

FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★★ Association, Inc.



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1998

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

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724/455-2901

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should be 52 NO 1

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This painting appears in color in the book entitled, "History of the 272nd Infantry" and was painted by Pfc. Werner Abken of Company C, 272nd.

THE MAIL BOX

By Earl Witzleb, Jr., Editor



Company E, 273rd Infantry Regiment
P.O. Box 69

Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069

Telephone: **724**/455-2901 (Note area code change)

* * * * *

We are sorry to report that as this bulletin was going to press, we learned that Earl Witzleb, Jr., Editor of the bulletin, passed away on November 6th, 1998. Further details will appear in the next issue. Continue to send material to Dottie Witzleb.

Joseph W. Dempsey, 100 Woodland Drive, Hueytown, Alabama 35023-2149 — Service Btry., 724th F.A.: I would like to become a member of the Fighting 69th. I went to Europe with you and was assigned to the Service Battery of the 724th Field Artillery Battalion. I stayed on in occupation for some time and then reenlisted and went to Hawaii for a short hitch and finally got out in '47.

I would like to hear from any members of Service Battery, 724th F.A. I would like to send some pictures to the bulletin for publication. Sorry to report that I won't be able to attend the upcoming reunion.

(EDITOR'S NOTE; Welcome to the association. You are welcome to send along your photos. We are always looking for new pictures and articles for the bulletin.)

James F. Fowler, R.R. #1, Box 272, Bradenville, Pennsylvania 15620 — C-273rd: Imagine how surprised I was upon learning that the 69th Association was still active. I noticed the 69th Reunion was being held in Houston. After some confusion due to area code changes, I was able to talk to Dottie Witzleb and she sent me the first quarter bulletin which I enjoyed very much. I was with Company C, 273rd Infantry from its inception through mid-1945 when it disbanded.

Louie M. Rodgers, 99 North Main, Apt. 609, Memphis, Tennessee 38103-5004 — Div. Hq. (Aide to General Reinhardt): Since I will be in Montana and Canada on my annual trout fishing trip, I will not be at the Houston Reunion. You have a real special welcome waiting for all of you there in Texas. I think of you often and thoroughly enjoyed the reunions in Nashville and Myrtle Beach. Many, many thanks for all that all of you do for the Association. My warmest regards and best wishes always.

Primar Palmer, 3 Robinhood Drive, Sarasota Springs, New York 12118 — Hq., 271st: I'm sorry I'm sending my dues late but we had a lot of trouble. May 31st we had a tornado in Mechanicville and our home was destroyed. Then 12 days later my wife fell and broke her hip and then the morning after I took her

home, I collapsed and ended up in the hospital from all the stress.

I'm living with my daughter and her husband who also has a broken leg. We're building so I hope by next payment, we'll have our new address.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: BOY, SOME PEOPLE HAVE ALL THE LUCK!)

Donald W. Rogers, 12740 Huntingwick, Houston, Texas 77024 — Hq. & Hq. Co., 271st: I was a member of the original cadre for the 69th Division at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, arriving there in early 1943. My first active duty assignment was with the Headquarters & Headquarters Company, Third Battalion, 271st Infantry.

Before the unit shipped out for Europe, I was transferred to Fort Benning, Georgia. From there I did not go East, I went west all the way to Tokyo! Upon my return to the States in late 1946, the closest I ever got to dear old Hattiesburg was Jackson, where I was Adjutant for a reserve Infantry Regiment.

In the process, I lost contact with all the people I had served with in the 69th and the last real contact I had was reading about Charles L. Bolte being promoted to Lieutenant General and given command of the 7th Army. I have a few pictures left and I had a yearbook that was printed about the end of 1943 but it was destroyed.

It was my plan to attend the reunion at the Doubletree but my wife was critically ill and just passed away. However, I did finally reach **Dutch Hawn** by telephone and he was kind enough to leave some materials for me at the concierge's desk. He tells me there are some yearbooks available and that the 69th Division Association has a quarterly newsletter.

If you would be so kind as to send me a membership application along with some other pertinent information including newsletters, etc; I would be most appreciative.

Dutch told me that our CG retired with four stars as Deputy Chief of Staff at the Pentagon. I will never forget looking up at that man on a big black horse when he unexpectedly showed up on the parade ground! I am sure that he and my older cousin must have been at the Point together and possibly on the equestrian team ... I know Gordon was. My cousin was Lieutenant General Gordon Rogers who commanded Fort Knox for a time and then went to Washington, after which he retired.

I look forward to rejoining the 69th Division family and finding out what has happened since you guys hooked up with the Russians!

William J. Muldoon, 79 Elizabeth Drive, Bethpage, New York 11714-6434 — Co. E, 272nd: August is always a bad month in memories, as we were taken from the 69th Division and sent over as replacements in or about March 1944. Myself, **Eddie Netta** and **Rex Kaiser** ended up in the 9th Division and by August we were all casualties, but the 3 of us managed to survive and see the war to an end. **Eddie Netta**

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THE MAIL BOX

(Continued from Page 2)

was reclassified back in Paris and made M.P. He was about 32 years old then. **Rex Kaiser** took a tree burst in the Hurtzgen Forest. He was paralyzed from the hip down but is getting along well today. As for myself, I hit 73 and I am still going as strong as can be expected. The good Lord only takes the best people; I am still an outcast at this time.

Hope the reunion was a great success and all had a good time.

Richard King, P.O. Box 2010, Sparks, Nevada 89432 — Co. D, 273rd: It's a pleasure to get a copy of the Bulletin when we pick up mail in various points in the South Pacific. My wife Kate and I have lived aboard our 35 foot cutter rig sailboat since 1994. We've cruised the Hawaiian Islands, Fanning Island, Samoa, New Zealand and are now in Tonga. Our plans are to leave Tongan waters in the next month to sail to Wallis, Tokelau and to spend the Southern Hemisphere cyclone season (November to April) in Kirabati away from tropical storms.

Hope the 51st Reunion in Houston was a great success. I look forward to attending a reunion when we're through cruising and life becomes more stable for us.

Charles R. Hoffman, Jr., 12195 Fritz Court, Lillian, Alabama 36549, E-Mail: crhjrl@gulftel.com — Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd: Just received the bulletin and was pleased that you put the article on the Remagen bridge in the bulletin. I am somewhat embarrassed, however, for it appears that I wrote it. We know that wasn't the case so lest I be accused of plagiarism, I would appreciate it if you would put a small correction notice in the next bulletin. After all, someone else may have picked up the same hand-out in Remagen that I did. It wasn't even my intention to get credit for sending it in, merely to let the rest of the fellows know about it.

You are doing a great job with the bulletin and don't think we all don't appreciate it. We do.

I hope that the temperature in Houston is somewhat less than it has been the past few weeks. I well remember what happened at Fort Knox when we lost one of our members as a result of the heat there, indirectly. Pat and I will not be able to attend this year. We have free tickets to England, thanks to frequent flyer miles and the latest we could use them was 1 September and we must stay until 6 October, the earliest we can use them to come home. We had hoped to leave o/a 7 September which would have given us time to get home from Houston and get ready for the UK. Quite frankly though, this heat that they have been having would probably make us cancel, trip to England or not. Anyway, like I said, I hope it is much cooler for the reunion.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Charles, we stated that the article was submitted by you, not written by you. We always state who sent in information in case someone wants to contact you regarding the subject of the article or just recognizes your name and wants to touch base with you. Many men have been reunited in this way.)

James R. Kidd, 222 Al Fan Court, Winchester, Kentucky 40391-2317 — Co. F, 271st: **Peter Dunn's** name appeared in "Taps" in the January-April issue of the Bulletin. He was a real soldier.

We of Company F, 271st Infantry Regiment made our first attack against the Germans in February 1945. Our mission was to take the small village of Buschem about a mile to our front.

The Germans fired at us with rifles and machine guns as soon as we were in sight of the buildings. We lost about 20 men in the attack.

The attack started at dawn and we had the village cleared in a short while. Late that morning **Sergeant Dunn** came to me and said, "Lieutenant, I think I have been wounded." He pulled his shirt from his shoulder and sure enough, there were several bullet punctures where the projectiles had entered the back of his shoulder and had not come out. I have assumed since that a German with a machine pistol had fired at him from the upper level of a building. **Sergeant Dunn** was heavily muscled, and the machine pistol bullets did not have the force to exit his body. I ordered him to go to the Aid Station right away. He did, and that was the last time I saw him.

I salute **Peter Dunn**, a great soldier.

Lloyd H. Conklin, 438 Henderson Road, Owosso, Michigan 48867-9452 — Div. Hq.: It was a pleasant surprise to see the excellent article on my athletic career. Because of the publicity I've had, many people have asked for a copy and have enjoyed it very much. Thank you again, it has been very rewarding.

Stephen J. Rojcewicz, 135 Endicott Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01610-1944 — Service Btry., 881st F.A.: Unfortunately, circumstances make it impossible for me to be present at this year's reunion.

My appreciation goes to the officers and staff of the association. Throughout this decade, they have published every article that I have sent. Naturally, these articles get framed and hung on the walls of my den. One visitor said, "Steve, you don't need wallpaper - your walls are covered."

Who can forget the monument dedication in '91, the view of San Francisco in '92, the Eastman House in Rochester in '93, the Magic on Ice show at the Myrtle Beach '95 reunion, the view from the Hancock Tower in Chicago in '96, the vets who temporarily donned three-corner hats in Lexington and Concord in '97. I hope to attend in '99.

Harold B. Ellison, 904 Stratford Road, Edenton, North Carolina 27932 — Co. H-273rd: I had great hopes of attending the reunion in Houston but due to my health and also my wife's, we can not make it in person but will be with you in spirit. I have missed the last two reunions due to illnesses but pray my health will improve so I can make the next one. I had a letter from **Thomas Hoffman**. He is sending out letters to many of the 69'ers urging them to go to the reunion.

Hope everyone has a wonderful time at the reunion and a safe journey home.

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THE MAIL BOX

(Continued from Page 3)

Gene H. Hundhausen, P.O. Box 881453, San Diego, California 92168 — Hq., 272nd: I enjoyed the article by **Colonel Wallace Moulis** about his travels and trevails as the I&R officer in the dash across Germany. He was a 1st lieutenant at the time, being a West Point graduate. I was a 2nd lieutenant from O.C.S., Fort Benning and "Mo" and I had a few nice talks during the war as we both were part of Headquarters, 272nd Regiment.

You might ask the colonel why a certain village in Germany was nicknamed, "Mo's Village." All kidding aside, **Lieutenant Moulis**, as I knew him, was one swell officer and I wish him well.

Donald W. Rogers, 12740 Huntingwick, Houston, Texas 77024 — Hq., 3rd Bn., 271st: Gee, thanks for all the 69th bulletins you sent! What a nice thing to do I have not read all of them but did notice where **Don Kolloway** had passed away some time ago.

Even though I was a little platoon leader in Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 271st Infantry, I was also some sort of athlete and was always playing something, instead of chasing women.

Don and I were on the regimental baseball team together. I played first base and he was at his regular spot, second base. A guy who was with Memphis in the old Southern League for a long time and also spent time with the Dodgers (NY), **Bill Seal**, was at third. So we had a respectable infield for the most part.

I also played basketball with the regimental team which was pretty good (we played the Harlem Globetrotters a couple of times) but one game I will never forget - After walking some 90 miles with you guys on "Bolte's March To The Sea," some idiot at Special Services had scheduled us to play Keesler Air Force Base the night we arrived! We did and beat them, much to my very tired surprise.

I did not notice anything anywhere about the 449th and I know you remember them. Those Nisei kids were really something, some of them so short, their full field packs nearly dragged the ground ... but they certainly gave us fits on maneuvers!

I was transferred out of the 69th to the Infantry School at Fort Benning a few months before you went to England. From there I went to Special Services School at Washington & Lee University and then went to Fort Ord, California. After a few months, I wound up at Eighth Army Headquarters in Manila and then Yokohama. After about three months in Yokohama, they transferred me to GHQ, AFPAC (MacArthur's headquarters) in Tokyo. There the best thing in my life arrived, a USO singer by the name of Jayne Evers.

Before joining the USO, she was pretty well known nationally through a network radio show on NEC as well as being a featured singer with several name bands. Since, among other places, she was with a troupe that appeared throughout Europe-primarily in

France and Germany; it is possible that she entertained some of the 69th somewhere along the line. As she said, they did shows for so many troops - sometimes three and four a day - that units were a blur!

Unfortunately, Taps sounded for her this past July 5th and she is interred at Houston National Cemetery which is one of the prettiest around the country, in some ways prettier than Arlington. The section she is resting in is a National Wildlife Refuge with lakes, ponds, birds, waterfowl, etc.

Anyway, I look forward to meeting you folks down the line somewhere. When the convention was in Houston recently, I found out about it too late to get involved but did visit briefly with **Dutch** and a couple other 69th GIs.

Again, thanks for the bulletins and I look forward to more in the future. Let me know if there is anything I can do to help.

Charles W. Ellis, 1417 Camino Cerrito S.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87123 — Hq., 3rd Bn., 272nd: Thank you so much for remembering me. The older copies of the bulletins really helped bring me up to date. It may interest you to know that the first copy I opened had two pictures of my group in it, one a company picture and the other a platoon picture. The issue was May-August 1994. My picture is not included because I joined one month later.

Gust Kootsouradis, 2 Anderson Court, Monessen, Pennsylvania 15062 — Co. F, 271st: I would like to hear from members of Company F, 271st. I have attended a few reunions and have never met anyone from my company.

Enrique Santiago, Cond Segovia, Apt. 1605, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00918-3815 — Co. I, 273rd: My name is **Enrique Santiago** and I am of Cuban descent. In 1929, I arrived with my parents in New York City. From there I went through grade school and was in eleventh grade when I was drafted in the Army in 1944. In September I was sent to the 69th. From there, I went with the outfit to the Elbe River.

In Bulletin Volume 50, #2, 1997 on page 52, you will find a group picture of Company I, 273rd. You can find me in the last row on top, the last one on the left. Maybe someone out there remembers me.

Nicholas Hentosh, 5216 Dorchester Road, Charleston, North Carolina 29418-5609 — Co. K, 273rd: Hope all is well your way. As for me, I am getting over a bad accident I was involved in on Charles AFB on the 18th of May, when a young chap ran a stop sign and really clobbered me. But luckily, I survived, so thank the good Lord. Reckon I was just lucky again. Huh!!

I don't know if I will make it to Texas or not. After spending all this time in the Air Force, I'm just tired of traveling and the way the world is today, oh, well!

I appreciate what all of you do for the 69th and do wish you all well. All the best and may God bless.

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THE MAIL BOX

(Continued from Page 4)

Ricaldo Cagno, 215 South Bradford Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33609-3002 — Btry. B, 724th: I read **Lloyd Lippman's** article about being eligible for a Bronze Star in the last bulletin, Volume 51, No. 3.

I have often wondered what the requirement was to receive the C.I.B. Many like myself who were with the Field Artillery spent most of our combat time with the Infantry with a forward observer group. Many times we walked, ate, slept with them, were shot at, shelled and attacked towns with them.

I was with my F.O. group when we came under attack. The artillery liaison officer who was at the head of the column went to observe and was killed. What I'd like to know is if Lloyd or anyone else knows if Artillery F.O. personnel meet the criteria for a C.I.B. and Bronze Star.

Will Frazee, 150 West Franklin Street, Centerville, Ohio 45459-4837 — Co. G, 272nd: Just as the 69th Infantry Division Association had its **Clarence**, G-272 has its **Clarence**. Both men the same type dedicated, hard-working, modest and self-effacing.

Clarence Burke of Pitcairn, PA is the Clarence claimed by G-272. He served in G's Battle Patrol. He was the publisher and mailer of *Memories of Shelby*. Without our Clarence's bearing the considerable expense of printing, binding and postage, *Memories* would not have happened. He specifically insisted that I not write this letter after my advising him of my intention to do so.

Communication is more than a modern buzzword. **Clarence Burke** is the publisher and mailer of our newsletter, *The G-Vet* - a sample copy of which I mailed to you a few months ago. To enable printing *The G-Vet* in color, Clarence bought a scanner, color printer and several photo-doctoring software programs. G-272 is proud to have a newsletter with full color pictures of our reunions, including our past annual mid-year mini-reunions in Florida.

Every outfit needs men like Clarence to provide the communication tools that bind its veterans together. They spend countless hours of their personal time and sometimes dollars, too. Earl, since you qualify, take a bow.

Wilfred M. Ferda, 66 Woodward Avenue, Thornhill, ON L3T 1 E7, Canada: Just a brief note today to attach to my reunion registration form. I nearly died of shock today when I converted our Canadian dollar into US funds. The exchange was US \$1 = CDN \$1.499. It just blew me away. Consequently, I'll have to be a bit stingy this year. Besides, Revenue Canada [the equivalent to the IRS] hit me pretty hard this year as well. Oh well, these things are here to try us, right?

I hope that all are healthy and well and had a good year. Despite the currency exchange, I decided to come

down to Houston with Ollie but contrary to initial plans, we won't be using the car but fly instead. It's just too far to drive and, especially this year, too hot!

So, I hope that we'll be seeing you in a couple of months.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In 1945, Wilfred Ferda was a German teenager, living with his mother in Leipzig. They had lost their father to the concentration camps and he feels that they themselves were due to go soon when the 69th Division "rescued" them by capturing Leipzig. He and his wife have been attending 69th Reunions regularly for the past several years.)

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Message from the President



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

Greetings from Houston, Texas. Our 51st reunion was very enjoyable. The only bad part of the week was the weather. Thank goodness for air conditioning. The one thing that I noticed was even at night the humidity was very high.

The planned trips were really enjoyable and enlightening. The Air Force Museum I personally liked the most, seeing some of the old airplanes that are still airworthy that helped us win the war. The Rain Forest showed us trees and foliage from around the world which was most interesting.

I was let down, but not sorry, about the lack of participation with the golf tournament, but I have to agree, it was just too hot.

I hope you are all looking forward to 1999 and Orlando. The site is the Marriott Hotel, which is on International Drive, where there is plenty to do and great places to eat. Start making plans now and let's see if we can get a great turnout. The committee led by **Ken Sawyer** is working hard to find interesting and enjoyable trips and entertainment.

I have spent a good deal of time in this area during the winter months and it has a lot to offer everyone, especially the ladies who love to go shopping. Here's hoping to see you all in Orlando in '99.

52nd Annual Reunion Orlando, Florida

November 14th to 21st, 1999

The perfect time of year for Florida!

Hope you can make it to this one.

1999 69th Infantry Division 52nd Annual Reunion November 14th-21st, 1999 ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Ken A. Sawyer, Reunion Chairman
Company D, 273rd Infantry
2311 Skywind Circle
Melbourne, Florida 32935-1460
Telephone: 407/254-7175

We've been there before, and we had a great time. Orlando, Florida was a grand location in 1984, and it has only gotten better. Disney has added new theme parks; Sea World has reinvented itself; Universal Studios has pulled out all the stops to be the best. If you haven't been back lately, it's certainly time to pack and head this way.

We will be on International Drive again, about 1/4 mile south of the Holiday Inn where we partied last time. The hotel will be The Marriott Orlando at 8001 International Drive. This is in the middle of everything you will want to see. Sea World is at the south end of the street, and Universal Studios is at the north end. The round trip bus fare is currently \$6, or you can ride the trolley for a quarter each way. Disney bus fare will set you back about \$10 round trip.

Of course, you know what has happened to prices since 1984. The hotel will cost you \$77 plus tax. The major theme parks are over \$40 a day. These prices haven't scared anyone else away, so it's a good thing we will be there in November. The hotel price may not seem like a steal, but you should see what the others are charging. The Marriott can't even give us these prices on the days before and after.

You can probably save money on food. There are several nationally known franchise restaurants close by. The reunion committee is trying to come up with some reasonably priced tours. These will probably include the Kennedy Space Center, Cypress Gardens, and the Orlando sights. We will have prices and details in the next issue.

Some people may be concerned about the dates. There wasn't much choice, but the committee is very happy with it. November in Florida is as good as it gets. Expect plenty of sunshine with temperatures in the seventies. And you can forget about the hurricanes. One possible drawback for those traveling by car from great distances; you might have trouble getting back home in time to bake that turkey. Our reunion is the week before Thanksgiving. Sorry about that!

The '84 reunion was one of the best. Plan to join us for a better one.

1998 REUNION REPORT
Houston, Texas
August 23rd-30th, 1998

Bob and Theresa Pierce, Committee Chairpersons
Company I, 273rd Infantry
 144 Nashua Court
 San Jose, California 95139-1236
 Telephone: 408/226-8040

WHAT A GREAT REUNION! Texas was the ideal location for a Western Theme Party, starting with gift Cowboy Hats for all attendees. Wednesday evening was a wild night at the Longhorn Saloon with a Tex-Mex Buffet, lots of Western dancing, and \$1.00 drinks. The Early-Bird was a Texas-Style Barbeque Buffet with entertainment from an outstanding Marachi Band. Believe me, there were some wild people responding to the music. Usually, people leave after eating dinner, but in Houston, most all stayed to enjoy the entertainment to the end. The PX Party continued the Western theme with a Country-Western Swing Band.

Our Banquet Dinner Dance brought the group back to reality with an outstanding 18-piece orchestra, including an excellent vocalist. The band was very elegant in their tuxedos playing only big band music from our World War II era.

Reunion attendance was down about 25% which we contributed to El Nino, the August weather expected in Houston, and/or the distance to travel from the Northeastern states. But what lacked in quantity was made up in quality for an outstanding Reunion.



Registration Committee: Chairman Howard Cordova, Marcella Srubar, Elnora, Howard's wife, Theresa Pierce, Delores Mann, Mary Carroll and Virginia Colletti. Edna White, not pictured. Photo: T. Pierce



Doubletree Hotel Photo: C. Yastrzemski

The Houston Reunion was run by remote control because the Chairmen lived two thousand miles from Houston. The real heroes and the success of the Reunion is attributed to the Committee Members who accomplished an extraordinary task, primarily on their own. Without a doubt, this was the best Reunion Committee we have had the pleasure of working with. *Theresa* and I want to personally and publicly thank each and everyone for the exemplary job they accomplished.

Registration

Chairpersons Howard and Elnora Cordova
 Members: Virginia Colletti, Delores Mann,
 Marcella Srubar, Theresa Pierce

Cowboy Hat

Distribution & Sales Elnora Cordova

Souvenir Sales ... James and Mary Carroll
 Assisted by: Ken Sawyer

Hospitality Room

Chairpersons Charles and Edna White
 Members: Bennie Srubar,
 Keith Mann, Vic Colletti

Seating and Table Assignments

Chairpersons "Billy" and Stephanie Ray

Tours and Events

Chairpersons Bob and Theresa Pierce

Entertainment

Chairman Bob Pierce

Ladies' Auxiliary Meeting

Theresa Pierce and Elnora Cordova

Other duties not assigned which were accomplished by the Reunion Chairman, **Bob Pierce** - Negotiating and contracting for: Hotel Room Prices, Hotel Food and Beverage Prices, Tours, Longhorn Saloon,

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1998 REUNION REPORT

(Continued from Page 7)



Elnora and Howard Cordova, Stephanie and Billy Ray and Theresa and Bob Pierce. Photo: H. Cordova

Entertainment for these events, Cowboy Hats, replenish souvenirs from three separate contractors, contract for 69th Division patches, arrange for and coordinate Color Guards, letter to Veterans Volunteer Services for Ladies Auxiliary Representative, and, purchase flowers for the Head Table. In my spare time I monitored the on-going activities, reviewed daily hotel billing records to assure account was correct and in line with cost, and collected tour and event tickets. **WHEW!**

Tours were well received and enjoyed by attendees: Houston City Tour, San Jacinto Monument and USS Texas Battleship, Space Center Houston-NASA, and the Galveston Island Tour with stops at the Air Museum and Moody Gardens. The majority of attendees took the NASA and Galveston Tours which left **Charley and Edna White** lonely keepers of the Hospitality Room Thursday and Friday.

A precedent was established at the Ladies' Auxiliary Meeting, the men were invited to attend the entertainment portion prior to the closing of their meeting. The Ladies Auxiliary Entertainment Committee were so excited about the "Brazos Crossing Chorus" of 21 ladies that they enthusiastically invited the men to enjoy the group after their meeting closed. The classic experience was appreciated and enjoyed by the men who filled the room to see the group perform.

Thanks for the many offers of help during the Reunion, I actually had more people willing to work than I had tasks to assign. We are especially indebted to "**Billy**" Ray, an Honorary

Member of the Association for the many tasks he performed on behalf of the organization. **Billy** received the Association inventory of memorabilia, log books, flags, banners, souvenirs, etc. last year from the Danvers Reunion. He repacked the items, conducted a complete inventory, stored them for a year and delivered them to the hotel. He also picked up the Cowboy Hats the week before the Reunion and delivered them to the hotel. After the Reunion he packed everything and carried the lot home to await instructions for delivery to Orlando. In his spare time **Billy** was also our Seating Assignment Chairman. My personal thanks Billy, you were my righthand man, I could not have accomplished the job without your dedicated assistance.



Souvenir Committee, Mary and James Carroll, making a sale at the Souvenir Table. Photo: T. Pierce



Hats, Hats and More Hats. Photo: H. Cordova
Elnora Cordova was often called the Hat Lady.

51st Reunion "TEXAS Style"

Howard and Elnora Cordova
Registration Chairpersons
Company K, 273rd Infantry
10718 Triola, Houston, Texas 77072-2716
Telephone: 281/498-6678

We, the Registration Chairman and Co-Chairman, **Howard and Elnora Cordova**, wish to thank each and every committee member for their dedication and hard work. **Marcella Srubar, Virginia Colletti, Delores McDugal, and Delores Mann** made up the great registration team. Souvenirs - **James and Mary Carroll**; Hospitality Room - **Charley and Edna White**; and the one and only **Billy Ray**, a great guy and tremendous help, a very dedicated gentleman to our organization. We appreciate the consideration and help from **Bob and Theresa Pierce**, our Chairpersons.

The big white cowboy hats that **Bob Pierce** located proved to be the appropriate gift for each member and their guest for this Texas reunion. Everyone had a laugh or two when they caught a glimpse of themselves in the mirror. Just image what was said as our members boarded their airplanes to travel back home!

It was indeed a pleasure to see old timers and first timers enjoying themselves. We understand there were two occasions that had never taken place before. One was the Ladies Auxiliary inviting the gentlemen to join them for their entertainment program. The entertainment by The Brazos Crossing Chorus was very appropriate. Their singing program included songs from the World War II era that brought back many memories. Their closing song was "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" which brought more than a few tears to both the ladies and gentlemen. It was a very touching and emotional time. For the closing of the program, the members sang happy birthday to Emma Kueck, a member of The Brazos Crossing Chorus, and presented her with a happy birthday balloon. What a great way to close our Auxiliary Meeting. We believed everyone enjoyed the program.

The second occasion happened at the memorial service, dinner and dance. It was the first time that a member of the 69th Infantry Division had all his children and their respective spouses attend. They were **Howard and Elnora Cordova** and their children; Mike and daughter, Brenda Elliott; sons, Greg and Margaret Cordova, Andy and Sandy Cordova, and Vince and Cheryl Cordova. They have eleven grandchildren ages 22 to 19 months, that were not able to attend.

We want to THANK everyone for coming to Houston, Texas and hope everyone enjoyed their stay here. As for the Cordova family, we will always cherish and remember a great week at the Doubletree Post Oak Hotel and especially all the members of the 69th Infantry Division of World War II.



Howard and Elnora Cordova



The Cordovas with all of their children present, a first at a reunion.



Longhorn Saloon: Elnora and Howard Cordova, Charles and Edna White.

Howdy Partners from Houston, Texas

Photos by: Chet Yastrzemeski



At the Longhorn Saloon: Fred Butenhoff, daughter Janis Haasl, Chet and Barbara Yastrzemeski



Jane and Bill Matlach - Our Treasurer



Barbara Yastrzemeski, Rosemarie Mazza, Jane Matlach and Margee Durst



Torrey and Ed Stagg



Vivian Bailey and father, Archie Brooks



Tom Hoffman

Howdy Partners from Houston, Texas

Photos by: Chet Yastrzemeski



Edward and Dolly Sarcione



Tilley and President James Boris



Bill and Ellen Snidow



Sam Woolf and Sumner Russman



James Carroll and Del Philpott



*James Brooks and Ed Lucci
Rear left: Walter Haag and George Hepp*

Howdy Partners from Houston, Texas

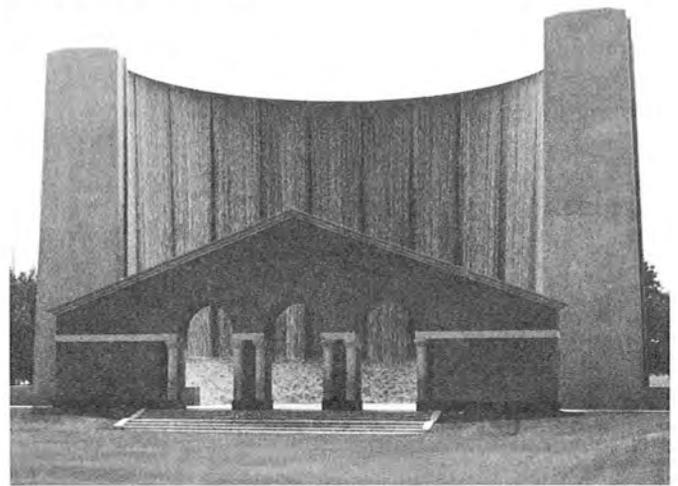
Photos by: Chet Yastrzemski



Members of Company M, 272nd Infantry Regiment



Nasa



Waterfall in Houston



Astrodome



Battleship Texas



More Houston Smiles

Submitted by: **William McCall**
Company E, 271st Infantry

743 Purdue Ave., Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-1044



Bill McCall, Marjorie Taylor and Catherine McCall



*Eugene Mischke, Catherine McCall,
Marilyn Mischke, and Art Hall*



*Bob Peason, Bill McCall, Bill Taylor, Eugene
Mischke, Art Hall*

Battery B, 881st F.A. at the Houston Reunion

Submitted by: **President Jim Boris**
Company E, 271st Infantry

6800 Henry Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19128



Tillie Boris, Susan Rocco, Hugh and Dorothy Milstead



*Walter Haag, his friend Dorothy,
Jim Boris, Tillie Boris, Dorothy Milstead*



Gene Tabacchi, Emil Matys, the John Nelsons, Dan Sparks

New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

- Luther E. Schlauch** — Company M, 272nd Infantry
1018 Howel Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19149
- Carl R. Moritz** — 569th Signal Company
5464 Manor Road, Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501
- Lynn D. Farrar** — Battery C, 881st Field Artillery
955 Diablo Drive, Lafayette, California 94549
- Donald W. Rogers** — Hq., 3rd Bn., 272nd Infantry
12740 Huntingwick, Houston, Texas 77024
- Arthur D. Bartholomew** — Battery C, 880th F.A.
11881 Kensington Road, Rossmoor, California 90720
- Frederick E. Hanley** — Company A, 273rd Infantry
837 N. Main Street, Fostoria, Ohio 44830
- Joseph W. Dempsey** — Service, 724th Field Artillery
100 Woodland Dr., Hueytown, Alabama 35023-2149
- Wayne Springer** — Hq., 3rd Bn., 272nd ASC
13107 Indian Creek, Houston, Texas 77079
- Wesley E. Berry** — Company I, 272nd Infantry
R.D. #4, Box 364, Fairmont, W. Virginia 26554-9337
- Frank F. Engdahl** — Hq., 1st Bn., 273rd Infantry
4701 Lincoln Lane West, Estro, Florida 33928
- Jack B. Tyson** — Company H, 272nd Infantry
7201 Galax Road, Richmond, Virginia 23228
- Leon M. Boyajan** — Company M, 273rd Infantry
290 E. Knights Bridge, Lecanton, Florida 34461
- Karl F. Jones** — 271st Medic ASC
3104 Concord, Mesquite, Texas 75150
- Calvin C. Owen** — Company K, 271st Infantry
1176 Carter Lodge Road, Blairs, Virginia 24527

69er Needed to Handle Regimental Crests

Ray Fahrner, Company A, 273rd Regiment
Forge Gate Apts. 18E1, 1141 Snyder Road
Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19446-4643

I have received requests for Regimental Crests. I did ship close to 500 crests all over the states. I can no longer perform this duty due to a lengthy illness. A minimum of 50 is required by the manufacturer which means at the last pricing a sum of \$200.00. Tooling has already been paid and was included in the early sales of the crests. I sold these crests at cost and postage.

To members of the 273rd, I do have 15 crests remaining. If you send me your name and address, I will ship one or more to you for cost, including shipping. Do not send money.

I would like to say hello to all my friends in the 69th. I sure miss you all and if a reunion comes close by, I would love to say hello in person.

3 Members of D-271st, at Houston Reunion

Submitted by: **John Tounger**
#1 Pine Hills Court, Oakland, California 94611



John Tounger - 1st Machine Gunner, Frank Clark - 2nd Machine Gunner, John Butkovich - Mortars

Attn.: Anti-Tank Company 272nd Infantry Regiment

One of your members, Mr. Sal Patti of Levittown, Pennsylvania, suggested that I contact you with the hope that you can help me locate a veteran of the 69th.

I have an old book entitled "History of the 272nd Infantry, 69th Division." It was printed sometime in 1945. The flyleaves bear the signatures of members of the outfit. The cover has the name of a soldier whom I assume was the original owner of the book. His name is **Corporal Otto L. Jervis** who is listed on the roster of the Anti-Tank Company.

For the past few years I've been trying to locate the corporal or his heirs so that I might return the book to him. I've contacted the Department of the Army, the Veterans Administration and the local Legion post, all without success. The VA promised to forward a letter of inquiry to his last known address, but I've heard nothing. Recently I placed an ad in the magazine, *Good Old Days*, which yielded Mr. Patti's suggestion.

If **Corporal Jervis** is (or was) a member of your organization, I'd appreciate getting his address so that I can deliver the book to him.

If that becomes impossible, perhaps your association has an archives section which would accept the book for safekeeping and display. If my efforts fail in this matter, I'll pass it on to my heirs as a military artifact. Please write to:

Mr. Robert J. Miller
8740 Marsden Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19136

Treasurer's Message



William R. and Jane Matlach

William R. Matlach, *Treasurer*

Post Office Box 474

West Islip, New York 11795-0474

Telephone: 516/669-8077

The Houston reunion was a fine reunion, although somewhat disappointing in attendance. The final tally for the banquet came to 322 according to my records, and we had 14 First Timers among those registering, most of them from the local area. Those of you who were not able to attend missed a visit to a beautiful city, actually the fourth largest city in the United States. It has many parks and outstanding landscaping, at least in the areas through which we passed. The city is loaded with lots of oil money and that appears to be the reason why everything appears so well tended. We were told that whenever one of the oil barons dies, the city receives a large bequest of some sort, perhaps a building or civic center named after the deceased, in place of paying inheritance or income tax.

The various events of the reunion went well and everyone appeared to have a great time. **Bob Pierce** (I-273), who was the Reunion Chairman for lack of a local volunteer, managed to negotiate a tremendous deal for white cowboy sombreros, and everyone who registered received one to wear! They were quite handsome; one style for men and another style for the ladies. Most likely you will see a lot of them in reunion photos in this bulletin.

Not having had any direct business with most of the members of the Reunion Committee, I am reluctant to try to enumerate the many accomplishments of each member of the Committee and will leave that pleasure to **Bob Pierce** who assembled this fine group and organized them into the coordinated team that they embodied. However, I must say a few words about **Howard** and **Elnora Cordova**. **Howard** was responsible for the operation of the Registration Desk and

seemed to hardly ever leave his post. The persons at the desk did an exceptional job in keeping records of all the financial transactions which occurred because when I got home after the reunion, I had no problem transposing the desk records into the Treasurer's ledgers. As a matter of fact, everything came out correct to the penny, including identification and allocation of the cash receipts which totaled a few thousand dollars. In addition, we had a very accurate count of all new reservations of tours, dinners, and other events, and there was no problem in settling bills with the tour agency and hotel. Before the reunion, **Elnora** spent a great deal of time, talent, and work designing and fabricating beautiful white vests bearing Texas and 69th emblems which she provided to the people working at the desks in the Registration Room. In addition to working at the desk, she was in charge of distributing the sombreros, and really seemed to enjoy doing it - always cheerful with a happy smile! The crew at the desks looked great, all wearing their vests and sombreros with 69th emblems on the front. Many thanks for a great effort and a lot of work!

Two other persons with whom I had some dealings were **Jim Carroll** (A-273) and **Charles (Billy) Ray** (B-777 ASC) who, prior to the reunion, performed a complete inventory of our souvenir stock (which has suffered during the past few years without a permanent Souvenir Chairman) and orders were placed for replenishment. **Jim** manned the Souvenir table and sold \$1493.10 in goods. **Billy** was the Banquet Seating Chairman and performed his duties while working full time at his "civilian" job. He is the son of a deceased 69er, **Charles W. Ray, Sr.** (B-777) and has taken great interest in his father's military service. He has researched and collected a great deal of information (including many photographs) about the 777th Tank Battalion, its members, and its actions during the war, with the intention of writing a history of the unit.

The Treasury is in good shape. For the 1997-98 Dues Year we collected dues from 2,495 members with a roster of 4747 as of 8/7/98, a collection rate of 52.6%, probably the best rate ever. At the present time we have no problem covering our costs, but as our roster keeps decreasing due to "Taps," the cost per bulletin will increase. The major cost of a batch of Bulletins lies in the typing and editing, not in the actual printing of copies. As the roster decreases, we will need to print fewer bulletins, but reducing the number of Bulletins will not reduce the total cost very much. However, this does not present a problem in the near future.

Dues notices for the 1998-99 year should be going out 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. Make checks payable to the 69th Infantry Division Association, Inc.

Membership Chairman Report

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

ATTENTION!

If you wish to stay on the roster and continue to receive the Bulletin, you will have to help by giving us your correct address the way the Postal Service wants it and also give us a complete nine digit zip code.

The Postal Service is returning bulletins and dues notices due to addresses being incomplete: i.e., Moved - Left no Forwarding Address, No Such Address, Forwarding Address Expired, Rural Address - Not Correct Due to 911. You may have a street listed when it should be an avenue, circle, terrace or place.

There are also rumors that third class mail will not be delivered without the nine digit zip, so please let us know what the four extra numbers are. All you have to do is ask the Post Office what it is.

In the future if we get a return, we will send a letter back to the Postal Service and if we do not get a correct address back, your name will be removed from the roster.

We are also quite sure that there are many deceased members still on our roster. If you have any knowledge of deceased members that may still be on the roster, please let us know. If you don't want to spend 32¢ on a stamp, just send me a letter without a stamp and leave your return off the letter and it will be sent to us with postage due and we'll be glad to pay for it.

Don't forget to pay your dues. Remember that the Association cannot operate without money. We have no means of generating revenue and it is up to you, the members, to keep your dues current. We are getting older and we tend to forget, so mark it in a place where you can't miss it. Pay your dues as soon as you get your Dues Notice. Don't tuck it away!

Lorne Welch, POW hero in WWII

Submitted by: **John P. Penny**
1st Sergeant, Company I, 273rd Regiment
2960 N. Lake Shore Drive, Apt. 2708
Chicago, Illinois 60657-5662

FROM THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE WED., JUNE 10, 1998

Lorne Welch, a daredevil glider pilot who played a central role in two fabled escapes by British prisoners during World War II, died on May 15, 1998 at age 81. Mr. Welch was an outstanding pilot and a training instructor with the Royal Air Force until 1942.

He often flew his Wellington trainer into combat and was shot down over Nazi-occupied Holland and sent to a prison camp in Silesia. While imprisoned, Mr. Welch used beds, duffel bags, coathooks, ice hockey sticks, ping-pong paddles and boot leather to build a ventilation pump used in a tunnel through which 76 prisoners escaped in 1944.

The escape was the subject of the 1963 movie, "The Great Escape." All but three prisoners were recaptured; 50 were executed.

Despite his contribution in constructing the tunnel, Mr. Welch didn't escape through it. He already had escaped in June 1943, when he and his cellmate walked through the main gate wearing fake German uniforms. They were captured a week later and sent to Colditz, a castle for escape-prone Allied prisoners.

After the war Mr. Welch became the first person to glide across the English Channel.

Notice from Bulletin Headquarters

Please send all bulletin material to Bulletin Headquarters at the address below and not directly to the printer unless permission has otherwise been granted by an officer of the association. It is difficult to compile the material and consider spacing when material is scattered over several places. Thank you for your consideration.

**NEWS MATERIAL AND PICTURES
FOR THE BULLETIN SHOULD BE MAILED TO:
FIGHTING 69th BULLETIN, P.O. Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
ADDRESS CHANGES, NEW MEN AND TAPS SHOULD BE
MAILED TO OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:
ROBERT KURTZMAN, Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 105, Wilmot, Ohio 44689
DO NOT SEND DUES TO THE BULLETIN OR BOB!!
DUES GO TO OUR TREASURER, WILLIAM MATLACH.**

69th Infantry Division 1998 Officers

James E. Boris, *President*

Unit: Battery B, 881st Field Artillery
6800 Henry Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19128
Telephone: 215/483-2064

Harold E. Ruck, *Vice President*

Unit: Company I, 272nd Infantry
622 Melville Avenue
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37412-2645
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Ralph H. Goebel, *Secretary*

Unit: Cannon Company, 272nd Infantry
5417 Halifax Lane
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55424-1438
Telephone: 612/927-5319

William R. Matlach, *Treasurer*

Unit: Company E, 273rd Infantry
P. O. Box 474
West Islip, New York 11795-0474
Telephone: 516/669-8077

Robert J. Kurtzman, *Membership Chairman*

Unit: Company I, 272nd Infantry
P. O. Box 105
Wilmot, Ohio 44689-0105
Telephone: 330/359-5487

Edward L. Lucci, *Auditor*

Unit: Company A, 273rd Infantry
23 Evergreen Avenue
Lynbrook, New York 11563
Telephone: 516/593-6592

William E. Snidow, *Chaplain*

Unit: Company B, 661st Tank Destroyers
Route #1, Box 303,
Pembroke, Virginia 24136-9613
Telephone: 540/626-3557

Earl E. Witzleb, *Editor & Co-Chaplain*

Unit: Company E, 273rd Infantry
P. O. Box 69
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
Telephone: 724/455-2901

Paul N. Shadle, *Co-Chaplain*

Unit: Company E, 271st Infantry
1504 Greensburg Road
New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068
Telephone: 724/335-9980

Eugene D. Butterfield, *Legal Advisor*

Unit: Division Headquarters
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Telephone: 440/333-5723

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Route #1, Box 303, Pembroke, Virginia 24136-9613
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(Continued from Page 17)

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29 Skinner Street, Southampton, New York 11968
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41165 Cardinal Flower Dr., Murrieta, California 92562
Telephone: 909/677-7888

**Wanted: Copy of Tapes
of Capture of Leipzig**

I'm wondering if any member may have a copy of the tapes Walter Cronkite made during the capture of the city of Leipzig and the Napoleon War Memorial. I have contacted CBS in New York. All of their tapes before 1955 are in their archives in New Jersey, not recorded. If you can help contact:

Adam Adamsky

Battery A, 369th Medical Battalion
524 E. McMurray Road • McMurray, PA 15317
Telephone: 724/941-6937

**Auto Accident Claims
life of Nathan Green**



Eleanor Davis

Daughter of: **Nathan Green**, Company G, 271st Infantry
12 Danker Avenue, Albany, New York 12206
Telephone: 518/459-7535

I am writing to you to inform you that my father, **Nathan Green**, was killed in an auto accident along with his loved one, **Roxanne Kushner**, on August 31, 1998. The accident occurred in Hattiesburg, Mississippi while my dad and Roxanne were returning home to Florida from the reunion in Texas. In speaking with some of his dear friends from the reunion, I know that dad and Roxanne had a wonderful time. This was not a surprise to me, as I know that he always so looked forward to attending the reunions and seeing all his existing and soon to be friends. My dad enjoyed many reunions with my mother, **Rhoda Green**, before she passed away in 1996. He then became happy and proud to introduce everyone to Roxanne once they became a couple. Needless to say, my dad had a very deep sense of belonging to the Fighting 69th.

In going through my father's personal papers, I found a note in which he requested I contact you in case of his death so you would see that it was listed in the bulletin. You may even already be well aware of his death from other sources and have taken care of anything that needs to be done. However, it was also his wishes that I convey the following message to you and all those part of the 69th Division: And I quote: *"I held the friendship of those I served with and the friends I made close to my heart, and being with them at the reunions was the highlight of my year. I never met a finer bunch of men."* Indeed, I include my father in that category of fine bunch of men.

I thank you so much for your attention to this matter. I will miss hearing about you all.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: After leaving the reunion Nathan headed for the Camp Shelby Museum. We received word from several other people about this accident. Cecil Fernandez wrote that Nat loved living and had attended many reunions. This is a sad note to such a grand reunion. He will be sorely missed.)

Phil Smith

1100 Village Drive
College Station, Texas 77840
Telephone: 409/694-2187

I am the son of a 69th veteran, **Percy Smith**, who was 1st Sgt in D-273rd from the summer of 1943 until he shipped out as a replacement in August of '45. Dad was with the 80th Division in Europe. He passed away in 1985, but he left many stories about Camp Shelby plus letters home to my mother and some other writings about the war itself.

The enclosed is an article I submitted to the Houston newspaper for Memorial Day. They didn't use it then, but waited until closer to the premiere of the new movie "Saving Private Ryan," about a soldier in France in June 1944. My father's recollection and the movie have a similar theme.

Sir, I hope this article does justice to the 69th. It doesn't say much about the Division, but I feel honored to bring even this little incident to the

attention of the newspaper's readers. The photo was cropped because parts were faded and damaged (also it was probably too large for them).

My only regret is that they did not mention the Division's reunion in Houston this August. I thought they would mention that, but perhaps space didn't permit.

My father was not active in the Association. He was a member but never attended a reunion. He did make contact with a few old friends, but as a replacement he didn't feel like he had a real "home" since he was moved around. I joined as an associate member and attended the Chicago meeting and met **Ken Sawyer** from Dad's old Company.

By the way, I haven't been able to verify this story of **Corporal Williams**. Do you know how I might?

I've shared Dad's recollections of Camp Shelby with some of the men, and I should look through to select some of the stories to submit to you as editor.

See you in Houston.

Remembering a photograph and a fivefold tragedy

Written by Phillip M. Smith • Houston Chronicle • Monday, July 20, 1998

This week Hollywood will release a new movie, *Saving Private Ryan*, which is a story set during World War II about the loss of several sons in one family. As I watched a preview of this movie, I was reminded of an actual event recorded by my father during Army training camp.

It was 1943 at Camp Shelby near Hattiesburg, Mississippi, when my father, **Percy Smith**, was first sergeant of Company D, 273rd Infantry Regiment, 69th Division.

Here is the way my father recalled the story:

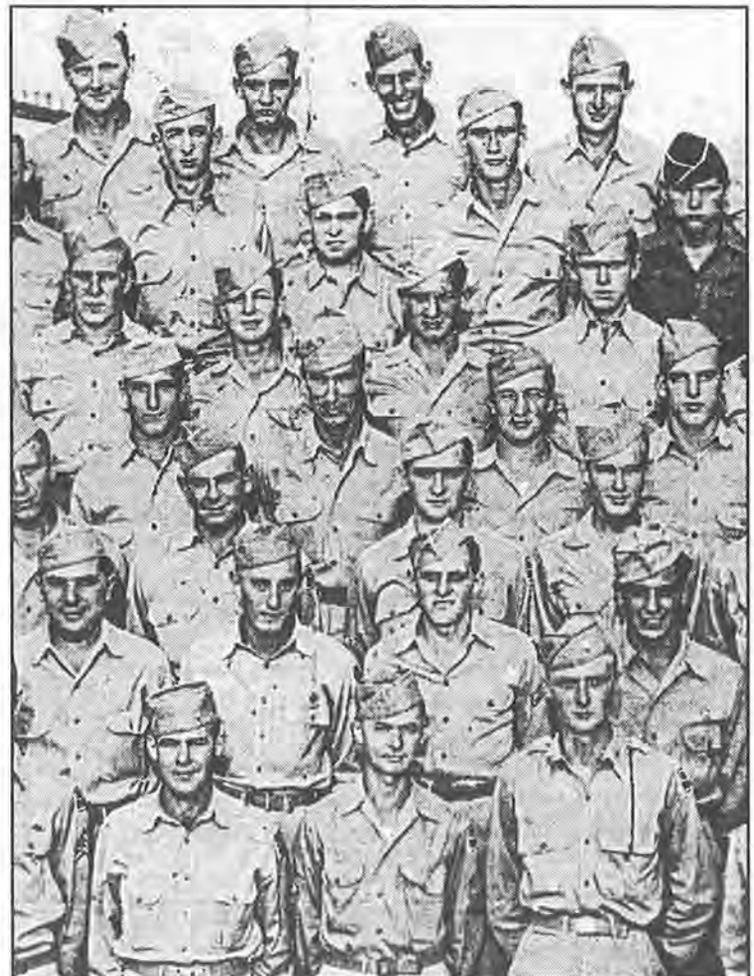
Corporal Williams, the company clerk, was a young, lanky easy-going man. After breakfast each morning he would report to regimental headquarters where he looked after Company D's personnel records.

As the tempo of the war quickened, one of Williams' duties was to produce a new list for the bulletin board: the Port of Overseas Replacement report. Men on the list were to be shipped overseas as replacements for casualties.

Shortly after the first of these lists was posted, the entire company posed for a group photograph.

A few days later, **Colonel Ackerman** and the chaplain appeared in our company orderly room. **Lieutenant McNulty** sprang to his feet and saluted sharply, but the Colonel demurred with a wave, "Lieutenant, something has happened."

Their voices trailed off as they moved to the far end of the room behind a chalkboard room divider. In a few moments the lieutenant cried out, "Smith!



Among the faces in this portion of Company D, 273rd Infantry Regiment, 69th Division, is that of the author's father, **Percy Smith**, front row, center.

(Continued on Page 20)

REMEMBERING A PHOTOGRAPH AND A FIVEFOLD TRAGEDY

(Continued from Page 19)

Have Corporal Williams report here at once." I said, "Yes, sir," and called personnel on the field telephone. The chaplain was quietly squeezing the fingers of his hands while the colonel gazed out the window.

Williams entered the orderly room and glanced at me with a "What's up?" expression on his face. I could only shrug. He nodded and went behind the chalkboard. I heard heels click, "Corporal Williams reported as directed, sir."

The chaplain spoke first, and then I heard the colonel's soft voice. There was a sudden intake of breath, an exclamation and a sob.

Presently the colonel and lieutenant emerged from behind the partition. The chaplain followed, supporting the stumbling Corporal Williams. His nose was red, and he had been weeping. Lt. McNulty said, "Get somebody to pack Williams' gear. He's leaving at once. Emergency." The chaplain called over his shoulders, "I'll stay with him," as all four left the orderly room.

When Lt. McNulty returned, he leaned on the desk, pushed back his helmet liner and said, "Terrible thing, terrible." In answer to my questioning look, he continued, "Williams comes from a large family. He has five brothers, all in the Army. All five were killed in separate operations in Italy within a week. President Roosevelt heard about it and personally called to order that the remaining son be discharged and sent home. There's an act of Congress that provides for cases like this. God, what a blow to the family."

Thus ends my father's account of Corporal Williams, but in my hand today I have the Company D photograph taken just before this incident. No doubt Williams is in the photo, staring straight at me with all the others.

I don't know which one is him, and it's better that I don't. I'd rather not know. As I look into each face individually, I know that they are all about to share the intensity that lay ahead. For most it was to come when they were committed in the European campaign until they became the first Americans to meet the Russians on the Elbe.

But for one of those faces, it was to come in a few days when he would learn of the loss of his brothers. His life changed forever, as it did for so many of those faces and their families over the course of the next year. And for every year since.

Joseph Naticak was Very Proud of the 69th

Joseph "Knuckles" Naticak, of Company E, 273rd Infantry, passed away on October 1st, 1998. He was from Carbondale, Pennsylvania.

His daughter, Frances Novitsky, wrote to us to tell us how very proud he was to have served his country and to have served with the 69th.

So much so, she stated, that at the foot of his coffin was his uniform, his hat and the logo of his precious 69th.

He is survived by his widow, Frances Naticak of 196 Center Street, Carbondale, Pennsylvania 18407.

A \$100.00 donation was sent in his memory. This donation will be put towards the Overseas Flower Fund.



Attn.: Members of 271st who were in Weissenfels

I am searching for info on **Thomas M. Nelson**. He was killed on April 14th, 1945 in Weissenfels, Germany. I am working on a project entitled: "MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS: List of Honor - Individuals Who Have Given Their Lives in Defense of Their Country from World War I through Vietnam." My search indicates he was a member of 60th Armd Infantry Battalion, 271st Regiment, 69th Infantry Division. I would appreciate any help you can give me.

Please write me: **Lynna Kay Shuffield**, P.O. Box 16604, Houston, Texas 77222. Telephone: 713/692-4511

Thank you for your help in preserving the memory and history of our heroes from Milam County.

THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE

by - **Dottie Witzleb**
Ladies Auxiliary Editor
 P.O. Box 69
 Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069

or
 183 Pineslope Road
 Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606
 Home Telephone: **724**/455-2901
(Note my new area code)



Dottie Witzleb



Gloria Czyzyk, Vice President
 30 Duke Drive
 New Hyde Park, NY 11040
 Telephone: 516/627-6580



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



Rosemarie Mazza, President
 6664 Glen Arbor Way
 Naples, FL 34119
 Telephone: 941/348-2332

Jane Matlach, Secretary
 P.O. Box 474
 West Islip, NY 11795-0474
 Telephone: 516/669-8077

Ursula Goebel, Chaplain
 5417 Halifax Lane
 Minneapolis, MN 55424
 Telephone: (Send to Dottie)

Houston Reunion Ladies Point of View

Submitted by: **Theresa M. Pierce**
Reunion Committee Chairperson
 144 Nashua Court, San Jose, California 95139-1236

Ladies of the Houston Reunion Committee certainly stood out in their beautifully decorated vests, courtesy of **Elnora Cordova**, Registration Co-Chairperson. **Elnora** surprised the ladies with the vests she made to meet the Western decor of Texas. The vests were brightly decorated with glitter liquid paint. Decorations were of course, the State Flag of Texas and an outline of the State of Texas in red, white, and blue with the "Lone Star." On the back of the vest was written "WWII Fighting 69th Infantry Division." The vest was matched by the gift of white Cowboy Hats given to attendees.

The efficiency on the Registration Committee was equally balanced by a very congenial group of ladies who continuously kept the room in stitches with their jokes and anecdotes. The ringleader appeared to be **Marcella Srubar**.

Elnora enthusiastically volunteered to give out the gift hats and assist members with sizes and style

pointers for the most attractive way to wear the hats. This approach was not good enough, **Elnora** "requisitioned" a huge mirror and table to assure every member had the opportunity to see themselves trying on the hats for fit and style.

The Ladies Auxiliary meeting was highlighted by a wonderfully talented group of 21 ladies, the "Brazos Crossing Chorus" After the men's meeting was finished, the men were invited to attend the entertainment segment of the ladies meeting. The men filled the room and enjoyed the ladies entertainment. **Elnora Cordova** had learned that it was the group leader, Emma Keuck's birthday. She bought a Birthday Balloon, and clued everyone to sing "Happy Birthday" to her after the group finished the program. In appreciation for the enjoyment received from the "Brazos Crossing Chorus," the officers of the Association approved presenting the group with "69'ers Cowboy Hats which were presented by **Elnora**.

This year, tables were added to the Registration Room to display the crocheted items the ladies make every year to present to the local Veterans Volunteer Services. It was a well received innovation and gave the men an opportunity to view the labors of love the ladies bring to the Reunion.

(Continued on Page 22)



Emma Kueck (third from right) and her Brazos Crossing Chorus.

- In Memoriam -

"LADIES' TAPS"

RUTHANNA ARVIN
 wife of **Clyde Arvin**
 Battery B, 881st Field Artillery

MARVIS BUTENHOFF
 wife of **Fred Butenhoff**
 Company E, 271st Infantry Regiment

MARGARET KREUTZMAN
 wife of **Karol Kreutzman**
 Division Headquarters



Elnora Howard and Theresa Pierce displaying two of the many articles being donated to Donna Ross, Volunteer Services, Houston Veterans Administration.

A Note from Past President Virginia Weston

To the Ladies of the Auxiliary,

I would like to thank you for the cards George and I have received over the years. They remind us of the many wonderful friends and good times we have had.

Please don't ever stop this lovely tradition. Many more years of happy times for us all.

Bless each and everyone of you.

Sincerely,
Virginia P. Weston
 Past President and Chaplain
 for 20 years
 263 Tanglewood Drive
 Piscataway, New Jersey 08854

An Anonymous Note to the Ladies

In the last issue of the Bulletin, you asked the ladies to write in their memories. I am not a lady but I can never forget a letter I wish had never been written.

It was November, the war was long over, with enough points to go home. I was temporarily billeted in a German barracks with one of the bravest men that I was privileged to fight with. He was also one of those who constantly bragged about his love, she was all he lived for. He never, never strayed.

Some mail finally caught up with us. Sitting on his bunk I saw a shudder, a whimper, then he cried like a baby. To him, I dedicate this poem.

World War II - The Braid was Blue

*A leg is lost, an arm is too,
 But that's not why brave men cry.
 The letter came, "Dear John," it said,
 That's when he bled, that's when he cried
 That's when he wished that he had died.*

**Attention Ladies
 WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER
 FROM THE WAR??**

Ladies, if you can think of anything that occurred during war times that might be of interest to other women of the Ladies Auxiliary, please write us and we will include it in the Ladies Auxiliary pages. Please send them to:

Dottie Witzleb
 P.O. Box 69

Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069.

Please see the story on the following page from Ina Bayerle. We are sure you will enjoy it.

The "Nine Bs"

Submitted By: **Ina D. Bayerle**
4144 Jasmine Hill Road
Wetumpka, Alabama 36092-8510

The men in the photo are **Cliff Bryant, Ray Brown** and **Howard Bayerle**, known as the "Three Bs." **Howard** was in Camp Shelby on maneuvers with the New York National Guard when Pearl Harbor was bombed and he was immediately inducted into the Army (569th Signal Corp). **Bryant** and **Brown**, also in the 56th Signal Corp, were from Hattiesburg as were their wives and me.



The other picture shows the three "Mrs. Bs," Martha Bryant, Ruth Brown and myself, and the three "Miss Bs," Jenny, Jean and Susan.

When the 69th was due to go overseas, it was supposed to be Top Secret, but the "Bs" had signals worked out so we would know when they were leaving.

I can still remember how heavy that chubby baby was as we ran beside that trainload of GIs at the Hattiesburg Station desperately looking for them. When we finally found them, there was just time for a goodbye kiss. I know it made them feel good to leave three crying wives and babies. That was a long, hard trip for all the men with a longer one on the ship overseas to come.

Sorry I can no longer attend the 69th Convention. We used to enjoy them so much and the friendships of the other 69ers meant so much to **Howard**. I appreciate the work you all do in the organization and the bulletin. My best to you all.

69th Receives a Note of Thanks

Submitted by: **Walt Harpain**
Company F, 273rd Infantry
2274 West Dovewood
Fresno, California 93711-2810

When Shirley and I were on the plane to the Houston Reunion in August, we met this gentleman. He penned this message on a piece of scratch paper.

I felt compelled to forward this note of appreciation. It speaks for itself.

To Walt Harpain and the
Reunion of the 69th Infantry Division:

I personally want to thank all of you men who risked so much of themselves to defend the free peoples of the world. I especially am very thankful, because I am of the Jewish faith and if it wasn't for men like you, I would not be here today. From the bottom of my heart, I thank the Lord for all of you! In my own special way, I am repaying you in a very small way. This Thursday my son is graduating from boot camp at Fort Benning, Georgia. He plans on becoming an Army Ranger. I hope to heavens above that he never sees what you men have seen. But, if he does, take my word for it - he is ready to do what is necessary.

Bless you all,
Steve Schneider

Happy
Holidays
to
All 69th
Members
and their
families.



The Map

Submitted by: **Gus Wiemann**

*Company L and Headquarters, 271st Infantry Regiment
7126 Canella Court
Tamarac, Florida 33321*

When our newspaper, radio and TV began reporting about the cruise missile attacks recently on the training grounds of the Near East terrorists, it triggered a memory 53 years old.

It started on a March morning in 1945 on the German border. I was an interpreter with I and R, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 271st Infantry. Our outfit, led by **Lieutenant Merrill Werts**, was quartered in a small stone farmhouse. **Lt. Werts** used a cellar that had a small table, a chair and a candle to throw light on his paper work.

Unless the Lieutenant had given us specific orders, we used our initiative to reconnoiter and pick up any useful intelligence. That morning I decided to see what lay ahead. We were in a heavily wooded area and it was several minutes before I came to a point overlooking flat terrain.

A sentry stopped me just before I left the woods. "Where are you going?" he asked. I told him that I was with I and R and looking for whatever the Germans left behind. "Okay, but there's nothing but Heinies out there," he answered.

About 200 yards away stood a two-story frame building punctured by shelling. I started crawling to it, finally reached it and found it to be apparently deserted. Once inside, I proceeded up the stairs, pointing my rifle.

Suddenly there was a noise below. When I looked down the stairway I saw a GI wearing a tanker's jacket. "Hey," I called out. He whirled around. "I'm with I and R," I told him as I came down the stairs. "I'm looking for anything the Germans left behind.

He reached into his jacket and pulled out a long rolled-up paper. "You mean like this? I got this off a dead German officer." He unrolled it and it showed German installations in our sector. In the right-hand lower corner was the title "Luftwaffe Schule" or Air Force School.

"This is what I'm looking for. The Lieutenant would like to have this." Shaking his head, the tanker answered, "I don't know. I don't like officers." "This Lieutenant is a good guy," I told him. "He could really use this."

Finally, after some hesitation, the tanker said, "Okay, here." I grabbed it and crawled away from the house. As soon as I reached the wooded area I got up and ran to the farmhouse. As I came down the cellar steps I saw **Lt. Werts** sitting at the table, peering over some papers.

"Lieutenant, I found this," I said, handing him the map. He unrolled it, glanced at it, rolled it up and ran up the cellar steps. Within five seconds he started his jeep and roared away.

On the next morning a jeep stopped by our door, the driver threw out a bundle of The Stars and Stripes and sped off. I picked out a paper and saw the headline, "Eighth Air Force Bombs Enemy Positions." Right below the headline was a map. In the right-hand lower corner was: "Luftwaffe Schule."

Postscript: A short time after this incident, **Lt. Werts**, an officer who led by example, went on reconnaissance and was severely wounded by shell fire. He was evacuated and sent to a hospital in the States, where he was discharged. Later he served ten years in the Kansas Senate and in 1991 was appointed as civilian aide to Secretary of the Army Michael P.W. Stone, for the State of Kansas.

Len Sturm Article brings back memories

Submitted by: **Randolph J. Leibensperger**
*Company M, 1st Platoon, 273rd Infantry
484 Gun Club Road
Kutztown, Pennsylvania 19530-9491*



I read with great interest the article by **Len Sturm** of Company M, 273rd Infantry. This interest was created because I too was with M Company, 1st Platoon as a Section Sergeant.

Although I was not injured, I was in the same building in which our Company Commander, **Captain Parris**, was killed and a Tech

Sergeant **Barney Thompson** was wounded. To my knowledge, **Sergeant Thompson** recovered from his wounds and **1st Lieutenant Lord** did take command of M Company at that time.

Len also named towns and cities which I passed through on the way to victory.

I envy **Len** for his ability to remember those events and places and his pictures were also a jog to my memory. I would appreciate any input from any former M Company members to our bulletin.

Thanks, **Len Sturm!**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Randolph, why don't you try jotting down some of your memories and submitting it for publication in the bulletin?)

Attendees by State at the 1998 Houston, Texas Reunion

STATE	ATTENDANCE
California	39
Pennsylvania	38
Florida	32
Texas	31
New York	16
Tennessee	16
Virginia	16
Ohio	15
New Jersey	14
Illinois	13
Arkansas	12
Michigan	11
Wisconsin	10
Iowa	6
Louisiana	6
Nebraska	6
North Carolina	6
Massachusetts	5
Minnesota	5
Oklahoma	5
Colorado	4
Georgia	4
Kansas	4
Indiana	4
New Hampshire	4
Alabama	3
Mississippi	3
Missouri	3
Alaska	2
Connecticut	2
Delaware	2
Idaho	2
Maryland	2
Montana	2
Arizona	2
South Carolina	2
Washington	2
Nevada	1
Wyoming	1
Washington, DC	1
Canada	1

353

SUMMARY	MEMBERS	TOTAL
Total Attendees	194	353
First Time Attendees	13	20

TOURS & ACTIVITIES:

City of Houston	131
San Jacinto Monument	130
and U.S.S. Texas Battleship	
Country/Western Saloon	160
Space Center Houston, NASA	217
Early Bird Dinner	146
Galveston Day Tour	216
PX Beer Party	258
Banquet - Dinner Dance	321
Farewell Breakfast	106

1998 51st Annual Reunion Attendees Houston, Texas

The following is a list of the attendees at the 1998 Reunion in Houston, Texas 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

Fred Avery	Virginia
<i>Guest: Patricia Avery</i>	
Archie Brooke	Virginia
<i>Guest: Vivian Brooke Bailey</i>	
Dutch and Jean Hawn	Colorado
Gordon Kjos	Minnesota
Dr. Sumner Russman	Oklahoma
*Daniel Smothers	Texas

69th MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

Frank and Helen Williams	Pennsylvania
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269th ENGINEERS

Ernest and Mary Krause	Illinois
Ward and Marian Peterson	Pennsylvania
William Riggle, Sr.	Indiana
<i>Guest: William Riggle, Jr.</i>	
*Joe and Marguerite Sears	Oklahoma
Stephen and Mary Sholtis	Ohio

569th SIGNAL COMPANY

George C. Hepp	New York
Ed and Frances Hoskins	Texas
John and Jean Kastanakis	Alabama
Joseph Kotsko	Ohio
Donald and Lois Pierce	Pennsylvania
Carl and Mildred Stetler	Pennsylvania

271st INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

John Barrette	Wisconsin
Ray and Bertha Jones	Pennsylvania
Lee Wah	New Jersey
*Warren Jacobs	Texas

COMPANY A

Delbert and Donna Philpott	California
George and Rita Wolff	South Carolina

COMPANY B

Lumir and Patsy Bocek	Nebraska
Martin Buol	Florida
Philander and Ruth Delphey	Pennsylvania

(Continued on Page 26)

1998 REUNION ATTENDEES HOUSTON, TEXAS

(Continued from Page 25)

COMPANY B, 271st (cont.)

Earl and Millie Hansen Tennessee
Charles and Peggy Mabe Pennsylvania
Harold and Cynthia Moore Tennessee
Guest: Marietta Ledbetter
Charles and Bobbie Nicely Pennsylvania
Guest: Susan Laviano
Orrie Pullen Michigan
William and Jo Sheehan New Jersey
Kenneth and Lillian Upton Louisiana
Charles Walsh Wisconsin
James and Dorothy White Tennessee

COMPANY C

Neal Crowley Florida

COMPANY D

John and Jean Butkovich Washington
Frank and Lauraette Clark New Hampshire
John and Dena Tounger California

COMPANY E

Elmer and Erma Broneske Colorado
Robert and Betty Dimmick Georgia
Irving and Etta Gotkin Florida
Joseph and Jane Kurt Iowa
William and Catherine McCall New Jersey
Bing Poon District of Columbia
William and Marjorie Taylor, Sr. Florida

COMPANY G

Clifton and Pauline Barbieri Virginia
Edward and Jacquelyn Chando, Sr. .. New Jersey
*Billy and Artyce Colen Texas
Cecil and Evelyn Fernandez, Jr. Florida
Guests: Bill and Judy Newblom
Garland and Martha Gable Arkansas
Guest: Wes Gable
Zane and Zelma Gray Arkansas
Nathan Green Florida
Guest: Roxanne Kushner
G. Scott and Ann Gresham Virginia
N. C. Harrison Tennessee
*Guests: Emily Carmen, Allan Cochran,
and Elizabeth Knight*
Glenn and Nadine Hunnicutt Nebraska
Ralph and Josephine Plugge Illinois

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION

Raymond and Delores Mann Texas

COMPANY I

Douglas and Nathalie Buckstad .. North Carolina
*James and Dolores McDougal Texas

COMPANY K

Robert and Irene Bishop Massachusetts
Worley and Mae Smith Michigan
Guest: Connie Brough

COMPANY M

James and Mary Nelle Shoemaker Florida
James and Dottie Stacy California

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

Edgar Biles Arkansas
George and Lina West Pennsylvania

CANNON COMPANY

Harold and Nancy Faulkner California
Guest: Sanford Posey

MEDICAL

Karl Jones (son of Aubrey Jones) Texas

272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

COMPANY A

Dominic Dezio Michigan
Sanford Firsichbaum New Jersey
Edgar and Frances Parsons North Carolina
Robert and Esther Smith Ohio
*Robert Walton Texas

COMPANY B

Vincent and Rosemarie Mazza Maryland

COMPANY C

Joseph Bavico Ohio
Freddy Carter Texas
Charles Weaver Ohio

COMPANY D

John Mason California

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2nd BATTALION

David and June Wittman Montana

COMPANY E

Fred Butenhoff Wisconsin
Guests: Janis Haasl and Jonelle Bande
Chet and Barbara Yastrzemski New York

COMPANY F

Neil Shields Pennsylvania
David and Jeanne Theobald California

COMPANY G

Ray Lehman Iowa
Guest: Eva Benson

COMPANY I

Edward and Jennie Ambrose Pennsylvania
Kenneth and Edris Hull Arkansas
Robert and Vivian Kurtzman Ohio
Pat and Janice Lushbaugh Maryland
Emanuel and Edythe Rind Virginia
Harold and Ethel Ruck Tennessee

COMPANY K

Stanley and Laurene Knedlik Alaska

COMPANY L

Walter and Arlene Elsner Florida
Bernard and Edith Zaffern Michigan

(Continued on Page 27)

1998 REUNION ATTENDEES HOUSTON, TEXAS
(Continued from Page 26)

COMPANY M

Norville and Myrtle Kendrick Florida
Joseph and Kathryn Makosky Pennsylvania
Floyd and Melva McCalip Mississippi
Richard and Claire Sodorff Idaho
Ray and Alice Wolthoff Florida

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

Harry and Roseann Austin, Jr. Pennsylvania
Roy Bush Missouri
Donald and Libby Calhoun Florida
*Bruno and Jean Campese Pennsylvania
Urno and Evelyn Gustafson Pennsylvania
Joseph Huber Wisconsin
Harold Kaska California
Russell and Betty Koch Missouri
Raymond and Janet Sansoucy Massachusetts
Edward and Dolly Sarcione New York
Dallas and Laura Shelton Illinois
Darwin and Ethelda VanHouten Michigan
Robert and Annette Walter Iowa

CANNON COMPANY

Ralph and Ursula Goebel Minnesota

273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Norman and Kathryn Barratt California
Guest: Sally Ann Sittert
*Victor and Virginia Colletti Texas
Norman and Juanita Pickford Illinois

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1st BATTALION

Ralph and Cecilia Scholtz Florida

COMPANY A

James Brooks Georgia
Guest: Barbara Pitman
James and Mary Carroll Texas
*John and Narcee Durst California
Guest: Ipeneo Ilisan
James and Allamae Ezell Arkansas
Edward Lucci New York
William Nettles Mississippi
Bennie and Marcella Srubar Texas

COMPANY B

Arthur and Billie Hall Oregon
Eugene and Marilyn Mischke Illinois
Guest: Thora Miller
Robert and Lynn Peason New Jersey

COMPANY C

Elijah and Joan Dalrymple Florida

COMPANY D

Arthur Ayres Pennsylvania
Robert and Betty McCarty, Jr. Louisiana
Kenneth Sawyer Florida
Guest: Frances Collard
Wimpy Smith Texas

COMPANY E

Joseph Aiello New York
Anthony and Doris Bumbara New Jersey
Robert Crowe Massachusetts
Arthur and Marian Hume Michigan
William and Jane Matlach New York
*Joe and Betty Morgan Texas
Harold and Peggy Sprang Ohio

COMPANY F

John and Nancy Fella Texas
Walter and Shirley Harpain California
Robert Ross Texas
Sam and Anne Woolf New York

COMPANY G

Homer and Patricia Lind California
Joe and Diane Panganiban California
Edson and Tory Stagg New Jersey

COMPANY H

Bertram and Rhoda Eckert New York
Robert and Maxine Haag Indiana
Thomas Hoffman Florida
Leland and Lola Jones Kansas

COMPANY I

James and Audrey Castrale Nebraska
Carl and Bernice Macknair Pennsylvania
Robert and Theresa Pierce California
Earnest and Elizabeth Rowe Delaware
Erwin and Carmen Sanborn New Hampshire
John Sullivan, Jr. Virginia
Guest: Mary Lloyd Wadden
Nicholas Villacci New York

COMPANY K

Howard and Elnora Cordova Texas
Ewell Meadows Alabama

COMPANY L

Eldon and Marjie Atwood California

COMPANY M

*Leon Boyajan Florida
Raul Nava California

CANNON COMPANY

Arlie and Parley Boswell Illinois
Lee Wilson California
Guest: Jan Kremetz

ANTI-TANK

*James Henderson Texas

SERVICE COMPANY

C. Lamar Wallis Tennessee

724th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

BATTERY A

Paul Kitner Pennsylvania
Woodrow Mitchell Texas
William Ruebsamen California

(Continued on Page 28)

1998 REUNION ATTENDEES HOUSTON, TEXAS
 (Continued from Page 27)

724th FIELD ARTILLERY (cont.)
BATTERY B

Thomas Heath New York

BATTERY C

Howard and Lois Hawk California
 Coy and Erlene Horton North Carolina
 *Charles Martens Wyoming

879th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Earl and Matilde Ramsey California

880th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Mike and Lucille Pendrick Arkansas

881st FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

BATTERY A

Francis and Zita Enright Wisconsin

BATTERY B

James and Tillie Boris Pennsylvania
 Walter Haag California

Guest: Dorothy Vasiloudis

Emil Matys Nevada

John and Margaret Nelson Kansas

Gilbert and Susan Rocco Pennsylvania

Daniel and Margie Sparks Pennsylvania

Eugene Tabacchi Ohio

Guest: Dan Tabacchi

BATTERY C

Hugh and Dorothy Milstead Tennessee

661st TANK DESTROYERS

William and Jo Beswick Virginia

Eugene and Ethel Pierron Wisconsin

William and Ellen Snidow Virginia

777th TANK BATTALION

Alex and Florence Lasseigne, Sr. Louisiana

Henry and Jean Putala Connecticut

Charles and Stephanie Ray, Jr. Texas

Victor Tedesco Minnesota

Guest: Edward Eberhardt

Robert Weise New York

Charles and Edna White Oklahoma

HONORARY MEMBERS

Wilfred Ferda Ontario, Canada

69th Mug Shots
1998 Houston Reunion

Submitted by: **George C. West**
Anti-Tank, 271st Infantry Regiment
 2526 Green Acres Drive
 Allentown, Pennsylvania 18103-3740



Ed Biles
Anti-Tank, 271st



Neil Crowley
Company C, 271st



John Mason
Company D, 272nd



Wilfred Ferda
Honorary Member

Camp Shelby Armed Forces
Museum Foundation

Anyone wishing to join the Armed Forces Museum Foundation can write to:

Armed Forces Museum Foundation

Attn.: MS-DSR-PA

Post Office Box 5027

Jackson, Mississippi 39296-5027

They do need donations for the proposed new museum but also, you can write to them in order to receive information if you would like to visit the museum. They also have memberships starting at \$10.00 per year. They have many artifacts from World War II, including vehicles, photos, etc. If you are looking for a vacation spot, this is the place!

Company K - Our Story
To Be Continued in Next Issue

Due to the overwhelming amount of Reunion material, Company K - Our Story, which has been spread over several issues, will continue in the next bulletin with a roster listing.

Annual Meeting of Officers and Board of Directors

69TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. AUGUST 27TH, 1998

DOUBLETREE HOTEL AT POST OAK HOUSTON, TEXAS

President Boris called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The invocation was given by **Chaplain Snidow** and Pledge of Allegiance was made by the entire group.

Secretary's Report: The minutes had already been printed and submitted to the membership in a Bulletin. Motion made and seconded that the minutes be accepted. Motion carried. Comment was also made at this time that the amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws approved at the Danvers meeting were primarily for the purpose of conforming to the Articles of Incorporation which state that the Association "Shall have not less than Ten (10) nor more than Twenty-Five (25) Directors." It was noted that the four (4) elected officers are also counted as Directors.

Treasurer's Report: **Treasurer Matlach** submitted two reports. The first report covered the period of Jan. 1, 1997 to Dec. 31, 1997 which showed receipts of \$134,199.98 and disbursements of \$122,606.95 for a net change of \$11,593.03. The second report covered the period of Jan. 1, 1998 to July 31, 1998. Receipts were \$81,728.75 and disbursements were \$48,870.54. However, a truer picture of 1998 would be obtained by subtracting \$20,000.00 from both receipts and disbursements due to the way a purchase of a \$20,000.00 CD was handled for accounting purposes. He commented that there was a slight loss from the Danvers meeting and that current strategy was to continue to lose a little bit at each reunion. [Total resources (or surplus) as of December 31, 1997 was \$86,083.86]. All these financial reports become part of the minutes of this meeting. Motion was made and seconded to accept the reports as submitted. Motion carried.

Auditor's Report: **Auditor Lucci** reported that he had examined the financial records and all funds were properly recorded. He also submitted a comparison showing financials for the four calendar years 1994 through 1997. All four years developed an excess of receipts over disbursements. Motion made and seconded to accept the report. Motion carried.

Membership: **Chairman Kurtzman** advised that the membership was 4,957 in 1997 and is 4,740 at present. In the last 3 Bulletins there have been 162 listed on Taps. Since the last Bulletin was issued 41 members are to be listed in Taps. He also mentioned that we had 22 new members 1997-1998 and 6 new members since the last Bulletin. There was an extensive

discussion of the post office's automated system which rejects as undeliverable letters that are not addressed in a precisely ordered manner. When Bulletins are returned as undeliverable by the post office, the addressee should be sent a first class letter. If this letter bounces we should take them off the mailing list. Don't take dues paying members without unit numbers off the list. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Membership Report. Motion carried.

Bulletin Report: **Bulletin Editor Witzleb**, due to health reasons was unable to attend the Reunion; therefore, there was no report.

Nominating Committee: **Chairman Thomas Heath** presented the following list of individuals to be nominated for the Class of 2001 on the Board of Directors:

<i>Divarty</i>	William Ruebsamen
<i>Special Troops</i>	William R. Beswick
<i>271st Regiment</i>	Charles S. Walsh
<i>272nd Regiment</i>	Chester A. Yastrzemski
<i>273rd Regiment</i>	Arthur L. Hall

The motion was made and seconded to accept the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

Future Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee at the 1999 meeting will be the Class of 1999. Its Chairman must be from Special Troops according to the Constitution and By-Laws. However, at this meeting it was erroneously concluded that the Chairman should come from the 271st Infantry. Subsequent to the Annual Meeting held on August 29, 1998, after consulting the Constitution and By-Laws, **George Hepp** of the 569th Signal Company was contacted but declined to serve as Chairman and **William Snidow** of the 661st Tank Destroyers agreed to serve in his place.

Houston Reunion: **Reunion Coordinator Robert Pierce** reported that the numbers are reasonably lower, lower than everyone had anticipated. El Niño, he said, really hurt us because of the weather with its high temperatures, especially in Dallas. As of Saturday we had 367 registered. Because of pluses and minuses the final total will probably be around 375. Nevertheless we should have a very successful reunion. We will probably lose about \$6400. A complete report will be made at the General Membership meeting.

1999 Reunion Site: **Robert Pierce** briefly summarized the Grenelefe proposal: They will provide 3 two-bedroom suites complimentary for 7 nights. They will provide one room credit for each 50 rooms paid for. We will be able to purchase beer, wine and liquor for the hospitality at their cost with a 25% markup. There will be a \$25 per day clean-up charge. The cost of a prime rib dinner will be \$29 including tax and tip and the price for the buffet will be \$32 including tax and tip. They will also give 10% discount on any food service. A room rate of \$65 for that time of year is especially good. The guarantee on the food service is outstanding.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Continued from Page 29)

The other hotel package is the Orlando Marriott International Drive. It is located at the dead center of all activities in the Orlando area. The Marriott wants a room rate of \$77 double or single plus \$10 for each additional person. Their concessions are pretty much the same. They'll give us 3 two-room suites complimentary. The Marriott does not have upgraded rooms but they have rooms facing a beautiful pool which are extra. They will allow us to purchase beer, wine and liquor at cost plus 20%. They will offer 15% discount off of 1999 prices for sponsored dinners plus 15% discount on food purchased by anyone wearing a badge. International Drive extends down several miles. The only dates the hotel has open are the days November 14 through November 21, 1999. Every hotel wants a guarantee on something. In the case of the Marriott, if less than 60% of the total room nights are occupied we will be charged \$6,000.

That is pretty much what we have: the Marriott for the week before Thanksgiving and the Grenelefe for the last part of September and the first part of October. **Bob Pierce** said that he was only presenting the two proposals which he had. He was not trying to influence the group one way or the other. **Jim Boris** made the following comments: Grenelefe is out in the middle of nowhere and you are not able to do anything. You don't want to spend \$65 for that. The week before Thanksgiving is a good week as far as weather is concerned for our age group. On International Drive there are lots of things to do.

Robert Pierce then stated that **Ken Sawyer**, Chairman of the 1999 Reunion, should be asked to make the recommendation of his committee. **Ken Sawyer** said that his committee was quite enthusiastic about Orlando. He said the dates were good and there would be good weather. Comment was made that the Orlando Marriott is located on 46 acres of land. The hospitality room, registration room, etc. will be located in the main building; however, it will necessary to walk or take the available shuttle from one's lodging to the main building. Transportation to and from the airport is by regular limo service, current cost \$12. Moved and seconded to choose Marriott for the dates of November 14 through November 21, 1999. Motion carried to present to membership on Saturday morning.

New Business:

1. A comment was made that a lot of people aren't at the Reunion because they can't afford it. There was a fairly lengthy discussion of some way that we might reduce our surplus and help out the members. Several ideas were thrown out but none seemed practical. For the present it was concluded that we let the reunion committee chairman continue to work with a budget that would have a built-in loss in the \$6500 range;

however, further thought needs to be given to this matter. Someone suggested setting up a trust fund of \$5000 for overseas flowers. It was concluded that this was too complicated from a legal standpoint. It was moved and seconded that we leave things as they are now with respect to the flower fund. Motion carried.

2. Moved and seconded that the Reunion Coordinator for the Houston Reunion and the Reunion Coordinator for future reunions have a paid room. Motion carried. The present Reunion Coordinator, appointed by the President, is **Robert Pierce**.

3. **2000 Reunion: Harold Ruck** is thinking about Atlanta which is north of Orlando but is also in the South (a road atlas gives the driving distance between the two cities as 441 miles). A location further north might encourage greater attendance because it would be closer to the homes of the majority of the members. No decision has been made because all efforts have been concentrated on developing the information for the 1999 Reunion. **Jim Boris** thinks the site should be further north.

4. **Ralph Goebel, Secretary**, has received material soliciting money for the World War II Memorial Campaign. He asked whether the Association wished to contribute anything. Quite a few individuals have made contributions and there was little enthusiasm for doing anything as an Association. The matter was tabled. It was moved and seconded that something be put in the Bulletin. Motion carried.

5. **Rose Bearers: Robert Pierce** said that the rose bearers at the memorial service will be the outgoing directors (Class of 1998) plus the President of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

Adjournment: Moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. Time, 5:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Ralph H. Goebel
Secretary

**Annual Meeting of
the General Membership
69TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN.
AUGUST 29TH, 1998
DOUBLETREE HOTEL AT POST OAK
HOUSTON, TEXAS**

President Boris called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. The Invocation was rendered by **Chaplain Bill Snidow**. Pledge of Allegiance was handled by the membership.

Secretary's Report: **Secretary Goebel** said the minutes of the annual meeting of August 23, 1997 had been published in Volume 51, No. 1 of the Bulletin of

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

(Continued from Page 30)

the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association. He said these minutes should be amended in two places to reflect more accurately what took place at that meeting. First, in the paragraph entitled "Legal Advisor's Report" the next to last sentence should be changed to read as follows: *The motion was made and seconded that the amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws be approved exactly as stated in the proposed amendments entitled "Constitution and By-Laws as it will stand as amended" set forth in Volume 50, No. 2 of the Bulletin for the months of January, February, March and April 1997 beginning on page 24. Motion carried.* Second, in the paragraph entitled "New Business," which refers to dues policy, the following sentence should be added at the end: *The motion was seconded and carried. Motion made and seconded that the minutes be accepted with these two changes. Motion carried.* Secretary Goebel also mentioned that it is the practice of the Association to put roses and flags on the overseas graves of 69ers every April 25. There are 159 graves in total, 56 in the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, 101 in the Netherlands American Cemetery (Margraten), 1 in Cambridge and 1 in Ardennes.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Matlach submitted two reports, the first covering the period Jan. 1, 1997 to Dec. 31, 1997, and the second Jan. 1, 1998 to July 31, 1998. He pointed out that we now have four CDs. Motion made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Auditor's Report: Auditor Lucci reported that he verified the checking account and that all funds are accounted for properly. He also submitted a comparison showing financials for the four calendar years 1994 through 1997. All four years developed an excess of receipts over disbursements. He suggested we applaud Bill Matlach for the work he has done. Motion made and seconded that the report be accepted as submitted. Motion carried.

Membership Report: Membership Chairman Kurtzman advised that the membership roster was 4,957 in 1997 and is 4,740 at present. In the last 3 Bulletins there have been 162 listed on Taps. Since the last Bulletin was issued 41 members are to be listed in Taps. He also mentioned that we had 22 new members 1997-98 and 6 new members since the last Bulletin. In addition, he said that there are 284 members of the auxiliary and 250 members with no unit designation. There was an extensive discussion of the post office's automated system which rejects as undeliverable letters that are not addressed in a precisely ordered manner. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Membership Report. Motion carried.

Editors Report: Tabled. Earl Witzleb is physically unable to be here and should not go anywhere more than 30 minutes away from home. With the help of his wife, Dottie, he is still doing a very good job.

Legal Advisor's Report: Nothing to report.

Nominating Committee: Chairman Thomas Heath furnished the following list of individuals to be nominated for the Class of 2001 on the Board of Directors:

Divarty	William Ruebsamen
Special Troops	William R. Beswick
271st Regiment	Charles S. Walsh
272nd Regiment	Chester A. Yastrzemski
273rd Regiment	Arthur L. Hall

A motion was made and seconded that the above named members be elected to the Board of Directors (Class of 2001) in accordance with the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. Motion carried. The Nominating Committee at the 1999 meeting will be the Class of 1999. Its Chairman must be from Special Troops. Subsequent to this Annual Meeting, George Hepp of 569th Signal Company was contacted but declined to serve and William Snidow of 661st Tank Destroyers agreed to serve in his place.

Bill Beswick then reported on 69th Infantry Division Memorials, as follows:

I am Bill Beswick of the 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion and a diehard 69er. I have served as Secretary, a Vice President twice, President and a Board member of the 69th Infantry Division Association. I am proud and pleased to have served such a prestigious organization.

I am going to give you a report of the activities of the members of the 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc. The members of the Fund are me, Bill Beswick, Chairman, Dillard Powell, Secretary, Edgar "Bud" Parsons, Treasurer and Bill Snidow, all around "good guy and go-getter."

But, first, I want to tell you the primary concern of the committee is to honor our fallen friends and to let the world know that we were all there. I believe that our actions and work have proven this. We first brought this request to you in 1990, finally getting it approved in September 1991, and received our first donation in Mississippi. Nearly \$18,000 has been received.

A magnificent Memorial has been erected in Strehla, Germany, on the Elbe River at the sight of the first meeting of members of the 69th and the Soviets. Some of the funds have been donated by you fellows. The Soviets donated funds and cast the very large Memorial, depicting "Pegasus" the flying horse. The bronze was cast in Moscow and brought by truck to Strehla. One name I must mention here is Valodya Suroutsev, who did the casting and transported it. In fact, without his perseverance and dedication, it may not have been. The German people donated the land, excavated and landscaped the area. If it had been erected on the bank of the Potomac River, in Washington, it would have cost several million dollars. The stone

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

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wall is 35 feet long and 11 feet high. The bronze mural is 21 feet long and 7 feet high. This past June, it is still nicely landscaped.

We then undertook the Torgau Memorial project. It has been built, though it is not as extravagant. However, it is nice and noticeable. Parts of the sandstone of the old bridge that **Bill Robertson** crawled out on are incorporated into it, due to the significance of the old bridge. We supplied most of the money; the Germans donated the land. The Soviets had given much more at Strehla than we did, so we're even.

This site will fly a flag 5 feet by 8 feet in size. The Memorial site has been sodded, planted well with shrubs and this fall will be planted with tulips. It has been well mulched.

The Memorial is located close to the site that Major General Reinhardt and Major General Rusakov met on the bank of the Elbe River. There have been three bronze plaques placed there.

We have placed a 2 feet by 3 feet bronze plaque at the Camp Shelby Museum, honoring our friends that served there and lost their lives in Europe. Go see it on your way home.

We met with and participated in presenting President George Bush with a two-person statue of an American and Soviet Soldier, two-thirds actual size. It is on display at Texas A&M, in the George Bush Library. Go see it on your way home.

We have traveled to Germany several times to see if these projects were progressing as they were supposed to. We have kept a close eye on them.

All of the donations that you have given have been used in these projects. We have paid all the expenses incurred in these projects and have paid all of our own expenses.

I put an article in our most recent 69th Bulletin making a plea for about \$700 that been borrowed. Several fellows sent money, then a good friend and benefactor called and asked me how much I still needed to complete the request for funds. I told him and a check was put in the mail the next morning. The funds borrowed from the bank have been repaid. I thank these people that came to our rescue. I have one more bill to pay for three 5 by 8 flags, plus postage to Torgau, Germany.

After all bills are paid, the Committee is going to donate the balance on hand to the 69th Infantry Division Fund. We think this will benefit all members of the Association and the Memorial Fund will be closed out.

For those 69ers that forgot or just did not donate for some reason or other, that is okay, these Memorials still represent all 69ers and we thank you.

Now, one more item. I am going to arrange one more European Tour. It will be our 55th Anniversary Tour.

I would like to have an idea about how many may be interested. I'll be at the back of the room for any questions.

I hope that I have not taken too much of your time and I definitely appreciate your listening to me.

The members of the 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc. want to thank all of the contributors to the Memorials. I want to thank the Committee for working with me. It has been a pleasure. And, again, many, many thanks.

Mr. **Edgar A. "Bud" Parsons** A-272nd made the following report relative to the 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc.:

Background. About seven years ago, in Biloxi, Mississippi, the Board of Directors and the General Membership discussed participation of the the 69th Infantry Division Association in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the April 25, 1945 link-up. The decision of the Board of Directors, and later, the General Membership, was that there would be no official participation of the 69th Infantry Division Association in such activities.

However, the General Membership and the Board of Directors stated no objection to the formation of a separate funding organization by such individual members of the 69th Infantry Division as may be interested in commemorating the World War II record of the 69th Infantry Division. The 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc., a non-profit organization, was formally chartered under the laws of the State of North Carolina, with a 69er, **Mr. Dillard Powell** of Anti-Tank Company, 271st Infantry, contributing his legal expertise and all costs associated with the incorporation.

At the Biloxi meeting, and subsequent meetings, it was made explicitly clear that no funds from the 69th Infantry Division Association were to be used for purposes of commemorating the World War II role of the 69th Infantry Division. As the Memorial Fund approaches the completion of its commemoration mission, it is noted that no Association Funds have been utilized.

Purpose. The purposes of this accounting is to report on the present status of Memorial Fund undertakings and its several projects.

First, the Fund assisted in the completion of the First Link-Up Memorial Park in Strehla that was completed and dedicated on April 25, 1995. The cost of that park, the landscaping, and the special two metres by ten metres bronze mural has been variously estimated at around \$750,000. The Fund made a token contribution of \$8,000, a major part of the funds raised to that date.

Secondly, the fund purchased a casting of the bronze plaque, measuring two feet by three feet, prepared by the President's 50th Anniversary Commemorative

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

(Continued from Page 32)

Committee of World War II. The text of the plaque is in three languages, Russian, German and English. The plaque features a bas-relief based on the widely publicized photo of 69ers and Soviets shaking hands at the Torgau bridge link-up. Fortunately, we were able to effect that purchase before the mold was destroyed. That plaque, together with an accompanying descriptive plaque, has been delivered to the Camp Shelby Museum, funds for which have been authorized, and is now under construction. The membership will be informed of the Museum completion and dedication as soon as that information is known.

Thirdly, 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc. moneys have been utilized for the Torgau link-up site featuring the flagpole foundations, bronze plaques in three languages, landscaping and flags. That project was dedicated June 12, 1998, the 1025th anniversary of the founding of Torgau. **Bill Beswick, Dillard Powell, Bill Snidow and Bud Parsons** were in attendance. The arrangement is that the Torgau American Flag will fly daily from April 25 to October 3 each year. The two dates are noteworthy in Torgau history. April 25th is the anniversary date of the World War II link-up with the Soviets, and October 3rd commemorates the unification of the German Democratic Republic (Communist East Germany) with the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany).

It is noted that the officers of the Fund have donated all administrative costs of the 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc. All travel costs have been donated. All postage costs, faxing costs and other communication costs have been donated.

The publicity of the Bulletin has been indispensable to this endeavor. The Board of Directors and the General Membership are thanked for their continuing tolerance of the work of a small number of 69ers and a disappointingly small number of contributors interested in commemorating the role of the 69th Infantry Division in World War II. The role of the 69th Infantry Division has been commemorated with unique and permanent memorabilia. No other World War II Infantry Division is known to have created a more permanent and extensive record of its participation.

It is hoped that at some future 69th Infantry Division Reunion, permanent procedures will be established for the annual "red rose" remembrances on our European 69th Division graves, as well as provisions for systematic replacements of the Torgau (five feet by eight feet) and Strehla (three feet by five feet) "Old Glory" flags now flying on the banks of the Elbe River. The present commemoration system is entirely dependent on the viability of a diminishing number of capable 69th Infantry Division veterans.

The flag pole site at Torgau is only about 120 feet from a pretty heavily traveled highway and, in the course of a year, I think our flag will become, frankly, pretty soiled. I am making a motion that the appropriate officer of the 69th Infantry Division Association

be authorized and directed to send to the mayors of Torgau and Strehla new flags as follows: one flag five feet by eight feet every year for Torgau and one flag three feet by five feet for Strehla as needed.

After much discussion, motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Houston Reunion: Bob Pierce reported that the Reunion appears to be a success. Attendance is smaller than normal and is about 25% less than predicted. El Niño may have had a lot to do with it. He estimates about 380 attendees. We have a great committee, he said. The tours were successful. He said there were some hassles relative to seating and reiterated that members at dinner should sit where their place cards are. He commented on the souvenirs. He said the most pressing need is for a Souvenir Chairman. If no one is willing to take the job of Souvenir Chairman, there may not be souvenirs available in the future. **Jim Boris** interjected a comment that the Souvenir Chairman gets his room half paid for. **Bob** reported that **Billy Ray** said he would take the unsold souvenirs to his home and see to it that they got to the next reunion. Moved and seconded to accept the report. Motion carried. **Bob** was given a round of applause in thanks for all his work. Also, all First Timers were asked to stand and then were given a round of applause.

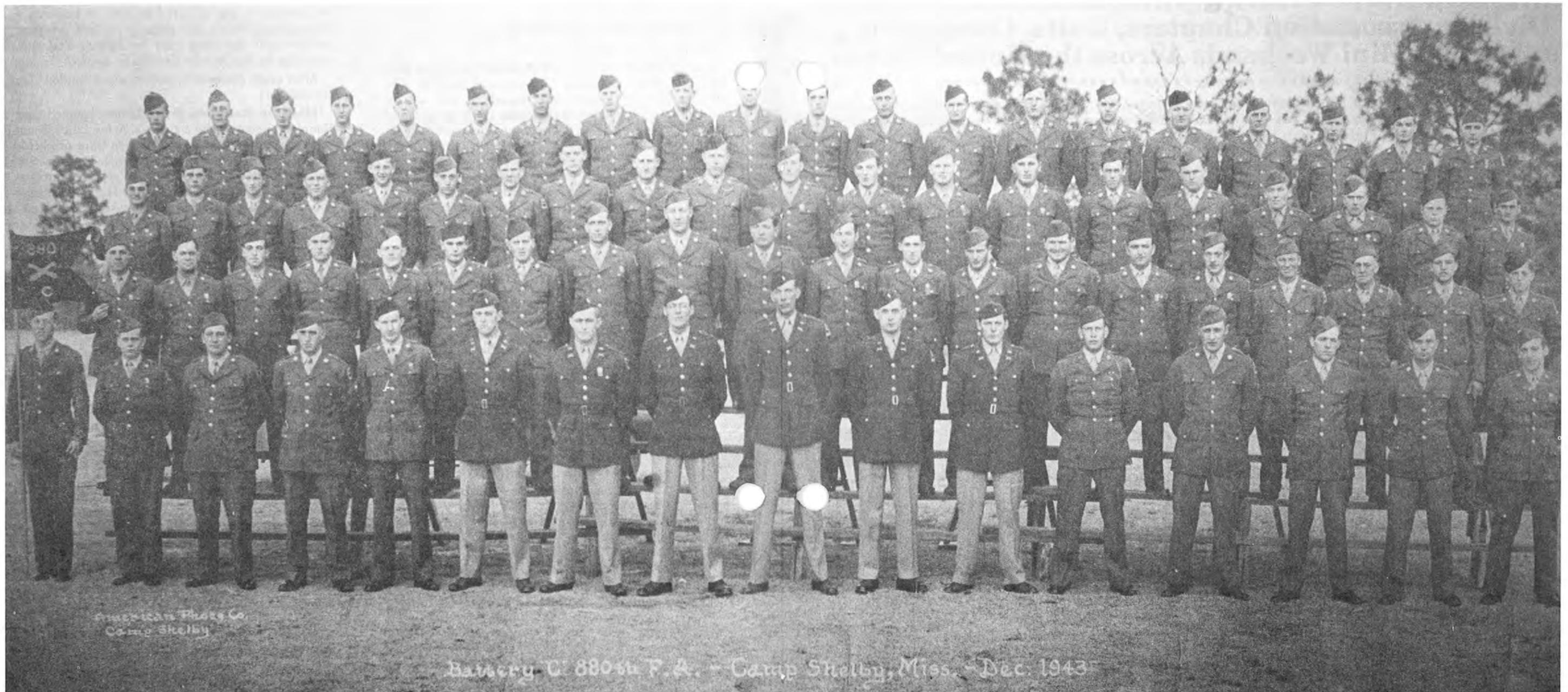
1999 Reunion Site: Ken Sawyer said the dates would be 14 November to 21 November. He stated that November was the best month with the absence of summer heat and hurricanes. The hotel is The Orlando Marriott International Drive at 8001 International Drive. It is centrally located relative to restaurants, amusements, theme parks, etc. Transportation is very convenient. Among the optional activities will be a night at the Arabian Nights, dinner and floor show, and Cyprus Gardens. Room rates will be \$77 per night. Moved and seconded to accept his report. Motion carried.

New Business: John Mason, Company D 272nd Infantry, suggested adding World War II to badges when they need to be replaced. **Bill Matlach** will look into the matter. **John Tounger**, Company D 271st Infantry, current President of the California-Western Chapter, said the Chapter's "Roundup", that is, meeting, will take place from April 25-30, 1999 in Reno, Nevada. All are welcome to attend. Room rates at the Sands Hotel are \$39 per night.

Jim Boris also mentioned that a motion was made at the Board of Directors meeting on August 27, 1998 that we reimburse **Bob Pierce** or any future reunion coordinator for room costs incurred at reunions. It was moved and seconded that this action of the Board of Directors be ratified. Motion carried. Also it was reported that sites and dates are being considered for the 2000 Reunion.

At 10:30 a.m. it was moved and seconded that we adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectively submitted,
Ralph H. Goebel
Secretary



Battery C, 880th Field Artillery Battalion - Camp Shelby, Mississippi - December 1943

Submitted by: **Enrico D'Angelo**, 516 Chestnut Street, Saltsburg, Pennsylvania 15681-1205

Back Row, left to right: Pvt. Hughes - Mississippi, Pvt. John Risko - Ohio, Pvt. Boggs - West Virginia, Pvt. Krakower - New York, Pvt. Tracy, Pvt. Shaw - New York, Pvt. Terebunic - Pennsylvania, Pvt. Bartholomew - Ohio, Pvt. Cecil A. Grantham - Mississippi, Pvt. Taylor, Pvt. Dobbs - New York, Pvt. Arnold - Pennsylvania, Pvt. Tomashley - Alabama, Pvt. Campbell - Florida, Pvt. Wayne Murphy - Ohio, Pvt. Tobias - New Jersey, Pvt. Henry Able - New York, Pvt. Robinson, Pvt. Duty, Pvt. Holland - Texas.

Third Row: Pvt. Lew Romansky - New York, Pvt. Uzardo - Pennsylvania, Pvt. Charles Willoughby - Maryland, Pvt. Wallack - New York, Pvt. Nordman - New York, Pvt. Daddissa - New York; Pvt. Burnette - New York, Pvt. Schangle - New York, Pvt. Lloyd Shelton - Mississippi, Pfc. Robert Williams - Ohio, Pfc. Monahan - New York, Pfc. Habay - Pennsylvania, Pfc. Cowen - Indiana, Pfc. Dufton - Pennsylvania; Pfc. Lee H. McCullom - Mississippi, Pvt. Rushing - Mississippi, Pvt. O'Neill - New York, Pvt. John Workman - West Virginia, Pvt. Faust - Pennsylvania, Pvt. Meyer - Georgia.

Second Row: Pfc. Moreno - Alabama, Pfc. Walther - New Jersey, Pfc. Paul - New York, Pfc. William Ford Peoples - Alabama, Cpl. Haitt - Indiana, Cpl. Lombardi - Colorado, Cpl. Kubacki - Pennsylvania, Cpl. Garwain - New Jersey, Cpl. DeWolf, Cpl. Hugh Carpenter - Virginia, Cpl. Daugherty - Indiana, Cpl. Reber - Pennsylvania, Cpl. Jennings - California, Pfc. Garlick - New Jersey, Pfc. Mancini - New Jersey, Pfc. Opp - Ohio, Pfc. Wayman - New York, Cpl. Morris - Ohio, Pfc. Barbarto - New Jersey, Cpl. Sullivan, Pennsylvania.

First Row: Cpl. Mills - Indiana, Cpl. Quigley - West Virginia, Sgt. Fredericks - New York, Sgt. Hammil, Staff Sgt. Potawatkosi - Illinois; 2nd Lt. Beebe - Colorado, 2nd Lt. Snyder - Ohio, 1st Lt. Zimmerman - New York, 2nd Lt. Beatty - Washington, 2nd Lt. Robin - New York, 2nd Lt. Pugh - Ohio, 1st Sgt. Anderson - Colorado, Sgt. Richan - North Dakota, Sgt. Escott - Michigan, Sgt. Laskill - Colorado, Cpl. L. E. McFarlin - Ohio.

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

We are interested in all news from Chapters, Groups, Branches, Companies, Battalions, Regiments, Recon, Artillery, AAA, Units, T.D.'s and minis for this column. Mail your date(s), location, banquet cost, activities and room rates, plus a good write-up to **Fighting 69th Division Bulletin, Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069 or 183 Pineslope Road, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606**, as early as possible. Then follow through with a write-up immediately after the event(s).

Headquarters Battalion 880th Field Artillery

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

Headquarters Battery 880th Field Artillery Battalion held their annual reunion at the Holiday Inn Express in Greensburg, Pennsylvania from July 16th thru July 19th 1998. Those in attendance were: **Mike and Lucille Pendrick, Herbert Priest, Rico and Anne D'Angelo, Emil and Peggy Paoletta, Stan and Georgia Bratt, Alex and Marge Kormas, Bill and Loretta Stump, Frank and Stefania Nemeth, Robert and Marilyn McKee and John and Peggy O'Connor.**

Herb Priest we had not seen in 53 years. It was great of him to attend and a pleasure to see him again.

Frank Nemeth and his wife added to our comaraderie. **Frank** is a member of the 269th Engineers and **Frank** was a long time Secretary of the National Association. **Rico and Anne D'Angelo** are also members of the "C" Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion. They were the guiding light for arranging our reunion for which we owe them a deep gratitude for their work. **Al Kormas** and his wife **Marge** have been members of our association for quite a while even though **Al** was a member of Headquarters, 879th.

We missed seeing others but some did reply with their regrets that they could not attend due to various circumstances. Those replying were: **Stan Crouch, Art D'Antonio, Howard Carlton, Harry Lavell, Helen Sassone and George Blume.** We thank these members for staying in touch. Also I did talk to **Doris Cooper** and she informed me that **John Cooper** was doing well. At 82 years young **John** was out cutting grass.

One person I neglected to include with the attendees was **Carolyn McGreevy**, the widow of the late **Gene McGreevy.** **Carolyn** attended for one day along with her daughter and son-in-law and the two grandchildren. It was a pleasure to see **Carolyn** and thank her very much for coming to see the members.

Five of us played golf and it appeared that **Frank and Teddy Nemeth** were the low scorers although **Stan Bratt** was also a low scorer. **Al Kormas** and I were the higher scorers. However I was not the higher score.

Everyone seemed to enjoy our reunion and hopefully, the Lord willing we will see each other again in the future.



John J. O'Connor



Herb Priest



Rico and Anne D'Angelo

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

(Continued from Page 36)



Bob and Marilyn McKee



Bill Stump and Mike Pendrick



Georgia and Stanley Bratt



Marge Kormas, Peggy and Emil Paoletta



Al Kormas of Headquarters, 879th



Seated, left to right: Loretta Stump, Carolyn McGreevy, Georgia Bratt. Standing, left to right: Peggy Paoletta, Lucille Pendrick, Marge Kormas, Anne D'Angelo, Stefania Nemeth, Peggy O'Connor, Marilyn McKee.

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

(Continued from Page 37)



Frank and Stefania Nemeth



Lucille Pendrick and Peggy O'Connor



Coy and Erline Horton



Stan and Lois Hawk



Joe Bavico and Marilyn Caden



Charles Martens



Charles Weaver

**Battery C,
724th Field Artillery**

Coy Horton, News Reporter
1705A Highview Street
Burlington, North Carolina
Telephone: 336/227-7785

Battery C, 724th Field Artillery Battalion was held in conjunction with the 69th Infantry Division Annual Reunion August 23rd through 30th, 1998 in Houston, Texas.

Battery C had a dinner meeting in the Doubletree Restaurant. The following were in attendance: **Stan and Lois Hawk, Charles Martens (First Timer), Coy and Erline Horton, guest Charlie Weaver, Joe Bavico** and friend **Marilyn Caden** of Company C, 272nd Infantry.

(Continued on Page 39)

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

(Continued from Page 38)



Bill Ruebsman, Btry. A



Paul Kitner, Btry. A



Tom Heath, Battery B

661st Tank Destroyers

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

Seventy-three 661st Tank Destroyers had an enjoyable time at the Central Williamsburg Ramada Inn, in Williamsburg, Virginia. Almost all of them stayed from September 9th through the 14th.

Lester Hart of the 881st Field Artillery visited with us and we certainly enjoyed having him. I believe he enjoyed it.

There are many places of interest in Williamsburg, the Pottery, Colonial Williamsburg, and bunches of Shopping Malls. I believe most of the Malls were visited by our people. Some of them visited Yorktown and Jamestown. **Bill Snidow** took several carloads to a Tour of the Chesapeake Bay on a Bayliner. He tried to make sailors out of them.

Lunch was served for everyone in our "Hospitality Room." It may have been sandwiches, prepared on your own, with chips, dips, soft drinks, beer or the hard stuff, whichever you preferred. But, anyhow everyone enjoyed just being together.

Guy Nowels and his lady friend "Ginny" attended from Portland Oregon, **Warren** and **Dorothy Mitchell** from Redwood City, California and they brought friends, I believe they were Roger Mauve and his wife. **Stanley** and **Olga Flak** and grandson, Joseph from Lewisville, Texas. I guess the balance of us were from Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York. I'm wrong, we had **John** and **Leora Sherlock** from Rhode Island. **Elwin Patterson** and **Chris** from Florida and **Fred Baumgarten** and wife **Nancy**, also from Florida. **June Anderson** and daughter JaNeva from McPherson, Kansas, and **Richard** and **Thelma McKinnon** from Michigan.

Guy Nowels received the gift for coming the greatest distance. **Stanley Flak** received a gift for having left Texas for a few days during their extremely hot weather. The intention was to find out who was the youngest man in attendance, but, somehow it was forgotten. But, anyhow I don't guess it made much difference because the youngest is around 73 years young, within a few days of each other. **Sam Goldberg** of A Co. 661st, took "HONORS" for being the oldest in attendance. He received a gift for being 81 years young. He does not look nor act it. I made my young granddaughters comment to him. I said, "Sam, you're getting old as dirt." Sam laughed at that.

We did not determine the location of the next reunion. But, we will determine where it will be in time to be published in one of the future Bulletins.

The one point that I cannot understand is, why don't the fellows attend the 661st T.D. reunions when they only live from ten to fifty miles from the reunion site? I will not stop at that one point.

I also want to pose the same question to all members of the 69th Infantry Division Association. If all of them want to be vocal and participate in the Association, why don't they attend the reunions and enjoy themselves?

The following is a list of those that were present in Williamsburg:

- Bob and Ann Shull Dansville, New York
- Tom and Fran Knick Clifton Forge, Virginia
- Elwin Patterson and Chris Sebastian, Florida
- June Anderson McPherson, Kansas
and daughter, JaNeva
- Chuck and Frances Yannul Hinton, Virginia
- John and Eva Golden Green Brook, New Jersey
- Bill and Rose Dubendorf Brooksville, Florida
- Fred and Nancy Baumgartner Brooksville, Florida
- Stan and Olga Flak Lewisville, Texas
and Grandson Joe
- Bill and Mary Wahl Chagrin Falls, Ohio
- Ruth Mellinger Wrightsville, Pennsylvania
and Daughter, Dawn
- Pat and Jules Slopek Munroe Falls, Ohio
and son, Tom

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,
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(Continued from Page 39)

- Bill and Jo Beswick West Point, Virginia
- Guy Nowels and Ginny Todd Portland, Oregon
- John and Leora Sherlock Pawtucket, Rhode Island
- George and Helen Ringer Hopedale, Ohio
- Carol and Marcel Pugsley Nokomis, Florida
- Nelson and Betty Leaman .. Lancaster, Pennsylvania
- Bill and Ellen Snidow Pembroke, Virginia
- Mike and Dorothy Kotnik Elyria, Ohio
- Dick and Thelma McKinnon ... East Jordan, Michigan
- Stanley and Gertrude Green ... Battle Creek, Michigan
- Jack and Jane Sutor Lynchburg, Virginia
- Charles Rodgers and Mary.. James Creek, Pennsylvania
- Ralph Bragg Chase City, Virginia
- Sam and Gertrude Goldberg.. Pembroke Pines, Florida
- Bill and Margaret Dawson Nathalie, Virginia
- Harry and Edna Murray Bedford, Virginia
- Vito and Theresa Capobianco Brooklyn, New York
and daughter
- Gene and Evelyn Bernardini .Collegeville, Pennsylvania
- Walter Jamerson and Marie Lynchburg, Virginia
- Jim Binder and Betsy Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

I'm sorry that I did not get the names of a couple of sons, daughters and their spouses. Better luck next time.

One item that I must not forget; **Thelma McKinnon** read a short poem, that I think should be put in the bulletin. Everyone will relate to it and I'm sure will enjoy it.

RECYCLED GIs

What do you do with an old GI
Who is obviously past his prime
When the world has left him far behind
And he has long since done his time.
There's no demand for second-hand drivers
They can't ride their tanks anymore
The skills they had are now far-gone
Used up on some foreign shore.
They've forgotten which hand they use to salute
And no way can they stay in step
They're wearing trusses, and taking pills
To try and restore their pep.
The old uniform is a trifle tight
And the battle stars shiny no more
They've refought the war a thousand times
Inside a bar-room's swinging door.
No one wants to hear again
Of a war now 50 years past
And people whisper being their backs
"How long can these old geezers last?"
Well, these old geezers have memories galore
For them buddies will never grow old
And those oft-repeated war-time tales
Are always good to be told.

They tell of a time when life was precious
Because it was easy to lose
And you relied on the guy who was next to you
And took risks that you couldn't refuse.
And a lot of our comrades have taken the ride
To the field of No Return
But to those of us left they'll never be gone
Which is something some people don't learn.
The bond that one GI has for another
Is something that's hard to explain
It lasts through separation of many years
Yet stays fresh as the morning rain.
So when anyone says of the old GIs
Why are these guys in the news
Just give them all the 1,000 yard-stare
And say, "Hey, Pal, we paid our dues!"

**Battery C
880th Field Artillery**

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

**The Nineteenth Annual Reunion
Held at The Dutch Host Inn in Sugarcreek Ohio
Sept. 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th**

Monday, Labor Day - Most arriving during early part of the afternoon and finding very nice clean and attractive rooms in a beautiful setting. The large spacious hospitality room was soon abuzz with warm greetings. After a short rest and some food, everyone again joined in the hospitality room for cake and ice cream.

Tuesday - A little rain in the early part of the day didn't dampen any spirits and we all toured the area via a train ride into the countryside. Shopping and more visiting filled the afternoon before a great family style meal at the Swiss Family Hat. The food was so good! We were entertained in the evening with a sing-along accompanied by Mary O'Brien's sister, Jean, on a keyboard. Jean also entertained us with a piano solo during our dinner.

Wednesday - Another great day. Many of us took advantage of a narrated small bus tour of the Amish area. We were taken on the small country roads and viewed many beautiful Amish homes, gardens, and farms, and were told of the different "orders" of the Amish families. One group, called the Beachy Amish, are very modern and have many of our conveniences such as telephones in their homes as well as electricity and drive automobiles. They hardly seem Amish since the rest have their horses and buggies, no electricity, and their telephones are located outside in small

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DIVISION ASSOCIATION MINI-WEEKENDS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES (Continued from Page 40)

"booths." After another large family style Amish meal at Beachy's Restaurant, we returned to the hospitality room for our annual give away - take away game. **Lew Hoehing** called during the evening and everyone was glad to hear from him and **Jean**.

Thursday - A bright beautiful day. Charlie's Angels were invited to the Memorial Service during the men's business meeting. It was very impressive. The names of **Jack Runkle, Bill Leslie, Hugh Carpenter, Severt Tindal, and Florence Kubacki** were memorialized this year. The rest of the day was again spent sightseeing and shopping. Our annual banquet was held at the Dutch Valley Restaurant. We were happy to have **Bob and Jean Shaffer** and **Bob and Vivian Kurtzman** join us, but very sorry that **Bob Shaffer** wasn't feeling well and had to leave soon after the meal. Group pictures were taken before our own very

talented **Bill Pugh** entertained us with music and narrated diary of his trip with son Ray to the western states.

Friday - After a very delicious hearty country breakfast served in the hospitality room the parting farewells were given for another year.

We were honored to have with us this year the following members and guests. Our hosts **Lew and Fern Pugh** and **Ray Mills, Marvin and Mary Reber, Lee and Betty Meyer, Lowell and Marjorie McFarlin, Bill and Inez Sells, Frank and Marie Habay, LeRoy Goetz and Bernice Vander Heiden, Joe and Dottie Damato, Enrico and Anne D'Angelo, Al and Marge Kormas, Robert and Irene Williams, Mary O'Brien and Jean Dolan and Rita Coneys, Bill Pugh, Bob and Vivian Kurtzman, and Bob and Jean Shaffer.**



*The Men of
Battery C, 880th*

*Front Row:
Lee Meyer
Lowell McFarlin
Leroy Goetz
Frank Habay
Joe Damato*

*Back Row:
Lew Pugh
Enrico D'Angelo
Bill Sells
Robert Williams
Marvin Reber
Ray Mills*

*The Ladies of
Battery C, 880th*

*Front Row:
Fern Pugh
Mary O'Brien
Dottie Damato
Betty Meyer
Bernice Vander Heiden*

*Back Row:
Jean Dolan
Anne D'Angelo
Marge Kormas
Marjorie McFarlin
Inez Sells
Rita Coneys
Marie Habay
Mary Reber*

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DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,
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(Continued from Page 41)

California Western Chapter

John Tounger, President

One Pine Hills Court

Oakland, California 94611-1530

Telephone: 510/531-8011

Fax: 510/531-3623

1999 Round-Up in Reno, Nevada

April 25th-30th, 1999

\$39.00 per night in the Sands Hotel

As everyone knows, "The Biggest Little City in the World" is filled with stage shows and 24 hour gambling establishments. Other attractions in the Reno area include golfing, facilities for boating, swimming, hiking, tennis, white-water rafting, snowmobiling and skiing in the Sierra Nevada.

Scenic sites surrounding the city, including Nevada's largest natural lake, Pyramid Lake, which is the Paiute Indian Tribe's homeland. The National Automobile Museum features displays of over 200 antique, vintage, classic and special interest autos. Nevada's oldest museum, the Nevada Historical Society Museum, has many pioneer relics, American Indian artifacts, antique furniture, and other items of interest.

A tour is planned to the historic sites of Carson City and Virginia City. Carson City, named for Kit Carson, became the designated state capital in 1964. A mint was established here for the federal government for coining the silver output of the Comstock Lode, located near Virginia City. A rare gold display at the Carson City Nugget across from the Capitol is evidence that gold also played an important part in the city's history. Carson City lies along US 50 which was once part of the Pony Express Trail across Nevada. This "loneliest road in America" is especially scenic as one heads west to Lake Tahoe and the California border. Virginia City was the west's mining metropolis in the 1870's. The Consolidated Virginia Mine has been estimated to have more than a \$234 million gross value. The city has been largely restored to resemble its early boom-town appearance. Mark Twain and Bret Harte are two notable residents. The September camel races held here is one of the state's major events.

Other group events include at least one evening stage show, the business meeting and the traditional memorial service and banquet. The hospitality room will also be open and everyone is invited to bring their memorabilia to share with the group.

To receive additional information and registration forms contact **John S. Tounger** at the address and phone number above. All 69th members are welcome.

461st AAA, AW Battalion Hq. and Medical Detach.

Mac and Madge Morris, News Reporters

630 North Oakland Street

Arlington, Virginia

Telephone: 703/527-2796

The 461st arrived at the Quality Inn on the 8th, 9th and 10th. Those who attended were **Cecil and Irma Twigg, Mac and Madge Morris, John and Elsie Chambliss, John and Connie Lane, Cyndy and Steve Lucas, Louis and Ruth Jones, Thomas and Frances Musselwhite, Carrie Scott, Dorothy and Allen Whitley and George, Mary Smith, Isabel and Ralph Yingling, Karen and Sarah Wedl, Ben and Linda Truitt, Joe Bryson, Frank and Ruth Atkins, Howard and Maxine Sandefur, Ed and Belle Moore, Wallace and Betty Ullery, Paul and Bertha Kowalchek, Richard and Sarah Rollison, and Patrick Musselwhite.** We had a total of 44, of which there were 14 members of the 461st; youngest attending was 12 week old Benjamin, grandchild of **Ruth and Louis Jones.**

We had a delicious buffet - roast beef, fried chicken, baked fish plus all the trimmings. **Ed Moore** asked the grace. **Louis Jones** was master of ceremonies and introduced our guests. They were Ruth and Louis' daughter and husband and Benjamin; John Chambliss, Jr., Judy and Trey; Frances Musselwhite joined Tom, plus two sons and a daughter-in-law;

We discussed where to meet in 1999. Suggestion made to meet in Maryland at Rocky Gap in Cumberland. There will be information mailed out for a mini-reunion. Motion made and seconded to meet here in Salem next year, 2nd weekend - October '99 - **Allen Whitley** requested someone else to make arrangements with the Quality Inn; **Patrick Musselwhite** agreed to do this. Thanks, Pat.

Steve Lucas requested articles for the Newsletter. Anything about your family; illness, deaths, anniversaries, etc. We all enjoy receiving this newsletter so let's remember to send info to Steve. Pat expressed appreciation to all the 461st.

We expressed appreciation to **Allen** for making arrangements at the Quality Inn in the past; requested **Louis Jones** and **Mac and Madge Morris** continue as master of ceremonies and secretary and treasurer.

Linda Truitt had brought items for the ladies. This drawing is a happy time for all. Sarah helped Linda again this year.

Pictures were taken and we said goodbye till 1999.

We all enjoyed the cake **Belle Moore** brought; the juicy apples brought by **Allen Whitley.** The snacks that Sarah brought (goldfish - you can't eat just one!); the gifts for the ladies by **Linda Truitt;** the beautiful cups from **Steve and Cyndy Lucas;** the calendars, pens, key chains, rain hats brought by **Mac and Madge.**

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,
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(Continued from Page 42)

Company I, 271st Infantry

B. Dale Thompson, *News Reporter*
3920 N.W. 29th Lane
Gainesville, Florida 32606-6671

Gainesville, Florida was the site for the seventh mini-reunion for Company I, 271st Infantry. Twenty four "Trespass Blue Item" veterans and guests assembled March 19-23 for fellowship, sightseeing, and entertainment. Ten states were represented by **Hy and Mae Rita Kurfirst** from Seattle, Washington, **Bob and Phyllis Jorgenson** from La Crosse, Wisconsin, **Harris and Hazel Timmer** from Grand Rapids, Michigan, **Bob and Carol McMillan** from Stow, Ohio,

Dick and Jane Haines from Tewkesbury, Massachusetts, **Doug and Nathalie Buckstad** from Asheville, North Carolina, **Joe and Virginia McMurray** from Jackson, Tennessee, **Lynn and Lou Jones** from Milan, Tennessee, **John Noone** from Forest Hills, New York, **Leigh Tenney** from North Little Rock, Arkansas, and **Dale and Peg Thompson** from Gainesville, Florida. Guests were from New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

As the first order of business, deceased members of Company I were recognized with a brief ceremony at the simple, but effective Alachua County Veterans Memorial in Gainesville. Scheduled activities ended with a day trip to browse historic St. Augustine.

The 1999 reunion of the group will be in Tewkesbury, Massachusetts, June 10-14. Further information and arrangements for housing may be obtained from **Dick Haines**, 22 Windham Road, Tewkesbury, Massachusetts 01876.



Veterans of Company I, 271st Infantry: Kneeling - Dick Haines, Dale Thompson, Hy Kurfirst, Bob McMillan, Doug Buckstad. Standing - Lynn Jones, Harris Timmer, Leigh Tenney, Joe McMurray, John Noone, Bob Jorgenson



At the Alachua County Veterans Memorial, 271st members and guests remember deceased members.

Members of Company A, 272nd Infantry

Grandson searching for info on Alfred Monroe "Roe" Zeigler, Jr.

Submitted by: **CPT Shannon M. Zeigler**
3413 Littlestone Court
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28311-2651
Telephone: 910/488-5831
E-Mail: SAZeig@aol.com



Alfred M. Zeigler somewhere in Germany, Fall 1945

William Matlach encouraged me to write to you last fall but I am just now getting around to this. I decided no time like the present. My father and I enjoy reading the Fighting 69th Infantry Division's Bulletin.

My purpose of writing is to attempt to learn more about my grandfather, **Alfred Monroe "Roe" Zeigler, Jr's.**, service in World War II. He served in A Company, 272nd Infantry Regiment. My grandfather, I understand, enlisted in April 1944, attended basic training at Camp Fannin, Texas and joined the "Fighting 69th" in the Summer of 1944. I believe he was with A Co., 272nd Inf. Regt. until the end of the war. He "mustered out" in December of 1945. Unfortunately he died in 1987 and I was not able to ask him many questions that I would ask if he were still alive today. I have enclosed 13 photographs that he took while overseas. These are reproduced from the original negatives. I transcribed some of the names from a few of the original photos that I do have. I do not know who the rest of the individuals are. I hope that you can find some space in your Bulletin to place these pictures. Hopefully somebody will recognize themselves and my grandfather. If anybody remembers my grandfather, I would greatly appreciate them contacting me by either letter, E-mail or phone. Any information on my grandfather's service would be welcomed.



Unknowns

I consider his influence a major factor in my career choice. I am currently a Captain in the Medical Service Corps, stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. I initially enlisted in 1984 as a Combat Engineer, served 4 years, then went to college and received my commission in 1992. Since then my wife, Anne, and I have lived at Fort Wainwright (Fairbanks), Alaska and here at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

My Grandfather's Information: Alfred Monroe Zeigler, Jr.

A Company, 272 Infantry Regiment
Hometown at time of enlistment: Maysville, Kentucky

This is a list of names that are written on some original photographs. The picture quality is poor and the pictures are very small 1" x 2.5."

Nathan Ratner	Segial (no first name)
Luther D. Schlauch	Larcey (no first name)
Randall E. Wright	Andrew L. Lowrey
George F. Jeske**	James V. Russo**
James H. Winter	Daniel D. Carey, Jr.**
Russell J Maier	August F Petreasek
Archie M Burks	Francis J. Gardner, Jr.**

This is a list of names that I found handwritten in the back of his History of the 272nd Infantry Regiment:

John B. Rumble**	Tommy Aufiero
John R. Rogers	Thomas A. Raue, Jr.
James A. Monroe	Robert B. Scheel
Floyd E. Bingham	Joe M. Molina
Joseph T. McEntire	Walter A. Rosenow
SSG Richael Ruckle	John J. Vogel
Michael Stauch	Johnny DeLuca
Louise Zonla	William L. Cleary
John R. Palermo**	Rodney Linwell
Julian C. Walther	

** I found these names listed on the 272nd Infantry Roster that Mr. Matlach sent me last fall. If you know the whereabouts of any of the others listed, any additional information is most welcome. My next project is to write these men.

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GRANDSON SEARCHING FOR INFO
(Continued from Page 44)



Alfred Monroe Zeiger "Roe", Larcey, Luther Schlauch



Segial



*Nathan Ratner
from New York City*



Randall Wright and Andrew Lowrey

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We did our best with these pictures. The rest are just too bad to try and reproduce. If anyone can be of some help to Shannon, please write him and help him out.)

How small the world can be sometimes . . .

Lutz Gebhardt
c/o German Embassy
POB 231
Windhoek/Namibia

Sometimes the world is very small I thought when I got the last bulletin from the 69th mailed from **Edward Cylkowski**, my father-in-law. He served with the 273rd and keeps me informed about his unit history since I collect Militaria. When I saw the title page of your Vol. 51, No. 2 issue and browsed through it, I decided to share our story with all of you.

First of all, I'm a German national, almost 39 years of age and currently live in Windhoek/Namibia (Africa) with my American wife Cynthia. I'm a diplomat employed with the German Foreign Office. Being posted years ago in Houston I was working at the German Consulate on Post Oak Blvd., in the tall tower on the left of your title page. There I met Cynthia and after a very short dating period we married. Her family was shocked about the news but all that changed when we both traveled up to Connecticut.

It turned out that **Edward** knew a lot about Germany. We both disappeared to his home-office, he explained to me his journey with the 69th through half of Europe and showed me the "69th Infantry Divisions Pictorial History" book. Studying the attached map in the back of the book to my total surprise I learned that he had marched through Witzhausen in Hessen, my hometown. He remembered that small city very well because his unit was resting there for a couple of days. He was also able to name some people and shops which I know well. My father, then 7 years old, often told me about the friendly Americans driving through the city, generously giving chocolate and chewing gum to the kids. I would like to think that my father was one of those kids that received candies from the **PFC Cylkowski**, 15 years before I was born.

Now I'm married to this friendly American's daughter, what a twist of fate . . .

As a firearms and medals collector, I was proud to be able to recreate my father-in-law's uniform and medals which were unfortunately lost. I have read through the 69th Pictorial History book and eagerly await your bulletins.

A last request: To complete the uniform and for a medal display which I assembled for **Edward** I would need the 69th and 273rd shoulder badges or other insignia. Any help is highly appreciated and costs would be covered by me.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Anyone that could help Lutz, please write to him at the above address, especially men of the 273rd Infantry.)

"As I Remember It"

PART I

Written by: **Robert L. Muckel**

Company I, 273rd Regiment, 3rd Platoon, 1st Squad

655 South Chiques Road

Manheim, Pennsylvania 17545

It was a cold winter day. We were riding on open trucks, heading for the front. On both sides of the road the fields were littered with abandoned military equipment, both German and American. Scattered about like discarded rag dolls were the bodies of dead German soldiers, with their arms and legs sticking out of the partially melted snow. This is the area through which the Battle of the Bulge was fought.

After a long ride, the trucks finally came to a stop. We got off and began walking. It was getting late and growing dark. Then it started to rain, coming down in a steady drizzle making it difficult to walk. All of the vehicles that had been over this road left it a mess, which was at least eight inches deep with mud. With every foot forward you slide backwards two, almost like walking in place. It is impossible to walk in a normal way. It's like walking in molasses. The suction of the deep mud makes it pop with each step you take. I thought to myself ... I don't know about this army life? Suddenly, off in the distance could be heard the sound of exploding shells. The sky lit up like daylight. It reminded me of a heavy thunderstorm. So that is what it is like at the front ... that is what we can expect when we get there???

At last came the light of morning. We are still on the muddy road walking through a thick forest of tall evergreen trees. I am not sure, but I think this is called the Ardennes. We are ordered to stop and enter the woods on the left side of the road, find ourselves a place and rest. We were warned not to go too far into the forest, and to be on the lookout for booby traps and trip wires. Several minutes after they gave us this order, I happened to glance down at the ground in front of me and there, about two feet away, was a bright shiny thin wire stretched across the path. It was about two inches above the ground and almost completely concealed by the grass and snow. If someone were to accidentally hit the wire with their foot or step on it, well you would have had it.

Off in the distance, in the forest on the right hand side of the road came the sound of machine gun and rifle fire. We are informed by our officers that a Regiment from our division is now engaged in combat with the Germans. Someone inquired as to what kind of opposition we are receiving. The answer was, Oh, they are facing very light opposition with few casualties. Well this did not seem too bad. About fifteen minutes later we heard the whining sound of a motor and the changing of gears, as the driver fought his way through the mud. Here it comes around the bend now, an

ambulance. As it passes by we can see two pairs of muddy boots showing through the window of the back door. That meant at least two wounded soldiers, maybe more as each ambulance can carry four litters. Well, several minutes later, here comes another one up the road. Then another and another. This kept up the rest of the day. By golly, that one there has a pair of hobnailed boots showing at the window. He must be a German soldier. All of these wounded men going by, and they told us the regiment was having light opposition?

Well we left this area and are on the move again, going to another section of the front. While crossing an open field, we could see a long column of American troops coming in our direction. As they came closer, we could tell by their shoulder patches they were veteran troops of the Pennsylvania National Guard called the Keystone or Bucket of Blood division. These are some of the men we are replacing on the front lines. One of our men called over to them and said, "How are things up at the front?" Someone hollered, "You will find out soon enough, you draft dodging sons of guns. It's about time you came over here and did your share of the fighting." Then someone else called over to us, "My, my, look at all of the new soldiers in their new uniforms, don't they look pretty."

It was growing dark when we arrived at the section of the front line which we were going to occupy. Here we met combat veterans of the Ninety-Ninth Checkerboard Infantry Division, the men we were replacing. I looked them over real good to try and get some kind of an idea as to the effect combat had on them. The first thing I noticed about them were their eyes which were wide open and staring. Their faces looked awfully white. I had seen no smiles on anyone, that's for sure. We are told that this section of the front is called the Siegfried Line. This is to be our new home for a while.

Our platoon the third platoon of Company I, 273rd Infantry Regiment, was shown to one of a few empty buildings in the area. This one had an outside entrance and open staircase made of concrete which began at ground level and down to a basement doorway. Going inside we found the cellar to be fairly large but quite damp and pitch dark. Someone filled a couple of empty wine bottles with gasoline and inserted a rag in each and then lit the rag. This was our only source of light. Soon all of our faces were covered with the black soot given off from these burning torches. We took off our field packs and piled them on the floor against the cellar wall. I thought to myself, well I might as well make myself as comfortable as I can and got rid of some of the dead weight by taking off my heavy mud caked rubber galoshes. Ah, it feels great to move around without all of that extra weight. But I kept my cartridge belt on because any minute we could be ordered to go outside. Most of us then sat down on the cellar floor with our rifles beside us. We sat there

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"AS I REMEMBER IT"

(Continued from Page 46)

looking around the basement wondering what our next move would be. Suddenly we heard a loud whistling noise, Birrrroom. A German artillery shell exploded outside, then another. This went on for about fifteen minutes more. Then it was quiet again. Our nerves were beginning to settle down when Baaroom... another shell hit outside. Our superiors said this lone shell was the German's standard way of shelling us. They reasoned that after the main part of the shelling was over, it would be safe enough to venture outside and move around in the open and end up being hit by this extra shell. This shelling went on every day, morning noon and night. The whole building shook and vibrated from these explosions. Our greatest fear was the possibility of one of the shells coming into the cellar.

After the evening shelling ended it was quiet and peaceful once more. After getting over the shock of the artillery barrage, I laid down on the concrete floor. Using my pack as a pillow, I quickly fell asleep. Early the next morning we were all briefed as to the positions we are to occupy here on the line. Each man in the company took their turn at these different positions every day.

Three of us were sent out to occupy a one story farm house approximately two hundred feet out in front of our main line in what is known as no man's land. This is the area of ground which separates us from the Germans. This building is called the forward observation post. Our mission here is to observe the German line and keep a sharp look out for any activity. In plain words, if we see any enemy soldiers coming toward us, we are to give the alarm. The three of us left the cellar and took off for the F.O.P. On the way we passed the carcass of a dead horse lying on the left side of the road and right behind it is a pile of dead German soldiers with a tarp thrown over them. They are all dressed in American uniforms. Talk about the stench of rotting corpses, the smell was sickeningly sweet. It seemed to penetrate your body right to the very bone. On a warm day the smell was even worse. I will never forget that smell as long as I live. The smell of a dead animal is bad enough but it is not the same as a human being.

As we approached the small farm house we noticed the windows and doors were missing and the roof was made of straw. I never saw a straw roof before. We entered the building and relieved the three other men that were there. We asked them how things were going. They replied that it had been pretty quiet. This building consisted of one large room with a small addition built onto it. But it was of no use as it had fallen down. At a corner of the big room was a staircase. We went down the steps expecting to find a cellar. Instead it turned out to be small room about six by six feet square with stone walls and a vaulted stone ceiling

and a dirt floor. To enter it you had to either crawl on your hands and knees or bend over as the ceiling was only about five feet from the floor. In addition to this water was slowly dripping down from several places in the stone ceiling leaving small pools on the dirt floor. Here is where we would eat and sleep. It would also give some degree of protection from the artillery shells. Normally two men would be down here trying to get some sleep while the third one was upstairs keeping a lookout. I was given the first shift to stand guard.

Standing to the side of one of the front windows and looking out, I had a good view of the area. Scattered all over the landscape were concrete pyramids, each one about three feet high. The Germans designed them to prevent tanks and vehicles from passing. A small road ran past the farm house and through the German sector. Off to my left front I could see part of an enemy pillbox. Uh oh, I see some movement. I grabbed my field glasses for a better look. Sure enough it's a German. I figure him to be approximately five hundred feet away. Now he disappeared behind the trees. Oh well, just one German is nothing to worry about, I think??? Night time came on and it became pitch dark. I kept straining my eyes trying to pierce the darkness but could see nothing. In fact if I had stretched out my arm in front of me, I could not even see my hand. Talk about being frustrated. What good is an observer who can't see anything. Well I can't see so I have to rely on my hearing. For hours I stood there by the window listening, trying to detect the slightest sound of any movement. Finally the light of morning came and I was relieved by one of the other two men. I was really glad for the break as I was tired, cold and hungry and sleepy.

I headed down the steps to the little cubby hole called a cellar, yeah ... a root cellar. Our other buddy was there lying on the dirt floor smoking a cigarette. By the light of a small candle, I lay down on the floor trying to keep my body out of the small pools of water lying about. This was impossible so I just tried to ignore the dampness. As the water soaked my pant leg, I laid there exhausted both physically and mentally with my stomach growling for food. When in the heck are we going to get something to eat. About an hour later here comes our squad leader down the stairs and gives each of us a small olive drab colored can. These are called C-rations. I look at mine, it says on the label powdered eggs and potatoes. Ugh, not again. It seems I always get this stuff. Don't they make any other kind of canned food? Oh well, I open the can and eat it cold. There being no way to heat it unless I hold the can over the candle flame for an hour but I am too hungry to wait that long.

Several days pass by when we receive a visitor, a fellow from our division artillery section. He has a large portable radio, a two-way transmitter strapped

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on his back. Unhooking the harness and setting it on the floor he said, "I will show you guys how to operate this thing. Then if you see any Germans just call us and give their approximate position." Turning it on he started talking into the mike. Well while he was talking the Germans were busy too - using a radio direction finder to pinpoint the location of our radio. For suddenly shells began bursting nearby. Our radio operator quickly turned off the set. He said, "O.K. boys, take over, I'll see you then," and dashed out the back door and headed for his unit. Shortly after he left, the shelling stopped and things returned to normal.

The next day it was my turn at the window again. It was a pretty nice day out, fairly warm and nice and quiet with a blue sky and white clouds floating around. Keeping an eye on the German pillbox, I noticed some bright reflections in the area like the sunlight reflecting off a mirror. Looking through my field glasses I saw a German soldier standing there eating his dinner. The reflections were caused by his real bright mess gear. I thought to myself, that fellow must feel pretty safe to show himself like that right out in the open. Where does he think he is? On some sandy beach miles away from the front? I stood watching him for a few minutes then remembering our transmitter, I turned and looked at it thinking, here we have all of that power at our fingertips. With just a quick flick of a switch and a few spoken words our big guns would be sending shells over to the enemy bunker. It was a great temptation - should I do it or not? I know there is probably more than one man in that bunker. Well we are at war and we are here to kill Germans. So I turned on the radio and gave them the approximate range and location of the bunker.

Shortly, we heard the whistle of a shell as it passed over our building towards the German position. We heard the explosion and saw the smoke where it hit the ground. It appeared to be a direct hit. Well this really got the Germans stirred up like a nest of angry hornets. For they retaliated by sending back shell after shell. One of them hit the top of our roof sending parts of it down on our heads. Surprised and frightened, we all made a run for the cellar door. Getting there all at the same time the three of us got wedged into the doorway. When I look back at it now it was really funny. We were like actors in a scene from the Three Stooges, with our arms and legs flailing about in all directions. with no one willing to back up to make room for the other one to get through. Finally we got untangled and down to the safety of the cellar. We learned a lesson from this experience ... from now on let sleeping dogs lie. Well for the time being our tour of duty at the forward observation point is over. We are replaced and sent back to rejoin our platoon.

Back With Our Platoon

Well back to the basement with its gasoline torches and black soot. I was awfully sleepy - it seemed like I could never get enough sleep. So every chance I got, I took a little cat nap. I soon fell sound asleep. Suddenly, I was jarred awake by the sound of exploding artillery shells. A member of our platoon had just gone out the cellar door and started up the outside staircase when shrapnel from a burst hit him. They carried him back inside and our aid man, the medic, began working on him, under very difficult conditions I might add, with the semi darkness of the cellar and only the dim flickering light of a smoking gasoline torch to see by. They probably picked out any steel splinters which could be seen, tried to stop the bleeding and gave him a shot to help dull the pain and maybe sprinkle some sulfa powder on the wound to fight infection and then bandage him up the best they could and then send him back for an operation. I have often wondered who this fellow was and how he made out?

My mouth is dry, I need a drink of water and my canteen is empty. I grope around in the darkness looking for our water supply, a five gallon can. Finding it I fill my canteen and take a big swig. I quickly spit it out. The darn stuff tastes like oil. I took a cupful over to one of the sergeants and told him - this water has a funny taste to it. I don't think it is any good. He didn't bother looking at it. He replied, It's alright ... drink it. So with no other water available I drank it. Well it wasn't very long till practically everyone in the basement came down with dysentery. We had no control over our bowel movement - it would just gush from our body like water fouling our long heavy winter underwear. Due to circumstances beyond our control we had no choice but to drop our trousers and use our bayonet to scrape and clean off as much of it as possible then pull our trousers back up over our dirty, smelly underwear and go about our duties as usual. Thus everyone acquired their own foul odor. Day after day we wore the same clothes. We stood guard in them and we slept in them, boots and all.

Bunker Guard

Several hundred feet away from our basement quarters is an underground bunker constructed of reinforced concrete about six feet thick with heavy steel entrance doors. These bunkers are located all along the Siegfried line and positioned in such a way that enables them to create a field of crossfire between each one, thus any one trying to attack the one could be caught in the machine gun fire of the other. Well it's my turn to stand guard at the bunker, so off I go. Arriving there and meeting the guard I am replacing, I took over his position beside an earth bank about eight feet in height. From here the ground begins to incline downward for a distance of about twenty-five feet. It then levels off in a flat rectangular area about

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twelve by fifteen feet. On the right side is the bunker entrance. I would estimate the bunker floor to be sixteen feet below ground level. This bunker is being used as headquarters for either our third battalion of the 273rd or our own Company I of the same regiment. I am not sure who is using it. My only concern is standing guard. I stood there holding my rifle with the butt resting on the ground and trying to keep watch in all directions. I light up a cigarette and puff away. The weather is turning colder so I move around a little to keep warm. Everywhere I look the landscape is dotted with those concrete tank barriers. They are called dragons teeth. Most of the area is open with a few trees here and there. It is a little too quiet, like the lull before a storm. I think about the German sniper with the scope on his rifle. We know he is in the area some place. Maybe this is my lucky day, maybe he is sleeping?, or went some place else to hunt for a target.

The silence is suddenly broken by the strangest sound I have ever heard. It is coming from the German lines heading right towards us. It sounds like a lot of women screaming at the top of their voices. Meme me me memeeeee. The noise is made by salvoes of rockets as they go through the air then hit the ground and explode. This noise is very unnerving to say the least. Then it all stops. Quietness returns, but not for long. Baloom, baloom, the sound of two more heavy explosions shake the ground. They are made by German mortar shells which make no sound going through the air. They give you no warning like the artillery and rockets. All you hear is a whoosh and the explosion. Now the Germans start shooting their big artillery shells at us. They are landing close by. There is no place to hide or seek protection from the hot razor sharp pieces of steel being thrown through the air with the speed of a bullet in all directions. So I press my body tightly against the earth bank, wrapping my arms over my steel helmet as added protection for my head. Now the front part of my body is protected, but not the back or sides. I can only hope for the best. Time seems to stop and stand still. My mind goes blank. The explosions make the ground tremble. It feels as though my whole body is being picked up and slammed back down against the dirt bank.

Finally the shells stop falling. I still stand there not moving. Slowly, I regain my senses, I wonder if I have been hit? I feel no pain. I look my body over, I see no blood. I find it hard to believe I didn't even receive a scratch. Boy I am one lucky, happy fellow. But then I think to myself, I have been lucky now but as long as any of us are outside, we must go through the same experience every day, this is a sobering thought. Well it is quiet - once more I try to relax, and light up another cigarette. Looking down at the bunker, I think to myself, those fellows in there are pretty safe. The shell fragments just bounce off the thick concrete walls, unless of course they receive a good direct hit. Even then I wonder how much damage would be done.

Hold on, what the heck is that sound? Creak, creak, creak, clang. It is being made by someone opening the heavy steel bunker door with its rusty hinges. Slowly a head appears, looks to the left and right then pulls back out of sight. Then out comes a hand and an arm holding a German steel helmet upside down, suspended by its chin strap. Then he sat the helmet down on the ground beside the doorway. Creak, creak, clang, clang. Well as the days passed by this helmet was joined by a lot of its friends. It kept growing bigger and bigger. I found out later there were quite a few rooms in the bunker, and there were no sanitary facilities. So, the men inside had two choices ... They can come outside and risk being shot in the butt or hit by a shell, or stay inside and put their body waste in one of the many discarded German helmets lying around in the bunker. I don't blame them, I would have done the same thing if I were in their place.

Several days later after my tour of duty at this bunker, one of our platoon members who just finished his tour of duty here at the bunker, came down into the platoons quarters in the basement where I was. With a big grin on his face, he came up to me and said, "Muckel you know that big pile of helmets up at the bunker?" I said yeah. He answered, "A shell landed right on top of them today and scattered them all over the place." As miserable as I felt, I almost laughed my head off.

Basement Guard

Today I have been assigned to guard duty outside of our basement headquarters. The post is at the one corner of our building. It's about twenty feet from the concrete steps leading down to the entrance. I stand there at the corner with my back to the wall. To the front of me off in the distance I can see part of the bunker where I stood guard several days ago. On my right are staggered rows of the concrete dragons teeth (the tank barriers). Back there are also located our mortar emplacements and an old German trench. On my left more dragon teeth and another German trench and beyond that the German lines. I wasn't there too long when one of our company officers came walking by me and headed down the slope towards the mortar emplacements. A short time later he started back and a sniper opened up on him. He took cover behind one of the dragon teeth. He hollered up to me, "Muckel, can you see where that sniper is shooting from?" I looked at the dragon tooth he was behind and watched the bullets hitting the ground beside him. As each one hit it made a small furrow in the dirt showing the direction from which the bullets were coming. I then tried to line these up with the place the sniper was shooting from. There was only one place I could see that lined up with the furrows. That was a real small one story building about five hundred feet off to the right. There were two windows and an open door facing

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in our direction. The two windows are lit up with bright sunlight, but the open doorway is in dark shadows. This is where he would be shooting from if he is there? I hollered back down to the officer, "I think I know where he might be. When I start shooting you make a run for it." He yelled back, O.K. I carefully lined up my rifle sights about the middle of the open door and began shooting bullet after bullet. The lieutenant then began running and made it in safely. I fired the whole eight shot clip. Maybe the sniper wasn't even in the building but wherever he was, the sound of all of those shots being fired may have diverted his attention just long enough for the lieutenant to make it to safety. Whatever the truth is, he made it and that's all that really matters.

It is night time and another one of those moonless nights again where you can't see your hand held out at arms length. I am still standing here at the same place. But how can I guard when I can't even see anything? I look real hard trying to penetrate the darkness but to no avail. Suddenly, I hear a gunshot and up in the sky on my left front there is a pop and a dazzling white light appears and slowly falls to the ground lighting up the whole area like bright daylight. These are fired up in the sky sometimes by both Germans or Americans to observe what is going on between the lines and to try and catch any one out there by surprise. These are magnesium flares and are shot up in the sky with a pistol. They then explode creating a white light then float slowly down to earth suspended by a small parachute. There goes another flare lighting up the sky. This time it's a green one. These colored ones are signal flares. The last flare was followed by several bursts from a machine gun, an American one.

Our machine guns fire about eight hundred and fifty rounds per minute and make a stuttering sound. Where the German machine gun is much faster. It fires about twelve hundred and fifty rounds per minute and has a sound like that of ripping cloth. Brrrrrrrr-At Brrrrrrrr-At. The bullets are spaced a lot closer together and their rifles, the mauser, they are different from ours when fired. It sounds like a tree limb breaking - it goes crack.

Suddenly the sky is filled with another strange sound. Looking up I see a large object flying through the air. It has a large sheet of flame trailing it and is making a solid roaring noise. I keep watching until it's out of sight. Later I learn this is a large jet propelled rocket filled with explosives that the Germans send over to bomb England. They can destroy a whole city block.

Standing here in the darkness time passes very slowly and I think about this war. Back in my home town there is a meat processing plant. One summer I worked there right beside the hog butchering department. As the pigs are unloaded they are trussed by their hind legs on a conveyor and pushed along, all the while screaming their heads off. Then someone slits

their throats and the blood gushes out all over the place. This is man butchering animals. Over here the only difference is man butchering man. I thought man was supposed to be civilized, ha ha, that's a joke. Man wears the mantle of civilization, just as long as he thinks everything is going the way he wants them to. When someone opposes him the mantle is quickly thrown to the ground and civilization is damned.

Everyday we hear rumors of things happening along the front line. The latest one is about an officer in a foxhole. A German mortar shell lands right in there with him. They could not find enough of his body left to bury.

We also hear a few soldiers have shot themselves in the foot. Today our commanding officer gets us all together and gives us a lecture. (Quote) "We have been receiving too many reports of men accidentally shooting themselves in the foot. From now on in the future any one accidentally shooting themselves will be dishonorably discharged from the army. They will forfeit all pay and allowances and serve twenty years hard labor at the federal prison Leavenworth, Kansas. The only way any one is leaving here is feet first or when the war is over." (Unquote). Shoot myself on purpose? No ... I think not! I'll take my chances of coming through this in one piece.

Well, today I am on my way back to the forward outpost. Again, I pass the pile of dead bodies and the horse now has its stomach exposed with its entrails lying on the ground and covered with flies. Some wild animal was probably having a feast. The stench grows worse every day. I hold my breath as I go by. I am about half way to my post when zap, a bullet goes by my head. The sniper... I quickly throw my body to the ground. Lying there playing dead I lay there not moving and holding my breath. Then zap, another bullet digs into the ground right beside my hand. That sniper has probably seen this act before. I spring up from the ground and take off like a streak of lightening, hunched over, zigging and zagging the rest of the way to the forward O.P. I get there and leap through the open doorway headfirst.

TO BE CONTINUED . . .

Notice to all 69ers

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

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

Also, if you have old newspaper articles from the 40's or even from the Stars and Stripes, send those in. They make excellent reading.

We are waiting to hear from you, so don't disappoint us.

Tom Yelcich writes . . .

Company I, 272nd Infantry Regiment
18093 Country Club Drive
Livonia, Michigan 48152-2967

Earl and Dottie,

I pray you are improving healthwise, you also Dottie. I didn't attend the Houston reunion due to other commitments. I did attend a grade school reunion in Fairmont, West Virginia, my old hometown.

On my way home, I took Route 250 through Ohio and stopped to see **Bob** and **Vivian Kurtzman** a week ago and had a nice "two man" reunion. **Bob**

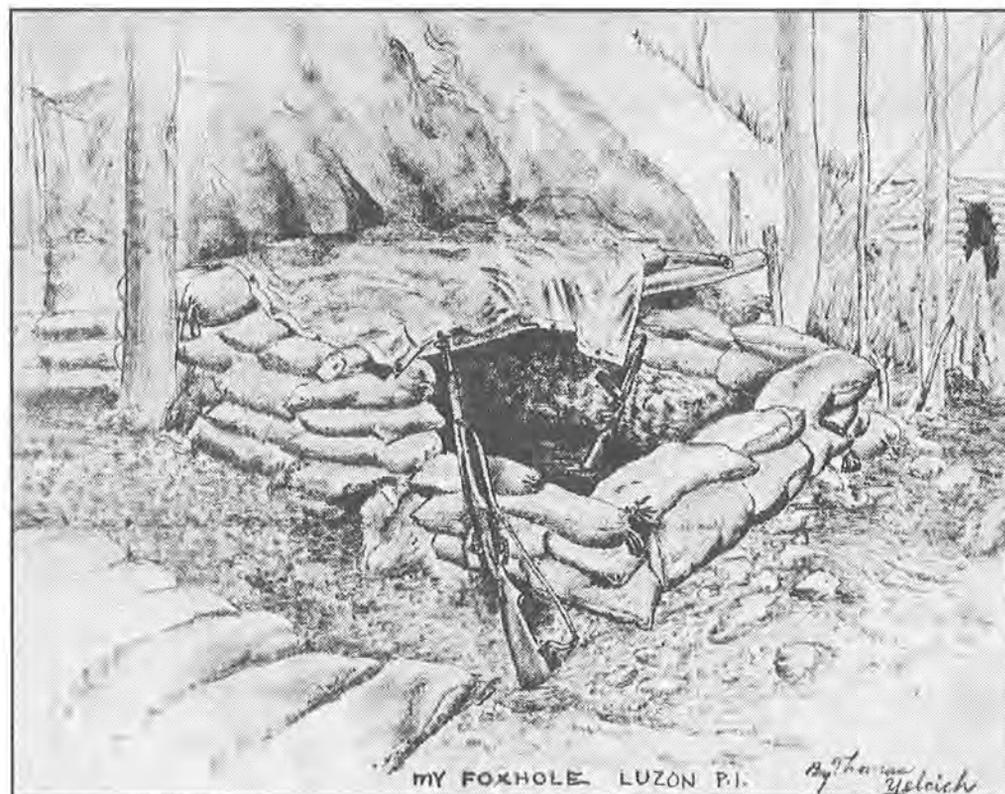
sported his Houston souvenir cowboy hat which one of his neighbors "customized" for him. You probably will get many pictures similar to this but not with a unit identification. These hats were table gifts.

I have sent a photo of 3rd Platoon, I Company, 272nd Infantry, which is my unit. The other unit picture is my brother-in-law's outfit. We were drafted the same day and our army serial numbers were only 5 digits apart, mine being 35754125 and his 35754130. I was in the 272nd Regiment and he with the 271st Regiment Medical Battalion.

The unit photo is of their softball team which was taken at Shelby in 1944 after winning a tournament. On back of the original photo my brother-in-law has written 13 names. He positively identified one of the players, **Don Kolloway** who is the 6th man from the left in the standing row, who is holding the trophy. He played ball professionally as a second baseman for the Chicago White Sox. His picture was in the bulletin when he passed away. My brother-in-law and he were close friends and attended their unit reunions together. My brother-in-law **Tony Securo** is in the background left sitting on the jeep.

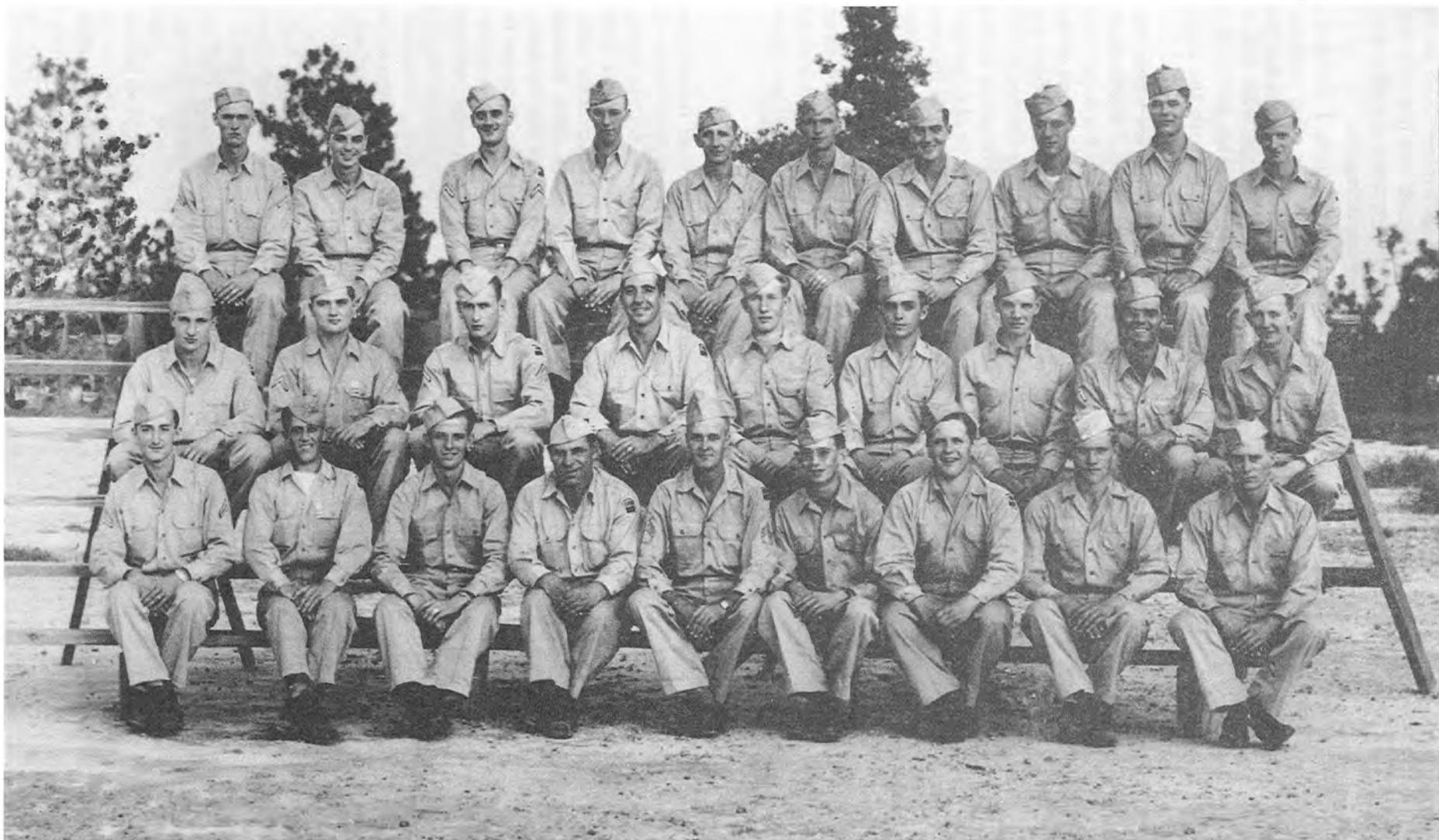
I've included the other names which were written on the back of the original if they can be used but with no positive identification. Maybe someone will see themselves in the photo.

See following two pages for photos.



After being well trained for European warfare with I Company 272nd, 69th Division, from May 1943 to August 1944 with three basic training periods behind him, **Tom Yelcich** had to start another training period to fight the Japanese in the Pacific but with live ammo and real live enemy soldiers from New Guinea to Luzon, P.I. with the 33rd Division. Thankful for 69th training in intelligence and operations, was transferred to Battalion Headquarters to serve as S2 and S3 sergeant. Being a born artist and well trained made my job easier.

I drew hundreds of sketches (most all given away). At times we were held back by rough terrain and stubborn Japanese which gave me a chance to sketch my foxhole. You 69th combat teams didn't have luxurious sleeping quarters such as this.



Third Platoon, I Company, 272nd Infantry Camp Shelby, Mississippi - October 1943

Submitted by: **Tom Yelcich**, 18093 Country Club Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48152-2967

Most of these fellows were first ones to be shipped overseas from the 69th. Missing in the photo were the lucky men to get their first furlough which included **Chalmer Pearson**.

Positive identification as follows: Front row center, **Adrian "Pappy" Bramse**, Second row second from left, **Tom Yelcich**, Top row second from right, **Wayne Shackelford**.



271st Regiment Medics, 1st Battalion Softball Team (After winning tournament)

Submitted by: **Tony Securo**, Route 2, Box 240, Fairmont, West Virginia 26554

Positive identification: **Don Kolloway**, 6th from left holding trophy (Chicago Cubs second baseman); **Tony Securo**, sitting on jeep in left background.

Other names I remember but cannot match with the faces: **Leon Waoblewski**, **Nicholas Jarosie**, **Edward G. Bellhorn**, **Marlin R. Duck**, **Pat Maniclas**, **John Sankovich**, **Louis L. Lippman**, **Henry J. Sabol**, **Charles A. Saylor**, **George Vosburgh**, **John Ranier**

I would appreciate it if anyone can help identify any of these guys.

Company E, 271st Infantry at the Houston Reunion

Submitted by: **Bill Taylor** • 1019 S.E. 19th Avenue, Cape Coral, Florida 33990



Erma and Elmer Broneske, Catherine and Bill McCall, Marjorie and Bill Taylor, Bing T. Poon, Betty and Bob Dimmick, Jane and Joe Kurt, Etta and Irv Gotkin.

AT Company, 272nd Infantry at the Houston Reunion

Submitted by: **Roy L. Bush** • 1321 North Clayview Drive, Liberty, Missouri 64068



1st Row: Harold Kaska, Harry Austin

Row 2: Urno Gustafson, Bruno Campese, Roy Bush, Darwin Van Houten

Row 3: Russell Koch, Don Calhoun, Dallas Shelton, Joe Huber, Robert Walter, Ray Sansoucy

*Not pictured:
Edward Sarcione*

Ladies of AT Company

1st Row:

Evelyn Gustafson, Rose Ann Austin, Libby Calhoun, Janet Sansoucy

2nd Row:

Annette Walter, Jean Campese, Dolly Sarcione, Betty Koch, Ethelda Van Houten, Laura Nelle Shelton



A Ministry Remembered

Submitted by: **James W. May**

Chaplain, 271st Infantry

956 Clifton Road, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30307

What does an old man remember about his soldiering half a century ago? Well, memory can serve us in different ways. Sometimes it may just draw a curtain around our mistakes and failures. That may be very good. Sometimes it may heal a wound or discharge an anger. That may be very good, too.

Sometimes, though, memory may return again to the scene and discover deeper meanings, or maybe just simple delights, that we did not see at first; and from that revisiting we may derive images to be greatly cherished. I want now to open up my picture book and share some of these latter memories with you. I shall not tire you. I have chosen the pages carefully.

Crossing With Doctors

I crossed the Atlantic sharing a cabin with nine doctors. Our double-decked bunks were so close that any one of us could reach out and touch at least four others. So I lay there all day long, save when I went to chow or visited the head. I lay there listening to nine doctors, not long out of internships, swapping stories about medical cases.

We were only a few days at sea when that kid down in the engine room, a member of the ship's permanent cadre, came down with acute appendicitis, and two of my cabin mates were designated to do the surgery. There was something peculiar - something that I could not understand - about the patient's anatomy. At any rate, I lay there for more than an hour listening to these nine doctors argue about the best way to get into this boy's belly. Of course I had no contribution to make; but I did offer a silent prayer in my own behalf: "Dear God," I prayed, "if ever I have appendicitis, please just get me right to the table and don't let me hear any contention about proper access to my gut."

Hands To Be Remembered

My second picture is from England. Our regiment was quartered in a British installation, the Winchester Barracks, awaiting shipment to the Continent. For several days we had listened to meager reports of Hitler's great counter-offensive, beginning what would be called the Battle of the Bulge. We had no idea of the desperate situation of the American forces.

On Christmas morning someone came into the chaplain's quarters at Winchester and said, "Get up. Before the day is over half of the riflemen in our division will be flown to the Continent to fight in the Battle of the Bulge."

So it was that for that whole Christmas day of 1944, our companies were occupied in full field inspection - checking individual equipment, checking personnel records, servicing weapons. When departure was delayed until the following morning, the chaplains prepared for an evening communion service in the barracks chapel for all of the men to be shipped out.

Every seat was taken as they filed in on that Christmas evening, weary, dirty, cold, to celebrate the Lord's Supper. And, in all the years that have passed since that night in Winchester Barracks, I think I have seldom placed the consecrated bread in the outstretched hands of a communicant without seeing before me the outstretched dirty hands of a GI who has spent all of Christmas Day getting ready for the Battle of the Bulge.

Unloading the Wounded

Another picture is from England. Shortly after Christmas I drove with my enlisted assistant to the military hospital at Salisbury to visit some of our personnel who were patients there. Whom should I meet on this day but Dr. Max Blumberg, my classmate at Emory and now a captain in the Medical Corps. We had hardly entered into conversation, though, when the squawkbox on the wall above us clicked on and a voice called out, "Evacuation plane arriving!" Max moved to the door. "Come and see us unload," he called back as he ran down the corridor.

So we watched, as officers, nurses, enlisted men flowed from every door of the hospital to stand before the giant plane as it rolled to a stop. And we watched as the medical personnel, tenderly but with professional dispatch, removed nearly a hundred wounded, some on stretchers, others walking, evacuated from the Battle of the Bulge. Among the wounded, we would learn, were several who, scarcely a week earlier, had left our regiment at Winchester.

Coffee With Gambino

Cross the Channel now and come with me to the Ardennes Forest. I must tell you about **Gambino**, the little Italian fellow from New York who was a medic in one of our companies. One day my assistant and I walked half a mile through the forest out to an isolated gun emplacement. **Roy** carried the chaplain's communion kit. I carried some of the little military hymnals. We found our men, only six or eight of them. I read scripture, preached a brief sermon, and served communion.

All of the men were Protestants save **Gambino**, who sat on the ground a little beyond our circle, but close enough to listen intently to my sermon. As I was serving the bread and the wine I noticed that **Gambino** was fingering his rosary.

After our service I walked over to **Gambino** and sat down with him. He had lighted a little fire and was holding a canteen cup over it. "Hi, Chaplain; you want a drink of coffee?" I had no cup. I looked about and did not see another one.

If you were ever there, you'd remember how dirty an uninspected canteen cup would get. **Gambino's** was the dirtiest: all smoked up, greasy, little flecks of some kind of vegetable matter floating on the coffee.

Gambino handed me the cup. I took a swig and handed it back. He took a swig. And then it came to me what was happening. **Gambino** and I were sharing the Eucharist!

Some months after combat ended I visited the American cemetery at Margraten in the Netherlands

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A MINISTRY REMEMBERED

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where many of the KIAs in my regiment were temporarily interred. I was taking pictures of the graves of my Protestant men to send to their families when the name on one of the crosses reached out to grab and hold me. **Gambino**, the letters spelled. **Gambino!** I had not heard that he was killed! I remembered that day in the forest when he shared his coffee with me. I offered my prayer of gratitude.

Bill Ricker's Story

Then there is the picture of **Bill Ricker**. **Bill Ricker** edited a newspaper in Vermont. He had a wife and three children, but he felt so deeply about the American cause that he volunteered. He said that he wanted action. When he came to us he was a second lieutenant, and they gave him a platoon in one of the line companies.

Bill was always at our services, bringing some of his men with him. He was there on a Sunday in France when I asked, "Who can read French?" **Bill** raised his hand. I handed him my French testament, and he read beautifully from the sixth chapter of John's gospel.

By the next Sunday we had moved into Germany, and **Bill** was not at our service. "Where is **Ricker**?" I asked his sergeant. "The Lieutenant went on patrol yesterday and is not back," he said.

It was a difficult case. Even after **Bill's** body was recovered there was no account of what had happened. A family friend gave nearly forty years to piecing out the story. He traveled to Belgium and to Germany. He searched many records. Several years ago he wrote me giving the close of the story. **Bill** was wounded. A priest came and cared for him, but he did not survive. **Bill's** grave is atop a hill overlooking Montpelier, Vermont.

When the Bell Rang

Our next picture is from an Easter service only a few weeks before the German surrender. Our division was mopping up, as they called it, behind the American tank columns as they pushed relentlessly toward the east. My companies moved so fast and were so widely scattered that we planned for seven services on Easter Day.

Late Sunday afternoon Roy and I drove into a tiny isolated village far back in hill country where one of our companies would be quartered for the night. We made the mistake of ringing the bell in the little church before the service, and as the American soldiers began gathering, some of the German civilians also appeared at the church door. Roy, unnerved at first, recovered and quietly directed them up into the balcony. I read scripture, preached, and served communion.

As the troops were departing Roy hurried to me and whispered, "Chaplain, some of the Germans won't leave without communion." What to do? Who could deny these folk access to the Lord's table?

Five of them stood before me, plain country folk, you would call them, all too ancient to be of use to anyone's war machine. Improvising, in my broken German and with gestures, I asked them to pray the "Our Father."

I shall always see them as devoutly they swayed back and forth speaking the words of their prayer: "Vater

unser, der du bist im Himmel, dein Name werde geheiligt, dein Reich komme, dein Wille geschehe . . ." I placed the broken bread in their hands, and each drank from the cup. Then in words which, though strange, I think they understood, I gave them a blessing.

Matzos for Passover

Sometimes it was a letter years later that renewed a memory of combat days. Like that letter not long ago from **Dick Levy**, a businessman in California. **Dick** said he had searched a long time for my address. He wrote: "The thing I remember about you, Chaplain, is the day I went with you in the jeep to all the companies to deliver the matzos so the Jewish men could celebrate the Passover! Thank you, **Dick**, for another bright page in my book.

Care for Strangers

Some of my pictures come from days after combat, in that time we called the Occupation. Soon after hostilities ceased I was transferred to a division in North Germany in the vicinity of Bremen. I lived in Worswede, a charming little village where many artists made their homes. On a hill at the village center stood a beautiful old Lutheran Church, and I was privileged to enter into a happy relationship with the pastor and his family.

I liked to walk in the cemetery behind the church. One who has seen them remembers what a joyous sight it is, those lovingly tended German cemeteries with a bright-blooming flowerbed atop every grave. Walking there one day I noticed two graves with English names on them, and beneath the names the insignia of the Royal Air Force. The graves of the two British fliers were as beautifully kept as all the others.

Pastor Bobzien told me the story of how the British plane came down in the moors, and the recovered bodies of the flyers were brought for burial in the parish cemetery.

"Well, who has tended these graves so lovingly?" I asked. He nodded toward his wife. "She did," he said.

A Grandfather Remembers

I suppose the tenderest pictures in my book are associated with the sharing of grief. Ignoring Army regulations, I brought home with me one correspondence file. It is my condolence file. Occasionally I pay it a visit. Among the letters is the one I wrote to Ed Brown in New York about the death of his grandson, **Robert Buschem**. Mr. Brown was Buschem's next-of-kin. Clipped to my letter is Mr. Brown's gracious reply containing this sentence:

His going is particularly distressing to my wife and I as we have reared him practically from birth, his mother having passed away when he was ten weeks old, and we two are alone now with the grandest memories of a wonderful boy.

Mr. Brown sent me his grandson's picture, and I have often returned to it. Ever and again Bob Buschem's face - young, strong, filled with promise - reminds me of my unspeakable good fortune in sharing in a ministry to his generation.

Howitzer Al Pulls Guard Duty in Berlin

By "Howitzer" Al Kormas
Headquarters, 879th Field Artillery
12500 Edgewater Drive, Apt. 503
Lakewood, Ohio 44107-1673

I was with the 69th from activation until after V-E Day, then the 29th Division in Northern Germany, and off to the 78th Division on Thanksgiving Day. I was in Berlin on Thanksgiving Day. We had no holiday meal and I was immediately put on guard detail in a coal-yard. What a welcome.

Early in 1945 I was notified to pull guard duty in a large German jail for a week as corporal of the guard. Seems as though the detail changed every week. This was a prison holding civilians for serious crimes against the German people.

We arrived at this large old building, with a large wooden entranceway and no way to see inside from the street. We had to ring the bell and after a long wait, it opened with the outgoing guard. We were meeting with the outgoing sergeant of the guard who informed us that it was a fantastic detail. First, the only entrance to the jail was through the wooden door and entrance was only gained when the inside personnel opened the door. So no surprise visit by the officer of the day was possible. He introduced us to the resident trustee who ran the jail with an iron fist to the inmates.

The trustee showed us to our quarters which were very nice, wine and cognac included. We had nothing to do, no formations, just explore the facilities, sleep, play cards and generally loaf. One of the prisoners even cooked for us. Our rations were delivered daily. Believe me, it only took a few moments to get used to this great detail - sleeping, drinking, etc. What a deal.

The prisoners were convicted of crimes against the state. Some had been there for a year or more. They were only allowed out of their cells for a brief time and only a few at a time.

Being an old militaristic jail, it was very depressing, dimly lit, and odors permeated the place but with the experiences we had recently had, it didn't seem so bad.

At this time, the prisoners were fed twice daily - weak coffee, bread and margarine for breakfast, and a supper which consisted of hot soup, that was not only good, but in fact, excellent. At the bottom of the cell was an opening through which the prisoners could push out a large size bowl. The soup was carried by two inmates in a container about the size of one of our large army pots and the trustee ladled it out. Some of the inmates yelled for more and the trio would laugh and either spill part of the ration or short it, and the prisoners would cry and yell.

The trio enjoyed the inmates' anguish. We are all well acquainted with the harsh treatment of the Germans, and any German in a position of authority could become a demon and the trustees were fully "pulling" their weight.

The outgoing sergeant of the guard informed us that we were to give the head trustee a few packs of cigarettes daily, soap and chocolate. This was no problem with about a dozen of us there. The sergeant stressed that day or night one of the trustees would be on duty and if the bell was rung from outside, all GI personnel were to be informed before the door was opened.

My two weeks were up and I went back to the Schutgardcaserne at the Botanischer Garten stop of the subway. It was a great subway system going all over Berlin in short order, by Wannsee Lake down to the Reichstadt area, and Tiergarten for massive black marketing. Russian military personnel would buy anything from the civilian population. First they would get a battered old suitcase and fill it up as the Russian GI was paid in occupation marks and couldn't redeem them. They had to be spent in Germany. After not being paid for several years, they would fill the suitcase with anything. Many wanted to buy our watches and some were a little too insistent.

I was on guard duty at the Titania house one evening at the entranceway. A few Russians, mostly officers, would come in to see the movie. A trio came in a little "under the weather" and the newly arrived 2nd lieutenant told me to have them give me their revolvers and that they could pick them up upon leaving. I looked at the lieutenant and I said, "Repeat that," and he did, telling me it was an order. Normally we had to execute an order but in this case, I said, "Lieutenant, you are out of your mind," and immediately left my post. I found out later that the Russians informed the lieutenant in no uncertain terms that if he wanted their sidearms it would have to be by force.

One of the remarkable talents of the average GI was that he could adapt to any situation and make the most of it. The German army never acquired this skill, they did everything by the book. If their leader was lost, the men were in many cases helpless and took no initiative to deal with a situation. To us, the going by the book was fine until we got overseas, then the book by many standards, went out the door. If a leader became a casualty, an officer or enlisted man would and could take over. The American GI was a different breed of soldier.



Looking Back 53 Years

Submitted By: **Ralph Utermoehlen**

Company I, 271st Infantry

2221 Stonepost, Manhattan, Kansas 66502



WWII jeep joins Ralph Utermoehlen in wishing 69th members a Merry Christmas and a good last year of the century.

I have owned this 1941 Jeep for 22 years. I restored it back to Military in 1991 to commemorate WW II events. It is the 3,013th Willys M.B. made and was issued to the army December 10, 1941 for \$739. A total of 650,000 jeeps were made by Willys and Ford during the war.

I belong to the Military Vehicle Preservation Association and participate in shows and parades in the midwest. The jeep is one vehicle everyone can relate to because it is the original off-road sport utility vehicle.

I also own a 1926 Model T Roadster, a 1928 Model A Roadster, a 1939 Chevrolet 2 door and a 1965 Falcon Convertible.

I have found changing outfits in the service doesn't build many lasting friendships. I envy 69th members who write of their buddies they remain close to due to their serving together in the same outfit for a rather long time.

I was one of the Infantry Replacement trainees that had basic training stopped after 13 weeks due to the Battle of the Bulge. I joined thousands across the U.S. to be sent home for 5 days leave December 26, 1944. I boarded the train in southeast Kansas the last day of 1944 to Kansas City, Missouri, where the next day I boarded a C-47 airplane for the east coast.

A few days near Baltimore then to Camp Miles Standish in snowy New Hampshire for processing and trying to get cosmoleen off the new M1's with cold water.

Thousands of us boarded the "Ile De France" liner in Boston. It was operated by the British (Damn that tea instead of coffee as well as hot beer). Six days later we arrived in Scotland then on the little trains for England and a few days processing before heading for the mainland. This trip was on an old English ship used for hauling prisoners from India. We tied our canvas hammock for sleeping over the dining table we used. This was an overnight trip to Le Harve harbor but the water was too rough for the little boats to unload us for two days.

The long march with everything you own through Le Harve showed the results of the June invasion. We were packed in the 40 and 8 boxcars to either northern France or southern Belgium for processing in cold warehouse buildings. It was back on the train to where trucks picked us up for the trip to the 69th muddy tent city. I didn't see anyone I trained with at Camp Hood, Texas during that last January.

Mike Musich from Minnesota, another replacement trainee and I became the scouts for 3rd squad, 3rd platoon, Company I, 271st. **Mike** is the only squad member that I know the whereabouts of to this day. Our outfit was in reserve at the Seigfried line so we helped the engineers clear roads for awhile.

Our first battle was taking and holding Oberreifferschied. This was a real introduction to the life of a combat infantryman, including the GI's which stayed with me for many weeks. I was squad communications man so anytime I ran the wire I drew a few rounds of mortars to the C.P.

Our squad went on patrol one night and I believe the Germans could hear every step we took on that crusted snow. It was here we found local food to supplement GI chow. I became squad cook and pancake maker utilizing raw ingredients. One New York City guy was sent to kill a chicken for soup. He shot one at close range with his M1 blowing it all to pieces. He was told to chop off the head after that.

Our crossing the Rhine on the pontoon bridge dumped us among the wine cellars. This caused us to miss evening chow. Squad members searched for pancake fixings. Intoxicated eyes could not distinguish plaster of paris from German flour. Needless to say, no pancakes that night however a hard white glop of stuff greeted us the next morning.

I Company made that fast trip across Germany as did the rest of the division. **Mike Musich** and I were the point people on the final march to the Mulde River town of Dognitz.

Our squad went on a night patrol while waiting for the Russians. This was to go eastward several miles and shoot flares hoping the Russians would see them and answer with their flares. After midnight while making our way east we heard something coming towards us on the road. We deployed in the ditches and

(Continued on Page 59)

LOOKING BACK 53 YEARS

(Continued from Page 58)

raised up with rifles pointed toward a young man on a bicycle. He was so startled that he fell off the bike. I stayed to guard him while the others completed the mission and returned. The German wanted to take his bike, which we refused, as we took him back to the CP.

It was my fate, as with many others, to have low points. I was sent to the 29th Division near Bremerhaven. This was a fine bunch of guys that had been through a lot of combat and were not too GI. After a period of guard duty I was put on temporary duty to teach agriculture at the battalion I & E school. I had two hours of class five days a week and no formations. This was great duty with lots of freedom.

The classes ended after eight weeks as many 29th guys were going home. I transferred to the battalion motor pool until the rest of the division went home. About the middle of November, 1945, my points then had me sent to Berlin and the 78th Division. I remember our trucks were held up at the Russian sector border for some time. With the 78th it was back to close A formations and guard duty opposite those wild and wooly Russians.

Luck was with me again as I was put on TDY to work on the GI staff of a newly established American Red Cross Club. I became the head GI of the club staff as others ahead of me went home. This was great duty which I almost hated to leave when I was sent home for discharge in April, 1946. I used the GI bill for college and had a career in education and media work.

I believe it is easy to see why the different outfits I was in hindered the making of many close friends. Unfortunately for me, I only learned of the 69th Association in the late eighties. The wife and I have attended a few reunions to renew friendships with **Thompson, Jones, Buckstad** and other I Company people.

The 1995 linkup trip to Germany was a highlight for us. It was the first time fellow scout **Musich** and I met face to face in 50 years. Our wives were patient to endure our trying to relive those combat days once again.

It was great that the movie "Saving Private Ryan" has been made to show younger generations what fighting war for freedom is like. I find younger people wanting more details about World War II now. In closing, I would like to hear about others who had the bouncing around experiences in the service and/or those with old car interests.

Rolland Correll Writes...

Company I, 271st Infantry

1329 Nevada Street

Allentown, Pennsylvania 18103

In May 1943 I was one of the many soldiers who were activated into the 69th Infantry Division. We started soon after on our basic training. As stated by veterans before, we were known as "The Three B's." Somehow I remember a 4th B put in there before basic training was over - Bolte's Bitching Bivouacing Bastards. Am I correct on this?

After basic we were sent on maneuvers. All kinds of tactical warlike problems. Our training was unmatched by any other outfit. I credit this to my being alive today. We accomplished the following:

1. Speed marches with full field equipment (60 lbs.) of 5 miles in 1 hour, 9 miles in 2 hours and 25 miles in 8 hours. The 25 mile march started at 12:00 midnight and ended at 8:00 a.m.
2. Running an uphill combat bayonet course in specified time.
3. Digging a slit trench from prone position.
4. Running a combat course with surprise targets.
5. A night compass course 1 and one half mile.

In May 1944 I, along with many others, was shipped out to staging areas where we waited for our orders. I crossed the Atlantic and arrived in England just in time for Normandy, attached to Company A, 60th Infantry, 9th Division. I spent 101 days on the front lines only to be captured in the Hurtzen Forests on September 25, 1944. I spent seven and a half months as a POW in Stalag VIIA, Moosburg, Germany.

Most of my good memories are with the men of the 69th that I trained with. I have never been able to come across their names in the 69th Bulletin. The following are some that I remember:

1st Lt. McLean	Sgt. Hargraves
2nd Lt. Stadler	Pvt. Campbell
Sgt. Russell Friday	Pvt. "Whitey"
Sgt. Gallagher	Pvt. Shortsleeve
Cpl. Brock	Pvt. Cowan
Sgt. Edward Roeder	Pvt. Anthony Basile
Sgt. John McKinley	Pvt. Sherman
John Dudeck	

I have a group picture of Company L, 271st Infantry taken at Camp Shelby, August 1943. We are all in it.

If anyone knows of the whereabouts of any of these men, please contact me at the above address. It would be most appreciated.

**DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR
BULLETIN VOL. 52, NO. 2 - JAN., FEB., MARCH, APRIL
JANUARY 31st, 1999 - Get Your Material In On Time!**

69th Memorial Committee in Torgau, Germany

Submitted by: **William R. Beswick** • P.O. Box 576, West Point, Virginia 23181



Bill Beswick, Andreas Haberland, Mayor of Strehla, Edgar Parsons, Dillard Powell and Bill Snidow.



The committee was checking the Torgau Memorial. U.S. Troops stationed in Germany saw us and joined us.

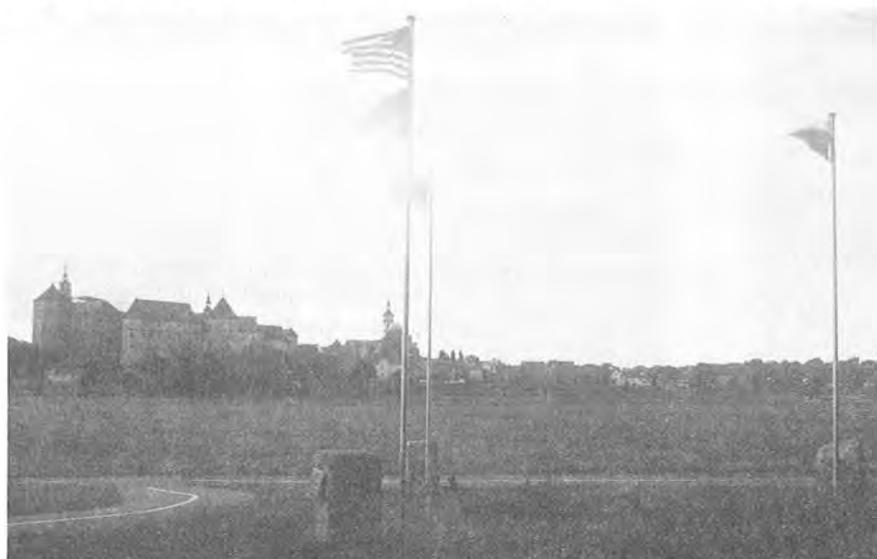


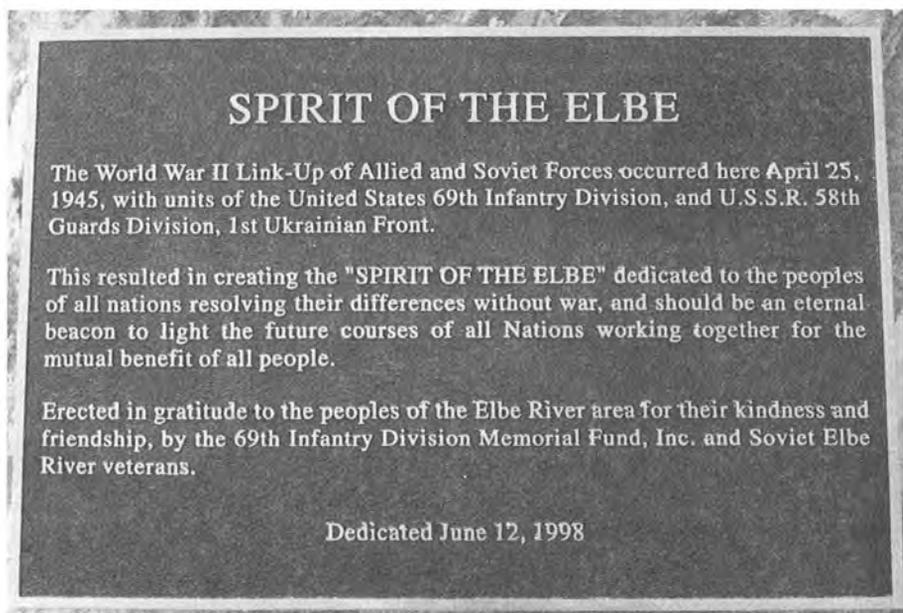
Photo left: The Memorial Park, with Hartenfels Castle in the background. The Memorial has three sandstone blocks from the old Elbe River bridge. Each has a bronze plaque attached to it.

Photo below: This is the English plaque that appears on the sandstone blocks of the three Memorials in Europe. There is also one in German and Russian. Space would not allow us to print the other pictures in this bulletin.

See Mr. Beswick's Memorial Report in the Annual Meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors



The U.S. Flag and 69th Banner. Very attractive.



SPIRIT OF THE ELBE

The World War II Link-Up of Allied and Soviet Forces occurred here April 25, 1945, with units of the United States 69th Infantry Division, and U.S.S.R. 58th Guards Division, 1st Ukrainian Front.

This resulted in creating the "SPIRIT OF THE ELBE" dedicated to the peoples of all nations resolving their differences without war, and should be an eternal beacon to light the future courses of all Nations working together for the mutual benefit of all people.

Erected in gratitude to the peoples of the Elbe River area for their kindness and friendship, by the 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc. and Soviet Elbe River veterans.

Dedicated June 12, 1998

Did It Balance Out?

By: Seymour F. Kuvin, M.D.
formerly Corporal Seymour F. Kuvin
Company H, 271st Infantry

1735 Hooper Avenue

Toms River, New Jersey 08753

Telephone: 732/864-0878 • Fax: 732/864-0130



Absolutely not. I did not give up as much as I gained. I did give up a lot. I'm envious as can be when I see the young people at TGI Friday's trying to seduce each other - I couldn't even fraternize in Europe, by military order. My whole teenage and young life was gone because of infantry service. I couldn't play volleyball on the beach. I am really envious of the young people, and watch them whenever I can. Enlisting at 17, the college life was gone. When I returned, I was more mature and too determined to get a college education for life.

At 17, I was asked not to go to Officer's Training School (I was eligible from ROTC in college) because I was "too young to be an officer" - and I was. I was sent to ASTP and when that broke up, I was sent to the 69th. You all know what that was all about, and thank God, I was there. In fact, I had some icing on the cake - when the 69th was breaking up, I went to Biarrik American University and actually had Gertrude Stein as a dramatics professor.

Now, what did I gain? - I became a man. I matured from the kid that I was to manhood. I knew how to fight and defend myself. I knew how to relate to others. I even commanded some men (albeit a small amount). My fear levels diminished. Most of all, I did something for the country that gave me everything in life. One day, last week, (inspiring this article) I was telling a younger person of my exploits in the 69th, and after I was done, he said, "Thank you for everything you did" - that sums it all up. The 69th gave me much more than I lost.

German Citizen requests info on Witzenhausen area during the War

Artur Kuenzel

Katharinenhof

D - 37213 Witzenhausen

Germany

I got your address from **Robert H. Cardinell**, whom I gave permission to publish the book of Edward Fritze about the battle of Struth in a future issue of the 65th Division Halbert newsletter. I'm the editor of that book.

For some years I have tried to get more information, details and facts about the end of the Second World War in my hometown Witzenhausen, where I lived in those days. Perhaps you can help me with your connection to your association and US-Army magazines. I know it's very late, but I hope my efforts won't be in vain.

I was born in 1937, so I was nearly eight years old when the US-army occupied Witzenhausen on April 7th, 1945. Just in our neighbourhood the so-called "Iron Curtain" was for decades till 1989.

We know only a little about the real military situation in the Witzenhausen-area during the last days of the war. I'm interested in all what happened in Witzenhausen during the end of the war, especially in photos, pictures, reports and other documents (copies) of post-war Witzenhausen.

Parts of the 11th Constabulary Squadron of the US-army remained at Witzenhausen after the first weeks of having occupied the town.

I hope you are able to understand my English and can help me.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Anyone who can help Artur, and I know there are many who can, please write to him at the above address.)

Member Looking for Photo of Co. A, 271st

Submitted by: **John J. Cupina**

5 Hazel Street

Binghamton, New York 13905

On reading the Bulletin over the years I've seen many Company pictures displayed. Many of these pictures were taken in the fall of 1944. Does anyone have any knowledge of such a picture of Company A, 271st Infantry. If anyone has any information, I would like to obtain a copy. I would gladly pay any expenses to receive it.

Vincent Romano writes on Historic Link-Up

Submitted by: **Vincent Romano**

Company L, 273rd Infantry

16 Piper Place, Old Bethpage, New York 11804-1450

After so many years of reading the 69th Bulletin, watching television and listening to all the historians of World War II, I came to a conclusion. I have in my possession a videotape, the documentary of the 69th Division taking of Leipzig and the saga of how and who was the first unit to meet the Russians at the Elbe River. I have proclaimed this to be mine and my Platoon's privilege alone.

If the records and the videotape are correct (and there is no reason to believe they are not), on the early morning hours of April 23rd or 24th 1945, the 69th Division sent out a patrol to skirt the Elbe River and wind up in Torgau. The rumors that the Russians were nearing us from the east prevailed and the proof was that the German armies were traveling westward on foot in humongous numbers. There were rumors also that Russian soldiers could be seen on the other side of the Elbe River (**Lt. Roberts**, etc.). However, contact was not made until mid-morning of April 24th in the small town of Torgau. This contact was initiated by me as I led my patrol (1st Scout) up the cobblestone road into the town of Torgau.

I have not been back to Germany since June 1946, but I remember seeing the small black and gray sign as we entered the town. The contact was made when I spotted a Russian soldier (liberating) looting furniture and household items from a half blown apart house. I signaled to him and he was immediately recognizable by his pants, tunic and hat. He reached for his gun but I hollered to him in German (nix, nix!) and identified myself as an "Americanski!" He hesitated for a moment and then ran over with a broad grin (no gun) and embraced me. I offered a recognizable American cigarette and he started jabbering away. I signaled for my Patrol leader. The rest is history. **Colonel Shaughnessy** arrived, an interpreter from my Company, **Pvt. Fraynak** from St. Louis, and the Russian was accompanied back to the half blown out bridge. Later that day, General Reinhardt with his staff, newspaper reporters, cameramen, etc., flooded the town. This was the original "Link-Up".

The very next issue of "Yank" or "Stars and Stripes" showed a picture of an American private alongside a Russian leaning on the sea wall at Torgau. The private's name (a new replacement) was **McClain**. The patrol was from Company "L" of the 69th Division and my name is **Vincent A. Romano** (PFC at the time).

The tape I heretofore mentioned shows myself and members of my Patrol visibly clear. I feel this is part of the authentication of my claim. I have also written and sent a copy of this tape to Col. Donovan, General Kicklighter and the tough pronouncing, but easily recognizable former head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

and Armed Forces (since retired). I met face to face with **Lt. Roberts** and his cameraman at the 50th Anniversary of the "Link-Up" in Washington, DC and in Dr. Robert's speech, he conceded that a patrol from the 69th Division did indeed make the first contact at the "Link-Up" in Torgau. That was Company "L," 273rd Infantry, 69th Division.

I ask you and the historians of World War II if this encounter was ever made a part of World War II history? An article in The Bulletin by Catherine Coyle and a television documentary, where the World War II Air Force ace is making a film of World War II urged me to write this letter and somewhat keep history straight.

I know that many stories and claims have been made about the "Link-Up" at Torgau and most are very believable, but I proclaim, as an honest upright 69th Division member from Shelby to Torgau that all I write in this letter is the absolute truth.

I never had the time or resources to attend the many reunions or the 50th Anniversary in Europe in 1995, however, I do remember, with exact clarity, the happenings of April 24th, 1945 and the joy of knowing that the War in Europe was over for my "comrades-in-arms" and myself. I understand there is a spot in Torgau where the "Link-Up" is memorialized. I feel that the men of my patrol should be immortalized by this Memorial as we were truly the first "Ambassadors of Peace."

Attention Members of the 272nd Infantry - Can You Help?

Wayne Springer

13107 Indian Creek Road

Houston Texas 77079

My father **Wayne G. Springer**, was a member of the 69th Infantry Division during World War II and saw extensive action with them in 1944 and 1945. He passed away in 1955 when I was a young boy so I never really got to know him.

By coincidence, I am a member of the Houston Visitors and Convention Council and was pleasantly surprised when I saw that you were having the 51st annual convention here in Houston from August 23d to 30th this year.

This is a real longshot, but I am wondering and hoping that I might find someone from your group who might have served with my father and know or remember anything about him during that time. I believe he was a captain or major at the time, and I believe he was in the 272nd Regiment.

I would appreciate any help that any members could give me in finding out information about my father's service history and in the search for my roots!

Memories of Corporal Oscar L. Hill

D Company, 272nd Infantry

Written and Submitted by: **Tom Ivey**
1379 Carolyn Drive, Charlotte, NC 28205



I first met Oscar seven years ago when my wife and I moved into the house next door. As was his style, he came over to introduce himself to the new neighbors and offer any assistance that might be needed. Oscar was a slight man of average height who loved a cigarette and was always ready for conversation. He had a quick wit and good sense of humor which endeared him very quickly to my wife and me. He was also very fond of animals and became a second parent to our Springer Spaniel "Sophie."

Several times a day Oscar would stroll down his driveway to get out of the house and see if anything was going on in the neighborhood. It was at those times that I would usually catch him and strike up a conversation about all sorts of topics including local politics and current national events. One day while Oscar was out on his driveway, I inquired about the Fighting 69th sticker that was located on the back window of his truck. From that day forward, Oscar shared with me many personal stories about his experiences during the war. Although he was reluctant to talk about his actual combat experiences, he did share with me a few of his memories concerning the brutality of the war. One such recollection concerned the loss of a friend to a land mine only steps away from where Oscar stood. Another involved his witnessing of two Russian soldiers arguing over a confiscated German wrist watch. The argument grew louder and louder and

finally ended, when one of the soldiers shot the other with his pistol! Although I am sure Oscar witnessed many terrible things, he preferred to dwell on the positive memories of his time in D Company. One story that Oscar never tired of telling happened while he was stationed in Leipzig at the home of a German physician. Upon returning to the home one evening he and the other men of the Company who were also stationed at the same home, were surprised to find that the doctor's family had prepared a birthday party for Oscar including a cake. Oscar couldn't imagine where the family had gotten the ingredients to make the cake, but their ingenuity in preparing it from what appeared to be out of thin air greatly impressed him. He often spoke of the intelligence of the German civilians that he met ... who at war's end had very little in the way of personal possessions yet were still able to get by.

Oscar passed away on February 22, 1996 after a brief illness and is survived by his wife Doris. I am very grateful to have known this proud member of the Fighting 69th however, I do regret not spending more time discussing his personal experiences in the greatest struggle of human history. To that end, I would encourage the remaining members of this famous division to diligently pass their stories on to future generations. It is critical in my opinion, that we hear it from actual witnesses and not rely solely on history books. Every detail is important no matter how insignificant.

To my regret, I never had the chance to thank Oscar for his courage and selflessness in making such a supreme sacrifice so that future generations could live in freedom. However, I would like to proclaim in memory of Oscar, my heartfelt gratitude to all the brave men of the Fighting 69th you are all heroes.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We thank you Tom, and wish there were more people like you who appreciated the extreme sacrifice men have made who fought in all wars. Oscar was also lucky to have known you!)

**ATTENTION SERVICE COMPANY
MEMBERS, 273RD INFANTRY**

**Searching for
DAVID A. STUART**

Submitted by: **Clifton B. Stolpe**
Service Company, 273rd Infantry
39 Allison Drive, Bella Vista, Arizona 72715
Telephone: 501/855-6283

I have been trying to find one of my buddies that I served with but am unable to locate him or his family.

He is **David A. Stuart**, wife's name Marge and has 3 daughters, Vicki, Sue and Kathy.

If anyone knows of his whereabouts, please contact me at the above address. Thank you.

Member Wants to See More on 769th Ordnance

Submitted by: **Paul H. Shirlock**
 315 W. Evans Creek Road
 Rogue River, Oregon 97537

This letter has been a long time in writing. I have been a member of the 69th family from its beginning at Shelby to its end. I served with the 769th Ordnance as Ordnance Supply Sergeant. Being originally from Connecticut, I attended a reunion in New York City. Later, after migrating to California in the late 50's, I attended another reunion at Mt. Shadows in Scottsdale, Arizona. I maintained a contact with **Hugh Arnot**, a Chief Warrant Officer in the 769th. He also lived in California in the Napa Valley. I have spent 33 years as a Correction Officer in the California State prison system. After retiring in the late 80's I again moved to southern Oregon. We live in a small country style town and are active in the V.F.W. and the Senior Center. Also spend a large amount of time traveling in our motor home.

All this time I have been a member of the association, and look forward to receiving the bulletin. My pet gripe, is the only time the 769th Ordnance is mentioned is in the "Taps" column (i.e. **Lt. Bill Biggs**). It would be nice to hear more from the 769th members, especially to locate any 769th members in Oregon.

Enclosed are two photos, one to show the 769th was also a part of the Leipzig deal, the other a picture of the supply platoon at Naumberg. Keep up the good work, but the division more than the Infantry.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Paul, the Bulletin is made up of information that is SUBMITTED BY THE MEMBERS. If men from the 769th send in stories, pictures, etc., they will be included in the Bulletin. We can't print what we don't have. The men of the 769th, including yourself, have the power to change this. We have no way of getting information on the 769th unless it is supplied by the 769th members.)



The day Leipzig surrendered.

Paul Shirlock

Lieutenant Walenciewicz

Sergeant Joe Zuffante



796th Ordnance taken in Naumberg. Top row, left to right: Wally, Lloyd, Jones, Cunliffe, Svielitch, Clark, McCann, Katz. Second row, standing: Carrigan, Spahn, Rea, Broadus, ?, Hunt. Bottom: Debernardis, Landez, McGuire

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.

1999

JANUARY 31st, 1999

**Deadline for news material and pictures for:
Bulletin Volume 52, Number 2
January, February, March, April 1999
Bulletin expected mailing date is late April or
early May.**

* * * * *

**APRIL 25th thru APRIL 30th, 1999
CALIFORNIA WESTERN CHAPTER
1999 SPRING ROUND-UP
RENO, NEVADA**

Sands Regency Hotel Casino
345 North Arlington Avenue, Reno, Nevada 98501
Telephone: 1-800/648-3553
Room Rate: A bargain at \$39.00 per night
Free Parking

For Registration Form, Hotel Information and further information on the activities contact:

John Tounger
#1 Pine Hills Court
Oakland, California 94611-1530
Telephone: 510/531-8011
Fax: 510/531-3623
Internet: jt.pappou@aol.com



* * * * *

**MAY 13, 14 and 15, 1999
MIDWEST GROUP SPRING MEETING
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
Best Western Clock Tower Resort**
7801 East State Street
Rockford, Illinois 61125-0285
Telephone: 1-800-358-7666
or 1-815-398-6000

A block of rooms will be held for us until April 13, 1999, so don't delay. Mention the 69th Infantry Division when making the reservation.

Rate: \$80.00 plus tax
69ers can come earlier or stay later at the same rate.

Location: The Clock Tower is at the intersection of Interstate 90 and Business U.S. 20 A (State Street). The Tower can be seen from the highways.

Program:

Thursday, May 13th

- Check-in Time is 4:00 p.m.
- Hospitality Room
- Dinner at a Restaurant to be selected.

Friday, May 14th

- Golf and Activities for non-golfers
- Free guided tour of the famous Time Museum at Clock Tower
- Lunch
- Tour of another attraction to be selected.
- Golfers can request a Time Museum Tour in the afternoon.
- Hospitality Room
- Dinner Theater at the Clock Tower

Saturday, May 15th

- On Your Own
- Check-Out Time is 12:00 Noon

For further information contact:

Curt and Evelyn Peterson
4900 Wallace Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53716
Telephone: 608/222-7957

* * * * *

MAY 31st, 1999

**Deadline for news material and pictures for:
Bulletin Volume 52, Number 3
May, June, July, August 1999
Bulletin expected mailing date is late August or
early September.**

* * * * *

**JUNE 10th thru JUNE 14th, 1999
COMPANY I, 271st INFANTRY REUNION
TEWKESBURY, MASSACHUSETTS**
For further information contact:

Dick Haines
22 Windham Road
Tewkesbury, Massachusetts 01876

(Continued on Page 66)

November 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 1999 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 52nd ANNUAL REUNION Orlando, Florida

THE MARRIOTT ORLANDO
8001 International Drive, Orlando, Florida

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Banquet Dinner Dance - Golf - Shopping - Farewell Breakfast and More

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ken A. Sawyer, Company D, 273rd Infantry Regiment
2311 Skywind Circle, Melbourne, Florida 32935-1460 • Telephone: 407/254-7175

Further information will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

We were here in 1984 and it was one of the best reunions ever!

John Post of Service Battery, 880th Field Artillery Looking for His Buddies

John Post, 6805 Kenowa Avenue, S.W., Grandville, Michigan 49418

I would like to get in touch with some of the members of Service Battery, 880th Field Artillery. Please drop me a line at the address above. Thanks so much.



This is Clyde Sudderth. At the time he lived on Montezuma, North Carolina.



Shorty Masters, at the top and me, John Post on the right. Other two unknown.



“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.

Samuel Bevan
2726 Welsh Road
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
A - 661st T.D.

William F. Rice
9223 West Main Street
Windham, Ohio
A - 271st

Donald E. Doxey
330 Victor Avenue
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
H&S - 724th F.A.

Arthur Madderson
273 Glendale Road
Upper Darby, Pennsylvania
E - 273rd

Barney Destefand
5212 N.W. 27th Avenue
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
B - 881st

Wayne Redner
2068 Ter Van N.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan
M - 273rd

Bennitt Eckert
1433 E. Main Road
Johnston City, New York
B - 879th F.A.

Michael Lewis
5525 W. 102nd Street
Oak Lawn, Illinois
B - 272nd

Edward Kairis
3115 Cloudcroft Avenue
Spring Hill, Florida
Div. Hq.

Morton S. Branes
Lexington, Massachusetts
Unit Unknown

Linwood Hobgood
4826 Coleman Road
Richmond, Virginia
C - 661st T.D.

Anthony Nicolais
88-26 209th Street
Queens Village, New York
A - 272nd

Ralph H. Becker
2695 Edwin Drive
Beavercreek, Ohio
569th Signal Co.

Guy Winfrey
2013 Gray Falcon Court
Norfolk, Virginia
A - 269th Engineers

Jack Weingast
46 Clara Street
Brooklyn, New York
K - 273rd

Joseph Keller
23976 Stafdord Road
Cleveland, Ohio
D - 272nd

Lucious I. Murphree
936 Sycamore Drive
Granada, Mississippi
G - 271st

Jack Runkle
2520 W. 127th Avenue
Denver, Colorado
C - 880th F.A.

Steve Forgas
6050 Northview Drive
Seven Hills, Ohio
C - 661st T.D.

Garret Maas, Jr.
142 E. Buckingham Drive
Lakehurst, New Jersey
E - 272nd

Walter M. Richards
Mt. Gilead, Ohio
Unit Unknown

Joseph Piascik
187 English Street
New Haven, Connecticut
A - 273rd

Orville D. Weingart
12730 Goshen Road
Salem, Ohio
D - 273rd

James P. Chappell
223 S. 15th Street
Lanett, Alabama
E - 271st

Floyd G. Adkisson
10635 Ricky Road
Lincoln, Nebraska
Hq. - 661st T.D.

John W. Herrick
VAMC NHCUD
Bath, New York
B - 879th F.A.

James T. Carter
6813 Riviera Drive
Biloxi, Mississippi
Hq. - 272nd

Clinton Ditmore
220 8th Street
Miami, Oklahoma
Hq. 3 - 273rd

Sidney Metzner
P.O. Box 1174
Hagerstown, Maryland
Hq. 1 - 272nd

Herman D. Schultz
45 West 54th Street
New York, New York
369th Med. Bat.

Nathan Green
2421 N.W. 5th Street
Delray Beach, Florida
G - 271st

Louis E. Elias
P.O. Box 1784
Stockton, California
C - 272nd

William E. Leslie
2704 South Shore Drive
Horseshoe Bend, Arkansas
C - 880th F.A.

Raymond Brown
207 Eupora Street
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
569th Signal Co.

Amos Welshong
1732 Ramset Street
Hastings, Minnesota
D - 461st AAA

Kenneth Manning
220 N. Delaware Avenue
Martinsburg, West Virginia
569th Signal Co.

Clifford Flick
P.O. Box 49
Rimersburg, Pennsylvania
569th Signal Co.

Reuben Bibleheimer
7720 Woodman Avenue
Panorama, California
Divarty

George Gidick
704 Seventh Street
Charleroi, Pennsylvania
273rd

Rex Sausaman
3217 N. County Road
Warsaw, Indiana
A - 880th F.A.

Sherlock Allsbrook
P.O. Box 204
Fountain, North Carolina
D - 461st AAA

William J. Lutz
696 East 8th Street
Salem, Ohio
Div. Hq.

Raymond Futrell
25700 N.E. Landon Road
Yacolt, Washington
E - 273rd

Dennis E. Wallace
5041 East Broadway
Mesa, Arizona
H - 272nd

Roy W. Paquet
44 Wynne Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
C - 661st T.D.

James D. Herbison
9 Jenny Lane
Harwich, Massachusetts
I - 272nd

Herbert Wheeler
6721 Tyler Drive
Milton, Florida
569th Signal Co.

Charles Veiga
26 E. Cedar Street
Metuchen, New Jersey
Hq. - 272nd

(Continued on Back Cover)



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“Taps” (Continued from Page 67)

John Durkin
 15147 Endicott Street
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 661st Recon

Stanley C. Werstler
 R.D. 1, Box 62
 Marianna, Pennsylvania
 B - 661st T.D.

Pete Labinsky
 P.O. Box 379
 Pine Beach, New Jersey
 M - 272nd

Wayne Bequeaith
 102 East Preston
 Stanwood, Iowa
 B - 273rd

Otis L. Kirk
 1401 Frye Avenue
 Mesa, Arizona
 E - 273rd

Harry Roehrig
 416 Pam Paw Lane
 Jeffersonville, Indiana
 A - 271st

E. John Rosenbrock
 6625 Beck Avenue
 N. Hollywood, California
 C - 724th F.A.

James H. Weber
 3324 E. 21st Avenue
 Lake Station, Indiana
 Div. Hq.

Eddie Holloway
 17 Library Street
 Burlington, New Jersey
 G - 271st

Joseph Natichak
 196 Center Street
 Carbondale, Pennsylvania
 E - 273rd

Charles L. Moore
 6744 Middlebranch Rd. N.E.
 North Canton, Ohio
 E - 271st

John Harmon
 613 Main Street
 Caldwell, Ohio
 C - 273rd

Charles Goodhart
 406 Lampeter Road
 Lancaster, Pennsylvania
 H1- 273rd

Hank McCarty
 308 East 11th Street
 Littlefield, Texas
 69th Band

Severt E. Tindal
 672 Grand Street
 Winona, Wisconsin
 Hq. - 880th F.A.

Abe Bloom
 3516 Sawtelle Boulevard
 W. Los Angeles, California
 H - 272nd

James Eder
 227 Canal Park Drive
 Salisbury, Maryland
 E - 272nd

Ernest Rogers
 2842 Maydell
 Dallas, Texas
 Service - 880th F.A.

Edward Gagnon
 2683 Halltown Road
 Hartley, Delaware
 Service - 879th F.A.

Carl Schlaerer
 180 Roosevelt Avenue
 Staten Island, New York
 E - 272nd

Henry Abbe
 7848 Rainbow Drive
 Charlotte, North Carolina
 C - 880th F.A.

BULLETIN STAFF

**The Fighting 69th
 Infantry Bulletin**

P.O. Box 69
 Champion, PA 15622-0069
 Telephone: 724/455-2901
**Send Articles, Pictures,
 and Material**

William R. Matlach

Treasurer
 P.O. Box 474
 West Islip, NY 11795-0474
 Telephone: 516/669-8077
Send Dues to Bill

Bob Kurtzman

Membership Chairman
 P.O. Box 105
 Wilmot, OH 44689-0105
 Telephone: 330/359-5487
**Send Address Changes,
 New Members
 and Deaths to Bob**

Dottie Witzleb

Ladies' Auxiliary Editor
 P.O. Box 69
 Champion, PA 15622-0069
 Telephone: 724/455-2901
**Send Ladies Auxiliary
 Material to Dottie**

NOTE: We received an OVERWHELMING amount of material for this bulletin. 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.

We really had a lot of reunion pictures sent in also. Some of them were duplicates of the same group so we chose the best ones for publication. Also, the large roll pictures that must appear in the center are put in by the date that they are received. Please be patient and your number will come up soon. Thank You