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Jerry Hoovler

A loving tribute to a faithful husband, father, soldier and citizen.

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Larger than life - we love you and miss you.

Gerald (Jerry) L. Hoovler - 1925-2007

November 25th, 2007



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Gerald (Jerry) L. Hoovler of Delaware, Ohio, died Friday, November 23, 2007, in Columbus, Ohio, following an extended period of ill health.

Born in Youngstown, Ohio on February 15, 1925, Jerry was the middle child of the seven sons of Samuel Robert Hoovler of Greenville, Pennsylvania and Carrie Uhrey Hoovler. Jerry has six brothers, four of whom precede him in death: Edward, Cecil, Donald, and Art. His brother Walter resides in Torrance, California and brother Paul lives in Sun City, Arizona. Jerry is survived by his loving wife Dorothy Ann (Herbst). Jerry and Dorothy were married in 1949 and have four children: Nancy and husband Michael McKibben of Columbus, Ohio; daughter Carol of Durham, North Carolina; Patsy and husband Michael Conger of Aurora, Illinois; and Jim and wife Jill of Delaware, Ohio; as well as eleven grandchildren: Carrie and husband Kevin Fletemeyer, Max, Susanna, Holly, Rose, and Justin McKibben; Nancy and Mattie Conger; and Stephanie, Katie, and Abby Hoovler.

Jerry graduated from Pataskala High School in 1942 and immediately entered the military, serving in the [United States Army 69th Infantry Division \("The Fighting 69th"\)](#), [272nd Infantry Regiment \("The Battle Axe Regiment"\)](#), [Company K Infantry Weapons Platoon](#). He saw action across Germany as a part of the United States 1st Army Rhineland Campaign and on April 25, 1945 met the Soviet Army at Torgau on the River Elbe near Leipzig. Almost immediately after VE Day on May 8, 1945 he was transferred to the 530th Ordinance Battalion and served in Belgium, operating a POW Camp at La Louvière. He was awarded The Army Good Conduct Medal and was honorably discharged in May 1946. Later, in 1950, he was awarded The Bronze Star Medal "FOR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS IN GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST THE ENEMY" by President Harry S. Truman. After the war he attended The Ohio State University, where he obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in education in 1948. From 1949 to 1952 he served as a science and math teacher and high school principal at Ostrander High School in Ostrander, Ohio and Williamsfield High School, in Williamsfield, Ohio, married Dorothy Ann Herbst of Pataskala, Ohio, and received his master's degree in administrative science, also from Ohio State.

A fifty-year resident of [Fredericktown, Ohio](#) at 122 W. Sandusky Street, Jerry was superintendent of schools there from 1953-55. He then left education to become an independent insurance agent for Midland Mutual Life Insurance Company and quickly earned his Certified Life Underwriter qualification. He provided his insurance services from the Hoovler Insurance Agency in his building at 84 N. Main Street. He retired in 1987, and moved to Delaware with Dorothy in 2007.

Jerry placed the highest value on family and community. He was active for fifty years in the Fredericktown Lions Club, and served as its president on three occasions, where he took the Lions' slogan, "*It can be done in a small town.*" as his personal motto. He was the first to volunteer for any worthwhile community project, serving as co-chair of the Fredericktown High School football stadium building committee, as head of the tennis-court building committee, and as a proud volunteer in the building of the new Fredericktown Public Library. His lifelong passion for reading led him to become a member of the Friends of the Library for both Knox County and for his alma mater, Ohio State.

An ardent advocate of the values of scouting, Jerry was for years a member of and fund-raiser for the Muskingum Valley Boy Scout Council. He donated more than 100 pints of blood to the American Red Cross. He served as a volunteer in scouts, Little League, the American Heart Association, Big Brothers of America, the American Cancer Society, and the Knox County Hospital auxiliary.

A devoted family man, Jerry was married to his beloved wife Dorothy for 58 years. He was a dearly loved father, guide, and mentor to his four children, and an active and beloved grandfather to his eleven grandchildren. His broad and varied interests included model airplanes, crosswords, investing in real estate, dollhouse building, woodworking, remodeling, canning, gardening, reading, cooking, bowling, fishing, and birding. He was a loyal Buckeye fan, holding lifetime season football tickets, and also a life member of [The Ohio State Alumni Association](#).

Friends may call on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 from 4 to 7 PM at the [Snyder Funeral Home, 33 E. College Street, Fredericktown, Ohio 43019](#). The family will observe a graveside service at a later date in Forest Cemetery in Fredericktown.

Memorial contributions may be made to the [Fredericktown Lions Club](#) or to the [Fredericktown Library](#) and can be left at the funeral home.



[3 comments](#)



Larger than life - we love you and miss you.

In Remembrance of Gerald (Jerry) L. Hoovler

November 25th, 2007



"IN THE DEFENSE OF FREEDOM"

By Michael T. McKibben (Jerry's son-in-law - Nancy (Hoovler)'s husband)

Gerald (Jerry) L. Hoovler, Co K 272nd Inf Rgt - We say goodbye to Jerry, yet another of "**The Greatest Generation**" that secured the peace from fascist tyrannies that would have otherwise swept the world in the 1940's. Like so many others of his generation, Jerry talked little about his experiences in World War II until recently. The photos below have just surfaced; indicative of the fact that Jerry felt no compulsion to tell his war stories. So many veterans say that after the war, no one wanted to talk about it anymore. They were ready for peace. War is brutal, nasty business; not something to revel in. Perhaps that is why we are only just now hearing these heroic stories from our loved ones.



**Jerry's 69th Infantry Division,
"The Fighting 69th", honors him with taps.**

[Click here](#) to go to The 69th Infantry Division website.
Thanks to Joe Lipsius, formerly Major, AUS, Infantry

(I only learned after my late father, [James A. McKibben](#), passed away in 2005 that as a US Army Private he helped disarm the Japanese Imperial Naval Academy and its more than 60 caves full of armaments of every kind. He also visited Ground Zeroes at both Nagasaki and Hiroshima within months after the bombs were dropped, describing the steel as "melted candles". He never talked about this his entire life.)

God bless our fathers and mothers and their generation for their sacrifices.



Pfc. Gerald (Jerry) L. Hoovler
United States Army 69th Infantry Division ("The Fighting 69th"), 272nd Infantry
Regiment ("The Battle Axe Regiment"), Company K, Infantry Weapons Platoon
Circa June 1943

[Click here for a full size file of Jerry's portrait, 5.7 MB.](#)

[Click here for a full size file of the photo on the right, 1.8 MB.](#)

Here are a few things we do know now about Jerry's World War II experiences.

-February 15, 1943 - Jerry's 18th birthday in **Pataskala, Ohio**.

-February 16 - [registers for the draft](#)

-March 19 - [receives notice for physical](#)

-March 26 - [receives 3-A classification](#)

-April 19 - **DRAFTED** into the US Air Force as a mechanic in at Patterson Field, **Dayton, Ohio**

-May 15 - [69th Infantry Division activated for combat](#)

-May 22 - Jerry transferred to the US Army 69th Infantry Division, 272nd Infantry Regiment. [The Army's structure of an Infantry Division](#) was 14,253 men commanded by a Major General. The 69th had three Infantry Regiments of 3,254 men each. The 272nd Regiment (Jerry's) was one of them and was commanded by a Colonel. In each Regiment there were three Battalions commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel. These Battalions had 871 men in units called a Company. **Jerry was in Company K, a Rifle Company, and was commanded by a Captain.** Each Rifle Company had a Company Headquarters Section, 3 Rifle Platoons and a Weapons Platoon. The Platoons were divided into Squads. A Squad was about 12 men. (See the names of the men in Jerry's squad at the end.)

Jerry's Platoon Leader was T/Sgt. Lloyd H. Mangus, and his Squad Leaders were Sgt. Robert D. Griffith and Sgt. Wilfred Q. Cole, Jr.

-[Dates] - According to Jerry's brother Paul, Jerry was sent initially to Florida to officer training school, but was subsequently ordered to **Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi** and handed a gun.

-October 31 - Jerry's Division left Camp Shelby for an unknown location.

-November 2 - Division arrives by train at **Camp Kilmer, New Jersey**, the overseas staging area. Here their training consisted of censorship training, conduct aboard ship, abandon-ship drill, conduct as a Prisoner of War, gas-mask drills, and final showdown inspections.

-November 15, 1944 - Jerry's **Company K Infantry Weapons Platoon**, part of 272nd Infantry Regiment, "The Battle Axe Regiment" (Jerry is 11th from the left in the top row of the linked photo), boarded the MS John Ericsson and SS Santa Maria troop ships in **New York Harbor** and departed for England.

-December 1 - Regiment arrived in **Southampton, England** and were bivouacked near **Salisbury, England** where most of the young GI's experienced English pubs and culture for the first time.

-December 16 - On the European Continent, the Germans counterattacked American forces in the Ardennes Forest (Belgium) in what came to be called "**The Battle of the Bulge**". 19,000 young Americans died. The Battle of the Bulge was the bloodiest U.S. battle in World War II. Despite this, German objectives were not realized and they fell back to the Siegfried Line (that Jerry's Regiment would attack two months later).

-January 21, 1945 - Regiment was shipped on the MS Sobieski to **Le Harve, France** during a blizzard and then was transported to towns in the vicinity of **Forges-Les-Eaux, France** where they were quartered mostly in ruined houses and abandoned châteaux ("a relatively comfortable site").

- February 1 - Regiment was moved by train box cars to **Laon, France** ("long, tiresome and cold"). Upon arrival the French town names in the vicinity (**Godelancourt, Ebeuleau** and **Montigny Le Fanc**) were so hard to pronounce that the GI's named the sites Camp Wheatfield, Tent City and Mud Flats.

-February 6 - Regiment was moved again ("two days and two nights", "longer and rougher than any previous") by train to **Born, Belgium**. At Born Jerry's Regiment was placed in V Corps, a part of the First United States Army which had come ashore on Omaha Beach and Utah Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

-February 12 - Jerry's Regiment replaced the 99th Infantry Division in the Eifel Forest area; near **Losheimergraben, Belgium**. This whole area was part of the German bulge.

-February 17 - Regiment suffered its first casualties from German artillery fire. They quartered in tents and log dugouts. The weather was extremely cold and the ground muddy from melted snow. They prepared for another German counterattack.

-They saw the immediate aftermath of the **Battle of the Bulge**: "... the ground was littered with abandoned, broken equipment and the bodies of German soldiers and draft horses."

-February 27 - Jerry's Regiment was ordered to engage the enemy at the **Siegfried Line**.

-March 1 - Regiment was ordered to occupy a front line position. They were subject to small arms fire, mortar and artillery fire. They encountered densely mined fields, pillboxes with stoves still warm; a number of which were booby trapped.

-March 6 - Regiment was ordered to take the town of **Dahlem, Germany**. "This advance was executed with the greatest of difficulty because of the pitch black night, the numerous mines, booby traps, and road obstacles." Jerry's Regiment lost brothers to mines, which were so treacherous that they had to hand-carry weapons and ammunition to prevent their vehicles from being blown up. Dahlem was secured by noon on March 7.

-March 8 - Regiment moved into **Waldorf, Germany** (see photo of Jerry in Waldorf below). During this operation numerous German prisoners were taken.

- March 26 - Regiment crossed the **Rhine River** in the afternoon to seize a pocket of German opposition near **Coblenz, Germany** containing the famous 12th century **Fortress Ehrenbreitstein**; the mission was completed by 7:30 PM on March 27; 35 towns and 1,200 prisoners were taken.

-March 27 - Regiment moved quarters to the vicinity of **Bad Ems, Germany** where they languished in billets they had not found since leaving the United States ("thick rugs, soft beds, spacious offices, plenty of wine and food").

-April 1 - Regiment celebrated Easter in **Dehrn, Germany**.

-April 5 - Regiment experienced "a furious German counter attack" in and around the vicinity of **Kassel, Germany** (see Jerry's photo below). Kassel was a major industrial center for the enemy war machine, and as such, was a primary Allied target. "The entire area was a huge litter of German dead. The rest were taken prisoner..." "This was the first time since crossing the Rhine that the Germans showed any desire to take from us ground which we had captured."

-April 12 - Elements of Jerry's Regiment were ambushed from well dug in positions on the outskirts of **Bad Kösen, Germany**, but in a coordinated counterattack, destroyed the enemy by nightfall and took 65 prisoners.

-April 14 - Regiment encountered strongly defended enemy gun positions also using **panzerfausts** as anti-personnel weapons near **Beersdorf, Germany**. The attack was successful. 474 prisoners and 36 guns were captured.

-April 15 - Regiment encountered a pounding from 88mm guns, small arms and panzerfaust fire. Following this battle 248 prisoners and 36 guns were taken. Jerry's brother Paul told us at the funeral that Jerry told him the sound and impact of these heavy German guns was extremely fearsome.

-April 16 - Regiment closed in on the town of **Brandis, Germany** where 2,000 **German SS troopers** were reported. By dawn the town was surrounded and the white flags of surrender appeared in windows all over the town.

-April 18 - Regiment heard sirens in the city of **Leipzig, Germany** as the citizens expected an American attack. The night before SS troopers had cruised the city forcing the civilians to take down their white flags of surrender. Regiment skirmished with these SS troopers. Once the attack on Leipzig began at 3:30 PM the Allies met heavy resistance all across its line. Jerry's rifle platoon accompanied our tanks into the city to help take out German sniper fire as the tanks advanced.

-April 19 - Regiment had taken the city, but still encountered pockets of heavy resistance. Jerry's platoon was part of the clean up to secure the

greater Leipzig region (See Jerry's brewery photo below). The commander of Jerry's Regiment, Col. Walter Buie, along with his then aide, Captain Joseph Lipsius, [capture the Kommandant of Leipzig, General Von Zeigesar](#). (Photos kindly provided by Joe Lipsius, formerly Major, AUS, Infantry.)

-April 20 - Leipzig mission completed.

-**Throughout the Rhineland Campaign**, Jerry saw much action and killed the enemy. How many we do not know. One can only imagine. The Germans were fierce fighters, especially in defending their homeland. One can only imagine the fierceness of the fighting that must have preceded the German surrenders described here. Jerry was a rifleman, so he was on the ground, many times in the thick of the fighting. He told us that his platoon helped liberate a German concentration camp. That camp is believed to have been liberated sometime in April near the Town of **Wurzen** on the river Mulde, 25 km east of Leipzig, "...a prisoner of war camp that held about 4,000 sick and half-starved soldiers from several Allied nations, including the U.S." (Source: *Fighting 69th Infantry Division*, page 44).

At the funeral his brother Paul Hoovler related one story Jerry had told him years ago: "Sometime during the march across Germany, Jerry's platoon got pinned down by German machine gun fire in a hog stockyard; the Germans fired right into the hogs, killing many, to try and take out Jerry and his brothers. He said it was the damndest thing you've ever seen; hogs falling everywhere around them."

-Jerry suffered trench foot and frostbite during his first weeks of battle at the Siegfried Line; his feet gave him problems the rest of his life.

-Jerry went to see the movie ***Saving Private Ryan*** 3 times when it came out in 1998. He told his family that the film was a pretty accurate depiction of what he experienced in combat, "except for the smell of war." He said that there is no way to describe the stench of splattered human entrails and feces, burning flesh, decaying animal carcasses, exploding artillery, burning vehicles, [incendiaries](#) and pulverized and burning buildings. [Click here to view a Saving Private Ryan film trailer](#). One can understand why he did not want to talk about such brutality when he came home.

-He lost friends in combat. We do remember him telling us that he saw one of his friend's "head blown off" during combat.

-April 25-30 - Regiment ordered to secure the route from **Eilenburg** to **Torgau**. This was to be the [link between American and Soviet forces](#) that were now east of the **Elbe River**.

-May 1-2 - Regiment had great concern that American troops would mistake the advancing Soviet troops for a German counterattack; the advancing Soviet troops started appearing without warning. Quick work to notify all American troops avoided a fire fight. German soldiers east of the Elbe were fleeing to the American lines so as not to get captured by the Soviets (Jerry did mention this numerous times in conversation about the war).

-May 4 - Regiment shook hands with Soviet troops at **Torgau** on the Elbe River.

-May 5 - **American General Omar Bradley** entered Jerry's Regimental zone to meet Marshall Koniev, Commander of the First Ukrainian Army. General Bradley issued a commendation to Jerry's Regiment.

-May 6 - Jerry's 272nd Infantry Regiment was relieved of its security duties in the Torgau region near Leipzig by elements of the First Ukrainian Army. **The occupation of Germany and the Cold War had begun.** This swift withdrawal was the result of the Yalta Conference where Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill conceded much of Eastern Europe to Soviet post-war occupation in return for Joseph Stalin and the USSR agreeing to join the Allies against Japan.

-May 7/8 - **Victory in Europe Day** - VE Day.

-July 10-11 - Regiment moved west to the area of **Bad/Hersfeld/Rotenburg, Germany.**

- [July] 1945 - Jerry transferred to the 530th Ordnance Battalion and served in **Louvière, Belgium** operating a POW Camp.

- May 1946 - Honorably discharged from the US Army with the rank of Private First Class.

-Major General Reinhardt, Commander of the 69th Infantry Division called the 272nd a "splendid regiment" that "smoothly and efficiently carried out every assigned mission from the date this division entered the line to the final and utter collapse of the German army. Your high esprit and fighting spirit have measured up to my highest expectations." (Source: *272nd Infantry History Book*)



March 23, 1945; Jerry (pictured) at the new assembly area located in the vicinity of Waldorf, Germany, on the Rhine River.

Photo from the personal collection of Gerald (Jerry) L. Hoover, 1925-2007- Jerry served during World War II in the United States Army 69th Infantry Division ("The Fighting 69th"), 272nd Infantry Regiment ("The Battle Axe Regiment"), Company K Infantry Weapons Platoon.



April 5, 1945; Jerry wrote on the back of this photo:
"Jerrie Tanks near Kassel"; Jerry is the person inside the tank turret.

Photo from the personal collection of Gerald (Jerry) L. Hoovler, 1925-2007

Jerry served during World War II in the United States Army 69th Infantry Division ("The Fighting 69th"), 272nd Infantry Regiment ("The Battle Axe Regiment"), Company K Infantry Weapons Platoon.



April 1945; Jerry wrote on the back of this photo:
"Somewhere in Germany"

Photo from the personal collection of Gerald (Jerry) L. Hoovler, 1925-2007 - Jerry served during World War II in the United States Army 69th Infantry Division ("The Fighting 69th"), 272nd Infantry Regiment ("The Battle Axe Regiment"), Company K Infantry Weapons Platoon.



April 1945; Jerry (pictured on the left) wrote on the back of this photo:
"After returning from clearing seven towns around Leipzig [Germany] we
jumped off our tanks and raided a brewery."

Photo from the personal collection of Gerald (Jerry) L. Hoovler, 1925-2007 - Jerry served during World War II in the United States Army 69th Infantry Division ("The Fighting 69th"), 272nd Infantry Regiment ("The Battle Axe Regiment"), Company K Infantry Weapons Platoon.



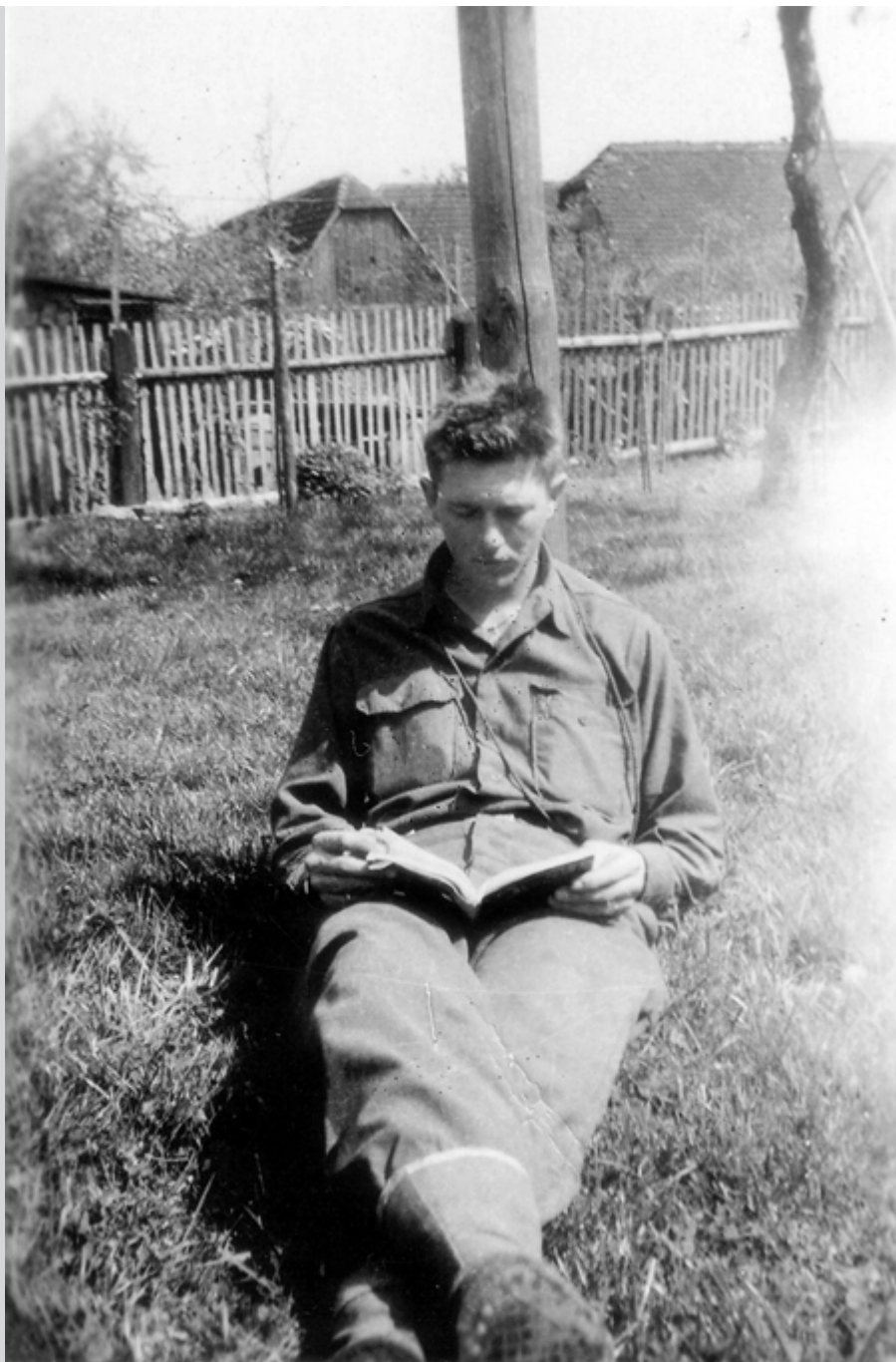
~May (Spring), Germany, 1945; Jerry (pictured on right) has largely unintelligible notes on this photo that appear to be addresses of individuals, perhaps those pictured. These addresses look like: "Wa6187; Pittsburg PA; Sally Malia,103 Belvidere, Crofton PA; ..."

Photo from the personal collection of Gerald (Jerry) L. Hoovler, 1925-2007 - Jerry served during World War II in the United States Army 69th Infantry Division ("The Fighting 69th"), 272nd Infantry Regiment ("The Battle Axe Regiment"), Company K Infantry Weapons Platoon.



Sometime in 1945; Jerry wrote on the back of this photo:
"This was our welcome sign for Jack Benny."

Photo from the personal collection of Gerald (Jerry) L. Hoovler, 1925-2007 - Jerry served during World War II in the United States Army 69th Infantry Division ("The Fighting 69th"), 272nd Infantry Regiment ("The Battle Axe Regiment"), Company K Infantry Weapons Platoon.



Spring, Germany, 1945; Jerry (pictured) reading (a lifelong passion)

Photo from the personal collection of Gerald (Jerry) L. Hoovler, 1925-2007 - Jerry served during World War II in the United States Army 69th Infantry Division ("The Fighting 69th"), 272nd Infantry Regiment ("The Battle Axe Regiment"), Company K Infantry Weapons Platoon.



April 1945: This photo is believed to be Jerry's unit perhaps in the vicinity of Leipzig, Germany

Photo from the personal collection of Gerald (Jerry) L. Hoover, 1925-2007 - Jerry served during World War II in the United States Army 69th Infantry Division ("The Fighting 69th"), 272nd Infantry Regiment ("The Battle Axe Regiment"), Company K Infantry Weapons Platoon.

While Jerry served in Europe, the Herbst family from Cincinnati moved to Pataskala with their four beautiful daughters. One of those girls, Dorothy Ann, would catch Jerry's eye after his discharge from the Army and return to civilian life in Pataskala. Jerry married Dorothy on May 28, 1949. Four children and 58 wonderful years later. The rest is history.



Dorthy Ann (Herbst) & Gerald L. Hoover
Married May 28, 1949, Pataskala, Ohio

-Private First Class Gerald L. Hoover, 35218665, Company K, 272nd Infantry Regiment was awarded **THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL** "FOR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT IN GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST THE ENEMY" on September 22, 1950.



General George C. Marshall, in a memorandum to President Roosevelt dated February 3, 1944, wrote:

"The fact that the ground troops, Infantry in particular, lead miserable lives of extreme discomfort and are the ones who must close in personal combat with the enemy, makes the maintenance of their morale of great importance. The award of the Air Medal have had an adverse reaction on the ground troops, particularly the Infantry Riflemen who are now suffering the heaviest losses, air or ground, in the Army, and enduring the greatest hardships."

President Roosevelt authorized the Bronze Star Medal by Executive Order 9419 dated 4 February 1944, retroactive to 7 December 1941.

As a result of a study conducted in 1947, the policy was implemented that authorized the retroactive award of the Bronze Star Medal to soldiers who had received the Combat Infantryman Badge or the Combat Medical Badge during World War II. The basis for doing this was that the badges were awarded only to soldiers who had borne the hardships which resulted in General Marshall's support of the Bronze Star Medal. Both badges required a recommendation by the commander and a citation in orders.

Pfc. Gerald (Jerry) L. Hoover
was awarded the Bronze Star on September 22, 1950



**1951 - Gerald (Jerry) L. Hoovler, Principal, Williamsfield High School, Williamsfield, Ohio;
Jerry was awarded The Bronze Star Medal the previous year.
(Desk Photo: Nancy Jean Hoovler (McKibben), Age 6 months)**

In conclusion, we remember all those faithful servicemen and woman who served.



Memorial to "The Fighting 69th" at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Epilogue

In the "Notes and Autographs" page of Jerry's copy of *History of the 272nd Infantry*, twelve men signed Jerry's book. These were Jerry's brothers in his Company K Rifle Squad. Col. Walter D. Buie, Regimental Commander of the 272nd "...had the uncanny wisdom to publish "The History Of The 272 Infantry," a hardback, 176-page book, and give a copy to all his men" in June 1945 in Germany before they were reassigned. The men who signed Jerry's copy of the *History* were:

1. Platoon Leader [T/Sgt.] Lloyd H. Mangus
2. Squad Leader [Sgt.] Robert D. Griffith
3. Squad Leader [Sgt.] Wilfred Q. Cole, Jr.
4. [Pfc.] Frederick R. Vater
5. [Pfc.] Fred E. Lott, Jr.

6. [Pfc.] Rawford E. MacIntosh
7. [Pfc.] Raymond C. Eckman
8. [Pvt.] Paul R. Cashman
9. [Pvt.] Charles E. Lintz, Jr.
10. [Pvt.] Robert O. Coy
11. [?] Rudolph Z. Nelson
12. [?] Frank Heusser
13. [Pfc.] Gerald L. Hoovler (for the record)

The following addresses were written next to the names:

Lloyd H. Mangus, LaPorte, Indiana
Robert D. Griffith, Manchester, RD#1, Manchester, Penna
Wilfred Q. Cole, Jr., 375 Ridgeway St., Jackson, Mississippi
Frederick R. Vater, 2463 Craftmont St., Crafton, Penna.
Fred E. Lott, Jr., 1290 Vestal Ave., Binghamton, New York
Rawford E. MacIntosh, Greenfield, Mass
Raymond C. Eckman, Bridgeport, Penna.
Paul R. Cashman, 51 Hine Street, West Haven, Conn
Charles E. Lintz, Jr., RFD#1, Phoenix, Maryland
Robert O. Coy, Ardonia, New York
Rudolph Z. Nelson, Paynesville, Minnesota
Frank Heusser, 625 Walnut St. Camden, New Jersey
[Gerald (Jerry) L. Hoovler, 95 Elizabeth Street, Delaware, Ohio]

A special thank you to Joseph Lipsius, formerly Major, AUS, Infantry, and the webmaster of www.69th-infantry-division.com for his assistance in sourcing some of the material used in this tribute.

Primary Sources

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Pfc. Gerald (Jerry) L. Hoovler - 1925-2007

United States Army 69th Infantry Division ("The Fighting 69th"), 272nd Infantry Regiment ("The Battle Axe Regiment"), Company K (Rifle)

Dedication

Dedicated to Jerry's wife, Dorothy, Jerry's brothers in arms, family, friends, and especially his grandchildren, so that they, their children, and their children's children will remember always that...

FREEDOM is never free

*"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."
(Edmund Burke, British Statesman and Philosopher, 1729-1797)*

Many good men and women sacrificed unselfishly in World War II and its Cold War aftermath to triumph over evil, and the insidious influence that evil can wreak over societies that might otherwise live peaceably (like the Germans, the Italians, the Japanese, and the Soviets). May their memories be eternal.

Godspeed to the men of The Fighting 69th.
Rest in peace Gerald (Jerry) Hoovler. We love you.



[2 comments](#)





Source: Fletcher, E. Cline. *History of the 272 Infantry, 1st. Germany: 272nd Battle Axe Regiment, 1945.* Pages 162-163.
<http://www.69th-infantry-division.com/>.

K COMPANY

Officers

Capt. WILLIAM J. ALLEN
 1 Lt. RAY D. COX
 1 Lt. ARTIS W. READ
 1 Lt. JAMES P. VAN SCHOICK

COMPANY COMMANDER
 EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 WPNS PLAT LDR.
 PLAT LDR.

2 Lt. STANLEY M. KNEDLICK
 2 Lt. ROMAN M. DRAUSZEWSKI
 2 Lt. JACK W. SالدINGER

PLAT LDR.
 PLAT LDR.
 PLAT LDR.

Enlisted Men

1/Sgt. Kenneth W. Holland
 T/Sgt. Robert C. Farley
 T/Sgt. Frank Livers
 T/Sgt. Lloyd H. Mangus
 T/Sgt. William G. Peklinsky
 T/Sgt. Robert L. Van Horn
 S/Sgt. William E. Biggs
 S/Sgt. Dwight R. Davis
 S/Sgt. George E. Glead
 S/Sgt. Joseph J. Krakowski
 S/Sgt. John P. Massa
 S/Sgt. Charles A. Nesselrodt
 S/Sgt. Clarence E. Nussbaum
 S/Sgt. Walter M. Ogborn
 S/Sgt. Wendell C. Phillips
 S/Sgt. Donald A. Ruppert
 S/Sgt. Robert J. Skolsky
 S/Sgt. Emmons E. Smith
 S/Sgt. Tommie J. Smith
 S/Sgt. Harold W. Stafford
 S/Sgt. John E. Swope
 S/Sgt. Jake Unruh
 S/Sgt. Grover C. Weed
 Sgt. Ralph C. Angeli
 Sgt. John W. Branham
 Sgt. Wilfred Q. Cole, Jr.
 Sgt. Louis T. Dapra
 Sgt. Victor A. DeFiore
 Sgt. Daniel B. Dunning
 Sgt. William B. Hairston, Jr.
 Sgt. Daniel J. Hobart
 Sgt. William M. Hoffmaster
 Sgt. John H. Johnson
 Sgt. Fritjof Jonassen
 Sgt. Harold G. Kriebel
 Sgt. Samuel Singer
 Sgt. Robert O. Watson
 Sgt. David R. Winn
 Tec. 4 Willis O. Estes, Jr.
 Tec. 4 Amos E. Hudson
 Cpl. John W. Guy
 Cpl. Elroy C. Kleinhammer
 Cpl. Clifford H. Schwleter
 Tec. 5 Elladage Bates
 Tec. 5 Ivan C. Bys

Tec. 5 Harold S. Clarke
 Tec. 5 Rufus F. Dunn
 Tec. 5 William H. Heessel
 Pfc. Anthony J. Andose
 Pfc. Robert E. Bartholomew
 Pfc. Frank C. Baen
 Pfc. Lawson S. Blankenship
 Pfc. John D. Brewster, Jr.
 Pfc. Howard H. Burdette
 Pfc. Edward R. Cain
 Pfc. David B. Cartner, Jr.
 Pfc. Matteo A. Casola
 Pfc. Frederick J. Christensen
 Pfc. Roland R. Cooper
 Pfc. Harry J. Compagno
 Pfc. Ralph B. Creamer
 Pfc. William R. Drugg
 Pfc. Edward J. Cullinane
 Pfc. William E. Duran
 Pfc. Raymond C. Eckman
 Pfc. Robert W. Faulkner
 Pfc. William M. Feltt
 Pfc. Robert R. Fisher
 Pfc. Ralph E. Fine, Jr.
 Pfc. George H. Francis
 Pfc. Harold O. Franke
 Pfc. William D. Fulcher, Jr.
 Pfc. Edward Gottfried
 Pfc. Robert W. Goodwin
 Pfc. Benjamin R. Griffith
 Pfc. William E. Hagquist
 Pfc. Billy L. Harbert
 Pfc. Herbert P. Helton
 Pfc. William H. Hicks
 Pfc. Gerald L. Hoovler
 Pfc. George F. Hunter
 Pfc. Harold F. Hutchison
 Pfc. Carl A. Johnson
 Pfc. Francis P. D. Kaiser
 Pfc. David P. Kench
 Pfc. Clifford L. Kiehl
 Pfc. Gordon L. Lambuth
 Pfc. Edward H. Lapin
 Pfc. Edward F. Larson, Jr.
 Pfc. John L. Lasnier

Pfc. Ted M. Lilley
 Pfc. Fred E. Lott, Jr.
 Pfc. Rawford E. MacIntosh
 Pfc. Albert L. Lynam
 Pfc. Gene A. Manini
 Pfc. John E. Manning
 Pfc. Leo J. Manning
 Pfc. Gabriel M. Mastres
 Pfc. Harold C. Mason
 Pfc. Alfred J. McElroy
 Pfc. Paul E. McLean
 Pfc. Robert W. McNeil
 Pfc. James Medeiros
 Pfc. Frederick J. Melady
 Pfc. Joseph P. Miceli
 Pfc. Vincent R. Mitchell
 Pfc. Bennie C. Mize
 Pfc. George R. Mondey
 Pfc. David A. Murray
 Pfc. Nicholas G. Pattakos
 Pfc. Paul E. Patterson
 Pfc. Herbert Pakofsky
 Pfc. Edwin T. Siegrist, Jr.
 Pfc. Leonard J. Puylara
 Pfc. Alvin D. Rabold, Jr.
 Pfc. Glenn S. Rapier
 Pfc. Robert D. Rayborn
 Pfc. Andy H. Reagan
 Pfc. Robert E. Rideout
 Pfc. Irving Rosenthal
 Pfc. Tomas E. Romero
 Pfc. Francis N. Saran
 Pfc. Faris J. Sawala
 Pfc. Leonard J. Scardino
 Pfc. Charles W. Schellman
 Pfc. Lamar R. Shelby
 Pfc. James H. Sizemore
 Pfc. Edwin T. Siegrist, Jr.
 Pfc. Edward L. Smaldone
 Pfc. John A. Smalley
 Pfc. Clair A. Smith
 Pfc. Ralph E. Smith
 Pfc. Robert W. Smith
 Pfc. Daniel J. Soboski
 Pfc. Howard R. Stahlman

Pfc. Cecil Sweeney
 Pfc. A. J. Tanner
 Pfc. Frank A. Taraburelli
 Pfc. James D. Tarkington
 Pfc. Earl W. Tracy, Jr.
 Pfc. Joseph A. Tukis
 Pfc. Frederick J. Vater
 Pfc. Charles B. Van Meter
 Pfc. James C. Warren
 Pfc. William H. Weberbach
 Pfc. Charles E. Woods [Sr.]
 Pfc. Harold R. Zeiger
 Pfc. Robert E. Aaron
 Pfc. Jose Borges
 Pfc. Paul R. Cashman
 Pfc. William Carpenter
 Pfc. Richard J. Clark
 Pfc. Robert O. Coy
 Pfc. Eugene S. Davis
 Pfc. William E. Dougherty
 Pfc. Nathaniel W. Duncan
 Pfc. Rolland E. Duncan
 Pfc. Royal Eiler
 Pfc. Jerry R. Fazzari
 Pfc. Joseph P. Godwin
 Pfc. Walter N. Goetz
 Pfc. Raymond F. Greenwood
 Pfc. Carl A. Hirt
 Pfc. Huron R. Hoopes
 Pfc. John E. King
 Pfc. Robert E. Krock
 Pfc. Henry J. Lappanau
 Pfc. Charles E. Lintz, Jr.
 Pfc. Robert F. Maloney
 Pfc. Anthony Mambro
 Pfc. Joseph Martin
 Pfc. Max E. McNeece
 Pfc. Ralph S. Oves
 Pfc. Richard D. Raber
 Pfc. Ralph Rainone
 Pfc. Warren L. Ritter, Jr.
 Pfc. Elisee J. Robichaud
 Pfc. John J. Smreczak
 Pfc. Cyril G. Snell

Former Members Officers

Enlisted Men Sgt. Robert D. Griffith
 Tec. 4 Allan L. Murnane
 Tec. 5 Claude B. Wright
 Pfc. Anthony E. Lowell
 Pfc. John L. Beck

1 Lt. JAMES C. NICHOLSON
 2 Lt. ROBERT O. S. ENTZMINGER
 Pfc. R. B. Cox
 Pfc. George H. Francis
 Pfc. William R. Herniman
 Pfc. Merrill H. Meitzler

Pfc. John J. O'Neill
 Pfc. Mitchell W. Turner
 Pfc. Vernon J. Berninger
 Pfc. William D. S. Bellamy

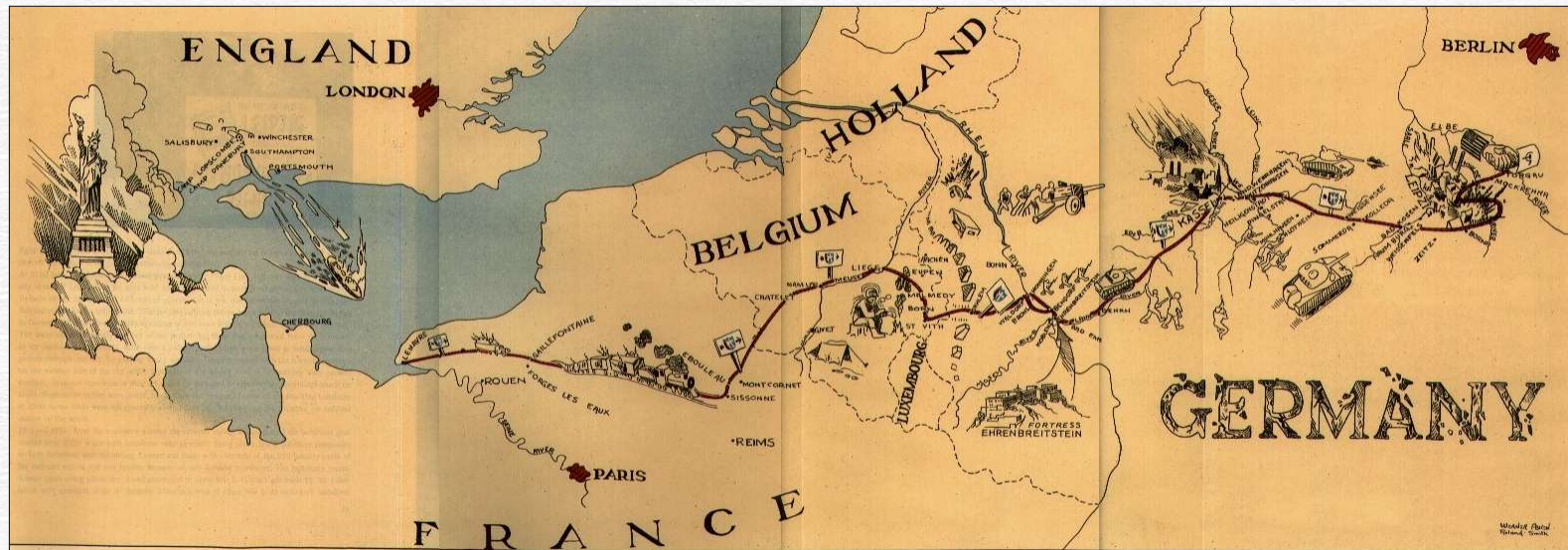
Pvt. John R. Formica
 Pvt. Mitchell Green
 Pvt. Paul R. McDermott
 Pvt. Thomas E. McEnaney

Attached Unassigned

Pfc. Alfonza Murphy
 Pfc. Eugene Woods

Pvt. Andrew Forney
 Pvt. John L. Young

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La Porte, Indiana
Raymond Ekman
Bridgeport, Penn.

Paul Cashman
51 Mine street.
West Haven Conn

Frank Hussar
625 Walnut St.

Camden New Jersey

Bois L'Empire
Manchester,
R.D.#1. Penna

Charles C. Lutz Jr.
Phoenix Maryland
R.D.#1

Robert Cope
Ardenwood
New York

Fred R. Vater
2463 Craftmont St.
Crafton, Penna.

Wilfred Cole
375 Ridgeway St.
Jackson, Mississippi