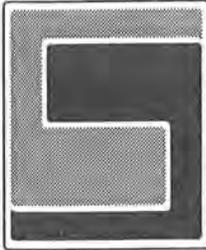


FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★★ Association, Inc.



VOLUME 49, NO. 2

JANUARY — FEBRUARY — MARCH — APRIL
1996

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

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

bulletin

READY FOR WAR - LEAVING CAMP SHELBY

How many of you remember boarding the trains after Basic Training and leaving Camp Shelby? A scary and exciting day for many of us. Who would have known all we would be up against boarding these trains.



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*Deceased

News From The Editor's Desk



By Clarence Marshall
Co-Editor

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

QUESTION ON 69th INVOLVEMENT IN BATTLE OF THE BULGE ANSWERED

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In the last issue of the bulletin on page 5 in my column, Wilfred Q. Cole requested information on the 69th's involvement or non-involvement in the Battle of the Bulge. We requested that anyone who had this information to please write to Wilfred and also to us. Following is the letter that Emanuel Rind wrote to Wilfred Cole. Thank you, Emanuel.)

Emanuel Rind, 320 Central Parkway, Newport News, Virginia 23606-3726 — I-272nd: As per your request, here is a copy of the letter I wrote to **Dr. Wilfred Q. Cole**, 4036 Boxwood Circle, Jackson, MS 39211.

I read your letter in the last issue of the 69th Inf. Div. Assn. publication. You wanted to know if the 69th Inf Div. participated in the Battle of the Bulge.

The Battle of the Bulge officially started on December 16, 1944 and ended on January 25, 1945. The Belgian government reinforces these dates. It issued two awards of their Belgian Fourragere (equivalent to the French Croix de Guerre) to all members of the 99th Inf. Div. who fought in the Ardennes during that period. These awards were made by the Belgian Ministry of National Defense, Decree No. 2509, of the 17th of June 1946. The first award was from November 19, 1944 to December 16, 1944. The second award was from December 16, 1944 to February 3, 1945.

Battle Honors were authorized by the War Dept. by Executive Order No. 9396 (Sec. 1, Bul. 22, W.D. 1943) and issued as General Orders 35, 99th Inf. Div., 5 May 1945 and approved by G. C. Marshall, Commanding General of the ETO. These went to the 1st Battalion, 394th Inf. Regt. for action against the enemy during the period 16 to 18 December 1944 in Germany and Belgium.

I believe that the 69th Inf. Div. replaced the 99th Inf. Div. on the line February 11, 1945 which falls outside these dates. Therefore, the answer to your question is that the 69th Division did not participate in the Battle of the Bulge. However, quite a number of members of the 69th Division did go into the 99th Division. They gave quite a good account of themselves and they did the 69th Division proud.

I was one of those replacements. Originally from Co. I, 272nd Regt. I was a squad leader in Co. B, 394th Regt., 99th Div. I was badly wounded when we attacked the Germans, in the Ardennes forest, on January 15, 1945. I became a guest of the Third Reich and was recaptured from a German hospital in Linz, on March 10, 1945, after our troops took the Remagen bridge.

If you have any other questions regarding this, please feel free to ask me. Since my son lives in Columbus, Mississippi I guess that makes you neighbors.

With best wishes from your 69th Division buddy.

Leon J. Ebert, 3165 Old Lakeview Road, Hamburg, New York 14075-6028 — I-272nd: I thought you might like to use this article in the bulletin that I wrote. I had it in the local paper and I got lots of calls and thanks from vets and sportsmen.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Fifty years ago the cry was, "Join the Armed Forces and protect your country, and preserve your freedoms!" We answered the cry, and joined willingly. Fifty years later and the cry is, "Change the Constitution!" "Do away with the 2nd Amendment."

It seems our Veterans and private citizens are not to be trusted to own firearms. Why do these people in Washington believe we want these changes? So many people have not only risked their lives, but also given their lives for the protection of our guaranteed freedoms. We fought countries that denied these same rights to their citizens.

ASSAULT RIFLES: (The so called "Root of All Evil"), If I remember correctly, it was our fearless leaders in Washington who passed the law to import all these surplus military firearms. It would be interesting to know how much money the large importers paid out to make sure this bill passed. It seems the rifles are blamed for all this country's ills.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION: People seldom stop to realize the fine work this organization is responsible for. This group of dedicated individuals not only provide hunter training courses, but also have marksmanship training courses for interested people. These courses and many others are manned by volunteers whose only reward is the knowledge that they have taught firearm safety and responsible handling of guns to young people as well as adults.

If it was not for these items do you realize what a poor army we might have had? You don't learn to shoot and qualify as sharpshooter in 5 minutes. In many foreign countries, children are taught early on to use guns. They are also given military training, as well as marksmanship.

Our men and women answered the call 50 years ago and fought for the right to own and bear arms. Let's not take away a basic freedom that men and women have risked and given their lives for. Give credit where it is due.

John G. Barrett, 6374 Brandywine Trail, Norcross, Georgia 30092 — A&B, 880th FA: I hear that you're not getting around as well as you once did, but that's true of all of us to a lesser degree.

I want to thank you again for all the work you have done over the many years for the 69th Bulletin. It is undoubtedly the best bulletin put out in the U.S.

Without you and a few others, the Association would never have survived over the years. Good luck to you and thanks again!

New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

Barnet Roetenburg — Company M, 273rd Infantry
3503 North 4th Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-1418

George R. Kehn — Company A, 271st Infantry
16030 Township Road 64, Conesville, Ohio 43811

Frank R. DiFrancisco — Company G, 271st Infantry
926 2nd Avenue, Franklin Square, New York 11070

Richard L. Gustafson
200 Hamburg Road, Lyme, Connecticut 06371

Gordon L. Schaefer — Company I, 273rd Infantry
6506 Covington Road, A-229
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46804

A Message from the Membership Chairman

Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.
P.O. Box 105
Wilmot, Ohio 44689
Telephone: 330/359-5487

It is nearing the time when Snowbirds will be making their return back North and we are still receiving notices that you just changed from North to South.

We also get a North and South address and the dates you will be departing to these locations.

We will not be starting another file for a double address nor keeping a calendar to mark the dates on.

If you cannot notify us a few weeks ahead of the time you make your change, your mail will be sent to your latest address.

Note that our area code had been changed to 330.

**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.



*Smiling First Timers at the Myrtle Beach Reunion
Jim and Betty Ewing of Company I, 273rd Infantry
Photo taken by Tom Yelcich*

Notice to all 69ers

Come on fellows, send in your stories and memories from your infantry days. Send us a story about the closest call you had. Or perhaps the funniest thing that happened to you when you were in the service.

If you want to see more articles on your particular unit, then send them in. All of the material you see printed in the bulletin is sent to us by you, the members. We do not single out or show preference to any particular unit. It is just that some of the units send in material and others don't.

Also, if you have old newspaper articles from the 40's or even from the Stars and Stripes, send those in. They make excellent reading. We are waiting to hear from you, so don't disappoint us.

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM YOUR EDITORS: DON'T FORGET TO PUT YOUR NAMES ON THE BACKS OF YOUR PHOTOS SO WE KNOW WHO TO CREDIT AND WHO TO RETURN THEM TO. THANK YOU!

NOTE: Earl Witzleb and Clarence Marshall are still our Editors, and therefore you should send letters of interest, articles and photos to them at the addresses below.

Earl Witzleb, Jr.
P.O. Box 69
Champion, PA 15622-0069
Telephone: 412/445-2901

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

69th Infantry Division 49th Annual Reunion

461st AAA BN. - 661st TD BN. -
777th TANK BN.

AUGUST 18TH TO 25TH, 1996

**HYATT REGENCY
WOODFIELD HOTEL
SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS**

Ernest H. and Mary Krause, *Chairpersons*
444 Pioneer Drive, Addison, Illinois 60101
Telephone: 708/543-6811



SCHAUMBURG (CHICAGO) welcomes the 69th Infantry Division to their 49th Reunion. The Hyatt Regency Hotel is located at the crossroads of Route 53 (I290) and the Northwest tollway (I90), 15 minutes west of O'Hare International Airport, 35 minutes from Chicago's loop and the great Magnificent Mile (Michigan Avenue). The hotel has a tempting array of dining and gourmet food. It is located across from the Woodfield Shopping Center, the world's largest, with a free shuttle bus to the shopping center.

Golf will be at Poplar Creek Golf Course. Chicago abounds in many attractions including: The Chicago White Sox and the Chicago Cubs, The beautiful Arlington Race Track, Grand Victoria Gambling Boat and many restaurants.

Our tour committee has selected an excellent tour agenda for our reunion. It would be impossible to cover all the exciting sights in a short week. So you don't miss out, come early, bring your smiles, and we will have a "HOT TIME IN THE OLD TOWN."

Transportation from Airport

For transportation by limousine to or from the O'Hare International Airport, call *My Chauffer* at 1-800-824-5055 to reserve a personalized, on time pick up (\$17.00 per person each way). Make reservations in advance upon arrival, pick up luggage, then call 1-800-244-6120. The hotel has no shuttle bus service.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1996 SCHAUMBURG REUNION

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20th

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Shop in the quaint village of Long Grove. This village was settled in the early 1800's and is now a crossroads of unique shops and restaurants housed in historic landmarks or new buildings conforming to the architecture of the period. Lunch on your own. Then on to the Chicago Botanic Gardens, where over twenty spectacular display gardens offer something for everyone. Everywhere you look, from the Water Fall Garden to the English Walled Garden, the glory of plant life at its peak awaits you. A tram ride of the gardens is included.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21st

9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Cruise the lake front and see Chicago from a unique viewpoint and enjoy the commentary. Lunch included. Enjoy a live floor show and dance band on the Spirit Of Chicago. After the cruise visit the newly renovated Navy Pier. View the Crystal Garden, ride the 150 ft. ferris wheel or the gigantic carousel. Free performances of music, comedy and mime.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21st

6:45 p.m. to 10:45 pm.

Come to the speakeasy for an Italian feast and great entertainment. Funny mobsters, gorgeous flappers, a hot jazz band and a great meal made by da Mayors mudda! Singing and dancing to the music of Cole Porter, George Gershwin and Duke Ellington. Experience the 20's Chicago style.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22nd

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Chicago Tour "IT'S A WONDERFUL TOWN." A tour of the Loop and Michigan Avenue will be narrated by a professional tour guide and will include scheduled stops. Time will be allowed for shopping and lunch (on your own) on the Magnificent Mile or a trip to the top of the John Hancock Building.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23rd

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Journey to nearby Cantigny, the magnificent estate of Colonel Robert McCormick, the former editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. Visit the formal gardens and the Georgian mansion. Then take a memorial tour through the "THE BIG RED ONE," First Division Museum, a new state of the art facility which portrays the division's history since 1917. You will see interactive displays, videos, exhibits and experience the sights and sounds of division life at such places as Cantigny, France, Omaha Beach and a jungle in Vietnam.

REUNION COMMITTEE

Ernest Krause, *Chairman*

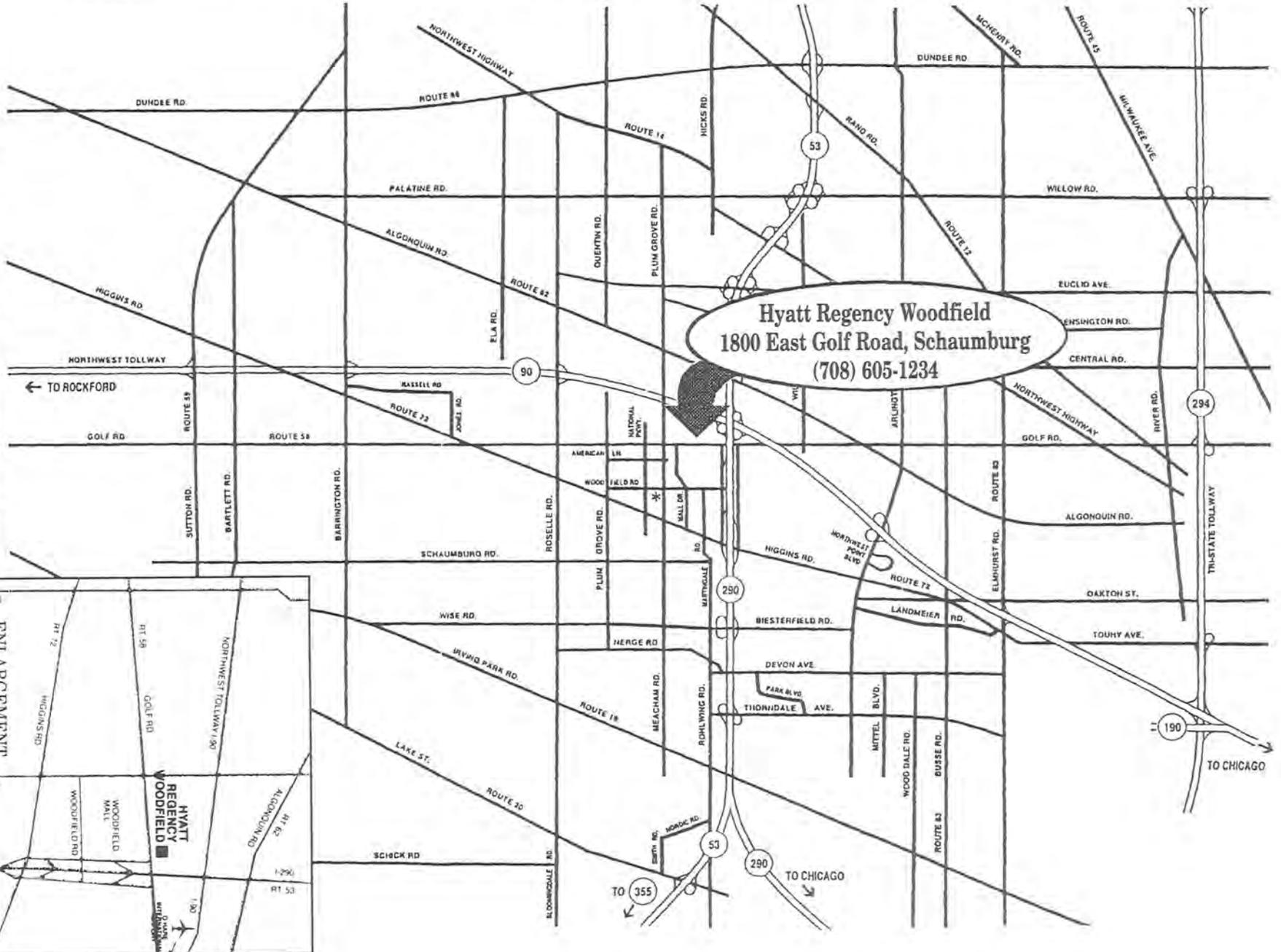
Ralph Plugge	Gene Mischke	Marsh Mussay
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Robert Bassindale	Stanley Bratt	John O'Connor
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18887 W. Gages Lake Road
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Telephone: 847/223-5541

GREATER WOODFIELD WELCOMES THE 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

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 1375 East Woodfield Road, Suite 100 • Schaumburg, Illinois 60173
 708/605-1010 800/847-4849



Message from the President



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

In my last article I commended the Myrtle Beach Reunion Chairman and his Committee members for an outstanding Reunion. That commendation still stands. Recognizing that nothing is perfect, there are always some aspects of life that will draw a dissenting opinion. However, the comments received from dissatisfied members were not random, but more specifically addressed to the crowded conditions and seating assignment at the Banquet Dinner. This inconvenience did not distant from the overall success of the Reunion.

As a follow-up article, I believe some explanation is in order. The hotel assured the Committee their Ballroom capacity would handle 1000 occupants. They neglected to clarify that the total capacity included three (3) separate rooms. The main Ballroom is 6600 sq. ft. and would only seat 550 comfortably at rectangular tables of 10, the adjoining room (Hospitality Room) would seat 200 more for the anticipated 750 attendees. The contract was signed with the understanding the hotel could comfortably seat 750 for dinner.

Too late, it became apparent that the group would have to be divided which was unacceptable after the problem in Lexington where two rooms were used that resulted in some very unhappy members. It was impractical to cut off the Banquet at 550, and there was not another location to handle 750 at that late date. The trade-off was to crowd in longer tables, reduce the seating space, and eliminate the dance floor; or, put 200 people in the Hospitality Room area. The decision, right or wrong, was to keep the group together in the Banquet Room. There were last minute table changes that caused hard feelings because some members either did not have assigned seats or were separated from their group.

The Officers of the Association apologize for the crowded conditions, seating assignments, and especially the inability to stand for the posting of the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. You have my personal assurance there is adequate room at the Schaumburg Hyatt, Banquet Room seating 800; and, the Danvers Ferncroft, Banquet Room 1,000.

Please do not let one inconvenience distract you. Our Reunions will become bigger and better with your continued support.

Vice-President's Corner



James E. Boris
6800 Henry Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19128
Telephone: 215/483-2064

As your newly elected Vice President, I would like to thank those who have made my elevation to this prestigious office possible. I will do everything within my power to justify the faith you have shown in me.

One of my duties is to find areas for future reunions and I have already begun to contact numerous cities as to their ability to handle our group in the manner we are accustomed to, or better yet, our needs.

For 1998 we are interested in going West of the Mississippi River. I would like this to be done as soon as possible in order to make arrangements. It takes time to find the proper places as to accommodations, tours, etc.

If there is anyone who is interested in having a reunion in that area of the country, contact me. I can assist you with names and addresses of members in your area who could help you and be part of your committee.

As our President **Bob Pierce** pointed out in the last bulletin, we are thinking of possibly Salt Lake City, Utah, Dallas, or maybe San Antonio, Texas.

Again I repeat, we will assist you with the type of hotels, tours, number of rooms, etc.

Let's keep our Association growing and active.

<p align="center">49TH ANNUAL REUNION August 18 to 25, 1996 Hyatt Regency Woodfield Schaumburg, Illinois <i>Try to Make It!</i> <i>A Good Time Guaranteed!</i></p>

The First Timer Experience

Submitted by: **Emanuel Rind**
Company I, 272nd Regiment
320 Central Parkway

Newport News, Virginia 23606-3726

When my sister learned that I was going to a reunion of the 69th Infantry Division, she asked me, "What are you going for? You won't know anybody there." I said, "I haven't seen these guys in fifty one years but I'll know everyone there."

I've found that in my travels across the USA or visits to VA hospitals or first meetings at veterans' organizations, no one is a stranger. The military experience of hardship and the tough grind is a cement that binds us very closely. An even stronger cement is the bond that holds dogfaces together. It doesn't matter that in the interim the name has been changed to grunt or something else.

I recall that when I was going to a meeting at the University of California, Berkeley, I decided to stay in San Francisco rather than Oakland where the university is located. Since the buses quit running after midnight, I had to use a cab. While we were driving across the bridge, I got into a conversation with the taxi driver. I don't remember how we got on the subject, but he asked me if I was a dogface. Since I answered affirmatively, he wanted to know what in the hell I was going over to Berkeley for with all those eggheads there. Before I got into his cab, we were strangers. Now, we were becoming more intimate friends. After talking about an hour and I mean just talking - not driving, we had become old friends. Similar incidents have happened to me with our Vietnam grunts.

To get back to our story, my wife and I drove down to Myrtle Beach for the 69th Division reunion. I had seen in the 69th Division Assn. newspaper, from the last reunion, a photograph of my cronies from Company I, 272nd Infantry. Since I recognized the faces in the picture, I felt sure that I could identify them at the present reunion. At this time, a fellow came up to me and identified himself as (I'm sorry, I forget his first name) **Silverberg**. He said, "I noticed that you were a first timer and I didn't want the same thing that happened to me to happen to you, when I was a first timer. No one came over to me to greet me or anything else." I told him that I was sure that I would run into people that I knew. He asked me for my company letter and regiment number and said that, if he saw anyone from them, he would send them my way.

In the meantime, **Pat Lushbaugh** and **Bob Kurtzman** had opened their suite, for hospitality, to members of Company I, 272nd Infantry. Since I wasn't aware of this, I didn't run into any of my friends.

While I was sitting at a table with my wife, talking to some people we had met, who were from our battalion communication group, a gray-haired gentleman came up to me and said, "Some guy sent me over to you. He said that you were looking for members of I Company. Since I didn't recognize him, I looked at his name tag. "**Tom Yelcich**," I exclaimed, "I sure was looking for you, you old dog."

We shook hands and hugged. **Tom** had been our assistant squad leader and, had left the company as a replacement, months before the 69th had shipped out for England. We never heard from him and wondered what had become of him. I learned that he had been sent to the 33rd Infantry Division, Pacific Theater, where he served with battalion S2. We also wondered what happened to our squad leader, **Sgt. Bill Jokkel**. Nobody seemed to know. I took over the squad after they left.

Back to the reunion. My wife and I visited Company I's hospitality room and met up with about 14 members whom, together with their wives, numbered 23. Since I left the 69th Division in England, as a replacement, and was sent to the 99th Division, there was a lot of catching up to do. While we were in the room, a get well card was passed around which I signed. As it only had a first name on it, I didn't know for whom it was. More of this later.

We took advantage of the trips to the sculpture gardens, the ice show, and the other affairs as well as a trip to the alligator-crocodile-snake farm. We also tried our hand at metal detecting at the beach but found nothing.

When we got back home, we had a trip to Florida and then visited with our son's family in Ashburn, Virginia for Christmas. When we got back to Newport News, Virginia, we found a Christmas card and note from **Ed McDonnell**. **Ed** was the one whose get well card we had signed, when we were in I Company's hospitality room. When I saw his last name, I had total recall of him with a very good mental picture of him. This was unusual in that he was a machine gunner in our weapon's platoon and not a rifleman.

I called the long distance operator, got his telephone number, and gave him a call. We had a delightful, long, chat.

Now that we are no longer first timers, we are looking forward to the next 69th Division reunion in Chicago in 1996. Hope to see you all there then.

Company K, 271st Infantry 1995 MYRTLE BEACH REUNION

This was the first time since 1945 that the four of us had seen each other. *Left to right are: Worley Smith, Herb Pickett, Larry Gillen and Bob Bishop.*

Submitted by: **Robert B. Bishop**
180 Calkins Road
Palmer, Massachusetts 01069



First Timers taken at Myrtle Beach Reunion

Taken by: Thomas Yelcich - 18093 Country Club Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48152-2967



First Timers taken at Myrtle Beach Reunion

Taken by: Thomas Yelcich - 18093 Country Club Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48152-2967



Edgar Frimann Shares a Few "Fly Boy" Memories

Headquarters Company, 273rd Infantry

100 La Encinal Court
Clayton, California 94517

For those of us who came to the 69th Division from Air Corps cadet training I thought it might be of interest to see, again, a copy of the telegram sent from General Arnold to the Army Air Force Training Command. (See following page.)

Back before December 7, 1941, I contemplated enlisting in the Royal Canadian Air Force. After the U. S. declared war I applied for training as a U. S. Naval Cadet in the V5 program. I spent five days going through the mental, physical and psychological examinations. I passed all with flying colors except at 6'2" I was too tall for my weight according to their charts. They put me in their files as Inactive Naval Reserve pending my gaining a few pounds. In the meantime I received "Greetings from the President" and was inducted into the Army. After a few months in the Army, the Navy sent a letter to my home inquiring about my application. I answered stating I would welcome a transfer. I have enclosed a copy of their reply stating "such transfers are never available."

I applied for cadet training with the Army Air Corps. Again I went through all the tests and was again stymied by their weight charts. After being shipped out to Hawaii, I reapplied with the air corps, went through all the tests again, and finally was accepted. Then I was shipped back to the states to Keesler Field. After a few weeks there they called us out one morning and we were assigned to a training flight. I couldn't believe my tenacity had finally paid off. On the same day, in the afternoon, the copy of the telegram came.

My first training came with an Infantry Replacement Training Center (IRTC) in 1942, a summer in Texas. From basic some of us were sent to Camp Forrest Tennessee to an infantry division and I was selected to join the Cavalry troop. Then we spent the winter at Ft. Lewis, Washington training for cold weather combat in the Aleutians. While at Ft. Lewis, the Ninth Corps ran a physical fitness contest throughout the entire corps. It was a full day of tests, ending up with a forced march which the unit had to complete with all men and equipment. I recall coming across carrying two extra rifles. Our troop, about 150 men, won a huge cup for completing the test in first place over all other units in the corps. Needless to say our division general was highly impressed, and we were called upon for everything from then on.

When the threat in the Aleutians blew over we shipped down to the Mojave Desert, out in the middle of nowhere, to spend the summer. We were obviously training for desert combat in North Africa. We tested desert equipment as well as physical experimentation. After the division had a couple of weeks of testing reaction to complete abstinence of any drinking fluids till five P.M., the project was called off. It then became a court martial offense to leave the area without a full canteen of water. One morning a few of us were told to dig in the sand a slit trench (two feet by six feet, and two feet deep) and a spider hole (three feet in diameter and five feet deep). As you can

imagine it took quite a while with the constant cave-ins. They then told us the reason for the holes; we were to occupy them while a tank ran over. The idea was to test the possibility of having the entire division doing the same, thus giving confidence of survival while fighting in the desert. I was told to lie in the slit trench and another man squatted in the spider hole. The tank commander drove by before making the run and said, "get that man out of that slit trench." The tank then made the run. After the pass there was no evidence of the slit trench and the man in the spider hole was completely buried. We had to hurriedly dig him out by hand, thank God he was OK. Fortunately he had put his helmet over his face. The tank commander saved the National Service Life Insurance Company \$10,000 by ordering me out of the trench. Needless to say that project was scrapped. Another project that did succeed was crawling on the scorching sand, around cactus, under low machine gun fire. The need for desert replacements came to an end, and we shipped out to Hawaii.

While in Hawaii we manned outposts, practiced landings and jungle fighting. We also helped build a two and a half mile obstacle course. The original plan called for three miles but was deemed a little too much. We also ran the course which was started by the Navy taking us out to sea, and we jumped into the ocean with full field pack, 100 yards from shore. Once on shore we had to crawl under a road through a drainage sewer to arrive at the obstacle course. It was called The World's Toughest Obstacle Course, and the Medics had aid stations at various locations along the way.

We invited our general and his staff to a firepower display. We had posted notices so that the natives would not be alarmed. As the sun went down we started, and a few minutes into the program the general ordered a cease fire, cutting short our planned thirty minute display. A while later 20,000 Marines set up a temporary encampment on the island. Our captain reported back to us that our general, when meeting with their commanding officer, had advised him to tell his men to steer clear of our troop so that there wouldn't be any incident. Among other things he said, "Those guys are crazy, they fire live ammunition at each other."

Every Thursday was a no sleep night, as we scattered blackout throughout the island on a practice invasion alert from sunset to sunup. Everyday we always had one platoon ready to roll, mainly to respond to reports of sightings of light signals going out to sea.

One evening, I was talked into filling in at a basketball game at a local school. I didn't have gym shoes so I played native style, barefoot. Needless to say my feet were raw. The next morning we were told that we were going on a three day hike. The hike consisted of going cross-country up the side of a volcano, over 10,000 feet above sea level, seven miles through the dormant crater floor, and down the other side. The natives who heard about it thought we were crazy. I didn't tell them about my feet.

A colonel on the main island had set up a two week intensive physical training program and was looking for volunteers to take the course with the idea that they would go back to their outfits and spread the training to their units. Out of boredom I volunteered, but was turned down as you had to have stripes they could take away if you didn't perform. We sent three men, one came back

(Continued on Page 11)

**EDGAR FRIMANN SHARES
A FEW "FLY BOY" MEMORIES**

(Continued from Page 10)

early with a broken bone in his foot, another came back after suffering a collapsed lung. The third man made it, and as a result we had additional physical training, as well as sessions of rope climbing, six man overhead log tossing and a mile run all before our daily breakfast.

As far as weapons training goes, at various times I was armed with and trained with, as well as had target practice and qualifying with the following weapons: Springfield '03 rifle, Enfield rifle, Carbine, Garand rifle, rifle grenade launcher, 45 cal. pistol, Thompson sub machine gun, bazooka, Browning 30 cal. and 50 cal. machine guns, and the 37mm A/T gun.

I could relate much more, but the reason for telling all this is because of the greeting we got when we joined the 69th Division "Well, now you 'fly boys' will find out what real army training is all about."

**TELEGRAM SENT FROM GENERAL ARNOLD
TO THE ARMY AIR FORCE TRAINING COMMAND**

HEADQUARTERS
ARMY AIR FORCES
Washington, D.C.

COPY OF TELEGRAM

27 March 1944

To: Commanding General, Army Air Forces Training
Command, Fort Worth 2, Texas.

1. You will return to the Army Ground Forces and Army Service Forces all enlisted men who have volunteered from these sources and have been found fully qualified for training as Pilots, Bombardiers and Navigators but who have not yet entered Pre-Flight School. This action is necessary as a result of a critical and immediate need for young, vigorous and well-trained men with leadership qualifications to meet the urgent need of the Ground and Service Forces. It is essential that every one of these soldiers be made available for pending operations in view of the accumulated shortages that have developed since last July in Selection Service.

2. It is with profound regret that I consent to drop from the Army Air Force Team these spirited young men who have aspired to join our combat crews which are gaining for us superiority in the air in every theater of warfare. It is, however, the very success of the Army Air Forces Teams now in action which makes the shift of fighting power both wise and proper. We must present a balanced fighting front to our enemies.

3. The Army Air Forces Team has succeeded better than we dared hope for when our quotas were established and that success now permits a reduction in our training rate. We shall, of course, continue to train combat crews in as close a ratio as possible to our exact needs. I am sure that those men will understand that in a program of such magnitude there will be times when the number of men who qualify in any particular period will exceed the training quota for that period.

4. While it is my duty to regard this matter in a practical light, it is my desire that you distribute to each of the men affected a copy of this message and express my personal appreciation and thanks to him for his interest in the Army Air Forces and wish him good luck and good hunting in the branch to which he returns. I am confident

that these fine American soldiers who want to do the greatest possible damage to the enemy will prefer the opportunity for an earlier engagement to the alternative of waiting for training with the Army Air Forces at some later date.

/s/ Henry H. Arnold
General, U.S. Army

RC#2762 3-31-44 1000

* * * * *

**Letter sent to Edgar Frimann
in reply to his letter about a transfer**

NAVAL AVIATION CADET SELECTION BOARD
BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING
141 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois

1 October 1942

Dear Sir:

In regard to your letter of September 27th, we must say with much regret that a transfer, as you asked from one branch of service into another cannot be recognized by the board.

Such transfers are never available, otherwise we would be glad to do our utmost in the furtherance and support of your particular case.

With many hopes that you may succeed and go forward in the field of service you have entered, we shall remain

Sincerely yours,
Naval Aviation Cadet Selection Board
Chicago, Illinois

First to Cross the Rhine River

Submitted by: Donald C. Smith
Service Battery, 881st Field Artillery Battalion
8301 Nicholas Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68114

I've been wondering if others remember a SNAFU that some of us were involved in that really wasn't of our own making. I was a Sergeant with the 881st FA service battery, when the 69th was pinched off at Remagen bridge while waiting to cross the river. Our ammo-supply train was sent north to move a unit to another location. The new officer in charge of the 8th had a strip map and obviously didn't know how to read it. So we started south. I told him "this isn't the right direction" as I had seen the map before we left. I was riding in the ring mount of a 6 x 6 Jimmy in place of my machine gunner. The officer didn't pay any attention to me. I soon discovered that the men we were moving were not armed with ammo.

We soon began to hear artillery fire. I told the men that they were hearing guns of ours but if you hear a kind of whistle "it's a screaming mimi." When we got close to Remagen bridge, the MP's kept waving us on and I kept saying "this ain't right," but right across the pontoon bridge we went. On the other side, I jumped out of the truck and reported to a Lt. Col. that this wasn't the 69th Div. but part of 8th Inf. who was supposed to be 30 miles north of there. The Lt. Col. screamed "get them out of here." So back up the road we went, dumped them off and raced back down the road, just to be back at the 69th in time to reload and start back to the Remagen pontoon bridge. We were the first squad of the 69th to cross the Rhine.

I appreciate getting the magazine. If someone remembers this occasion, please contact me.

THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE



Dottie Witzleb

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

Rosemarie Mazza, Vice President
 3502 Russell Thomas Lane
 Davidsonville, Maryland 21035
 Telephone: (Please send to Dottie)

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 New Hyde Park, New York 11040
 Telephone: (Please send to Dottie)

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 West Islip, New York 11795-0474
 Telephone: 516/669-8077



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



Edith Zaffern, Sunshine Lady
 22555 Hallcroft Trail
 Southfield, Michigan 48034-2011
 Telephone: 810/357-4611

The following article was in the 1961 Annual Reunion booklets concerning the founding of the Ladies Auxiliary.

The Ladies Auxiliary was activated as a result of a successful cocktail party at the Cleveland Reunion in 1951.

THE PRIME PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION IS TO AUGMENT AND AID IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE, THE WELFARE AND SOCIAL ACTIVITY OF THE 69th.

We are working on a list of the Ladies Auxiliary Past Presidents and hope we will be able to publish them in the next issue.

The unknown Past President in the last bulletin is **Mary Young**. Thank you for this information.

A Message from your Auxiliary President, Edith Chapman

Dear Ladies of the Auxiliary and Friends,

Thanks to all of you for electing me to serve as your president for the next two years.

This has been a very snowy winter in Virginia so I am looking forward to spring.

I hope all of you are planning to attend our meeting in Schaumburg next August. Schaumburg should be an interesting place for all of us to visit. There is supposed to be a huge shopping center close by.

Our Auxiliary Meeting will be held on Saturday morning, August 24th, at 9:00 o'clock. We have a wonderful service project every year. We bring to our meeting hand-made lap

robes, slippers, socks, or any other items suitable for hospital patients. This past year 88 lap robes were made and displayed at our meeting. These are sent to the closest Veterans Administration Hospital. The size for these is 36" x 45". They can be knitted, crocheted or quilted. This is appreciated by all the veterans who receive them.

We also usually give a \$500 check to be used for toilet articles such as toothpaste, tooth brushes, powder, etc.

We always have a fun exchange of gifts to cost no more than \$5.00. The highlight of our meeting is a special program by our host team. Last year we had a harpist. I brought home one of her tapes. Some of my friends here in Northern Virginia liked it so much they ordered some for themselves.

When your husband sends in his dues, please ask him to send in \$5.00 for you to belong to the auxiliary. Encourage other ladies to attend with you.

If you need any more information about our meeting or activities, please call me at 703/451-1904.

- In Memoriam -

"LADIES' TAPS"

JANE DENDLE
 wife of **George Dendle**, Hdq., 777th Tank Battalion
BLANCHE KOELLER
 wife of **Fred Koeller**, H3, 273rd Infantry Regiment
JOAN TAULBEE
 wife of **Aaron Taulbee**, Co. A, 273rd Infantry Regiment
ANN VILLACCI
 wife of **Nicholas Villacci**, Co. I, 273rd Infantry Regiment

In search of the 5th Platoon of Co. F, 272nd

Lynn C. Johnson
Company F, 272nd Infantry
 Route 1, Box 573
 Tazewell, Virginia 24651

For several years I have desired to comment on one of the initial contacts of a unit of the Russian Army at Torgau, Germany, which brought about the surrender of the German Army.

At some point in time, toward the end of the war, General Eisenhower ordered the incorporation of volunteer black soldiers with combat units, one of which was the 69th, among others. As you know, I was the leader of the Second Platoon, Company F, 272nd Regiment.

Captain Calloway probably saved my life, as well as **Bob Morris**, when he designated **Bob** and I to go back to Paris to pick up and return with, a platoon of black soldiers who had volunteered for combat duty. Upon our departure Platoon Sgt. **Ross Stevens**, a long tall Texan, was left in charge of the Second Platoon. He was all business with the war, and the Platoon was fortunate to have him lead them.

I was from a coal mining town named, Berwind, in West Virginia, and **Bob** was from a town in Ohio - I believe it was named Elida (or something like that). We kidded each other about from whence we came.

At any rate, we were furnished transportation back to Paris where these black volunteer soldiers were undergoing Infantry basic training. A few days later, we were on our way back to Company F, 272nd, with the "Fifth Platoon." The "Rat Race" across Germany was in full swing. The trip was interrupted on a few occasions, in some "Mop up" activities.

We ultimately reached our destination as the "Fifth Platoon," Co. F, 272nd Regiment, 69th Division, in the vicinity of Torgau, Germany. It being late at night we bedded down in the remains of a damaged farm house.

I would like to comment on the quality of those black volunteer infantrymen. The great majority of them were well educated, some college students and some just plain good people, with a mission on behalf of the race. One of the men spoke several languages, including German and Russian.

I shall always have a vivid memory of when we made contact with a unit of the Russian Army - I understood that they were Ukranians. My Platoon had bedded down in a partially destroyed house about thirty feet from a rivulet or branch off the Elbe River. Of course we had a security guard on duty. About two or three o'clock in the morning one of the men on guard duty, prodded me with his rifle and suggested that I had better get up, which I did. Behind him stood three Russian Soldiers. (Ukranians, we learned). The man on guard duty at that time was a highly educated black soldier (I believe his name was **Deuberman**) who spoke several languages, including Russian, and he was able to convince them that we were American soldiers and not Germans. I am almost certain that, though somewhat alarming at the time, that this was, in fact, one of the first contacts with a unit of the Russian Army.

I have been to a few 69th Reunions, at which some blacks of other regiments were present, but I have yet, to the best of my memory, to renew acquaintance with any members of the Fifth Platoon of Company F of the 272nd Regiment of the 69th Division, for which I have no explanation. Maybe I am missing them due to my own sporadic attendance. Of course my excuse is that I'm just getting too old to do too much traveling, but the 69th is still a part of my life and memories.

I congratulate you and your associates in keeping alive the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association.

With my best wishes to you and the Association.

"Manning the Command Post"

A Battery 880th F.A. Bn.

William A. Dunn, I. E. Bombardier and Lloyd Gerth

Bombardier is mayor of Concordia, Kansas.

This photo was taken at the Myrtle Beach, South Carolina Reunion.

Sent by: **John G. Barnett**
 6374 Brandywine Trail
 Norcross, Georgia 30092
 Telephone: 404/448-6513



**69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 1996
49th ANNUAL REUNION
461st AAA BN. - 661st T.D. BN. - 777th TANK BN.
Hyatt Regency Woodfield
SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 18th thru AUGUST 25th, 1996**

SEND THIS RESERVATION FORM TO THE HYATT REGENCY WOODFIELD

Reservations:

HYATT REGENCY WOODFIELD
1800 EAST GOLF ROAD
SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS 60173

Reservations: 1/800-233-1234
Hotel: 708/605-1234

HOUSING: Please reserve one of the following:

Single: \$71.00 _____ Double: \$71.00 _____ Triple: \$71.00 _____ Quad: \$71.00 _____
(Add 10% tax to room rate)

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) _____, August _____, 1996. (Check in after 3:00 P.M.)

I / We plan to depart (day) _____, August _____, 1996. (Check out time - 12:00 noon)

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

If possible, I/We wish to be quartered near other guests: _____
(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 HYATT REGENCY WOODFIELD OR Major Credit Card and Date of Expiration:

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

Credit Card Name _____ Number _____ Expires _____

I authorize the HYATT REGENCY WOODFIELD to make charges to 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 name, address and telephone number of the person filling out this form.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hyatt Regency Woodfield until **July 18th, 1996**. Your reservation must be made prior to this date and before the group block is filled to assure room accommodations and the preferred rate. Reservations accepted after July 18th, 1996 are subject to availability. Rooms may still be available after this date but not necessarily at the preferred rate. All reservations are subject to state sales tax and are held until 6:00 p.m. unless held by credit card, check or money order for one night's room and tax. Reservations not canceled by 6:00 p.m. the day of arrival are subject to a one night room and tax charge. Early check-ins subject to room availability. Bed type provided based on availability at time of arrival. We will make every effort to honor your request, but cannot guarantee bed type.

69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 1996 49th ANNUAL REUNION 461st AAA BN. - 661st T.D. BN. - 777th TANK BN. HYATT REGENCY WOODFIELD - SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS AUGUST 18th thru AUGUST 25th, 1996

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 Schaumburg, Illinois during the week of August 18th thru 25th, 1996 and will attend the following activities. _____

Name: _____ Joseph Lipsius _____
Street / R.D. / P.O. Box: _____ 1354 Bramble Rd. _____
City / State / Zip: _____ Atlanta, GA 30329 _____
Telephone / Area Code: 404 634 7118 First Timer Second Timer Old Timer
Unit: REGT HQ - CANNON CO Wife's Name: ANNE
Guests: _____

Daily Events	Per Person	Number Persons	Amount
Registration: Monday thru Friday , Schaumburg Room 9:00 to Noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. For Saturday, Check the Bulletin Board.		NO CHARGE	
Sunday, August 18th — Early Arrivals on your own.			
Monday, August 19th — Check Bulletin Board and Hospitality Room.			
Tuesday, August 20th — LONG GROVE AND CHICAGO BOTANICAL GARDENS - 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch on your own.	\$ 15.00		\$
Wednesday, August 21st — LAKE MICHIGAN AND NAVY PIER - 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Lunch on The Spirit of Chicago.	\$ 42.00		\$
GANGSTERTOWN - 6:45 p.m. to 10:45 p.m., Dinner Show, Seating limited.	\$ 43.00		\$
Thursday, August 22nd — CHICAGO CITY TOUR - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch on your own.	\$ 30.00		\$
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING — 4:00 p.m.			
EARLY BIRD DINNER , Cash Bar-6:30, Dinner 7 to 9 p.m., Ticket Required.	\$ 35.00		\$
Friday, August 23rd — CANTIGNY TOUR - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch on your own.	\$ 12.00		\$
GOLF TOURNAMENT — 8:30 a.m. Check Registration for details.	\$ 38.00		\$
PX BEER PARTY — 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., Ticket Required.	\$ 5.00		\$
Saturday, August 24th			
COFFEE AND DANISH - 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.			
GENERAL MEETING - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon			
CASH BAR - 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Banquet Ticket Required)			
MEMORIAL SERVICE - 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.			
DINNER DANCE BANQUET - 7:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.	\$ 33.00	<u>2</u>	\$ <u>66.00</u>
Sunday, August 25th — FAREWELL BREAKFAST - 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	\$ 14.00	<u>2</u>	\$ <u>28.00</u>
Y'ALL COME BACK			
Replacement Cost for Lost or Broken Permanent Badges.	\$ 4.00		\$
SUPPORT YOUR HOSPITALITY ROOM: DONATIONS PLEASE!			\$
DUES New Dues Year - August 1, 1996 to July 31, 1997			
Regular Membership	\$ 10.00		\$ <u>0.00</u>
Ladies Auxiliary	\$ 5.00		\$ <u>5.00</u>
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. NO CHARGE CARDS ACCEPTED FOR EVENTS.

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

Permanent badges will 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.

Myrtle Beach 1995 Reunion Memories

Sent by: Jim Boris, 69th Division Vice President



*Chairpersons of the Myrtle Beach Reunion
Rita and George Wolfe (seated)
Joan and Frank Alfiero (standing)*



Waiting for the "Lost Sheep"



The Kramers and the Mischkes



Here come the "Lost Sheep"



*Ruth and Bob James, First Timers (in center)
with Pete and Helen Garteski*



Jim Boris, Jim Shoemaker, Frank Nemeth and Bill Sheavly

Myrtle Beach 1995 Reunion Memories

Sent by: Jim Boris, 69th Division Vice President



*Tom Yelcich never gets his picture taken
69ers Video Cameraman*



F. Andrews, J. Bryant, D. Stibitz



*Gene Tabacchi, Tillie Boris, Jackie Tabacchi
Lunch at Thorny's in Myrtle Beach*



E. Sams, J. Kane, W. Jones, A. Gwynne



*These ladies practiced before the golf tournament
Teddy Nemeth, Tillie Boris and Reba Sheavly*



J. Tounger, D. Tounger, J. Theobald, D. Theobald

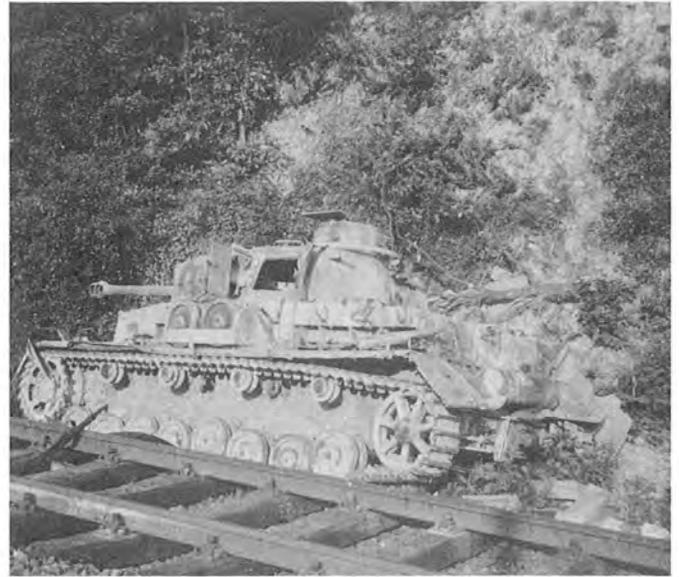
Phyllis E. Carnes Sends Photos from Husband's Collection

3214 Brookfield Road, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109

Phyllis is the widow of **John E. Carnes** of A.T. Company, 272nd Infantry Regiment



Taken at the banks of the Elbe River during first meeting of the Russians: Corporal Hare, T/Sergeant Hegge, and S/Sergeant John E. Carnes



The Link-Up and the Engineers

Submitted by: **Ward E. Peterson**
3rd Platoon, "B" Company, 269 Engineers
1096 Powderhorn Drive
Glen Mills, Pennsylvania 19342

I received orders to move my platoon, the 3rd Company B, 269th Engineers - to Torgau two days after Lt. **Robertson** had met the Russians there on 25 April 1945. Our mission was to build a motorized raft to transport personnel from Division, Corps, and Army Headquarters across the Elbe River to celebrate the historic meeting of the two Armies with Russian Officers.

Specifics to the orders were:

1. Corps Engineers would supply the Infantry Assault boats and outboard motor for making the raft.
2. Corps Engineers would also provide the soldier (technician) to operate the raft.
3. The raft operator was to wear an M.P. (Military Police) Arm Band while operating the raft.

We departed from Zwenkau which is south of Leipzig with a Jeep and three 2-1/2 ton trucks and arrived in Torgau shortly after noon. We were one officer and 40 men strong - eagerly anticipating contact with the Russians. The weather was warm and sunny. Torgau was deserted except for the very elderly. Able bodied civilians had fled towards the American lines in the West. Children, 9 - 12 years old, had been left behind to care for the elderly.

We selected several homes for sleeping and for Platoon Headquarters. Exploring Torgau, we noted the best route to the river, found a slaughter house with several sides of beef all dressed out and located a rather large supply of fresh eggs. We took what we could use and notified 269th Engineers Battalion Headquarters to come and get the rest. Our meals henceforth consisted primarily of eggs and/or steak.

Torgau is built on a plateau about 16-20 feet above the river and had a single one lane ramp leading to the river bank. We watched Russian soldiers on the opposite bank bringing up equipment presumably to build a bridge across the river. Women soldiers were directing traffic.

Shortly after arriving at the river bank, a terrific explosion occurred somewhere to the southwest of Torgau. Jeep driver, **Al Winchester**, **Platoon Sergeant Earl Christner** and I went to investigate. We saw no smoke, and we saw no people, civilians or soldiers, allies or enemy. We began to notice shrapnel in the road a little distance from Torgau. The further we went from Torgau, the larger the pieces of shrapnel became. We called off the investigation and returned to Torgau rather than risk tearing up the Jeep tires.

Guards were posted in the evening and the rest of us settled in for the night as the meeting between the Russians and Americans was scheduled for the next day.

Moving the platoon to Torgau put it into an interesting position. The American Army had stopped its drive eastward at the Mulde River per agreement between Premier Stalin, Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt at the Yalta Conference in February 1945. Our platoon crossed the Mulde and moved 35-40 miles in front of and to the east of the American lines, stopping at Torgau on the west bank of the Elbe River. The Russian Army was

firmly established on the east bank of the Elbe. The Germans were divided by the on rushing American and Russian troops, part of them moving to the south between the Mulde and Elbe Rivers and the rest of them moving to the north. We did not know how close to Torgau the Germans were and we did not know of American Units, other than our own, that might have moved into the area between the rivers.

Several Russian soldiers came across the river during the night or early in the morning, using either boats or crawling across the remains of the Torgau Bridge. They were very friendly. One wanted me to share his breakfast with him, a slab of partially cooked bacon and a bottle of vodka.

Moving to the river bank, we were delayed for a short time by a Russian soldier posted at the base of the ramp with an automatic weapon. We used a lot of motions, gestures, body language, etc. to persuade the soldier to move away. We then moved to the river bank to await the arrival of the equipment to build the raft.

A truck driver and a T-5 to operate the raft from Corps Engineers arrived with 2 infantry assault boats and an outboard motor. The boats and motor were unloaded and made into an assault raft by butting the boats together and securing them, and then attaching the motor to one end. The raft was moved to the river to await its passengers, soon to arrive.

A convoy, carrying the expected passengers, made their way down the ramp. We put the raft into the water, and the Generals, 9 of them wearing 21 stars, got in and kneeled down as there were no seats. Following the Generals were officers of lower rank resulting in a total of 16 passengers and the T-5 raft operator. I pinned the MP arm band on T-5's sleeve, and now the trip across the river was in his hands.

The operator started the motor using several pulls on the starter cord, after which the raft was off toward the Russian side of the Elbe. The motor stalled about 1/4 - 1/3 the way across the river, and the raft began floating down stream. This was a bit precarious. There were no paddles in the raft for emergency use. There were no firearms in the raft for protection except for side arms the Generals may have been wearing. We did not know how far down stream the Germans were and we did not know of any American Units in the area.

The Elbe was flowing quite fast, probably about 4-5 miles an hour due to winter thaw and spring rains. The raft moved slower than the water, about 3-4 miles per hour. The raft had gone about 200 feet towards the east bank when the motor stalled and then floated almost 200 feet down stream before the motor was finally restarted. It took less than one minute to float the 200 feet. Restarted, the motor caused no further problems. The passengers were delivered to the Russian side of the river where the celebrations took place.

The raft returned with its passengers from the east bank late in the afternoon. The Generals et.al. formed their convoy and departed. I retrieved the MP arm band from the T-5. The raft was dismantled, loaded on to the truck and the Corps Engineers departed. We, the 3rd platoon, remained in Torgau during the night and returned to Zwenkau the following day.

Although the platoon played only a minor role in the events revolving around the LINK-UP, it provided a great opportunity to meet Russian soldiers, and gave us great satisfaction of having participated in this Historic Event.

269th Engineers

Submitted by: Frank Nemeth - 66 Gaping Rock Road, Levittown, Pennsylvania 19057-3410



East Meets West sign painted by Lieutenant Twork. Officers: Mantz, Davis, Holmlin, Twork, Eibling and Hostetter.



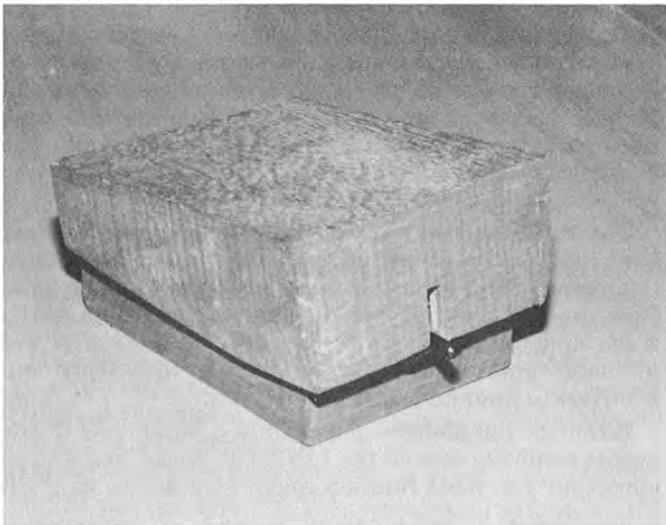
*Company B, 269th Engineers
Bob and Velma Ritchey*



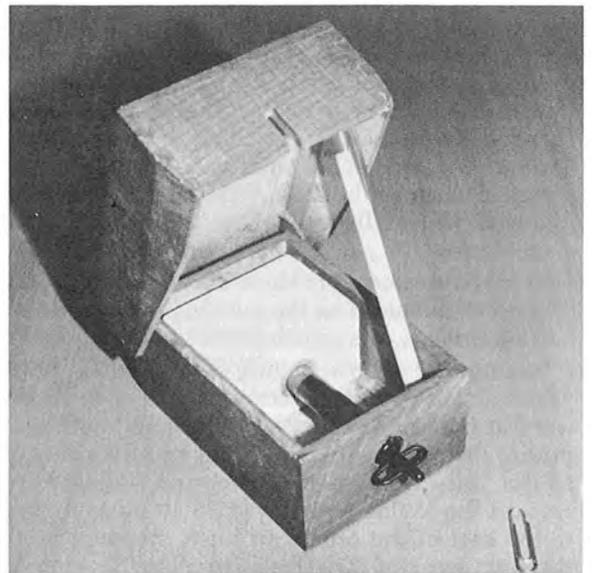
Lieutenant Eibling, Sergeant Rohm, Lieutenant Catrell, T/5 Hawley



Company B, 269th - Edward and Zola Davis



*Shoe
Mine
shown
closed
and
opened.
See article
next page.*



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 minis for this column. Mail your date(s), location, banquet cost, activities and room rates, plus a good write-up to **Earl 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).

269th Engineers

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

Hi 269ers,

Hope you are all getting used to our Golden Years even though they may be a little tarnished now! Sorry I missed writing something for the last bulletin. I guess "ole" age is taking hold faster than I like to think.

Well we had a nice turnout at the Myrtle Beach Reunion and as always, it's so good to see everyone once again. We had from Company "H & S" **John and Elizabeth Hawley** and family and also **Dottie Eibling** attended. From Company "A," **Frank (Kim) and Grace Packard**, and from Company "B" **Al and Helen Winchester** and family, **Ward and Marian Peterson**, **Bob and Faye Winslow** and guest, **Ernie and Mary Krause**, **Bill Riggle** and son and family. Also **Helen Evers** and daughter **Carol** and **Ted** and I.

The photo below as taken at the PX Nite party of some of the Engineers, all of Company B. They are: **Frank Nemeth, Bill Riggle, Ernie Krause** and **Al Winchester**.



The reunion was so-so, too many people and not enough room.

I hope you are thinking of coming to the Tri-State which will be from May 23rd to May 26th in Monroe, Michigan, which isn't too far from Toledo, Ohio. See the Calendar of Coming Events in the back of this bulletin for more information. So all of you from that area will have a short drive, give it a try for a good weekend of fun!

On the Engineer picture page (pg. 20) there are a couple of photos of a German Shoe Box Mine that are from the collection of **Major Jim Eibling** and now the story of

Lieutenant Ernie Burciaga as written to me —

You mentioned in your card that Mrs. Eibling had asked you to ask me if I wanted a Shoe Mine that **Major Eibling** had kept as a war souvenir, supposedly one I had given him when we had stopped at Dahlem as we moved toward the Rhine. I had just taught a class on German mines to a group of Artillery people, and because there weren't any mines of certain types that I considered important to have, should we be asked to hold more training classes, I asked Major Eibling if I could go back to a mine field where I knew I could find some. He said fine, so I took a few guys with me and picked up a good bunch. While I was about to stoop down to uncover one, I felt the sod given under my foot and I knew I was stepping on a booby trap. I managed to get my weight off the mine in time to avoid setting it off. When I quit shaking I uncovered the stinker, a terrible looking shoe mine, the safety pin about the thickness of a hair off of my head (I still had hair then) from releasing the detonator. So I disassembled it and took it back with me and showed it to **Major Eibling**. I told him the fool thing I had done. I shall never forget his reaction as I told him my tale. I think I saw tears welling up in his eyes, he was that concerned. A real human being, that man. It didn't matter that he was a major and I was a 2nd lieutenant. End of that story.

So I'll sign off wishing you all the best, always.

You're "ole" buddie,
Frank Nemeth

Battery C, 724th Field Artillery

Coy J. Horton, News Reporter
1705 A Highview Street
Burlington, North Carolina 27215-5652
Telephone: 910/227-7785

Battery C of the 724th Field Artillery Battalion, held a dinner meeting on October 27th, 1995 at the Spring Garden Restaurant in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. We held our reunion in conjunction with the National 69th Reunion.

The following members and guests were present: **Al and Polly DiLoreto, Irving Eder, Stan and Lois Hawk** and son **Tom Hawk, Bob Hollister, Coy and Erlene Horton, Bob and Libby Inyart** and **Harold Wepler** and **Edna Butzin**, as well as **Charlie Weaver** of the 273rd Infantry.

All had a good time and it was great seeing each other. (See following page for photos.)

(Continued on Page 22)

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

(Continued from Page 21)



Battery C, 724th Field Artillery: Front row - Irving Eder, Libby Inyart, Erline Horton. Second row - Polly DiLoreto, Bob Inyart, Lois Hawk, Coy Horton. Back row - Al DiLoreto, Stan Hawk, Bob Hollister.



Stan, Lois and Tom Hawk



Harold Wepler and Edna Butzin

Company B, 272nd Infantry

Dick Hadley, News Reporter
3784 South Depew Street
Denver, Colorado 80235

Company B was represented at the Myrtle Beach, South Carolina Reunion by the largest turnout we have ever had. We had 14 members and wives which made for a lively week for all of us. We had two "first-timers" - **Harold Martin** and **Harold Capps**, both from North Carolina. We also welcomed **Sherman Lawrence** from New York City who was the 4th president of the 69th Division Association and a stranger to reunions for the past 30 years. We were happy to include **George Hepp** in our company group. He started out in Company B at Camp Shelby but transferred to the 569th Signal Company when we went overseas. **Nick Giannone**, **Bill Higgins**, and **Vince Mazza** were also part of the 1st Battalion, 272nd Regiment Battle Patrol after we went overseas.

We have been very fortunate to have an ever increasing turnout at reunions for the past several years.



Past President Sherman Lawrence and Leo Moore



Charles and Kathy Moore - Leo Moore standing

(Continued on Page 23)

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

(Continued from Page 22)



Nick and Kathryn Giannone, Gerry and Dick Hadley, Rosemarie and Vince Mazza, Bill and Jeanne Higgins



Past President 'Dutch' Hawn, Jeanne Hawn, Gerry Hadley and Dick Hadley

**Headquarters
Battery, 880th
Field Artillery**

John J. O'Connor, President
9321 Jefferson Avenue
Brookfield, Illinois 60513-1209
Telephone: (708) 387-7809

Dear Clarence and Earl,

This letter is to inform you of our battery's plans for the 69th Division Association reunion at Schaumburg, Illinois in August 1996. Our battery will hold their reunion in conjunction with the national reunion. This consensus was obtained through a vote of the members of our group. I will give the names of the unit committee at the end of this letter. I am also enclosing a group photo of our battery unit which

was taken sometime in early 1944. Hopefully this photo will be good enough to get into the bulletin. The Schaumburg reunion committee had a meeting yesterday, which I attended, and the plans seem to be complete for a good reunion with some very nice tours for the members. **Marsh Mussay** has done an excellent job as the tour planner. **Ernie Krause** has done a very good job as the reunion Chairman but I am sure he has some very good advice from his wife, Mary, as co-chairlady.

Hope you both are doing okay healthwise and enjoying some better weather than you have had. I also want to thank you both for showing our unit's pictures in the last bulletin. You both do an excellent job for the 69th. Best of wishes from myself personally and from our unit members.

Other members of the committee besides myself are:

Robert McKee
29 Sandy Point Road
Long Point Earleville, Maryland 21219
Telephone: 410/275-8629

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

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Your photo appears elsewhere in the bulletin. We did the best we could with it. The quality was poor.)

**Company M,
271st Infantry**

Bill Sheavly, News Reporter
218 Sacred Heart Lane
Reistertown, Maryland 21136-1414

This was the largest gathering of former members of M-271st that has assembled. There were seven in attendance. A warm welcome is extended to any former members and they are urged to attempt to attend the 1996 Reunion in Schaumburg, Illinois in August. Please see information found elsewhere in the Bulletin. "It's later than you think. Please try to attend."



Company M, 271st Infantry: Norman Essick, Walter Haney, Jim Stacy, Bill Sheavly, Henry Thomas and Jim Shoemaker.



Anti-Tank Company, 272nd Infantry Division - Camp Shelby, Mississippi - April 1944

Submitted By: Phyllis Carnes, widow of John Carnes - 3214 Brookfield Place, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109 (*John is second man from the right in the second row up*)



Company H, 273rd Infantry Division - Camp Shelby, Mississippi - October 1944

Submitted By: Harold Ellison - 904 Stratford Road, Edenton, North Carolina 27932

The 272nd in Myrtle Beach

Sent by: Leo B. Moore
Company B, 272nd Infantry
845 W. Spring Street, St. Mary's, Ohio 45885-2051



Leo and Margaret Moore



Dick Hadley, Nick Giannone, Harold Capps, George Hepp, Karl Martin, Leo Moore in October of 1995 at the Myrtle Beach Reunion.

69ers Get Together for a 50th Anniversary

The anniversary was that of Enrico and Anne D'Angelo held at the Sheraton Inn of Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

Left to right are: Lowell McFarlin, Robert Williams, Robert Kurtzman, Enrico D'Angelo, Paul Shadle, Lewis Pugh, Earl Witzleb and seated in front, Clarence Marshall.



The ladies are: Marion Shadle, Vivian Kurtzman, Dorothy Witzleb, Marjorie McFarlin, Fern Pugh, Anne D'Angelo and Irene Williams.

Attendees by State at the 1995 Myrtle Beach, South Carolina Reunion

STATE	ATTENDANCE
Pennsylvania.....	137
Florida	83
Ohio	62
North Carolina	48
New York	45
Virginia	45
Illinois	38
New Jersey	35
California	34
Tennessee	34
Texas	29
Maryland	25
Georgia	23
Massachusetts	23
Michigan	20
Wisconsin	19
South Carolina	16
Missouri	15
Indiana	14
Arkansas	12
Alabama	11
Arizona	11
Louisiana	10
Nebraska	10
Washington	10
Minnesota	8
West Virginia	7
Colorado	6
Connecticut	6
New Hampshire	6
Mississippi	5
Oklahoma	5
Montana	4
Oregon	4
Rhode Island	4
Delaware	3
Iowa	3
Kentucky	3
Idaho	2
Kansas	2
Maine	2
Nevada	1
New Mexico	1
Washington, DC	1
Unknown	2
	884

SUMMARY	MEMBERS	TOTAL
Total Attendees	445	884
First Time Attendees.....	50	87

TOURS & ACTIVITIES:

Charleston Tour	304
Magic On Ice	403
Brookgreen Gardens/Hopsewee Plantation.....	341
Barefoot Landing Shopping.....	223
Golf Tournament.....	87
Early Bird Buffet	345
PX Beer Party	551
Banquet - Dinner Dance.....	726
Farewell Breakfast	283

1995 Reunion Attendees Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

The following is a list of the attendees at the 1995 Reunion in Myrtle Beach including Members, Wives, Widows(10!), 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
Guest: Patricia Avery
Archie Brooke..... Virginia
Guest: Vivian Brooke Bailey
Eugene and Norma Butterfield..... Ohio
Guests: Bill and Betty Staats
Keith and Colleen Curtis..... Iowa
Welkos and Jeanne Hawn.....Colorado
Gordon Kjos..... Minnesota
Karol and Margaret Kreutzman..... Washington
Louie Rodgers..... Tennessee
Dr. Sumner Russman..... Oklahoma
Dr. Arthur and Mathilde Seski..... Michigan
Nolan and Juanece Smith.....Texas
***Ralph Stanley**..... Ohio
Guest: Betty French
Joseph and Eleanor Wright..... Missouri

69th MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

John Moriarty..... Massachusetts
Frank and Helen Williams..... Pennsylvania

69th QUARTERMASTER

Keith and Mary Loo Mower..... California
Sigmund and Joanne Salacinski..... New York

269th ENGINEERS

Dotty Eibling..... Ohio
Helen Evers..... Pennsylvania
Guest: Carol Van Houten
John and Mary Hawley.....Pennsylvania
Guests: Sarah Lake and daughters
Ernest and Mary Krause..... Illinois
Frank and Stefania Nemeth.....Pennsylvania
Frank and Grace Packard..... Massachusetts
Ward and Marian Peterson..... Pennsylvania
William Riggle, Sr...... Indiana
Guest: William Riggle, Jr.
Albert and Helen Winchester..... Pennsylvania
Guest: Denise Winchester
Robert and Faye Winslow..... Florida
Guest: Edna McCutcheon

369th MEDICAL BATTALION

Frank and Ruth Andrews.....Ohio
William Bowman..... Virginia
Roland and Beverly Fracalossi..... Maryland
Sam Rasken..... Maryland
***Earl and Virginia Schwartz**..... Michigan
Marvin and June Slichter..... Pennsylvania

(Continued on Page 28)

1995 REUNION ATTENDEES
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA
(Continued from Page 27)

569th SIGNAL COMPANY

Robert and Margaret Ambrose New Jersey
Mark and Alexandra Bareford Pennsylvania
Ruth Combs Georgia
Adolph and Madelyn Eichhammer Florida
George Hepp New York
Ed and Frances Hoskins Texas
William Jones Florida
John and Jean Kastanakis Alabama
Joseph Kotsko Ohio
Kenneth and Hester Manning West Virginia
Curt and Evelyn Peterson Wisconsin
Guests: Wilfred and Ollie Ferda
Donald and Lois Pierce Pennsylvania
Margie Redmond West Virginia
Raymond and Betty Smith Maryland
Carl and Mildred Stetler Pennsylvania
Julius Tivald New Jersey
Jack and Freda Wilhoit Florida

769th ORDNANCE COMPANY

William and Charlotte Biggs Virginia
Joseph Selb New Jersey
Guest: Adele Stites

271st INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

John Barrette Wisconsin
John and Barbara Davis Pennsylvania
Ray and Bertha Jones Pennsylvania
Edwin and Sue Lansford Tennessee
*Richard and Judy Levy California
*John and Celia Purdie North Carolina
Lee Wah New Jersey

1st BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Wilbur and Phyllis Baker Indiana

COMPANY A

Allan Gwynne California
Robert and Jean Ross Massachusetts
George and Rita Wolff South Carolina
Guests: Sam and Ruth Bridge

COMPANY B

Lumir and Patsy Bocek Nebraska
Ken and Dot Curran Florida
P. and Ruth Delphey Pennsylvania
Earl and Millie Hansen Tennessee
Adam and Margaret Lee Pennsylvania
Samson and Joyce Lyman Florida
Charles and Peggy Mabe Pennsylvania
Glenn Markham Texas
Guests: B. and Martha Childress, Judy Richardson
Harold and Cynthia Moore Tennessee
Charles and Roseann Nicely Pennsylvania
Orrie Pullen Michigan
William and Jo Sheehan New Jersey
Kenneth and Lillian Upton Louisiana
Charles and Patricia Walsh Wisconsin
James and Barbara Walsh Connecticut
Wayne Weygandt Illinois
Guest: Thora Miller
James and Dorothy White Tennessee

COMPANY C

C. J. (Neal) Crowley New Mexico

COMPANY D

John and Jean Butrovich Washington
John and Shirley Fleming Pennsylvania
Margie McCombs Pennsylvania
John and Dena Touner California

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2nd BATTALION

Donald and Mary Ellen Connelly Arizona
Earl and Judy Fox Tennessee

COMPANY E

Elmer and Erma Broneske Colorado
Bob and Betty Dimmick Georgia
Grace Glaum Illinois
Guest: Doris Glaum
Irving and Etta Gotkin Florida
Joseph and Jane Kurt Iowa
William and Catherine McCall New Jersey
Thomas Maupin Virginia
Charles and Kathy Moore Ohio
Bing Poon Washington, D.C.
Charles Senosk Massachusetts
William and Marjorie Taylor, Sr. Florida

COMPANY F

Cecil and Alene Cottle Ohio
Ash and Arlene Fuller Pennsylvania
James and Barbara Kidd Kentucky
Lucious and Lewis Mae Murphree Mississippi

COMPANY G

Clifton and Pauline Barbieri Virginia
Edward and Jacquelyn Chando, Sr. New Jersey
Clarence and Lena Goon Ohio
Nat Green New York
G. Scott and Ann Gresham Virginia
*Edwin and Jean Hill North Carolina
Guest: Barbara Hill Cinnamon
Glenn and Nadine Hunnicutt Nebraska
Guests: Karl and La Verda Baehr
Zane and Zelma Gray Arkansas
N. C. Harrison Tennessee
Clarence and Shirley Jensen New York
Emery and Patricia Nagy Tennessee
George and Doris Phillips Pennsylvania
Ralph and Josephine Plugge Illinois
Blake and Mary Reep North Carolina

COMPANY H

*Robert and Norma Austin Maine

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION

*James Yakle Florida

COMPANY I

Douglas and Nathalie Buckstad North Carolina
Robert and Carol McMillan Ohio
Joe and Virginia McMurry Tennessee
Guests: Andy and Evelyn Anderson
*John Noone New York
Harris and Hazel Timmer Michigan
George and Ursula Vlad New York
Frank Warther New Jersey

(Continued on Page 29)

1995 REUNION ATTENDEES
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA
(Continued from Page 28)

COMPANY K

Robert and Irene Bishop Massachusetts
 *Lawrence and Fran Gillen Arizona
 Herb and Pauline Pickett Arizona
*Guests: Charles and Helen Norman,
 James Pickett*
 Worley and Mae Smith Michigan
Guest: Connie Brough
 *Travis and Iris Wells Maryland

COMPANY M

Walter and Dorothy Haney Tennessee
 *Jimmy and Wally Richardson Florida
 Bill and Rheba Sheavly Maryland
 James and Mary Nelle Shoemaker Florida
 Jim and Dottie Stacy California
 Henry and Jo Thomas Florida

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

Edgar Biles Arkansas
Guest: Paula Johnson
 Arthur and Candida Datnoff South Carolina
 Arthur and Nancy Holgate New Jersey
 Archie and Pauline Millsaps Arizona
 Dillard and Anita Powell North Carolina
 George and Lina West Pennsylvania
 George and Virginia Weston New Jersey

CANNON COMPANY

Alfred Blain Massachusetts
Guest: Estelle George

SERVICE COMPANY

Leroy and Maria Keller Virginia

272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Raymond Naylor Florida

COMPANY A

Ray and Eileen Olson Ohio
 Bud and Frances Parsons North Carolina
 *Robert and Esther Smith Ohio

COMPANY B

Robert and Mildred Blackmore Missouri
 *Harold Capps North Carolina
 Nicholas and Kathryn Giannone New York
 Richard and Gerry Hadley Colorado
 William and Jeanne Higgins Nebraska
 Sherman Lawrence New York
 *Karl and Fleta Martin North Carolina
 Vincent and Rosemarie Mazza Maryland
 Leo and Margaret Moore Ohio
Guests: Dale and Marilyn Sue Moore

COMPANY C

Charles Weaver Ohio

COMPANY D

John and Joan Mason California

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2nd BATTALION

Bretsell and Betty Everson Pennsylvania
 F. J. and Jane Seeba Georgia
*Guests: Jim, Fred and Marci Seeba
 Diane and Cal Ferguson*
 *John and Janice Tujague California
 David and June Wittman Montana

COMPANY E

*Joseph and Mary Jane Amaral Florida
 Fred and Mavis Butenhoff Wisconsin
 *Arthur Caola New Jersey
 *Edward and Constance Gallagher .. New Hampshire
 Milt and Dorothy Lutes Pennsylvania
 Charles and Glenna Pierson, Jr. Florida
 *Thomas Smith Delaware
 Roger and Ruth West Michigan

COMPANY F

Ray and Ruth Clement Rhode Island
 Joseph and Anne Nunes Rhode Island
 Neil Shields Pennsylvania
Guest: Hugh Shields
 David and Jeanne Theobald California
 Melvin and Louise Wardin Michigan

COMPANY G

Anees and Barbara Barakat Pennsylvania
 Clarence Burke Pennsylvania
Guests: John Burke and Katherine Schwartz
 Fredda Carter Texas
Guests: Kay and Kenneth White
 Anthony and Mary Curcio Florida
 Valentine Frauenhofer New York
 Will and Barbara Frazee Ohio
 Clement Hudacek Missouri
 Edward and Bette Kiley Florida
 Ray Lehman Iowa
 Jacob McLain Florida

COMPANY H

*Harold and Kay Longmire Texas
 Marshall and June Mussay Illinois
 Leonard Stahl Florida

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION

James and Jane Berry Tennessee
 Wade and Marcia Drysdale Washington
 John Hurst South Carolina
 Paul and Felicia Miller New York
 John Movchan New Jersey

COMPANY I

Edward and Jennie Ambrose Pennsylvania
 Frank and Claire Aplan Pennsylvania
Guest: Daughter
 Reggie and Dorothy Bailey Tennessee
 William and June Devitt Massachusetts
 John Duespohl Pennsylvania
 William and Dolly Edge Maryland
 Wendell and Sally Freeman Georgia
 Dennie and Elsie Haltiwanger Florida
 Robert and Vivian Kurtzman Ohio
 Jerome and Willia Mae Love North Carolina
 Pat and Janice Lushbaugh Maryland
 Joe and Mildred Martin Georgia
 *Emanuel and Edythe Rind Virginia
 Harold and Ethel Ruck Tennessee
 *Ernie and Marion Slovak Wisconsin
 Eugene and Ada Wilson Virginia
 Thomas Yelcich Michigan

COMPANY K

Donald and Catherine Ruppert Pennsylvania

(Continued on Page 30)

1995 REUNION ATTENDEES
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

(Continued from Page 29)

COMPANY L

*Richard Bruno South Carolina
Joseph and June Gibbons Michigan
Julius Haberman Georgia
Guest: Robb Haberman
Russell and Rosanna Meinecke Missouri
John Nelson New Jersey
Bernard and Edith Zaffern Michigan
Kenneth and Marcella Ziems Virginia

COMPANY M

George Golias New Jersey
Norville and Myrtle Kendrick Florida
Floyd McCalip Mississippi
Guest: Malva Starr
Joseph and Kathryn Makosky Pennsylvania
Thomas and Wilma Moore Tennessee
Carl and Dorothy Rapp Florida
Richard and Claire Sodorff Idaho
Ray and Alice Wolthoff Florida

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

Roy and Marjorie Bush Missouri
Donald and Libby Calhoun Florida
Joseph Huber Wisconsin
Russell and Betty Koch Missouri
*Robert Perry South Carolina
Raymond and Janet Sansoucy Massachusetts
Edward and Dolly Sarcione New York
Mel Schulz Ohio
George and Jeanne Shapiro Florida
Dallas and Laura Shelton Illinois
Guests: Frank and Katie Baker
Robert and Evelyn Silberg Maryland

CANNON COMPANY

Peter and Helen Garstecki Pennsylvania
Ralph and Ursula Goebel Minnesota
*Robert and Ruth James Pennsylvania
Frank and Blanche Sniadecki Indiana
Charles and Elyne Syers Alabama
Charles and Mary Wentz North Carolina

MEDICS

Dr. Ray and Charlotte Strauss North Carolina
John and Barb Theisen, Jr. Minnesota

SERVICE COMPANY

Allen Williams Texas

273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Norman and Kay Barratt California
Donald and Vera Boyd Virginia
Bennie Foy, Sr. North Carolina
Guest: Ralph Mash
*Charles and Gladys Hughes Pennsylvania
Norman and Juanita Pickford Illinois
*Kenneth and Virginia Reitz Pennsylvania

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1st BATTALION

Ray and Sara Gilstrap Georgia
Charles Goodhart Pennsylvania
Guest: Paul Goodhart
*Harold and Eileen Pederson Illinois
Ralph and Cecilia Scholtz Florida
Arthur and Bobbie Seidenstricker Pennsylvania

COMPANY A

*James Brooks Georgia
James and Mary Carroll Texas
James and Allamae Ezell Arkansas
Edward Lucci New York
*Alvin and Jean Moore New York
William Nettles Mississippi
Arthur and Dorothy Pfeifer Massachusetts
Pierce Rice Virginia
Bennie and Marcella Srubar Texas
*Donald and Veronica Stibitz Pennsylvania

COMPANY B

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

COMPANY C

Stanley and Gloria Czyzyk New York
Elijah and Joan Dalrymple Indiana
Kent O'Kelly North Carolina

COMPANY D

*Robert Ammon Michigan
Arthur L. Ayres, Sr. Pennsylvania
Guest: Kenneth Ayres
Allan and Mary Blackmar New York
Guests: James and Evelyn Stone
*Alvin Bryant North Carolina
Guest: Johnnie Bryant
Ed and Mary Case Pennsylvania
Harry and Alberta Chandler Washington
Paul and Elaine Gornbein New York
Roland and Janice Hendrickson Oregon
George and Barbara Johnson Virginia
Robert and Betty Jo McCarty, Jr. Louisiana
Dan and Cathy McHugh Virginia
Gordon and Joan Mohr New York
John and Helen Opt Illinois
Guests: Joe and Patty Benn
*John and Bernice Phillips Ohio
Guest: Patty Phillips
Kenneth Sawyer Florida
Guest: Fran Collard
*James and Katherine Sprinkle North Carolina

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2nd BATTALION

Samuel and Ethel Johnson California
Ted and Ursula Schiffner Pennsylvania
William and Helene Studenic Florida
Garnet and Florence Whitley, Jr. Virginia

COMPANY E

Joseph and Virginia Aiello New York
*Carl and Charlyne Bugg North Carolina
Tony and Doris Bummara New Jersey
Robert Crowe Massachusetts
William and Jane Matlach New York
Harold and Peggy Sprang Ohio
Earl and Dorothy Witzleb, Jr. Pennsylvania

COMPANY F

John and Marjorie Fain Florida
*John and Nancy Fella Texas
Thomas Graves Florida

(Continued on Page 31)

1995 REUNION ATTENDEES
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA
(Continued from Page 30)

COMPANY F (continued)

Walter Harpain California
 Richard and Dottie Israel Virginia
 Amos and Dorothy Lassiter Florida
Guest: Hazel Douglas
 Sam and Elizabeth Warren Arkansa

COMPANY G

Alfred and Elizabeth Aronson New Jersey
 Willard and Dorris Beecher Florida
 Jim and Betty Kane Pennsylvania
 Rev. Hugh and Mary Frances McKee Louisiana
 William and Marilyn MacLauchlin Florida
 Joe and Diane Panganiban California
 Orville and Beulah Schultz California
 Edson and Tory Staggs New Jersey

COMPANY H

Robert and Roberta Andrew Pennsylvania
 Joe and Elner Bell Florida
 Bertram and Rhoda Eckert New York
 Harold and Gladys Ellison North Carolina
 Robert and Maxine Haag Indiana
 Thomas Hoffman Florida
 Leland and Lola Jones Kansas
 Howard and Jane Keyer Pennsylvania
 Charles and Agnes Leskus Pennsylvania
 Charles and Doris Locke New Jersey
 *Fredrick and Mary Lopp North Carolina
 Anthony and Elizabeth Mruk New York
 E. R. and Jacqueline Sams North Carolina

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION

Marvin and Miriam Freeman Connecticut
 Joseph and Caroline Gawek North Carolina
 Sidney and Thadda Groom Oklahoma
 Wallace and Ann Hall Indiana
 Charles and Patricia Hoffman Alabama
 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

Justin and Robbie Bloom Maryland
 James and Audrey Castrale Nebraska
 Floyd and Zona Dunn Missouri
 *James and Elizabeth Ewig Pennsylvania
 George and Janet Houseal Pennsylvania
Guests: Dr. and Mrs. Edward Toolis
 Allen and Catherine Long Florida
 *James and Dodie Long Illinois
 Carl and Bernice Macknair Pennsylvania
 *Wilborn and Rosa Lee Merck South Carolina
Guest: Diane Sloan
 Paul and Aldona Mickiewicz Florida
 Robert and Theresa Pierce California
 Earnest and Elizabeth Rowe Delaware
 Erwin and Carmen Sanborn New Hampshire

COMPANY K

Howard and Elnora Cordova Texas
 Oliver and Vera Coker Arkansas
 Walter and Stella Hajdamacha New Jersey
 Lloyd Lippman Montana
Guest: Jeannie Pfeffer
 Ellwell Meadows Alabama
 Lawrence and Doris Smith Tennessee
 James and Dora Telenko Pennsylvania

COMPANY L

Eldon and Marjie Atwood California
 *John and Peggy Harvey Georgia
 Anthony and Genevieve Plasic Pennsylvania

COMPANY M

Raul Nava California
 *Emmett and Ethel Withers Florida

CANNON COMPANY

Arlie and Parley Boswell Illinois

SERVICE COMPANY

James and Ruby Lenhart Virginia

DIVISION ARTILLERY

Jean Brannan Alabama
Guest: Matthew Brannan
 Charles and Edith Chapman Virginia
 Douglas and Norma Hall Louisiana

724th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Joseph and LaVerne Elkins North Carolina

BATTERY A

William and Dorothy Harsch Florida
 Paul Kitner Pennsylvania
 Woodrow Mitchell Texas

BATTERY B

Ricaldo and Jo Cagno Florida
 Thomas and Helen Heath New York

BATTERY C

Al and Polly DiLoretto Ohio
 Irving Eder Wisconsin
 Howard and Lois Hawk California
 Robert Hollister New York
 Coy and Erline Horton North Carolina
 Robert and Elizabeth Inyart Illinois
 Harold Wepler Ohio
Guest: Edna Butzin

879th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Dell and Mary Balzano Ohio
 Earl and Matilde Ramsey California

BATTERY C

James Jones Ohio
Guests: Raymond and Emily Troxtell
 *Marion and Betty Spelock West Virginia

SERVICE BATTERY

Thomas and Ruth Ellen Elliott Washington
 Bruce and Mary Young West Virginia

(Continued on Page 32)

**1995 REUNION ATTENDEES
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA**
(Continued from Page 31)

**880th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
HEADQUARTERS BATTERY**

George and Edna Blume Virginia
Stanley and Georgia Bratt Illinois
Howard and Barbara Carlton New Hampshire
John and Doris Cooper Illinois
Arthur and Mary D'Antonio Florida
Eugene and Carolyn McGreevy Maryland
Robert and Marilyn McKee Maryland
John and Peggy O'Connor Illinois
Emil and Peggy Paoletta Ohio
Michael and Lucille Pendrick Arkansas
William and Katherine Suckel Ohio

BATTERY A

Duffy and Rose Redmond Ohio

BATTERY B

Frank and Joan Alfiero South Carolina

SERVICE BATTERY

*Clyde Sudderth North Carolina
William and Loretta Stump Indiana

**881st FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
BATTERY HEADQUARTERS**

Cecil and Mary Lou Ammons Alabama

BATTERY A

Francis and Zita Enright Wisconsin

BATTERY B

Clyde and Ruthanna Arvin Pennsylvania
James and Tillie Boris Pennsylvania
Raymond and Marian Derr Ohio
Walter Haag California
H. P. Mallard Florida

Guests: Ken Russ and Yates Ware

James Moen Minnesota
Gilbert and Susan Rocco Pennsylvania
*Henry Sarnicki Pennsylvania
Daniel and Margie Sparks Pennsylvania
Eugene and Jacqueline Tabacchi Ohio

BATTERY C

Joseph and Sybil Conner, Jr. Georgia
Pleas and Mildred Copas Tennessee
George and Ruth Ehll Missouri
*Steve and Ruth Gilman Illinois
Lester Hart Ohio
Albert Jones South Carolina

Guest: Sarah Jenkins

Daniel and Joan Jones Pennsylvania
Hugh and Dorothy Milstead Tennessee
*Richard and Mary Mimes Florida
Eugene and Arlene Shollenberger Pennsylvania

Guest: Don Sturtz

George and Jennie Vasil Massachusetts

SERVICE BATTERY

Stephen Rojcewicz Massachusetts

**461st ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY
BATTERY C**

*Harding and Polly McDowell North Carolina

**661st TANK DESTROYERS
HEADQUARTERS COMPANY**

Peter and Carolyn Baskett Pennsylvania
Bill and Jo Beswick Virginia
Dolly Blank Texas
*Guests: Janelle and Clifford Blank Jr.,
Fredda Smith, Judge L. Bevil*
Ralph and Chris Bragg Virginia
*Wayne and Jerene Foltz Pennsylvania
Emil Matys Nevada
Eugene and Ethel Pierron Wisconsin
William and Ellen Snidow Virginia
Charles and Frances Yannul New Jersey

777th TANK BATTALION

James and Thurla Bristol Pennsylvania
Henry and Doris Jurkiewicz Florida
Andrew and Laura LaPatka Pennsylvania
Alex and Florence Lasseigne Louisiana
John and Ellen McCann Massachusetts
Guest: John M. McCann
Henry and Jean Putala Connecticut
*Charles W. Ray, Jr. Texas
Victor Tedesco Minnesota
Guest: Ed Eberhardt
Gaylord and Ruth Thomas Wisconsin
Robert Weise New York
Charles and Edna White Oklahoma
Alec Zubrowski New York

SPECIAL GUEST

*Joseph Collie President 100th Infantry Division
Guest: Roland Giduz

**Attention 69ers
familiar with
Chilbolten Airfield**

URGENT

The Parish Council of Chilbolten, England is doing a history book about the Chilbolten Airfield, and would like to give recognition to and include involvement of the American Ground Forces.

They need any information or pictures from soldiers of the 69th Infantry Division that were in any way involved with the Airfield, either prior to, or after going into combat. Also, the date we arrived near Chilbolten and Winchester. How many men, what we did while we were there, and when we left. Also, any pertinent information regarding our stay in that area.

Thank you.

Please send information and or pictures to:

Walt Harpain
2274 West Dovewood Lane
Fresno, California 93711-2810
Telephone: 209/432-2133

The Golfers Corner

James Boris, Vice President - 69th Infantry Division
 Headquarters Co., 881st Field Artillery
 6800 Henry Avenue
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19128
 Telephone: 215/483-2064

This past year at the 48th Annual Reunion in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, we enjoyed the largest tournament since I have been Golf Chairman.

We had 88 participants, of which 20 were ladies, which I am very pleased to report. We are hoping that the number of members continues to increase in future tournaments.

The following ladies won prizes:

1st Low Gross Pat Nagy
 2nd Low Gross Barb Johnson
 1st Low Net Dena Tounger
 2nd Low Net Ursula Goebel
 Closest to the Pin Jeanne Theobold
 Closest to the Pin Tillie Boris

The following men won prizes:

1st Low Gross Wayne Weygandt
 2nd Low Gross Clyde Arvin
 1st Low Net Joseph Awaral
 2nd Low Net Earl Fox
 Closest to the Pin Art Holgate
 Closest to the Pin Frank Alfiero

The straightest drives

Ladies Elizabeth Inyart
 Men Orland Pullen

Congratulations to all the winners. From the response we received all players enjoyed a great day of golf. More prizes were awarded in this tournament than ever before due to cooperation from the golf course where we played and from the sale of logo golf balls, which members purchased.

Your chairman wishes to thank all participants for their cooperation in making this, the largest tournament, the success it was. Looking forward to a good turn out in Chicago.



J. Shoemaker, G. Mischke, T. Boris, J. Boris



C. Arvin, W. Haag, E. Matys, G. Thomas

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Sorry, Jim, we couldn't use the majority of your golfing photos. They were just too dark. Also, next time have the folks remove their hats. That will help, also.)



Final instructions before Teeing off

“What a Break”

Sent By: **Robert Kurtzman**, P.O. Box 105, Wilmot, Ohio 44689-0105

On March 13th and 14th, 1996 a group of 69ers took a winter break together.

The “Dirty Dozen” from the Tri-State Group took advantage of a cost reduction and beautiful weather to spend a few days relaxing at the Carlisle Inn in the midst of Amish Country in Walnut Creek, Ohio.

It gave them a chance to get rid of the Cabin Fever blahs and enjoy the surroundings and the camaraderie that comes from being with friends.

Those in attendance were **Cecil and Alene Cottle** from Portsmouth, Ohio, **Boyd and Stella Ellsworth** from Steubenville, Ohio, **Rico and Anne D’Angelo** from Saltsburg, Pennsylvania, **Al and Marge Kormas** from Lakewood, Ohio, **Robert and Vivian Kurtzman** from Wilmot, Ohio and **Robert and Imogene Shaffer** from Canton, Ohio.

They enjoyed themselves so much that they made reservations for the same thing next year.

If you would like to join in with the Tri-State group, contact **Robert Kurtzman** at the address above and he will steer you in the right direction for the next mini reunion. All 69ers are welcome.



*Front row: Boyd Ellsworth, Cecil Cottle Bob Kurtzman
Back row: Rico D’Angelo, Bob Shaffer, Al Kormas*

Are You Wondering Why Your Bulletins Have Been Late?

We will tell you why. We have been receiving the material so late, that we cannot take it to the printer on time to get the bulletin going. Please read in the back of the bulletin in the Calendar the deadline dates for material for each bulletin.

On the last bulletin at deadline, we had literally nothing to take to the printer and a month later, we still had received very little. The same thing happened with this bulletin.

We realize that none of us are getting any younger and we easily forget our priorities.

So, don’t put off sending in material. Do it as soon as you think of it and get it in to us so that we can do our job as editors and you won’t have to “wonder” where your bulletin is.

Thank you from **Earl and Clarence**,
Your Bulletin Editors



*Front row: Anne D’Angelo, Alene Cottle, Stella Ellsworth
Back row: Vivian Kurtzman, Marge Kormas, Imogene Shaffer*

Harold Capps writes as a Reunion First Timer

Harold Capps, Company B, 272nd Infantry
2 Meadowlark Lane
Hendersonville, North Carolina 28792

When the last bulletin was so late arriving I assumed it was due to the late date of the reunion and you were overloaded with pictures and articles to edit and select. But it seems I was only half right and by now you probably are over supplied. Excuse me for adding to your burden but here are some selections I made at Myrtle Beach. I did not get names of the people but I'm sure they will recognize themselves and might like to see their pictures in print.

I was assigned to the Plaza Suite Hotel right next door to the Landmark which was headquarters for the reunion. You've heard the expression I suppose; "The sun doesn't shine up one dog's tail all the time." So I guess I was due for a little sunshine as it turned out to be the best deal of all. I had a full suite ocean front with a kitchen, dining area, living area, and corner sleeping area. The kitchen had a refrigerator with ice maker, range with oven, automatic dish washer, coffee maker, individual room heat/air heat pump in the closet area. The balcony porch was ocean front with two chairs, sliding doors. And it was the quietest place I've ever stayed in ... no elevator noise ... no slamming doors ... no kids screaming ... no car horns blowing, no car motors running. The only sound was from the surf when the sliding door was opened.

My being a First Timer, I didn't know anybody but I did recognize **Bill Matlach** when I checked in and had the pleasure of his company at one of the tables while he made some signs to post. Also a **Mr. and Mrs. Smith** who were the first to welcome me as a First Timer, but many others did also while I was there. On Monday afternoon I answered a knock on my door (I was on the 14th floor) and it was **Leo Moore** of Co. B, 272nd. We made plans to meet with others from B-272 which we did that evening in the hospitality room with **Dick Hadley** and **Nick Giannone**. We made plans to have breakfast together the next morning. We met at the Spring House Restaurant in the block above the hotels. There was **Dick Hadley**, **Leo Moore**, his wife and two kids, **Karl Martin** and myself. We had a good breakfast that didn't cost an arm and a leg and I think we all enjoyed the camaraderie as much as I did. Later that morning we met on the beach and made pictures of all us from B-272. If **Dick Hadley** or **Leo Moore** don't send copies of those pictures for publication let me know and I will send my copies. I would bet off hand that one or both of them have already submitted them for publication.

I took the Charleston tour on Tuesday and although Charleston was not new to me I enjoyed the trip and seeing the Battery and Old Charleston again. After a two hour stay for shopping, lunch, and whatever, we were tour guided through downtown. On the way back to Myrtle Beach we had a sing along which helped to pass the time which might otherwise have been a monotonous return trip.

I headed back home on Wednesday because I had scheduled some tests in the Sleep Center at our local hospital. The tests confirmed what we already knew ... that I have sleep apnea. Now I have to wear an oxygen mask

when I sleep and take a lot of medicine for Cardio Pulmonary Obstructive Disease disorders. But I shouldn't complain. I'm sure there are others worse off.

The weather in Myrtle Beach was ideal for late October and Charleston was downright hot. But think what it would have been in August. One summer at Fort Jackson out of Columbia I was in a record 50 year high temperature of 113 degrees and I was in the field that day conducting an 8 hour basic proficiency exam for recruits. Incidentally some of those recruits came from the recently re-activated 69th Division at Fort Dix, New Jersey. It was like old home week to see the 69th patch on the appropriate shoulder again. I believe that part of my breathing disorder now is from scorching my lungs breathing that terrific high humidity heat. (Give me the cool air of the Western North Carolina mountains any day.)

Clarence, I hope this finds you in the best of health and thank you again for the excellent job you have always done for the Bulletin and the Division. You are definitely MR. 69th DIVISION. My deepest regards always.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The last bulletin was so late because at deadline for material, we literally had nothing to publish and it was still that way a month later. We have to get people moving on sending in material, or we cannot produce a bulletin. We really had to scratch around for material last time, and as you can see, it is that way again. More of your photos will appear in the next issue. This was very late and I actually took it to the printer the day I received it as we needed to fill one more page.)



Aircraft Carrier - Lexington Patriot's Point, Charleston



In the lobby of the Landmark Hotel

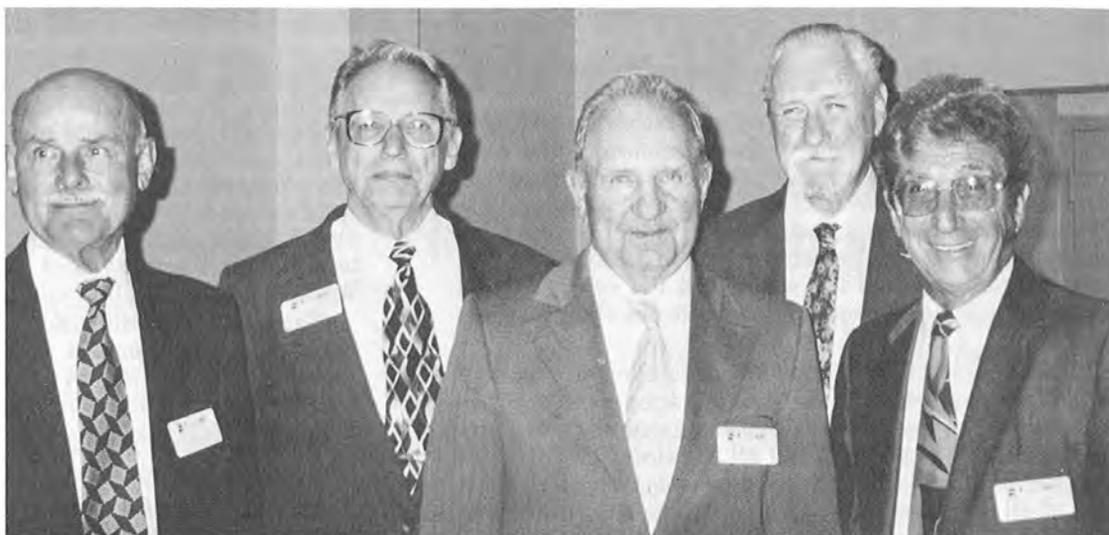
4th Platoon, Company L, 272nd Infantry

Sent by: Russell Meinecke
P.O. Box 106, Cainsville, Missouri 64632

*Myrtle Beach,
South Carolina
Reunion*

*Kenneth Ziems,
Bernie Zaffern,
Russell Meinecke,
Jack Nelson,
Richard Bruno*

*Richard Bruno was a
First Timer. The rest of
the group hadn't seen
him in 50 years.*



*Myrtle Beach,
South Carolina
Reunion*
*Kenneth & Marcella
Ziems*
Bernie Zaffern
*Rosannna & Russell
Meinecke*
Jack Nelson
Edith Zaffern
Richard Bruno

*This photo was taken at the Nashville, Tennessee
Reunion on August 27th, 1994.*

*Jack Nelson, Bernie Zaffern, Russell Meinecke,
Tom Clews, Kenneth Ziems.*

*Tom Clews was a First Timer at this reunion and
it had been 49 years since any of us had seen him.*

**What a great pleasure
seeing old friends again!!**



Basketball Champs

Written and Submitted by: **Gene Tabacchi**
Battery B, 881st Field Artillery
200 Rex Avenue, Wintersville, OHio 43952
Phone: 412/264-2465

From K Rations in the piney woods surrounding Camp Shelby, Mississippi to steak with all the trimmings at the Majestic Hotel in Paris. That traces the triumphant journey made by a group of basketball playing cannoneers from the 69th Infantry Division.

The 10 69ers were members of the 307th Field Artillery Battalion Team of the 78th Infantry Division that won the European Classic B Basketball Championship.

The 307th was stationed in the Bremen Enclave. It became the new home to many 69er low pointers who couldn't make the homeward trip with the division after it became the stateside ticket for soldiers with longer European service. Baker Battery of that battalion was stationed at Bederkesa, just east of Bremerhaven. Baker Battery provided the key personnel that made up the championship team.

The 307th was undefeated in the Bremen area. In the European finals in Paris the 307th had to defeat the 208th Field Artillery (52-23) out of Paris, the 2nd R.D. Headquarters Detachment (50-49) from Wamur, and the 50th Field Hospital of Soissons (44-43).

The 307th was nicknamed the Midgets for no logical reason; no player was under 6'1". Remember that was before the age of giants; George Mikan at 6'10" was a near oddity as well as the first player to have an impact on the pro game soon after. The Midgets who played together three years were Camp Shelby champs as members of the 879th Field Artillery. They won the championship after coming off the D-Series (maneuvers) in February's damp, bone-chilling weather. In that 11-game season the team scored 494 points while limiting the opposition to 269.

Their record was marred by a loss to the 271st Infantry which they had previously beaten.

Members of the Midgets were **Sparrel Stratton, Marion Spelock, Ed Breslin, Robert Chubb, Bill Mulroy, John Monnig, Richard Burch, Martin McCarthy, Robert Hendricks and Robert Johnson.**

Spelock was the team's captain-coach. He turned the school gym at Bederkesa into a basketball court. Lacking a tape measure, he used his own 6'3" stature as a measuring device. The gym had been used by the Germans primarily as a gymnastics center. It was small by modern standards. Set shots could be sunk (occasionally) from one end of the floor to the other.

Mulroy, Breslin, Stratton and Spelock were together in the 307th's B Battery. They practiced daily, using other members of the battery as cannon fodder. When not playing basketball, **Spelock** and **Mulroy** took on all comers in the battery at ping pong. **Spelock**, who was a gun staff sergeant, served also as first sergeant in his final days with the battery.

Wonder what those hardwood warriors of yesterday are doing now? **Spelock** especially would like to know. He is retired after a career of teaching and coaching. After the war, he returned to West Virginia Tech and played basketball and football. He earned all-conference honors in both sports. One of the high spots of his coaching career was having the incredible Jerry West of Cabin Creek, West Virginia as a player. West went on to have a Hall of Fame career as a pro and as co-owner of the Los Angeles Lakers.

West never forgot **Spelock**, his local school and West Virginia, the state or the university. That says something about him; it also says something about **Marion Spelock**, who had a role in implanting greatness in Jerry West.

Spelock's address is: 221 95th Street
Marmet, West Virginia 25315
Phone: 304/949-3281 - home
or 304/949-1318 - shop



*Back row: Unknown, Marion Spelock, Robert Chubb, Sparrel Stratton, Unknown.
Front row: Ed Breslin, John Manning, Unknown, Bill Mulroy and Unknown.*

Headquarters Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion

Submitted By: John J. O'Connor
9321 Jefferson Avenue, Brookfield, Illinois 60513-1209



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

CLARENCE MARSHALL, 101 Stephen Street, New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068

EARL E. WITZLEB, JR., P.O. Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
or R.D. #3, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

ADDRESS CHANGES, NEW MEN AND TAPS SHOULD BE MAILED TO OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:

ROBERT KURTZMAN, P.O. Box 105, Wilmot, Ohio 44689

Norman Barratt writes...

Norman Barratt

Headquarters Company, 273rd Infantry

666 Barneson Avenue

San Mateo, California 94402

A year or so ago **Del Philpott** had a book published and in the book is a picture that he with some other 69er's are shaking hands with some Russians. I have seen similar pictures over the years and have always contended that two of the men were from Headquarters Company, 273rd, namely **Dick Johnson** and **Bernie Kirschenbaum**. Until just last month I had lost contact with both of them. In fact, when we were in Leipzig I heard that **Bernie** tried to come into the dining room and join with us for dinner, but I never did see him there nor at the ceremonies at Torgau and Strehla the next day.

Anyway, last month I was able to get **Dick Johnson's** address from **Charlie Schultz** whom I had just contacted and in turn made contact with **Dick Johnson**. I had mailed **Dick** my latest copy of the Bulletin and last week he returned it to me with the enclosed newspaper article from the Rochester, NY Democrat Chronicle dated April 27, 1946. In this article about **Dick's** wedding, they included the picture of **Dick** shaking hands with the Russians at the Link-up.

After talking with **Dick** today, he said that he and his wife **Betty** are excited about attending the August reunion in Chicagoland. It is wonderful that they are making positive plans to attend, but at the same time, there are mixed emotions on the part of many of us that we waited so long before trying to re-connect with those men who shared a once in a lifetime experience together, namely being in the service together. Father Time is rapidly closing in on us and in December we lost another member from Headquarters Company, 273rd, namely **Bennie Foy** who was one of the very loyal supporters of the Association.

Elbe River Buddies Who Made Juncture with Russians Fulfill Pledge to Attend City Pal's Wedding

From the New York Democrat Chronicle April 27, 1946

Pfc. Richard Johnson's buddies of the famous platoon that met the Russians on the Elbe at Torgau on April 25, 1945, were reunited yesterday, almost on the anniversary, because of a promise they made that historic day.

Johnson's scheduled wedding today to pretty-as-a-picture **Betty McCallon**, was the reason for the reunion in Rochester.

Walter Malinosky of Bloomfield, Conn. and **Stephen F. Boucher** of Bridgeport, Conn., who stretched out hands all at once to greet the Russians in the first official contact between American and Soviet armies at the Elbe, will be ushers at the wedding. "We fixed it up over there, **Dick** asked us to be here for the wedding, and we said okay, we will if we can. So we're here."

There was another ceremony to be dispensed with first. They had to go out together yesterday and spend the dirty, Elbe water-stained dollar bill that **Dick** gave to "Mal" as a souvenir after they crossed the river to drink champagne with the Russians. "Mal" tucked the dollar away to buy a toast at the reunion. So yesterday they spent the dollar.

Malinosky, who says his father tells him he is fourth cousin of a Russian general, **Rodiyin Y. Malinosky**, was interpreter between the Russians and Americans at Torgau. The conversation wasn't too interesting, as he recalls. It consisted only of relaying instructions as to when and where commanding officers of both armies would meet. Later on, he said, he conversed with Russian troops, who were overwhelmed with curiosity about American guns and cameras. The Russian and American boys exchanged guns during the shooting celebration that followed the meeting.

All kinds of snapshots and photo flashes were made that day, the Americans recalled, and visitors brought some of the snapshots to show to the bride-to-be. The Americans, months afterward, tried to send some of the pictures to the members of the Russian platoon, but found there was no postal system to rely upon in Russia.



Richard Johnson, pictured in center with his bride-to-be, flanked on left by Walter Malinosky and on right by Stephen Boucher, Johnson's buddies when American troops met the Russians.



Johnson, indicated by arrow, meeting Russians.

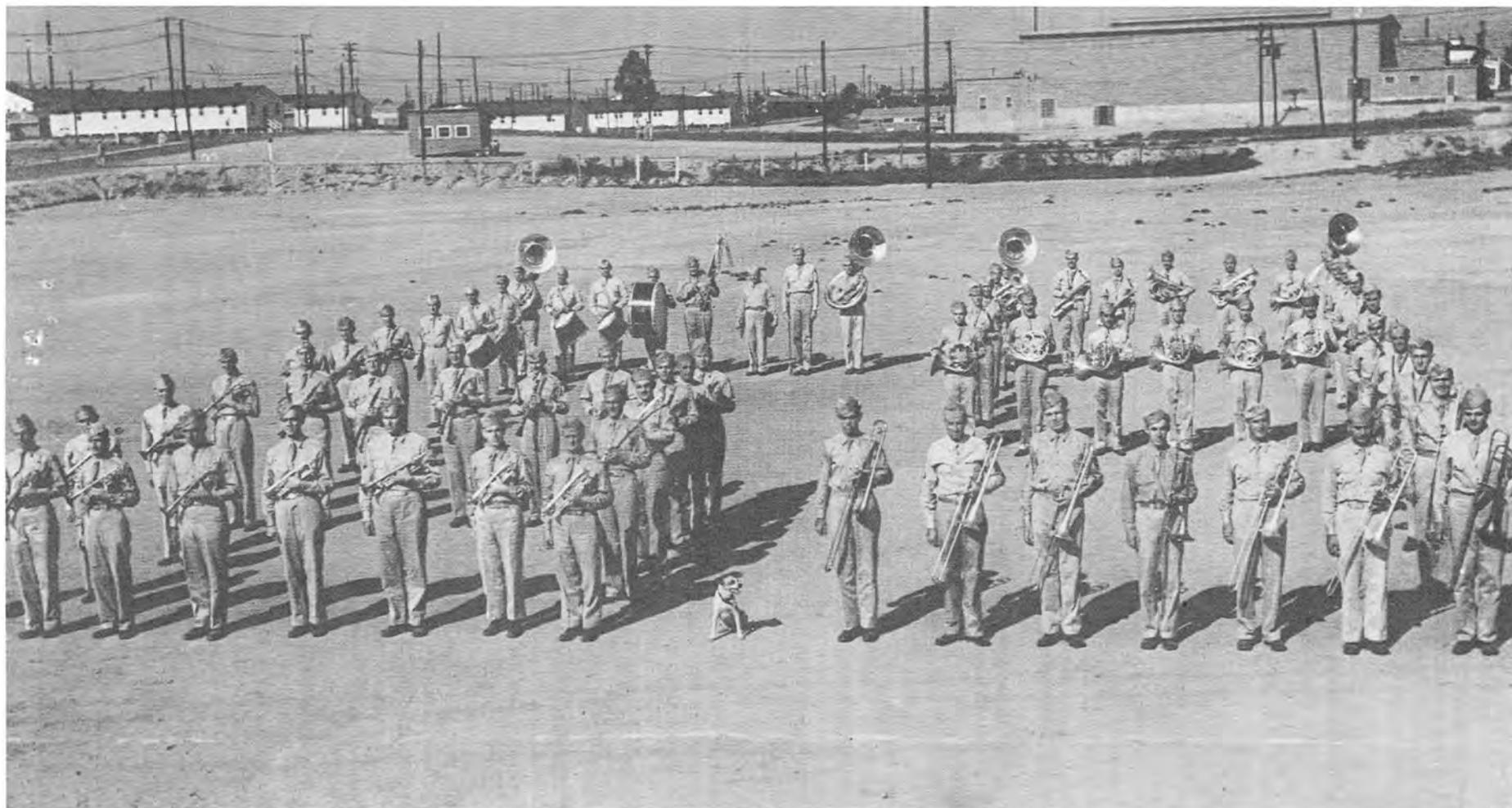
Doggie in Question

Submitted By: Eugene Gober, 69th Division Band
39 Woodland Avenue, Keene, New Hampshire 03431

In the latest issue of the Bulletin you had a picture of the band mascot. It was labeled as belonging to the 271st Infantry Division. In reality, his name was "Johnnie" and he was the mascot of the 69th Division Band and not the 271st.

The photo which was taken at Camp Shelby, shows our band in September of 1943. The picture has "Johnnie" in front. I played the tuba. Give my best to anyone who might remember me.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Eugene, the photo of Johnnie was taken from a book published by Camp Shelby which was full of pictures of several of the divisions who trained there, including the 69th. I went back and double checked it to see if I may have misread the caption. Apparently, they made the mistake when publishing it and we just published it as it was. Thanks for straightening this matter out.)



Ewing Haynie in pursuit of his Purple Heart

Ewing P. Haynie
Company B, 273rd Infantry
2850 Haynie Drive
Huntingdon, West Virginia 25704

Ewing Haynie apparently tried to get his Purple Heart 50 years later by writing to the "Board for Correction of Military Records." They sent him the letter below, denying him his medal.

Dear Applicant:

This concerns your application for correction of military records.

Your application has been denied under the administrative procedures approved by the Secretary of the Army for the operation of the Board for Correction of Military Records. A copy of the Memorandum of Consideration, which contains the Board's reason for denial, is enclosed.

Only if you can present newly discovered relevant evidence that was not available for consideration by the Board when it denied your application will there be a basis for reconsideration. If a request for reconsideration is submitted, the staff of the Board will evaluate the evidence and make that determination at the appropriate time. Otherwise, this decision is final. The only remaining avenue of appeal, should you desire to pursue it, would be in a Federal court.

Sincerely,
David R. Kinneer
Executive Secretary

In a brief summary, the reason for denial was as follows from the Memorandum of Consideration:

APPLICANT REQUESTS: That his military records be corrected to reflect award of the Purple Heart. He states he was wounded on 16 April 1945 while helping a wounded soldier to safety under heavy enemy fire. He states his left eyelid sustained a wound and he was treated at the battalion aid station.

PURPOSE: To determine whether the application was submitted within the time limit established by law, and if not, whether it is in the interest of justice to excuse the failure to timely file.

EVIDENCE OF RECORD: The applicant's military records were lost or destroyed in the National Personnel Records Center fire of 1973. Information herein was obtained from reconstructed personnel records.

His service medical records do not reflect treatment for any wounds sustained as a result of hostile action although they do note he was treated for a right eye inflammation in February 1944 and sunburn in May 1943.

He returned to the United States in March 1946. Although his separation physical examination notes treatment of an injury to his left upper eyelid in April 1945 while in Germany, the entry indicates the applicant had a 1 inch scar on his eyelid but does not indicate the source of the injury or that it was sustained as a result of hostile action.

DISCUSSION: The alleged error or injustice was, or with reasonable diligence should have been discovered on 18 March 1946, the date he was discharged from active duty and signed his report of separation. However, in view of the fact that the Board was not established until

2 January 1947 the applicant's 3 year period in which to file an application for correction of military records expired on 2 January 1950; 3 years from the date the Board was established.

DETERMINATION: The subject application was not submitted within the time required. The applicant has not presented and the records do not contain sufficient justification to conclude that it would be in the interest of justice to grant the relief requested or to excuse the failure to file within the time prescribed by law.

Ewing then proceeded and wrote the following letter to his Congressman in West Virginia, The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, on March 8th, 1996.

Dear Sir,

The "Board for Correction of Military Records" has denied my request to award the Purple Heart. I realize that the time to request this change was the time of discharge, but anyone who spent many months in battle had only one thing on his mind, "HOME." I never gave this much thought over the years, although this award would have helped me in various ways, especially in employment. I can foresee no benefits at this time, but I feel that my sacrifice should be recognized, the fact that my blood was shed in combat on April 18th, 1945, in Leipzig, Germany. I will be 72 years old in August, 1996, so I definitely will not use it for any employment.

I have never asked anything of my Government. I have never drawn one penny of unemployment payments, not even from the 52/20 Club, as it was called by returning Servicemen after World War II. I feel that I am the victim of a gross miscarriage of justice by the Board's denial of my claim. I loathe being called a liar over something this personal and I feel the facts support my case.

I feel that the Board members probably become calloused after considering cases day after day. It would be hard for them to imagine themselves in my situation, since they were probably infants or unborn when I was fighting for my country as a Rifleman and BAR man (By choice, I might add.)

My AGCT score of 148 qualified me for schooling that would have kept me out of combat and in college for up to four years. I was at the University of Alabama as an Aviation Student when General Arnold drastically cut back the Army Air Corps Cadet program. I was only days from graduation into the Cadet Corps, which would have made me an officer as a bombardier-navigator within a few weeks. I was heart broken and returned to the ground forces, from which I had transferred after passing many tests.

I landed on Omaha Beach somewhere around D-Day plus 90. I was assigned to Company B, 273rd Infantry, 69th Division, probably in January 1945. I was not, as the Board's letter states, assigned to Company L, 116th Infantry, 29th Division, until hostilities in Germany had ceased. I spent my Occupation time with the 29th Division until I had ENOUGH POINTS to go home.

Anyone who is familiar with the history of World War II in Germany, would know that Leipzig was attacked by the 69th Infantry Division on April 18th, 1945. Company B, 273rd Infantry, was on the front line and I was with the first troops to enter the city. We were not there for a picnic. Bombarded by artillery and tanks and stormed by us, the Queen of Battle, Leipzig was no place for the faint of heart. Any injury or wound suffered that day in Leipzig had to be a result of enemy action.

(Continued on Page 42)

EWING HAYNIE IN PURSUIT OF HIS PURPLE HEART

(Continued from Page 41)

My Squad was advancing into the city when we came under heavy fire from the German troops. The soldier in front of me (last name, **Adkins**, BAR man) was shot in the left arm. The soldier directly behind me (a boy from Columbus, Ohio, Bazooka ammo bearer) was shot through the heart and died instantly. I hit the dirt behind a tree on our right, while the rest of the squad took cover in a ditch on our left. I lay there watching the bark fly off the trees in front of me until the sergeant yelled for me to cross the road and help with **Adkins**. The sergeant ordered me to take **Adkins** for medical help. I grabbed his good arm and started out of the ditch. Immediately, something hit me in the left eye, knocking me back into the ditch. The sergeant looked at me and said, "Did you get hit too?" I said nothing, but, bleeding profusely, started out again with **Adkins**, who was also bleeding and in terrible pain. I think the bone was shattered.

I don't know how we survived the 75 or so yards to the next street. I can still see the bullets kicking up dust all around us. I believe the Germans were missing us on purpose, knowing we were both partially disabled.

About two streets back, I saw a German military doctor's office. I took **Adkins** inside and there stood an immaculately dressed German Officer (doctor) and his nurse. I held my BAR on the doctor while he worked on **Adkins'** arm. After he finished, he offered to stop the bleeding in my eye, so I placed the rifle in **Adkins'** right hand and let the doctor work on my eye. I finally found an American medic and we were taken to the Battalion Aid Station. My eyelid was sewn up and I was kept over night. I was returned to my unit on the front line the next day (my left eye bandaged). I never saw **Adkins** again. I believe he was from Michigan.

My squad sergeant was a fine man. I don't remember his name, but he was 8-10 years older than the rest of the squad, and we respected him. I obeyed his orders instantly, without question. For example, when he hit me on the rear and started me over an open field, about 100 yards, that was covered by German machine gun fire, I went, zigzagging my way. The man in front of me had his ammo belt shot off his waist. When he ordered me and my best friend, the two of us were scouts in the squad at the time, to guard the left flank while the main body advanced through enemy territory, we obeyed, only to discover that we were walking through a German mine field. My friend was killed in action later that day. So, when he ordered me to get **Adkins** to safety, I obeyed, even though I thought my chances were slim of making it to safety through the heavy enemy fire.

I was in combat with Company B, 273rd Infantry from January to May of 1945. Since my discharge physical form states that I was treated at the Battalion Aid Station for a wound to my left eye in April of 1945, I think this is proof enough that my wound came from enemy action. The month of April 1945 was a month of continuous battle for Company B, 273rd Infantry. This should be a matter of record the board could check if they were so inclined.

I should not be penalized because a green lieutenant at Fort Meade, who probably spent the war in the States, wrote that he did not consider my wound to be combat related. He knew nothing about me, and I'm sure he did not ask me about it. Also, loss of records is not my fault. This seems to happen quite often in the Army. It happened to me as early as basic training in early 1943. Fire

always seems to be the culprit. We were rushed through the Separation process at Fort Meade, and I'm sure many of us signed forms without reading them. Most of us would sign anything just to be on our way home.

The enclosed story (Haynie included a newspaper clipping in which another man received his Purple Heart after 51 years) from the Charleston Gazette proves that the Purple Heart is awarded despite the time element. It just depends on who you have working for you. Mr. Viers (the man in said article) is a fine man and a friend and fellow church member of mine. He would not have received this award except for the backing of the American Legion.

I have belonged to the VFW for many years. I asked for their help, but received only an address to write to. No Help.

I obtained my Platoon Lieutenant's address from another Company B lieutenant. I wrote to him in 1993, but received no reply.

Congressman Rahall, I will be eternally grateful for any help you can give in this matter. It took this Board almost 2½ years to act on my request. At age 72 I don't have too many periods of time left to waste.

You would think that I was asking for a lot of money or the Congressional Medal of Honor, when all I ask for is the Purple Heart to pass on to my heirs, and which I paid for 51 years ago with my life blood. Maybe a new Board with a heart and a knowledge of war will read this letter when they come to it 2 or 3 years from now.

I have lived 51 years without the Purple Heart, so it is not a matter of life or death, just a matter of principal and honesty. But this denial makes me wonder if I made the right decision when I opted for combat in the infantry instead of college in the ASTP or other program.

Thank you very much for listening to my story.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Let us know how or if you made any headway on this, Haynie.)



Adkins on left, the boy I took for medical help. With rifle is Ramon Spiekerman who died on April 6th, 1945 when he stepped off the edge of a blown out bridge near midnight. I was right behind him. He is buried in Holland.

Veteran is on the road

Belgium man logs 1,000 hours a year driving vets to medical center

OZAUKEE PRESS

November 9, 1995



By Nancy Mersereau
Ozaukee Press Staff

Every day is Veteran's Day for Eugene Pierron. He spends 1,000 hours a year driving Ozaukee County veterans to and from Zablocki Medical Center in Milwaukee. And while at the Medical Center, waiting for patients, he volunteers his time at the center.

The 71-year-old Belgium man is a veteran of one of the most famous actions of World War II, the meeting of the United States and Russian troops at Torgau on the Elbe River in the eastern part of Germany. The junction, on April 25, 1945, effectively marked the end of the war in Europe, although the actual cessation did not take place until early May.

Pierron was the only Ozaukee County soldier with the unit.

A stamp commemorating the meeting has been issued by the United States Postal Service. It is one of the stamps in a World War II commemorative. Pierron, a stamp collector, made sure he got his supply before the local post offices sold out.

For Pierron, the time with the 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion attached to the 69th Infantry Division remains vivid. A member of the Board of Directors of the 69th Infantry Division Association, he represents his tank destroyer unit. A regular at association reunions, he and wife, Ethel, attended the 48th gathering in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in October.

Pierron was 18 when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in January, 1943. However, when he reported for duty, and the Army found out that he had motorcycle experience, he was soon on his way to Fort Hood, Texas, for training with the tank destroyer unit.

Pierron needed a motorcycle because he was the "get-away-guy." If his unit came under fire and was pinned down, Pierron was to get away to another unit so that help could be obtained, usually in the form of artillery fire.

"I got into a lot of trouble with that motorcycle, but we won't go into that," he said. "I had a lot of fun during training, I went ahead of the unit when it moved to make sure that traffic was stopped so the equipment could move through." His division trained in Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas before leaving for Europe on January 9, 1945.

FRANCE WAS FIRST

The 661st landed at Le Havre, France on January 23rd. The war was raging. Pierron had the same duty, but he now had a jeep equipped with a radio and a lieutenant who rode with him to reconnoiter the area. Pierron's duties were the same. He still had to be the one who got away.

Within two weeks, the battalion moved through ice and snow to join the fight in Belgium. That is when the 661st Battalion joined the 69th Infantry Division that moved steadily through the Siegfried Line into Germany.

A map of the battalion's march through Germany showed its start at Schmidheim, crossing the Rhine at Bad Neuenahr and continuing north of Frankfurt.

Along the way, the division captured more than 1,000 towns including the major city of Leipzig. It was during that battle that Pierron received shrapnel wounds. "My rain poncho was full of holes," he said. However, the wounds did not keep him out of action.

"I really didn't report them because they weren't that serious," he said. "I didn't know that I could have got more points to get out earlier, but when I learned that, the lieutenant who could vouch for me wasn't around."

As the division moved deeper into Germany, the various units took 35,000 German prisoners and freed more than 26,500 allied prisoners. They also liberated many of the people from other lands who had been brought into Germany to work as slave laborers. The one prisoner of war camp Pierron's unit missed was the one where his older brother, Bob, was held. "I missed liberating my brother by five days," Pierron said.

PACIFIC THEATER WAS NO ATTRACTION

Once the war ended, Pierron spent six months more in Germany. He was given an opportunity to go to the Pacific Theater, but decided he had seen enough fighting.

When he got back to the United States, he was given a 30-day furlough which he spent helping his father on the family farm. He reported back to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, where he used the same successful routine of another soldier to get another 30-day leave. "I spent six hours at Camp Shelby and was on my way back home again," he said. The paperwork finally caught up with him and seven days later he was ordered to report back to the Army. This time his assignment was Fort McKinley, Maine. Pierron spent the rest of his enlistment time on the island used as a training site.

When he was finally out of service, Pierron returned to farming, a career he followed for some time. He also became an active member of the American Legion Post at Belgium and the Memorial Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Pierron later ran the VFW Bar in the Town of Belgium and worked at the Courthouse Inn. He finished his employment career working for the Ozaukee School District. Today, his work week is defined by the miles he spends driving to and from the veterans' medical complex.

The three volunteers serving the county, Don Lohuis, Ralph Manke and Pierron, receive mileage and a stipend that Tom Burkhalter, veterans' service officer, says is enough for a fast-food bargain lunch.

"The hours they spend and the work they do, particularly volunteering at the center while they wait to make the return trip, makes them true volunteers."

Stephen Rojcewicz sends along his memories

Stephen J. Rojcewicz, 881st Field Artillery
135 Endicott Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01610

Our 881st artillery outfit found itself on short rations for a while in the winter of 1945 in Germany. One day we were pleasantly surprised to have meat, venison no less, as we went through the chow line. Where did the meat come from? No one seemed to know until the mess sergeant said, "The Chief brought it."

As one of the editors of our battery newspaper, I just had to know so I found "Chief," which is what everyone called him. He was a Sioux Indian from North Dakota, always smiling and of superb strength.

"Well, he said, "since you ask, it was like this. On guard the other night I heard this rustling so I called out and asked for the password. No answer, and the rustling kept getting closer. So, naturally, I had to fire."

That was his story and no one dared question it. Oh, yes, the meat was delicious. The expended round from "Chief's" carbine was never found.

* * * * *

One day near the end of the war in Europe, a fellow battery mate came running to me and said, "You are wanted right now at the C.P." (Command Post in case you have forgotten, fellow 69ers.)

When I got there, I saluted the higher ranking officer and reported. "Rojcewicz," one of them said, "two people working for us have reported you as being a spy. What do you have to say for yourself?"

Naturally, I was dumb-struck. He continued. "These people say you don't pronounce like an American. (Remember danke shane). You say "u" like the French or the Germans, therefore you must not be an American but a spy."

The other officer said, "We know how we say "oo" for the European "u." You must have been a French major (Did he intend the pun?) in college. Keep up the good work. Dismissed."

Of course it was a joy to tell this story to my high school students of French, stressing if they learn to pronounce properly, they may someday be taken as spies.

And the students! Many times in the halls they would purse their lips close to my face and say, "une, une."

69er widow writes . . .

Mrs. Art Long
217 East High
Monticello, Illinois 61856

Dear Dottie,

Thank you so much for sending the Bulletin. I wish I'd known about this sooner. My husband, **Arthur** was with the group at Camp Shelby before going overseas. He was with the 273rd. He drove for **Major Craig** and **Major Knight** before **Major Knight** came back to the States. He was only 19 when they met the Russians. It was a lovely day. They nearly got court martialled over that.

He was very proud of his service. We also had a son that was in Vietnam. We lost him. Art always said it took all the servicemen to win the war and the heroes were the ones who never came back.

Thank you so much again. I know my husband would have loved to have been a part of the Association.

Surprise!!

I dreamt death came, the other night,
And, Heaven's Gate swung wide
An Angel with a halo bright
Ushered me inside.

And there! to my astonishment,
Stood folks I'd judged and labeled:
As, "quite unfit"; "of little worth"
And, "spiritually disabled!"

Indignant words rose to my lips,
But never were set free,
for every face showed stunned surprise,
Not one expected ME!

LATE ENTRIES FOR CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th, 1996
BATTERY C, 880th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
Lexington, Virginia

Committee:

Lewis and Fern Pugh
640 Grant Street
Cadiz, Ohio 43907
Telephone: 614/942-3721

* * * * *

OCTOBER 17th, 18th and 19th, 1996
661st TANK DESTROYER REUNION

179 Sheraton Drive
Salem, Virginia 24153
I-81, Exit 141 at Route 419
Telephone: 540/562-1912
Reservations: 800/459-4949

Committee:

Bill and Ellen Snidow
Route One, Box 303
Pembroke, Virginia 24136



**1997 69th Infantry
Division 50th Annual
Reunion**

**DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS
(25 miles north of Boston)**

AUGUST 17 TO 24, 1997

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 soon 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.

1996

Not too much going on folks? Hope you are all taking advantage of this chance to advertise your event to the entire membership in the 69th. Remember, sometimes a member who lives nearby, not necessarily from your outfit, will show up at one of these mini reunions, so send your information in.

* * * * *

APRIL 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st, 1996
CALIFORNIA WESTERN CHAPTER
Palm Springs, California (Tentative)

All 69ers are welcome to join us!

Committee:

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

* * * * *

APRIL 30th, 1996
Deadline for news material and pictures for this bulletin
Bulletin Volume 49, Number 3
May, June, July, August 1996
Bulletin expected mailing date in July or August.

* * * * *

MAY 16, 17 and 18, 1996
MIDWEST GROUP SPRING MEETING
Starved Rock State Park, Illinois
Starved Rock Lodge & Conference Center

P.O. Box 471
Utica, Illinois 61373
Reservations: 815/667-4211

Rates: \$52.00 plus tax (approx. 11%)

Starved Rock State Park is located on the Illinois River, south of interstate 80 and east of interstate 39. Go one mile south of Utica on Route 178.

We shall be staying at the lodge, which was built in the 1930's and has recently undergone extensive restoration. There are many hiking trails, beautiful scenery (including unusual rock formations), and boat rides on the Illinois River. The lodge has an indoor pool.

A block of rooms will be held for us until 30 days before the event. The place is busy, so don't delay. Deposit of the first night's tariff is required to guarantee your reservation.

Program:

Thursday, May 16th: Check-in time, 3:00 p.m.
Hiking
Hospitality Room
Dinner at the Lodge

Friday, May 17th: Golf at a course to be selected.
Tours for non-golfers.
Hospitality Room
Dinner at selected restaurant.

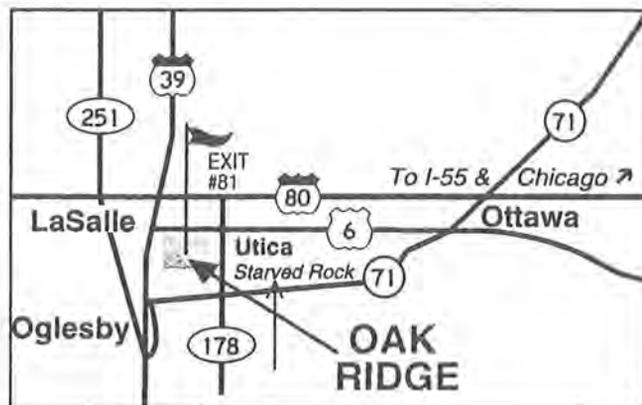
Saturday, May 18th: On Your Own.
Check-out time, 11:00 a.m.

Committee:

Gene Mischke
1021 West 3rd Street
Spring Valley, Illinois 61362
Telephone: 815/664-2437

or

Wayne Weygandt
1913 Columbus Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350
Telephone: 815/433-4193



* * * * *

MAY 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th, 1996
TRI-STATE GROUP

Holiday Inn
Monroe, Michigan
Greenfield Village (Ford Museum)
Bus trip to historical sites
Saturday Banquet
Sunday Breakfast Buffet

Committee:

Raymond Skudlarek
3525 Muirfield
Toledo, Ohio 43614

* * * * *

JUNE 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th, 1996
COMPANY I, 272nd INFANTRY

Radisson Hotel
LaCrosse, Wisconsin
Visit the Coulee Region overlooking the beautiful Mississippi River.

Committee:

Bob and Phyllis Jorgenson
619 8th Avenue North
Onalaska, Wisconsin 54650
Telephone: 608/783-5006

(Continued on Page 46)

August 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 1996

69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

49th ANNUAL REUNION

Schaumburg, Illinois (CHICAGO)

HYATT REGENCY WOODFIELD

1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173
 Reservations: 800/233-1234 • Hotel: 708/605-1234

RATES: \$71.00 - Single, Double, Triple, Quad

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

COMMITTEE:

Ernest H. and Mary Krause, Co-Chairpersons - 269th Engineers
 444 Pioneer Drive, Addison, Illinois 60101 • Telephone: 708/543-6811
Committee Members: Ralph S. Plugge, Max Phillips, Robert Klein, Glenn L. Felner,
 Harold A. Pederson, George Rico, William J. Fannucchi, Marsh Mussay, Al Koziol

SEPTEMBER 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th, 1996

69th CAVALRY RECON TROOP

Chamberlin Resort & Conference Center
 Hampton, Virginia at Fort Monroe
 Telephone: 1-800/582-8975

Rate: \$69.00*

*Includes: **Free** Full Breakfast Buffet Daily
Free Afternoon Tea w/tea, coffee cookies
Free Snacks in Lounge and entertainment

Committee:

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

Mike Moscaritolo
 19 Trotters Circle, Kissimmee, Florida 34743
 Telephone: 407/348-6527

Robert Schueler
 1484 Stahlheber Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013-1916
 Telephone: 513/869-6970

* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 20th and 21st, 1996

BATTERY B, 461st ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTALION

Heath Lodge, Old Stone Inn
 Waynesville, North Carolina

Committee:

Harry L. Booker
 105 Keller Street, Waynesville, North Carolina 28786
 Telephone: 704/452-7807

* * * * *

OCTOBER 11th, 12th, and 13th, 1996

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY AND MEDICAL DETACHMENT, 461st AAA AW Battalion

Quality Inn - Salem, Virginia 24153
 Telephone: 1-800/459-4949

Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Leave Sunday or stay over
 for Monday morning.

Leave I-81 at Exit 141 (old 41) and go south on SR-419 to
 motel. We will have a block of rooms reserved. Best rates.
 Meeting and banquet room will be the Montgomery/Franklin
 Room.

Committee:

Allen Whitley, Chairman
 944 Cumberland Heights, Marion, Virginia 24354
 Telephone: (H) 703/783-6615 (W) 703/783-5566

* * * * *

1997

AUGUST 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 1997

69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

50th ANNUAL REUNION

DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS
 (approximately 25 miles north of Boston)

Chairpersons:

Henry and Jean Putala
Battery C, 777th Tank Battalion
 1139 River Boulevard
 Suffield, Connecticut 06078

Rates: \$72.00 per night (may go up 3%)

Tours include whale watch, trip to see historic sections
 of Boston, trips to Boston Commons, Plymouth Rock,
 Salem, Lexington, and Concord.

Golf course on the premises, plenty of restaurants and
 fast food places.

Anyone interested in assisting with this reunion, please
 contact **Henry and Jean** at the address above. If you live
 in the area, it would be especially helpful if you would vol-
 unteer even a little of your time. They need to know who
 you are, so get in touch.



“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 Brigadier General 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.

Ray W. Tabor
Wayside, West Virginia
L - 271st

Frank Pidgeon
2852 Clyde Avenue
Schnectady, New York
G - 271st

Jack Duffy
Rochester, New York
Div. Hq.

Malcolm Golding
R.R. #1, Box 40
Topsham, Maine
A - 661st T.D.

Edward Golden
34 East Mount Avenue
Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey
A - 661st T.D.

Henry Lee
397 Balton Street
Marlboro, Massachusetts
RE - 661st T.D.

Rodney Hurd
1208 Wentworth Street
Reidsville, North Carolina
C - 661st T.D.

Art Reemsnyder
4530 14th Street N.W.
Canton, Ohio
H&S - 879th F.A.

William Schroeder
1259 River Breeze Boulevard
Ormond Beach, Florida
C - 369th

Robert Goodman
303 West State Street
Doylestown, Pennsylvania
D - 777th

Terb Uhlich
514 Springmill Street
Mansfield, Ohio
B - 369th

Harold Curtwright
48 S.E. Erie Terrace
Stuart, Florida
B - 661st T.D.

Bernard Epperly
P.O. Box 145
Pembroke, Virginia
RE - 661st T.D.

Richard E. Hollows
2705 Fairway Drive
Altoona, Pennsylvania
Hq. - 661st T.D.

Earl Lazar
24922 La Plata Drive
Laguna Miquel, California
Hq. - 661st T.D.

William F. Murray
2710 Elinor
Eugene, Oregon
Hq. - 661st T.D.

Elwood Newman
2413 Ridge Road
Ransomville, New York
A - 661st T.D.

Milton Patterson
1506 Holly Road
Charlottesville, Virginia
B - 661st T.D.

Garnett Pierce
817 Lee Street
Sturgis, Kentucky
B - 661st T.D.

Lester Ross
112 Boone Street
Boone, Iowa
Hq. - 661st T.D.

Burton West
Route 2, Box 50
Meriden, Mississippi
Hq. - 661st

Herman Walker
2809 West Sycamore Drive
Greenwood, Indiana
L - 273rd

Paul B. McCombs
Black Hawk F-3
Downington, Pennsylvania
D - 271st

Thomas Hunt
503 Eastbourne
Memphis, Tennessee
C - 269th

George M. Katsonis
106 Valencia Court
Plant City, Florida
Hq. - Divartry

Foster Hibbard
614 La Corso Drive
Walnut Creek, California
M - 271st

Howard S. Hugus
P.O. Box 7306
Naples, Florida
AT - 273rd

Jerome Ghedotti
25672 29th South
Kent, Washington
A - 273rd

Francis Breyette
1137 Orkla Drive
Golden Valley, Minnesota
C - 461st AAA

Samuel Johnson
Route 4, Box 235
Bassett, Virginia
I - 272nd

William Devitt
10 Chestnut Street
Beverly, Massachusetts
I - 272nd

John M. Taylor
1009 Wall
Frederick, Oklahoma
C - 269th

Lloyd M. Fletcher
707-09 North Park Avenue
Warsaw, Indiana
M - 272nd

Samuel J. Ickes, Jr.
1898 Walnut Bottom Road
Newville, Pennsylvania
Hq., 1st Bn. - 273rd

Fred O. Metzger
32 Douglas Ridge
Norwich, Vermont
Hq. - 271st

Clarence Robinson
166 Wabash Drive
Lexington, Kentucky
Anti-Tank (No Regiment)

Charles Hasala
824 Cadmus Street
East Liverpool, Ohio
B - 724th

Harlon Mark
205 West Oliver Street
Owosso, Michigan
I - 272nd

John B. Mulroy
123 West Elban Road
Chester, Pennsylvania
Service - 273rd

George F. Oehler
Route 1, Box 123
Dalton, Pennsylvania
Hq. - 880th F.A.

Stanley Supinsky
4256 Plumwood Drive
North Olmstead, Ohio
Hq. - 880th

John A. Raudenbush
4600 Stricker Road
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Hq. - 272nd

Francis C. Klink
144 Pennsylvania Avenue
Bridgeville, Pennsylvania
Hq., 3rd Bn. - 273rd

John Kemnitz
330 Cherry Street
Grand Forks, North Dakota
H&S - 880th F.A.



the 69th
 INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.
 p.o. box 69, champion, pa. 15622-0069

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 ATLANTA GA 30329-3504

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

“Taps” *(Continued from Page 47)*

Syl F. Karas
 3479 Hunnington Terrace
 Crete, Illinois
 Hq. - Divarty

Edward F. Ward
 1609 8th Street N.E.
 Auburn, Washington
 E - 273rd

William T. Rogers
 3359 Gulf Breeze Terrace
 Palm Harbor, Florida
 A - 880th F.A.

Clarence Murphy
 115 Park Avenue
 S. Weymouth, Massachusetts
 B - 369th

Adolph Eichhammer
 437 Sapphire Drive
 Sarasota, Florida
 569th Signal Co.

Carl Devers
 Box 152
 Ronceverte, West Virginia

Joseph Kapnick
 797 Twin Rivers Drive
 East Windsor, New Jersey
 Hq., 1st Bn. - 273rd

Robert Seward
 16422 Pearce Road
 Monkton, Maryland
 69th Recon

Wayne Foltz
 P.O. Box 135
 Pine Grove Mills, Pennsylvania
 B - 661st T.D.

Rocco Campagna
 1614 Quincy Street
 Dunmore, Pennsylvania
 Hq., 1st Bn. - 273rd

Lawrence Terpstra
 4451 Forest Park S.W.
 Wyoming, Michigan
 E - 272nd

Vincent Bremer
 5165 Galana Avenue
 Dixon, Illinois
 69th Quartermaster

Charlie Land
 16145 Teco Lane
 Sweet Home, Oregon
 A - 881st F.A.

Milton Thompson
 Box 532
 Delaplane, Virginia
 Hq. - 881st F.A.

Carl Swindlehurst
 628 West Lewiston
 Ferndale, Michigan
 D-272nd

**Carl O. Dirschauer
 and wife**
 Killed in accident
 Hq., 3rd Bn. - 271st

Joseph Peele
 P.O. Box 385
 Whitaker, North Carolina
 Cannon - 272nd

Robert J. Perry
 40 Yarmouth Avenue
 Brockton, Massachusetts
 880th F.A.

James W. Evens
 P.O. Box 693
 Altus, Oklahoma
 H&S - 879th

Anthony Gallo
 60 Rumsey Road
 Yonkers, New York
 M - 272nd

Robert Rhoades
 1422 Moravia Avenue
 Holly Hills, Florida
 A- 777th

Allen Feild
 8676 Chitney Lane
 Riverside, California
 Cannon - 272nd

James M. Simons
 251 St. Christopher Blvd.
 Mt. Clemens, Michigan
 B - 661st T.D.

Joseph P. Fitzpatrick
 R.R. #2, Box 563
 Harpers Ferry, West Virginia
 Hq., 1st Bn. - 272nd

James D. Eyster
 140 Saint George Road
 Melbourne, Florida
 L - 273rd

Howard T. Harris
 P.O. Box 216
 Farmville, North Carolina
 D - 461st AAA

Robert Lipsett
 316 Broad Avenue
 Ridgefield, New Jersey
 Hq., 1st Bn. - 271st

Robert C. Morgan
 1001 East West Highway
 Takoma Park, Maryland
 G - 271st