisoner, taken during the night, that he and another German soldier had been watching us from about 10 yards away as we helped the wounded man the night before.

We continued to push eastward, this time riding trucks. At one place in a railyard, we found a boxcar with cartons of brand new wrist watches, among other things. Everyone who wanted to, helped themselves. Some of those watches were later sold or traded to Russian soldiers.

By mid-April, K Company, along with others, was in position to attack the town of Colditz. In the afternoon, K Company came in from the south along the Mulde River, which was on our right. We had a lot of rifle and machine gun fire coming at us. Sergeant Gustafson and I heard bullets "whispering" as they went by. One of them nicked a finger for him. We had been told that teenagers and old men were defending the town. Whoever it was, they did a lot of shooting.

By dark, first and second platoons were well into the town. First was leading and was up to the bridge over the Mulde. Second platoon was following them. During a stop, I had to use someone's flower bed for a latrine. Then there was a call for a "medic" up ahead. I went up and found that first platoon Sergeant Emil Miskovic had been hit. He was at the bridge when he heard a noise under the bridge. He looked over the railing to see what it was. Someone shot him in the head. Some first platoon men carried him into a nearby house. By the time I got there, he was gone.

Next morning second platoon and others were searching houses in the area near the bridge. In one house just up the hill west of the bridge they found a wounded German soldier. I was called in to take a look at him. He had been shot through the scrotum, and it was swollen to the size of a football. We got word to the Battalion Aid Station. They sent a jeep with a litter. The German was in great pain and great fear. He thought he was going to be killed. We took him to the Aid Station, which by this time had been set up in the castle east of the bridge. So I got into the castle for a few minutes. The bridge was useable by our jeeps, trucks, etc., but it had a big hole in the north lane toward the east end.

For a day or so second platoon was billeted in a really nice house two or three blocks west of the bridge. We saw the long lines of freed people who had been slave laborers as they began their long walk westward to home.

Colditz was the last of the fighting that I recall. K Company went to Altenhain, and settled into buildings at an ordnance depot and supply center. There was an airfield nearby, which had many destroyed German planes scattered about. I still have two souvenirs from Altenhain; one is a pair of wooden shoes, which I sent home through the mail; the other is a camera I traded from Jim Telenko. I used the camera for several years.

We were at Altenhain when V-E day came and stayed on for a while. During that time, part, or maybe all of second platoon was detailed for guard duty on a train carrying former slave laborers from Leipzig to Metz, France. The only two

whose names I remember were Meadows and Maxwell. There were others, including a lieutenant, but I don't remember their names. We had a passenger car at the rear of the train. The French people rode in 40 and 8s.

At one town, as we moved slowly past the station platform, a group of German civilians gathered. A small German girl fell under the train and was killed instantly. The French people cheered and shouted with gladness.

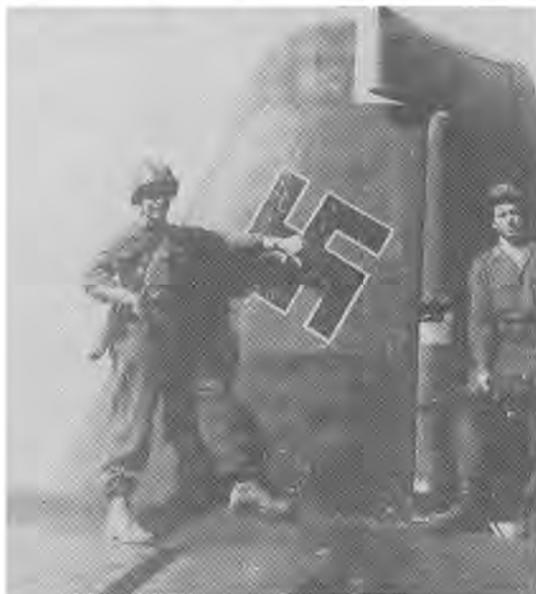
After zones of occupation were set up, K Company, like others, moved west. Second and third platoons settled into a village called Gerterode. It was in the area not far from Kassel.

I was pulled out of K Company and second platoon in mid-July 1945 while we were at Gerterode. I was one of many on the way to the Pacific, going through the states for a leave. We were at Antwerp, Belgium waiting for a ship when the first A-Bomb was dropped. When V-J Day came, we were in the mid-Atlantic headed home.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Wendell, we printed the pictures that we thought were the best. The rest were just too poor for reproduction.)



Sergeant Carl Colpeen - April 1945 at Altenhain, Germany



Jim Telenko and Walter Hadjamacha

Weapons Platoon, Company A, 272nd Regiment

Submitted by: Mr. Anthony Nicolais - 8826 209th Street, Jamaica, NY 11427-2221



No identifiers on these pictures but Anthony is the man on the left holding up the flag.



Anthony with flag draped in front of him and German helmet on.

World War II ... The Big One

By: Howitzer Al Kormas

12500 Edgewater - 503, Lakewood, Ohio 44107

A GI's story continues. From embarkation at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey to V-E Day and home. A war that took four years to win. This is dedicated to the almost 400,000 lives lost in combat, POWs and those Missing In Action. Also to our beloved parents, friends and sweethearts who worried about us daily. Only now do we fully comprehend how they suffered so many years. This is a tale of day by day activity as we lived it, with much GI humor thrown in. Lastly, this story is dedicated to our close buddies we served with. I think of you so often, so often, buddies.

Sergeant Ed Stark's whistle blew and we formed in ranks with our belongings to board the ship. 'Twas a long walk from the camp to the train and the Staten Island Ferry. It was warm and humid. Soon all started to sweat and the author followed Mail Clerk Hoch who being battery clerk, carried all of our 201 files in a large box. He started to falter and I volunteered to carry it the rest of the way. To this day when we get together, we speak of it and yet he will not say, "Thanks buddy." We took the Staten Island Ferry over to the army docks and the SS LeJeune. They crowded us like sardines on the car area of the ferry standing so close that we could not go to the latrine or even raise our hands to scratch our noses. However, of course, the brass were upstairs with adequate room — rank has its privileges.

We boarded the ship and went through passageways until we reached our quarters. To expedite this operation, three or four navy personnel would toss us and our gear into our canvas domiciles. They were six foot long by 20 inches wide and 12 inches high. Fortunately, I was on top, number five from deck and I drove our T/4 Phil Colombo bananas poking him - forgive me Bill. We and the 880th Battalion were loaded first, as we found out we were to be the work battalions. Loading took about four days and to my understanding, over 8,000 troops and 3,000 navy men were involved. We were on top deck, and you had to pity the ones down on the bottom. The air was stifling and if an emergency arose, many would never have gotten out. As we sailed out of port, all rushed to see the Statue of Liberty and think deeply of what our fate would be.

Chow was twice daily standing in long lines. We had to go through the Navy mess hall and from what we saw, they ate like kings. We had weenies, beans and coffee for breakfast and an evening meal. To avoid starvation, you had to make a daily purchase of crackers or candy bars. By the time we neared England, the weenies were wrinkled and slightly green, the beans sandy, and the coffee weaker.

Now to acquaint you with my close buddies. They were Bigfoot Parker, Filthy Gray, Shorty Hartman, Juggy Power, Dave Oberst and Schnozz Schoepf. They will now be known by nicknames only.

One day with the smell of chow wafting down from the deck above, myself, Bigfoot and Filthy proceeded into the navy chiefs dining room, same as our first sergeant ranking. They were seated at tables of four, tablecloths were on the tables and they were being waited on by a mess steward. We proceeded to fill our hands and no one said a word to us. Then we exited. The next morning, there was an armed marine guard there. It seemed strange that they had these marine guards in dress uniforms walking on the upper decks. No wonder the navy hated them. Seagoing bellhops they were called.

On the aft end of the ship were two large motor launches and we soon found out that by climbing over the rail, we had a roomette of privacy for ourselves, which we used daily.

One day the first sergeant scoured the entire ship looking for us for detail and he got madder by the hour. He got us the next day at chow and I was assigned to KP and wound up in the ships bowel opening 6 pound cans of Spam put up by the Blackhawk Company. Four of us opened hundreds of tins with a cleaver. Grease was everywhere and we could no longer close our hands. To make matters worse, showering was impossible with the salt water taps and our soap would not lather.

The army had Sunday scheduled for shots and true to the army, in the midst of a heavy storm and rolling ship, we had our shots. We were in line for an hour or two naked to the waist, going through a driving rain and on to the needlemen. You got one on each side and were told to keep walking as you were hit and just step over the ones who had fainted. The only good thing about this day was that the weather and tossing ship kept many troops away from the messhall and we had all the chicken ala king we could eat. We were in the messlines with second lieutenants and most took it good natured, but some, you know, did not like it. A few air force pilots were with us and as a group, we enjoyed ourselves.

Although we had been trained for the South Pacific, we all thanked God we were sailing to the ETO. Going south with our 120 ship plus convoy and our ship, the flagship, we were in the middle. A U.S. destroyer pulled alongside of us. They were rolling water awash over the ship, and transferred a sailor to us with an appendicitis attack.

We had daily lifeboat drills. Later the navy told us that there were far too few for all of us if something would have happened, (nice thought). Near England, we experienced a submarine attack and the convoy dispersed. We really moved and it took a day to bring us all together again. During general quarters, we took off for the officers lifeboat areas. We figured our lives were just as important as theirs. Rank has its privileges.

We left New York on December 1 and landed in Southampton on December 12, at 1700, just in time for all of the civilian dock workers to respond to tea time. We soon found this to be a regular British tradition, even to the troops, whenever possible. We were to debark the next morning and soon we decided to blow up our lifebelts with the C02 cartridges and use them as pillows. Lo and behold, many of them leaked and were useless including mine. As the army regulations stated, all troops must wear a lifebelt at all times.

Late one night it was all curtains down for fear that the German warlords would see us. This was our first true blackout and it was eerie and foggy. We huddled close together until 6x6's arrived and went to Brock Barracks. It was an old army camp, built like little castles. The accommodations were rough. Fifty or so of us to one long unheated room with two little light bulbs and packing crate frame beds with mattress covers filled with moldy hay - nice welcome. We bedded down at 0300 and were up at 0700. There was nothing going on so many of us took off to see England including the officers.

Bigfoot and I went together. He had been in England recently but went back to the states for pilot training and wound up in the 69th. Therefore, he was able to acquaint us with the rates of exchange. Still, many of us fell prey to fancy paper currency and big coins and were broke quickly. At Barclays Bank we converted our money to pounds and at 1000 hours we hit the first pub. There was someone banging away on the piano and the regulars were singing. As soon as we entered, an elderly lady started to play "Roll me over," and I guess I blushed and we had a grand time all day. I got weighed at Woolworth's dime store and came in at 14 stones or 196 pounds. We returned to the barracks at about 1730. Ten minutes later they came in and made examples of those not yet in. Bigfoot and I were lucky for once in our lives.

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WORLD WAR II ... THE BIG ONE

(Continued from Page 47)

Only 30% passes were issued nightly. I guess it was in case of a surprise German land attack. But we quickly learned that we could go over the high spiked iron fences in back and return in the same way without getting caught. It still amazes me that after a evening of pubbing and dating, no one ended up impaled on the fence spikes. We liked going to the fish and chip places in England. They would roll it all up in a cone made from old newspaper and it was really cheap, too.

Christmas day found Filthy and I on KP in a large mess hall that served our 879th and the 880th Battalions, which was approximately 900 men. What a filthy, depressing kitchen it was. Filthy had accumulated a lot of beer in bottles, so we felt no pain. Sergeant Payne was the mess sergeant and no better mess sergeant could be found. He was, to say the least, exasperated with us. I still think cook Fowler deliberately burnt the chocolate pudding in the large stone pot and made me clean it up. We had a lively discussion on that. We had too much food and I did throw a whole large cooked turkey out of the storeroom window into the snow, plus 2 lb. tea containers and fresh fruit, and picked them up at about 2000 hours. I took them over to Patricia Hutchison's (sigh), and her mom's house, who invited the whole street in for the goodies. One boy of about 4 or 5 asked his mom what the orange was that he was holding. It is unbelievable how they had to survive with no heat and skimpy rations, but they were determined to see it through.

At the airport at Newberry at the C-47 base, we got some old cargo chutes that had a 2 inch felt bottom which we converted into our fartsacks. Even Sergeant Stark came around saying I do not know where you guys got them, but I want one — and he got one. Also, these old cargo chutes contained a parachute of immense size of bright orange nylon. I gave a few of them to Pat's mom who made a lot of underclothes out of them.

We would go over to the airbase frequently as I drove our pilots there. At times, I would take off from camp with a few of my boys to a large air force mess hall and park in front where there were big signs designating "No Parking." There would be hundreds of guys in line and we would just saunter in. They would move aside and avoid our eyes. I guess they thought we were frontline special killer troops. They had all the chow you could help yourself to, including ice cream. At our mess hall, it was a spoon of this and a spoon of that. Bread and jam were always on the tables and we really ate. Plus when we left, we would fill our pockets and helmets with food for our buddies. On our last raid there we put on quite a show. We mounted my 50 caliber machine gun, radio, plus racks in back with cans and a carbine rack and shining new bullets into the gun and wirecutter. These air corp men just wondered at us. We gave them no conversation at all.

Back to social activities at Reading. Our favorite pub was the Jolly Bird and many, many happy hours were spent there with our dates. We would beat the locals at darts and outdo them in sing-a-longs. One evening while escorting an ATS gal back to her barracks at 2200, my buddies followed me. They were all catcalling. I yelled to them to wait while I walked her to the door and they got lost in the fog. I could not catch up with them and I got lost in the fog myself. Soon I knew I was really lost and there was no one around. I kept thinking of Sherlock Holmes stories. It was very eerie. Finally I heard footsteps. A bobby took me back an hour's walk and I gratefully gave him some cigarettes and candy for his kids. I yelled at my buddies for leaving me, which produced only laughter from them.

We did go to the Salisbury moors on maneuvers, home of the legendary Hound of the Baskervilles and it was pitch dark, eerie and foggy. There was a clown there that would howl like a mad dog. It did give one goose bumps.

We soon found out that when nearing combat, it was the army's unwritten policy to starve the troops to make them lean and mean. Parker and I were assigned to KP together. We did our work and then disappeared. Payne would find us in the latrine, the barracks and finally, in the empty huts in the back of camp. He was so upset with us that he could not speak, but dribbled and marched out, which did not please our first sergeant. In fact, it was entered in the duty roster that we were two that were not to be assigned to KP together any more.

Two of my friends from home in the merchant marines visited me here. They spent a couple of days with me and said with our living conditions and chow, they would rather take their chances on the high seas than live as we did.

I did get a 3-day pass with my buddy from home in the air force which was arranged by the Red Cross, and a wild time ensued in London. Sightseeing by day and carousing at night - we toured it all, and even went to Picadilly Circus, which was filled with "questionable ladies of the evening."

We gave a Christmas party for the local kids and filled them with goodies and they sure enjoyed it. The local ATS gals threw a party at this time and invited the GIs and it got out of hand. I guess it was the last time they did this.

After six weeks in England, one dark, cold and snowy night, we were routed out at 2400 hours and told to pack up as we were leaving. The town awoke the next morning to empty barracks and I guess many prayed for us like previous troops before us.

My jeep had a flat tire and the outfit left. My riders and I quickly changed the tire and caught them miles down the road just before being met with secret destination orders to Weymouth, which was a staging area. Accommodations there were horrible - torn tents, and only C-rations. We did have a last farce of a medical exam and we boarded the LSTS for France. Schnozz showed us the brass door plate from Brock and he kept it for a souvenir. Recently he passed on and his widow gave it to me.

Supposedly it was a 20 hour trip to France, but buffeted by storms, it took almost 3 days, including sitting outside of Le Havre at sundown as the French mine gate openers had left for the day. We were a sitting target. We sailed on to Rouen and a couple of sailors desired to go with us. Sergeant Stark got the clipboard and started to write them up and they soon disappeared, never to be seen again.

As we came on shore we were greeted by a ragged urchin who said, "Hey Joe, sister? Cigarettes for papa, candy for me." Welcome to la belle France. As we convoyed through small villages, we noticed the quaint latrines outside with ones head and feet exposed. The locals carried on conversations while in use.

We were quartered in a small chateau in the battlefields of World War I. It was cold, there was no firewood and we were told plainly that no on leaves unless on specified duty. Along came a young lad and Bigfoot, Filthy and I sampled his hard cider and made connections to visit his folk's farm nearby and made a trade. We had to jump over the high spiked fence, make our deal and get back. We each shoved about 3 bottles through the fence and started to jump over and who appeared but Stark and Captain Thomas. He reamed us out and confiscated our booty also. The next morning at chow, Stark informed us that we had better keep a low profile as the officers found out it was only sweet cider.

Then we were off to a tent city and they issued each of us 75 rounds of ammo, and incendiary grenades for our vehicles if the situation warranted abandoning them — it was getting hairy and scary now.

(Continued on Page 49)

WORLD WAR II ... THE BIG ONE

(Continued from Page 48)

Moving up through Belgium, we made a regular stop in Charleroi. Our boy **Juggy**, whose wife hailed from Charleroi, Pennsylvania, a real coincidence, and a grandmother type, came out and handed us a few bottles of wine. They said a prayer for us too. The wine was consumed posthaste.

Finally, one miserable, dark and sleety night on muddy roads, we saw the flashing lights and heard the sounds of artillery getting closer — we all got pretty quiet and started to fully realize that all the training was passe now and this was it. We were in a rear position and I went forward with a small party to find our counterparts of the 99th we were replacing. And did they ever look rugged and very exhausted. One told me as he honed his knife that half of us would be dead in a week. At that moment, all I thought of was I wished I had been a 4-F.

I was driving an officer past Purple Heart Corners and heard the first screaming meemies. It was a weird noise. The officer jumped out and ran, so I did too. We were in visibility of the enemy at this road juncture and I lost my helmet in my haste. I finally attained one from a wounded GI at an aid station. In the meantime, I had found I had wet knees, a common ailment for new combat men.

After seventeen days in the same position, we mounted a large attack and went 23 miles in one day through the dragon teeth of the Siegfried Line. While in the pillboxes at an outdoor enemy privy, **Stark** and **Mail Call Hoch** decided to move it. They put in C-2 plastic, lit a fuse, ducked behind a rock and it rained "hard shrapnel" all over. **Hoch** got a large bruise on his neck, making him eligible for a Brown Heart said our laughing medic, **Glenn Ellefson**.

The Germans shelled our position in the pillboxes at 0700, noon and 0530 thinking we were having chow three times a day. But we ate at about 1000 and 1600 and the cooks, for once, filled our mess kits over the brim.

One night we were hungry so **Bigfoot**, **Filthy**, **Shorty** and I mounted a raid on the mess truck. We made a little noise and the cook opened the pillbox door and as soon as he heard **Bigfoot's** carbine bolt move, he quickly locked the door. The next morning here comes **Stark** at us and he said no more of that. He had no proof though. I guess we kept him wondering

Combat Infantrymen's Badge

Submitted by: **Norman J. Ehlinger**
10410 South Ocean Drive, Apt. 1009
Jensen Beach, Florida 34957

I would like to request that the 69th Infantry Bulletin carry an article about the "Blue Badge." The "Blue Badge" represents men awarded this elite and honorable medal of **Garland** and **M-1 Rifle**, who fought in mortal ground combat in World War II, and I believe subsequent wars. Only those who were so honored as to receive the "Badge" are eligible for membership in the **Combat Infantrymen's Association, Inc.** The "Badge" represents the valor and sacrifice these men gave during the war. Men of the 69th who are eligible to join this elite organization may do so by writing to the address above or the New York address on the application on the following page.

* * * * *

The rifleman fights without promise of either reward or relief. Behind every river there's another hill — and behind that hill, another river. After weeks or months in the line only a wound can offer him the comfort of safety, shelter, and a bed. Those who are left to fight, fight on, evading death but knowing that with each day of evasion they have exhausted one more chance for survival. Sooner or later, unless victory comes this chase must end on the litter or in the grave.

General **Omar Bradley**

about our antics. My gang was supposed to be the brains of the outfit.

We got our first rest for a few days at **Schmidtheim** and **Stark** put about six of us in a large, cold stone-floor church. We were supposed to keep our own guard and all promptly fell asleep. I was endman and woke up at daybreak next to a German officer waiting for his burial service, and 4 or 5 enlisted men. The officer had a blanket over him, and the men had none. I guess again, rank has its privileges. They even had the wooden crosses on them.

A few of the guys got a hold of the town postman's motorcycle, confiscated it and on leaving, were ordered to return it. They did return it by putting it in the guy's barn and then they set fire to the barn as we left.

While there I was sent on a water run miles back and I took **Bigfoot** with me, which was a foolish mistake. We found a large winery and filled a trailer full of GI cans with wine. We got back hours late and pretty well oiled and in trouble again of course. The wine was distributed to the troops and from then on, wine and cognac became a daily dietary staple, having been warned of the bad water.

We went down the beautiful **AAR** river valley and up to the **Remagen** to defend the bridge against countless German attacks. At night the skies were red with tracers after German fighter planes. They tried underwater men, among other ways, but were unsuccessful. We then crossed the **Treadway** bridge which had a sign on it signifying that it was the longest in the world then, supposedly to go 35 yards apart, but bumper to bumper, and the bridge sure sagged. On reaching the east bank, there lay a few of the engineers having a crap game.

This ends the first episode, to be continued. How many of you know that if we had landed in France, we would have been in the **Bulge**? A green outfit, like the **106th**, which was decimated in two days, losing over 50% of their men. Think about that. Our high brass back in fancy chateaus figured that the **Ardennes** would be quiet until spring and had divisions on a front as high as 18 miles instead of the traditional 4 or 5 mile front. Again, it could have been us, so thank your lucky stars. Historic records show that the **Bulge** was the biggest battle of the **ETO**, and over 50,000 casualties - dead, wounded and missing.

So this accounting of our days, although it is filled with a lot of humor, was actually very serious to the men.

WHO WEARS THIS BADGE?

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

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

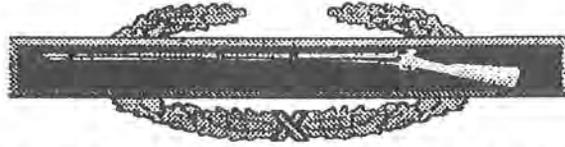
A Soldier Who Knows — The cost of war and the price of peace and knows which is the better buy. He knows now is a time when you can't let down, he knows what defense means, it means him, standing alert and ready.

A Soldier's Soldier — His badge is the symbol of a great group of men, his buddies may be tall or short, **Texans** or **New Englanders**, it doesn't matter, whenever he meets a soldier wearing the badge, he knows he meets a soldier.

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

— SEE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR APPLICATION —

THE ORIGINAL COMBAT INFANTRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.



ENLISTMENT APPLICATION

DATE: _____

NAME: _____
(Last) (First) (MI)

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: () _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

Membership Requirements: The applicant must have been awarded the COMBAT INFANTRYMEN'S BADGE as certified to by Official notation on the applicant's DD-214, Official Army Orders or other official documents. Applicant must attach a copy of such documentation to this enlistment (member) application.

Date entered U.S. Army: _____

Date discharged or retired: _____

C.I.B. awarded for combat service during the following periods, (check all that apply):

WWII Korea VN Grenada Panama Desert Storm

Organization assigned to when awarded the C.I.B.: _____

I hereby apply for membership in the Combat Infantrymen's Association, Inc., and certify I am eligible as explained above. A copy of the documentation verifying my eligibility is attached.

Sponsor: _____ Computer #: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Amount of dues for member enlistment enclosed: _____ (Dues \$20.00 for two (2) years "annual.")

Life Enlistment: \$75.00 Check #: _____
Other assigned CIA companies

MAIL TO:
COMBAT INFANTRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

138 Locust Avenue, New Rochelle, New York 10805

Phone: (914) 632-5827

(Do not write below this line - for C.I.B. use only)

Date Received: _____ Assigned to Company: _____

Date Card Sent: _____ Enlistee Type: Regular _____ Life _____

Date Certifying Documentation Returned: _____

Signature of Authorizing Officer: _____ Rank: _____

Corps Ara: _____ ***Title: _____

TCIA-01-21-93

lap-1

Mark ...

Headquarters, 881st Field Artillery Battalion

Sent By: Cecil Ammons, 4309 Bell Hill Road, Bessemer, Alabama 35023-6943



Leo Donelson, Cecil Ammons, I.G. Primelles, Sergeant Jones and Don Alter



Al Kormas at Krinkel



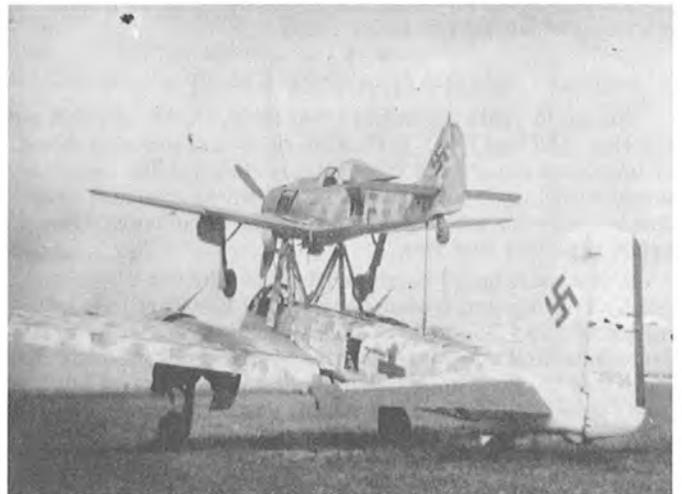
Leo Donelson on AA Gun



Back Row: Cecil Ammons, Anthony Vitullo, Dale Liggett, Robert Baker. Front Row: I.G. Primelles, Leo Donelson



Lieutenant Olson at Merseburg



Merseburg - Focke-Wulf on Bomber

We will try to have more of these photos in the next bulletin. However, Cecil, a lot of them are not printable.

Attention 777th Tank Men and those who remember Charles W. Ray, Sr.

Submitted by: Charles W. Ray, Jr.
311 Gardenville Drive, Yorktown, Virginia 23693
Telephone: 804/867-8619

I am working on two projects and solicit your help.

I am writing the Charles William Ray, Sr. Family History. Dad was a Tec/4 Tank Driver, in Headquarters Platoon, B Company, 777th Tank Battalion and was attached to the 69th at Wassenach and to the 272nd between Hoffen and Torgau. Dad died suddenly in 1972 leaving many questions for his history unanswered.

Dad's tank was "Big Bertha." She had a 105mm Howitzer. Her crew was: Henry "Hank" Henderson - Tank Commander, Charles W. Ray, Sr. - Driver, Robert "Bob" Felchlin - Assistant Driver, Herb Fish - Gunner and Dermot Chester, Loader.

I have contacted several members of the 777th requesting information for Dad's history. Response has been fantastic. Some have sent group photos of their Company at Fort Knox and smaller photos of their time in Germany. I've heard lots of interesting stories.

I am also creating a "777th Photo Wall." When someone donates a group photo for my Dad's history, I have it mounted and framed. I put the smaller photos in an album in the order they were taken. So far, I have been given group photos of Headquarters Co. and B Company and lots of smaller photos. When I get the entire Tank Battalion's group photos together, I'd like to display them with the articles at 69th Reunions.

Many of you in the 69th met the men of the 777th and rode on their Tanks. Would you share your memories with me for both projects? I'm looking for:

1. Photos and information that would help me name all the tanks of the 777th and their crews. Big Bertha, B.S., Baby Dew, Blitz Returns and Alamo, etc.
2. Stories about your favorite tank and crew?
3. Pictures of your platoon on the Tank.
4. Individual histories of the 271st, 272nd and 273rd.
5. A photo of Big Bertha and her crew?

If someone else has already written the history with photographs, I'd like to hear from them also.

I spent 16 years of my 21 year Air Force career (between 1964 and 1984) in Germany and retired there before returning to the States. I wish I had wanted this information then.

Thanks again for being there. We owe you all a debt of gratitude which we can never repay.

* * * * *

THE LONGEST SHOT

About 45 years ago when I was little, Daddy showed us kids this "Old Red Box," (a German cigar box) where he stored his important papers and WWII/Army memorabilia. I suppose he was showing us some things he felt were important at the time but we were too young to realize the importance. I never forgot the "Old Red Box."

A few years ago, I began writing the Charles W. Ray, Sr. Family History and I went to the "Old Red Box" for information. In it I found a booklet which covered the 777th Tank Battalion's WWII History. Mother told me that the 777th was Daddy's unit. I also found a WWII Travel Log by Bill O'Brien. It listed all the French and German towns that Bill O'Brien went through in WWII. I compared the travel log and the booklet. There was no connection between the two as none of the towns matched. So I thought, "Maybe Daddy's tank and crew were attached to Bill O'Brien's outfit." I scrutinized every photo Daddy had. There were no names written on the backs, only developer's film numbers and sometimes

a date. Dad's photo trail led straight to Leipzig. Bill's Travel Log took them to Jossnitz, Czechoslovakia.

This was simply a puzzle that I didn't see a solution for. First of all, I didn't know this "Bill O'Brien" and it was 45 years after the War. And second, I assumed the Army and 777th Tank Battalion were no longer associated with Fort Knox. I didn't give up, though.

Let me digress a bit. In 1982, while stationed in Germany, I met Stephanie Flood who is from New York. I'm from Texas. In December 1984, we were married in Missouri City, Texas and moved to Arizona. In December 1986, we moved to Virginia. In July 1989, Stephanie was reassigned to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines.

Before leaving for the PI, while on vacation in Texas, I asked mother for some of daddy's old military memorabilia so I could work on the Family History while I was there.

In 1991, I was looking at the Travel Log and wondering out loud, "I wish I could figure out who this Bill O'Brien is!" and Stephanie overheard. She said, "I went to school with Mary Ann O'Brien and I think her Dad's name was Bill." I guess I juggled that thought around in my head for a while and asked her, "Do you think he could be the same one?" She probably said, "Might Be!" That was good enough for me. All I needed to do was make a copy of the Travel Log and send it to Mary Ann. Before I got around to making that copy though, our resident volcano, Mount Pinatubo, erupted in early June and forced our evacuation and relocation to the States with little more than the clothes we wore. For 4 months, I agonized over the possibility that all the years of family research, computer lists and genealogies, Daddy's memorabilia, and dozens of old family photographs had been lost to that volcano. One day, for curiosity sake, I called my house in the PI and was surprised to hear the phone ringing. So then I tried calling a friend who was still there and he answered the phone. All was not lost and, in fact, he was shipping our possessions to us in Austin, Texas. What a relief that was! Our possessions, including the Travel Log, arrived in October.

Finally, I got back to the Travel Log and Family History. I mailed the Travel Log to Mary Ann on May 11, 1992. Mary Ann had moved so the Travel Log didn't get to her right away. Then in March 1993, we moved to Virginia and her letter to us was returned undeliverable and she didn't know where we were.

Sixteen months later after checking with Stephanie's mother, Mary Ann sent a birthday card to Stephanie and mentioned that I should call her Dad in New City, New York.

I called her dad that night thinking at best that he just wanted to say hello. What a pleasant surprise to hear him say, "I am the Bill O'Brien you are looking for." I don't remember how many seconds passed before I caught my breath. Nearly an impossible coincidence.

The only possible connection we could come up with was that maybe they met briefly at the hospital in Malmedy, Belgium. Bill told me he was recuperating there at the end of the war. This trip to the hospital was not on his Travel Log. On the back of one of the photos, Daddy wrote "Spa, Belgium, May 28, 1945." This put them in the same area at the same time. Bill O'Brien sent me his unit history book and lots of his keepsakes, including the original "Travel Log," to review. There was no other possibility. Bill was in Company E, 346th Infantry Regiment, 87th Infantry Division.

Just think about it. Out of 250,000,000 Americans, I married the "ONE" who knew the Bill O'Brien that typed out that Travel Log and gave a copy to my Dad. Of all the Bill O'Briens in the world, the very first one I contacted was the "ONE" I was looking for. If this isn't the "Longest Long Shot," it is a very close second.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We did receive some further information and pictures from Charles Ray, Jr., but we were full already. They will appear in the next bulletin. In the meantime, if you have photos, please respond to our writer.)

A little history on the 777th Tank Battalion

Sent by: Harold L. McAdam
Route 3, Ogdensburg, New York 13669

After reading the Bulletin Volume 48, I found the article on page 29 interesting. It shows a drawing of a Leipzig sign and the caption that reads, "Taken by the 271st and 272nd plus 777th Tank Battalion Task Force. Zweible took City Hall after a bitter fight." I had never seen much of anything written about the 777th Tank Battalion, so I felt compelled to not only write, but to furnish photos as well.

I served in the infantry all the way across Germany to the city of Halle. There I was transferred to the 777th. I showed up with a full field pack and an M1 rifle. The guy that checked me in asked what I was doing with the side of a building strapped on my back. He said, "We don't carry anything in this outfit. We have trailers for that."

I found out that they did too, stuffed with every kind of loot they could pick up. The tanks were covered with captured weapons, pots, pans, logs, anything for extra armor. I was with Headquarters Company very briefly. They had a house in the country with a bath tub. Some of the fellows fixed me right up with hot water and clean clothes. Boy, what a luxury!

While there, word was received that Germans were in the woods nearby. Tanks couldn't get in there, so it was decided that a platoon was to go on foot. This was the only time that the 777th acted as infantry. This was written up in a newsletter shaped like a birthday cake with one candle on it, commemorating the 777th being one year old. If anyone still has one, I would like to get a copy of it. I was picked to lead them in because I had an M1 rifle, infantry training and probably, I was the most expendable man being new to the outfit. Anyway we made it O.K. When we got there, we found three anti-aircraft emplacements. They were circular and made out of brick for nine guns in all. They had removed the guns, so we got out of there.

I was placed in Company C right after that. Captain Bragg, C.O., asked me if I could keep a 30 caliber machine gun firing. I replied, "Yes sir." From then on, I was a bow gunner on a Sherman tank that had a long barreled 76mm gun with a stuffed wild boar wired to it. Task Force Zweibel in the article I read was led by Lieutenant Fierbend of Company C. He was more German than the Krauts. Lieutenant Colonel Zweibel was the C.O. of the 777th and was also a German, Germans fighting Germans! Lieutenant Zweibel led the tanks into Leipzig City Hall by an alternate route. There were some two hundred panzerfaust troops waiting for them on the original route. The tank that Lieutenant Griffin was in was blown up. He got a bullet wound but recovered and came home with the outfit. I don't know but I think a couple of the crew were killed also. Lieutenant Fierbend was awarded the Silver Star for his action in taking Leipzig City Hall and the surrender of the city, the Pittsburgh of Germany.

They got a lot of Lugars and P-38 pistols there, also a truck load of champagne. This was passed out one bottle per crew every evening. We popped the corks for retreat.

Lieutenant Fierbend was called Fire Ball by most of us. He was tall, good looking with a crew cut and mustache. He wore his own version of a uniform consisting of high leather boots and riding breeches. He carried a Luger with a 16 inch barrel in a shoulder holster. He wasn't afraid to do anything. He searched and interrogated a lot of prisoners looking for SS tatoos.

A lot of Germans were trying to surrender to us rather than the Russians. We had two trucks and would take them to a POW area. On one trip a big German truck broadsided our 6 X 6 doing a lot of injuries to their own people and



*Harold McAdam on his 19th birthday.
May 1st, 1945 - Toucha, Germany near Leipzig.*

completely wrecking the truck. I don't know if it was intentional or not. There were almost no German vehicles. on the road at the time. We had a whole yard full of captured cars, trucks, motor cycles and military vehicles which everyone used. I have enclosed photos of some of them. There were no M.P.s there. We were the only law in town.

We went out every morning in a half track on patrol looking for trouble and German soldiers running from the Russians. I was injured on one of these dawn patrols as we called them. I have suffered ever since with back problems.

After that, Company C was given the suburb of Toucha to occupy. There were two concentration camps there. One was mostly Italians which had changed sides by then and the other one was mostly Poles. We had to guard the gates and keep them in until transport could be arranged. The British Army brought some food for them. I worked with them to help unload it.

Soon we were at work assembling a railroad train of 40 and 8's using 6x6's to switch the cars. A long train was eventually hooked up and some twelve hundred Italians were loaded on in the evening. I was writing a letter at the time and a hell of an explosion raised me right off my seat. One of the Italians had gotten a seat out of a car to sit on the way home. When he sat down, he sat on a Tella Mine. It blew the rail car and everyone in it straight up. This was almost in the center of the train, so they all had to go back in the camp again.

Later we had to take three tanks down to the Polish camps to keep peace. I had to go in and found a half a pig that they got in a raid on the Germans. This was in warm weather. Also, I got myself a German Burp Gun that I kept while there but didn't bring home.

Soon we had the Russians to deal with. We had a 17 year old Russian slave laborer we called Walter, with us. Nobody could speak Russian but Walter could also speak Polish. There were Polish fellow in Company C, so communicating was possible with the Russians.

At the time, we were over 120 miles inside of what became East Germany. I tried to trade with one of them and he called me a G ____ D ____ capitalist in English. I never saw such a brainwashed bunch. Some of the guys would show them a picture of their car or house and they would call them liars. We were more afraid of them than we were of the Germans. When orders came to unload the ammo out of the tanks and take the breech blocks out of the guns, there were anxious

(Continued on Page 54)

A LITTLE HISTORY ON THE 777th TANK BATTALION
(Continued from Page 53)



Russian slave laborer called Walter on the left. We were cleaning strawberries.

moments. After that we drove everything into Leipzig and loaded them on railroad cars. Before we did that, a big hole was scooped out with the tank dozer and all the captured guns and things that the guys didn't keep to bring home were buried. I'll bet I could point out the spot yet.

After that we were loaded on 40's and 8's and shipped out. The Russians took over. We reached home July 9th, 1945. After a furlough we were shipped to San Louis Obispo, California. All new tanks were waiting with 90mm guns. We were going to Japan in case the Bomb didn't work. Thank God it did, and we were soon on our way home. Lieutenant Fierbend handed me my discharge, shook my hand and said, "Get home safely Mac."



Officers of Company C. Grifftin, Bothfield, Marks, Captain Bragg C.O. and Fierbend (Fireball).



37 tons of tank blown upsidedown.



Italian P.O.W. Concentration Camp in Toucha, Germany



Lieutenant Grifftin on the right who was shot and recovered. Lieutenant Marks on the left with Trooper, our mascot.

(Continued on Page 55)



C Company Tanks in action in Leipzig.



Logs for extra armor



C Company Tank Cest La Guerre



Tracks for extra armor



Crossed the Rhine on this pontoon bridge built by U.S. Navy. It was 1370 feet long, the longest tactical bridge in the world.



Stuka Dive Bomber



Monument of Nations in Leipzig



Harold McAdam with one of our cars.



I'm holding a yellow flag skull and bones taken from SS Division. I have an SS pin on my collar and rings also.



Company C officers used this car.



Harold McAdam on the left and Mich on the right, with liberated Model A Ford with blackout lights.



A row of wrecked planes.



These German soldiers didn't get a chance to use their Panzer Faust between them.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE

May I just make note to all Leaders of Chapters, Groups, Branches, Companies, Battalions, Regiments, Recon, Artillery, AAA, and T.D.'s to get your Activities Schedules to Earl E. Witzleb Jr., Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069 or R.D. #3, 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

MAY 6, 1995

Deadline for news material and pictures for this bulletin.
 Bulletin Volume 48, Number 3
 May - June - July - August 1995
 Bulletin expected mailing date in July or August.

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 6, 7, 8, 9, 1995

69th CAVALRY RECON TROOP

Lexington Hotel Suites
 1200 South Meridian
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73108
 Telephone: 405/943-7800
 Fax: 405/943-8346

Committee:

Charles Rice
 6220 Kingston Road
 Oklahoma City, OK 73122
 Telephone: 405/721-2288

Lloyd Abbott
 8098 East 191st Street
 Bixby, Oklahoma 74008
 Telephone: 918/366-8767

SEPTEMBER 11, 12, 13, 1995

BATTERY C, 880th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

The Carlisle Village Inn
 Walnut Creek, Ohio
In the Heart of Amish Country

Committee:

Robert A. Williams
 1407 Narrangasset Boulevard
 Lorain, Ohio 44053
 Telephone: 216/282-2810

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

* * * * *

OCTOBER 13, 14, 15, 1995

**HEADQUARTERS BATTERY,
 MEDICAL DETACHMENT, 461st AAA AW Battalion**

Quality Inn
 Salem, Virginia 24153
 Motel Telephone: 703/562-1912 or 800/228-5151

Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Leave Sunday or stay over.
 Leave I-81 at Exit 141 and go south on SR-419 to motel.
 A block of rooms have been reserved. Good rates. Be sure
 to specify 461st group.

Meeting Room will be the Montgomery/Franklin Room.

Committee:

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

Francis H. Breyette, *News Reporter*
 1137 Orkla Drive
 Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427-4441
 Telephone: 612/545-2281

* * * * *

OCTOBER 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 1995

**HEADQUARTERS BATTERY,
 880th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**

In Conjunction with the 69th National Reunion

Landmark Resort Hotel
 Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Committee:

John O'Connor
 9321 Jefferson
 Brookfield, Illinois 60513
 Telephone: 708/387-7809

Robert McKee
 29 Sandy Point Road, Longpoint
 Earleville, Maryland 21919
 Telephone: 410/275-8627

Eugene McGreevy
 800 Shriver Avenue
 Cumberland, Maryland 21502
 Telephone: 301/724-3650

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11/1/95

October 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 1995
69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
48th ANNUAL REUNION

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

LANDMARK RESORT HOTEL

A BEST WESTERN HOTEL

1501 South Ocean Boulevard

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 19577

Telephone: 803/448-9441 or 800/845-0658

The Landmark is right on the ocean. Water and air temperatures are very pleasant in October. The airport is about two miles away and the hotel has complimentary transportation to and from the airport. Myrtle Beach is well within driving distance from the middle Atlantic states - about 10 hours from Philadelphia. Free Parking - Y'all Come!

RATES

Ocean Front: \$52.00 plus 7% tax

Ocean View: \$42.00 plus 7% tax

Hospitality Room - Tours - Early Bird Dinner - PX Party - Shows
Memorial Service - Banquet Dinner Dance - Golf - Shopping and More

See front of bulletin for other details.

COMMITTEE:

George and Rita Wolff, Co-Chairpersons
Company A, 271st
1132 Forest Drive
North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29582
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-chairpersons are needed plus eight couples or members to 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.**

Freddy Vaughn
312 Five Farms Lane
Timonium, Maryland
69th Recon

F.D. Petrucelli
15 Lakeview Avenue East
Peekskill, New York
Hq. - 273rd

John S. Garrett
Route 1
Six Mile, South Carolina
A - 272nd

Kenneth Reber
407A West Arch Street
1st Floor
Pottsville, Pennsylvania
Service Co. - 724th F.A.

John H. Oesch
818-2 Kentwood Drive
Youngstown, Ohio
B - 724th F.A.

Elmer C. Dudley
22 Dixie Drive
Salem, Virginia
C-880th F.A.

Aage Simensen
P.O. Box 1547
Shelter Island, New York
A-269th

Donald T. McCracken
P.O. Box 318
Paoli, Indiana
D-271st

Louis J. Cochrane
Toano, Virginia
A-881st F.A.

George Newman
700 Chestnut Street
Nelsonville, Ohio
B-881st F.A.

John Harris, Jr.
305 Waysons Court
Lothian, Maryland
Div. Hq.

Donald Johnson
4690 Colonial Drive, #6
Saginaw, Michigan
H3-271st

Albert Duhe
102 Holly
Lake Jackson, Texas
A-724th F.A.

Charles E. Jones
1212 Ranchette Road
W. Palm Beach, Florida
F-Cannon - 273rd

Henry Pruett
P.O. Box 184
Century, Florida
A-269th

Thomas Ellis
5844 New England
Chicago, Illinois
F-272nd

Gaelano Piscitelli
61-39 167th Street
Flushing, New York
C-880th

Milton Goodwin
20 Princeton Avenue
Clementon, New Jersey
C-369th

Jasinkowski
C-724th F.A.

Alfred H. Fickes
6209 Johnnycake Road
Baltimore, Maryland
G-273rd

Paul Staub
20 Snowbird Lane
Levittown, New York
Hq-1 - 273rd

Virgil Spanos
11144 Saucier Drive
St. Louis, Missouri
K-271st

Hollis E. Connelley
2109 Braeburn Parkway
Indianapolis, Indiana
A - 880th FA.

Kent Mason
67 Cliffside
Daly City, California
Medic-271st

John Dunevich
698 Prestley Avenue
Carnegie, Pennsylvania
A-777th

Joseph L. Jenei
3606 State Street N.W.
P.O. Box 127
Greentown, Ohio
C-661st

Sam J. Foose, Jr.
P.O. Box 715
Lexington, Mississippi
C-724th

Claude Simpson
Route 2, 333 South
Sarasota, Florida
H-273rd

Robert H. Murphy
36 West Garrison Road
Chester, Pennsylvania
B-881st F.A.

Charles W. Ray, Sr.
Rosenberg, Texas
B-777th

Judge John Breslin
219 East Second Street
Maysville, Kentucky
Honorary 65th Div.

John Stanton
23 Beechwood Drive
Atco, New Jersey
E-273rd

William D. Sullivan
262 Charlottesville Drive N.
Toms River, New Jersey
F-273rd

Paul E. Miller
108 Lane Drive
Chillicothe, Ohio
L-272nd

Archibald Farrar
P.O. Box 171
Summerville, Georgia
F-273rd

Ralph M. Ayers
55255 Marietta Road
Pleasant City, Ohio
Service Co. - 272nd

Bill Brooks
695 Cascade Drive North
Mt. Laurel, New Jersey
Hq.-3 - 272nd

William Fox
Addison, New York
C-881st F.A.

Robert N. Rogers
8114 Cameo Drive
Machesney, Illinois
I-273rd

John Deoudes
2942 Craiglawn Road
Silver Springs, Maryland
Div. Hq.

Woodrow Jumper
1827 Lorick Street
Cayce, South Carolina
C-879th F.A.

Raymond Zwaskis
610 Erudo Street
Linden, New Jersey
G-272nd

T.P. Northern
4217 Roxton Drive
Amarillo, Texas
B-880th F.A.

Robert E. Patchin
Fortuna, California
Hq.-1 - 272nd

(Continued on Back Cover)



the 69th

INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

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

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"Taps"

(Continued from Page 59)

Thaddeus J. Potocki
2451 East Outer Drive
Detroit, Michigan
I & R, Div. Hq.

Henry C. Bowne
2929 S.E. 157th Street
Portland, Oregon
Hq.-661st

Robert Spivey, Jr.
1705 Jollit Avenue
Opelika, Alabama
B-777th

Gilbert Wood
2225 Third Avenue S.E.
Ocala, Florida
B-881st F.A.

Joe P. Sarua, Sr.
11029 South Mayfield Avenue
Chicago Ridge, Illinois
C-881st F.A.

Robert Freeland
Olney, Illinois
G-271st

Jacob D. Inch
R.D. #2, Box 389
Liverpool, Pennsylvania
A-661st

William Baumgarten
W344 N., 7015 West Circle Drive
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin
E-273rd

Charles W. Jones
HCR #1, Box 10
Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania
A-269th

J.E. McCauley
702 Adams Street
Newburgh, Indiana
Cannon - 273rd

George Butler
32 Lovall Avenue
Jamestown, New York
K-271st

Robert Mendivil
450 Park Street
Redwood City, California
C-777th

Arthur M. Athey
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Beeville, Texas
Hq.-661st

Salvatore A. Higgins
Garfield, New Jersey
H-272nd

Joseph Skinner
3305 Medway
Silver Spring, Maryland
Hq.-661st

John W. Raymond
1620 Jefferson Circle
Webb City, Missouri
Div. Hq.



NOTE: For those of you who are unaware, the membership voted some time ago to limit the bulletin to 60 pages. If you submitted material for this bulletin, and did not see it published in this issue, it will be published in the next issue. We cannot always find space for everything that we receive. Please be patient and your number will come up soon. Thank You, Clarence and Earl