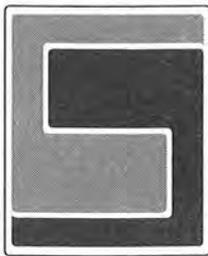


FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★★ Association, Inc.



VOLUME 58, NO. 1

www.69th-infantry-division.com

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER – NOVEMBER – DECEMBER
2004

“THE THREE B’S”
BOLTE’S BIVOUCACKING BASTARDS

P.O. BOX 4069
NEW KENSINGTON, PA 15068-4069
724/335-9980

bulletin

With Company D, 271st Regiment

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Raymond Sansoucy, MA 272

Deceased



Germany - Machine gun position in house
Red Cross Doc with Cpl. Bob Mauer



69th Division Band - May 1945



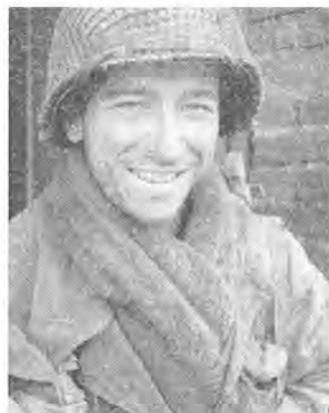
1. Cpl. Leo Henrichs, 2. John Fleming, 3. Stanley Ploszay,
4. Unknown, 5. 1st Sgt. Martin Timmerwilke, 6. Unknown



Mickey Rooney entertaining the Troops



Captain Embick, Tounger



Pfc. Theodore Snyder - Combat



Going Home - March 1946

Submitted by: Ted Snyder, 3 Carolyn Court, Syosset, New York 11791

THE MAIL BOX

By **Dottie (Witzleb) Shadle**
Editor



Company E, 273rd Infantry Regiment
P.O. Box 4069

New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068-4069
Telephone: 724/335-9980
E-Mail: danne345@aol.com

Evelyn Gustafson, R.D. #1, Box 21, Pittsfield, PA 16340-9705 — AT Co., 272nd: Just a note to tell you the G.I. on page 10 of the last issue middle table with a pet milk can at his elbow is **Urno Gustafson**.

We were unable to attend the reunion in Connecticut as we had a visit from Charlie in Florida and were called there to take care of our home in Lake Walis, Florida. We were very glad we made the trip to Florida as if we hadn't, our place would have had so much more damage due to rain after the storm. Keep up the good work on being the editor.

George W. Griggs, 115 York Avenue, Kannapolis, North Carolina 28083-4419 — S.C., 272nd: I arrived at Camp Shelby in early May 1943. Since I had been operating heavy equipment at Camp McCall they sent me directly to the motor pool and checked me out on a 6x6. I was assigned to Service Company, 272nd Regiment. I took very little training because they kept me busy hauling in troops from the railhead and supplies to the mess halls.

My main purpose for writing is to try and find a picture of a company street as they were in 1943 or 1944. I would like for it to be one from the 272nd area and I will be glad to pay for it. If anyone can be of assistance, please contact me at the above address.

Dottie, best wishes to you and Paul. I wish you many happy and healthy years together. I really enjoy the "Bulletin."

Bernard M. Hook, 939 E. Meadow Road, Floor 1, Manheim, Pennsylvania 17545-9376 — Co. A, 269th Medic: I've been with the 69th since May of 1943 and 61 years later, I still am. I was a part of Company A, 369th Medical Battalion, which I now refer to as the "Lost Battalion." I was wondering why I never see it mentioned in any of the support groups of any of the Infantry Battalions. There were 4 companies, A, B, C and D - The first three were attached to each Infantry Regiment and D was the clearing company. I was just wondering if anyone remembers us.

Carl A. Fritch, 60 S Park Avenue, Mertztown, Pennsylvania 19539-9001, Tel.: 610/682-7225 — 569th Signal Co.: I was with the 69th from activation in May 1943 until the end of the war. I was with the 272nd

advanced group to meet the Russians at Torgau. On to the 29th Division at Bremen - Heidelberg 7th Army Headquarters, then shipped home from Antwerp.

I was a high speed radio operator with the 569th Signal Co. attached to the 272nd Infantry all through Europe. I was called back as a reservist for a year during the Korean War.

Hope you people are well and keep up the good work.

Kelly Lack, 13234 C.R. 3640, Ada, Oklahoma 74820: I am trying to locate a roster of the living veterans of Company E, 273rd Infantry Regiment. Mr. Joe Lipsius referred me to you. He said that you might be able to help me. My uncle, **Evert E.D. Bray** was in Company E, 273rd. He was KIA in the vicinity of Leipzig, Germany on April 15, 1945. I am trying to find someone that remembers him. I've contacted a few of the men that served in the same regiment, but so far, none of them knew him.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: If anyone can help Kelly in any way, please write to her at the above address.)

Floyd D. Campbell, 1516 North Franklin Street, Danville, Illinois 61832: First of all, congratulations to you and Paul!!

I was a boy during the war and I remember it from a boy's standpoint plus what I've learned as a history buff. I now have a subscription to the 69th Bulletin in order to keep abreast of things along with my father-in-law (and I served in the 69th years later at Fort Dix). I so admire and respect him for what he did. Also my other father-in-law who served in the Pacific. No one in our families knew much of anything about these men's service in the war; not their kids or grandkids and even their spouses knew very little. They wouldn't talk about it or didn't, and everyone seemed afraid to approach them. I wondered if, just maybe, the reason those men didn't talk about it was because nobody asked. So I asked.

I wrote to my father-in-law (Pacific, in the marines) and told him that I and his kids and many others in the family were deeply interested in his war years and asked if he'd be willing to create a diary as he could still remember those years. I added that if he didn't want to do it, I would understand and respect that and I would never mention it again. I didn't hear from him. Nearly a year passed and I never heard from him and I didn't ask him about it. Till Christmas dinner.

I asked his daughter if he had done anything and she said we would be getting it for Christmas that day. I was elated. With her help they had created bound booklets from his diary and he brought out old photographs for the first time and they were incorporated into the booklet. Neither his wife of 55 years nor his daughter knew about the pictures. He had a box that he kept his stuff in and they never intruded into that part of his life. They didn't know till then that he had been awarded a Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars. He indeed didn't talk about it.

(Continued on Page 3)

THE MAIL BOX (Continued from Page 2)

We, the males in the family (for some reason) were given the booklets. Those of us who started to read it were unable to. We simply wiped the tears and thanked him and set it aside till later. The booklet has been in reprint a couple of times as more of the grand-kids ask for it.

My other father-in-law served in the European theater and he was adamant, even rude, about not talking about it, so his kids never approached him. I was never buffaloed by him and being the son-in-law with the most seniority (and I also served in his unit), I dared to approach him. I had to trick him but it worked. There was an occasion that I was able to make a comment about something concerning the war; an intentionally wrong comment. He was quick to jump in and correct me. I respectfully bowed to his first-hand knowledge and wisely let the matter drop because I knew he wouldn't allow me to pursue it with others present. At another visit I casually brought it up again, which led to many more questions and before long he was talking. I asked if he had any pictures from that part of his life and surprisingly he dug out a big folder of pictures and military papers. I ended up with the entire folder, as well as the battalion flag that his commanding officer gave him when they were coming back across France, a Nazi flag with blood on it that they used as a barber's apron and his uniform. He gave my wife (his daughter) his medals. I dug out my uniform and proudly hung it beside his in my closet - mine rather pitifully devoid of medals. But one thing we can joke about ironically, I out-rank him in the closet. He was a corporal, I a sergeant.

I have since had many visits with him and he knows I'm going to ask about the war and he talks freely while I take notes. From the notes I've brought up websites where I can study and learn about where he was and I print up pictures and take them back so we can delve deeper and the photos remind him of things that he had otherwise forgotten. I have transcribed my notes and am gradually compiling a history of his war records. I have an article from a war magazine of him capturing several Germans after being wounded when his jeep turned over. My wife and I didn't know till we got back from a European trip where we visited Munich and Dachau that he was part of the liberation forces there.

I visited my wife's uncle who I did not know was an Army Ranger in WWII and I was laying the groundwork for him to pass his oral history on to me. Again, he never talked about it to his own kids or his wife, and I think its because they didn't ask or were afraid to ask. Sadly, he died before I got much information and I shall always regret that I waited too long.

My wife's older brother was a member of the original Seal Team One and all we know about him is what we glean from books that have been written about the

Navy Seals and from off-hand remarks from him now and then. I know that he has remarkable stories to tell. I've written to him, requesting a diary for his own four sons, if for no one else. I have not heard from him, and he is, we believe, in the first stages of Alzheimer's so I'm afraid that history will go with him.

I apologize for being so long winded but these things concerning the WWII vets and all veterans are so close to my heart, I ache when they die unrecognized for their valor and take their untold stories with them.

Does anyone out there remember service with **Corporal George Salts**. He was an MP in the 69th. If so, would they please contact me. He is aging, as they all are, and I would like for him to be in touch with someone from that time in his life. Also, to urge the younger generation to ASK NOW, before it's too late.

Leonard C. Campbell, 1112 93rd Street, Niagara Falls, New York 14304 - Co. C, 273rd: When you are fighting a battle with the Army for award recognition (C.B.I.), as I have for the past year and a half, it's great to have support. Both you and Paul have certainly helped me in my efforts and I want to thank you very much. I was able to contact **Lt. Graydon Savre**, who had our heavy weapons platoon and also was the acting C.O. of our rifle company. He wrote a letter to the Army on my behalf. My daughter and I had a meeting with Congresswoman Slaughter. They've relayed all of my material and documents to the Army - again. Don't hold your breath!

Sorry I couldn't make the reunion. We celebrated my wife's 80th birthday at the same time and had kids and grandkids from all over the country. I hope it was a success and you all had a great time.

Clifford E. Brenner, P.O. Box 44, Mount Wolf, Pennsylvania 17347 - 881st F.A.: I am writing to comment on Mr. Sheavly's book, "*The Stories of Our War*." This book is a "must have." It's very riveting, hard to lay down, and best of all, you were part of all this history. It gives you great satisfaction. I was very proud after reading it, and admire all who served with "The Fighting 69th." Congratulations to Mr. Sheavly and get the book, please.

Paul H. Eagon, 1435 North Avenue, Waukegan, Illinois 60085 - Co. I, 273rd: Thanks to the Editorial Board: Col. Creekmore, Aus, Retired; Paul and Dottie Shadle; Ray Sansoucy; and W.C. Sheavly; and to all the others who helped William H. Sheavly with his book, "*The Stories of Our War*." I haven't quite finished reading it yet but it surely does bring back the memories good and bad. I purchased seven copies at the reunion: one for each of our four sons; one for the Cornerstone Genealogical Society, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania (where I am originally from); one for the Waukegan Public Library, Waukegan, Illinois (where I have lived in and around since 1946); and a copy for myself. I urge anyone who is interested in WWII, and especially the 69th Division, to buy or borrow a copy of this book.

A Note from Dottie, Your Bulletin Editor

Note New Address

**P. O. Box 4069
New Kensington, PA 15068-4069
Telephone: 724/335-9980**

As I am writing this column, I just heard that we are expecting our first snow flurries of the season. Boy, did the summer go by fast. If you did not attend the reunion this past August in Stamford, Connecticut, you missed a nice one. Our attendance was down a bit, but I guess that is to be expected.

Paul and I are planning to go to Branson for a few days in November. Hopefully, we do not run into that white fluffy stuff known as snow.

We have been keeping busy with the division work and still trying to fit two houses into one. Boy, is that a chore. We will keep you up on that part of our lives.

If you have not yet paid your dues, please send them in to our new Treasurer, **John Barrette**. We both hope you and yours have a blessed holiday season and hope to see you in Louisville, Kentucky next August.

Printer E-Mail Address

If you would like to e-mail your photos or articles to the Bulletin, you can send them directly to our printer at:

inthewoods@buhlbrothersprinting.com

Our bulletin printer has a large mailbox and can accommodate your photos and stories. Just make sure in the subject line, you include "69th" and the printer will turn it over to Dottie for approval for publication.

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR E-MAIL YOUR REGULAR ADDRESS AND UNIT.

MOVING

Please print your new address below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

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

**PAUL SHADLE
P.O. Box 4069
New Kensington, PA 15068-4069
Please allow six weeks advance notice.**

Lion Cub Mystery Solved

Robert C. Trimble, Division Headquarters
96 Heatherwood Drive
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402

What a surprise it was to me to see that photo of the lion cub. I vividly recall this cute baby lion. Whether I held it and stroked its back, I do not recall. The Red Cross Director assigned to Headquarters, 69th Infantry Division whose last name was **Mr. Whatley** had possession of this cub at the time I saw it.

We were in Belgium at the time. Perhaps some of the other members of Division headquarters may have some recollection of this cub. Perhaps a member of the Signal Company may have some recollection. I say this because it was the Signal Staff personnel that had the means and where by to take photographs. **Warrant Whitlock** took many photos of the activities back in those days.

After WWII, Mr. Whatley went to work with the Red Cross and Georgia and I lost track of him.

Keep up the good work. The bulletin brings back many memories. Best wishes to all the Association Officers and the staff responsible for publishing the bulletin.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES! NEW DUES YEAR FOR 2004-2005

August 1, 2004 to July 31, 2005
Regular Membership \$10.00
Ladies' Auxiliary \$ 5.00
Bulletin Donation Up To You

***Keep the Bulletin Coming.
Send Your Dues in Today!***

**Send Your Dues To:
NEW TREASURER**

John Barrette, Treasurer
P.O. Box 215

Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54495-0215
Telephone: 715/423-4921

Do not send dues to Dottie Shadle.

NOTE: If you have not paid dues in the last two years, please see the form on page 5, if you want to continue receiving the bulletin.

Message from the President



Bernard H. Zaffern
Company L, 272nd Infantry Regiment
 22555 Hallcroft Trail
 Southfield, Michigan 48034-2011
 Telephone: 248/357-4611

Thanks again to **Bob Pierce** for our successful Stamford reunion. I am sorry that **Bob** is stepping down after our 2005 reunion, which he has arranged for Louisville. He has done a terrific job all these years and his efforts will be missed.

I am sorry that we have also lost the services of our Treasurer, **Bill Ruebsamen**, who has resigned. Our new Treasurer is **John Barrette**. I want to express my thanks to **Bill** for his years of effort and for working with **John** to ease the transition. **Ed Lucci**, our long-time auditor, has stepped down since he hasn't figured out a way to audit books a thousand miles away. Our thanks to **Ed** for his many years of service.

Our Stamford reunion was a success because of the efforts of our committee chairmen: **Ed and Louise Hill** (Registration), **Erwin and Carmen Sanborn** (Hospitality), **Bob Crowe** (Seating), **Jean Ross** (Souvenir Sales) and **Bob Pierce** (Tours and Entertainment). Committee members included **Frank and Grace Novak**, **Mel and John Schulz**, **Del and Dona Philpott**, **LaVerne Loveland**, **Wilfred Ferda**, **Connie Brough**, **Bill Ruebsamen** and **Joe Huber**. Many thanks for your hard work!

If anyone has a suggestion for a replacement for **Bob Pierce** please let me know.

58th Annual Reunion
Clarion Hotel
Louisville, Kentucky
August 21st thru 29th, 2005
Details in next issue of the bulletin

URGENT MESSAGE!

**We are updating
 our membership and mailing rosters.**

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID DUES IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, YOU MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT BEFORE **MARCH 1, 2005** TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE BULLETIN!

Please print:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Unit: _____

() Check for \$10.00 enclosed for (2004-2005) dues

**Make checks payable to the
 Fighting 69th Infantry Division and mail to:**

Paul N. Shadle
Membership Chairman
 P.O. Box 4069
 New Kensington, PA 15068-4069

69th Souvenir Price List

Mrs. Jean Ross
 2205 Boston Road, Unit 184
 Wilbraham, Massachusetts 01095

ITEM DESCRIPTION	PRICE
Golf Towels	\$ 5.00
Canvas Tote Bags	\$ 8.00
Caps (<i>Blue and Red</i>)	\$ 5.00
Caps (<i>White</i>)	\$ 6.00
Golf Shirts	\$15.00
Nylon Jackets	\$20.00
Bolo String Ties	\$ 5.00
Combat Infantry Badge (<i>Large</i>)	\$ 3.00
Combat Infantry Badge (<i>Small</i>)	\$ 2.00
Infantry Crossed Rifles (<i>Large</i>)	\$ 3.00
69th Division Shoulder Patch	\$ 3.00
Small Hat Pins	\$ 2.00
CIB Belt Buckle	\$ 3.00
Ceramic Cup w/69th Emblem	\$ 3.00
Decals w/69th Emblem	Large 3 for \$ 2.00 Small \$ 0.50
69th Pen Knife	\$ 3.00
Posters	\$ 3.00
777th Tank Battalition Decals	\$ 2.00

**If you are interested in purchasing,
 please contact Jean at the above address.**

2004 Officers As of August 21, 2004

Bernard H. Zaffern, President
22555 Hallcroft Trail
Southfield, Michigan 48034-2011
Telephone: 248/357-4611
Unit: Company L, 272nd Infantry
E-Mail: berniezaff@aol.com

Paul N. Shadle, Vice President
P.O. Box 4069
New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068-4069
Telephone: 724/335-9980
Unit: Company E, 271st Infantry
E-Mail: pms5@aol.com

Joseph F. Huber, Secretary
1341 Evergreen Street
West Bend, Wisconsin 53095-3815
Telephone: 262/334-3583
Unit: Anti-Tank Company, 272nd Infantry
E-Mail: joba2542@earthlink.net

John Barrette, Treasurer
P.O. Box 215
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54495-0215
Telephone: 715/423-4921
Unit: Headquarters Company, 271st Infantry

Directors of Class of 2007

Elected at the Annual Meeting of the Fighting
69th Infantry Division Association, Inc
August 21, 2004 - Stamford, CT Reunion

LeVerne Loveland
517 Rosewood Terrace
Linden, New Jersey 07036-5832
Telephone: 908/486-1063
Company C, 271st Infantry

Neil Shields
4940 Brighwood Road, Apt. 412 A
Bethel Park, Pennsylvania 15102-2885
Telephone: 412/831-8162
Company F, 272nd Infantry

William R. Nettles
1664 S. Montgomery
Starkville, Mississippi 39759-4200
Telephone: 662/323-5417
Company A, 273rd Infantry

William G. Ruebsamen
27601 Sun City Blvd. - pc 203 (P.O. Box 146)
Sun City, California 92586-2266
Telephone: 951/301-9360
Battery A, 724th Field Artillery

Eugene Pierron
2310 Hwy D.
Belgium, Wisconsin 53004-9758
Telephone: 262/285-3702
Rec. Company, 661st Tank Destroyer

A Note from your Vice President and Membership Chairman, Paul Shadle

Paul Shadle, Company E, 271st Infantry
P.O. Box 4069 • New Kensington, PA 15068-4069
Telephone: 724/335-9980



At the reunion in Stamford it was discussed by the Board of Directors that according to the by-laws, Associate Members that were added to the roster since 2000 must be approved at the next reunion meeting in 2005 in Louisville, Kentucky. If you are receiving the bulletin, you will continue to receive it if your dues are in good standing until approved or disapproved. If your name is disapproved, you will be notified by letter in September 2005. If approved, you will receive a dues notice during the year. Dues run from August until August and the notices are usually sent out in November or December.

We have a new Treasurer this year. He is **John H. Barrette**, P.O. Box 215, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54495-0215. If you move or change your address, please notify me at the above address. I will then, in turn, notify **John Barrette**.

When we receive bulletins back with "Moved, Left No Forwarding Address" we have no way of knowing your new address. Your name is deleted from the list and we then list the names of these members in the bulletin under "Deleted for various reasons." If you know of any member that is listed in this column, please let us know so we may add his name and new address to the roster.

We are looking forward to the reunion in Louisville, Kentucky in August 2005 and hope you will join us.

**PLEASE WATCH THE BULLETIN
FOR FURTHER DETAILS.**

**Annual Meeting of Officers
and Board of Directors
69TH INFANTRY
DIVISION ASSOCIATION
Thurs., August 19th, 2004
SHERATON STAMFORD HOTEL
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT**

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by **President Zaffern**. **Chaplain Snidow** gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the 2003 Board Meeting were approved as published.

Bill Sheavly, Jr. was introduced and thanked the members for their help.

Vice President and Membership Chairman Paul Shadle reported that we have 3,852 names on our roster, including 392 widows, 82 associated and 36 honorary members. His report was accepted.

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented in printed form by **Bill Ruebsamen** and accepted. There was no **Secretary's Report**.

Bob Pierce gave the **Reunion Report** and noted that there were 280 attendees. The next reunion will be in Louisville, Kentucky. He then announced that 2005 would be the last reunion he would plan, but will work with a new chairman to help him with the 2006 reunion.

There was no **old business**.

Under **new business**, the President announced the **resignation of Bill Ruebsamen** and the appointment of **John Barrette as Treasurer**.

The **question of Associate Members** was raised with the application of a new associate member. The applicant did not meet the constitutional requirements for Associate Membership and the application was ordered returned with regrets. The discussion then turned to the question of associate members on the rolls. The constitution requires that associate members must be approved by the Board of Directors, which has not been done.

After much discussion and motions duly made and seconded, it was voted to:

1. retroactively approve all dues paying associate members who became associate members prior to April 1, 2000;
2. drop from the rolls all associate members who have not paid their dues; and,

A motion to contribute to the Infantry Museum at Fort Benning was defeated.

The **Nominating Committee Report**, given by **George Vasil**, recommended for the class of 2007:

271st Infantry	LeVerne Loveland
272nd Infantry	Neil Shields
273rd Infantry	William Nettles, Jr.
724th Field Artillery	Bill Ruebsamen
661st Tank Destroyers	Eugene Pierron

The report was accepted on voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

**Annual Meeting of
the General Membership
69TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN.
Sat., August 21st, 2004
SHERATON STAMFORD HOTEL
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT**

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by **President Zaffern**.

The invocation was given by our **Chaplain, Bill Snidow**, who also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the 2003 General Meeting were approved as printed in the Bulletin.

The **Membership Chairman's** report was given by **Paul Shadle** who noted that we had 3,852 names on the roster, 392 of whom were widows. The report was accepted as given.

Our **Treasurer, Bill Ruebsamen**, presented his written report. The report was accepted as given.

Joe Huber, Secretary, stated that we had enough money on deposit in Europe to cover grave decorations for 2004 and that this had been ordered. He has tried to communicate with the American Battle Monuments Commission in Paris, but has received no reply. He will try to get help from the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation.

President Zaffern announced the resignation of **Treasurer Bill Ruebsamen** and introduced our new Treasurer, **John Barrette**. He extended the thanks of the membership to Bill for his work.

He then introduced **Bill Sheavly**, who thanked the Membership for their help in contributing to the success of his book.

There was no **old business**.

Under new business, the slate of Board Members for the term ending in 2007 (the "class of 2007") was presented by Nominating Committee Chairman George Vasil. Nominated were:

Co. G, 271st Infantry	LeVerne Loveland
Co. F, 272nd Infantry	Neil Shields
Co. A, 273rd Infantry	William Nettles, Jr.
Btry. A, 724th Field Artillery	Bill Ruebsamen
Rec. Co., 661st Tank Destroyers	Eugene Pierron

(Continued on Page 8)

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP (Continued from Page 7)

The report was accepted and the nominees elected on a voice vote.

Bob Pierce gave the 2004 reunion report. We had attendance of 280, a 25% decline from last year. He had anticipated a larger turnout since we have so many members from the East. 74 took the Bridgeport trip, 142 to West Point, 48 to Norwalk, 152 to New York City, 112 to the Early Bird, 187 to the PX Beer party and 286 to the Banquet.

The 2005 Reunion will be at the Clarion Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21-29, 2005. He had hoped to have it on the West Coast, but prices were too high. He managed some great arrangements with the hotel, including a \$400 gift for the party and a complimentary reception before the banquet.

Bob also announced that would be the last reunion he will arrange. **President Zaffern** thanked **Bob** for his many years of service and the members gave him a standing vote of thanks.

Bernie then recounted his efforts in attempting to arrange a suitable 60th anniversary celebration of our link-up with the Russians. There were several suggestions which will be acted upon.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.



69th New Officers, Front: John Barrette-Treasurer, Bernie Zaffern-President. Rear: Paul Shadle-Membership Chairman / Vice President, Joe Huber, Secretary.

Photos by Chet Yastrzemski



Ground Zero



Honor Guard Detail



Many Thanks to the Great Reunion Staff

Edward V. Hill, Jr.
Battery B, 881st Field Artillery
819 Main Street, Hamilton, Ohio 45013-2550
Telephone: 513/863-6815
E-mail: ehill_5657@fuse.net

To: The Great Stamford Registration Crew:
Connie Brough Wilf Ferda
Russell and Betty Koch Jane Matlach
Grace Novak

Please accept our sincere appreciation for your contributions to a very successful reunion registration. I would hope that all those registrants who passed through your courteous ministrations are equally appreciative.

All went very smoothly throughout the week even with our being displaced to a smaller area to accommodate the Banquet.

Again, **Bob Pierce's** new cut-off and cancellation dates helped to smooth out and simplify the paper work for all of us.

Lou and I plan to serve as Registrars in Louisville for 2005, so if Louisville is in your plans, let us know for we always welcome help with registration.

We wish you all a safe, happy and satisfying year and we'll meet again in Louisville.

Frank Novak, Anti-Tank Company, 272nd Regiment
395 Taconic Road
Greenwich, Connecticut 06831
Telephone: 203/661-7549

Bob and Theresa Pierce and their Reunion Committee deserve a standing ovation and a thunderous round of applause for the Division Reunion they hosted in Stamford, Connecticut in August.

It was an outstanding event and was run flawlessly. The tours were interesting and well organized, and the activities in the hotel ran like clockwork.

Registration was quick and went smoothly thanks to **Ed and Louise Hill** and their volunteers. **Erwin and Carmen Sanborn** made sure the Hospitality Room flowed with your favorite beverage from early morn until late at night. And **Jean Ross** and **Joe Huber** wouldn't let you leave the registration room until you added a few more pins to your cap.

Thanks to **Bob Crowe** and his seating plans, we all got to sit at the same table with our buddies.

It was a reunion that will be memorable as one of the best reunions we've ever had. Bob Pierce's dedication and hard work will long be remembered after he relinquishes the responsibility at next year's reunion in Kentucky.

Kudos, too, to **Joe Lipsius** for his continuing work on the 69th website.

One suggestion voiced by many for the next reunion: for the dinner dance, have just a piano or three-piece combo playing soft background music until after the dinner is served and dancing begins in earnest. It's frustrating trying to talk with others at your table, with a blaring band and loud vocalist drowning out your conversation.

Again, many thanks to Bob and his crew for a job well done.



*Photo Above:
Battery B, 881st Field
Artillery at the 2004 Reunion*



*Photo Right:
69ers at the
Memorial Service*

60th Anniversary European Tour

William Beswick

661st Tank Destroyer Battalion

P. O. Box 576, West Point, Virginia 23181

Telephone: 804/843-2696 • Cell Phone: 804/512-9645

E-Mail: BandJBes@aol.com

Attention 69ers and family members: In April, 2005, to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the 69th Infantry Division's linkup with the Russian army (April 25, 1945, at Torgau, Germany, on the Elbe River), **William "Bill" Beswick** is trying to organize a Tour to Europe. This is in cooperation with Joao Freitas of the American Express who worked with Bill on previous 69th Tours.

The itinerary would include Paris, Brussels, Leige, the cemeteries at Margraten and Henri-Chappelle, the towns of Aachen, Bullengin, Koblenz and a Rhine River cruise. Then, on to Bad Ems, the town of many memories, Geissen, Weissenfels, Lutzen and Leipzig. Next, Torgau and the Memorial Parks and a possible cruise on the Elbe River, hopefully, finalizing with a visit to Dresden before returning to Torgau for festivities.

There will be many surprises you will enjoy! All of this finished off with an evening Dinner the night before departing Torgau with some Soviet Veterans and helpful Germans in building our Memorials in Torgau and Strehla.

Costs and final itinerary will depend on numbers involved on the Tour. In order for Bill and Joao to come up with some definitive figures, please express you interest and numbers involved to Bill as soon as possible. It would be best to telephone him.

William Beswick is a former Association President. He was a participant in organizing the Torgau Memorial and Strehla Memorial Park, as well as the organizer and leader of several previous European Tours.

April 16th, 2005: Depart the USA

April 17th & 18th: In Paris with a 1/2 day sightseeing/tour welcome Seine River dinner cruise and theatre show, Moulin Rouge or whatever is available.

April 19th: In Luxembourg, with a lunch stop in Brussels at the Platz Square and visit Patton's grave.

April 20th: Koblenz and go on Rhine River Cruise from Boppard to Bacharach or landing close.

April 21st & 22nd: In Leipzig and return visit to Weissenfels for a reception by the town officials, possibility of refreshments. Also visit the Monument of Nations and other points of interest.

April 23rd, 24th & 25th: Visit the Memorials at Strehla and Torgau. A reception and celebration 60th Anniversary dinner at Torgau.

April 26th: In Prague for a visit and celebration and a farewell dinner. Visit Hradcany Castle and St. Vitus Cathedral. Prague is the place that a lot of people are visiting this year.

There will be many other points of interest to keep you interested. Many of them cannot be listed here.

We will visit church in St. Mary's Church in Torgau or Castle Church.

Wreaths will be placed at several of the sights by members of our group.

Three Elbe Veterans Reunite in Sunnyvale, CA

Submitted By: Del and Donna Philpott

Company A, 271st Infantry Regiment

1602 Kamsack Drive

Sunnyvale, California 94087-5212

It's not often that Russian and Americans from the link-up can reunite, but on July 1st, 2004 three of us did. From left to right, the Russian **Leonid Zilberberg** and the two Americans, **Igor Belousovitch**, and myself, **Delbert Philpott** in Sunnyvale, California. Igor's fluent Russian propelled him into the official translator at the link-up and earned him a Bronze Star. Doctor Zilberberg immigrated to California about fifteen years ago. Our stories are in the book, "Hands Across the Elbe."



Left to Right: Leonid Zilberberg, Igor Belousovitch and Delbert Philpott

THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE

By **Dottie (Witzleb) Shadle**

Ladies Auxiliary Editor

P.O. Box 4069

New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068-4069

Home Telephone: 724/335-9980



Dottie (Witzleb) Shadle



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



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22555 Hallcroft Trail
Southfield, Michigan 48034-2011
Telephone: 248/357-4611



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Telephone: 631/669-8077

Jennie Ambrose, Secretary
803 Tenth Street
McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania 15136

Ellen McCann, Chaplain
39 Mayflower Road
Woburn, Massachusetts 01801

**A Message from your
Auxiliary President,
Theresa Pierce**

Dear Ladies of the 69th Ladies Auxiliary:

Our Reunion at Stamford leaves us with many memories, especially the West Point and New York City tours.

Our entertainment was a Lancombe Cosmetic Expert. There was a lot of audience participation with questions of products and beauty tips. Many ladies made reservations for a make-over in the afternoon for our Banquet.

Mr. Chuck Randle of the Veterans Administration was presented with a \$500 check and a large number of crocheted items. In addition, the Reunion Chairman donated 29 Combat Infantry Badge belt buckles to be given to the VA Hospitals Combat Infantry patients. **Anne Lipsius** was the champ again this year donating 11 more lap robes.

We were saddened to learn about the death of **Harold Ruck**. His wife, **Ethel**, our Ladies Auxiliary President of the past two years, was sent a sympathy card signed by the ladies and mailed.

Our cold weather will be upon many of us shortly. While some of us are snow bound it will be a perfect time to crochet our lap robes, 36 x 45, bed jackets, etc. Happy Holidays to All!



Ladies' Auxiliary Officers at the 2004 Reunion

- In Memoriam -

"LADIES' TAPS"

MRS. VITA BOYD

wife of **George Boyd**

Company H, 273rd Infantry Regiment

MRS. DOROTHY EDGE

wife of **William Edge**

Company I, 272nd Infantry Regiment

MRS. M. J. FARRELL

widow of **Mr. Farrell**

Headquarters, 271st Infantry Regiment

MRS. ELIZABETH FANGMEYER

widow of **Mr. Fangmeyer**

Headquarters, 273rd Infantry Regiment

MRS. MAE FITCH

wife of **Carl A. Fitch**

569th Signal Corp

MRS. JEAN KASTANAKIS

wife of **John Kastanakis**

569th Signal Corp

MARY KRAUSE

wife of **Ernest Krause**

Company B, 269th Engineers

MRS. OLGA B. OSTROW

widow of **Mr. Ostrow**

H2, 273rd Infantry Regiment

MRS. JEANNE REARDEN

widow of **Mr. Rearden**

Company I, 272nd Infantry

MRS. DOROTHY B. WRIGHT

widow of **Mr. Wright**

Company A, 777th Tank Battalion

**Visit Us
On
The
Web
at**



www.69th-infantry-division.com

or contact

annejoelip@earthlink.net

Visit often to keep up with what's going on!

**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 **Bulletin Headquarters, P.O. Box 4069, New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068-4069**, 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.

JANUARY 31st, 2005

**Deadline for news material and pictures for:
Bulletin Volume 58, Number 2**

January, February, March, April 2005

Bulletin expected mailing date is late April or early May.

* * * * *

MAY 15th thru MAY 19th, 2005

**CALIFORNIA WESTERN CHAPTER
2005 SPRING ROUNDUP**

LAKE TAHOE, NEVADA

Harveys Resort and Casino

P.O. Box 128, Stateline, Nevada 89449

Telephone: 1-800-455-4770

Room Rate: \$69 + tax per night

Cutoff Date: 3/31/05 to receive this rate.

Group Code is S05INF to get special group rate.

For more information, contact:

Harold and Nancy Faulkner

280 Montecillo Drive

Walnut Creek, California 94595-2612

Telephone: 925/945-6604

* * * * *

MAY 31st, 2005

**Deadline for news material and pictures for:
Bulletin Volume 58, Number 3**

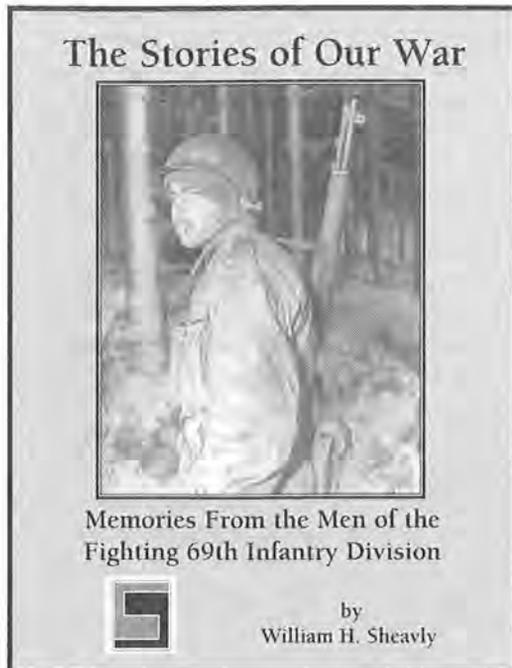
May, June, July, August 2005

Bulletin expected mailing date is late June or early July.

*Happy Holidays
to you and yours
from the Officers, Directors
and Staff of the Fighting 69th.*



"The Stories of Our War" is here!



The long awaited book on the stories of the men of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division is now available! The official launch of the book was at the 57th Reunion held recently in Stamford, Connecticut. The 370 page hardback book was a hit at the reunion as reunion attendees were anxious to obtain signed copies for family and friends. Readers were treated to a surprise introduction written by the sons of **Brigadier General Charles L. Bolte**, the founding General of the Division written by **Phillip** and **David Bolte**.

The book opens with a humorous excerpt from "Pass in Review" written in 1943 about the typical arrival of an ordinary GI at Camp Shelby. The stories are all blended in a timeline which follows the division from Camp Shelby to Camp Kilmer, across the Atlantic and into England. It then picks up with stories of the crossing of the English Channel into France, Belgium, the Siegfried Line, across the Rhine, Leipzig, Eilenberg and on to Torgau. It took **Bill Sheavly, Jr.** four years to write and compile the book, calling it a "labor of love."

"I truly hope that the men of the Division will be pleased with the book. It is my honor to pay tribute to them," he said.

If you would like an autographed copy from the author, Bill is extending his reunion price of \$25.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling. To receive an autographed copy, send \$28.00 per book to:

William H. Sheavly
3500 Virginia Beach Blvd., Suite 200
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
Telephone: 757/340-7006

Make check payable to William H. Sheavly. **For each book ordered one dollar will be contributed to the Association.**

Newporter Captured Huge Railway Station

Lieut. J.K. O'Brien Led 3 Men in Leipzig Artillery Observers Left Behind by Infantry Cleared Out Nest of Germans

Submitted By: **Lowell McFarlin**, C-881st F.A.
89 North High Street, Box 236
Jeromesville, Ohio 44840-0236

The largest railroad station in Europe, and said by the Germans to be the largest in the world - the Leipzig Hauptbahnhof - was captured by First Lt. **James K. O'Brien**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael F. O'Brien, and three of his men.

During the attack on Leipzig, in mid-April, Lt. O'Brien was with elements of an infantry battalion as an artillery forward observer. His particular job was to adjust the artillery fire of his battalion on enemy installations holding up the advance of the infantry.

When the infantry decided to wait until morning before advancing further, Lt. O'Brien took over an apartment house for his three men. Getting up about 5:00 a.m., he found the infantry had already gone and the colonel had left the observers behind thinking that artillery fire could not be used in the darkness.

About 6:00 a.m., while riding along in his jeep to catch up with the infantry, he came to the railroad station, by-passed by the infantry. He saw a German soldier stick his head out a door so he stopped and taking out his pistol, went in to investigate. The German was an officer, either a major or lieutenant colonel. He grabbed the German officer and was told there were a few more German soldiers in the cellar. He gave the officer instructions to bring the men out and leave their weapons in the cellar. A stream of soldiers started to come up and the officer dumped a pile of weapons in the corner.

Believing that there were quite a few of them, Lt. O'Brien detailed one of his men to line up the prisoners in the street, another to watch the German weapons and took the third into the cellar and found several more Germans, including 100 women. He ordered the Germans out, warning that the Americans would descend upon them and kill them if they did not move rapidly. They lined them up and they were four abreast for a city block. Some infantry men came along and he turned the approximately 200 prisoners over to them. Lt. O'Brien wondered what would have happened if the Germans had known he had only three men with him.



With Company B, 271st

Submitted By: **Orrie Pullen**

Company B, 271st Infantry

Unit 15, 5370 Southbrook Court

Hudsonville, Michigan 49426-1546

Telephone: 616/669-2725

E-Mail: 123oppul@msn.com

It was August 17th, 1944 boarding the train from Grand Rapids to the induction center in Detroit. We were in line where they stamped Army or Navy on your records (at that point I was hoping for Navy - no choice) and then to physicals and processing. From there by train to Fort Sheridan north of Chicago and then the haircut, the issuance of "tailored uniforms," boots, etc. After a day or so it was the troop train to Camp Wheeler, Georgia, near Macon, Georgia. This train was not first class. Lots of heat, smoke and ashes, not one of today's super liners and we spent a lot of time on sidings but finally reached Camp Wheeler.

Basic training began almost immediately and never let up until we were preparing to ship out for two days home between Christmas and New Years. Back on the train to Camp Kilmer for a few days and then to Boston Harbor to board the *Isle DeFrance*. The harbor was smooth as glass and after the troops were loaded, the ship began to move. I was assigned to the end of the chow line to scrape trays and empty garbage. I learned about sea-sickness quickly and donated to the garbage. I suffered until we reached Greenock, Scotland some seven days later. The conditions on the passenger levels were not good (understatement!!) Bunks 4-5 high and shoulder-width between rows and then there were the heads! You had to be there to appreciate those conditions.

Finally, solid ground underfoot and C-rations that actually tasted good. I hadn't been eating much for seven days or so. Next move was a 40x8 type train ride across the country ending at a huge warehouse where we were assigned to the 69th. From there we headed for the embarkation point for crossing the channel. After boarding the boat/ships (small) we lay at anchor for some time due to dense fog. The next morning breakfast was served, a bucket of oatmeal and a loaf of bread for the squad. Next landing at Le Harve to start our "European Tour" on foot. We did get a ride to "Tent City" where we joined the 69th and as I recall-12 man tents, folding cots and "MUD." With much straw the boots still were deep in mud - not a very pleasant situation.

Next memories were riding 6x6's on the way to relieving the 99th Division on the Seigfried line and the sighting of the first German soldier lying in a field. The small village, or the remains of same, were represented by some floors of homes with holes underneath mindful of a Michigan basement - underground - no windows, no nothing but dirt. Our squad was in a 4x12

area with about a 3 foot ceiling. The GIs were very prevalent at the time and you had to be "QUICK" to unzip your sleeping bag and crawl out of the basement or hole - good luck - and we had a shower about once every 30 days. A hot meal was being served one day at noon and the Germans sent a few artillery shells for dessert, nobody hurt, meal finished. Another day same place one of our boys found a 55 gallon barrel, built a fire under it, filled it with water, and took a bath. He was the only clean man that month. He had the tub set up in the middle of the road. Fortunately the Germans didn't disturb him. We were also serenaded by Nebulwerfers occasionally while at that location. Another sight was while lying in a foxhole on the line watching an endless line of bombers returning from a mission one of the planes lost a wing and headed down. Six parachutes blossomed but the wind carried them behind German lines. We never learned what happened to them.

And then one morning we were told to move out which we did and eventually entered a small village with no resistance and were later told to withdraw to straighten the lines. The next day we returned and received our baptism of fire. They had us zeroed in and we suffered many casualties, lost a few men, but held the position. Another situation, same area, we were working our way down a steep hill under artillery fire towards another small group of houses. No other resistance-but in checking the houses that night we lost our platoon leader. He was in the kitchen with our BAR man and I was in the doorway between the kitchen and attached cow barn. Suddenly an explosion, or shot. I heard what I thought was a cow passing water but it turned out to be the platoon leaders blood running out. It was a dark night, we left, returning in the morning and found the Germans had buried him in the yard. Reported as a booby trap.

From there a more favorable memory. The resort at Neiderbreisig with its plentiful supply of champagne, including pink champagne. And while there one of our "investigating types" found a cache of beverages under a pile of potatoes including an unopened bottle of 1936 Seven Crown. It went well with our dinner in one of those houses, served with fine table and glassware.

When we left Neiderbreisig we crossed the river on a bridge built by our engineers. Our squad was in the last 6x6 followed by the tanks. The lead tank had its barrel almost in our laps, and the top of the tank was loaded with cases of champagne. We hoped they hadn't over-imbibed. One of the next memories was in Kassel - electricity, radio with big band music, what a treat and with beds. Next memory was where we were in the cemetery behind the Napoleon Tower where we could see the pock marks left by our artillery. We also saw some dead Germans there. Later we could look over the area including the Tower.

Somebody once said a frontline infantryman's war was about 10 feet wide and as far as you could see. And that statement carried a lot of truth in it.

(Continued on Page 15)

WITH COMPANY B, 271st INFANTRY
(Continued from Page 14)

Not having been with the 69th through training, and as replacements, many of us did not get to know many of the men beyond our own squad and platoon. After the war ended and I was waiting to go home, many men from Company B were assigned to the 350th Ordnance Depot in a German Army Base in Feudenheim located near Mannheim and Heidelberg. During the next few months we became better acquainted. The base had five two-story barracks and office buildings with a bar-movie-dances, and food served by prisoners on plates with silverware - a line infantryman's dream.

In June of '46 it was off to Bremerhaven to board a smaller ship headed for home. Sea-sickness returned quickly - it was a good thing they stamped me Army at the induction center. I was discharged at Camp Atterbury on June 5th and made it home that day, my 20th birthday. A Great day.

Courtesy of the GI Bill, I entered Michigan State College (it was still an agricultural college at the time). I joined Advanced ROTC with classes, parade formations, six weeks at Ft. Riley, Kansas - commissioned 2nd Lt. with five year reserve status - recalled 1950 during the Korean conflict but was sent home again - married with a child - most fortunate - many other sent to Korea.

I first learned of the 69th Division Association through our platoon Sgt. **Bob Younglas** from Traverse City, Michigan, who was instrumental in organizing the membership of Co. B, 271st, for attendance at reunions. We have had a solid nucleus of attendees at the reunions since my first reunion at King of Prussia, Philadelphia. Our "B" Company numbers are declining but holding fairly steady.

Only two years (23 months and 15 days) in the army - such a short period of time - and which will remain in my memory as long as I live.

Looking for info on my grandfather

Submitted By: **Ben Evans**
109 S. Mounds Street, Sapulpa, Oklahoma 74066
Phone: (918) 248-4389
E-mail: stalag5@sbcglobal.net

My name is Ben Evans and I have been researching my late grandfather's service and time spent as a POW in Germany for the past few years. Recently my Aunt sent me a few of my grandpa's old Army photos that she had kept after his passing in 1995. Among the photos she sent me are a couple of photos of two of my grandpa's Army buddies that had served in the 69th Division. I have no idea who either of these men are, or the regiment they were with. I suspect they might have trained with my grandpa at Camp Hood, Texas but I have no way to be sure.

My grandfather's name was **Roy Austin Green** - He had trained with the Infantry Replacement Training Center at Camp Hood before being sent overseas to serve in Europe. My grandpa was a replacement, and had been assigned to the 28th "Bloody Bucket" Division by a replacement depot shortly after arriving in Normandy in late October 1944. Perhaps the men in these photos had also been replacements, but had been assigned to the 69th Division?

Any help at all in identifying these men would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time and God bless.



Back of the photo reads: "Here is old King in combat - He was in the 69th - I saw him in Shelby. We were together quite a bit. He sailed over about 15 days before I did. We were in a weapons platoon."



Back of the photo reads: "This is Hitler's home in Borchtesgaden. Can you see my big combat infantry badge on my shirt - The bridge across the [?] to Hitler's Home."

A Strange Encounter

Albert J. Leschinski

*Hq Co., 2nd Battalion, A & P Platoon, 272nd Regiment
43 Disbrow Road
Matawan, New Jersey 07747-6807*

Dear Buddy 69ers,

From the Ardens Forest in Belgium to the Elbe River in Germany, there are many events that we can't forget. Some good and humorous and some sad which we can't seem to shake. But that's life.

Last year I took a pleasure tour around the Baltic Sea. We flew to London and stayed two days. I didn't see any "long time-short time Joes." We boarded the carnival legend and stopped one day in the seaport cities of Estonia, Germany, Norway, Sweden, etc. and back to London. From London we flew home.

I didn't care to venture into Germany. I stayed in Hamburg. I was afraid I would meet my German girlfriend, Giesla. I think she is still fuming because I didn't bring her to America as my German war bride.

In Russia, our boat stopped in St. Petersburg, a beautiful city. The Germans may have flattened it, but the Russians re-built it into a modern and beautiful city. They are still building it. I was told that St. Petersburg is the home town of President Putin and he is pouring money into it hand over fist.

In St. Petersburg I bought a ballerina doll in the sidewalk market. It was a very colorful doll, with Russian fur as part of the outfit. The vendor wanted 25 American dollars. In my best Polish we bargained. She expected it. She was very happy to get 15 dollars. I brought it home. After a few months, I noticed that the fur was falling out. I opened the back of the doll to see the stuffing. Larva had hatched into worms. I carefully carried my 15 dollar bargain outside into the garbage.

Coming out of a Orthodox Cathedral in St. Petersburg, I noticed a Russian vet sitting on the sidewalk bench with a chest full of ribbons. He was motioning to us to take a picture. (A few coins of course). I told my cabin buddy to take my picture with the Russian vet. I walked up to him, shook his hand and said (th-va-ish), I was one of the American soldiers who met the Russian army at the Elbe River. He went into conniptions, beating his chest with his fist and shouting "TA TOM BUL" - "YA TOM BUL" meaning, "I was there - I was there."

I don't know if he was at the Elbe or if it was part of his routine. If he wasn't at the Elbe, he deserved an Oscar for that performance. I gave him three dollars from many I carried for such an occasion. He kissed me, hugged me and asked me to come back.

I am sending you a picture of myself and a Russian soldier taken at the Elbe River. I am also including the picture taken recently in St. Petersburg. Note that in the before picture, we are posing with our rifles, in the after picture we are sitting with our canes.



Me with a Russian soldier at the Elbe meeting



Me with the Russian vet on my recent trip



Attendees by State at the 2004 Stamford, Connecticut Reunion

STATE	ATTENDANCE
Pennsylvania	40
New York	33
California	23
Massachusetts	23
New Hampshire	15
Ohio	12
Florida	11
Connecticut	10
New Jersey	10
Virginia	9
Illinois	8
Maryland	8
Tennessee	8
Michigan	7
Texas	7
West Virginia	7
Colorado	6
Minnesota	5
Arizona	4
Iowa	4
Mississippi	4
Nebraska	4
Wisconsin	4
Georgia	3
Louisiana	3
Alabama	2
Alaska	2
Arkansas	2
Rhode Island	2
Montana	2
Idaho	2
Missouri	2
Washington	2
Ontario, Canada	2
TOTAL	286

2004 57th Annual Reunion Attendees Stamford, Connecticut

AUGUST 22nd-29th, 2004

The following is a list of the attendees at the 2004 Reunion in Stamford, Connecticut 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

Patricia Avery Virginia
Guest: Janice Atkinson
Archie Brooke Virginia
Welkos and Jeanne Hawn..... Colorado
Gordon Kjos Minnesota

569th SIGNAL COMPANY

Tamara Brown West Virginia
Hester Manning West Virginia
Margie E. Redmond West Virginia
Teresa Shroads West Virginia
Raymond Smith Maryland
Carl Stetler Pennsylvania

271st INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

John Barrette Wisconsin
John and Barbara Davis Pennsylvania
William and Dorothea Duncan California
Bertha Jones Pennsylvania

COMPANY A

Jean Ross Massachusetts
Guests: Mary F. Ross

COMPANY B

Lumir and Patsy Bocek Nebraska
Martin Buol Florida
Guests: Judith and Terry Buol, Natachia Harrel
Dorothy S. Curran Florida
Philander and Ruth Delphey Pennsylvania
Earl and Millie Hansen Tennessee
Theodore Heilman Florida
Adam and Margaret Lee Pennsylvania
Guests: Thomas and Mary Motchenbaugh
Orrie Pullen Michigan
William and Jo Sheehan New Jersey
Charles and Patricia Walsh Wisconsin
James Walsh Connecticut

COMPANY C

***Bernard and Helen Rothenberg** New York

(Continued on Page 18)

**2004 REUNION ATTENDEES
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT**

(Continued from Page 17)

COMPANY D

Theodore and Cynthia Snyder New York

COMPANY E

Elmer and Erma Broneske Colorado

Grace Glaum Illinois

Guest: Doris Glaum

Joseph and Jane Kurt Iowa

Bing Poon Pennsylvania

Paul and Dottie Shadle Pennsylvania

COMPANY F

Arlene Fuller Pennsylvania

Everett Sharp New York

COMPANY G

Clarence and Lena Goon Ohio

N. C. and Elizabeth Harrison Tennessee

Guests: Alan and Emily Cochran

Glenn and Nadine Hunnicutt Nebraska

Emery and Pat Nagy Tennessee

Deborah Raub Florida

3rd BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

James and Betty Yakle Florida

COMPANY K

Robert and Irene Bishop Massachusetts

Albert W. Nock New York

Mae Smith Michigan

Guest: Connie Brough

COMPANY M

William C. and Reba Sheavly Maryland

Guest: William H. Sheavly

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

Arthur and Nancy Holgate New Jersey

Archie and Pauline Millsaps Arizona

Francis Tomczuk New Jersey

George and Lina West Pennsylvania

CANNON COMPANY

Alfred Blain Massachusetts

Guest: Estelle George

Harold and Nancy Faulkner California

Sanford and Faye Posey Alabama

272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

1st BATTALION, COMPANY A

Sanford and Nancy Firsichbaum New Jersey

Harold F. Patchen New York

Guest: Harold J. Patchen

COMPANY B

Crandon and Jane Clark New Jersey

COMPANY E

Chet Yastrzemski New York

2nd BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Bretsell and Betty Everson Pennsylvania

David and June Wittman Montana

COMPANY F

James Henry Pennsylvania

Guest: Drew Yeager

Joseph and Anne Nunes Rhode Island

Neil Shields Pennsylvania

David and Jeanne Theobald California

COMPANY G

Clarence F. Burke Pennsylvania

Will and Barbara Frazee Ohio

Ray Lehman Iowa

Guest: Eva Benson

COMPANY H

Nickolas Defilippo Connecticut

Guests: Nickolas P. Defilippo

and Nickolas D. Defilippo

Veto and Athanasia DiPento Pennsylvania

James and Lillian Fallin Louisiana

Guest: Donna F. Waltz

Marsh and June Mussay Illinois

COMPANY I

Edward and Jennie Ambrose Pennsylvania

Forrest and Marilyn Frentress Colorado

COMPANY K

Stanley and Laurene Knedlik Alaska

COMPANY L

Bernard and Edith Zaffern Michigan

COMPANY M

Joseph and Katheryn Makosky Pennsylvania

Guests: Michael and Ann Makosky

Floyd and Melva McCalip, Jr. Mississippi

Guests: Ann Seligman Starr and Michael Starr

Richard and Elaine Sodorff Idaho

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

Joseph Huber Wisconsin

Russell and Betty Koch Missouri

Frank and Grace Novak Connecticut

Raymond and Janet Sansoucy Massachusetts

Guests: Paul, Beth, Ray, Jeff,

Lauren Sansoucy, Catherine Meyer,

Tom Arnold

Edward and Dolly Sarcione New York

Bruno Stefanoni Minnesota

CANNON COMPANY

Ralph and Ursula Goebel Minnesota

Joseph and Anne Lipsius Georgia

(Continued on Page 19)

**2004 REUNION ATTENDEES
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT**

(Continued from Page 18)

273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT

1st BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

John Havey Arizona

Guest: Patricia Kearsley

***Paul Staub** New York

*Guests: Tom and Felicia Staub,
Don and Laurie Steinberg,
Beth Steinberg*

COMPANY A

James and Mary Carroll Texas

Edward Lucci New York

COMPANY B

Eugene and Marilyn Mischke Illinois

Robert and Peggy Shaw California

COMPANY C

Stanley and Gloria Czyzyk New York

Gerald Gilgenbach Ohio

COMPANY D

Arthur L. Ayres, Sr. New Jersey

Alan and Mary Blackmar New York

*Guests: Kenneth and Marva, Michael,
Erin Blackmar, Vincent and Susan,
Vincent Jr., Nathan Newland*

Ed and Mary Case Pennsylvania

George and Barbara Johnson Virginia

Betty Jo McCarty Texas

*Guests: Russell McCarty,
Michelle, Cody and Tyler Jacobs*

Ken Sawyer Florida

Guest: Holly Mace

2nd BATTALION, COMPANY E

Martin and Millie Connor Massachusetts

Robert Crowe Massachusetts

Francis Dionne Massachusetts

Guest: Ann Vandini

Bill Gleason Minnesota

Arthur and Marian Hume Michigan

***Vern and Mary Hunt** California

Jane Matlach New York

COMPANY F

Gilbert and Marion Clark Pennsylvania

Samuel and Anne Woolf New York

COMPANY G

William B. Jackson Georgia

3rd BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Amy Rose California

COMPANY I

Paul and Elaine Eagon Illinois

Janet Houseal Pennsylvania

Robert and Theresa Pierce California

*Guests: Frank and Doris Pierce,
Neill and Joan Schmeichel*

Erwin and Carmen Sanborn New Hampshire

COMPANY K

Oliver and Vera Coker, Jr. Arkansas

COMPANY M

Raul Nava California

CANNON COMPANY

Lee Wilson California

Guest: Jan Kremetz

724th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

BATTERY A

William Ruebsamen California

879th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

SERVICE BATTERY

Thomas and Ruth Ellen Elliot Washington

Bruce L. Young West Virginia

880th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Howard and Barbara Carlton New Hampshire

*Guests: Richard and Connie Carlton,
Howard Jr. and Debra Carlton,
Barbara Fish,
Bill, Barbara, Daniel, and Maureen Fish
Andy and Heather Gregorowicz*

Robert and Marilyn McKee Maryland

William and Katherine Suckel Ohio

881st FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

BATTERY B

James and Matilda Boris Pennsylvania

Walter Haag California

Guest: Dorothy Vasiloudis

Edward and Louise Hill Ohio

Louis and Jean Linebaugh Ohio

Gilbert Rocco Pennsylvania

Guests: Nick Rocco and Kyru Lewoncis

BATTERY C

Lester Hart Ohio

George and Jennie Vasil Massachusetts

661st TANK DESTROYERS

William and Ellen Snidow Virginia

Guests: Patricia Woody, Stephen Woody

777th TANK BATTALION

Ray and Gloria Eshelman West Virginia

Ellen McCann Massachusetts

Henry and Jean Putala Connecticut

Guests: John and Carol Pericozzi

HONORARY MEMBERS

Wilfred and Ollie Ferda Ontario

57th Annual 69th Infantry Reunion, Stamford, Connecticut



Chet Yaz and the Big Apple



Amy Rose and Joe Lipsius



First Timer Lorenzo Piscitelli, C-271st



Nancy and Sanford Firsichbaum, and Stan Czyzyk



Anti-Tank, 272nd Infantry Group



Gordon Kjos and Archie Brooks



William H. and William C. Sheavly



Stan and Lorene Knedlik



Edward and Jennie Ambrose



Nancy and Fred Butenhoff



Ed and Dolly Sarcione

57th Annual 69th Infantry Reunion, Stamford, Connecticut



Nick Rocco and Kyru Lewoncis



Anne and Joe Nunes



William H. Sheavly and Bing Poon



Bill Duncan and John Barrette



John Havey and friend Pat



Glenn and Nadine Hunnicutt



Emery and Pat Nagy



Ed Lucci and Paul Staub



Betty and Jim Yakle



Edith and Al Carbonari, Stan and Wanda Olszewski



Joe Huber at the Souvenir Table

The Dead-Serious Guard

Submitted By: **Lloyd B. Roth**
Company A, 269th Engineers
108 Muskingum Drive
Marietta, Ohio 45750

We will never forget the first time we pulled Guard Duty at Camp Shelby. Did the Company 1st sergeant have it "in" for us? No, the members of the guard were selected by roster. Hopefully everyone had memorized all those General Orders.

Finally the big day. Your luck ran out, you were on Guard Duty. It had its "perks," so you had early chow or were first in line to eat. Then you hurried back to your barracks, put on a nice clean uniform, reshined your shoes, took your M-1 from the rack and waited for 1745 hours to fall out your Guard Mount.

Next we "fell-in," to be inspected by the officer of the guard and finally turned over to the sergeant of the guard who assigned us to our posts and read us any and all special orders.

A full Guard detail was comprised of: Officer of the guard, Sgt. of the Guard, Three Corporals of the Guard and Privates of the Guard (three reliefs, times number of posts, equals total number of Privates of the Guard.)

The responsibility of the 269th Engineer Guard detail was all the buildings and contacts within the battalion area, along with our own Battalion Guard House and PX#?

The PX was a Guard Post but only from 1800 to 2200 hours (closing time). The guard took up station just inside the front door.

As I remember the typical PX was a wood frame building about 24' wide by 32' long with one front door and one rear door. The inside arrangement was very plain. Down the left hand side was a series of serving counters and white enamel beverage coolers for soft drinks and beer. The beer was Jacks Beer, 3.2 from Jackson Brewing Company in New Orleans, Louisiana. (Not the world's best beer.) On the right hand side was a number of tables (just like the ones in the mess hall) and juke box.

In the PX you could buy soft drinks, 3.2 beer, candy bars, chips, stationary and other junk.

The people waiting on trade were civilian employees, a number of them being women (mostly young girls.)

Now we have set the stage. It's the summer of 1943 and "A" Company, I believe, furnished the guard detail. One lucky private of the guard drew the PX post. Remember, the guards were furnished live ammunition. Guard ammo that is which was simply the regular round with a reduced powder charge (about 1/3 as much as the full load charge.)

The guard takes up his post just inside the door. A G.I. lounging nearby was snacking on those little red coated spanish peanuts. Every so often he would teasingly flip one of the peanuts at the little girl working behind the counter. Finally she says to the G.I., "Please stop that, you're bothering me." He didn't stop

so the girl says to the guard, "Tell him to stop." The guard says to the G.I., "Knock it off, your bothering her." G.I. to guard, "What if I don't stop?" Guard to G.I., "I'll shoot you." The G.I. flips another peanut, hitting the girl. He turns 180° facing the guard and with his back to the white enamel pop cooler and says, "Now shoot." The guard lowers his M1 and fires. Bullets strike the G.I. in the thigh, passing through, hits the side of cooler, and drops to the floor, leaving a 2 inch spot of bare metal. The G.I. is taken to the base hospital. The guard is placed under arrest and later Court Martialed. The penalty? Don't remember.

The G.I. victim recovered. The guard was probably a true West Virginia mountaineer.

Former OSS Officer Released by 69th Dies

Submitted By: **Charles Chapman**
Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
69th Division Artillery
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Woodbridge, Virginia 22192-2356
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Ensign **George T. Peck**, USNR, died in 2003. Peck served in the OSS (Office of Strategic Services), the forerunner to the CIA. He was captured on 5 April 1945 in the Italian Alps near Turin while attempting to infiltrate the German lines. He was first taken to Regensburg and then to Ft. Zinnia, Torgau Prison/Elbe, where he was awaiting trial for espionage. He was released by the 69th on 25 April 1945.

At the request of the Torgau Prison authorities, I located and then interviewed Peck by phone in 1994, at which time he said, "I was really glad to see you guys because they would certainly have shot me." Frau Gabrielle Breiler, the representative of the Documentation and Information Center, Torgau was anxious to get in contact with Peck in connection with a history which was being prepared on Torgau Prison. In June 2004 the people at the Center, in conjunction with Heinz Richter, again asked me to contact Peck to determine his status, his health, etc. I was able to contact Mrs. Peck, who still lives in Pennsylvania, and she informed me her husband died last year after a long illness.

JANUARY 31st, 2005

**DEADLINE for
news material and pictures for:
Bulletin Volume 58, Number 2
January, February, March, April 2005**

**Bulletin expected mailing date
is late April or early May.**

Get your material in on time.

Material is entered on a first-come, first serve basis.

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, P.O. Box 4069, New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068-4069**, as early as possible. Then follow through with a write-up immediately after the event(s).

661st Tank Destroyers

Frances and Chuck Yannul, News Reporters
7674 Rawley Pike
Hinto, Virginia 22831-2017
Telephone: 540/867-5155 • E-Mail: yannul@rica.net

*Report on the 661st Tank Destroyers
2004 Reunion Roanoke, Virginia
July 29th thru 31st, 2004*

Bill Snidow, Chaplain of the 69th Infantry Division and his wife **Ellen**, held another memorable reunion. Though we had many regulars who couldn't make it this year, many, if not all, should be able to attend next year's reunion at Akron, Ohio.

There were 16 veterans who put in an appearance. We were all happy to see **Bill Beswick** and his wife, **Jo** attend after a few years of Bill's battle with physical problems. A word here about **Warren** and **Dottie Mitchell** of Redwood City, California. No one could recall of their having even missed a reunion. **Warren** came up with a plausible excuse of a multiple fracture of his leg, which we will sadly accept ... and wish you speedy recovery.

There were many family members and friends who attended shown by the number of over fifty at the Saturday supper. Many of us made a trip to the National D Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia. This is one memorial that has a few touches that no other have and well worth a visit.

Though not able to attend, our Battalion Commander **Donald Miller**, sent his regards to all. We know he would have come if at all possible.

The following were the attendees from near and far:
Mike and Dorothy Kotnik Elyria, Ohio
John and Eva Golden St. Petersburg,
Florida
Sam and Gertrude GoldbergPembroke Pines,
Florida
Bill and Mary Wahl Chagrin Falls, Ohio
Earnest Sensabough Roanoke, Virginia
Charles and Carol Rodgers James Creek,
Pennsylvania
Dick and Thelma McKinnonEast Jordon,
Michigan
Bill and Jo Beswick West Point, Virginia
Harry and Edna Murray Amherst, Virginia
Chuck and Frances Yannul Hinton, Virginia

Jack and Leora Sherlock Pawtucket, Rhode Island
with two sons
Bill and Margaret DawsonNathalie, Virginia
and daughter and family
Bill and Ellen Snidow..... Pembroke, Virginia
and family
Ruth Mellinger Wrightsville, Pennsylvania
(widow of **Millard**)
with daughters, **Dawn** and **Karen** with family
Lou and Flo Molinko Canonsburg, Pennsylvania
with brother and sister, **Joe** and **Pauline**
Ellen (Pat) Slopek Akron, Ohio
(widow of **Jules**) and sons **Jack Dowler**
and **Tommy Slopek** with wife **Tammy**
Ralph Bragg.....Chase City, Virginia
and sons, **Mark** and **Chip** with family
Stan and Olga Flak Lewisville, Texas
and family
Ann Forgas..... Broadview Heights, Ohio
(widow of **Steve**) and family
Rick, John, and Carmen Alletto
(sons of deceased **Ignatius**) and families of all.

Many thanks to our usual reunion "mascot," **Nathan**, who was a help throughout.

Hope to see you all at the **2005 Slopeks'** reunion in Akron, Ohio.

(Continued on Page 24)



Back: Malinko, Dawson, Yannul, Goldberg, Snidow, Murray, Rodgers. Front: Kotnik, Sherlock, Golden, Wahl, Flak

DIVISION GROUP MINI WEEKENDS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES (Continued from Page 23)

Company I, 271st Infantry

H. Lynn Jones, News Reporter

1081 Meadowbrook Drive, Milan, Tennessee 38358

2004 Company I, 271st Reunion

The Company I attendees converged on Dayton, Ohio at the Hope Hotel and Conference Center on the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base on June 3rd thru 6th, 2004. Our hosts were **Dick and Jane Haines** and **Bob and Carol McMillan** of Ohio. Attendees were **Lynn and Lou Jones** of Tennessee, **Bob and Phyllis Jorgenson** of Wisconsin, **Jack Leibfritz** of Ohio (first timer), **Joe McMurry** of Tennessee, **Marty and Edie Miller** of Colorado, **John Noone** of New York, **Dale and Peg Thompson** of Florida, **Harris and Hazel Timmer** of Michigan, **Ralph and Doris Utermoehlen** of Kansas. Unable to attend were **Hy and Mae Rita Kurfirst** of Washington, **Doug and Nathalie Buckstad** of North Carolina, **John Sawyer** of North Carolina, and **Leigh and Mae Tenney** of Arkansas.

TAPS for **Joe McMurry's** wife **Virginia**, a long and faithful member of our Company I group. Our deepest sympathy to **Joe**.

The Hope Hotel (named in memory of Bob Hope) afforded good accommodations and hospitality room, well stocked with food and drinks by our host and a special thanks to Dick's brother **Gerry Haines** for his assistance. We assembled in the Hospitality Room prior to dinner. We were treated to a wonderful panoramic spread of the WWII Memorial pictures by **Dale and Peg Thompson**, who attended the dedication in Washington on their way to Dayton. **Bob**

McMillan had made a large map spread showing Co. I's trek across Germany, town by town and our stop overs after the fighting ended, and a 3D molded elevation model of the area around Obereifferscheid. Thanks **Bob** for the hard work.

We had dinner at Packy's in the hotel and returned for more reminiscing. **Jack Leibfritz** had not seen any of the Company I group in 59 years, so there were a lot of, "Oh yea, I remember him and that" being said. Great to have **Jack** on board. Glad **Ralph** and **Doris Utermoehlen** could make it for their 2nd reunion. We welcome all Co. I, 271st members.

Friday morning saw us off to the U.S. Air Force Museum, located on the Wright-Patterson Air Base property. The museum consist of 3 large hangers joined by gallery passageways and a very imposing entrance with a large bronze statue of ICARUS.

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Co. I, 271st Platoon Leaders: Dale Thompson-1st, Jack Leibfritz-2nd, and Marty Miller-Weapons



Rear: Bob McMillan, Ralph Utermoehlen, Jack Leibfritz, John Noone, Harris Timmer, Dick Haines, Marty Miller, Bob Jorgenson, Dale Thompson, Lou Jones, Joe McMurry. Front: Carol McMillan, Doris Utermoehlen, Hazel Timmer, Jane Haines, Edie Miller, Phyllis Jorgenson, Peg Thompson, Lynn Jones

DIVISION GROUP MINI WEEKENDS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES (Continued from Page 24)

Greek Mythology has it that he used wax to attach feathers to his body so he could fly and flew so close to the sun the wax melted and he fell into the Aegean Sea. He was warned about the sun - but ignored the advice. This museum is filled with people and aircraft that ignored warnings also - from the Wright Brothers to the Astronauts. One hanger contains a display and comments of the early years of flight and those who took part in the adventure. Some remarkable plane designs and ways that the early planes and balloons were used in war and peace. Engine development was interesting - more power and speed.

One Gallery paid tribute to Bob Hope's 60 years of Christmas Trips to entertain our troops no matter where they were. Pictures, caps, jackets, videos, and sound bites of his routines. Tribute to other actors and entertainers who were part of the various cast.

An Art Gallery of paintings related to planes and their achievement WWI dog fights - WWII action shots. A Holocaust Gallery paying tribute with photos, letters, and stories from survivors and people who hid Jews from the Nazis - quite a moving tribute to those who died or survived the camps. We learned that early POWs were put into these camps and suffered the same abuses. Hanger #2 had examples of the next generation of airplanes - again more powerful and larger engines and aircraft. There are complete airplanes like the P-38, P-51 and 47, B-17, B-24, B-29, English, German, Russian, and Japanese. Lots of memories for our group. Hanger #3 has examples of aircraft progression up to the Space Craft. Photo and sound bites from the space program and a tribute to all of the Astronauts. There is a Spacesuit simulator and video where you can attempt to snag the Space Lab and load it into the cargo bay of the Space Craft. Lots tried but failed, mainly due to exhausted Spacesuit fuel. Outside the Hangers there is a display of WWII and more recent airplanes in this area. Also a reproduction of an 8th Air Force control tower and set up like it was in England. Company I recommends you visit the museum. Another hanger inside of the security area of the base is devoted to the history of "Air Force One." We did not get to visit there.

It somehow seems appropriate that here at our reunion we received the sad news of the death of President Reagan, and the men were reminded of when in Germany when they received the word of the death of President Roosevelt.

We enjoyed an Italian Dinner at Giovanni's in Fairborn, Ohio, a short distance from the Hope Hotel. Day 2 was on your own day. Some returned to the Museum for more viewing, some napped, some went shopping, some went for a walk on the base, and others just swapped yarns. Just a great day. We gathered in the hospitality room for our group photo session (it's always a hoot - lots of directors), before going to The Dock in Enon, Ohio for dinner. Great food and service. Several were disappointed at the loss by Smarty Jones in the Belmont Stakes. We returned to the Hope and

selected Washington, DC as our 2005 reunion site in late April-early May, dates to be announced. A quick check confirms that a trip to Washington is definitely feasible at a reasonable cost.



Dale and Peg Thompson at the dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Midwest Group

Francis J. Enright, News Reporter

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Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53220-1114

Battery A, 881st Field Artillery Battalion

Spring Meeting 2004

Rain did not dampen the spirits of the Mid-West 69ers who gathered at the Quiet Inn in Dodgeville, Wisconsin on May 11th - 14th.

Interesting activities were planned by **Gaylord** and **Ruth Thomas** who grew up in the area. **Gaylord's** deal with the Rainmaker paid off and the golfers were able to finish nine holes.

Ruth took us to the Mount Horeb Mustard Museum, home of the largest collection of mustards and mustard memorabilia on the planet. A tour of the old Cornish lead mining town of Mineral Point gave us a glimpse into the original homes of some of the miners as they were from 1830-1848. Lunch in a local restaurant gave us a chance to try one of their staple foods, the Cornish Pasty. One day was spent at The House on the Rock. The architectural marvel is built atop a sixty foot rock pillar. Fourteen rooms, reached by two and a quarter miles of corridor house unusual and fascinating exhibits of everything imaginable, including the world's largest carousel and the world's largest collection of animated music machines.

(Continued on Page 26)

DIVISION GROUP MINI WEEKENDS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES (Continued from Page 25)

We were delighted to be joined by **Evelyn Peterson**, widow of **Curt**, Past President. Other attending were: **Gene and Ethel Pierron, Chuck and Pat Walsh, John Barrette, Gaylord and Ruth Thomas, Gene and Marilyn Mischke, Fred Butenhoff** and **Nancy Eisenreich** and **Fran and Zita Enright**.



Gene Pierron, Ethel Pierron, Chuck Walsh, Gene Mischke, Marilyn Mischke and Gaylord Thomas



Ruth Thomas, Evelyn Peterson, Fran Enright, Zita Enright, Nancy Eisenreich and Fred Butenhoff

Company D, 273rd Infantry

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 Melbourne, Florida 32935
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Our Company made a good showing at the annual reunion of the 69th Infantry Division in Stamford, Connecticut. We had a total of 22 people at the banquet. The large number was due to family attendance. The **Allan Blackmar** clan accounted for ten of the 22. **Betty Jo McCarty** and family provided another 5. Another guest was my granddaughter. The other 6 consisted of the **Johnsons, the Cases, Art Ayres** and myself.

New York produced the largest turnout with 9 of the **Blackmar** tribe hailing from there: **Allan** and **Mary**, their son and daughter-in-law **Kenneth** and **Marva Blackmar**, their granddaughter **Erin Blackmar**, their daughter and son-in-law, **Susan** and **Vincent Newland**, and their grandsons, **V.G.** and **Nathan Newland**. Grandson, **Michael Blackmar**, lives in Connecticut. From Pennsylvania we had **Ed** and **Mary Case**, my granddaughter **Holly Mace** and **Betty Jo's** daughter, **Michelle Jacobs** with her two sons, **Cody** and **Tyler**. From Virginia we had **George** and **Barbara Johnson**. **Art Ayres** showed up from nearby New Jersey. **Betty Jo McCarty** was in from Texas. Her son, **Russell**, came from Kentucky, and I represented Florida.

Many in our group were disappointed that San Diego was too expensive for our next reunion. Some of us are considering making the trip to Lake Tahoe in April to join up with the California Western Chapter. We still hope to have a good turnout in Louisville, Kentucky next August. Come join us.



The Blackmar Clan. Foreground left is son Kenneth, clockwise is granddaughter Erin, Mary, followed by grandson Michael, daughter-in-law Marva, grandson V.G., daughter Susan, son-in-law Vincent and grandson Nathan, ending with the Patriarch, Allan Blackmar.



Betty Joe McCarty with her son Russell and her daughter Michelle Jacobs.

**DIVISION GROUP MINI WEEKENDS ACROSS
THE UNITED STATES** (Continued from Page 26)

Battery C 880th Field Artillery

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Our 25th Reunion

September 8-11, 2004

Dutch Host Inn, Sugar creek, Ohio

As we arrived at the Inn, awaiting the arrival of the rest of our friends, we couldn't help but worry that everyone would make the trip safely as the weather was very wet, rainy and nasty. There were 26 of us and we all made the trip just fine.

The ladies had brought and prepared our evening meal for us so we didn't have to venture out in the weather again. **Anne D'Angelo** brought her rigatoni and homemade meatballs special for all to enjoy. And you should have seen our anniversary cake that the **Rebers** brought! It had pictures of the men's group on one half of the cake and a picture of the ladies on the other half. What a real treat the whole meal was!

Thursday turned out to be a very nice day, which made our trip to Honey Run Inn for lunch a very enjoyable ride. Then back to our nice big hospitality room for an afternoon of visiting, games, and working on puzzles. There was plenty of food left over for snacks and then we all enjoyed ice cream sundaes with all the trimmings. The rest of the evening was spent playing some games of bingo complete with priceless prizes.

Friday after our business meeting, we took advantage of another beautiful day and drove to Berlin to the Farmstead Restaurant for lunch/brunch. The afternoon was spent visiting, shopping and resting. Our Annual Banquet was held this year in the banquet room at the

new, beautiful Sugar creek Carlisle Inn where we enjoyed a delicious meal served by two very nice young ladies. Then back to the hospitality room for our group pictures and our white elephant game.

Saturday morning came all too soon, but ended with a catered sitdown breakfast in the hospitality room. A meal with all the trimmings, white table cloths, silverware and plenty to eat.

Those in attendance and saying their sad adios were: **Enrico** and **Anne D'Angelo**, **Lee** and **Betty Meyer**, **Marvin** and **Mary Reber**, **Lew** and **Fern Pugh**, **Bob** and **Irene Williams**, **Frank** and **Marie Habay**, **Lowell** and **Marjorie McFarlin**, **Mary O'Brien** and **Jean Dolan**, **Al** and **Marge Kormas**, **Bob** and **Vivian Kurtzman**, **Cecil** and **Ailene Cottle**, **Pat** and **Jan Lushbaugh**, **Emil** and **Peggy Paoletta**.

Farewells and good wishes sent all to their many destinations.



Front: Irene Williams, Marjorie McFarlin, Fern Pugh, Mary O'Brien, Jean Dolan, Betty Meyer, Mary Reber. Back: Marie Habay, Anne D'Angelo, Peggy Paoletta, Vivian Kurtzman, Jan Lushbaugh, Marge Kormas, Alene Cottle.



Front: Bob Williams, Frank Habay, Lowell McFarlin, Lew Pugh, Bob Kurtzman, Cecil Cottle, Lee Meyer. Back: Enrico D'Angelo, Pat Lushbaugh, Emil Paoletta, Al Kormas, Marvin Reber.

Personal History of WWII

Written By: **Francis G. Blais** - ASN 11 111 231

Headquarters, 3rd Battalion, 273rd Infantry

603 Church Road, Reisterstown, Maryland 21136-6105

PART II

My next contribution to the demise of the Greater Reich was during the liberation of the POW camp in Colditz Castle, which was reputed to be the most secure POW camp in Germany. Only important political prisoners and prisoners with records of previous escape attempts were kept there. Our mission was to take the town of Colditz and its castle prison, before the VIP prisoners could be moved or harmed: Due to an unexplained delay between issuance of the order and its implementation at 9th Armored Div. Hq. many of the most important prisoners had been relocated by the SS prior to the arrival of the CC R.

We were 2 days in taking the town of Colditz and its' prison. The first assault began around mid-day. Almost immediately, Company I ran into difficulty while crossing a partially demolished bridge under small arms and MG fire, and finally had to fall back. Too late in the day to make another attempt, they dug in for the night. **Colonel Shaughnessy** told me to get something to eat and then to set up in the attic of a building overlooking the river and bridge. Despite some misgivings over the location, I knocked two holes in the attic roof, and raised my antennas into full view. Fortunately, no one paid them the least attention. Early in the evening the Colonel gave me a list of designated points at which I was to direct artillery fire. I was to keep up this random harassing fire all night. The frequency and number of rounds directed at any target was left to my discretion. Under absolutely no condition was I to direct fire at or near the Castle Prison. I was also to maintain communications with two Patrols, operating in the fringes of the city across the river. The Colonel then bedded down and went to sleep. I was awake all night. Sometime before dawn, I received a message from one of the patrols. They were lost in a maze of streets and wanted out before it became light. We agreed that I would fire one white phosphorus shell at a large manufacturing building. The Patrol would see the resulting fire and use it as a reference point from which they could reorient themselves.

The plan worked, and the Patrol withdrew without being detected. About 15 years ago I was shown a letter from the Mayor of Colditz, which mentioned the all night barrage and the factory fire. It was a porcelain factory manufacturing dinner ware. There had been no casualties and only the top floor had been damaged.

At first light, I awoke the Colonel as directed. We ate our K-rations and went outside to rejoin the war. When Company I pressed its second attack, they found resistance almost nonexistent. The SS regiment defending the town had withdrawn during the night. Whether or not my random barrage had encouraged them to leave, we will never learn. I'd like to think so.

The garrison of the PW Camp had surrendered to the Senior Officer of the Prisoners. We entered the castle gates greeted with loud hysterical cheers and were immediately surrounded by jubilant prisoners. Around noon, **Colonel Shaughnessy** told me to close down the Net and get some sleep. Despite the momentous nature of the event taking place all around me, I simply couldn't keep my eyes open. I curled up on the back seat of the jeep and fell fast asleep. I missed most of the celebration. This would be my last combat action.

Two days later the Battalion was directed to protect the southern flank of the Regiment during its assault on the City of Leipzig. I was in the last group to leave Colditz and never got close to that action. After the fall of Leipzig, the Battalion went into quarters at a former Munitions Depot in Alternheim. The facilities were in excellent shape and we made ourselves quite comfortable. We sent out occasional patrols and guarded the ammo dump. This duty was generally pretty boring, however there were a few SS troops around who occasionally made things interesting.

Once a reliable telephone network was activated, the Radio Section closed up shop leaving us with little to do but to go sightseeing, scavenging and ogle the local Frauleins. We were under strict orders not to fraternize with the civilians. Human nature however, being what it is; and the fact that local Frauleins smiled and ogled right back: Orders were quickly forgotten. The Brass soon woke up to the fact that they were shortly going to have several hundred thousand Courts Martial on their hands, and quickly rescinded the Order. By then, hardly anyone was paying much attention to it anyway.

Practically from the day that we set up our CP, we were inundated by streams of German troops pouring by, all running before the advancing Russians and all eager to surrender to the first American they encountered. The last thing they wanted to see was a Russian Prison Camp! We also saw something really heart wrenching. Hundreds of displaced people formerly Slave Laborers began to come out of hiding and swarmed around our Mess Hall, begging for food. At meal time our food scraps never reached the garbage cans, there were always dozens of assorted containers held out by eager hands, waiting to catch every drop and scrap. Many of us deliberately filled our plates with more than we could eat, so that there would be more left over for the poor unfortunates who lined up outside. This was officially frowned upon but never enforced.

It was at about this time that, one of our Patrols, from the 2nd Battalion stumbled into a forward element of the Russian Army. The long awaited Link-Up was made. The Link-Up did not go off in accordance with the grandiose, carefully orchestrated scenario envisioned by Higher Headquarters: It was just a handful of grimy GIs from one Army seeing an equally grimy lot of other GIs in different uniforms off in the distance, and then hopefully but cautiously approaching one another. The next day the area was inundated with Brass and News reporters.

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PERSONAL HISTORY OF WWII

(Continued from Page 28)

A few days later, news of much greater importance was announced. The War was officially over. For myself, I promptly got drunk, and stayed that way for three days. Now, all of our attention was focused on one thing. How soon before we go home? Recognizing that I had only 55 points, it was evident that I was destined to stay for a while.

With little or nothing to do I dug into my cigarette hoard applied for and was granted a weeks leave, in Nice France. Selling my cigarettes on the Black Market, I was able to finance a once in a lifetime vacation on the French Riviera. For a whole week I had a front room in the Negresco Hotel, which overlooked the Mediterranean, all paid for by Uncle Sam. Meals were taken in the main dining room, also at no cost. My cigarette money went for misc. personal expenses. Having developed a taste for Bouillabaisse, I dined several times in little Bistro in Old Nice. I also took several bus tours to places like, Monte Carlo, and Grasse, the home of French perfumes. Here I spent a small fortune for bottles of the stuff to be sent back home or hoarded as trading material. My mother and sister received practically a lifetime supply. Did I mention lying on the beach and swimming in the Med? Of the two, lying on the beach was much more fun: The view up and down the beach was superb. Incidentally, the French girls were very friendly. All good things come to an end. So it was back to Germany.

Two things had changed during my absence: My old friend **Jim Biller** had shipped out for home. He was past 40 years old and received an early out. Our once chummy relationship with the Russians had also begun to sour. There was increasing friction and there had been several confrontations. Despite this, I was able to complete a few small financial transactions with them, before it became too dangerous. The German population was in an uproar as it had leaked out that this section of Germany would be soon transferred to Russian control. Passes were cancelled and our departure was imminent. Russians in civilian clothes (they were all Commissars to us) were every where, throwing their weight around. One example involved a diesel locomotive.

When we first arrived in the area we found a diesel locomotive sitting on a siding. Some GI claimed to have worked on the railroad before being drafted and knew how to operate it. Our troops had a lot of fun riding on the thing. As soon as the Russians discovered its existence, they laid claim to it and we were soon ordered to stop joyriding on it. The night before the Russian Engineer was to arrive to take the engine back to Russia, a couple of GIs found a can of emery compound in the roundhouse and poured about a pound of the stuff into the Diesel's crankcase. A goodly number of us gathered to wave a bon voyage to the departing engine. Everyone speculated as to how long it would run before coming to a halt. We also wondered as to the fate of the Engineer. He is probably still in some Gulag in Siberia.

A day or two later we moved out. It was a pretty long ride back into the American zone. Here we were classified by number of points and shipped out to various units designated to remain in Germany, for occupation duty. Those of us who had been between 50 and 60 points ended up in the 29th Infantry Division, (Maryland National Guard). Here I experienced another freak coincidence. My first assignment was to a weapons company. My job was Squad Leader, on a heavy 30 Cal. MG. Life wasn't too bad, and we were not worked very hard. However we did continue to train on our weapons and conduct Company exercises.

One day while marching single file along a back country road with the MG over my shoulder, a Jeep drove down the road between the files. Just after passing me, the jeep halted and an officer inside shouted, "Blais, is that you?" I could hardly believe my eyes. It was my old state side Platoon Leader, **Captain Nagy**. Receiving my affirmative answer, he drove down the column to where my current Platoon Leader was. After a brief conversation he ordered me to, "Fall Out." **Captain Nagy** told me that he was the C.O. of the Regimental Cannon Company and was in desperate need of a Communications Chief, did I want the job? The next day he sent a jeep down to pick me up. A few days later, there was a problem with one of the phone lines to Regimental Headquarters. Three linemen from Regt. did the trace. One of those linemen was my old buddy **George Reed**. Talk about a reunion! (Incidentally the last I hear, the former Lieutenant **Nagy** was still in the Service and wearing two Stars).

I stayed with Cannon Company for about two months. One day the Captain sent for me and told me that he had received his shipping orders. Seeing as I might not care for his replacement, he would, if I wished, have me transferred to Regimental Headquarters Company. There I would be back in a Radio Section and quartered in the same billet as George. I jumped at the chance. Right after VE Day we spent about a week doing preventative maintenance on all of the radio equipment and then turning it all in. The last vestige of worry about the possibility of ending up in the Pacific was dissipated. Fortunately, there was enough activity to keep us from getting bored.

Headquarters Company operated a Beerstube in town, where we could get good German draft beer. There was also a weekly dance. Whenever I could scrounge a vehicle, we went exploring the Submarine Pens in Bremerhaven: We also had access to a powerboat, at a marina on the lower Rhine. The few times we got to go out, we motored down through some locks into a scenic area similar to that of Holland, windmills and all. There was even a riding stable nearby for our use. I tried it once or twice but horses and I do not get along very well.

I carefully hoarded my cigarettes, and other merchandise, raising a few dollars, here and there. There was a USO Club in Bremerhaven where a lot of Navy people hung out eager to buy real combat souvenirs).

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PERSONAL HISTORY OF WWII

(Continued from Page 29)

I liked doing business with the Navy, because the transactions could usually be carried on with real American dollars. There was almost always a poker game in progress there, the stakes were pretty high, so one had to be careful, who one played against. It was not a game for amateurs!

I applied for every pass I could think of. I managed to go to Paris once and made a return visit to Nice. This time I did not make the Negresco. I was billeted in a very nice, but definitely not a luxury hotel. The food was just as good and military discipline just as relaxed. The proprietor of the Bistrot in Old Nice remembered me, and his food as good as ever. I also got lucky. One day while walking along the beach, I met an Army WAC, and struck up an acquaintance with her. She was a swell kid and it sure felt great to have some American company. There was no great heart throbbing romance, but we did have a lot of fun together. It ended when I got on the train back to Bremerhaven.

I made it back just in time. My number had finally come up. I had only a few days to collect my laundry, dispose of my few hard assets and to say some hasty goodbyes. I would miss my several German friends, especially the female ones. Other than some confused recollection of bits and pieces, the trip from Bremerhaven to Camp Lucky Strike is pretty vague. It took about two or three weeks, with short stays along the way. At some point I was transferred from the 29th to another Division. Even Camp Lucky Strike is a blur on my memory. I remember that we lived in tents and that the process consisted of standing in the usual long line during which time we were poked and prodded. I do remember some sort of hassle concerning the amount of Play Money that I wished to convert into dollars. It seems that I had a bit more than the Army calculated that I should have. I explained it as being the result of a lucky streak at cards. After all, I didn't want anyone to think that I had fooled around in the Black Market, did I? Our stay there was mercifully short. This time it was liberty ship, the *Marine Victory*.

The trip back was very similar to the trip over. The ship was over crowded, and the North Atlantic is pretty stormy and rough during the winter time. Nearly everyone on board was seasick, and there were some slight injuries. Except for a slight queasiness on the first day out, I had no problem. As we approached the American mainland the weather improved and the sharpies trotted out their dice and cards. A lot of suckers got off that boat broke. The announcement rang all over the ship, this afternoon we would sight land. The decks became so crowded that we were actually warned about all rushing to one side or the other. First, came that dark line on the horizon slowly growing into a landmass on our left: Finally, the most wonderful sight in the world. The Statue of Liberty, standing tall out there in the open bay. I have seen the Eiffel Tower, London Bridge, The Palace of Versailles the Arch de Triumph, along with a dozen other great edifices and monuments, but nothing will give you a

kick in the guts like your first view of that Grand Old Lady in the distance, when coming home, after a long absence.

We tied up to the dock, and that excited mob made the fastest debarkation on record. Loaded onto busses, (no trucks for a change), we were whisked off to a nearby Army Camp. It was Camp Kilmer again, I think. Two days later I got off the train at Fort Devens, clutching that brown envelope containing my precious Service Records in my hand. They promised us that we would be civilians within 48 hours. Except me of course, I always have to be different and do things the hard way.

We were shown to a barracks, fed and allowed to make phone calls. We were going to start processing early in the morning. After breakfast we attended roll call and were assigned a place, in what seemed to be a mile long, line. First we filled out papers, and turned in our gear, then we received a complete physical, and had the results checked against our medical records, taken from that precious Brown Envelope. Everything went well until my service record was required. I pulled it from the envelope and handed it to the clerk. He stopped, gave me a pitying look and told me to step out of line. It was not my service record in the envelope. Through a clerical error at Kilmer, my service record was on the way to Fort Ord, California in some one else's brown envelope. From this point on I became an outcast.

I wandered from office to office and stood in a lot of short but very slow moving lines that led nowhere. No one seemed to have a clue about what to do with me. After 3 days the Barracks Orderly tried to put me on KP. I gave him his choice, get off my back or prepare for a nose modification. I heard no more from him. The next day, finding a building more imposing than the rest I simply entered and walked into the first office I came to. It was inhabited by a WAC Captain. Instead of calling the MPs, she listened to my story. She told me to get some lunch and come back at 2:00 in the afternoon. From there on it all went as smooth as silk. She asked me questions and she wrote, I then had to take an oath concerning the truth of my statements. She sent me with a Sergeant who placed me in the proper line. The last stop in the line was a lecture and sales pitch by a full Colonel, to a group of First Three Graders and certain classes of Specialists, asking us to consider making a career out of the Army. He was particularly interested in people with combat experience. Having been down the road once before, I had little interest in a repeat performance. By 6:00 p.m. of the same day I was a free man.

One year later I joined the National Guard. But that is another story.

If, from reading this history, the reader gets the impression that the Army and I were not always on the same page, consider this: Sometime during the summer of 1984, I was notified by the Department of the Army that by Executive Order 24 August 1962, I had been awarded a second Bronze Star with first oak leaf cluster, for Meritorious Achievement in Ground Combat against the armed Enemy during WWII. You Figure!

Paul Eagon's Adventure

Paul H. Eagon

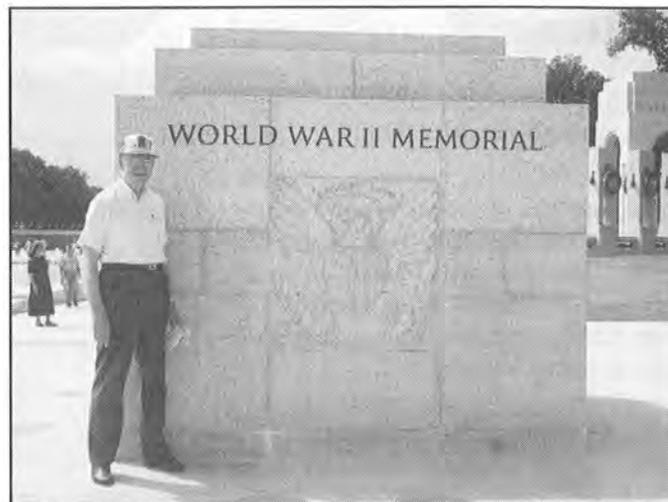
Company I, 273rd Infantry

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After leaving the 2004 Reunion, we went on to Washington, D.C. and saw the WWII Memorial, the White House, etc. Then we went on to Gettysburg. Last year when we were there, the monument was being renovated and we couldn't get near it, but this year it was all finished. My great-grandfather was killed in the Civil War and his name is listed on the monument.



Paul Eagon pointing to his great-grandfather's name, Thomas Eagon on the Pennsylvania monument in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Thomas was killed in the Civil War. Above his name is his brother's name, Solomon Eagon.



Paul Eagon at the entrance to the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C.



Paul Eagon presenting a copy of William Sheavly's book, "The Stories of Our War," to Marilyn Kerr of the Cornerstone Genealogical Society, Waynesburg, PA.

Company I, 273rd at the Annual Reunion



Company I, 273rd men and their wives at the Stamford Reunion. Carmen and Erwin Sanborn, Janet Houseal - widow of George Houseal, Bob Pierce, Elaine and Paul Eagon. Seated in front is Theresa Pierce.



Paul and Elaine Eagon at the WWII Memorial, Washington, D.C.

Glenn Hunnicutt Writes

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The following articles in the Aurora, Nebraska newspaper in May 2004 tells a story about one of our 69th Division soldiers, his daughter Cindy, and her search for facts about his service.

The response she received from the 69ers she had written to were gratifying and answers were certainly very much appreciated.

Those of us from Company G, 271st Infantry, were fellow soldiers with **Lyonel Eich**.

Because she needed to know about this time in her father's life and understand his sacrifice, he will be remembered and that is important to all of us.

* * * *

Finally finding her father

BY KATHY KUGLER

AURORA NEWS REGISTER

Ross cherishes getting to know her dad, who died in war

She never really knew why, but she knew she didn't belong. It was a quiet, constant desperation that kept a little girl searching for something to make her feel complete. There were whispers, voices speaking in hushed tones, unintentionally, implying shame.

Her biological father, a man she never knew, had been killed in World War II. Who was her father and who was she?

Cindy Ross grew up and was well taken care of by her mother and the only man she ever knew as "Dad."

But one day as a young girl, she stumbled across her baby book, and there was a name of a stranger listed as her father. His name was **Lyonel Eich** and he had married her mother before he left for a tour of duty in Europe in 1944.

"They were in love and they wanted to marry before he left, but I never knew that until recently. People were just more private then," she says in a soft voice. "Certain things just weren't talked about."

For years, Ross would strain to hear any information about her father. She had so many questions and so little information.

She knew her father had been part of the Army's 69th Infantry Division. She found a website dedicated to the division and, through that, got a list of men who might have known her father. In the summer of 2001, Ross sent out letters to anyone who may have known those men.



Through her searching, she found a chaplain who was with her father when he died. He had copies of letters written by her mother and her grandmother to her father.

"I wanted him to help me find some of my dad's buddies. I needed some stories of my dad," she said.

He had news. He brought hope.

The chaplain gave Ross information on how and where her father was killed.

It happened in the town of Weissenfels, Germany. **Eich's** unit was going in to make sure the town was secure after it had been liberated.

"There was a sniper," Ross said. "And a bullet raised his helmet, and then, there was just machine gun fire coming from everywhere."

In recent years, a group from the 69th got together and began remembering what their division had gone through. Ross received a letter from one of her father's fellow soldiers. He said he remembered seeing a sniper in a window. He raised his gun and he killed the man. "I think he was hoping to give me peace," said Ross.

As she digs, she uncovers the horrors of war - something she finds unpleasant - but she just has to know more about her father.

She needed more sources.

Then her husband Valta, the Hamilton County Veteran's Service Officer, brought home information on the American World War II Orphan Network (AWON). Through AWON, Ross discovered she was one of 183,000 children left fatherless in World War II.

Her's was a long-forgotten group, not coddled or consoled by a nation that was ready to get on to something different. The war weary country left the children to fend for themselves. Besides, there were just some things that weren't talked about.

Ross has found the names of people who grew up as she did. They are not adults bemoaning what never was in their lives as children, rather, they are trying to find kindred spirits. People they can connect with who will look at them and say "I understand" without speaking.

"I've been corresponding with e-mails, letters and phone calls," she said. "It's just so nice to be able to talk about it."

She finally found "others" who also wanted news of their heritage and a sense of belonging.

In an article that appeared in the July 2001 issue of The American Legion Magazine, writer Matt Grills calls the AWON generation "children without mention."

"They are the children who go without mention. Orphans who paid an unusually painful price for freedom: growing up without a dad," Grills wrote.

To further a sense of her biological father, Ross made a trip to Germany. It was gloomy, rainy and cold when she visited the place where the man who gave her life died.

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FINALLY FINDING HER FATHER

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"It fit the mood," she says.

For Memorial Day, a group from AWON will dedicate a wreath that will bear the names of their fathers. It will be placed at a memorial in Washington D.C.

Lyonel Eich's name will be there.

This spring, Ross received a posthumous Purple heart in honor of her father. She is overcome with emotion that she has something tangible to represent a man she never knew, but is getting to know now.

She thinks of the war in Iraq and of the children who will grow up without their fathers or mothers. They likely won't be relegated to the silence suffered by the children of World War II. People talk about things now.

She has reached a place in her life where silence will no longer suffice. She has to know; for her children, her grandchildren and perhaps, most importantly, for herself and for Lyonel. "I'm just glad people talk about it now. It's so important."

For more information on the American World War II Orphans Network, write to AWON, 910 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401, or telephone (540) 310-0750 or e-mail awon@aol.com. Visit AWON online at www.awon.org.

CINDY ROSS WROTE THE FOLLOWING UPDATE TO THE EDITOR OF THE AURORA

I want to express my gratitude to Kathy Kugler for the article she wrote about my search for those who knew my father, **Lyonel H. Eich**. She presented it with the respect for both **Lyonel** and my living parents. There were a couple facts that I felt were important to correct. I want Lyonel to finally receive the recognition that he deserved. At the Legion birthday dinner he was awarded the Purple Heart and in addition he also received the Bronze Star for valor in combat. I appreciate the price he paid for that medal and want him to be recognized and honored for his sacrifice. Our nation is in such turmoil and there are more "war orphans" in the making even as I write this. There are so many lives that have experienced the gaping wounds left by the absence of their loved ones due to national conflict. We owe it to them to be proud of their efforts in behalf their own personal loved ones and our great nation.

Those of us who lost members of our families in the battle liberating Weissenfels, Germany arranged to have a wreath, bearing each of their names, presented on Memorial Day at our American Cemetery in Maastricht Holland. Some were able to attend the unveiling of the WWII monument in Washington, D.C. as well as presenting the wreath in Holland.

My father was shipped overseas in December of 1944. He gave his life just 19 days after his 19th birthday. His legacy is one daughter, three grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and the freedom we all cherish and take so much for granted. God bless America!

It's a Small World

James K. Richardson, *Company B, 272nd Infantry*
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The other day I was looking through the table top History of the 69th Infantry Division, when I came across an article and picture of **Robert O. Easton**. It brought back memories of when he became my Company Commander of Company B, 272nd Infantry.

When I first met him, I was tinkering around with a home made radio station that I had built and was playing records for the men in our company. Admittedly, it was a bootleg station, but at that time no one seemed to care. **Captain Easton** was fascinated by the thing, and even encouraged it.

Shortly after that, I was transferred to an Ordnance company and later, transferred to a unit which was returning to the United States. The only loot that I started home with was all of the topographical maps we used from Belgium to Torgau.

I was discharged from the army on October 20, 1945 and immediately took advantage of the G.I. Bill and attended college. I studied business, and then switched to Electronics, and roomed with a young man from Lampasas, Texas. He and I became fast friends, and remain in contact to this day. When I graduated, I went to work in a radio station in Bonham, Texas. I received a phone call from my friend in Lampasas, telling me of the new radio station coming on the air there. He was the chief engineer of the station, and asked me to join their staff as a combination engineer/announcer. (The only one at the station). After about a month at the station, the owner of the station came by and my friend introduced him to me. I thought he looked familiar, but when he called his name, I asked him if he was a member of Company B, in 1945. He then recognized me, and we had quite a conversation. He had been with the 29th Infantry prior to joining the 69th, and he remarked that he would sure like to have some maps of Germany. I told him that I had saved all of the maps we used, and still had them. He was so excited about that, that during a break, I went home and brought the maps to him. I already knew that Bob had written a book, published by Colliers magazine. What I didn't know that he was still writing, owned the local newspaper, and that he and his wife were working on another book. His wife has published many books, and her father wrote under the name of Max Brand, as did she when her father passed away. I saw an obit on her a year or so ago. Robert O. Easton has also joined the long grey line. Jane Faust Easton (Robert Easton's wife) was the daughter of Frederick Faust, who wrote many Western stories under the name of Max Brand.

To me, having Robert Easton as CO, and later working for him as a civilian, proves that this is indeed a small small world. Robert O. Easton's biography is on page 78 of "The Fighting 69th Infantry Division" book published by Turner Publishing Co.

Return to Camp Shelby

Nick Giannone, *Company B, 272nd Infantry*
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During April 2004 my wife and I and some friends vacationed for a few days in the Biloxi Gulfport area of Mississippi. The ten mile stretch along highway 90 which parallels the gulf of Mexico houses many fine gambling casinos. One day I decided to venture north to a location that once housed the 69th Division - Camp Shelby. Interstate 49 runs north and south from Gulfport to Hattiesburg. The highway forms the western boundary of Camp Shelby which is located about 70 miles north of Gulfport and 10 miles south of Hattiesburg. The first place I recognized traveling north was Desoto National Forest. Well do I remember the days of "BBB" and the time we spent on bivovac. I wonder what all those ticks and chiggers have been feeding on since we shipped out.

I entered Camp Shelby through the south gate. I had to pass through barricades to enter and was checked at two guard stations.

The camp was originally established in 1917 to train troops for World War I and deactivated thereafter. The post was reopened for World War II in 1940 and at times was home to the 31st, 37th, 38th, 43rd, 65th, 69th, and 85th Divisions and the 442 Japanese Combat Regiment. At one time during this period it was home for 86,000 troops, the second largest encampment in the country. The camp was again deactivated after WWII and turned over to the state of Mississippi for National Guard training.

All temporary buildings that existed during our training have been demolished, still remaining is the USO Building, Main Chapel and Command Headquarters. The present barracks are the same shape as the huts we occupied, but twice as large with cinder block walls.

The Armed Forces Museum is the main point of interest. The Museum features exhibits ranging from the war of 1812 to the Vietman Conflict. The 69th Division has an exhibit showing our action in Europe and meeting the Russians at the Elbe River. The Museum encompasses 16,000 square feet and the exhibits are life size depicting army life during WWII. Six monuments comprise monument row and are dedicated to the unit that were stationed at the camp. The inscription on the 69th monument tells that the division was activated May 15, 1943 under Major General Charles Bolte and describes our action in Europe.

During my short stay I spoke to a few of the soldiers that were presently training at the camp. When I told them I was stationed there 60 years ago they looked at me as if I was from another planet. They were impressed with the fact that we hiked 25 miles in the summertime, the present army must not believe in hiking.

It was nice to return after 60 years but there was not much to recognize, too bad.



Issues of Past 69th Bulletins Available

Submitted By: **Paul E. Bois, Co. B, 273rd Infantry**
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I have issues of the 69th Infantry Bulletins from 1987 to the present, with a few miscellaneous copies besides. I am willing to part with these if someone is interested in them. Perhaps someone who joined at a later date.

You may have them for the cost of shipping. Please contact me at the above address, etc.

Maria

Written By: **Gus R. Wiemann**

Company L, 271st Infantry

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It was the winter of 1944 when my outfit, an infantry division, arrived in England from the States. I was a twenty-year-old interpreter in German and assigned to an intelligence and reconnaissance squad.

Our quarters were in Winchester's old barracks. After a day's training there was the Three Horseshoes for bitters and darts. Saturday nights offered dances in New Alresford or Medstead.

One Friday afternoon our sergeant doled out weekend passes, enough time for a first-time visit to London. Skipping the five-o'clock meal, I caught a train to London, checked into a small hotel and headed for Piccadilly. According to my buddies, this was where the "action" was.

My only "action" in Piccadilly was when a plane at rooftop level buzzed me. Our training was to fall flat when under imminent danger of air attack. Within seconds I was prone on the sidewalk. After the plane passed, I scrambled to my feet. As I brushed my uniform off a gentleman passerby remarked, "My boy, that was a Spitfire."

Afternoon drifted into evening as I started searching for a Red Cross club recommended by the same buddies who suggested Piccadilly. As I wandered through the streets, I heard an occasional karump sound in the distance. I learned later that those sounds were buzz bombs or small rockets aimed at London from the Continent.

Finally I came across a large building next to a smaller one, which apparently had been struck in an air raid. A Red Cross sign hung over the entrance to the large building. Just a few feet inside the entrance hung large blackout drapes. From the other side of the drapes came the muffled sound of a dance band.

As I opened the drapes I saw a moving circle of maybe fifty uniformed men and women on a dance floor holding hands, dancing and singing "Roll me over in the clover, roll me over, lay me down and do it again." Seated against the walls surrounding the dancers were other armed-forces people, some couples talking and a few singles watching the dancers.

One of the singles, a young blond lady, appeared tired as she leaned back in her chair, resting her head against the wall. I approached her, pointed to the empty chair beside her and asked, "Is this seat taken?" She seemed startled as she looked up. "No, it's not taken," she replied with a slight smile.

"I have a feeling that you don't feel like dancing out there," I said. "No, I'm a bit tired and would rather watch tonight," she answered with the hint of a foreign accent. Introducing myself, I said, "My name is Bob. I arrived from the States a few weeks ago and

finally got a chance to visit London." "And I'm Maria. I'm a nurse stationed here in a hospital. This is my evening off and I came to hear some music, even if I'm too tired to dance."

After I told her where my home was in the United States and how I was trying to learn more about the English people, she began talking about herself. "I'm Czechoslovakian and I learned English at school in my hometown, Prague. When we were invaded in 1938, I escaped and was able to get here. My mother and father stayed behind."

As Maria continued, her eyes almost closed. A lady in a red evening gown stood in front of the band. Despite nearby conversations, the lyrics about bluebirds over the cliffs of Dover filtered through.

Here I found work in the hospital where I am now. After September '39 I was a translator and nurse for the wounded in the Free Czech Air Force. Sometimes there was little hope for the men that were brought in, but I had to smile and tell them that they'd be all right. One day they brought a pilot in who had been burned and the doctors didn't think that he would live. After many months he was well enough to be released."

Again a few more words from the next song could be heard: "We'll meet again don't know where, don't know when.."

"I had been working eighteen hours a day, seven days a week and I felt I couldn't go on. Then one night in my room at the hospital I took a bottle of sleeping tablets and emptied them next to a glass of water on my nightstand. I wrote a note to the hospital to explain why I couldn't work anymore.

"Just as I finished writing, there was a knock on the door. As I opened the door, I could see in the dim light of the hallway that it was the flyer who had been badly burned. He was in the uniform of the Free Czech Air Force and took off his cap."

"Hello, Maria," he said. "I was passing the hospital and just wanted to thank you for all the help you gave me." He smiled, put on his cap and left. I closed the door, went to my nightstand, picked up the tablets and threw them away."

By now the band had stopped playing, people began pushing their way to the blackout curtains and the door to the street. I had stood up and suddenly was caught in the surge of bodies. Someone called, "Do you have a torch?" I looked around for Maria, but she had disappeared.

Note: Once again we received a great deal of material and pictures for this issue of the bulletin. If you do not see your stories/photos in this issue, they should appear in the next issue. We continue to request good cover photos. Please do not send xerox copies or print-outs from your computer. Either send in the original photo or send us a disk.

Trespass Against Them

History of the 271st Infantry

Part II

Submitted By: **Lawrence Verheye**

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Written By: **Lt. John F. Higgins, 2nd Battalion**

The Battle for Leipzig

On 18 April, the First Battalion, which had been following the Ninth Armored spearhead, was again attached to the 273d Regiment, which was attacking Leipzig. The 273d had taken the city with the exception of one last strongpoint, the large Napoleon Monument on the outskirts of the city. Unable to neutralize this point, the 273d committed our First Battalion to the task. The Memorial is a huge stone edifice, visible for miles around, with walls estimated from 10 to 20 feet thick, an ideal citadel. The storm trooper lieutenant in charge had orders to hold at all costs, and a two-month supply of food, water, and ammunition were on hand.

Our artillery blasted the monument, but it was futile, since the shells literally bounced off its walls. The afternoon of 19 April, the order was given for an assault, with C Company making the main effort, and B Company assisting from the left flank. Resistance was so heavy from within that the companies were forced to draw back, and more artillery was thrown at the tower. It is believed that the Napoleon Memorial is the smallest target in the war ever to receive so much artillery pounding, since six battalions were used.

At 1800, a truce was declared so that wounded on both sides could be evacuated, and during this truce, a captured German Major General went up into the monument to explain to the defenders the futility of remaining. The reply was that they would leave if they could be guaranteed safe conduct to their own lines, and this was refused. Fighting continued until, at 0100, 20 April, the garrison capitulated. With this gone, the city of Leipzig, Germany's fourth largest, was completely in our hands. Fighting had been bitter and casualties high, but First Battalion had the honor of helping win one of the great victories of the war.

Moving on to the northeast, the Regiment went into temporary defensive positions. First and Second Battalions were in the area of Taucha, while Third Battalion held the area around Puchau, defending the west bank of the Mulde River.

During this period, the men were paid in marks for the first time. There are some interesting and enlightening insights into the reactions and spirit of the men in the following quotations from an article titled "Mark Time," written by one of the men of Company K on payday:

"So they're paying us in marks this time? I wonder what the Krauts think about our printing. Never was there a payday that meant so little. It takes more than dough to pay for this past couple of weeks. I'll bet any GI would sell this whole damn country for two-bits and a ticket home. Yes, we'd sell it that cheap, even though it cost us quite a bit. It wasn't so bad at first. What was the name of that first town? Lutzen, wasn't it? We caught them asleep that time, but still it was rough on the nerves walking across that open field in front of the town, expecting everything to bust loose in your face. Boy, were we glad to have those 'J' platoon boys out in front! They were just attached at first, but it didn't take us long to take those Negro boys to our hearts and make them part of us. They dug those "Sleeping Beauty" Nazis out of their holes like my dog going after a gopher!

"The trouble is that when you take a town so easily, they find another job for you to do. I'll never forget the next job either. K Company was out in front of the battalion, and we were all pretty winded from clearing the first town, when it seemed as though Old Lucifer had blown his top! Sniper fire, flak, 88s and mortars all hit us like a ton of bricks. It got a lot of us before we could hit that narrow ditch alongside the road. I could see the boys digging into the sides of the road bank, and the medics were following a million cries all a once. One was knocked down by flak, but we got up and went on again. I saw two legs sheared off below the hips, and wanted to vomit, but couldn't. We all cried that day, watching our buddies go down, but you couldn't see it in our eyes because there was too much hatred there!

"We got up off our bellies and took that town. We've taken a few more since. I guess old K Company is doing its bit to add emphasis to our division name, the Fighting 69th, but it still feels kind of funny to be paid off in marks, even if we did print them ourselves."

On 21 April, the First Battalion became attached to the Fifth Corps, while the other two battalions were defending the west bank of the Mudle River, and First Battalion moved out to take the city of Eilenberg. This was probably the most difficult battle the battalion had yet been in, since the town was held by some 1,200 Germans, well dug-in. Also, the natural characteristics of the town definitely favored the defenders. With Company B in front, C Company on the left and A on the right, the battalion moved forward, meeting heavy resistance. Company B, heading down the main street, was finally pinned down by sniper and machine-gun fire, and was temporarily stranded there by itself, since A and C were working along the sides of the town. Having pushed as far as the stream in the center of town, Company B was thrown back by a strong enemy counterattack. They withdrew about 500 yards and reorganized. It was not until the next day that they were again able to advance when five battalions

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TRESPASS AGAINST THEM

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of light and medium artillery started pounding the city continually, at which time all three companies were able to advance to secure the west bank of the Mulde River in the center of town. Company A was successful in establishing a bridgehead, and the remainder of the city was quickly secured. The battalion remained in Eilenberg for several days before continuing to advance.

In Appreciation

Like all infantry units, this regiment owes much to its supporting arms. In particular, we are indebted to our comrades-in-arms, the 879th Field Artillery. Without them, our missions would have been costly and often impossible. The close feeling which exists between us has resulted in a well-knit and coordinated team. In our rapid advance from the Rhine to the Mulde, they cooperated to the fullest, even helping to carry our men in their trucks. No one in this regiment can forget the work of our artillery throughout our campaigns, particularly in Eilenberg, where they literally blasted the town into surrender.

We must also voice our appreciation to Company A, 86th Chemical Mortar Battalion, for their splendid support. The praise of all battalion commanders has been lavished upon them for the close-in support they gave us. On one occasion, it was their protective smoke screen which enabled our I and R Platoon to disengage from a heavy firefight in Rotha, and at Eilenberg, their work was outstanding. Third Battalion remembers well the job of Chemical Mortars at Audigast.

Praise also for our own S-4 section. The work they have done in resupply and maintenance of ammunition loads has been in every instance noteworthy. No one but supply personnel themselves can fully appreciate the problems involved in supplying a fast-moving regiment with the thousand-fold necessities of combat. We are proud of the manner in which our supply section has performed these tasks.

Outstanding also was the support rendered by tanks and tank destroyers. In most of our encounters, we were fortunate in having attached Companies A and C, 661 Tank Destroyer Battalion, and Company A, 777th Tank Battalion. Each of these units earned the respect of our officers and men, especially for their work in Weissenfels, Beichlingen and Eilenberg. And they in turn were loud in their praise of the aggressive manner in which our men worked with their supporting armor, providing them with close-in protection and enabling the armor to complete their missions of neutralizing strong points and providing defense against enemy armor. Valuable assistance was also given on long moves when our men were carried atop the tanks to help alleviate the transportation problem.

The problems of communication were many and often unorthodox, particularly on our long, rapid moves. These were met in a manner worthy of commendation, by skillful employment of wire, radio and message-center personnel and equipment. Continuous maintenance and service of facilities was accomplished under most trying conditions. Wire and radio personnel were called upon to perform feats which strained ingenuity and resourcefulness, doing so in each instance with distinction.

Our own Anti-Tank Company provided support without which many attacks might have failed and many tactical displacements been impossible. From the very beginning of the campaign, they assisted by clearing mines and roadblocks in the Hellenthal area and furnishing litter-bearers to the Medics. On foot and from leading vehicles, its members sought out mines continuously in the rapid moves from the Rhine to the Mulde.

At Weissenfels, the 57mm anti-tank guns were one of the reasons for success. Supporting Second Battalion, which was attacking without artillery or armored support, the guns were brought forward aggressively and brought down devastating fire on the city's defenders, later protecting a vital crossing of the Saale River by a clever leap-frog system of employment.

At Rotha, it was Anti-Tank men who assisted in defending the threatened Command Post location and helped rescue the I and R platoon which had been pinned down. At Eilenberg, effective fire was delivered on vital targets in the city at the extreme range of 3,000 yards. The value of anti-tanks guns as direct support weapons and the aggressive spirit of the men who manned them, both were proven to the grateful doughboys.

We are proud of the record of our Cannon Company. From the time its first round was fired in support of the regiment at 0920, 11 February, until the end of our campaign, over 30 tons of shells passed through its six cannons onto enemy targets. Although credited with knocking out several mortars and machine guns in the Hellenthal area, the highlight of the company's early activity came when an enemy counterattack against our Third Battalion in Oberreifferscheid was repulsed solely by cannon fire.

A concentrated two-day shelling in the Bohlen area silenced enemy 88s, set an ammunition dump afire, and destroyed several enemy barracks. Next day, their splendid work in shelling enemy gun positions north of Rotha (400 rounds in three hours) inflicted heavy casualties, forcing abandonment of the enemy's positions and enabled our K and L companies to achieve their objective, helping to clear the way to Leipzig.

Cannon Company had its final action in the area of Plagwitz, where it neutralized several targets along the Mulde River, knocking out gun positions and scoring a direct hit on a large building housing

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German troops. Their last combat mission was fired at 1605, 24 April. We salute the skill and courage of our cannoners, comrades-in-arms whose efforts we deeply appreciate.

Early in the campaign, there became attached to us an officer and enlisted man of the Military Government. Since their attachment, they have aided us immeasurably, playing an increasingly important part in the actions of the regiment. As soon as a town or city was captured, these representatives of Military Government assisted in restoring order, repairing utilities and in many cases helping to obtain billets for our troops. The tasks have been in many cases extremely difficult, and in all instances dispatched with speed and precision. We are indebted to this officer and his assistance for their splendid work during the period of their attachment to the regiment.

The last few days of April were given to maintaining defenses of the Mulde River and extensive patrolling in an effort to contact the Russians who were moving in towards us from the east.

It was on April 26th that a small town in our division zone became famous when a junction was effected there between two of the most powerful armies in history. The 273d made the contact which brought much glory to the division, and told the world that the end of Nazi Germany was close at hand. The Fighting 69th became one of the major topics of conversation and publicity at home, and we became ever more proud of the patch we wear.

VE Day

May 8, 1945 ... Simultaneously in the capitol of the three major powers, the announcement was made. VE Day! The end of Adolf Hitler's mad dream, and proof to the world that no one nation can be permitted to dominate the world. The treachery and suffering brought about by the Hitler gang will forever remain a tragic and costly memory.

The European phase of the war has ended. Of the vast amount of men, material and events which brought it to close, much will be written. Historians for generations will be digesting and expounding the magnitude of operations.

Whatever is to be our role in future operations against the enemies of our nation, wherever we are sent from here, of this we are certain: This regiment has proven itself under the most trying circumstances, and has never failed to accomplish a mission. We shall continue to perform our assigned tasks with the same courage and tenacity which has thus far characterized our actions. Each man may feel proud and secure in the knowledge that things have been and will continue to be uncomfortable for our enemies with "Trespass against them!"

69th Division Members - Register Your Name with the WWII Registry

Submitted By: **Charles Chapman**

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The National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. has been completed and was formally dedicated May 29th. Veterans (or their spouses and friends) can register the veteran's name and, if desired, a brief summary of the veteran's activities during WWII. There are several ways to do this - all of them easy and free:

1. Go to www.wwiimemorial.com; and click on WWII Registry; click on "Register an Honoree" and proceed to submit the information; or
2. Call 1-800-639-4ww2 and press "3" on the menu to speak to a representative about registering. You can then either register over the telephone or ask them to mail you material on which to register; or
3. Write to the National World War II Memorial, 2300 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 501, Arlington, VA 22201 and ask for registration material to be mailed to you.

After you have registered, you will be assigned an Account Number. This will enable you to view your registration on line. They should also assign you an ID number. The purpose of the ID number is to enable you to submit a World War II picture of the veteran if you so desire. Once you get your Account number and ID number, you can send a picture to World War II Memorial Processing Center, P.O. Box 305, Calverton, NY 11932. You must write both the Account number and the ID number on the back of the picture. There is a \$10.00 charge for submitting the picture. You will not get the picture back. Make check payable to World War II Memorial Processing Center.

To see information about a veteran who is already enrolled:

1. Go to www.wwiimemorial.com
2. Click on WWII Registry.
3. Click on "Search the Registry."
4. Enter last name, first name and the state the veteran entered the service from.
5. Click on "Submit."

Have a Mini-Reunion Planned?

Please let us know and we will list it in the Calendar of Events. Also, it gives other members of the 69th from the area the reunion is planned for to come and join in, even if they are not from your unit. We encourage you to welcome all 69ers.



"Taps"

The melody of TAPS was composed by a non-musical (musician with no formal knowledge) who did not know 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.**

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879th Field Artillery Battalion



My father was in the 879th Field Artillery. His name was **Lloyd Farnsworth**. I think he is the man sitting on the fender, but I am not sure. If anyone can identify him or the other men and details of this photo, I would appreciate it very much.

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