

# FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

## ★★★★ Association, Inc.



VOLUME 50, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER — NOVEMBER — DECEMBER  
1996

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

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

# bulletin

## Days We Like To Remember . . .

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Curt E. Peterson, WI .....	569 Sig.

\*Deceased



# News From The Editor's Desk



By **Clarence Marshall**  
Co-Editor

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

**Roger A. Hawk**, 8637 Valley View Road, Scottsdale, Arizona 85250 — Cannon-272nd: The article by **John Hagstrom** of the 29th Division in the last Bulletin caught my interest. Like many other 69er's, I also served in both outfits. But unlike most, I was in the 29th both before and after my 69th term.

After Basic and TD School at Camp Hood, I was immediately sent to the 29th in England as a replacement. I was with them from May 1943 until March 1944. I applied for Aviation Cadet and was returned to the U.S. three months before the 29th hit Omaha Beach.

When I reported to Keesler Field at Biloxi, we were told the Air Corps had enough pilots and were sent up the road to Camp Shelby and the 69th.

After the war the two divisions swapped men and the 69th came home filled with high point 29ers. After rejoining the 29th, I quickly got reassigned to my old outfit where the old timers were the guys I went to England with. A great reunion was held, they were sent home within a couple of months. I returned with the 29th and was discharged in January 1945.

The article by **John Hagstrom** did not give his address which I would like so I can join their association. Please send me his address or forward this letter to him. Keep up the good work on the Bulletin.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: If anyone has an address for the Headquarters of the 29th Division, please send it to Roger Hawk. When we received the article from John Hagstrom, there was no address with it.)*

**Donald C. Smith**, 8301 Nicholas Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68114 — Service Btry., 881st F.A.: I've enjoyed perusing the latest 69th Division News Bulletin. I've written before about our snafu of crossing the Rhine - as I remember a couple of instances that I've told to people over the years.

I never understood the Army's thinking - they sent me to train at Camp Roberts with part of the training on the Mojave Desert, then sent me to join the 69th at Camp Shelby (Swampy), then to England and Germany in the snow.

A couple of instances: In Germany, after I got my section settled in, in spite of the darkness, I discovered a feather bed on the 3rd floor. I got my sleeping bag and blanket and covered with my shelter half and poncho and put my boots under my head. I awakened with the snow in the room, so I got my boots on and closed the window. I awoke the next morning with snow all over the place. There was no roof on the building.

Another time, we had taken over a farm house and a young woman with a 3-year-old boy came to say she needed to feed the animals. I was the Sergeant in charge. I was eating a can of Beanie-Wienies. I went to find out what the woman wanted and the little boy got loose from her and proceeded to eat my food. I went back to the table and looked him in the eye and growled, "Boy, you're eating my lunch," but he just smiled big and kept on eating. The mother was scared but the interpreter told her, "We didn't come to fight the children and the Sergeant has kids back home."

I really think that the Nazis were amazed at how the Americans would fight so hard to take a town and then sit on the curb and share their lunch with the children.

**Bob Jorgenson**, 619 8th Avenue N., Onalaska, Wisconsin 54650 — Co. I, 272nd: I read the comments by **Bernard Dikter** of Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 271st, in the last issue of the 69th Bulletin ( Vol. 49, No. 3), where he took exception to the statements of **Mr. Haynie** about A.S.T.P. vets not having to go into combat. I was one of many A.S.T.P. guys that served in combat after the program was terminated.

I just recently became aware of a book about A.S.T.P. written by **Louis E. Keefer** called, "Scholars in Foxholes." It is available at the Public Library and is very interesting reading. I pass this information along so that other 69ers can read it too. Keep up the good work on the Bulletin.

**Robert N. Grimm**, 541 East Sixth Avenue, Lancaster, OH 43130-2624 — Co. L, 271st: Sorry that you couldn't make the Tri-State in Monroe, Michigan. My wife Wanda and I were able to make it. I hope by this time you are feeling better.

My reason for contacting you: Is there a complete roster of names, addresses and phone numbers of all know 69th members? I know it was brought up at the meeting of the reunion in Nashville. If you get time, I would like to hear from you. We have been keeping in touch with my cousin, Raymond Kuhns and his wife Marti. Thanks a lot in advance for your time and trouble for answering my letter.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 2)

**Eldon M. Atwood**, 2909 First Avenue, No. 4-B, San Diego, California 92103 — Co. L, 273rd: Enclosed is a photograph of my former squad leader **William Sorrentino** (left) and myself taken at his home at Wesley Chapel, Florida, on May 20th, 1996.

This is the first meeting with my former sergeant since our outfit, Company L of the 273rd Infantry Regiment, broke up in 1945.

We spent the day getting reacquainted again after a 50-year hiatus; meeting his lovely wife, Laura, and going over some of his pictures and records and reminiscing about days we spent in combat with the third squad many years ago.



**John J. O'Connor**, 9321 Jefferson Avenue, Brookfield, Illinois 60513 — Hq. Btry., 880th F.A.: Recently I sent a letter to you and hopefully it will get into the next bulletin. However, there was one thing that I neglected to discuss. That item was about our handicapped 69th veterans.

At our recent reunion at the Hyatt Hotel in Schaumburg, Illinois, we had a tour to Cantigny, with about 225 people in five buses. I was bus leader of bus #2 and as we prepared to leave on the tour, the tour chairman came along with a 69th veteran and asked if I had room for one more passenger and I said, yes. This vet was using a cane and therefore was going to be at a slower gait than most of the people. The tour chairman asked me to keep the Vet close to the front of the bus and I then asked for a couple of volunteers to move so we could accommodate the vet in question and a couple of people did comply which was gracious on their part. We departed for the tour and upon arrival we were to split into two groups, A and B. Our bus was in the A group. When we arrived, I had all the people clear the bus and kept the veteran as the last passenger to get off the bus. I, with the bus driver, were the only ones left to assist this veteran, Barney.

At the sidewalk next to the bus unloading zone were wheel chairs and we helped Barney into one of the chairs. I asked the bus driver if the chair was motorized and he said, no. I began my trek up to the visitors' center pushing the wheel chair up a slight inclined sidewalk, which for me was no "cake walk." Barney thought some of his unit were going to be on the tour but he saw no one. There were three from 880th Headquarters Battery who did help push the chair along with a few others whose unit I did not know. So Barney got through the tour okay, thanks to helping hands.

The point I am trying to make is that our national officers and our reunion chairmen have to give thought to these handicapped 69th veterans who do need some help on some of these tours, even if the 69th Association has to spend a few dollars to hire some people to take care of these vets on tours. I imagine there are other vets who would like to go on some of these tours but do not do so due to a handicap. Let us give the handicapped vets a chance to go on these tours. I know that there were volunteers to help on the Cantigny tour but we took some of the volunteers away from their spouses and unit groups.

A P.S. to Barney: Hope you enjoyed the Cantigny Tour and hope you are doing fine.

Clarence and Earl, I went a bit far with this letter but I hope I got my thoughts across.

**Donald M. Boyd**, 404 Ramblewood Road, Forest, Virginia 24551-1336 — Hq., 273rd: I did not attend the 1996 reunion meeting of the Association, and therefore did not send my 1996-1997 membership dues. On rediscovering the Bulletin (May-August) in my usual pile of reading material, I realized my dues-sending error. Enclosed is my check for the Regular Membership, the Ladies' Auxiliary dues for my wife, Vera, and a small donation for postage, etc.

At Camp Shelby and overseas during World War II, I was the Executive Officer of the Regimental Headquarters of the 273rd Infantry Regiment throughout the 69th's operations. I look forward to seeing you at the 1997 Reunion.

**Earl Huddleston**, 1948 Fairmont Court, Indianapolis, Indiana 46229 — Co. K, 271st: After all these years, I find there is a publication printed by the 69th Infantry Division. I was in the 271st Infantry Regiment, Company K, in Germany.

I missed the Camp Shelby experience, but my basic training was at Camp Wheeler, Georgia. It was cut short just before Christmas of 1944 in order for us to be shipped to Europe as replacements in the Battle of the Bulge. I joined the 69th Division in January of 1945 and went on with them to the Elbe River, where we linked up with the Russians.

After the victory in Europe, I was transferred to the 301st Ordnance Depot Company and I stayed there (Mannheim, Germany) until I was sent home.

It is good to hear from the members of the 69th again. My membership fee is enclosed.

(Continued on Page 4)

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

**Harold McMurrin**, 441 Shane Drive, New Market, Alabama 35761 — I read the bulletin that the 69th published. I would like to receive it. I took basic training with the 69th at Camp Shelby, Mississippi in July of 1943 and was transferred out after basic. I do not remember the unit I took basic with.

**Paul E. Bois**, 195 High Ridge Road, Manchester, New Hampshire 03104 — Co. B, 273rd: I was in B Company of the 273rd Infantry from March 1944 to December 1944 when I left for the Bulge, but still like to read about the 69th. In 1944 **John T. O'Neill** (another B-273rd vet) and I retraced our 78th Division steps and also went to Torgau, Strehla, Leipzig, Colditz and other spots. We had been in the 3rd Platoon wherein 35 men died along with **Ed Lucci's** men when the explosive charge detonated at Miescheid. Had we not volunteered, we might be dead also.

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## Clarence Marshall hosts Annual Picnic

**Clarence Marshall** was host to a group of 69ers at his camp in Clarion County, Pennsylvania, September 22nd, 1996.

It was a cool, rainy day so the picnic was moved inside. A few brave souls ate at the table on the back porch.

- Those attending were:
- Mr. and Mrs. Del Balzano** .. Highland Heights, OH
  - Mr. and Mrs. Enrico D'Angelo** ..... Saltsburg, PA
  - Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Ellsworth** .... Steubenville, OH
  - Jim Jones** ..... Aurora OH
  - Guests: **Ray and Emily Troxtell**
  - Al Kormas** ..... Lakewood, OH
  - Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kurtzman** ..... Wilmot, OH
  - Mr. and Mrs. Andy Lapatka** ..... New Castle, PA
  - Ernest Lewis** ..... Knox, PA
  - Mr. and Mrs. Donald Pierce** ..... Knox, PA
  - Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shaffer** ..... Canton, OH

Clarence was assisted by his sister and brother-in-law, **Bob and Gladys Braun** and a friend, **William Harmon**.

**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: 330/359-5487**

## The Last Message

At Zossen, 20 miles south of Berlin, the Russians found the underground headquarters of the German General Staff. In the telegraph room the clock had stopped at twenty minutes to three, the moment on April 31st when the general staff had fled. Correspondents found the last exchange of messages:

Q. Is there nobody in Berlin who could be sent off with a dispatch?

A. There is not.

Q. My God, what is happening?

A. We've fought ourselves to a standstill.

Q. Attention, I have an urgent message from Field Marshall Keitel . . .

A. I told you, we are not accepting anything else . . .

Q. I should like to know what your situation is.

A. They have all ratted. I am the last . . . there is a noose around my neck . . . Ivan is at the door. I'm cutting the wires.

But the lone operator never cut the wires. When the Soviet tommy-gunners marched in, he forgot the noose and meekly put up his hands.

*From the transcript of a Moscow broadcast picked up by the Columbia Broadcasting System.*

Submitted by: **Arthur Moore, C-881st Field Artillery**

## MOVING

**Please print your new address below:**

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please send this form and your old address label to:**

**Robert Kurtzman**  
 P.O. Box 105, Wilmot, Ohio 44689

Please allow six weeks advance notice.

**NOTE: 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: 412/455-2901
- Clarence Marshall**  
 101 Stephen Street, New Kensington, PA 15068  
 Telephone: 412/335-3224

# New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

**Henry L. Rooney** — Company H, 272nd Infantry  
7201 Maple Avenue, Gary Indiana 46403

**Roger G. Swanson** — Company L, 271st Infantry  
3383 E. Euclid Place, Littleton, Colorado 80121

**Amos P. Duty** — 724th Field Artillery  
401 Rebecca Lane, Salem, Virginia 24155

**Thomas O. Russell** — Company L, 271st Infantry  
9 Via Brisa, Sante Fe, New Mexico 87501

**Martin Demar** — Company F, 273rd Infantry  
8040 Hampton Boulevard, #210  
N. Lauderdale, Florida 33068

**Charles E. White** — 569th Signal Company  
212 Flynn Drive, Akron, Ohio 44319

**Raymond H. Walther** — Battery C, 880th F.A.  
6422 Dartmouth Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32217

**Curt A. H. Jeschke** — Company D, 273rd Infantry  
617 Edmondson Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21228-3304

**Henry T. Welby** — Headquarters 1, 273rd Infantry  
36-C Sussex Drive  
Yorktown Hgts., New York 10598

**Joseph Sincoff** — Headquarters 1, 273rd Infantry  
1219 W. Roderick Avenue  
Oxnard, California 93030-4121

**Edward E. Watzig** — Company E, 271st Infantry  
902 Hanna Place Court, Manchester, Missouri 63021

**Robert Gardner** — Company K, 271st Infantry  
(name was **Gluckstern**)  
5460 White Oak Avenue, Encino, California 91316

**Billy Crowder** — Company B, 271st Infantry  
12512 Glenlea, Maryland Heights, Missouri 63043

**Bernard Rothenberg** — Company C, 271st Infantry  
1751 67th Street, #B-7, Brooklyn, New York 11204

**Walter J. Wilson** — Battery C, 724th Field Artillery  
8 Trout Place, Mahopac, New York 10451

**Earl Huddleston** — Company K, 271st Infantry  
1948 Fairmont Court, Indianapolis, Indiana 46229

**Cois D. Simmons** — Company L, 271st Infantry  
308 Frederick Street, Monroe, Louisiana 71201-2820

**George F. Hunter** — Company K, 272nd Infantry  
724 East Stroop Road  
Kettering, Ohio 45429-3228

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## 269th Engineers

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

One cold January day, we went out to bivouac on a large river on a training exercise to build Bailey Bridges. I think everyone who spent the week out there in the freezing weather and snow covered ground will recall it.

One photo is of the Winchester School where all of the 269th guys stayed in or nearby while in England. Another photo shows the bridge finished and the snow. We'd build it then tear it down and you guessed it, we'd build it again for the record, and then, of course, we had to tear it down.

*Photos are from the album of James Eibling, through the courtesy of his wife, Dottie.*



## Message from the President



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

Schaumburg Hyatt Regency, what a great Reunion! **Ernie and Mary Krause** really did an outstanding job assembling the largest Reunion Committee in my memory. Large numbers do not assure greatness - the success of the Reunion is attributed to good management, selecting dedicated Committee Chairmen, and delegation of authority. All the members of the Committees are to be commended. However, several must be separately identified for the extraordinary effort committed to their Committees: **Marsh and June Mussay**, Tour Committee Chairpersons; **Gene and Marilyn Mischke**, Hospitality Room (and Fund Raising) Committee Chairpersons; and, a special thanks to our volunteer Souvenir Committee Chairpersons, **Bill and Louise Fannucchi**. "Atta Boys" to all who participated!

**Henry and Jean Putala** are also well organized and planning an exciting program for our 50th Reunion at Tara's Ferncroft Resort at Danvers, Massachusetts. This Reunion will be a major milestone for our Association, celebrating our Golden Anniversary. Don't miss this memorable occasion.

There is no Reunion site selected for our 1998 Reunion. Future Reunions are in jeopardy due to the lack of interest by members in desirable locations to step forward and volunteer to serve on the local Committees essential to conduct a Reunion. Contracting this service to a commercial company is expensive and impractical. In effect, we lose direct control over the Reunion management process and still must furnish members to run the Hospitality Suite, collect tickets, interface with hotel management and be responsible for all costs. The Treasurer and registration process will still require the same intensive management controls.

I am personally appealing to your sense of loyalty to the 69th Division Association; please volunteer to serve. We desire to hold our 1998 Reunion in the west,

Texas is a prime candidate. First choice is Houston because we have 20 members in the city of Houston and it offers many attractions of interest in addition to its close proximity to the Galveston Island Beach Resort Community. Other viable locations would also be Dallas or San Antonio. Please contact me if you are willing to serve on a Reunion Committee.

Several members expressed a desire to locate long-lost buddies. There does not appear to be a magic solution or automated computer program to cross-check records over 50 years old. There is a possible solution for locating a missing buddy, the American Legion has a "Finders/Seekers" service. Call (800) 449-8387 or write Vets, P.O. Box 901, Columbia, Missouri 65205. Give as much info as possible: first, middle and last name, last known address, Army Serial Number if known, Military Unit, dates of service, etc.

After the Schaumburg Reunion, Theresa and I traveled to Michigan where we enjoyed several very happy Reunions with both sides of our families. On Labor Day, Monday, September 2nd, we suffered a very personal tragedy; my mother, Marie L. Cox, passed away just two months before her 98th birthday. My mother had recently joined the 69th Infantry Division Association. One of her proudest moments was when she received both her Membership Card and copy of the Bulletin. She was not only a great lady but a great American, we will all miss her.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Elsewhere in this Bulletin, there are a couple of options for locating buddies sent in by our members.)*

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## Membership Chairman Report

**Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.**  
P.O. Box 105  
Wilmot, Ohio 44689-0105  
Telephone: 330/359-5487

It is once again "Snow Bird Time." If you haven't sent in a request to change your address, you may not receive your December through April bulletin.

We have over 2,500 non-paying so-called members who contribute nothing at all and still receive three bulletins each year. We think that a good many of those 2,500 could be deceased. It would be nice if those who receive the bulletins and pay no dues would drop us a line stating that the person is deceased or no longer wishes to receive the bulletin.

We have discussed removing those who have not paid dues in the past. What do the rest of you members think about this idea?? Please write me on this.

An excerpt from the 87th Division bulletin read: **THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST ISSUE IF YOU DO NOT SENT IN YOUR DUES.** They printed a year in large print over the address sticker stating when the last year was that dues were paid as a warning.

# Schaumburg Reunion Committee Report

Our 49th annual reunion seemed to have taken forever to get here, but once everyone had arrived, it was over before you blinked an eye.

For the members that had never visited Chicago before, the Spirit of Chicago gave a picturesque view of the Chicago skyline, also the giant ferris wheel at Navy Pier. The Chicago city tour was well received. The members had a great time at Gangstertown. From all of the compliments and letters received, all the tours and sights were enjoyed by all.

Our Registration Room ran smoothly, souvenir sales were brisk, and the hospitality room enjoyed by all. The seating arrangements went extremely well.

There was a total attendance of 567, of which 33 were First Timers, although this was not the largest reunion, it was a very enjoyable one.

The committee wishes to express our sincerest appreciation to all of you who made the effort to share in the 49th Reunion in Schaumburg.

Mary and I wish to congratulate all of the committee members who devoted all their time and effort to make the reunion so enjoyable and successful.

Sincerely,  
**Ernie Krause, Co. B, 269th Engineers**



*Committee Members*

*Front Row: George Rico, Marilyn Mischke, Gene Mischke, Josephine Plugge  
 Back Row: Marsh Mussay, Mary Krause, Ernie Krause, Ralph Plugge*



*Front Row: Marsh Mussay, George Rico  
 Back Row: Bill Fannucchi, Ronald Rank*



*Bill and Louise Fannucchi*



*Florence Klein, Louise Fannucchi, Mary Krause*

# SCHAUMBURG REUNION REPORT

(Continued from Page 7)



*Ernie Krause, Stan Bratt, Mary Krause*



*John and Peggy O'Connor*



*Robert and Florence Klein*

# 1996 REUNION COMMITTEE

## REUNION COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Ernest Krause (269-B)  
Mary Krause

Co-Chairperson: Marsh Mussay (272-H)  
June Mussay

## REGISTRATION COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Ralph Plugge (271-G)  
Josephine Plugge

Co-Chairman: John O'Connor (880-C)  
Peggy O'Connor  
Mary Krause

## HOSPITALITY ROOM COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Gene Mischke (273-B)  
Marilyn Mischke  
Al Koziol (Div. Hq.)  
Wayne Weygandt (271-B)

## WAGON MASTER TOUR COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Marsh Mussay  
Co-Chairperson: June Mussay  
Robert Bassindale (272-H)  
Stanley Bratt (880-HS)  
Georgia Bratt

## ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Harold Pederson (273, Hq.-1st Bn.)  
Eileen Pederson  
Co-Chairman: Henry Parker (879-Hq.)

## GOLF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Robert Klein (271-C)  
Glen Felner (271-E)

## MEMORIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE:

Chairman: George Rico (273-SV)

## SOUVENIRS

Chairman: William Fannucchi (777-A)  
Louise Fannucchi  
George Thomas (273-D)

## Additional members willing to work:

Florence Klein - Registration  
Ronald Rank - Registration (271-G)  
Max Phillips - Hospitality (271-C)  
Walt Zimmewicz - Hospitality (273, Hq.-2 Bn.)  
Grace Glaum - Registration (271-E)



*Wayne Weygandt*



*George Thomas*

# 1996 Schaumburg Reunion A Big Success



*Chicago Skyline*

Submitted and Written By:  
**Stephen Rojcewicz**, 881st Field Artillery  
135 Endicott Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts 01610

Photos by: **Chet Yastrzemski**  
*Company E, 272nd Infantry*

This year's annual reunion was held in the Chicago area. Our hotel was in the nearby city of Schaumburg. As always, the committee had many varied activities arranged for the Fighting 69th attendees.

The first trip was to the Chicago Botanical Gardens. We boarded a tram for a narrated ride through the area. Have you ever knowingly smelled hawthorne? Have you seen really full evergreens brought over from the Baltic states? The place is more than lovely gardens. *Demonstration Gardens* show the best plants, naturally, for the Midwest. *Research Gardens* hold plants that are being tested for environment. *Conservation Gardens* feature native and endangered flora. The primary purpose of the Botanic Garden is to foster understanding and appreciation of the world of plants. We talked to a volunteer working with one of the 100 varieties of roses; the key word to success in this is intelligent pruning. A guide pointed out a prairie patch. Less than one-tenth of one percent of Illinois, the Prairie State, is prairie today.

We went to Long Grove, Illinois. The fine shops and restaurants were especially pleasing to our ladies. **Ed Biles** daughter, Arkansas natives, proudly showed a coat she bought for her "Yorkie." A Historic Landmark Ordinance has now been passed that guarantees the preservation of the area and new buildings must conform to the architecture of the early 1800's.

The next day the buses brought us to Lake Michigan and the Navy Pier. A line was ever-present to ride the super-sized ferris wheel for an overall view. At the appointed time we boarded the Spirit of Chicago - a large, graceful tour boat. Here we had lunch as we cruised the lake. Entertainment by singers and dancers came with dessert.

Later that day, in Chicago, we found ourselves in a restaurant called "Gangstertown." Once again a fine meal and non-stop singing and dancing in Prohibition days style. (An eagle-eyed observation is new, non-GI glasses). Many of the waiters and waitresses both on the Spirit of Chicago and Gangstertown doubled as singers and dancers, and did very well at both assignments.

A narrated Chicago City tour was ours the following day. Some highlights: the Magnificent Mile along Lake Michigan; this is well known by most Americans. Remember "first call to breakfast." There are intimate boutiques, beautiful buildings, fashionable galleries. What a skyline! By the way, the great Chicago fire occurred exactly 125 years ago this year. We went to the Hancock Observatory, 94 stories up, and the elevator takes you there in just 39 seconds. There the view on all four sides is truly spectacular. Along the windows are three-dimensional legends to orient you to the panorama below.

We toured the beautiful campus of the famous University of Chicago. We admired the Chicago River whose flow has been reversed so that it flows from the lake instead of to the lake, a superb bit of anti-pollution success.

Of course, many vets had been to Chicago before and went golfing and touring and visiting on their own.



*Covered Bridge Restaurant  
in Long Grove, Illinois*

*(Continued on Page 10)*

**1996 SCHAUMBURG REUNION BIG SUCCESS**  
*(Continued from Page 9)*

Another special occasion for me was visiting a niece and family in the St. Charles-Geneva area. We enjoyed a Saturday morning on the Fox River. A stop at "The Bird Store" was pure delight. It was fascinating to watch a devoted attendant as she kept spraying a large exotic bird with a mister. It responded with joyous squawks. The names of the birds and their prices were conspicuously posted, ranging in cost from \$500 to \$4,500. We learned that some of the birds have a life expectancy of 50 years or more.

As always, veteran activities were first class: a hospitality room where new and old friends meet, a PX night, a reminder of army days at a PX where 3.2 was a beverage and not a collegiate ranking, an Early Bird Buffet (all these with music), a Memorial Service and Dinner-Dance.

And so, fellow vets, why not slow down and smell the coffee - and the roses . . . and the hawthorne. Without a doubt, every town, village, and city in this great land has something to offer you. Ergo, observe and enjoy.



*Lighthouse*



*Navy Pier, Lake Michigan  
Ferris Wheel in background*

## Reunion Smiles



*Floyd McCalip, Ray Wolthoff, Richard Sodorff*



*Gordon Kjos and George Hepp*



*Nat Green and Leroy Keller*



*Jim Yakle, Bob Haag, Tom Hoffman,  
Leland Jones and Unknown*



*June and Marsh Mussay  
Tour Committee Members*



*Ed Stagg and Joe Panganiban*



*Our photographer, Chet and Barb Yastrzinski*

## **Company B, 272nd Infantry at the Reunion**



*Nick Giannone, Kathryn Giannone, Rosemaria  
Mazza and Vince Mazza at lunch during Chicago tour.*



*Dick Hadley, Gerry Hadley, Kathryn Giannone and  
Nick Giannone during visit to Navy Pier.*

Photos sent in by: **Nick Giannone**

# Making our way to “the hell hole of the South”

George M. Haddad, *Company E, 272nd Infantry*  
30180 Cheviot Hills Drive  
Franklin, Michigan 48025

Since our Bulletin Editors have been requesting pictures and news material from us I have been encouraged to enclose three pictures of soldiers from Company E, 2nd Battalion of the 272nd Regiment. These were taken in the summer of 1944.

I haven't been a member of the 69th Association very long. In fact, it was brought to my attention by my former platoon sergeant, **Bob Greek**, who now lives in Montpelier, Ohio. In fact, **Bob** had been wounded in the Pacific, recuperated - then was sent to the 69th to further his military endeavors. You figure it. The 69th magazine's articles are extremely interesting. The article "So This is Camp Shelby" was quite nostalgic and well written which nudged me into thinking that maybe there might be interest in a few notations relative to how some of us got to Camp Shelby.

In July 1943 I left my Air Corps unit to begin schooling in the French language with the Army Specialized Training Program at Bard College, Annandale on the Hudson, New York. All rank reverted to buck private. To apply we needed a highly respectable AGCT score; then took written tests; then had to pass a review board; then had to sweat it out. At Bard there were departments composed of French, German and Engineering students. It was a nine month curriculum. While the language students were mandated to speak only in their respective languages on a daily basis the engineers were tied to their slide rules. Our purpose of course was to become interpreters. Two weeks before our graduation all ASTP programs nationwide were dissolved and we had immediate orders to board troop trains.

The rumors were flying fast but those which persisted and eventually came to the top indicated that Franklin D. needed more cannon fodder infantrymen for the big push. We were incensed in that not only had we been hoodwinked and compromised but that the Naval programs had been left intact. Of course there was strong suspicion that the decision to retain the naval programs may have been due to his naval background. We were being very objective, of course.

As we boarded a relatively small in length troop train in March 1944 the only thing we knew was that it was heading south. As it wended its way southward with many stops en route it was evident that the train was getting longer and longer. There now had to be a few thousand soldiers on that train. A day before arrival at our destination a rumor persisted that we were going to Camp Shelby at Hattiesburg, Mississippi and there were those who woefully indicated that this was called the "hell hole of the South."

We arrived at night in a raging rain storm and a couple hundred of us were hustled into a day room of one of the companies. There couldn't have been anywhere in the army on that night a more completely demoralized, dispirited, dejected, angry and sopping wet group of America's finest with a first sergeant glowering into those crestfallen faces. One bright spot. The only time that any of us were ever given a choice was that night. As each name was called we had the option of going into a machine gun company or a rifle company. In the rifle company there was the opportunity for either rifle or 60mm mortar. Picking the 60mm mortar was the best choice I ever made although I didn't realize it at the time.

So there we were, a few thousand strong of military students from all over the country whose aims and aspirations in terms of how they were going to serve their country suddenly got sidetracked. We could have been wrong but it appeared that the 69th at that moment in time was a skeletal division having recently sent a great number of its manpower to fill the breaches



*Our 60mm Mortar Squad. I am second from the right in the rear, assuming that those standing are one row. Roy Fielding is next on my right and Norbert Giere is next to him. Others unknown.*

*(Continued on Page 13)*

## MAKING OUR WAY TO "THE HELL HOLE OF THE SOUTH"

(Continued from Page 12)

overseas and was now in the process of regaining its former strength and filling its own openings.

It took us about a month and the realization dawned that what would be would be and that as long as we were going to end up in the infantry why shouldn't it be with a division with the tradition of the Fighting 69th.



*Bathers in the creek was taken during maneuvers. In the back row left to right are John Pugh and George Haddad. In the front row left to right are Milt Coleman and Norbert Giere.*



Another few soldiers from Company E in picture #3. I am in the rear row on the right wearing camouflage. Most of the names have been lost in my memory patch and I didn't have sense enough at the time to write them down on the back of the pictures. If anyone out there recognizes his picture and/or others I hope he will write and identify himself.

## Those wonderful army physicals

### THE TALE OF SIX YOUNG MEN REPORTING FOR THEIR PHYSICAL FOR THE DRAFT FROM OUR AREA DURING WORLD WAR II

By: **William R. Beswick**, Co. B, 661st Tank Destroyers  
P.O. Box 576  
West Point, Virginia 23181-0576

This is not the case of anyone involved in the NRA, the making of friends of the Germans or the Soviets. This is the SAGA of six young men reporting for their physical to enter the service during World War II.

This could have been you and in fact, it was you if you were in my shoes. I believe that all young men went through this.

This was a new experience for all of us. If you were an Officer, you probably did not go through this. Maybe you did.

One thing that cannot be forgotten, was when you reported for your physical to see if you were fit for service, after receiving your "GREETINGS" from your "LOCAL DRAFT BOARD and the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES."

We reported to the appropriate person in charge at the Belgian Building on the Campus of the Virginia Union University for our physical and induction into service, whichever branch we were interested in.

The first words we heard were "TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES, ALL OF THEM, EVEN YOUR SOCKS." We were not even "WELCOMED" nor did we receive a "HELLO".

Well, there we stood, "STARK NAKED." We were told to put our clothes "HERE" in a certain location, which we did. (I COULD NEVER HAVE FOUND THE LOCATION AGAIN, IF MY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT.) Then we were handed a "SPECIMEN BOTTLE." One young man wanted to know "WHERE IS THE SINK TO GET WATER?" He was quickly told in no uncertain words what to do.

For the next three hours, we all went around in the "BUFF." There was three to four hundred of us altogether from around the area.

I still do not know why it took so long. If you could "STICK OUT YOUR TONGUE," say "AH," they could "LOOK IN ONE EAR" and not "SEE OUT THE OTHER," and count to "TEN" without missing over "ONE or "TWO NUMBERS," YOU WERE IN.

I still do not know how I found my clothes.

There was one thing about this experience. Everyone that went in the draft, did the same thing. If you were a little SKITTISH about anyone seeing you "NAKED," you soon got over that. "BELIEVE ME!"

## Treasurer's Message



*William R. and Jane Matlach*

**William R. Matlach, Treasurer**

Post Office Box 474

West Islip, New York 11795-0474

Telephone: 516/669-8077

If you did not attend the recent reunion in Schaumburg, Illinois this past August, you missed a really good one! Although we did not have as many attendees as at the last two, the scheduled tours and events were outstanding. I particularly enjoyed the evening we had at "Gangstertown," where we had a fine dinner accompanied by superb entertainment. It was fascinating to watch the young lady entertainers wait on tables in between changing their costumes and doing their dancing and singing acts (both). The Treasurer's count of total reunion attendees is 567 who appeared sometime during the week, with 509 at the Dinner Dance. That is about 1/3 less than we had at Myrtle Beach last year, but the reason for that is that Schaumburg is farther from the center of our membership population than Myrtle Beach. A detailed report on the attendees appears elsewhere in this news bulletin.

**Ernie Krause**, the Reunion Chairman, assembled a fine group of 69ers and wives and organized them into a very efficient team capable of performing all required functions without a hitch. Everything moved smoothly from the moment the attendees entered the Registration Room where **Ralph and Josephine Plugge**, **Mary Krause**, and others manned the desk, delivered pre-reserved tickets, programs, etc. and performed all new transactions. **Bill and Louise Fannucchi** took over the Souvenir Sales job and sold over \$2200.00 worth of souvenirs. **Harold Pederson** kept track of new registrations and prepared the seating arrangement for the banquet. The Registration Room did a fine job, with few delays and traffic moving through freely.

**Marsh and June Mussay** selected and made arrangements for conducting all the tours which occurred during the week, including "Gangstertown" which I described previously. They had to coordinate constantly with the Registration Desk to keep track of the number of people reserved for each tour. They also had to see that enough buses were available for each tour. The **Mussays** did a superb job.

The third large area of responsibility was the Hospitality Room, where a crew of 69th First Timer bartenders kept things going. **Gene Mischke** acted as a prime mover, initiating "Tip Boards," raffles, and other projects to generate action. **Marilyn Mischke**, on a quieter level, made arrangements and followed up on Hospitality Room basic requirements but somehow also found time to serve shifts at the Registration Desk and perform other duties in the Registration Room.

Of course, behind all this was the quiet one, **Ernie Krause**, who did not seem to be performing a specific operation, but who was primarily responsible that everything went so well. Congratulations **Ernie**, a very fine job!

Unfortunately we had some cancellations, mostly due to illness which is now becoming a hazard more and more frequently. **Jim McLaughlin** (M-271) of Santa Fe, New Mexico sent in a reservation form looking forward to attending his very first reunion. On Monday, August 19th, the Committee received a telephone call at the hotel requesting a refund of the reservation cost because **Jim** had become ill and could not come. I subsequently sent him a full refund check (which is our normal procedure) with my wishes for his full recovery. I have since received the following letter:

Dear **Mr. Matlach**,

My husband, **Jim McLaughlin**, had every intention of attending the 49th reunion on the 21st of August. The day he planned to be with you was the day he passed away. He was truly looking forward to meeting as many of his old companions as possible. He had a lively interest in the 69th in spite of the fact that he never did manage to attend the annual get-together. Somehow it would always be delayed to "next year."

**Jim** had been in touch with a few of the "old timers," as he called them. Seeing them would have been pleasurable, perhaps even more than the letters he had exchanged with a few from his 271st. Old pictures and books were prepared to be shared with others. He looked forward to stories from that memorable time you all shared so many years ago. Clearly, the impact of those days were like no others; for it was a time only you men who shared the tragedy of war would really know. I feel sure you understand. I could only listen and hope to empathize as most women did.

*(Continued on Page 15)*

**TREASURER'S MESSAGE**

*(Continued from Page 14)*

Please know we had planned to be together with all of you at the 50th meeting in Danvers. He didn't want to miss another reunion. Perhaps he will be meeting fellows and exchanging stories where he is now. As for those he has left behind, we treasure his tales of the "Big One" as we treasure him along with all of his memories during our 48 years together.

Sincerely,  
**Marie R. McLaughlin**

**Jim** came to the 69th Division via the ASTP. After the war, he became a successful physicist, specializing in atomic radiation protection. He authored more than 40 publications in that field, lectured at universities, and was a member of a number of technical societies, leading a very busy life. As Marie describes so poignantly, he waited just a little too long to come to a reunion.

As far as the Treasury is concerned, dues collection went well this year, increasing from 2,583 paid members to 2,647, an increase of 64 even though the mailing list

had been reduced by 166, mostly due to "Taps." Some of our "lost sheep" appear to have wandered back to the fold. The dues notice for the new year should be coming out within the next month, earlier than last year when we had an October reunion. You should receive it before you receive this bulletin. In case you forgot to respond to the notice, you may send in your dues now: Regular Dues \$10.00, Auxiliary \$5.00, and any donations to our Postage/Bulletin Fund will be appreciated.

<b>NEW DUES YEAR!</b>
<b>1996-1997</b>
<b>August 1, 1996 to July 31, 1997</b>
Regular Membership ..... \$10.00
Ladies' Auxiliary ..... \$ 5.00
Bulletin Donation ..... Up To You
<i>Keep the Bulletin Coming!</i>

\*\*\*\*\*

**Trying to Locate an old Buddy?  
Maybe one of these sources can help**

**John Walters, Headquarters, 3rd Bn., 272nd Infantry**  
4012 Stillwell Avenue  
Lansing, Michigan 48911-2185

At our recent convention a note of frustration was raised by a member in his search for buddies of over 50 years ago. I found this item in the *Army Echoes*, the Official Bulletin for Army Retirees. If they happen to be Retirees, this would be a source for at least a shot to locate them.

**RETIREE LOCATOR**

Place letter to retiree inside a stamped envelope with your return address and enclosed in an envelope to:

Cdr, ARPERCEN  
ATTN: ARPC-VSE  
9700 Page Boulevard  
St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5200

There may be a \$3.50 fee for each address researched. If there is, you will be billed.

Another source that may have been missed was in our Bulletin Volume 49, No. 1. A paragraph stated in part: "Another death to report is that of John Masters. I had done a lot of searching for John for the past few years but never could locate him. Finally I wrote a letter to the SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS and received a letter back informing me that John had passed away February 22, 1964. His records are in the Retired Veterans Records in the Federal Records Center in Washington, DC under File No. 9 824301."

**John Walters** goes on to say: Also I am very eager to forward any help I can at this late date to help locate old buddies. One you may not have thought of is the service organizations such as the VFW and American Legion, where they don't have to be retired.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Kenneth A. Sawyer, Company D, 273rd Infantry**  
2935 Turtle Mound Road  
Melbourne, Florida 32934

A buddy of mine recently helped me locate two old 69th buddies by providing me with telephone numbers. He will do this for those of us who served in WWII. He authorized me to pass the offer on to members of the 69th. I offer the following:

**WANT TO LOCATE AN OLD BUDDY?**

**Jim Amor**, a WWII veteran who served with the 87th Division in Europe, will provide you with telephone numbers and addresses with which you might contact your long lost friend. He does this free of charge for us military vets. Write to Jim, enclose a stamped, self-addressed #10 envelope, giving the names, including middle initial if known, and last know addresses. Do not send over 10 names. **Do not send money: he will not accept it!**

Send your letter to: **Jim Amor**  
P.O. Box 4092  
Long Island City, New York 11104

Jim has been very successful in this endeavor.

# Weapons Cleaning Has Definitely Changed!

Jim Kidd, Company F, 271st Infantry  
222 Al-Fan Court  
Winchester, Kentucky 40391

Dear Earl,

We of the 69th were born too soon!

Remember your days in Basic Training? Your rifle was with you 24 hours a day and it depended on you totally. The time would come when you would depend on it totally - in combat. You had to keep it cleaner than the proverbial hound's tooth.

One of the most stressful jobs was keeping the bore clean. Inspectors could always find a tiny speck in that barrel even after you had cleaned it until it could not possibly be dirty. Yet, they could see that invisible speck.

You cleaned it immediately after firing and for three days after that. What a job!

Not any more. Today's soldier cleans his/her rifle after firing. One time. That's all.

See the article below on cleaning the bores of rifles, machine guns and pistols. It's from the August 1996 issue of *PS Magazine*, the Army's Preventive Maintenance Monthly. Who says newer is not better? Incidentally, that CLP mentioned in the article is a modern lubricant that has replaced the old oil we used in World War II.

It may be of interest to note that I spent 30 years as editor of *PS Magazine* and enjoyed it immensely. I gave up a job as professor at the West Virginia University School of Journalism to take on the editor's job. (Note: Professor's pay wasn't so good back in 1953 when I joined the Magazine's staff at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland).

Now, you 69th veterans can reminisce about how you slaved to keep your M1 (or your machine gun or your .45) as clean as a whistle, and you can grin at what a snap soldiers of the 90's have keeping their weapons clean.

*Small Arms Cleaning . . .*

## Clean 'em Right . . . Once

Some inspectors think that rifles, machine guns, and pistols must be cleaned not once, but three times, to pass inspection. That's a myth that needs to die. There are two too many if you do it right the first time.

All operator TMs for small arms say to clean weapons after so many rounds fired or after so much time. If you clean and lube a weapon like the TMs show, it's clean — clean enough for firing, storage, **and for inspection.**

If the weapon is going back to the arms room for storage, it doesn't need to be cleaned again for 90 days . . . unless it's fired or shows signs of corrosion.

Clean your weapon once by the book . . . and stop. You've done your job.

Inspectors should put away their white gloves, too. A weapon that has been properly cleaned and lubed will have a film of CLP or some other lubricant. So the old white glove test isn't a good test for a clean weapon.



## German Propaganda Leaflet

A genuine German propaganda leaflet found by a deceased 69er, **Fred Schepf** of Hq. Battery, 879th F.A. Picked up near the Rhine River.

Submitted by:

**Howitzer Al Kormas**  
Headquarters, 879th Field Artillery  
12500 Edgewater 503  
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

## FOURTH TIME LUCKY?

*This is Eisenhower's fourth big drive for the Rhine.*

Three times his push was drowned in streams of blood. Three times all sacrifices were in vain.

None of your Buddies saw the Rhine, but hundreds of thousands got a wooden cross.

## FOURTH TIME LUCKY?

Hardly, for Jerry is prepared for the push. All is set for the big show.

*And you, Buddy, don't try your luck once too often.*

Remember :

Dead men tell no tales . . . . .

but PW's return home safely after the war.

KI - 912 A

# Dottie and Me



*Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.*

## **Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.**

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(Evenings after 7:00 p.m. and Weekends)

Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike

As many of you may know, we were unable to attend the reunion this August. We have heard nothing but favorable reports about the reunion from several persons that have written about it.

We had our first taste of winter on Saturday October 19, 1996. Yes we did see our first snow flakes in the mountains of Western Pennsylvania. Only a few but I am sure there are much more to come.

We are including a few notes that we have received from some of the members that we thought may be interesting to some members.

We both wish you and your family a very happy and joyous holiday season and hopefully we will be able to join you in Danvers next August.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Joe and Eleanor Wright, Division Headquarters**

51 Audubon Trail

Forsyth, Missouri 65653

It was a well planned and executed reunion. I am sorry our Chaplains, including you, were unable to attend, however, I was pleased to substitute for you fellows. At the Early Bird Dinner, I had the pleasure of furnishing some entertainment. I am from the area around Schaumburg and my niece and nephew-in-law, who live nearby, have a group that plays country and gospel music and they are much in demand but they were happy to oblige me by presenting a half hour program that was well accepted and applauded by the Early Bird Dinner guests.

**Ernie Krause** had the Memorial Service well organized and one of his committee, **George Rico**, a

chaplain's assistant from the 273rd Regiment and an old friend of mine from the nearby neighborhood, had a color guard from the NESEI post of the American Legion who did an excellent job and he also had a bugler from a local high school band. The service was very impressive and as expected, did high honors to our departed 69th veterans, friends and buddies.

Our reunion was a memorable experience to the color guard that posted our flags at the Memorial Service. Two of them were in the 442nd Combat team that acted as the opponents in one of our training exercises at Camp Shelby.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Darwin H. Van Houten, Anti-Tank, 272nd Infantry**

Post Office Box 124

Six Lakes, Michigan 48886-0124

It was with great pride, as I viewed the pictures on page 22 of the May-August Bulletin, that I found a picture of myself and the three other platoon sergeants of the 272nd Anti-Tank Company serving as Color Guard in Review for our regiment. From left to right are **Sgts. R. Hanewacker, J. Warda, D. Van Houten** and **D. Scott**. It was an honor to represent the regiment.

On page 7 of the January-April issue is an article submitted by **Emanuel Rind**, he tells about finding **Tom Yelcich**. **Tom** had been transferred from the 69th to the 33rd Division in the South Pacific. I thought this rather strange because I had been transferred from the 33rd to the 69th. It did seem that the army did strange things but then we did win the war.



*Photo which appeared on page 22 of last bulletin. It was not identified. They are: Sergeants R. Hanewacker, J. Warda, D. Van Houten and D. Scott.*

*(Continued on Page 18)*

## Son looks for info on father, Milton Halainen

Dear Earl:

My name is **Bill Halainen**, son of **Milton Halainen**, a long-time member of the 69th Division Association who passed away in March, 1991. I'm writing to the newsletter partly to seek information on my father's service in the 769th Ordnance, partly to thank the association for the scholarship it awarded me in 1965, but mostly to tell you how important the Association was to my father, particularly over the last years of his life.

I can't ever remember a time when the 69th wasn't a big part of my father's life. He was very proud of his service during the war, and of the division. I have several superb scrapbooks that he left me, one of which contains all sorts of mementos of his time with the 69th, from Camp Shelby forward. I also have his 69th jacket, polo shirt, shot glasses, drink coasters, steins and many other items he acquired during his many years as an active member of the Association.

My sister Kathy and I also remember several of the reunions, particularly the one at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington in 1964, which featured an escorted cavalcade to Arlington National Cemetery, and the one in Roanoke, Virginia, a year later, at which time the Association awarded me a scholarship that helped substantially with my first year at college (Marie Pontieri,

daughter of **John Pontieri**, received the other one). Kathy and I loved the reunions, not the least because of the great people in the organization, all too many of whom have also passed on.

In any case, I've since become a member of the Association, knowing that my father would want his contact with and support of the 69th to continue. I'd very much like to hear from any of you who knew him during the war and can pass along stories and/or photos of him. I can be reached at 4032 Conashaugh Lakes, Milford, Pennsylvania 18337.

Let me close with an anecdote which provides two more reasons why Kathy and I feel particular ties with the division. The first is that my father wouldn't have met my mother if Dad hadn't met her cousin, the late Ed Hall, at Camp Shelby. He was the one who arranged the first date. The second is that he probably wouldn't have survived the war if he'd been accepted for the 10th Mountain Division (he was too old) or shipped out under his original orders with the 106th Division (missed the boat due to a case of tonsillitis). As you probably know, the 10th sustained terrible casualties in the battle for Riva Ridge in Italy, and the 106th was decimated when the Germans launched the Battle of the Bulge through their lines.

Many thanks to all of you for the affection and support you provided to my father when he was suffering from cancer. May you continue with your good works.

Most sincerely,  
**Bill Halainen**  
4032 Conashaugh Lakes  
Milford, Pennsylvania 18337

\*\*\*\*\*

## Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd Infantry at Schaumburg Reunion



Left to right: *Marvin Freeman, John Mihm, David Malchick, C.J. Hoffman, Earl Walters, John Snearly, Joseph Gawek, Robert Miller*

Submitted by: **David Malchick**, 1717 East 18th Street, #2F, Brooklyn, New York 11229-2124

# Battery C, 879th Field Artillery

**Fred L. Crane**

P.O. Box 294, Stout, Iowa 50673

Telephone: 319/346-1025

Enclosed are some pictures that maybe some of the readers of the bulletin will find interesting.

We had a wonderful time at the Reunion and are looking forward to attending lots more. We certainly appreciate all the work that the different committees go through to achieve the success of Schaumburg and others.



*Some of the shell cases by our gun position when we were shelling the city of Eilenburg.*



*1996 Schaumburg, Illinois Reunion: Doug and Natalie Buckstad and Fred and Pat Crane.*



*My old chief of section, S/Sgt. Freiberg, a swell guy*



*Our "First Man" 1st Sgt. Richard Greene*



*One of the Howitzers in full recoil after being fire.*



*In Front: Boone. Sitting: Freiberg, Fisher, Masterana, Weaver, Dale. Standing: Zimmerman, Bryan, Cimanero, Captain Mac, Fred Crane, Lopez, Davis*

# THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE

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\*\*\*\*\*

## A Message from your Auxiliary President, Edith Chapman

Dear Ladies of the Auxiliary and Friends,

I feel we had a wonderful reunion. We owe a vote of thanks to **Ernest** and **Mary Krause** and their committee. Everything ran very smoothly. A different couple was responsible for each part of the Reunion. Then the rest of the committee would help with their duties. **Jane Matlach**, one of our officers, helped set up the Registration Room.

The tours of Chicago were wonderful opportunities for all of us. I enjoyed the Chicago Botanical Gardens, especially the rose garden. The city tour showed what beautiful architecture some of the buildings and churches had.

Saturday's business meeting went very well. The following ladies helped with the registration: **Grace Glaum, Margaret Moore, Jean Putala, Josephine Plugge, and Evelyn Peterson**. Thanks! We had 123 "Old Timers" and 8 "First Timers" at our meeting. (A little down from last year.)

**Jim Boris**, Vice-President of the Men's Group and Golf Chairman, gave prizes to the following ladies: 1st Low Gross - Barbara Johnson, 2nd Low Gross - Judy Fox, 1st Low Net - Tillie Boris, 2nd Low Net - Evelyn Peterson, Closest to Pin on #8 - Pat Nagy, Closest to Pin on #16 - Teddy Nemeth, Straightest Drive - Barb Seidenstricker.

**Bonnie Gunter**, representative from the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, made a very appreciative talk about the gifts to the hospital. We had 22 booties, 46 robes, one bed jacket and six other objects. A \$500.00 check was given from the 69th Division. **Maria Keller, Alice Wolthoff** and others helped pack the clothing.

Our program for the day was given by Sharon Yiesla, a Horticulturist from the University of Illinois Extension Program. She had a slide program about herbs and house plants. Each of us was also given a booklet explaining all the information she gave to us in her talk.

**Henry Putala**, Chairman of the Committee for the Boston Reunion, gave an enthusiastic report on next year's plans. There will be two tours of the City of Boston. We hope to see all of you there.

I heard from **David Bolte**. He thanks the Ladies for the card and all the signatures. He says he plans to come to Boston. **Mrs. Bolte** seems to be doing OK except for her eyesight. (Continued on Page 21)

## THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE

(Continued from Page 20)

We received the following letter from the Veterans Administration in thanks for our gifts to the Edward Hines Jr., VA Hospital.

Veterans Administration

**Bonnie L. Gunter**, Chief, Volunteer Service

Dear Edith,

What a pleasure it was for me to be a part of the annual meeting of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Auxiliary. As I told all "the girls," it was my first experience with your group, and I will never forget it. Special thanks to **Mary Krause** for all her coordination.

On behalf of the staff and patients at the Edward Hines, Jr., VA Hospital, I thank all of you for the generous \$500 donation and for the lovely lap robes, booties, and bibs. Our special thanks to the ladies (I'm assuming they were all ladies) who took the time to handmade all of these precious gifts. The world is truly a better place in which to live because of caring groups such as yours.

Hope you enjoyed our city, have fun in Boston next year, and again, thanks to all of you from the bottom of my heart.



*Bonnie Gunter of the VA Hospital accepting a check from Edith Chapman for the Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital.*



*Officers: Edith Zaffern - Sunshine Lady, Jane Matlach - Chaplain, Gloria Czyzyk - Secretary, Rosemarie Mazza - Vice President, Edith Chapman - President.*

### - In Memoriam -

#### "LADIES' TAPS"

**VIRGINIA AIELLO**

wife of **Joseph A. Aiello**, Co. E, 273rd Infantry

**JEANNETTE KOZIOL**

wife of **Alexander S. Koziol**, Div. Hq., APO 417

**MARIE A. LADUE**

wife of **Bernie LaDue**, Co. B, 272nd Infantry

**DORIS LOCKE**

wife of **Charles Locke**, Co. H, 273rd Infantry



*Ladies'  
Auxiliary Meeting  
49th Annual Reunion  
Schaumburg, Illinois*

*August 1996*

# Maria Keller remembers Camp Shelby

**Maria Keller**, wife of **Leroy Keller**  
Service Company, 271st Infantry Regiment  
8221 Galway Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23228

## PART I

We returned home to Richmond, Virginia from our honeymoon to find **Leroy's** draft notice in the mail. That was September 1941 before Pearl Harbor. We sweated out a call into the service until March 1943 when **Leroy** reported to Camp Lee, Virginia, 25 miles from Richmond. We were able to visit often. Then came Camp Shelby in the middle of May, a 1,000 miles away! At that time I was a secretary in the Office of Defense Transportation. We kept busy supporting the war effort by issuing gas coupons to trucks and buses. Each day we wrote each other.

My first visit to Hattiesburg, Mississippi was at Thanksgiving 1943. I loved the Capertons with whom we stayed. They lived at 711 Hardy Street. The family consisted of Judge Caperton, Justice of Peace, two school teacher daughters and Mrs. Raymond Fox, who lived next door.

On January 1, 1944 I returned to 711 Hardy Street where we lived until the 69th left in November 1944 for New Jersey to ship out to Europe. The day I arrived, Raymond Fox offered me a job with the Mississippi Central Railroad, as secretary in the office of the Vice President. This was a 56 mile short line to Natchez, Mississippi. Many soldiers wives worked there, from the 65th Division as well as the 69th Division. We still keep up with many of these couples. While working in this office I learned to drink coffee (rationed) at Sycamore Inn, located directly across the

street. A big sycamore tree grew up through the middle of the restaurant. We returned to Hattiesburg in 1991 for a tour and could not find a trace of the office. We were able to find the freight office. There was a black sexton that brought the mail each day. When I asked him if he carried the mail, he replied "No, Miss Maria, I 'totes' it."

We rented the front bedroom, adjoining the living room, at 711 Hardy Street. We were often asked to be witnesses to weddings of fellow soldiers, who had gotten rumor of being shipped out. I wish I had a list of those married by Judge Caperton.

**Leroy** rode into Camp Shelby early each morning with **Loar Quickle**, Co. G 271st. We shared visits to the USO with **Loar** and **Louise**, as well as a vacation trip to Biloxi. **Loar** was on board when the 69th was organized and sent us many letters before we had an official Newsletter.

**Leroy** was on duty the night before leaving Camp Shelby. I was invited to a party in the G Company, 271st mess hall with **Shorty Reynolds** of Winchester, Virginia cooking up bacon and eggs. There was a crap game in progress and a young soldier won a lot of money. He brought the money to one of the visiting wives to keep for him until he returned from Europe. I always wondered if he ever got his money.

While Hattiesburg was a highlight in my life, other wives did not report such a happy stay. **Marguerite** and **Raymond Egelston**, 273rd, from Richmond introduced us to the Lett Boarding House, downtown Hattiesburg, where on Saturday evenings dinner consisted of a platter of steaks, with vegetables, hot rolls and drinks, served family style, at 6:00, 6:30 and 7:00 p.m. for \$1.00 a meal. Many of us boarded with Mrs. Lett and her three lovely daughters throughout the week.

Part 2 will follow in another bulletin.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Company B, 271st Infantry at Schaumburg Reunion

Submitted by: **Elmer Miller**, 16 South Whisper Court, Columbus, Georgia 31909



*We all want to express our thanks to the group who provided us with such a fabulous and entertaining reunion!*

# Combat Action by 777th Tank Battalion Co. A, 2nd Platoon

Submitted By: **William J. Fannucchi**  
421-D Sandhurst Circle  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137  
Telephone: 630/858-6968

Rereading the 777th Tank Battalion history pamphlet brought to my mind old memories of WWII. Actions in which the 2nd platoon of Company "A" acted independently from the rest of the company or battalion. For those 69ers not familiar with the organization of a tank battalion, I will explain that a tank platoon consists of five tanks, with five men in each tank. At the time of these events I was a Sergeant and Commander of one of the tanks in the 2nd platoon.

The following are a few of the items which appear in the 777th history:

**16 April 1945:** Moved from Espenheim and joined 2nd Battalion, 271st Infantry Regiment at Rotha

**17 April 1945:** Were alerted at 0400 and at 1000 moved to Bolen and took up positions firing at enemy gun emplacement at 3200 yards. Sustained three slight casualties. Later made an attempt to move to Pulgar but were forced to return due to heavy artillery fire. At 1800 engaged enemy at Pulgar and took 200 PW's. At 2000 moved to Zwenkau, with infantry walking in front of tanks. Took city with slight resistance after dark and remained the night.

**18 April 1945:** At 0700 moved to Eythra with infantry marching. Infantry was pinned down by small arms fire and tanks cleared town with marching fire. One 40mm and one 88mm gun were destroyed. Platoon was split and town divided and 250 PW's were taken. An attempt was made to take an enemy gun position containing 46 flak and 88mm guns but were ordered to evacuate town, preparatory for artillery barrage of Second Division. Platoon leader, **Lieutenant White**, while making a personal reconnaissance for the tanks, was killed by enemy artillery fire. The platoon withdrew to Zwenkau under command of the platoon Sergeant and remained for night.

**19 April 1945:** Remained at Zwenkau until 1715 due to lack of gas and then moved with regiment to Markleeberg.

**20 April 1945:** Moved to Regiment at Taucha and rejoined Company "A" then moved to Nauhof under battalion control.

After **Lieutenant White** was killed, **Staff Sergeant Joe Robinson** was awarded a Battlefield Commission, promoted to 2nd Lieutenant, and became leader of the 2nd Platoon. I was promoted to Staff Sergeant and replaced **Robinson** as Platoon Sergeant.



*Joe Robinson (left) and Bill Fannucchi (right) congratulate each other for promotions they were awarded while at Nauhof. Company Commander Captain Burson is to right rear.*

## **Bill Fannucchi also writes . . .**

My wife and I attended the 69th Infantry Division reunion in Schaumburg, Illinois. Louise and I enjoyed a very wonderful week at the reunion. We met and enjoyed everyone, and made many new friends.

We were in charge of the souvenirs and worked hard to make it a big success.

Louise and I want to thank all the members and their wives who bought souvenirs, making the occasion a big success.

May God bless you all and we hope to see you in Boston in 1997.

## **Notice to all 69ers**

Many of you have been sending in lengthy obituaries. Our policy has always been not to print these as we receive many of them and space does not allow us to do so.

We do, however, want to know when someone passes away and will continue, as always, to list them in "Taps."

Thank you for your cooperation.

Your Editorial Staff

# Activities of the 69th Division Memorial Fund

**Edgar A. "Bud" Parsons**

*Company A, 272nd Infantry Regiment*  
1913 South Lakeshore Drive  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514  
Telephone: 919/942-5472

This is a report on the activities of the 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc., as authorized at the General Membership meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi.

As has been described in past reports, most of the funds contributed by 69ers and friends were expended as a part of the contributions necessary for the sculpture, casting, and transportation of the huge (2 meters by 10 meters) bas relief mounted on the Elbe River embankment stone wall of the First Link-Up Memorial Park in Strehla, Germany. Three bus loads of 69ers, spouses, relatives and friends will recall attending the dedication, April 25, 1995. The ceremonies included a United States Army Color Guard with the flag of the 69th Infantry Division, and music from the United States Army Band.

The proceedings featured the presentation of a bronze commemorative plaque, two feet by three feet, prepared by the President's 50th Anniversary Commemorative Committee of World War II. The text of the plaque is in three languages, Russian, German, and English. Those in attendance will recall the bronze plaque features a bas relief based on the widely-publicized photo of 69ers and Soviets shaking hands at the Torgau bridge link-up. The photo is the same as that shown on the front of our 69th Infantry Division history book published several years ago.

Before the mold of the plaque was destroyed, the 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund was enabled, by various means that included use of some funds, to

obtain another copy of that bronze plaque. This additional casting, shipping weight 106 pounds, has been received at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Arrangements have been made for this bronze plaque to be on permanent display as a part of the Camp Shelby Museum's 69th Infantry Division memorabilia.

Coincidentally, a new Museum is now under construction. It is contemplated there will be a special ceremony associated with the Museum's formal acceptance, and permanent mounting of this plaque with its accompanying description of the unique role of the 69th Infantry Division in World War II. Please be assured that Bulletin readers will be informed of acceptance date and other details as soon as known.

As stipulated at the Biloxi General Membership meeting establishing the 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, no monies from the treasury of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association, Inc., have been utilized in these endeavors. Almost all of the money contributed has been provided by a somewhat disappointingly small number of individual 69ers.

It is planned that the 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc., will terminate its existence upon accomplishment of its final two-part project, (a) the emplacement of a bronze tablet at Torgau that permanently records the role of the 69th Infantry Division in the April 25, 1945 link-up, and (b) the funds necessary to keep the American flag flying forever from an appropriate flagpole on the bank of the Elbe River.

Contributions for this final project should be made out to the 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund Inc., (or some abbreviation of this non-profit entity) and mailed c/o **William Beswick**, Box 576, West Point, Virginia 23181.

The publicity of the Bulletin has been indispensable to this endeavor. Thanks for your continuing help on behalf of our Division.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Headquarters Battery, 879th Field Artillery



*Howitzer Al Kormas, Big Foot Parker, Dave Oberst*



*Merseburg Airport: Wilson, Dave Oberst, Al Kormas*  
Photos submitted by: **Howitzer Al Kormas**

# Veteran Lays a Wreath in 1996 Elbe Ceremonies

*From the Newberry Journal*  
Newberry, South Carolina

A lone veteran from Newberry marked the United States' role in an event which hastened the end of World War II. **Albert Pike Jones** laid a wreath at the site in Germany where U.S. and Russian troops linked during the final days of the war. The Elbe River site has a memorial to **Joseph Polowsky**, the first U.S. soldier to make the link.

The double offensive of American and Russian troops and equipment had weakened Hitler's armies. Now combined, the forces could push easily into Berlin and end the bloody European conflict.

In April, **Jones** returned to the site of the Elbe crossing that he participated in as a member of the 69th Infantry Division for a five day observance of the historic event starting April 25th. **Jones** was photographed laying the wreath that was America's tribute to the crossing of the Elbe. This is a German newspaper story about him:

*Headline: "Friends are as important to me as family"*

*Sub-headline: "World War Two Veteran, Albert Pike Jones, returns to the Elbe for the first time after a fifty-one year absence."*

He entered Torgau to meet with his 'Forderverein Europe' hostess. 'Please only with you,' he whispered to her. This year he was the only participant of the former United States' Sixth-ninth Infantry Division who attended the Elbe Day wreath-laying ceremony.

"He addressed the attendees with quiet resoluteness, and was deeply understood by all who heard what he lived through those few days. Albert Pike Jones was for the first time since nineteen hundred forty-five again in Torgau.

It was Jones' wish to one more time visit the gravesite of Joseph Polowsky. Albert Pike Jones was drafted into the United States Army in 1941 and was discharged in 1946. In 1947 he reentered the Army and was sent to Germany; later, in Salzburg and Linz of Austria were duty stations. After Korea he left the Army in March 1966.

## "Personal Tragedy"

"Albert Pike Jones married Charlotte Schadetle from Germany. Shortly thereafter he declared governments to be political institutions. 'We had to shoot,' he claimed.

In July of 1995, his wife died. One month later his only son also died. He has not yet overcome the sadness these events caused him.

The difficulty lies in an understanding of the immense comfort he received from friends in Torgau, having somebody to talk to. His meaning: friends are exactly as important as family.



"If he remains in good health, he states his wish is to return to Germany each year. After praying at the grave of Polowsky, and telling again, 'We had to do it,' he continued his journey through the old republic. As he left, he could not disguise his tears."

*Source: "News Torgaver Kreisblatt," April 30, 1996*

**Albert P. Jones**, Battery C, 881st Field Artillery  
288 Belfast Road, Newberry, South Carolina 29108



*Albert Pike Jones in Torgau with 3 interpreters: Left to right are the American interpreter (she is German), the German interpreter and the Russian interpreter*

# The ageless spirit of loved ones lost to war

TRIBUNE

May 22nd, 1996

Sent in By: **Howitzer Al Kormas, Hq., 879th F.A.**  
and **John O'Connor, Hq., 880th F.A.**

By **Philip M. Smith**

A year ago at this time, as we approached Memorial Day, Americans were paying special tribute to veterans of World War II. Now it is 51 years since the end of that war.

Last year I pulled out my father's letters home from the war plus other memories he had written, and based on them I developed a script that was brought to life in a National Public Radio broadcast.

While working on that project, I felt a new connection with my dad and his generation. It was an emotional experience but only preparation for what was to come next.

Immediately after recording the program in Washington, I walked to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Just beyond the entryway and metal detectors is a display of flags. They were unfamiliar so I stepped up for a closer look.

They were the flags of our army units that liberated concentration camps. As my eyes traveled along the display, I saw the flag of the 80th Division, my father's. With tears streaming down my face I backed off into a corner, realizing more fully what these men had done to bring relief to suffering people.

We know what more the Allies could have done to slow and disrupt the Holocaust, but soldiers whose insignias were on those flags went through hell itself to get to the camps. They did their all and left many behind. I was very proud of them and touched by how the museum honors them.

A short while later the story took a more personal turn. Among my father's writing is a long account of what happened on a single day, January 21, 1945, a day when his battalion was devastated by artillery. The story so gripped me that I decided to find out more about the men who were lost on that day. It took persistence and luck to find out the names and hometowns of some of those soldiers, but gradually the information came in.

One veteran had warned me that some families might not want their memories disturbed. Only days after his return home from the war, he was asked by the father of a buddy to tell him how his son had died. The last thing this returning vet needed was to witness or be part of yet more grief.

Carefully I composed a letter of introduction stating just the basics of my father's connection with their relative back on that January day in 1945. The letters went out and I waited. In a few days the telephone rang. It was the daughter of one of these soldiers; her mother had received my letter and asked Lena to call me.

My voice was unsteady and hands shaky as we spoke, and I felt 50 years collapse into a moment. She told me that the family never heard anything about what happened to their father except for the telegram from the War Department - not until my letter arrived. After her father's death, her mother raised three small daughters in the hills of western Virginia and never married. All these years she prayed that one day she would hear from someone who had known her husband.

One soldier who spoke with my father after being mortally wounded had died holding an unopened Christmas present in his arms. I found his family in a small town on the shores of Lake Huron. Another was from a farm town in North Dakota. One had a little sister who had written to her big brother every night during the war. Some of the men had been married, but after the war the wives and children vanished from the family circle, a lost memory of what might have been.

One after the other, I found that the agony of that day in 1945 had lived on with these families and many others like them. I shared with them what my father had left in writing, but what they seemed to appreciate most was the fact that their loved ones had not been forgotten.

The loss of life in the causes of our nation - whether decades or only days ago - has effects that continue for generations. Father, husbands, sons, gone forever. Mothers, wives and daughters, too. Survivors go on to find value and love and meaning in their lives. But though they may cope, they continue to suffer.

The loss stays forever, comforted only a little if a stranger comes along and says, "I remember his name."



*Happy Holidays and a  
prosperous and healthy New Year  
to all 69ers and their families.*



# Division Headquarters, 69th Infantry Division

Submitted by: Keith Curtis, 5820 N.W. 112th Street, Grimes, Iowa 50111



*Walt Doernbach, Keith Curtis, Don Chenny*



*Fred Avery, Dutch Hawn, Keith Curtis  
at the Schaumburg Reunion*



*Cooks of Headquarters Co. in Desoto National Forest*



*Gene Butterfield, Fred Avery, Gordon Kjos, Dutch  
Hawn at the Schaumburg Reunion*



*Keith & Colleen Curtis - Portland, Oregon Waterfront*



*Ernie Sole and Woods*



*Keith Curtis at his winter home in Mesa, Arizona*

# From the Archives of Leonard Sturm

Leonard Sturm, Company M, 273rd Infantry Regiment  
816 North Cherry, Ottawa, Kansas 66067-1618

Leonard Sturm sent us three large photo albums and some other goodies.  
We will be publishing more in future issues of the bulletin. Thanks, Leonard.



*Leonard Sturm standing in front of his jeep with a  
blacksnake he kept in the glovebox so no one would  
bother his jeep! And no one did!*



*3rd Battalion Aid Station - Udenberth Germany  
Seigfried Line*



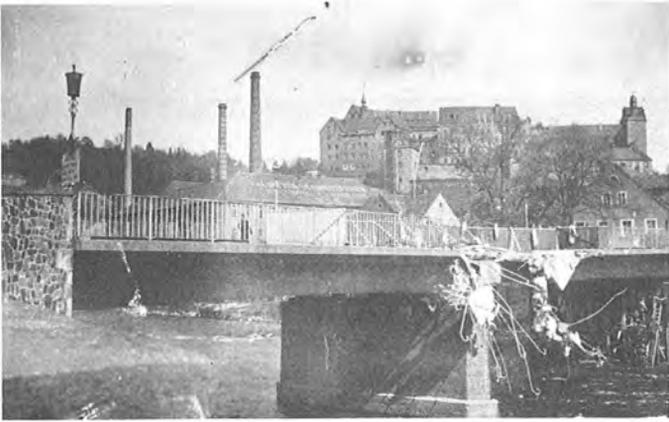
*Reg Dietzel, my driver through combat  
Altenhain, Germany*



*Prison Camp in Bremen from Post #6*



*Don Barber and Bill Duval on Jeep  
Polenz Airport*



*Partially blown bridge - Colditz, Germany*



*Cinemobile at Polenz Airport*

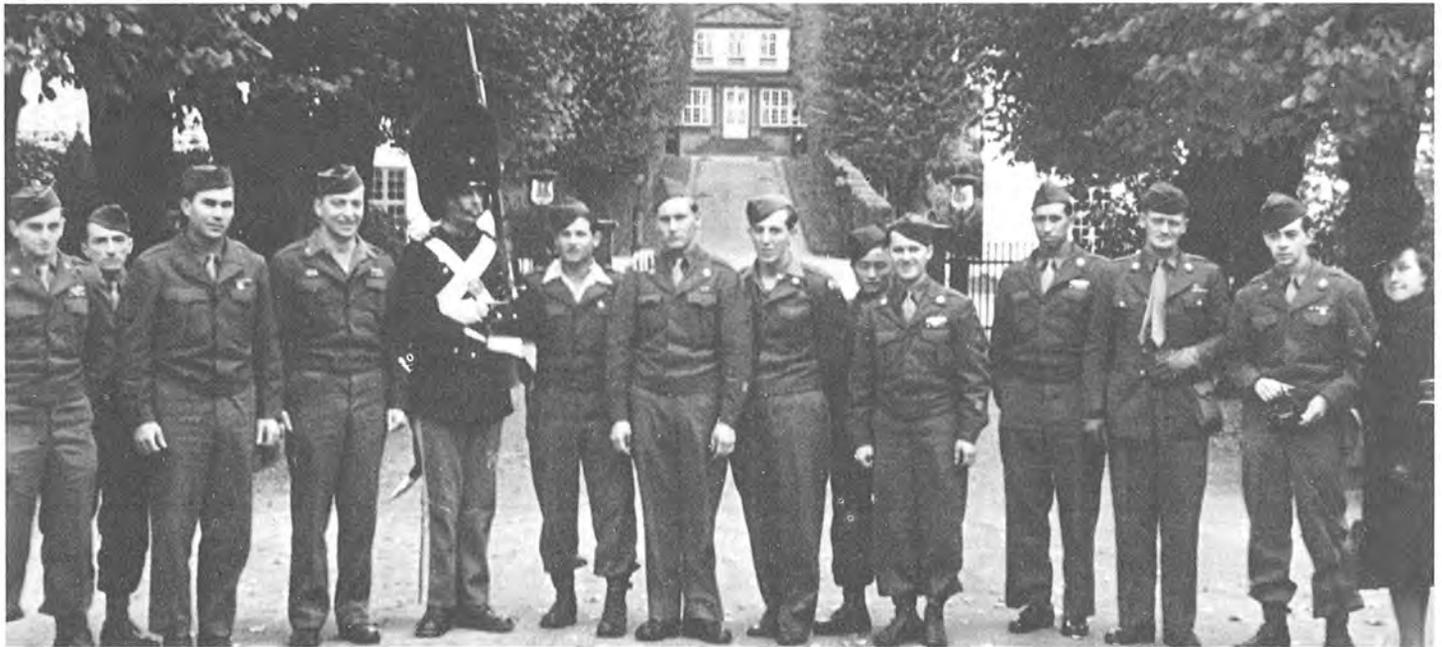


*Dewey Schwartzkopf with bouquet of pansies at lodging - Altenhain, Germany*



*Walt Weeks, Merle Johnson, Leonard Sturm  
Manhattan College*

\*\*\*\*\*



## **Battery C, 881st Field Artillery**

Submitted by: **Art Moore**, 55 High Gate Road, Apt. C-4, Newington, Connecticut 06111

*On leave in Denmark. Second from left is Barron, sixth from right is Minouri Ishnoe, second from right is Art Moore.*



## Company G, 271st Infantry Division - Camp Kilmer, New Jersey - November 1944

Submitted By: Mayes O. Key, Route 1, Box 1820, Locust Grove, Oklahoma 74352

I enjoy the bulletin very much. I enjoyed the article in the last bulletin from **David Allen**. I was in the 2nd Platoon with David and was one of the ones sent to Belgium in December 1944. I was sent to the 83rd Division, Company E, 331st Infantry. I was in three campaigns, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. I was taken prisoner on April 15, 1945, across the Elbe River at Badertz, Germany near Madgeburg. After my release on May 5, 1945, I returned to the United States.

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

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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).

\*\*\*\*\*

## 69th Cavalry Recon Troop

**Lewis "Boyd" and Stella Ellsworth**, *Coordinators*  
Route #1 - Knoxville Road  
Steubenville, Ohio 43952-9801  
Telephone: 614/282-2327

**Harold and Jeanne Gardner**, *News Reporters*  
2929 Mason Avenue  
Independence, Missouri 64052-2962  
Telephone: 816/254-4816

Twenty-five former members of the 69th Division Recon Troop reported to the Chamberlin Hotel on Fort Monroe at Hampton, Virginia for their 45th annual reunion. The official dates of the reunion were September 4-8, 1996, but some came earlier. The final count including wives, family members and friends was 56. It was great to have both our **C.O. Boyd Ellsworth** and **1st Sergeant Hank Weiman** with us this year.

Our host and hostess were **Charles and Bobbie Fox** and they did their usual sterling job of handling the entire affair as they have done on numerous times in the past. They made sure that we all enjoyed ourselves.

The Chamberlin is a grand old hotel which is being renovated while still serving the public. It is the only Non-military facility on Fort Monroe. Rooms were very comfortable and competitively priced for the area. Most of us had rooms with views of Chesapeake Bay from which we could watch various types of ships ply the waters. One day while in the hotel dining room we were treated to the sight of two submarines passing in the bay on their way to and from their berths. We also saw various sizes of tugs, container ships, tankers and other Naval vessels.

Our hotel accommodations included a very good daily breakfast buffet. In the hotel lobby we had a daily afternoon "tea time" where cookies, cakes, tea and coffee were available. In the evenings there were free snacks with live entertainment in the lounge. These items were all included in our room cost.

One evening the majority of us carpooled a short distance to an eating establishment for dinner. We

feasted on various menu items including some of the delicious seafood from the area. Then one evening most of us ate in the hotel dining room or lounge due to some area establishments being without power.

Our hospitality area was two very large rooms furnished with round tables and a sufficient number of chairs. We had tables displaying various items brought by some of the troopers and tables used for placing of goodies brought by some of our folks and purchased by our hosts. Soft drinks, beer, wine and some hard stuff were also available for those wanting it.

**Charles and Bobbie Fox** had a nice agenda laid out for us, but due to the wind, rain and high waves in the bay caused by the closeness of Hurricane Fran, some of our activities had to be somewhat curtailed or cancelled. The buses that were to have taken us to Williamsburg and to the harbor tour boat were cancelled due to the company headquartered in Richmond, Virginia being without power. Although hurricane Fran blew into shore well south of our location, we were still subjected to rain, high winds and high waves in the bay which came over the seawall surrounding the hotel area. The hotel grounds were covered by water at times and it was running through the streets over the curbs. **Joe and Jean Elliget** had their car parked on the street in front of the hotel and water got into it.

One day a large group of us walked the short distance to the original Fort Monroe. It was a guided tour and our guide gave us a complete history of the fort and made our excursion very interesting. It was the only fort at that time which was completely surrounded by a moat.

On Saturday the waves in the bay subsided to the extent that it was possible to take the harbor tour. It was a great and informative trip and no one got seasick. In addition to viewing the original Fort Monroe from the harbor, we were also treated to seeing numerous U.S. Navy vessels at their berth at the Norfolk Naval Base. In addition to amphibious assault landing ships, cruisers and destroyers, we also saw five submarines lying at their berths. Our guide was very versed in his narration. He described in

*(Continued on Page 33)*

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

*(Continued from Page 32)*

detail the size, tonnage and armaments including those with missile capabilities. He also indicated the speed of some of the ships. There were no aircraft carriers in port, however, our guide said their were several in Newport News. One was the new carrier, the USS Harry S. Truman which was being christened that day.

Our Saturday night banquet was a sitdown dinner served in a private dining room. After blessing was given by **Lloyd Walker**, we chowed down on our choice of Prime Rib or Stuffed Flounder. Both were delicious and we made short work of it. Much visiting and picture taking was done as we enjoyed our meal.

After dinner "**Cowboy**" **Vaughan** presided as Master of Ceremonies and called for a round of applause for **Charlie** and **Bobbie Fox** for their excellent handling of the reunion. It had to be very trying at times for our hosts due to the weather causing cancellation and/or rearrangement of scheduled activities. **Cowboy** then called on each of the troopers to relate family happenings during the past year. This is always very interesting, although by banquet night we have all done a lot of talking about the events in our lives. Perhaps **Phil "Doc" Sesler**, former 1st Platoon Medic, had the best comment. He rose to his feet with his Medic Red Cross arm band on his sleeve and told us that with all our illnesses, etc., he didn't want us to come to him for treatment.

At the close of our dinner and program our "reunion committee" of **Harold Gardner**, **Mike Moscaritolo** and **Bones Schueler**, presented to **Bobbie** and **Charles Fox**, a small gift for all their work in providing us with another swell reunion. **Bobbie** and **Charles** were very appreciative of the gift and asked that we convey their thanks and appreciation to those persons involved.

**Roll call was answered by the following:**

**Boyd and Stella Ellsworth** ..... Ohio  
**Hank and Lillian Weiman** ..... New Jersey  
**Charles and Bobbie Fox** ..... Maryland  
**Joe and Jean Elliget** ..... Arizona  
**Gordon and Fern Ewing** ..... Florida  
**Harold and Jeanne Gardner** ..... Missouri  
**D. B. and Betty George** ..... Maryland

*Guests: Alan and Norma Lewis*

**Barbara and Greg Gaumer**  
**Eddie and Mary Lou Glenz** ..... Pennsylvania  
**Albert and Esther Gold** ..... Massachusetts  
**Lewis and Janie Hill** ..... Texas

*Guests: Paul and Linda Steinmetz*

**Morris and Gert Kaiserman** ..... Illinois  
**Jerry Leib** ..... California

**Mike and Mary Moscaritolo** ..... Florida  
**Herb and Eileene Norman** ..... Colorado  
**Floyd and Evelyn Opdyke** ..... New Jersey  
**Mary Paradine** ..... Michigan

*Guests: Cecil and Jean Paradine*

**Wally and Carolyn Pepper** ..... Florida  
**Lewis and Lucille Pickett** ..... Virginia  
**Ted and Nancy (Makris) Ricco** ..... Connecticut  
**Charles and Pat Rice** ..... Oklahoma  
**Bones and Mable Schueler** ..... Ohio  
**Phil "Doc" Sesler** ..... West Virginia  
**Harold and Maxine Stambaugh** ..... Virginia  
**Lenke Treible (Widow of Art)** ..... Ohio  
**Cowboy and Janet Vaughan** ..... Virginia  
**Lloyd and Ruth Walker** ..... Ohio  
**Bob and Jean West** ..... Ohio  
**Fred and Fran Wohlers** ..... Florida

*Guests: Robert Boyer and Wife*

We were pleased to have **Bill** and **Jo Beswick** visiting with us and attending our banquet. **Bill** is a former member of the 661st TDs, and a past president of the 69th Division Association.

We are always pleased to have family members and guests at our reunions. You're always welcome. Please come again.

Again **Bobbie** and **Charles**, in spite of Fran, you did a whale of a job showing all of us a swell time. The only hitches were those that could not be controlled by you, and everyone adjusted to those problems very well. Thanks again for all your work. It was great to get together with our Recon "family" again.

**Interesting Note:** It is always interesting to note which of our troopers travel the farthest to attend the reunions. Figuring the mileage "as the crow flies," **Jerry Leib** traveled over 2200 miles from California. **Joe** and **Jean Elliget** were over 1800 miles from Arizona. Other long distance travelers were; **Herb** and **Eileene Norman** almost 1500 miles from Colorado; **Lewis** and **Janie Hill** over 1300 miles from Texas and **Charles** and **Pat Rice** over 1100 miles from Oklahoma. There were several others that traveled a good distance but these are the longest.

**1997 Reunion** — The "reunion committee" established in Oklahoma City in 1995 was given the authority and responsibility of determining the location of the 1996 reunion, which we did. At Hampton, Virginia this same committee was again given the authority and responsibility of determining where our 1997 reunion will be. All troopers will be advised of this decision at an early date in our Recon newsletters and/or by separate letters.

**Harold Gardner**  
**Mike Moscaritolo**  
**Bones Schueler**

*(Continued on Page 34)*

## 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, 724th Field Artillery Battalion's Reunion Dinner Meeting was held August 23rd, 1996 at the Olive Garden Restaurant in Schaumburg, Illinois.

The following were in attendance, Al DiLoreto, Polly DiLoreto, Bob Hollister, John Rosenbrock, Louis Psaltis, Harold Wepler, Edna Butizin, Erline Horton, Coy Horton. Guests were: Lee Wilson, Charlie Weaver, 273rd Infantry.

We enjoyed the company of Bob and Libby Inyart for a couple of days. However, due to prior commitments, they were unable to attend our dinner meeting.

P.S. Thanks so much to you, Earl and Clarence for continuing as Editors of the Bulletin.



*Erline and Coy Horton  
Banquet - Schaumburg, Illinois*



*Al and Polly DiLoreto  
Banquet - Schaumburg, Illinois*



*Bob Hollister  
Banquet  
Schaumburg Reunion*



*Lee Wilson, John Rosenbrock, Charlie Weaver, Bob Hollister, Erline Horton, Coy Horton, Al DiLoreto, Polly DiLoreto, Edna Butizin, Harold Wepler, and Louis Psaltis at the Olive Garden Restaurant on August 23rd, 1996 - Schaumburg, Illinois*

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,  
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*Chuck and Louis Psaltis  
Banquet - Schaumburg, Illinois*



*Edna Butizin and Harold Wepler  
Early Bird Dinner - Schaumburg, Illinois*



*Libby and Bob Inyart  
Early Bird Dinner - Schaumburg, Illinois*



*John Rosenbrock  
Banquet - Schaumburg*



*Polly and Al DiLoreto  
Banquet - Schaumburg*

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## **Company D, 273rd Infantry**

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

Members attending the reunion in Schaumburg, Illinois were treated to a well-organized affair. From beginning to end, everything went smoothly. If I were to single out the one event that stood out from all the previous reunions I have attended, it would be the banquet. The table service was on a par with what you would expect in a good restaurant, and the food was good and plentiful.

Most of our "regulars" showed up again. Illness of member or wife caused a few couples to change their plans. In turn we had a couple new faces show up. **George Thomas** was on the reunion committee. His many hours tending bar in the hospitality room limited the time he could spend with his buddies. **Dan Murphy** stopped by one evening when the group was at a neighborhood restaurant. A busy week and a Saturday wedding kept him from coming back. Another pleasant experience was a visit by the son of a deceased member of Company D. **Phil Smith's** father (**Percy Smith**) was the first sergeant for over a year before being shipped out in August 1944. Phil spent a couple hours with us in the hospitality room on Saturday afternoon and returned with his ten year old daughter, Lucy, that evening. His father had put some humorous Company D episodes down in writing and Phil shared them with us. Phil, who is now living in Texas, promised he would try to make it to another reunion, perhaps Danvers in '97.

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Our closely knit group took in many of the tours. We somehow managed to end up on the same bus each time, allowing us to enjoy the interesting excursions together. The hotel shuttle was used to advantage to take the group out to dinner a few evenings. There were usually 16 of us on board. These 16 consisted of **Arthur Ayres** of Reeders, Pennsylvania, **Tom Black** of Jefferson City Iowa, **Allan** and **Mary Blackmar** of Pine Plaine, New York, **Ed** and **Mary Case** of Washington Pennsylvania, **Harry** and **Alberta Chandler** of

Redmond, Washington, **Roland** and **Jan Hendrickson** of Salem, Oregon, **George** and **Barbara Johnson** of Petersburg, Virginia, **Robert** and **Betty Jo McCarty** of Terrytown, Louisiana, and **Ken Sawyer** and **Fran Collard** of Melbourne, Florida. All together there were 20 attendees with a Company D, 273rd affiliation.

We now look forward to our next reunion which will be held in Danvers, Massachusetts (a short hop north of Boston) in August 1997. Perhaps this location will be convenient for more of our members. But, more and more, the determining factor for attendance seems to be a matter of health. So let's take better care of ourselves. Don't disappoint the others with your absence.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Anti-Tank  
Company  
272nd Infantry**

**Roy Bush, News Reporter**  
1321 North Clayview Drive  
Liberty, Missouri 64068-3410

Anti-Tank Company had a great time in Schaumburg, Illinois. We had four first timers and the rest were old timers. In the last three years, we have had 18 of our army buddies together - Nashville we had 9 new ones, at Myrtle Beach we had 5 new ones and at Schaumburg, Illinois we had 4. There were 18 husbands and wives that attended the Schaumburg reunion.

What a joy to see old army buddies again - it was 50 years since we had seen our buddies that we saw in Nashville, 51 at Myrtle Beach and 52 at Schaumburg.



*Back row: Russell Koch, Don Calhoun, Roy Bush, Bob Walter (First Timer. Front Row: Urno Gustafson, Darwin VanHouten (First Timer), Dallas Shelton, Ray Sansoucy*



*Back Row: Betty Koch, Ethelda VanHouten (First Timer), Evelyn Gustafson, Marge Bush. Front Row: Annette Walter (First Timer), Janet Sansoucy, Laura Shelton, Libby Calhoun*



*First Timers John and Lois Brockwell*

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**Mid-West Group**

**Fran and Zita Enright, News Reporters**  
7304 West Georgia Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53220

**1996 SPRING MEETING**

The Mid-West Group met at the Lodge and Conference Center of Starved Rock State Park near Utica, Illinois on May 16th, 17th, and 18th, 1996. Twenty-four people showed up in the Hospitality Room on Thursday afternoon, and we all drove to Spring Valley that evening for dinner at Big House Restaurant.

On Friday morning, the golfers set out for a long, hot day on a nearby course. Marilyn Mischke and Thora Miller led the rest of us on a tour of the Utica Historical Museum, a large plate glass factory, and a lock on the Illinois River. We were fortunate in that a large tow was going through the lock, and we spent more than an hour watching the operation. That evening, the entire group went to Peru for dinner at an excellent restaurant.

Everyone seemed to have a great time and we are looking forward to our next meeting in Madison, Wisconsin in May of 1997. (See Calendar of Events)

We had a new attendee:

**Ronald Rank** ..... Co. G, 271st Infantry  
Sterling, Illinois

The regulars present were:

**Fred and Mavis Butenhoff** ... Co. E, 272nd Infantry  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Fran and Zita Enright** ..... Battery A, 881st F.A.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Ernest and Mary Krause** ... Co. B, 269th Engineers  
Addison, Illinois

**Thora Miller**

**Eugene and Marilyn Mischke** .. Co. B, 273rd Infantry  
Spring Valley, Illinois

**Marshall and June Mussay** .. Co. H, 272nd Infantry  
Glenview, Illinois

**Curt and Evelyn Peterson** ..569th Signal Company  
Madison, Wisconsin

**Gene and Ethel Pierron** .....661st Tank Destroyers  
Belgium, Wisconsin

**Ralph and Jo Plugge** ..... Co. G, 271st Infantry  
Calumet City, Illinois

**Phil and Harriet Sparacino** ... Battery B, 881st F.A.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Gaylord and Ruth Thomas** ... 777th Tank Battalion  
Waupun, Wisconsin

**Chuck and Pat Walsh** .....Co. B, 271st Infantry  
Glendale, Wisconsin



*Gene Pierron, Chuck Walsh, Marshall Mussay, 1st Timer Ronald Rank*



*Ernie Krause  
explaining the Reunion instructions*

*Photo left: Mavis Butenhoff, Jo Plugge,  
Pat Walsh, Thora Miller, Zita Enright,  
Marilyn Mischke*

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*Thora Miller, Ruth Thomas, Mary Krause*

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**269th Engineers**

**Frank and Stefania Nemeth, Coordinators**

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

All Engineers - Listen Up:

My wife and I attended the reunion in Schaumburg, Illinois in August and it was first class, all the way, well run, great rooms and good location. The committees were right on the ball and ran everything smoothly. Nice table gifts at the banquet for each member and really useful.

It was a long drive from Pennsylvania to Chicago so we stopped in Perrysburg, Ohio for a couple of days at the invitation of **Ray Szkludlarek** and son Carl and his wife Sherry. Had a lovely time and one night coming out of a restaurant, we met **Jim** and **Tillie Boris** who were also on their way to the reunion. It's a small world.

From Company A we had **Frank (Kim)** and **Grace Packard**. (see photo right column)

From Company B we had **Ward** and **Marion Peterson**, **Bill Riggle** and son **Bill**, **Ernie** and **Mary Krause**, Chairpersons of the Reunion, and **Ted** and **Frank Nemeth**.

Maybe in Danvers, Massachusetts, we will do better since we have some members up in

that area, so it's a short drive for them and we will be glad to see them again.

I'm sorry to report the passing of **John Pszekaza** from Canton, Ohio who I did see once again when the Tri-State was there. **John** and I were very close during our time in the 269th Engineers. Our sympathy to his wife, Florence.

I plan on updating our 269th Engineers roster, so if you hear from me, please reply. So, take care and the best to you all.

*Your Ole Buddie,  
Frank*



*Frank (Kim) and Grace Packard  
Company A, 269th Engineers*



*1st Squad, 2nd Platoon, 269th Engineers, Company B  
1945 - Zwenkau, Germany  
1st Row: Wagner, "Buddie" Barnhart and B.V. Blackburn.  
Standing: Szekzu, Scott, "Deacon" Stevenson,  
Al Germani and J.O. Smith*

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## **Headquarters Battery 880th Field Artillery**

**John J. O'Connor, President**

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

Well the 49th Annual reunion of the 69th Infantry Division Association is now history and I believe all had a very nice reunion with the tours, unit get togethers, dinner dance and so forth. The dinner dance had over 500 people present which was a great crowd. My wife and I thought that this reunion was one of the best.

All the accolades should go to **Mary and Ernest Krause** for all their hard work and planning as the Chairman and Chairlady of this reunion. The members of the committee also did a very good job, especially **June and Marsh Mussay** for their fine efforts in arranging the various tours and I have to mention **Eileen and Harold Pederson** for their dinner dance seating plans. There are others too numerous to mention but they know who they are and they all deserve a big thank you from all the 69th members. We missed both of you at the reunion and hopefully you both will be in Danvers, Massachusetts next year, the Lord willing. Clarence, thank you for sending me the latest bulletin. This is the first time that I did not receive the bulletin in the regular bulk mailing. Again thank you as this is one periodical that I read cover to cover and word for word. You both do a tremendous job with the bulletin.

Our unit had a Dinner banquet and a breakfast meeting on August 22nd and on the 24th of August. In attendance at these Headquarters Battery Events were the following: **Katherine and Bill Suckel, Georgia and Stan Bratt, John and Doris Cooper, Michael and Lucille Pendrick, John and Peggy O'Connor, Robert and Marilyn McKee, Floyd and MaryAn Nadel, Gene and Carolyn McGreevy, Loretta and Bill Stump** (Service Battery). Also present at our dinner were **Nancy and John M. O'Connor**, our son and daughter-in-law. They finally met the people that I served with in the 69th Division and whose

names I have mentioned over the years. If I had invited all of our children, I would have gone bankrupt. Also met **Mary Eileen and Neil Corcoran** from 777th Tank Battalion and it was nice to see them once again since the last time I saw them was in Lexington, Kentucky. Guess I have said enough for now Headquarters Battery thanks you both for your excellent work for the 69th.



*Back Row: Bill Stump, Floyd Nadel, John M. O'Connor (guest), Robert McKee and Eugene McGreevy. Seated: John Cooper, Stan Bratt, Mike Pendrick, Bill Suckel and John J. O'Connor*



*Back Row: Doris Cooper, Katherine Suckel, Nancy O'Connor (guest), Peggy O'Connor, MaryAn Nadel. Seated: Marilyn McKee, Georgia Bratt, Carolyn McGreevy, Lucille Pendrick and Loretta Stump*

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**Headquarters, 880th Field Artillery in Schaumburg, Illinois**



*Marilyn and Robert McKee*



*Lucille and Michael Pendrick*



*Gene and Carolyn McGreevy*



*Georgia and Stanley Bratt*



*Katherine and Bill Suckel*



*Loretta and Bill Stump*



*MaryAn and Floyd Nadel*



*John J. and Peggy O'Connor,  
John M. and Nancy O'Connor -  
(Guests)*



*John and Doris Cooper*

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## **C Battery 880th Field Artillery**

**Lewis and Fern Pugh, Reporters**

640 Grant Street  
Cadiz, Ohio 43907

Telephone: 614/942-3721

C Battery of the 880th Field Artillery held their reunion at the Holiday Inn in Lexington, Virginia on September 10th thru 14th, 1996. There were 37 members and guests present. Those attending were: **Henry and Lucille Abbe** - Rome, New York; **Marvin and Mary Reber** - Reading, Pennsylvania; **Bud and Millie Henson and Don and Noi Henson** - Somerdale, New Jersey; **Amos Pat Duty** - Salem, Virginia; **Lee and Betty Meyer** - St. Marys, Pennsylvania; **Lou and Jean Hoehing** - Lakeland, Florida; **Bill Pugh, Lew and Fern Pugh** - Cadiz, Ohio; **Ray Mills** - Vincennes, Indiana; **Bill and Inez Sells** - Leesburg, Florida; **Frank and Marie Habay** - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; **Bob and Irene Williams** - Lorain, Ohio; **Cliff and Katherine Eley** - Columbus, Ohio; **Henry and June Bashkin** - Washington, D.C.; **Leroy Goetz** and friend **Bernice** - Slinger, Wisconsin; **Nolan and Lillian Farrell** - Brookeland, Texas; **Lowell and Marjorie McFarlin** - Jeromesville, Ohio; **Joe and Dottie Damato** - West Orange, New Jersey; guests **John and Sue Adams** - Cadiz, Ohio. **Bill Beswick** and his wife

**Jo and Robert and Shirley Meadows** also stopped by for a short visit.

The weather was fine and the fellowship was great. The tour of the city by horse-drawn carriage was interesting and the visit to the George Marshall Museum was nice. There we had the opportunity to view a practice parade of the cadets of the V.M.I., and to talk to some of the cadets was like a trip into the past for all of us. Many side trips were also enjoyed by everyone.

And the most thrilling event was the meeting of three men that were attending for the first time, and our first meeting in over 50 years. They were **Amos Pat Duty, Henry Bashkin and Nolan Farrell**.

The farewells as usual were hard to accept. See you all next year . . . God willing.



*Lee Meyers, Lou Hoehing, Lowell McFarlin,  
Henry Abbe, Robert Williams, Marvin Reber*



*C Battery, 880th Field Artillery in Lexington, Virginia*

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## **Battery A 880th Field Artillery**

**John G. Barnett, Reporter**

6374 Brandywine Terrace

Norcross, Georgia 30092

Telephone: 770-448-6513

Battery "A," 880th Field Artillery Battalion, held its eleventh reunion at The Holiday Inn, Florence, Kentucky, September 25-28, 1996. Thirty-five people were present. About ten members had to cancel because of illness. Those present were **James and Geneva Bilbrey; Ruth and Izzy Bombardier** and daughter **Linda West; Frank and Dorothy Cavlovic; Bill and Shirley Dunn; Tom and Betty Ellis; Lloyd and Janice Gerth; Margie Harreld; Joy Northern; Vince Ignatosky; Jeff and Betty Jeffries; Frank and Bertha Olson; Bill and Loretta Stump** (Service Btry.); **Dan and Zora May Eidson** and son **David;**

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## **Company I, 271st Infantry Regiment**

5th Annual Reunion of Company I, 271st Infantry held in LaCrosse, Wisconsin in June of 1996. The reunion was hosted by **Bob and Phyllis Jorgenson**, 619 8th Avenue North, Onalaska, Wisconsin 54650, Telephone: 608/783-5006.

Those in attendance were: **Jack Harrison, Bob Jorgenson, Hy Kurfurst, Bob McMillan, Joe McMurry, Jr., Marty Miller, John Noone, Doc O'Leary, Gus Swanberg, Dale Thompson, Harrison Timmer** and **D.E. Buckstad**. Next year's reunion will be held in Akron, Ohio and will be hosted by **Bob and Carol McMillan**.



**Herbert Kroenke and Bonnie Geiss; and Barbara Blake and Almyra Powell.**

We were deeply saddened by the recent deaths of **Irene and Henry Tipperreiter**. They were important to each of us and will be sorely missed.

On Friday our group toured the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio, and the event was enjoyed by all.

On Saturday night our yearly banquet and business meeting was held in the motel banquet hall and was presided over by **James Bilbrey**, our president. **Tim and Peggy Pangle** of Livingston, Tennessee were named honorary members of "A" Battery. It was agreed that we meet again in Florence September 24-27, 1997, for our next reunion.

Our First Sergeant, **Bill Johnson** and his wife **Anne** have moved to Anderson, California. Also congratulations to **Rose and Duffy Redmond**, who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in November.

Some of the people we missed because of family illnesses were **Frank and Joan Alfiero** ("B" Btry.); **John and Julia Pilot; Louie and Catherine Calderone** ("B"); **Dick Cottle** ("B"); **Bob and Irene McCarthy;** and **Pat and John Barnett**. We wish them all a speedy recovery and hope to see them in 1997.

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## **Headquarters Battery and Medical Detachment 461st AAA AW Battalion**

Submitted by: **Mac Morris**  
630 North Oakmont Street  
Arlington, Virginia 22203-2221

**OCTOBER 11th & 12th, 1996  
QUALITY INN - SALEM, VIRGINIA**

Several couples arrived at the Quality Inn, Salem, on Thursday, October 10th, and enjoyed visiting. On Friday, the two conference rooms were opened for us and people began to arrive. It was good to see everyone after a year. We met in the conference rooms again on Saturday. Snacks were on the table to nibble on. Dinner was set for 7:00 p.m. and everyone was looking forward to it.

Appreciation to: **Allen Whitley** for the delicious apples; to **Paul and Ethel Lovelace** for the chestnuts, **Louis and Ruth Jones** for the tasty homemade brownies; **Mac and Madge Morris** for cookies; **Karen and Sarah Wedl** for the snacks; **Steve and Cyndy** for 1996 mugs; to **Margaret Bryson and Linda Truitt** for the Avon products and the gifts drawn by the ladies; and to **Louis Jones** for pocket knives he gave to the men. **Mac** brought Volume II of the cookbooks.

We were delighted to see **Phyllis Blackwell's** son-in-law, **Bill Hopkins**, on Friday evening. Also it was good to see **Bruce and Susie Marshall** and family. How the children have grown. It was good to meet **Ralph Yingling's** sister and **Katherine Trail's** mother. **Mrs. Orr** will be 101 this October 23rd. Also we welcomed **Rich and Sarah Rollason**, daughter and son-in-law of **Louis and Ruth Jones**; **Carrie Scott** and **George Whitley** were also with us. We missed **Charlie Griffin** but glad to hear he is doing fine and visiting many places.

**Ed Moore** opened our dinner meeting with prayer and we had a delicious buffet. Beef, fried chicken, seafood Newburg, rice pilaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, slaw, cherry cobbler. **Louis Jones** was master of ceremonies and did his usual good job. He handed pen knives out to the men then introduced our guests; we had 42 adults and one child present. **Steve Lucas** made a request for news to fill up the mailout. **Mac Morris** led in prayer for our deceased this past year - **Frenchy Breyette** and **J.D. Blackwell**. **Ruth Jones** read a note from **Ed McClelland**. We acknowledged the good job **Allen** had done this year in setting up the motel and buffet and would he continue next year? He agreed to this. It is set for the 2nd weekend in October 1997 (October 10-12).

**Margaret** was in charge of a drawing for the ladies, assisted by **Linda Truitt, Hannah Marshall** and **Sarah Wedl**. **Louis and Ruth Jones'** daughter, **Sarah**, favored us with violin music which we enjoyed. She also had brought old newspapers from the war era and a copy of **Louis'** cookbook. We all enjoyed these items. Appreciation was extended for all the gifts.

We adjourned and **Cecil Twigg** made pictures. Minutes were taken by **Mac and Madge Morris**.

Attending were: **Cecil and Irma Twigg, Joe and Margaret Bryson, John and Connie Lane, Louis and Ruth Jones, Roy and Ethel Currier, Cyndy and Steve Lucas, John and Elsie Chambliss, Mac and Madge Morris, Eleanore Breyette, Ralph and Isabel Yingling, Mary Smith** (Ralph's sister), **Sarah and Karen Wedl, Howard and Maxine Sandefur, Ed and Belle Moore, Wally and Betty Ullery, Bruce and Susie Marshall** and family, **Ben and Linda Truitt, Paul and Bertha Kowalchek, Ethel and Paul Lovelace, Katherine Trail** and her mother **Bessie Orr, Rich and Sarah Rollason** (daughter and son-in-law of **Louis and Ruth Jones, Tom and Patrick Musselwhite**.

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## **Beswick's Caribbean Adventure**

I have been contacted by some 69ers about organizing a Caribbean Cruise. So, thought I would give it a try, scheduled for March 22nd to March 27th, 1996.

How about it? Are you ready for an exciting seven (7) day adventure on the newest Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines **SPLENDOUR OF THE SEAS**?

Your cruise ticket includes everything to make you comfortable, which consists of cruise fare, port charges, shipboard accommodations, meals, most entertainment, etc. and don't forget Party Time!

People with special needs can be met. You must notify Joao Freitas of any needs when signing up.

The cruise tickets costs are from \$1260.50 to \$1375.50, which includes port fees, but does not include air fare. You will fly into San Juan, Puerto Rico, visit Oranjestad, Aruba, Willemstad, Curacao, Philipsburg, St. Maarten, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Extend your vacation by arriving in San Juan a couple of days early, or stay over in St. Thomas at the end. My suggestion to you - for only the difference in the lowest fare to the highest is only \$115.00. You will be able to have an outside cabin for the entire cruise.

Don't forget, the ship is also your hotel room each night. So you don't have to pack up to move.

Write or call **Joao Freitas**, American Express Travel Div., 1150 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-4104, Phone: 1-800-288-8796. Or write or call: **Bill Beswick**, P.O. Box 576, West Point, Virginia 23181-0576, Phone: 1-804-843-2696.

A deposit of \$200.00 is required when signing for a seven day cruise made out to American Express Travel Division. January 25th, 1997 is the cut off date.

# Annual Meeting of Officers and Board of Directors

## 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN.

### AUGUST 22ND, 1996

#### HYATT REGENCY - WOODFIELD SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS

**President Bob Pierce** called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. with 30 Board Members present, plus four officers and a quorum was declared. The Pledge of Allegiance and the opening invocation were handled by **Joe Wright**.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the meeting held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on October 26, 1995 were a brief summation as these minutes had previously appeared in Bulletin Volume 49, No. 1. The motion was made and seconded that these minutes be accepted as printed in the Bulletin. The motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Matlach** covered two financial reports, the first for the year January 1, 1995 to December 31, 1995, and the second the period from January 1, 1996 to July 31, 1996. The receipts for the first report were \$109,941.85 and expenses \$100,171.61, leaving net change of +\$9,770.65, the greater share of this increase was due to lesser expenses (part of which was a lower price on the banquet) in Myrtle Beach than anticipated, also fewer souvenirs were purchased than normal. We are receiving approximately 7% on the CD investments. The second report showed income of \$84,124.50 and expenses of \$25,843.23, leaving increase of +\$58,281.27. This was due primarily to the escrow money being held for the reunion expenses. Resources as of December 31, 1995 were \$58,221.16 and as of July 31, 1996, \$116,502.43. The full financial statement as printed becomes part of the minutes of this meeting. Motion was made and seconded that the report be accepted. Motion was passed.

**Auditor's Report: Auditor Ed Lucci** examined in detail the financial records and found all entries proper and funds correctly recorded. He urged that the work of the Treasurer be accepted with thanks for a job well done.

**Membership Report: Membership Chairman Bob Kurtzman** reported that we had 5,123 members through August 1, 1996, with 263 with no units recorded. We had 307 widows and now it has increased to 310. In 1995 we had 92 new members, this year, thus far in 1996, we have increased only 45. Motion was made and seconded that the Membership Report be accepted as submitted.

**Bulletin Report: Earl Witzleb** was not in attendance at this meeting. Report that everything is going well and that **Dottie Witzleb** is assisting **Earl** in a

marvelous way, and we extend our appreciation. **Bob Pierce** felt that the most important item was to disseminate the results of the last Reunion on a timely basis, and publish the Reunion schedule, registration and hotel reservation information ASAP.

**Resolutions and By-Laws: Gene Butterfield** stated there was nothing placed yet in concrete regarding changes. However, there are several items under serious consideration that need changing. These will be submitted to the membership for consideration in 1997. No further discussion at this time. **Gene Butterfield** reported there were no legal items for consideration.

**Overseas Flower Fund: Secretary Sheavly** advised that we have \$273.68 in escrow in the Fund at the US Embassy in Paris. Additional funds will be requested from the Treasurer to continue with this worthy remembrance of departed comrades. It was noted that in addition to the roses being placed on April 25th of each year that they were placing flags (at our request) at no charge. The decision was made that the Chairman would no longer be required to have a motion presented/approved by the Board of Directors and Membership to acquire additional funds from the Treasurer. (Since the perpetual fund has already been approved by the members, a request for additional funds is all that will be required in the future.)

**Schaumburg Reunion: Ernie Krause**, Reunion Chairman stated that there were 21 first timers. Reunion work was continuing according to plan, thanks was given to all the members of the committee for their work on this reunion.

**Danvers, Massachusetts Reunion 1997:** The Reunion is to be held at the Tara Ferncroft Hotel and Resort. Report was rendered by **Henry Putala**, Chairman, that most of the details have been completed for the reunion. There is a possibility that some of the tours might be changed, but all will be finalized prior to printing in the Bulletin. Several being worked on: Lexington and Concord and trip to Marblehead.

**Nominating Committee:** Report was given by **Scott Gresham** that the following members would be nominated to serve on the Board of Directors (Class of 1999).

<b>George Hepp</b>	.....	569th Signal Company
<b>William B. Taylor, Sr.</b>	.....	271st Infantry
<b>Leo Moore</b>	.....	272nd Infantry
<b>James Brooks</b>	.....	273rd Infantry
<b>Walter Haag</b>	.....	Divarty
<b>Ward Peterson</b>	.....	269th Engineers
<b>Bill Snidow</b>	.....	661st Tank Destroyers
<b>John McCann</b>	.....	777nd Tank Destroyers

The lack of participation by several units was discussed, and is a significant point. There were no Directors on the 1996 graduating class from the 369th

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**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*(Continued from Page 44)*

Medical Battalion, nor the 461st AAA, therefore there were no nominations for Directors from these units. No further nominations were offered from the floor. Also, due to the death of **Ray Olson** (Class of 1997), **Harold Ruck** was appointed by **President Pierce** to fill this vacancy for a one year term.

**Reunion Site Committee:** **Jim Boris**, Vice President and Chairman of this Committee for 1998 and 1999 advised that of the 60 letters sent out only five responded and none to the affirmative. The focus is west of the Mississippi. Possible areas of consideration are Dallas, Houston, and Fort Worth, to mention a few. **Jim Boris** mentioned using Armed Forces Reunion Services as a possible solution if we are unable to find a Chairman. Positive reports were received from the 94th and 96th Infantry Division Associations. The resolution of this discussion was that, in the view point of **President Pierce**, contracting out our Reunion is not a practical or viable alternative at this time. **President Pierce** will continue to contact persons who will accept the job of Reunion Chairman.

There being no further business to transact the motion was made that the meeting be adjourned. Motion was seconded and carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Respectively submitted,  
**W. C. "Bill" Sheavly**  
*Secretary*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Annual Meeting of  
the General Membership  
69TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN.  
AUGUST 24TH, 1996  
HYATT REGENCY - WOODFIELD  
SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS**

The General Membership meeting was called to order by **President Pierce** at 9:06 a.m. The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by **Joe Wright**.

**First Timers:** Recognition was made of the men who were attending a reunion for the first time, and 11 members were recognized. At this time there were 6 Past Presidents recognized.

**Secretary's Report:** **Secretary Sheavly** did not read the report in its entirety as they had appeared in Volume #49, #1. A thumbnail review of those minutes were read. Only item of major importance was the passage of paid rooms and half rooms for those serving in various capacities. If further information is needed on these minutes it was suggested that the members refer to the Bulletin previously mentioned. Motion

was made and seconded that the Secretary Report be approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** **Treasurer Matlach** covered two financial reports, the first for the year January 1, 1995 to December 31, 1995, and the second, the period from January 1, 1996 to July 31, 1996. The receipts for the first report were \$109,941.84 and expenses \$100,171.61, leaving net change of +\$9,770.65. The greater share of this increase was due to lesser expenses (part of which was a lower price on the banquet) in Myrtle Beach than anticipated, also fewer souvenirs were purchased than normal. We are receiving approximately 7% on the CD investments. The second report showed income of \$84,124.50 and expenses of \$25,843.23, leaving increase of +\$58,281.27. This was due primarily to the escrow money being held for the reunion expenses. Resources as of December 31, 1995 were \$58,221.16 and as of July 31, 1996, \$116,502.43. The full financial statement as printed becomes part of the minutes of this meeting. Motion was made and seconded that the report be accepted. Motion was passed.

**Auditor's Report:** **Auditor Lucci** had checked the Treasurer's records and found everything in order and wished to give the Treasurer thanks for doing a good job. The motion was made and seconded to accept the report. Motion passed.

**Membership Chairman:** Report given by **Bob Kurtzman** who replaced **Clarence Marshall**. **Clarence** sent his regards to all the members. The last report showed 5,317 members, report now shows 5,123 members on the roster. There are 219 members that do not have a unit designation. There were 307 widows and that had now increased to 310. Last year we had 185 members on Taps, this year 200 (in 10 months time). Last year we had 92 new members, and in 1996 we were down to 45. Since July 1st, 1996, **Bob Kurtzman** is submitting 50 names for the Taps list for the next Bulletin. **Bob Kurtzman** reported that about 50% of the 5123 members are dues paying members.

**Bulletin Editor:** **Earl Witzleb** was not in attendance but advised that he will continue for one more year as Bulletin Editor in conjunction with assistance from **Clarence Marshall**.

**Resolutions and By-Laws:** **Gene Butterfield** advised there were no items to consider from a Legal standpoint. He further advised that there are two areas that require consideration for changes in By-Laws, however they cannot be presented to the General Membership for approval until 1997. He advised that the complete record of the Constitution and By-Laws will be printed in the Bulletin, this to be done before further changes should be made.

**Overseas Flower Fund:** **Secretary Sheavly** reported the balance in the Fund to be \$273.68, additional \$150 will be requested for the escrow account

*(Continued on Page 46)*

**ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP**

*(Continued from Page 45)*

In 1995 the suggestion was made that we place flags on the gravesites. After contacting the Embassy in Paris they advised that they will do this for us, at no charge, each April 25th, at the same time as the roses are placed on the sites. At each reunion the photos of these sites are available for the membership review.

**Link-up Memorial Fund:** Neither **Bill Beswick** or **Bud Parsons** were in attendance at the reunion. A financial report was submitted for **Auditor Lucci's** review. Thus far the Memorial Fund has received 251 contributions totaling \$16,109. The disbursements are about \$7800 for flags and sundry expenses. This is a combined effort between the Americans, Germans and Russians. We should be able to receive the final report on the funds and disbursements at the next reunion.

**Schaumburg Reunion:** **Ernie Krause**, Reunion Chairman thanked all who assisted him in the Reunion Activities. There were 530 registered, with 46 guests, and there were 14 first-timers. **Gene Mischke** raised \$265 from the tip boards, funds were for the Hospitality Room. There were 20 members and 9 wives working on this reunion.

**Souvenir Sales:** We are still looking to find a Souvenir Chairman since **Frank Nemeth's** resignation. **Bill** and **Louise Fannucchi** dedicated their entire time in handling the souvenirs at this reunion, and thanks were given for their dedication. Sales were about \$2250 for the reunion.

**Golf Committee Chairman:** **Jim Boris** reported that this Golf Program is self-supporting and does not cost the Association any funds. There were 48 players and 10 were ladies. He awarded the prizes and most of those were in the form of gift certificates redeemable at the Souvenir Counter, therefore keeping the funds within the Association.

**Danvers, Massachusetts Reunion 1997:** Reunion Chairman **Henry Putala** reported that the Reunion will be held at the Tara Ferncroft Hotel and Resort rates will be approximately \$75. Also that most of the items for the Reunion are in line. Some of the tours will be a trip to Boston, Lexington and Concord, and a trip to Salem and Marblehead. Complete directions will be given for Hotel location from the various areas, and will be found in the Bulletin. Shuttle from Airport will be available.

**Nominating Committee:** Report by **Scott Gresham**, Chairman, that the following members would be nominated to serve on the Board of Directors (Class of 1999):

**George Hepp** ..... 569th Signal Company  
**William B. Taylor** ..... 271st Infantry  
**Leo Moore** ..... 272nd Infantry  
**James Brooks** ..... 273rd Infantry

**Walter Haag** ..... Divarty  
**Ward Peterson** ..... 269th Engineers  
**Bill Snidow** ..... 661st Tank Destroyers  
**John McCann** ..... 777nd Tank Destroyers

The lack of participation by several units was discussed, as is a significant point. There were no Directors on the 1996 graduating class from the 369th Medical Battalion nor the 461st AAA, therefore there were no nominations for Directors from these units. There being no further nominations from the floor, the motion was made and seconded that the foregoing be elected for the term indicated. Motion was passed.

Also, due to the death of **Ray Olson** (Class of 1997), **Harold Ruck** was appointed to fill this vacancy for a one year term.

**Future Reunions:** Report was given by **Vice President Jim Boris** concerning activity on future reunions. The thrust of this was to find an area west of the Mississippi, primarily in Dallas, Houston, and the general Texas area. He mailed out 50 to 60 letters and only five responded with none in the affirmative. He emphasized that it is tougher and tougher to find people who will take on the responsibility of Reunion Chairman. He had contacted Armed Force Reunion Services, as a possibility in the event that a Reunion Chairman cannot be located. For 1999, he is examining the Florida area. There are several who may be interested in this assignment.

**Good of the Order:** **Bernie Zaffern** brought up the fact that only 50% of the members pay dues. With the pros and cons it was felt that unless the other 50% pay their dues, they should be eliminated from the Bulletin mailing list. Continued study of this is in order.

**Joe Wright** is handling the Memorial Services at the Banquet and was looking for volunteers to place roses. He explained procedure and need for volunteers even though the individual was not in that particular outfit.

**Walt Harpain** spoke on the History Book being prepared by the Parish Council of Winchester, England of the Chilbolten Airfield, England. It will also include items concerning the American Ground Troops. Send to him any history items that you will be willing to loan.

There being no further business to transact, the motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectively submitted,  
**W. C. Sheavly, Secretary**

**ATTENTION:**

**Be sure to send your Bulletin material in on time so we can get the Bulletin out on time!**

# Attendees by State at the 1996 Schaumburg, Illinois Reunion

STATE	ATTENDANCE
Illinois .....	78
Pennsylvania .....	66
New York .....	35
California .....	34
Florida .....	34
Ohio .....	31
Tennessee .....	24
Michigan .....	20
Wisconsin .....	20
Indiana .....	18
Iowa .....	18
Virginia .....	18
New Jersey .....	17
Missouri .....	16
Massachusetts .....	15
Maryland .....	15
Arkansas .....	10
Colorado .....	9
North Carolina .....	8
Connecticut .....	7
Georgia .....	7
Minnesota .....	7
Texas .....	7
Louisiana .....	6
Nebraska .....	6
Washington .....	6
Alabama .....	5
Arizona .....	5
Oklahoma .....	4
Mississippi .....	3
New Mexico .....	3
Alaska .....	2
Idaho .....	2
Kansas .....	2
Montana .....	2
New Hampshire .....	2
Rhode Island .....	2
Washington, DC .....	1
Canada (Honorary Members) .....	2
	<b>567</b>

SUMMARY	MEMBERS	TOTAL
Total Attendees .....	297	567
First Time Attendees .....	21	33

## TOURS & ACTIVITIES:

Long Grove and Chicago Botanical .....	93
Lake Michigan and Navy Pier .....	225
Gangster .....	214
Chicago City Tour .....	256
Early Bird Buffet .....	204
Cantigny Tour .....	224
Golf Tournament .....	47
PX Beer Party .....	368
Banquet - Dinner Dance .....	509
Farewell Breakfast .....	149

# 1996 Reunion Attendees Schaumburg, Illinois

The following is a list of the attendees at the 1996 Reunion in Schaumburg including members, wives, widows and guests. If your name does not appear, it is because you failed to fill out a Registration Form during your visit.

An asterisk (\*) indicates a First Timer.

## 69th DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

<b>Fred Avery</b> .....	Virginia
<i>Guest: Patricia Avery</i>	
<b>Archie Brooke</b> .....	Virginia
<i>Guest: Vivian Brooke Bailey</i>	
<b>Eugene and Norma Butterfield</b> .....	Ohio
<i>Guests: Bruce and Joyce Butterfield</i>	
<b>*Armond and Melba Conte</b> .....	Illinois
<b>Keith and Colleen Curtis</b> .....	Iowa
<b>Welkos and Jeanne Hawn</b> .....	Colorado
<b>Gordon Kjos</b> .....	Minnesota
<b>Louie Rodgers</b> .....	Tennessee
<b>Dr. Sumner Russman</b> .....	Oklahoma
<i>Guest: Christine Figiel</i>	
<b>Joseph and Eleanor Wright</b> .....	Missouri

## 69th MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

<b>Carl and Ruth Miller</b> .....	Ohio
<b>John Moriarty</b> .....	Massachusetts
<b>Raul Nava</b> .....	California
<b>*Guido Smania</b> .....	Illinois
<b>Frank and Helen Williams</b> .....	Pennsylvania

## 69th QUARTERMASTER

<b>Keith and Mary Loo Mower</b> .....	California
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## 269th ENGINEERS

<b>Ernest and Mary Krause</b> .....	Illinois
<b>Frank and Stefania Nemeth</b> .....	Pennsylvania
<b>Frank and Grace Packard</b> .....	Massachusetts
<b>Ward and Marian Peterson</b> .....	Pennsylvania
<b>William Riggle, Sr.</b> .....	Indiana
<i>Guest: William Riggle, Jr.</i>	

## 369th MEDICAL BATTALION

<b>Earl and Virginia Schwartz</b> .....	Michigan
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## 569th SIGNAL COMPANY

<b>Frank and Geraldine Fisher</b> .....	Indiana
<b>George Hepp</b> .....	New York
<b>Edmus and Frances Hoskins</b> .....	Texas
<b>Joseph Kotsko</b> .....	Ohio
<b>Seymour and Doris Nash</b> .....	New Jersey
<b>Curt and Evelyn Peterson</b> .....	Wisconsin
<b>Donald and Lois Pierce</b> .....	Pennsylvania
<b>Carl and Mildred Stetler</b> .....	Pennsylvania

(Continued on Page 48)

**1996 REUNION ATTENDEES**

**SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS**

*(Continued from Page 47)*

**769th ORDNANCE COMPANY**

**Fred and Catherine Scheller** ..... Illinois

**271st INFANTRY REGIMENT**

**HEADQUARTERS COMPANY**

**John Barrette** ..... Wisconsin

**John and Barbara Davis** ..... Pennsylvania

**Ray and Bertha Jones** ..... Pennsylvania

**Walter and Julia Mueller** ..... Indiana

**1ST BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY**

**Albert and Edith Carbonari** ..... Florida

**COMPANY A**

**Allan and Bobbi Gwynne** ..... California

*Guests: Barbara Miyake and Robertine Kelley*

**Delbert and Donna Philpott** ..... California

**Robert and Jean Ross** ..... Massachusetts

**COMPANY B**

**Lumir and Patsy Bocek** ..... Nebraska

**Martin and Rogene Buol** ..... Florida

**\*Billy and Rochelle Crowder** ..... Missouri

**Philander and Ruth Delphey** ..... Pennsylvania

**Earl and Millie Hansen** ..... Tennessee

**Charles and Peggy Mabe** ..... Pennsylvania

**Elmer and Dorothea Miller** ..... Georgia

**Harold and Cynthia Moore** ..... Tennessee

**Charles and Roseann Nicely** ..... Pennsylvania

**Orrie Pullen** ..... Michigan

**William and Jo Sheehan** ..... New Jersey

**Kenneth and Lillian Upton** ..... Louisiana

**Niel and Betty Ver Merris** ..... Michigan

**Charles and Patricia Walsh** ..... Wisconsin

**James and Barbara Walsh** ..... Connecticut

**Wayne Weygandt** ..... Illinois

*Guest: Thora Miller*

**James and Dorothy White** ..... Tennessee

**COMPANY C**

**Cornelius Crowley** ..... New Mexico

**\*Robert and Florence Klein** ..... Illinois

**\*Max Phillips** ..... Illinois

**COMPANY D**

**John and Jean Butkovich** ..... Washington

**John and Shirley Fleming** ..... Pennsylvania

**John and Dena Tounger** ..... California

**HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2nd BATTALION**

**\*Ralph Andreasen** ..... Illinois

**Donald and Mary Ellen Connelly** ..... Arizona

**Earl and Judy Fox** ..... Tennessee

*Guests: J.E. Fox, J. Barlett, Marilee Adony, Ross*

**COMPANY E**

**Elmer and Erma Broneske** ..... Colorado

**Bob and Betty Dimmick** ..... Georgia

**Glenn Felner** ..... Illinois

*Guest: Tom Felner*

**Grace Glaum** ..... Illinois

*Guest: Doris Glaum*

**Carl Kaiser** ..... California

**Joseph and Jane Kurt** ..... Iowa

**William and Catherine McCall** ..... New Jersey

**Bing Poon** ..... District of Columbia

**Jim and Sally Sharpe** ..... Wisconsin

**William and Marjorie Taylor, Sr.** ..... Florida

**\*Ed and Anita Watzig** ..... Missouri

**COMPANY G**

**Clifton and Pauline Barbieri** ..... Virginia

**Edward and Jacquelyn Chando** ..... New Jersey

**\*Frank and Rose DiFrancisco** ..... New York

**Cecil Fernandez, Jr.** ..... Colorado

*Guests: Bill and Judy Newblom*

**Garland and Martha Gable** ..... Arkansas

*Guest: Wes Gable*

**Clarence and Lena Goon** ..... Ohio

**Nathan Green** ..... New York

**G. Scott and Ann Gresham** ..... Virginia

**N. C. Harrison** ..... Tennessee

**Glenn and Nadine Hunnicutt** ..... Nebraska

**Emery and Patricia Nagy** ..... Tennessee

**Ralph and Josephine Plugge** ..... Illinois

*Guests: Russell and Nancy Plugge,*

*Wayne and Lynda Plugge*

**\*Ronald Rank** ..... Illinois

**David and Mary Kay Scatena** ..... Pennsylvania

**HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION**

**James and Betty Yakle** ..... Florida

**COMPANY I**

**Douglas and Nathalie Buckstad** .. North Carolina

**George Vlad** ..... New York

*Guest: C. Reichelt*

**COMPANY K**

**Robert and Irene Bishop** ..... Massachusetts

**Herb and Pauline Pickett** ..... Arizona

*Guest: James Pickett*

**Travis Wells** ..... Maryland

**COMPANY M**

**Walter and Dorothy Haney** ..... Tennessee

**Joseph and Irma Hansel** ..... Illinois

**Bill and Rheba Sheavly** ..... Maryland

**James and Mary Nelle Shoemaker** ..... Florida

**Henry and Jo Thomas** ..... Florida

**ANTI-TANK COMPANY**

**Edgar Biles** ..... Arkansas

*Guest: Paula and Kelly Johnson*

**George and Lina West** ..... Pennsylvania

*(Continued on Page 49)*

**1996 REUNION ATTENDEES**

**SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS**

*(Continued from Page 48)*

**CANNON COMPANY**

**Harold C. and Nancy Faulkner, Jr.** ..... California  
*Guest: Harold C. Faulkner*

**SERVICE COMPANY**

**Robert Brunsell** ..... Wisconsin  
**Leroy and Maria Keller** ..... Virginia

**272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT**

**COMPANY A**

**James and Mary Battin II** ..... California  
**Domenic Dezio** ..... Michigan  
**Sanford and Nancy Firsichbaum** ..... New Jersey

**COMPANY B**

**Crandon and Jane Clark** ..... New Jersey  
**Nicholas and Kathryn Giannone** ..... New York  
**Richard and Gerry Hadley** ..... Colorado  
**Vincent and Rosemarie Mazza** ..... Maryland  
**Leo and Margaret Moore** ..... Ohio

**COMPANY C**

**Charles Weaver** ..... Ohio

**COMPANY E**

**Fred and Mavis Butenhoff** ..... Wisconsin  
**Charles and Glenna Pierson, Jr.** ..... Florida  
**William Russell** ..... Michigan  
**Chet and Barbara Yastrzemski** ..... New York

**COMPANY F**

**Ray and Ruth Clement** ..... Rhode Island  
**Neil Shields** ..... Pennsylvania  
*Guest: Lillian Jones*  
**Melvin and Louise Wardin** ..... Michigan

**COMPANY G**

**Anees and Barbara Barakat** ..... Pennsylvania  
**Clarence Burke** ..... Pennsylvania  
**Anthony and Mary Curcio** ..... Florida  
**Valentine Frauenhofer** ..... New York  
**Will and Barbara Frazee** ..... Ohio  
**Clement Hudacek** ..... Missouri  
**Ray Lehman** ..... Iowa  
*Guest: Eva Benson*  
**John and Leanna Shumaker** ..... Illinois

**COMPANY H**

**Robert and Jean Bassindale** ..... Illinois  
**\*Robert and Anne Fredrikson** ..... Illinois  
**Marshall and June Mussay** ..... Illinois  
**George and Phyllis Pearson** ..... Indiana  
*Guests: Bunnie and Calvin Waxman*  
**\*Henry and Lynn Rooney** ..... Indiana

**HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION**

**Wade and Marcia Drysdale** ..... Washington  
**C R. and Patricia Hoffman, Jr.** ..... Alabama  
**John and Florence Walters** ..... Michigan

**COMPANY I**

**Frank Aplan** ..... Pennsylvania  
**Fred Fiedler** ..... Wisconsin  
**Kenneth and Edris Hull** ..... New Mexico  
**Robert and Vivian Kurtzman** ..... Ohio  
**Pat and Janice Lushbaugh** ..... Maryland  
**Edward McDonnell** ..... New York  
**Emanuel and Edythe Rind** ..... Virginia  
**Harold and Ethel Ruck** ..... Tennessee  
**Ernie and Marion Slovak** ..... Wisconsin  
**Thomas Yelcich, Jr.** ..... Michigan

**COMPANY K**

**Stanley and Laurene Knedlik** ..... Alaska  
**\*Harold and Laverne Zeiger** ..... Michigan

**COMPANY L**

**Walter and Arlene Elsner** ..... Florida  
**Russell and Rosanna Meinecke** ..... Missouri  
**John Nelson** ..... New Jersey  
**Bernard and Edith Zaffern** ..... Michigan

**COMPANY M**

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

**ANTI-TANK COMPANY**

**\*John and Lois Brockwell** ..... Illinois  
**Roy and Marjorie Bush** ..... Missouri  
**Donald and Libby Calhoun** ..... Florida  
**Urno and Evelyn Gustafson** ..... Pennsylvania  
**Russell and Betty Koch** ..... Missouri  
**Raymond and Janet Sansoucy** ..... Massachusetts  
**Dallas and Laura Shelton** ..... Illinois  
**\*Darwin and Ethelda Van Houten** ..... Michigan  
**\*Robert and Annette Walter** ..... Iowa

**CANNON COMPANY**

**Peter and Helen Garstecki** ..... Pennsylvania  
**Ralph and Ursula Goebel** ..... Minnesota

**273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT**

**HEADQUARTERS COMPANY**

**Norman and Kathryn Barratt** ..... California  
**Charles and Gladys Hughes** ..... Pennsylvania

**HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1st BATTALION**

**Harold and Eileen Pederson** ..... Illinois  
**Ralph and Cecilia Scholtz** ..... Florida  
*Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Scholtz*  
**Arthur and Bobbie Seidenstricker** ..... Pennsylvania

*(Continued on Page 50)*

**1996 REUNION ATTENDEES**  
**SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS**  
*(Continued from Page 49)*

**COMPANY A**

**James Brooks** ..... Georgia  
**James and Mary Carroll** ..... Texas  
**Wilbert and Rose Mary Haas** ..... Iowa  
**Edward Lucci** ..... New York  
**William Nettles** ..... Mississippi  
**George O'Bryan** ..... California  
*Guest: Delores Spratt*  
**Pierce Rice** ..... Virginia  
**Bennie and Marcella Srubar** ..... Texas

**COMPANY B**

**Glen and Jean Knepp** ..... Pennsylvania  
**Eugene and Marilyn Mischke** ..... Illinois

**COMPANY C**

**Stanley and Gloria Czyzyk** ..... New York

**COMPANY D**

**Arthur Ayres** ..... Pennsylvania  
**Thomas Black** ..... Iowa  
**Allan and Mary Blackmar** ..... New York  
**Ed and Mary Case** ..... Pennsylvania  
**Harry and Alberta Chandler** ..... Washington  
**Roland and Janice Hendrickson** ..... Oregon  
**George and Barbara Johnson** ..... Virginia  
**Robert and Betty Jo McCarty, Jr.** ..... Louisiana  
**\*Daniel Murphy** ..... Illinois  
**Kenneth Sawyer** ..... Florida  
*Guest: Fran Collard*  
**\*George Thomas** ..... Illinois

**COMPANY E**

**Robert Crowe** ..... Massachusetts  
**Arthur and Marian Hume** ..... Michigan  
**William and Jane Matlach** ..... New York  
**Harold and Peggy Sprang** ..... Ohio

**COMPANY F**

**Gilbert and Marion Clark** ..... Pennsylvania  
**John and Marjorie Fain** ..... Florida  
**Walter and Shirley Harpain** ..... California  
**\*Stanley Olszyk** ..... Indiana  
**Frederic and Mary Ellen Scherer** ..... New Jersey  
**Sam and Anne Woolf** ..... New York

**COMPANY G**

**Alfred and Elizabeth Aronson** ..... New Jersey  
**Raymond Hotter** ..... Illinois  
*Guests: Raymond and Trease Hotter*  
**Joe and Diane Panganiban** ..... California  
**Edson and Tory Stagg** ..... New Jersey

**COMPANY H**

**Robert and Roberta Andrew** ..... Pennsylvania  
**Bertram and Rhoda Eckert** ..... New York  
**Robert and Maxine Haag** ..... Indiana  
**Thomas Hoffman** ..... Florida  
**Leland and Lola Jones** ..... Kansas

**HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION**

**Marvin and Miriam Freeman** ..... Connecticut  
**Joseph and Caroline Gawek** ..... North Carolina  
*Guests: Susan and John Sweeney*  
**C. R. Hoffman** ..... Alabama  
**David and Miriam Malchick** ..... New York  
**John and Marjorie Mihm** ..... Pennsylvania  
**Robert and Judy Miller** ..... Maryland  
**John and Judy Sneary** ..... Ohio  
**Earl and Anna Walters** ..... Pennsylvania

**COMPANY I**

**William and Beverly Armstrong** ..... Iowa  
*Guest: Gary Armstrong*  
**Justin and Robbie Bloom** ..... Maryland  
**James and Audrey Castrale** ..... Nebraska  
**Paul and Elaine Eagon** ..... Illinois  
**\*Alvin Glaser** ..... California  
**James and Dodie Long** ..... Illinois  
**Carl and Bernice Macknair** ..... Pennsylvania  
**John and Lorna Penny** ..... Illinois  
**Robert and Theresa Pierce** ..... California  
**Erwin and Carmen Sanborn** ..... New Hampshire  
**John Sullivan, Jr.** ..... Virginia  
**Nicholas Villacci** ..... New York

**COMPANY K**

**Oliver and Vera Coker** ..... Arkansas  
**Lloyd Lippman** ..... Montana  
*Guest: Jeannie Pfeffer*  
**James and Dora Telenko** ..... Pennsylvania

**COMPANY L**

**Eldon and Marjie Atwood** ..... California

**CANNON COMPANY**

**Arlie and Parley Boswell** ..... Illinois  
*Guest: Brad Boswell*  
**Mary Ross** ..... New Jersey  
**Lee Wilson** ..... California

**SERVICE COMPANY**

**George Rico** ..... Illinois  
*Guest: Sasha Gerritson*

**DIVISION ARTILLERY**

**Charles and Edith Chapman** ..... Virginia

**724th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**

**BATTERY A**

**Franklin and Phyllis Diekman** ..... Illinois  
**Marvin Fineberg** ..... Minnesota  
**William Ruebsamen** ..... California

**BATTERY B**

**George and Maureen Bosnich** ..... Indiana  
**Thomas and Helen Heath** ..... New York

*(Continued on Page 51)*

**1996 REUNION ATTENDEES  
SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS**  
*(Continued from Page 50)*

**BATTERY C**

Al and Polly DiLoretto ..... Ohio  
Robert Hollister ..... New York  
Coy and Erline Horton ..... North Carolina  
Robert and Libby Inyart ..... Illinois  
Louis and Chucki Psaltis ..... Illinois  
John Rosenbrock ..... California  
Harold Wepler ..... Ohio  
*Guest: Edna Butzin*

**879th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**

**HEADQUARTERS BATTERY**

Henry Parker ..... Illinois

**BATTERY C**

Fred and Patricia Crane ..... Iowa  
Robert and Alice Stern ..... Ohio

**880th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**

**HEADQUARTERS BATTERY**

Stanley and Georgia Bratt ..... Illinois  
John and Doris Cooper ..... Illinois  
Eugene and Carolyn McGreevy ..... Maryland  
Robert and Marilyn McKee ..... Maryland  
\*Floyd Nadel and Guest ..... Iowa  
John and Margaret O'Connor ..... Illinois  
Mike and Lucille Pendrick ..... Arkansas  
William and Katherine Suckel ..... Ohio

**SERVICE BATTERY**

William and Loretta Stump ..... Indiana

**881st FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**

**BATTERY A**

Francis and Zita Enright ..... Wisconsin

**BATTERY B**

James and Tillie Boris ..... Pennsylvania  
\*Barney DeStefano ..... Florida  
Walter Haag ..... California  
Louis Lineburgh and Guest ..... Ohio  
James Moen ..... Minnesota  
Gilbert and Susan Rocco ..... Pennsylvania  
Phillip and Harriet Sparacino ..... Wisconsin

**BATTERY C**

Joseph and Sybil Conner, Jr. .... Georgia  
George and Ruth Ehll ..... Missouri  
*Guest: Michael Ehll*  
Stephen and Ruth Gilman ..... Illinois  
Lester Hart ..... Ohio  
Hugh and Dorothy Milstead ..... Tennessee  
Paul Molinari ..... Connecticut  
Eugene and Arlene Shollenberger ... Pennsylvania  
*Guest: Don Startz*  
George and Jennie Vasil ..... Massachusetts

**SERVICE BATTERY**

Stephen Rojcewicz ..... Massachusetts

**661st TANK DESTROYERS**

Eugene and Ethel Pierron ..... Wisconsin

**777th TANK BATTALION**

Neil and Eileen Corcoran ..... Illinois  
William and Louise Fannucchi ..... Illinois  
Alex and Florence Lasseigne ..... Louisiana  
John and Ellen McCann ..... Massachusetts  
Henry and Jean Putala ..... Connecticut  
Billy Ray ..... Texas  
Victor Tedesco ..... Minnesota  
*Guest: Edward Eberhardt*

Gaylord Thomas ..... Wisconsin  
Robert Weise ..... New York  
Charles and Edna White ..... Oklahoma  
Alex Zubrowski ..... New York

**HONORARY MEMBERS**

Wilfred and Ollie Ferda ..... Ontario, Canada

**Belgium Man Searches  
for Info Regarding  
U.S. Military Police**

**Eric Verlinden**  
Halensebaan, 8  
3461 Molenbeek - Wersbeek  
Belgium

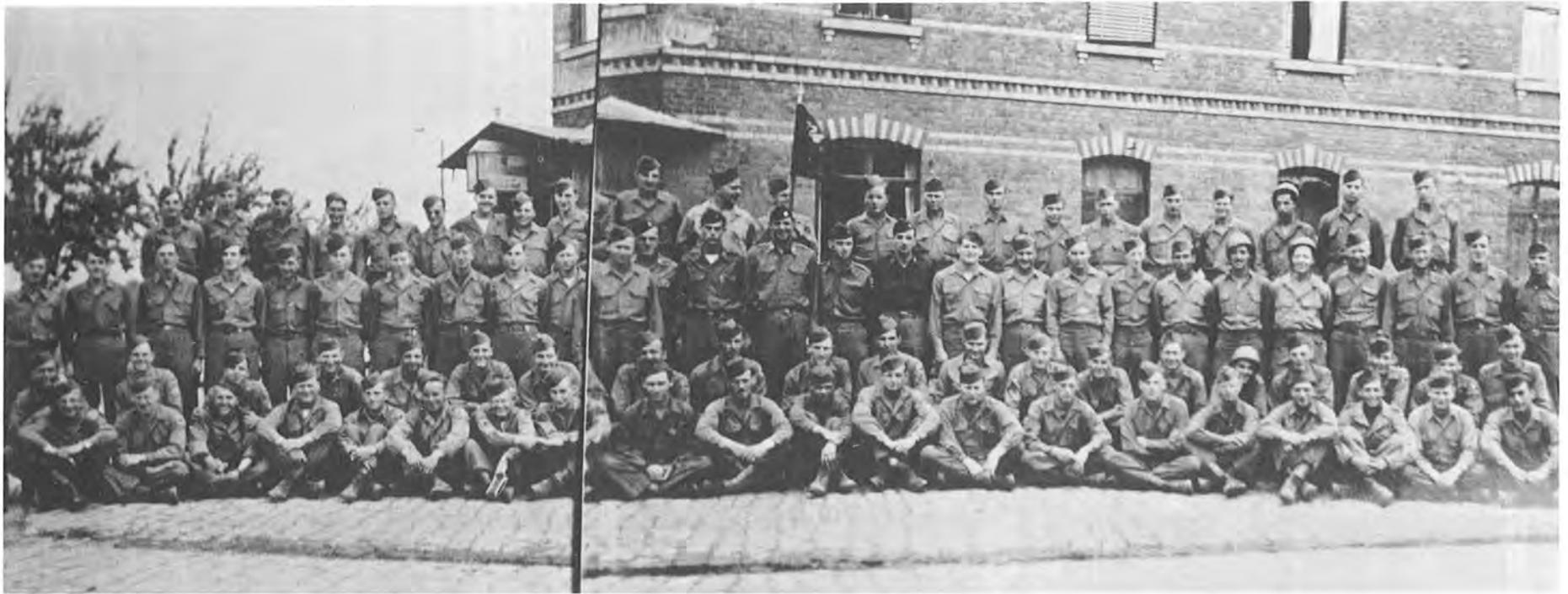
I take the liberty of writing you this letter in the hope that you are able to help me with my research about the U.S. Military Police Forces during WWII.

As an NCO in the Belgium Armed Forces I'm interested in Military History and especially the U.S. Military Police during WWII. I hope one day to have enough information and items about the Military Police Forces during WWII so I could write a book about those "forgotten" men. At this moment the only book that I know is published by the U.S. Army Center of Military History at Washington, D.C. I have found out that this book is not complete because I have already information about MP Units which are not mentioned in this book. The book I would like to write would be about the different equipment and items those men used and a little history of different MP Units, but at this moment it is progressing very slowly, for this reason I ask you if you could help me and give me some addresses or put me in contact with former MP members of your Unit or other Units.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Hey MPs, please write to Eric at the address above and help him with his project.)*

# Battery C, 724th Field Artillery Battalion Germany - June 1945

Submitted by: **John W. Turner**, P.O. Box 1645, Decatur, Georgia 30031-1645



## **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

# The Advance to Witzenhausen

**Richard W. Bell**, *Company D, 272nd Infantry*  
16152 42nd Avenue  
Florence, South Dakota 57235-5617

I drove a jeep with a trailer for an 81mm mortar squad of D Company, 272nd Regiment. As a heavy weapons company, D Company had 18 jeeps. With this many jeeps, we were constantly being called on to furnish jeeps for patrols and motorized "points." Usually three riflemen were carried per jeep. As a result I was called on with others of my company to go on many patrols into unknown territory, and to form up the "point" for more rapid advances.

My first experience at going out on motorized patrol was when Dahlem was captured in Germany. Three motorized patrols were sent out into the area east of Dahlem, and the patrol I was part of occupied Waldorf until relieved the next day.

On April 6th east of Kassel, **Lieutenant Griffith** from Battalion Headquarters requested 3 D-Company jeeps to be point for the Battalion's advance through hilly, forested country to Witzenhausen on the Werra River. **Nelson, Rackliff** and I were chosen. This is the account of one motorized "point."

The 69th Division had relieved the 319th Infantry of the 80th Division of Patton's Third Army in this area, and we were reorganizing to advance eastward out of this territory. Heading the advance was our battalion, the first battalion of the 272nd Infantry of the 69th Division.

**Lieutenant Clark** of B Company was in charge of the point. Men from his rifle platoon got in **Rackliff's** and my jeeps, and **Clark** rode in **Nelson's**. The point consisted of **Nelson's** jeep in front, **Rackliff's** behind him, then mine, with three riflemen in **Rackliff's** and my jeeps. Behind us were 2 armored recon cars, each with a 50-caliber machine gun and behind them were two tank destroyers and 4 tanks. **Captain Carter** from C Company and some of his men were riding on the tanks.

We pulled out of town and advanced very slowly and cautiously. The point spread out so far as not to offer a concentrated target to the Jerrys. The first mile or two were uneventful, but when we came to a turn in the road in the hilly, forested terrain, **Lieutenant Clark** could not see around the corner, so he asked **Nelson** to scout ahead on foot and take a look around the corner. **Nelson** did this, and reported back to **Lieutenant Clark** that he saw no soldiers ahead, around the corner, at least not out in the open.

We were coming down a slight hill within about a half mile of the next town. There was a very violent explosion in the town just above the rooftops, and a white flash passed right over us. It was the muzzle blast of a German tank gun aimed at us. The streak

had been the shell going over us. The muzzle blast had appeared just above the rooftops because the two German tanks we later discovered were parked on a hill behind the town, firing their cannons over the roofs of the buildings.

The tank guns of the Germans fired a very high velocity shell with a flat trajectory like a rifle bullet. The guns had special muzzle brakes to cut down on the terrific recoil. The shells aimed at us were tracers and we could see them when they flashed by. They were aimed at the armored cars and tanks behind us.

The road we were on was a narrow one, with shallow ditches which were about a foot wide and a foot deep and full of water. We piled out of the jeeps into the ditches for what little cover they offered, getting soaking wet in the process.

Our tank destroyers began returning the German tank fire and the armored cars peppered the town and our surroundings with 50 caliber machine guns. Two more German shells came right over us. We were lucky they missed the target and went ricocheting off across the fields. I was in the ditch beside one recon armored car and the 50 caliber machine gun was jamming and the sergeant running it had a bad time, but he stayed right out there in the open turret and kept firing it a shot at a time as the gun refused to fire automatically. The gunner was getting arm weary from cocking the gun for each shot.

Suddenly an old man appeared in the road at the edge of the town, waving a large white flag. Firing from both sides stopped and we climbed out of the ditches and got in our jeeps. Slowly and cautiously we approached the old man, who was probably the Burgomeister of the town. White flags appeared all over town. The old man did not want his town to be destroyed and the German tanks had been driven back by our anti-tank guns of the tank destroyers.

**Lieutenant Clark** proceeded into town with the old man riding on the hood of **Nelson's** jeep. There were about a hundred German soldiers in the beer hall who had absorbed enough punishment and surrendered to our column. They had been fanatically resisting our advance for three days.

We continued our advance through the town, and just past town we saw the tracks in the road of the tanks which had fired at us. They were huge trucks, and about 8 feet apart from tread to tread.

We were coming into a thickly forested area which began at the edge of town. We proceeded slowly and cautiously. **Captain Carter** was riding on the tanks with C Company troops. He tried to cheer us up with a little pep talk.

*(Continued on Page 54)*

## THE ADVANCE TO WITZENHAUSEN

(Continued from Page 53)

It was about five o'clock in the evening now. We moved slowly, eyes straining to see through the dark forest on all sides of us. Suddenly someone shouted "There's Jerry infantry in the woods on both sides of us." The Germans were attempting an ambush. Some German soldiers ran across a little open spot about a half a block in front of us. **Lieutenant Clark** jumped out of the jeep and started firing at them. The GIs riding with me shouted, "Let's go up and help the lieutenant." As we proceeded forward, a German machine gun started firing from a house at our left and another machine gun started up from the second story window of a house on our right. The armored cars opened up with their 50 caliber machine guns and shot the Jerrys in the window. They sprayed the forest on both sides of us with bullets. The tank destroyer moved up and began firing at the German tanks. The noise was terrific, with bullets and shells ricocheting all over the place. **Nelson's** and **Rackliff's** jeeps were hit by bullets, but not disabled.

I was running crouched down on the road, trying to get behind the armored car behind my jeep and into the ditch for cover from all the flying ordnance. Just as I was beside the armored car, which was firing its 50 caliber machine gun, the ammunition box on the gun was hit by a bullet, which missed the gunner by inches. The ammo started burning and the gunner removed the ammo box from the gun and threw it on the road in front of me. I jumped over it and leaped into the ditch for cover. I almost landed on one of the C Company guys. They were coming up from the tanks they were riding on to help us.

The gunner on the armored car stayed right out in his open turret and put a new box of ammo on the gun and continued to fire at the Germans.

It was now growing dark with the onset of night. Our fire power drove the Germans back and they were withdrawing down the crooked, mountain type road.

Due to the resistance the Germans were giving to our advance, our pursuit of the Germans was continued after dark on foot. Foot troops advanced in the dark and come daylight, we entered the town of Klein Almerode. Snipers in the woods fired on the foot troops and **Captain Carter** of C Company was shot in the leg. He was evacuated by jeep on a stretcher and the snipers were driven away.

Two German officers in a vehicle did not know we had advanced so far during the night and ran smack into our point. One tried to flee on foot and was shot. The other surrendered. The dead officer lay in the road with his false teeth popped out of his mouth.

As daylight came, the advance continued to Witzzenhausen on the Werra River. Troops crossed the river in boats and amphibious jeeps. The engineers built a bridge across the river and the advance into Germany continued.

## The lighter side of war

**Stephen J. Rojewicz**, 881st Field Artillery

135 Endicott Street

Worcester, Massachusetts 01610-1944

My combat days were in the artillery, which means we were "wagon soldiers" as the song goes. The wagons in World War II were vehicles, of course.

In training at Camp Shelby the brass got the idea of making me a driver. So, one very hot day, **Corporal Crawford** got the assignment to test me.

The first situation was a vehicle G.P. "general purpose" jeep as it came to be called. The corporal drove it into a sand pit and told me to start out fast. I put it in gear, stepped on the accelerator and managed to spin the wheels beautifully. The NCO said, "You should have engaged all four wheels."

Next was a truck known as a weapons carrier. Here he drove it into woods with low bushes everywhere. "Back up 50 yards looking only in the mirror," was the command. All that was visible to me were the bushes so straight back we went all of 20 feet before it would go no more.

Finally we were in a six-by-six with a two wheel trailer. **Corporal Crawford**, bless him, now ordered me to turn it around. In full uniform with helmet and about 115 degrees in the shade, it took me half an hour to do so.

Well, ladies may glow but men just sweat. There wasn't a dry centimeter of skin on me.

So what? Never a word came about my becoming a driver. And fellow vet **Crawford**, if you read these lines, thank you for being such a patient gentleman.

\* \* \* \* \*

This little story does not make any of several battery mates heroes. Maybe in these days of pollution awareness and concern for all life - human, animal and plant, it casts a bit of shame.

We were in a pretty German town which had an artificial pond and boats along the shore. It was evening and some men called me to go sailing with them. Why not? Obviously some of them knew how to sail.

There was a gentle breeze and we were going along fine when the water around the boat began to boil. No one seemed worried so I just sat tight. Soon it happened again and this time I saw what caused it. Some guys were fishing. How? They were throwing hand grenades into the pond. Sure enough, a little fish, a "pumpkin seed" floated to the top. The boat was moving quite slowly and if memory serves me right, a grenade goes off five seconds after activation.

Happily, there were no more grenades. We reached shore and my quick words were, "Good night, fellows."

That was April, 1945. I'm trying hard to remember the next time I went sailing but that is impossible. You see, that was my first and last sailing experience.

# From the 1945 manuscript of a 69th Soldier

Written by: **Paul H. Eagon**  
*Company I, 273rd Infantry*  
1435 North Avenue  
Waukegan, Illinois 60085

As I start this manuscript, it is just one year ago since I boarded ship to come to Europe. We left our barracks in Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, and boarded trains going to the New York harbor. We were carrying a duffel bag, full field pack, gas mask, rifle and wearing steel helmets. I was with Sergeant White, the supply sergeant. We carried two boxes of Supply records extra.

We got off the trains in New York, and walked for about one-quarter of a mile. Here we got on a ferry to go out to the docks and our ship. At the docks were Red Cross girls with coffee and doughnuts. As our name was called, we went aboard the ship, the Santa Maria. It was a small ship with a capacity of 1600 men. We went down into the compartments and were shoved into our bunks. After a while, we took our packs off and tried to make ourselves as comfortable as possible in the small space available. We stayed most of the night. When we went out on deck in the morning, we were out on the high seas.

We were issued a meal ticket and had to stand in line for long periods of time to get our meals. We had only two meals a day breakfast and supper, plus a snack, consisting of a cheese sandwich or cheese and crackers, at noon.

In the afternoon on the deck, we would have some sort of entertainment such as boxing, etc.

We were in a large convoy and on all sides of us were other ships. Men started getting seasick and the whole boat began stinking of vomit. Men hung over the rail, vomiting at all times. After a few days, everyone was over his seasickness.

The washing facilities were very bad. We had only salt water in which to wash. After fourteen days, we could see land, the coast of England and the Isle of Wight. In the afternoon of the 28th of November, we docked at Southampton, England. We had to stay on ship until the next night, when we put on all our gear and proceeded to debark. We got off in a large warehouse to be met by Red Cross girls with coffee and doughnuts. We lined up and got on trains and started blackout, for parts unknown to us. We stopped in Basingstoke, England. Trucks were waiting there for us. They took us out to an old, deserted mushroom farm called Oakridge Farms. This was a very undesirable place to go. Everything was in a poor state of repair. We were tired and went to sleep almost immediately.

In a few days, we were given passes to go into town, Basingstoke. There was a Red Cross club there and plenty of English pubs. The girls were friendly to us.

In a short time, we organized dances at our camp for once a week. The girls were transported by all available army vehicles. The dances were a great success.

Sometime later, we were granted passes to London, some sixty miles away. Most of us went. We enjoyed London - saw the Parliament building, Buckingham Palace, 10 Downing Street, Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, Madame Toussards Wax Museum and other places of interest. Also, had our share of experience with the "Piccadilly Commando's," prostitutes in the Piccadilly Circus area.

Then came the famous bulge about Christmas time. Almost immediately, many of the men in our company were pulled out - 60 in all - and whisked to France for replacements.

Then the last of January, we were all sent to Southampton, to go to the continent. Again, we boarded ship to cross the English Channel. Bad weather came and we were on the channel for two days. We landed on the shores of France at LeHarve. We went ashore. It was cold and wet. We looked all over the town which was very much destroyed by bombing and artillery. In the afternoon, we got on large Quartermaster trucks and rode for 10 hours across France. It was so cold and it started to snow. We got out blankets and covered ourselves the best we could. The trucks had no tops and we were so many in them, crowded like sardines. After a ten-hour ride, we stopped somewhere in France, at an old French chateau. We were frozen! Many men had frosted feet. We slept in a barn there. It was so cold, we were miserable. We stayed there for about a week. There was a little French tavern where it was warm and we could get hard cider to drink. We drank much cider and it was strong enough to help keep us a little warm - and tipsy.

We went from there to Soisson, France, where we lived in tents. We got new men there and **Sergeant White, Peterson** and I worked day and night getting them properly equipped. Mud was ankle deep there. From there we went to a place in Belgium, for a few days. By now we could see the scars of recent war in the area - dead soldiers, etc. along the road. Burnt tanks here and there.

Then came the word that we would be in the lines within the next forty-eight hours. The very thought of this had made us all shiver a little and add a few gray hairs here and there.

We started by truck and arrived along the international road between Belgium and Germany. We got off in the woods and waited to start. We marched up a road and there is where we got our first glimpse of the famous German dragon teeth, concrete tank fortifications. We marched on up this road and stopped, and

*(Continued on Page 56)*

**FROM THE 1945 MANUSCRIPT  
OF A 69th SOLDIER** *(Continued from Page 55)*

stood and waited. Men came out of a pillbox, concrete bunker (German), and we went in. It was dark and wet and 6 inches of water on the floor. We had only the light of bottles of gasoline with rags for wicks. We were as black as could be in a few hours.

The next morning, we heard the first report of war. The Germans were firing artillery on our position. We always had four guards around the pillbox. When we were on guard and they threw artillery, we would hit the mud and hope it didn't come close.

For two weeks, we stayed in this place. At night, we formed patrols and carried food and water to men who were out further in the lines. After this, we moved out to take a hill to our right front. After getting the hill and holding it for two days, we were relieved by another regiment of our division. We were pulled out of the line and sent to another small pocket to the north. For about a week, we cleaned out woods and roamed the hills in quest of Germans. In a few days, we went to another area. A town by the name of Hechen was our home for some 10 days. In the meantime, we were being pushed out by the divisions on our right and left.

Our next move was just west of the Rhine River. After crossing it, we went like hell toward the heart of Germany, taking a town, staying all night, and jumping off the next morning for another. We rode trucks and tanks most of the time. Near the end of the big push, we went to the town of Colditz, a few miles southeast of Leipzig. We lost several men here. The defenders of this town were a few S.S. troops and young children. It was here that some of my best buddies were killed. We formed a security at Colditz, while other elements of the division captured Leipzig.

The close of the war was very near now and all over all fronts, Germans were surrendering faster than we could take care of them.

Then came the glorious V-E Day. It was very much expected and was very little of a surprise to all of us. The men were relieved and weary of war by this time. There were no displays of celebrations such as in London and New York, or other places all over the world.

We were at this time located at a large airfield near Leipzig, called Polenz Field. We set up a D.P. Camp and for weeks were processing some 20,000 displaced persons, including French, Poles, Norwegian army officers, etc. We also dealt with Russian personnel.

We went to Leipzig, nearby in the evenings. There were clubs with plenty of beer available; also, some movies had been arranged by the Army.

Near the end of May, our division was broken up and many of us went to the 29th Division of which I was one. The 29th was occupation in the Bremen Enclave area. We did regular security duty there.

I was on special duty at the Regimental Brewery. There I lived the life of Riley. I did nothing at all for the 3 months I was there. The people living there were a wonderful German family - a man, his wife and their 19-year old daughter. I grew fond of these people for they were typical of so many Germans who did not know what it had all been about.

To we Americans, the German people were a very strange lot and we could not understand them. For a bar of chocolate or a few cigarettes, you could sleep with a fraulein all night. They had no morals or shame. They were firm believers in "free love."

In November, I was transferred to Berlin. I didn't like the Berlin District at all. Here I saw the true German. They were all out for everything they could get. The black market was flourishing and enormous prices were being paid for a little food. More than once I have stood on a street and watched them - the hard, cruel, defeated German. I have seen young men crippled from the war trying to get on a street car and the able bodied shove him aside to fall in the street. I can remember one instance when I was getting on a trolley myself, that a young man on crutches with one leg gone was trying to get on also. Not one of the others would help him; rather, they shoved him aside. Soft-hearted American that I am, and I am an average American, I made it plain in my best German, that the crippled man was going to get on that trolley if I had to personally throw all the rest of them off. They made room and I helped him on the trolley. I will never forget the stupefied look on his face when I did it. He could not realize that I, who had helped defeat him, I who could have possibly been responsible for the loss of his leg, would stand up for him now. He merely smiled his thanks at me.

Another time on an icy street about 50 yards in front of me, an old man slipped and fell. He could not get back on his feet; he was carrying a pack of some sort and simply could not get up. Civilians passed him in large numbers. Not one of them helped him. I came up to him and picked him up. All this shows what the average German is today in the wake of his defeat.

In the meantime, I have gone from the company to the battalion as the Sgt. Major to handle the administrative details of the battalion. And every day, I see more of the once proud and haughty German. Today he is doing one thing. He is striving to exist and has no regard whatsoever for his fellow countryman.

## **Send in Those Stories!**

Remember, we still need you fellows to send in those stories and recollections so we have good material for our bulletins. We have had a good response lately, but we need you to keep it up. We are waiting to hear from you. Ladies, send in your memories from those days, also.

# Company G, 272nd Infantry Regiment at Camp Shelby, Mississippi

Submitted by: **Michael Kertis**, 12 Camille Lane, Millsboro, Delaware 19966-8806



*Willy Brown with rifle,  
Michael Kertis with shovel.*



*Unknown -  
Note the leggings we wore.*



*Tony Curcio  
from Ashtabula, Ohio*



*Staff Sergeant  
Michael Kertis*



*Crap game at Camp Shelby  
I don't know who they are, but remember the fun we had.*

*Anyone who can identify any of these people, please write to Michael Kertis  
at the address above and let him know.*

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

**APRIL 20th to 24th, 1997**  
**CALIFORNIA WESTERN CHAPTER**  
**1997 SPRING ROUND-UP**  
**MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA**

Sights to see in Monterey include: Cannery Row, the colorful locale of John Steinbeck's novels "Cannery Row" and "Sweet Thursday." The Fisherman's Wharf Area has a multitude of shops and restaurants.

17-Mile Drive, the scenic route from Pacific Grove to Carmel. Points of interest include Seal Rock, Cypress Point and Lone Cypress. Also on the route is the famous Pebble Beach Golf Course. Monterey Bay Aquarium, one of the largest aquariums in the world. Maritime Museum with the collections of Allen Knight, a seaman who built a stone ship next to his home so he could store his collection of artifacts.

Monterey State Historic Park. 17 acres of the historical and architectural heritage of old Monterey Bay. Spirit of Monterey Wax Museum with its displays of local historic figures.

Write to: **Del Philpott**  
 P.O. Box 2014  
 Sunnyvale, California 94087-0014  
 Telephone: 408/739-0308

**MAY 8th to MAY 10th, 1997**  
**MID-WEST GROUP SPRING MEETING**  
**Radisson Inn, 517 Grand Canyon Drive**  
**MADISON, WISCONSIN**

Telephone: 608/833-0100 • Reservations: 800-333-3333  
 Rate: \$74.00 plus tax  
 Located on west side of Madison, off Hwy. 12, take exit 255 (Gammon Rd.) north to first stoplight, turn right on Odana Rd. to first stoplight, turn right to hotel entrance. A block of rooms will be held for us until April 8th, 1997. They are busy so make your reservation early.

Thursday, May 8th: Check in time, 3:00 p.m.  
 Shopping Malls, Hospitality Room  
 Dinner at Smoky's Club (voted #1 steakhouse)

Friday, May 9th: Golf at Tumbledown Trails. Tours for non-golfers include: Elvehjem Museum of Art, Veteran's Museum and Forest Products Laboratory. Lunch at Elks Lodge. Dinner at Bailiwicks.

Saturday, May 20th: On Your Own. Check out time, 12:00  
**Committee: Curt and Evelyn Peterson**  
 4900 Wallace Avenue  
 Madison, Wisconsin 53716  
 Telephone: 608/222-7957

**August 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 1997**  
**69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**  
**50th ANNUAL REUNION**

**Danvers, Massachusetts (BOSTON)**

**FERNCROFT TARA, FERNCROFT ROAD**

Reservations: 1-800/843-8272 • Hotel: 508/750-7991

RATES: \$72.00 PLUS - Single, Double, Triple, Quad

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

**COMMITTEE:**

**Henry and Jean Putala, Co-Chairpersons - C-777th Tank Battalion**

1139 River Boulevard, Suffield, Connecticut 06078-1416 • Telephone: 860/668-0066

**Committee Members:** John and Ellen McCann, George and Jennie Vasil, Robert and Irene Bishop, Robert and Jean Ross, Edward Gallagher, Robert Crowe, Stuart Mandell, Erwin and Carmen Sanborn



## “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.

**John W. Fish**  
409 North Montana Avenue  
Norton, Indiana  
C - 724th F.A.

**Morton H. Clifford**  
4981 Mission Hills Drive  
Banning, California  
K - 273rd

**Wilmer H. Banik**  
265 Le Cato Avenue  
Audubon, New Jersey  
L - 272nd

**Charles A. Chastine**  
30 Springside Drive  
Henderson, North Carolina  
I - 272nd

**Louis H. Cotoio**  
2609 West Webster Road  
Royal Oak, Michigan  
C - 661st T.D.

**J. A. Dube**  
560 Cumberland Hill Road  
Woonsocket, Rhode Island  
SC - 271st

**Mike Hlad**  
4 Chartiers Terrace, #4  
Carnegie, Pennsylvania  
C - 271st

**Emerson M. Hough**  
9812 Ashley Place  
Village, Oklahoma  
M - 271st

**John Longworth**  
6057 South Lamar Drive  
Littleton, Colorado  
Med - 272nd, 273rd

**Dread Mattox**  
224 Greenhaven Road  
Dundee, Florida  
G - 272nd

**Past President Walter Doernbach, Sr.**  
1304 West Amaranth Street  
Egg Harbor, New Jersey  
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**John O'Shaughnessey**  
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Hq. - 661st T.D.

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F - 272nd

**Rudy Weidman**  
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Vevay, Indiana  
Cannon - 272nd

**Alden Angline**  
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Lenoire, North Carolina  
D - 461st AAA

**Robert Cosby**  
2400 Cudliff Avenue  
Mechanicsville, Pennsylvania  
B - 269th

**John O. Hilderbrand, Jr.**  
3002 Robinhood Lane  
South Bend, Indiana  
H&S - 880th F.A.

**Conrad Hooten**  
R.R. #2, Box 111  
W. Baden Springs, Indiana  
A - 273rd

**John C. Shepherd**  
2617 27th Street  
Parkersburg, West Virginia  
AT - 271st

**Victor B. Woo**  
2136 13th Avenue  
Oakland, California  
69th QM

**Roy Gilstrap**  
P.O. Box 54  
Chickamauga, Georgia  
H1 - 273rd

**Roy Olson**  
2 Tudor Drive  
Pompton Lakes, New Jersey  
A - 272nd

**Orvis Davis**  
Route 4, Box 216  
Keyser, West Virginia  
B - 271st

**David Ferguson**  
Box 211  
Roscoe, Pennsylvania  
B - 661st T.D.

**John J. Pszekaza**  
4533 Tenth Street N.W.  
Canton, Ohio  
B - 269th

**John R. Van Fossen**  
112 South Arch Street  
Barnesville, Ohio  
E - 272nd, Dec. 1944  
(not on roster)

**William Foust**  
P.O. Box 413  
Murrysville, Pennsylvania  
B - 269th

**Wilbur E. Severin**  
10120 Byron Road  
Howell, Michigan  
769th Ord.

**Bernard Abrams**  
1904 S. Ocean Drive, #405  
Hallandale, Florida  
A - 272nd

**Robert J. Frenzer**  
34 Crownpointe Drive  
Jackson, Mississippi  
G - 271st

**George Stewart**  
502 East Walnut  
Centerville, Iowa  
G - 271st

**Joseph A. Cocco**  
309 Centre Street  
Shenandoah, Pennsylvania  
Hq. - 272nd

**Leo J. Wriighthouse**  
204 Symetric Street  
Louisville, Kentucky  
B - 273rd

**Harry W. Harm**  
805 Smith Drive  
Normal, Illinois  
Div. Hq.

**James H. Richmond**  
P.O. Box 603  
San Augustine, Texas  
C - 271st

**Robert L. Smith**  
820 Mellette Avenue S.W.  
Huron, South Dakota  
Medic - 271st

**Hugh L. Sellers**  
Route 11, Box 159  
Morganton, North Carolina  
H1 - 271st

**Lewis S. Bailey**  
2813 Williamson Road  
Roanoke, Virginia  
H3 - 271st

**Michael J. O'Malia, Sr.**  
3106 Trenholm Drive  
Oakton, Virginia  
D - 273rd

*(Continued on Back Cover)*



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**“Taps”** (Continued from Page 59)

**Wayne Mayne**  
 60892 Alpine Drive  
 Bend, Oregon  
 A - 269th

**William Courtney**  
 1053 Popes Creek Circle  
 Graysville, Illinois  
 B - 273rd

**Robert G. Stewart**  
 2210 Cypress Drive  
 White Oak, Pennsylvania  
 Div. Hq.

**Bobby J. Smith**  
 6121 North Monroe Street  
 Spokane, Washington  
 H1 - 273rd

**Harry Schwal**  
 P.O. Box 288  
 Monsey, New York  
 569th Signal

**Basil Price**  
 Rockbridge, Illinois  
 (not on roster)

**George Davis**  
 509 Taylor Avenue  
 Scranton, Pennsylvania  
 B - 461st AAA

**Mike J. Jung**  
 825 2nd Avenue West  
 Dickinson, North Dakota  
 L - 271st

**Benjamin P. Berman**  
 P.O. Box 15  
 Browns Mills, New Jersey  
 no unit

**William A. Watson**  
 4622 South Dudley Street  
 Littleton, Colorado  
 B - 369th

**Leo R. Levie**  
 5717 Utrecht Road  
 Baltimore, Maryland  
 B - 661st T.D.

**Donald G. Meidem**  
 1867 Elm Avenue  
 S. Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
 Hq. - 881st F.A.

**Henry Tipperreiter**  
 10482 Thornberry Drive  
 Spring Hill, Florida  
 A - 880th F.A.

**John L. Theisen, Jr.**  
 4465 North Shore Drive  
 Mound, Minnesota  
 Medic - 272nd

**Cyrus Rockhold**  
 18 New Street  
 Glouster, Ohio  
 Service - 271st

**Nicholas J. Mancini**  
 16 Green Tree Road  
 Marlton, New Jersey  
 C - 880th F.A.

**Frank A. Morris**  
 2033 Oakmont Street  
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
 69th Recon



**NOTE:** For those of you who are unaware, the bulletin is limited to 60 pages. If you submitted material for this bulletin, and did not see it published in this issue, it will be published in the next issue. We cannot always find room for everything that we receive. Please be patient and your number will come up soon.

Thank You, **Clarence and Earl.**