



THE ABOVE PHOTOGRAPH IS ANOTHER IN A SERIES PROMISED YOU TO INFORM YOU ON ACTIVITIES OF THE "RETURN TO THE ELBE TOUR" - - THE PICTURE WAS SENT BY FRANK FARMER, WINCHESTER WHO IS A FRIEND OF LOAR QUICKLE...THE PILE OF EARTH IN BACKGROUND SHOWS EXCAVATION WHERE THEY DISCOVERED THE REMAINS OF AN OLD CHURCH THAT WAS THERE BEFORE THE CATHEDRAL. CATHEDRAL IS MORE THAN 1000 YEARS OLD..... SOL ROSENBLITT & LOAR ABOUT TO LAY WREATH.

*BELOW IS A COPY OF AN ARTICLE THAT APPEARED IN THE "SOUTHERN EVENING ECHO", SOUTHAMPTON, ENGLAND

FIGHTING 69th CAME BACK, WITH CAMERAS

"Echo" Staff Reporter

THE Fighting 69th, one of America's famous World War II combat units and the first Allied troops to link up with the Russians near Torgau on the Elbe River in April, 1945, in the closing stages of the war, were back in Winchester yesterday.

Nearly 100 veterans of the 69th, a unit raised during the American Civil War, were in the city to revisit places they knew 21 years ago when the division was temporarily quartered in and around the city with headquarters at West Downs School.

In casual tourist rig, armed not with rifles but cameras with which to "capture" the peaceful English scene, the Americans, some with

their wives, had lunch in the city before attending a wreath laying ceremony at the Cathedral cenotaph.

Guests of the Americans at lunch were the Mayor and Mayoress of Winchester, Alderman and Mrs. C. H. Bones, to whom officials of the 69th veterans association expressed the thanks of the division for the fine hospitality shown

to American servicemen by the citizens of Winchester in 1944.

24-day tour

The 69th veterans, on a 24-day tour from Winchester to the Elbe, are to revisit some of their old battle grounds and lay wreaths in the cemeteries where the dead of the division are buried.

At Torgau, where the 69th linked-up with the Russian 58th Guard Division, a ceremony is to be held honouring all the war dead of World War II.

Mr. Loar L. Quickle, president of the 69th veterans association, told me after the wreath laying that the 18,000 strong division suffered about 40 per cent casualties during the war.

Among the party was Col. Edward J. Leary, from Trenton, New Jersey, who was a staff officer and stationed at the divisional HQ at West Downs School.

One of the first things he did on reaching Winchester was to learn the "Lambeth Walk."

Arriving at West Downs he was told of a dance for American officers being given that night by a local tennis club. He went along and enjoyed himself so much that he did not get to bed until 5 o'clock the following morning. Among the dances was the Lambeth Walk.

GIVE US YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

ESTHER MUSE, wife of JOE MUSE of VINTON, VA. which is near Roanoke, writes: "Since Joe and I met with you and other 69'ers in Roanoke last fall I have been ill, however, I am on the mend now. We are looking forward to the Reunion in Aug. Joe has contacted several of the fellows from his Co. and has sent in their names and addresses to be added to the roster.

The weather here is just lovely and the Spring flowers are just a beautiful array of color. I love Spring and Summer the best of the seasons. I am sure all the guests will enjoy this part of the country when they attend the reunion here and I am sure they will enjoy the hospitality of our neck of the woods too."

BY WAY OF EXPLANATION.....

SCHOLARSHIP ARMY

Your Scholarship Committee has been at work this year attempting to do something about raising more money to aid our sons and daughters that apply for the scholarship award each year. Before last year it was an easy task, however, more and more want aid each year and it will continue to grow. In order that we may perpetuate our fund, we have decided to try for a TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR GOAL IN THE NEXT THREE YRS.

We realize that all of you 69'ers could care less about whether you win a commission or not. You can contribute in any way you want to. We will leave your name off published reports or print it any way you want. Just let us know your desires.

GENERAL REINHARDT

Gen. Reinhardt upon being sent a copy of the return sheet before it was sent out stated he thought it was a good idea to stimulate givers to open up. HE BACKED UP HIS REMARKS WHEN HE RECEIVED AN ADVANCE COPY OF THE LAST BULLETIN BY PROMPTLY MAILING HARRY AUSTIN 'O N E H U N D R E D D O L L A R S!

IT IS THE LITTLE BIT YOU CONTRIBUTE THAT WILL MAKE OUR FUND GROW AND GROW!

Loar Quickle and Geo. Phillips conceived an idea of selling shares on a TV set to be given at reunion. They sent out 160 books of tickets (10 each) and have received more than 200. dollars back. Leo McGillen urged this on too.

O N T H E R E U N I O N

Loar Quickle will be in Roanoke on Aug. 18th (Thurs) and will try to get a group of early birds together for an early bird dinner. If you are interested, get in touch with Loar. In Washington 32 persons accepted this idea and they all had a ball together. We intend to have registration beginning Friday morning at 10 A.M. and lasting all day and will have someone on duty all day on Saturday. Retister as soon as you get in on Fri. We have to know how many will be with us for the banquet. This is very important to us and the hotel.

SEND IN YOUR RESERVATION TO US TODAY...USE YELLOW FORM THAT WENT OUT IN BULLETIN PREVIOUSLY.

SEND IN YOUR RESERVATION TO HOTEL AND USE THE FORM SENT OUT BY HOTEL

The board of directors will meet at 4:00 P.M. Friday and we are hoping for a good turn out. Other members can come but will not be allowed voting privileges.

A REAL HIGH LIGHT OF OUR REUNION IS ALWAYS THE BEER PARTY....THIS GOES WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FEE. DRINK ALL YOU WANT. (Friday Night)

We hope to have a projector set up for showing more slides of the "Return to the Elbe Tour"..... During the day and evening. We are planning on having our dear buddie Murray Zyne lead us in some songs too..... (Friday night)

THERE IS TO BE A TEEN-AGER PARTY AND DANCING FRIDAY NIGHT....SO.....COME ON YOU GALS AND Fellows, GET ON YOUR DANCING SHOES AND JOIN THE 69'ers....

General Membership meeting on Sat. morn.

Auxiallary Meeting on Sat. morn.

Children's Party on Saturday.....

A possible tour for children and grown ups...

ALL VIRGINIANS AND NEARBY STATE VETS TO MEET ON SAT. AFTERNOON TO FORM A VA. BRANCH OF THE "FIGHTING 69TH"

SPECIAL! ALL VETS BRING A PEECE OF OLD G.I. CLOTHING TO WEAR. BOB SILBERG WILL ENTERTAIN AND PUT ON A PARADE AT THE POOL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MEMORIAL CEREMONY IN FRONT OF HOTEL. 1 PM Sat.

Join the "Fighting 69th" Scholarship Army

Change of Address

PLEASE!!! Our roster chairman, Clarence Marshall, sometimes becomes very much frustrated in trying to keep in contact with 69ers who move. Would you please relieve this frustration by completing the following before you change addresses and forward to: Mr. Clarence Marshall, 345 Sixth Avenue, New Kensington, Pa. 15068. Thank you.

Name _____ Address(old) _____

New Address _____ As of date _____

Your President wishes to make the following report:

In order to facilitate the payment of our \$3.00 yearly dues, your President petitioned the Treasury Department for the issuance of a \$3.00 bill. I'm sad to report that this petition received a very cool reception. However, the Treasury Department did try to be helpful and recommended that since it already prints \$2.00 bills that we should reduce our dues to this figure. After much thought, this was rejected on the grounds that these bills are usually found at or near a race track. Since most of our members are not of the horsey set they would not, therefore, have access to this supply. After further thought and consideration, we have arrived at this simple solution involving some basic arithmetic. Since \$3.00 dues and a \$2.00 contribution to our Student Aid Fund totals \$5.00, there is no problem. I have been informed that the present supply of \$5.00 bills is adequate to meet our needs. Why not send one to: William Matlach, Treasurer, 19 Barberry Road, West Islip, New York.

ANOTHER COMPANY JOINS THE RANKS OF SWELLING MEMBERS

HERBERT CALLAWAY, Commanding Officer of F-272 sent Loar Quickle a roster of his company while it was in combat giving all the men's addresses and emergency addresses. Here are some of the results of checking them out:

MARTIN A FORREST, (changed name from ADLER) was in weapons platoon and now lives 204 Pleasant St., Newton Centre, Mass. 02159. Wife: Ruth and children: Susan Hope, Lisa Ann, Steven Andrew & Robt. Scott. He is glad to hear from old gang after these many years and hops they can re-establish contact. Re-member Capt. Calloway with pleasure. Am now in trade of producing travelogues.

HARDING McFADDEN, 410 S. 19th Ave., Humboldt, Tenn. Wife: Pearline; children Russell, 18 & Alan Ray, 11. Father is dead and mother is living with him. He married Aug. '46. Russell is in AF. He desires to have more information as he has wondered what happened to his buddies.

ROBT. P. PAXTON, 858 W. Franklin St., Shelbyville, Ind. 46176. Wife: Catherine Children: Barbara Jean, 7, Christine, 13 & Wendy Kay, 5. Works for Allison's as an outside truck driver for 15 yrs.

FRANCIS EDMUND FOURNIER, 82 Federal St., Salem, Mass. Wife: Eva; Children, Betty

Ann, Francis Edmund, Jr., James Frederick. Sent no comments.

LESLIE P. McGOVERN, 12 Shields St., Malone, N.Y. 12953. Wife: Lorraine; Children: Kevin P. Has been employed as a rural mail carrier, out of Malone P.O. Would be very much interested in hearing from Calloway and other F C Men

KENNETH J. HOHE, JR., 7203 Sapphire, Jennings, Mo. 63136. Wife, Beatrice; Children: Donna 16, Kenneth, 15, Mary 14, Linda 13, and David 9... Ken is a bus operator for the Bi-State and is a small building contractor.

MELVIN E. WARDIN, 866 N. Hemlock, Hemlock, Mich. 48626. Wife: Louise; Children: Patricia, Susan and David. He too is a rural mail carrier. 20 yr member of VFW and a past commander. His wife is also a past president of same and a 20 yr member.

JOHN A. McCORKLE, WIFE: Beth, Children: Nan, Steve. He too did not make any comments. (Keeler Lane, N. Salem, N. Y.)

OUR HATS ARE OFF TO VIRGINIA COMMITTEE

MORE ON F-272 LOST VETS

Mrs. Harvey Lenner sister of ROGER HALLERMAN, sent along a clipping re: an auto accident Roger had in 1952. He was still in the army when this accident happened. He had re-enlisted in the army in 1949 and went to Korea for 9 months. He had spent 33 months in the Pacific in WW II and 9 months with the 69th in Europe. Roger was 33 yrs. old when the accident took place. He died as a result of a skull fracture.

EARL F. BACHER, 28 Ward St., Little Falls, N. Y. 13365. Wife: Mary and son Michael.... No other comment.

HAROLD RAY NUNN, 7309 Summitt Ave., Pleasure Ridge Park, Ky 40258. Wife: Isabell & Children: Barbara 20, Morris 18, Patricia 10, David 6 and Mark 5. Is employed on a construction line about 14 miles from Louisville, Ky. Barbara is in college Nashville, Tenn. Morris is working now but is waiting to be called in service in army.

JOHN A. STANHOPE (Jack), Main Road, Carmel, Maine. Wife: Elizabeth and children: John, Jim, Jeff, Jay, Joel Susan, Elaine, Barbara and Rose Mary. Works for NYC Railroad between Bangor and Vanceboro. Sure looks like another fine family. His box number is #28.

JOHN G. RUHL, 6 Lombard Court, Davenport, Iowa 52801. Wife: Donna and children Marie Terese (Terri). After discharge attended and graduated from University of Iowa, eventually married 1952. Has been with Ruhl & Ruhl, a Davenport Ins. & Real Estate Co. He said I will be in Roanoke. (he is right as we have his reservation now.

JAMES L. LAWRENCE, RD #3, Rocky Mount Virginia. Wife: Alice and children: James Allen, Deborah Anne. Jimmy is 11 and Debbie 6. Jim is a foreman at the E. I Du Pont Co. Martinsville, Va. Has been there for past 18 yrs. Will see you in Roanoke, Jim....

J. EDWARD PLUME, 115 Poinsettia, Lake Jackson, Texas. Wife: Marjorie and children: Mary Ann, Dan, Caranelle and Deborah Ruth. If all the F-272 men bring their children....LOOK OUT!!!!

F-272 CONTINUED:

WYMAN H. REED, 11362 W. Dodge Rd., Montrose, Mich. Wife: Gladys and children: Patricia, David, Diane, Bill, Donna and Sharon. Donna, Pat and Diana are married and there are 6 grandchildren. He works at Ternstedt, Flint in the skilled trade.

JOHN WM. O'DONNELL, 607 N. Keller St., Winamac, Ind. 46996. Wife: Patricia Ann; Children: Judith 20, James R. 19, John W., Jr. 22, Geo. Patrick 16 and Susan Kay 13. John Jr. married and is a bookkeeper. Judy is married and now living in St. Petersburg as Mrs. Victor Heater. Jim is with Army at Ft. Hood, Tex. Others in school. John is working as salesman for International Harvester, Kewanna, Ind.

NOW, YOU CAN SEE FROM THE LONG LIST OF ALL THESE MEN FROM F-272 WHAT LYNN JOHNSON FROM BLUEFIELD, W. VA. AND Herbert Callaway have stirred up. We have about 5 of them coming to the reunion and before you know it another five will sign up. Want to bet? You fellows have done a fine job and I do hope you keep it up until you have exhausted all ways of finding the rest.

OF BRUCE YOUNG:

Bruce Young of the 879th FA has been coming to reunions from the beginning and he has been a member of the board for many years too. Every year he tries to get others from his area to make it. He has written letters to all the men in his area to get them on the band-wagon in attending. Thanks Bruce!

LOOKS LIKE A TURNOUT FOR

661st. T.D. Bn.....

GEO. STRALEY, 209 Prospect Dr., Wilmington, Del. 661st TD has been working along with a couple of others and are trying to get a turnout in Roanoke this year. It looks good for their efforts. Ralph Bragg requested all the 661 names and addresses and he too is working on them. Come on fellows you are no different from me or others I am 271 Regt. others some other outfit, but we were all a part of that Fighting 69th.....HEY BURR, HOW ABOUT YOU SHOWING UP IN ROANOKE THIS YEAR. RENEW ACQUAINTANCES WITH THE ELBE T.O.

NEWS OF NEWLY FOUND MEMBERS

WHO SAID THERE WERE NO FIELD ARTILLERY NEWS.....LOOK AT THIS- - -

As a result of NICK URBANO, C Bat 879 locating his old roster and the checking out of same the following persons have been located. Nick has promised to be in Roanoke this year. I believe he is getting a real bang from all of it all because he is receiving letters from many of them.

ANTHONY F. PASSIO, 801 McClellan St., Phila., Pa. 19148. Wife: Gwen; children Anthony, Jr. 19 and Gwen 13. No comment

HARRY M. CAROZZO, Lancaster Pike, Avondale, Penna. 19311. Wife: Mary Margaret Harry came back to raising mushrooms and it keeps him busy now that they grow them in the summer too. Harry wants some information. He says that he contacted 7 boys in his co. and they don't seem to know him as Harry. But do remember him as Bill or "Wild Bill. He does not remember. Will one of you fellows tell him.

ANGELO De GENNARO, 705 Highland Ave., Cannonsburg, Pa. 15317. Wife: Rosann; Richard 28 who has two children. Has been employed at Pa. Transformer 19 years. Wants reunion to be held in Pittsburgh. Wants any of his buddies to stop and see him if ever near.

ROBT. S. AYLESWORTH, 182 S. Greely Ave. Chappaqua, N.Y. Wife: Freda; children; Robt. Jr. Linda, John, Patricia & Joan. Robt. Sr., is an attorney.

FRED L. CRANE, 315 Clay St., Cedar Falls Iowa 50613. Wife: Virginia; Children: Janet, Michael, Timothy, James, Bruce Paul, Tom and Dick. Has been employed by the U.S. Post Office in Cedar Falls since Jan. '47. He says, "I was very happy to receive the letter and hear about Nick. I'm always glad to hear about the 69th." His wife had a brain hemorrhage and almost was lost. She is partially paralyzed and needs constant attendance by someone. Has deep love for his wife and considers himself very lucky. Wants to hear from former buddies and wants to be remembered at reunion. I quote: "I won't be in Roanoke in person but I'll be there in spirit." FRED, WHAT A WONDERFUL FAMILY AND YOU ARE WISHED EVERY HAPPINESS GOD GIVES.

WILLIAM H. HARR, 931 Hooven Ave., Hamilton, O. 45215. Wife: Mary; Children: Thomas, Elizabeth, William, Jr. & Edith. Is employed at Procter & Gamble since '40. Used to be a member, has not heard anything from assoc. for 18 yrs and has wondered what happened to men in Charley Bat. He & Virginia will make every effort to be at reunion.

DONALD MASTERANA, 1403 Dunkeith Dr., NW, Canton, O. Wife: Anne, and daughter, Barbara 17. Works at Republic Steel. Has been traveling a lot lately. Has looked up old buddies, John Fattresso, Ralph La Greco, Camden, N. J. and Bob Aylesworth, N.Y. Also Chuck Frieburg, Fresno Cal., Joel Akel, Brooklyn and Eldon Nussbaum, Dalton, O. Don, if you have their correct addresses, send them in to us so we can add them to roster.

BOYD M. SEARS, Box 593, Gloucester, Va. Wife: Doris; Children: Marcia, 12, Mike 9 & Karen 4. Capt. in Civil Service Fire Dept. with 17 yrs servie. Employed U.S. Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, Va.

JOHNNY WARD HENLEY, Rt. #1, Box 7, Hiwassee, Va. 24347. Wife: Dorothy; Children, Davis, Wayne, Gayle, Aubrey, Janet Danny and Doris. Works at carpentry & has worked at Lynchburg Foundry, Radford, Va. as an overhead crane Opr. Is member Methodist Church in Allisonia. Children range in age 14 thru 2.

HERMAN BART NASH, RD #3, Statesville, NC Box 266...28677. Wife: Catherine; Children: Joe Allen, 32 and Shelby Jean, 26. Has been Farming and Landscaping.

JAMES ALVA MIRACLE, Tinsley, Ky. 40993. Wife: Dollie; Children: Frandlynn 19, Michael, 6. Was in service until '49. Is presently heavy equipment mechanic and electrician and welder

Virgil Newman, Mt. Victory, Ky. 42543. Wife: Wilma, Larry Gene, son, Deceased. Rhonda Fay 10, and Donald 6. He operates a Coal washer for Cumberland River Coal Co at Mt. Victory, Ky.

ODELL W. ZIMMERMAN, 2349 Moir St., N.E. Roanoke, Va. Wife: Lois. Employed by Burlington, Industries, Vinton, Va. since the war. Odell, you should have no problem of attending reunion. Joe Muse a 69'er lives in Vinton.

C-879 & F-272 TO SHOW UP IN FORCE

MORE ON "C" BATTERY, 879.....

ELDON J. NUSSBUAM (Noose), East Main St Dalton, O. 44618. Wife: Mary; children: Judy 18, Bruce 16 and David 11. Is a tool and Die maker, has been foreman for 9 years. Would be happy to hear from any of the old gang. Would also like the latest addresses of all the fellows.

Mrs. Mary Lois Keeler, writes that her husband JOHN V. KEELER is deceased. They have 9 children: Mike 23, Jeff 21, Sue 19, John 17, Tom 12, Patty 11, Steve 9 Amy 5 and Joan 4...She says: "John died Jan. 9, 1962 in Minneapolis. He had been working for General Mills since his service days. He died of cerebral hemorrhage on his way from home from work. His oldest son just returned from Viet Nam Jan. '66. He served with the 101st Paratroops John was a wonderful husband and father and I hope my children will justify his memory. Best wishes on a happy reunion to all of you. Sincerely." Mrs. Keeler, we all wish you the best of luck in the world. It sounds like you have one wonderful family.

LAURENCE J. HARDEBECK, 202 N. Park Ave. Batesville, Ind. 47006. Wife: Clara; Children Teddy 19, Paul 18, Marilyn 16 and Mark 13. He is a General Contractor in mill work and carpentry. He says he was very happy to learn of the 69th reunion and news of Nick Urbano etc. He sent along the names and addresses of Sam Godfrey, John Mortillaro, Rocco Motto and Walter Ross.

WALTER WARREN ROSS, Box 682, Lake City, Pa. 16423. Has been managing baseball for Legion and is a Scoutmaster for Troop 144 Lake City, Pa. Is also a Deputy Sheriff of Erie Co. Says he is more than glad to hear from the old gang. Was especially happy to hear about his buddie Nick. He used to drive a Semi Truck and Trailer and has eaten many times in Freddie's Tavern. He was recalled in Korean War and spent 23½ mos. there, came out a M/Sgt, retd. He is tremendously active in youth movements in his area. He gave up a police chief's job to take over in scouting. Is leading a group July 9th to New Mex.66 boys in all.

NICK URBANO TAKE NOTE!
SEE WHAT YOUR ROSTER BROUGHT TO US?

MORE ON F-272 REVIVAL

MICHAEL SANTOS, 711 S. DEWEY, OKLA. CITY OKLA. Wife: Mary Ann and daughter Margaret. Has been a chef since leaving the army. Both wife and daughter are waitresses.

EDWARD K. WADE, Box 202, Russell Springs, Ky. 42642. Wife: Elaine and Children: Terry Russell 16, Teddy Lou 10, Rober Alan 18 in college, and Billy Don. They live on 70 acre farm in So. Central Ky. 8 miles from beautiful Cumberland Lake. All boys are stout and healthy food choppers, work on farm when not in school. Ed has worked the past 11 yrs for Ky. dept. of hwy. with engineering dept. His wife, of course with this family you can guess her job. He would love to hear from men in his co. especially 3rd squad, 3rd Plt.

FLOYD GILMER, passed away Aug. 5, 1964, according to his mother Mabel M. Kropf. He has one daughter living in Calif. Her name is Lyn.

ROY ALFRED HUELSEBUSCH, 966 S. Madison, La Grange, TEX. 78945. Wife: Jeanette; Nancy 10 and Don 4½ are the children.

CHARLES E. GAUT, 1020 Cedar St., Knoxville, Tenn. Wife: Lois, Children: Dennis, Randy, Anglia, Deanna and Edward, Jr.....Charley would like to know where to get a history of the 69th. On our tour of Europe last year, Gen. Kennedy advised me of one of our former presidents that had a mess of books that were not bound with covers. We are out of them now and I don't remember the name of the former president. Will he write me if any are still available????PLEASE. Perhaps we can get them covered and get some money for the scholarship fund.

ARTHUR E. ELBERT, 5714 Marmion Line, Cincinnati, O. 45212. Wife: Phyllis and Jennifer 9 and Amy 11. Employed as an accountant with a Chemical Co.

RICHARD G. PAHRMAN, Rt. #1, Box 770B, Sonoma, Calif. 95370. Wife: Dorothea and Richard 17, Robert 13, and Charlotte, 11. Resigned from service in '53 and is a partner in a wholesale consignee for the Union Oil Co. of Calif.

MORE THAN 350 SIGNED UP TO ATTEND

WE WILL NOT TAKE THE TIME TO GIVE YOU A BIG TALK ON ATTENDING THE REUNION THIS YEAR BUT WILL GIVE YOU THE ADDITIONAL NAMES OF RESERVATIONS IN A FOLLOW-UP OF THOSE THAT APPEARED IN THE LAST TWO BULLETINS. IN ADDITION I SHOULD LIKE TO QUOTE WHAT GENERAL REINHARDT WROTE IN A GENERAL LETTER WRITTEN TO LITERALLY THOUSANDS OF OUR VETERANS THAT SERVED WITH US FROM ACTIVATION IN CAMP SHELBY BY GEN. CHARLES BOLTE UNTIL THE DE-ACTIVATED IN CAMP KILMER, N. J. SEPT. '45.

I quote: "Generally, the purpose of the Association will be to keep alive the spirit and tradition of our great division, distribute news bulletins, hold reunions, memorialize our heroic war dead, help former buddies in distress, help you keep in touch with your close buddies, sponsor state or regional chapters of 69th Div. Veterans, gather all possible information concerning fallen buddies for their nearest of kin and to promote a national awareness of the need for Adequate National Defense. This Assoc. will be a NON-PROFIT AND NON-POLITICAL organization."

Gen. Reinhardt envisioned all this when he proposed to organize a 69th Assoc., and would you believe it, his desires and advice has been followed all these years. From that statement have followed thousands of letters, hundreds of meetings and hundreds of bulletins, thousands of Christmas cards, thousands of visits and many more things not to mention them all.....

WONDERFUL NEWS FROM A LOVELY LADY

I quote: "Sorry to be so long in letting you know how much we appreciate your long distance call, inquiring about our accident last year enroute to reunion.

Our son (25 yrs old) who took the call was as pleased as we were and had made notes of your conversation so could tell us all you said.

I have recently made (I hope) the last trip to the hospital for plastic surgery on my facial scars. There is still some question as to whether I'll need more brain surgery. Dr. fears another

-more on this next column:

"HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES, MEMBER?"

THOSE HAVING SIGNED UP SINCE THE LAST BULLETIN APPEARED ARE:

ALPHONSE J. "AL" HAAG, D-271, CHICAGO
S. J. HELISERA, 724 FA, wife: Gladys
JACK KENNEDY, SUS MEM, Wife Theresa
and children: Denice, Dan, Bobby,
Kathy and (Big) Mike. Michigan
JOHN G. RUHL, F-272 (Davenport, Ia.)
DON MASTERANA, C-879, Canton, Ohio
NICHOLAS URBANO, C-879, TRENTON, N. J.
GEO. J. ROUP, A269, Wife: Frances
CLARENCE W. MILES, Wife: Carmella &
3 teen-age daughters...Hqs 724 FA, N.Y.
CHARLES L. MOORE, E-271, Wife: Bert



JIM BUIE AND WIFE....TALKING
CY ROCKHOLD~ ~~ Both of H271

MORE ON MRS. WORLEY

blood clot has formed, but said it was borderline and we'll let nature take its course for a few more weeks. Course, most of our friends suspected I was a borderline case! Ha! Worley knows it! No need for me to worry, because I bought (what I hope is) a sexy blonde wig after they shaved my head last fall. (I'm brunette) Really, I'm progressing nicely, but it's a long haul.

I'm enclosing our reservation slip for the reunion and God willing, we'll make it this year. Already have hotel reservation confirmed. Think we'd better wait and pay upon arrival.

Thanks again for your interest....

signed: MAE SMITH

It makes us all feel good again Mrs. Smith that everything is going to be alright. WORLEY K-271) how does it feel having a blonde in the middle of your life after all those years with a brunette???

WAKE UP K-271 COME ON DOWN AND GREET
THE SMITHS.....

LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

While we desire to print good things in our bulletin we also want to print any criticism that comes our way. We must remember that 90 percent of what we write up for our bulletin is what is said by you members on the dues notices, cards, return sheets and letters you send in to us. If there is more news of one organization than another it is because there is more interest among that particular orgn. The following letter from FRED W. JOHNSTON, G-273 will explain what I mean. But all you GUYS remember, if you don't blow your horn, no one else will do it for you.....

"To Whom it may concern: I have received a number of bulletins from you. I have never seen any news on the G (George) Co. 273 which was the best and assault co. of the Regt. Look up a little history - or - facts. you can get them from war dept. at Washington, D. C. I and my friend get a little sick about the credit the under guard are taking for the good the 69th did in the WW 2. Let the glory go to the boys who did it."

Signed: Fred W. Johnston

Ed. Note! Fred, you are the kind of member we need to attend our reunion with some of your friends. I was a member of G-271 and we all think our co. was the only one in combat. We argue about it with other companies all attending the reunions all the time. Remember, there were thousands of us and hundreds of companies, Bns, etc. with us. We all worked together to make it a cooperative effort. That is why we all think we won the war. Sincerely, I believe we all were a part of it and should all take credit. We have been trying to locate your Lt Koetzbuue for 3 yrs. but either some of you members don't cooperate with us or he has disappeared from the earth. We would like more of you to write in your thoughts. Kotzbuue was last in Madison, Wisc. Have written Curt Peterson to try and locate him. I understand he is now a Colonel. Loar - - -

GEO. H. CAPLE, C. O. of G-273 writes he is going to make every effort to be in Roanoke in August. Geo. lives in 101 Sunset Dr., Denton, Md. COME ON YOU G-273 Men show up and celebrate too. H-273 always have a good showing.....

BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTE FUNDS TO AID IN SENDING LOAR QUICKLE TO MOSCOW

LOAR QUICKLE, G-271 and our Reunion Chairman was invited to go to Russia along with 11 other veterans to visit Russian veterans for 2 weeks. This visit was arranged by the Arms of Friendship of Phila. who helped us to arrange our tour in E. Germany last yr. Each veteran has to pay his own expenses. The board felt they would like Loar to represent the 69th and in order to make it an official visit and to re-the visit of three Soviet veterans that came to Princeton in 1965 and was hosted by the 69th Div. Assoc. The cost of the trip to Loar will be a min. of 1 thousand dollars. All costs will be paid by the Soviet Veterans Comm. while the veterans are in Russia. The board voted Loar a sum of 2 hundred and 50 dollars to help defray his own costs. Some of the others making the trip are: OLIN TEAGUE, Texas congressman; JOHN BATES, interpreter for Eisenhower & Marshall Zhukov at Potsdam; SCOTT CARPENTER~ Astronaut; JACQUELINE COCHRAN, Outstanding woman pilot; LOUIS FELDMAN, doemwe head of VFW; EDDIE RICKENBACKER WW I, flying ace; and 5 others....

HUGH ARNOTT TAKES EXCEPTION

HUGH ARNOTT, pres. of the West Coast Branch of the 69th upon reading of the action of the board in voting funds to Loar Quickle wrote Harold Starry, Pres., taking exception to the action of the board. His opinion was based on the fact that we really have to shuffle to keep up our work, bulletins, mail, finding vets, scholarships etc. that we did not have these kind of funds to dole out for an individual. He was also critical of the return sheet sent out to find out how many persons were interested in going to the west coast in '67 for a reunion. His criticism was aimed at Sol Rosenblitt for aiming the R/S in what he called a biased way. - - - Ed. Comments: "Actually Hugh does not have the facts. If he had, knowing him as I do, he would have thought it a good idea. One of the things that has helped us build up or orgn. has been publicity. As an orgn., vets, we must help do our share to promote good will with Russian vets in person to person contacts. Sol had two other persons aid him on R/S.

BEHIND THAT WALL

In the last issue of our bulletin we promised to give you more of our "Return to the Elbe" Tour of Europe in subsequent issues. So here goes on another article written by one of our sustaining members, RONALD J. PEDRICK. "Pete" as he is called by his sister who is married to JIM HENRY, P-272. Jim's wife too is a lovely blonde and goes by the name of "Peaches". Like "Pete", they were along on our Tour to the Elbe. Back to "Pete".....His home address is the same as the Henry's who hail from Upland, near Chester, Penna. "Pete" is an assistant to the president of Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pa. and is director for Development at that institution. In as much as his article is really a speech prepared for a luncheon in Lewisburg, names of veterans and other members of the tour were purposely left out. Here is what he says about the "Fighting 69th" in his letter of transmittal of the speech. "Loar, I am tremendously pleased that you have seen fit to keep me on your mailing list. I would very much like to attend the Reunion this summer; and, if at all possible, I will do so. I thoroughly enjoyed my association and friendships with members of the "Fighting 69th" Inf. Div."

Pete has called me on a couple of occasions since our return and we are fortunate he went along. I am sure you will enjoy his view of what he calls, "BEHIND THAT WALL".....I will attempt to insert names and add touches to his wonderful story and do hope his wonderfully written speech will not be ruined. Here goes:

BEHIND THAT WALL

First I must make an apology. I could not induce myself to take a camera on my trip. So, I will at least spare you the boredom of any home-movies. I feel that these are deadly things to sit through, and, really I cannot see how anyone could enjoy seeing beautiful Europe from behind the shutter of a camera, asking everyone to look at the "birdie."

Too, I must speedily admit that this is not to be any kind of a white paper on the Berlin Wall. Mr. _____ has asked that I give you my impressions of the differences in life in W. Germany as compared with that in the Peoples Democratic Republic of E. Germany. I am quickly reminded of two observers who went to Russia before the turn of the century. One wrote of the terrible conditions that existed, and told that most of the peasants didn't even have shoes. The other was privileged with a former trip and was very impressed with the progress the country had made, pointing out that over half of the peasants were adequately clothed. So you see, one's impressions are dependent pretty much on one's background. I am not a historian; neither am I an accredited reporter. I did take a delightful trip through Europe, and I am pleased to tell you about some of my impressions. Please remember that these are things as I saw them. They are not the result of a study of postwar Germany, its progress, nor am I privileged to present you with a historical perspective of a previous trip.

I accompanied the Fighting 69th Inf. Div. Assoc. on its Reunion on the Elbe. It was the 20th Anniversary of what was called during the Second World War - - The Famous Linkup on the Elbe River at Torgau. This was the group of American soldiers who met their then Russian Compatriots at Torgau. The purpose of our trip was to do the same thing again. We were to take the same route this valiant group of men had traveled 20 yrs. earlier. Of course the exception this time was that the trip was for pleasure. And, it was, for the most part, at least an extremely pleasurable trip. Unfortunately, the part that was the least much fun is the topic of our discussion tonight. I must first tell you of something that happened on our first stop inside Germany. We had traveled through England, across the North Sea, over wonderful Holland, stopped in Belgium, and then into Germany. As was the custom with a small group of us, we gathered to sample a drink or two prior to joining the larger group for dinner. Regular members of this rather select group were a retired Colonel and his charming wife. (Such wonderful words for for our beloved Ed Leary's wife, Camilla.) We spent a rather miserable all day bus trip in pouring rain coming from Holland through Belgium into Germany. By the close of our travels this day all of us were looking forward to a good American drink. So Camilla, or if you prefer, the Colonel's lady, ordered, after having discovered that they did have ice, gin and vermouth, with a sigh of relief a very dry martini please. Well, she got them, eins, zwri, drel....Martini.

West Germany is alive, bustling, growing country which is enjoying, as you know, a tremendous economic growth and recovery. Its people are friendly, its scenery breathtakingly beautiful, but I must stick to the topic of East Germany.

Let me provide somewhat of a historical setting which will give us a starting point for any discussion of the two Germanys. The time is Mar. 5, 1946. Sir Winston Churchill shared a platform in Fulton, Mo. with Pres. Truman. This time the grand old man of the western democracies would, as he had so often done before, leave us a message which would not be soon forgotten. Once again he would coin a phrase which would ring true and be remembered by those who study history. He said: "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest, and Sophia. All these famous cities, and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet Sphere." And then he issued the warning "What is needed is a settlement and the longer this is delayed,

the more difficult it will be and the greater our dangers will become."

Gentlemen, there is indeed an Iron Curtain, and there is in fact a Berlin Wall.

The Berlin Wall, in its utter ugliness, is the thing which causes your first impression of the difference between East and West Germany. It is there, it is real, it is guarded, and it is much more stable than you would imagine. Any American would be repulsed by this hideous structure. It is completely foreign to our very nature. We are the people who believe so very much in freedom, especially personal freedom, that we take it altogether too much for granted. We even write popular songs about personal freedom. Do you remember "Don't Fence Me In", "Give Me Land," etc.? My first reaction to the Wall was why these people didn't do something? Why didn't they tear it down? Then, your own consciousness rapidly reminds you of the Berlin riots of 1951, when the people were bowled over by tanks and shot apart by mortars. Their only defense against such weapons were their fists, bricks, and a few bats. As you contemplate this whole question of freedom, you begin to understand what must be one of the underlying reasons for some of the ways in which these people feel.

If a man were 50 yrs. of age, I wonder if he knows much about freedom, especially personal freedom. There was a world wide depression in 1929 - this man we are talking about would have been three. Then he must have suffered through Hitler and the Second World War. Since that day, 20 yrs. ago when Winston Churchill told us about the Iron Curtain, this poor man has known nothing more than Russian occupation and the cold war. A man would have to be over 50 to know anything more than depression, war, occupation and domination. So it is no wonder that he seems to passively accept the consequences he faces.

Back to the Wall. How much of a tragedy is it to these people? This Wall which separates the proud German people is a personal tragedy to each of them. It separates loved ones, parents from children, relatives, etc. All along the outer perimeter of this hideous structure you see little crosses, bouquets of flowers, "X" marks the spot for dates of successful and unsuccessful attempts to make a running dash toward this monstrosity, and then a last leap to scale the top of this Wall to find only a mass of barbed wire.

For four lacerating years the people of Berlin have been living with the wall. They seem to have learned to live with it, but they are not - either East Berliners or West Berliners, learning to accept it. Berliners resent and hate the wall. They see it as a symbol and proof of Communist brutality and of fear and futility. It is a very real and personal tragedy to each of them. It is not something they read about in the newspapers. Over four (4) million people have passed through the wall for personal family visits whenever such visits are permitted. From 1948 to Aug. 13, 1961, 2,700,000 people escaped to freedom. No one of the 17,000,000 East Germans failed behind the wall is fooled into believing anything other than that the only purpose this hideous barricade serves is to block the people living under Communist rule from escaping the Communist yoke.

Along the Wall there are 225 pillboxes and bunkers, 202 observation towers, 63 search lights, and 221 dog cages with 4 dogs in each cage. But so great is the impulse for freedom that flights continue at awful risks. In the last four yrs., 25,000 East Germans (441 in uniform) have dared to risk their lives to escape. They have fled over the wall, under the wall, across mine fields. They have fled through a river on the border, in the dark and the light of day, under rifle fire of the border guards, out of high windows by ropes, on foot, on motor scooters, tractors, trucks, and trains. They have even ridden under automobiles, grasping to the axles to escape the brutality on the other side of that wall. It is regular procedure for every vehicle which crosses the border to have the communist East German police roll out huge mirrors and run them under all vehicles to check to see if anyone is hitched to the axle in an attempt to escape.

Yes, this Wall is a real personal tragedy. I mentioned previously the "X's" crosses and crucifixes at the spots where someone has been killed in an attempt to escape. Too, there are bouquets of flowers (fresh); they are not store bought flowers which grace the grave sites of these courageous people who tried to escape. It is obvious that these flowers have been picked by hand, carried to the place where someone had been killed, and placed there by the West Germans who feel very sadly that this structure which separates these two people.

East Germany is easily the worst off of the Russian Communist controlled countries. The Russians will not let these people forget the Second World War. There are 2 million people in East Berlin, but they don't even turn on the traffic lights. There are no cars to speak of except the Vopo - the cars of the Volkse Police, that is, the peoples' police. In Amsterdam you could get killed with a bicycle, there are so many, everyone rides a bicycle. Not in East Berlin. They don't even have bicycles.

There seemed to be no young people. They must be off in the Army or deported to Russia to work in the factories the Russians stripped from Eastern Germany piece by piece and hauled back to the Soviet Union. There are still bread lines, and in some places the meat stores are only open once a week. If any of you saw the

MEET YOUR ELBE BUDDIE IN ROANOKE

CBS special about life along the Volga, inside Russia, you heard that the patch farms make most of the food the people eat. Before the Second World War, the Soviet Union, the Communist countries of Eastern Europe and even continental China were exporters of food; now they are all importers. The large cooperative farms don't even produce enough food for their own populations, under the previous systems they exported food-stuffs. In the U. S. less than 10% of our population is on the farms. In the Soviet Union, they cannot feed themselves even though 50% of its entire population is working the land. Every family must have its own little plot and raise its own food. It is miraculous the amount of produce that is received from these little patch farms. It is, I think, typical of their system that the large farms cannot even feed the people.

Our trip into East Germany was unique. This was the first large group of Americans that the East German peoples' democratic republic permitted to stay over night in East Germany. By special arrangements with them, they said that we must spend as much time in Eastern Germany as we spent in Western Germany. Therefore, we were there for four days and three nights - the same amount of time spent in West Germany. We left East Berlin after a day of sightseeing and a night at their finest hotel where we were fed, of all things, liver-balls. The construction of this hotel was still going on when I return soon again to East Berlin, I would not expect it standing. The hotel was the best they had to offer. Neither at all compares with what Americans or even Western Europeans are accustomed to. The contrast between East Berlin and West Berlin is striking. The bombed-out buildings are still there as I told you. The people walk the streets with eyes cast down and a very stern emptiness on their faces. All the Germans have done is to have the East Germans clean the streets. This is an over-simplification but not much of one. Twenty years later and later, these people are still suffering from the ravages of the Second World War.

Naturally we had occasion to seek some social life while staying in East Germany during our trip. It seems that in each city we visited, we were told where the night clubs were. At this seemed fine, however, when several of us walked down the street to a place which was not pointed out to us to be a night club, we were not served. This, naturally, led us to believe that we were indeed permitted in some places and not permitted in others. We did not insist upon receiving service in these places because when we were seeking to cross the border we were told that no matter what happens, please do not argue with the authorities there. Even our army reserve officers were asked to leave with the American officials in West Germany their Army Reserve identifications. This was done just in case there was some mishap whatever; the Germans could not use the fact that these people were connected with the military in any kind of circumstances way. Interestingly enough, of course, we were told, you may take your cameras. But you must ask before you take a picture. I can remember two specific things which we were told not to photograph. One of these was Hitler's bunker and the other was the Bridge at Torgau in East Germany. Well,....you know Americans; just as soon as you tell them they can't do something - they go ahead and do it. As a matter of fact, I shuddered as I was almost deafened by the clicking of camera shutters - especially at the Bridge at Torgau. (It is interesting to note that every family had a camera and some had both movie and 35mm types. Others such as Clarence Miles family including three lovely daughters carried five (5) cameras. Everyone stood some-where between him and the bridge and made pretenses of shooting a souvenir picture in front of the Torgau Memorial. We have seen some of the best pictures ever seen of the restored bridge. Only a 49'er can appreciate going through it all and many for the second time)

From East Berlin we traveled to Potsdam where the Potsdam Agreement was signed by the victors in the Second World War. This is the place where President Truman told Premier Stalin to "go to hell" or some such thing. The important part about this stop was their version of the agreement. Naturally, it differed quite substantially from our version. Not to bore you with details, I would just say that it is no wonder what some of those people there think of us. They now tell their school children who are brought by the bus loads of some of the American plans, that is - so called American plans for cutting up Germany and to indeed segregate it according to races. There was some kind of a crackpot in the U. S. spouting off just as badly as Hitler during the Second World War, and they quote this gentleman who's name escapes me at great length to their own people in their attempts to propagandize them against us. The only other thing that I remember about our trip to Potsdam other than the fact that it was a beautiful mansion - is the cold plum soup we were served for lunch. If you have never eaten cold plum soup, I don't wish it on you at all. (Also it is good to note this mansion had been made into a commercial enterprise, selling souvenirs, restaurant and museum. There was a display of pictures depicting the crossing and meeting of Gen. Neil E. Reinhardt and the Soviet Gen. of the 59th Guard Div.Loar Quickle was interviewed by a man who said he was from radio Moscow before the propaganda talk. When we were leaving, he ran out and said something was wrong with his recorder and would Loar be so kind as to be re-interviewed. Another item of interest about this place is that there is one beautiful red star in the court-yard made from bleeding

heart annuals. If you can call a red star beautiful after listening to the speech on the Potsdam Conference.)

I must tell you of the grim and dreary experience of visiting Buchenwald Prison. Again, no reading of these facts in the newspaper can quite impress you the way in which actually seeing the ovens and meat hooks that the Germans used to kill so many millions does.

You must remember that I was with a group, some of whom helped to free Buchenwald Prison. The film that we were shown of the atrocities committed there, along with their propagandized version of what happened at Buchenwald, is testimony enough as to what the people who come there are told. The German Communists are made the heroes of Buchenwald. It was not the work of allies during the war which caused the freeing of Buchenwald Prison. Rather it was the Communists who were imprisoned there who freed the inmates at Buchenwald. This was our first experience of seeing a lot of Russian soldiers. Apparently there is a large air-base very close to Buchenwald prison. Jets were in the air constantly, and Russian soldiers were in the streets, rather, when they are on the streets, they wear their weapons. Again the Germans have not been allowed to forget. Too, I must tell you that I can sympathize with the Germans who say that they did not know about the concentration camps. We even had one of our buses get lost on the way to Buchenwald Prison, it is back into the countryside and woods so far. If the modes of transportation were no better then than they are now, and I am inclined to believe that they were probably worse, it would have been very difficult for someone to travel back to that remote area to discover a concentration camp. Another thing that helped to affirm our strong belief that we were indeed watched very closely the whole time we were in East Germany, was the quick manner in which our lost bus was discovered by a helicopter "escort". Yes, I believe we were even followed by a helicopter. This is to say nothing of the fact that we had assigned to us two guides for each bus. One was quickened to the impression that one guide was to watch us and the other guide was to watch the other guide.

We stayed in the beautiful German city of Leipzig. The hotel there was also brand new. It was also not very well constructed. The night club in the hotel was very, very enjoyable. They had a male vocalist there who was a fine singer. For us he sang some of the songs in English. Someone requested that he sing Lily Marlene. He told us that he was not permitted to sing this song. You will remember that Lily Marlene was one of the sentimental favorites of the German soldiers during the first and second world wars. This is just another example of the way which these peoples' lives are guarded against any influences which are contrary to the Communist doctrine. As to the peoples' standard of living - I can give you this example. I got a haircut, it was performed by a woman, and it cost me 24¢. A very small television set costs \$500.00. (The ladies got themselves beautified in the hotel Beauty Salon while in Leipzig. A shampoo and hair-set cost 45¢. Compare that with \$3.00 in Princeton at the less popular shops to \$5.00 at the more expensive. A hair-cut in Princeton is \$1.75 to \$2.50.) You can imagine a person who pays 24¢ for cutting a head of hair would not have a very easy time amassing \$500.00 for a very small television set. The shows are comparatively drab, and unexciting. This male singer, by the way, visited with a group of us after the show was over and gave one of our members a bottle of cognac and a recording of some of his songs. We told him that we thought he was good enough to make a "line" living in the U.S.A. He told us that he would love to do that, however, it was not possible. He said that he could leave and take a job in the west, but could not take his children or wife with him, and if he went and came back, he would not be able to get work because they would boycott him, or black list him as it were.

I told you earlier that the whole purpose of our trip was to re-join the counterpart of the "Fighting 69th" at Torgau on the Elbe River in East Germany. Finally we reached the day when we would make the trip from Leipzig to Torgau. These men had gone from war memorial to military cemetery all across Europe, retracing their previous route. Our trip had had a purpose. It was a meaningful and moving experience. By this time we were convinced that there is indeed a better way than the Communist, but we still looked forward to this opportunity to meet the Russians. We had with us the first man across the bridge at Torgau, Wm. D. Robertson, now a surgeon in Los Angeles. We also had pictures with us of the ceremony which took place between Americans and the Russians twenty (20) yrs. before, and we were very much looking forward to this symbolic re-enactment of the friendship which had happened there.

All of this was in vain. Just before we arrived, we were told that the Russians would not be there, our policy in Vietnam prevented their participation. This proved to us more than ever that the Russian people themselves are not even permitted to travel in the countries they themselves control.

(Our last word from the Soviet Veteran's Committee was that they thought the meeting was a good idea and they would consider it in a favorable light. Loar Quickle and the Arms of Friendship had been in touch with both Moscow and the Soviet Embassy in Washington. Dr. Robertson had been practically assured that someone would be there to meet us.....It was disappointing but not even near a tragedy. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful ceremony and the

661st TANK DESTROYER Bn. MEMBERS WELCOME

and the Reunion on The Elbe even though it was a one-sided affair from our stand-point. Most veterans will remember the 1945 meeting as long as they live. The reliving of that event by those of us returning was just as exciting. How will we ever forget the instructions given us by Ruth Koenig, the chief guide, when she said in the run down courtyard of the castle there: "You will not be permitted to take pictures of the bridge, however, you may take some of your friends at the monument; you will not be permitted to roam in the streets on your own. We have guides to take you and we must insist on you following each leader. So, we will all meet back at the buses at 4:00 P.M., please be on time." She might just as well have said go on your own because there were four groups and immediately upon going into the business section, they broke up like a farmer sowing a hand full of oats over the entire city. We could hear shouts from each East German Guide such as "Follow your Leader"; most of them did but they went with the likes of "Bill" Robertson... "Bill" Lillien, Ed Leary, and many others who had specific places of interest to see before returning to the bus. The youngest of the guides, a very pretty East German girl, practically went frantic trying to keep a group together. They ended up in Gasthaus for beer and refreshments etc. The poor girl got up off her chair 500 times in ½ hour, saying, "Bitte, we must go now, our leader will be angry". She might just as well have joined in with them because her words fell on deaf ears.... The East German Guides insisted on Loar and Bill carrying the large wreath from the bus to the monument which was at least ¾ of a mile away. Bill spoke about the 1945 meeting giving his first hand report to all of us. He pointed out where he was fired on by the Russians who were across the Elbe. His look-out post was in a window atop one of the towers of the castle. Believe it or not, the chips of limestone and pocks made by the firing of the Russians are still there. We are surely happy Bill is still with us. Also the scars or scars of the bridge remain but it has been completely put back together. When we began our ceremony, trucks, and many of them, began passing. Many of us thought this was done purposely so the many East Germans looking on would not know what was being said. Our group reported that many tape recorders working while groups formed to talk about what was going on. We were told the Soviet Army was maneuvering in the Area between Leipzig and Torgau. If that was the case, then they were maneuvering every place we went. They had guards at every bridge, corner and cross-roads. We were for ever passing truck loads of East German and Russian soldiers the four days spent in East Germany. As all of you know, it is about 35 miles from Leipzig to Torgau. Our bus traveled about 90 miles to get there. They refused to take us through Ellenburg. None of us got to visit any of the small towns around Leipzig such as Naunhof and others. They were off limits to all Americans. The Napoleonic Monument still stands just as majestically as it did in 1945. Just as impressive too. The many scars have been patched but it is quite evident how well it took the American fire power.

The most exciting part of visiting Leipzig was the visit to the St. Thomas church where the Germans arranged an organ recital. I am quite sure everyone of us enjoyed it thoroughly. Every time one of our group left the hotel proper, he was followed by some member of the East German group accompanying us. Besides our guides, two to a bus, there was a car full of officials with us and another car full awaiting us at each destination. These were joined by local officials at every stop. In fairness to these people, I would like to add they did everything possible to make us comfortable. The food in Leipzig was excellent compared to what we received throughout our tour. I would do it all over again. "Loar Quickle!....." Now back to Ronald Pedricks story:

Final impressions of the trip are several. I would just like to cite two. Someone commented after having visited East Germany that no matter how many politicians got rich from the Marshall plan, we certainly should be proud that we helped the people of Western Europe recover from the ravages of the Second World War. One man said "I am not going to cheat on my income taxes this yr. because living in a democracy is certainly worth it." I doubt that he will remember that in April when he files his income tax, but at least that was his comment at that time. I remember three old ladies at the Napoleon War Memorial in Leipzig who were shoveling cinders. The youngest of them was probably in her early fifties, and the oldest one, I would say, in her middle sixties, but they were doing mens' labor. Another gentleman and I asked if they minded having their picture taken. They permitted us to take them. After we explained that we were Americans and were visiting in East Germany, one of the ladies said, "America ist schoen; Deutschland ist nicht". 'America is beautiful, Germany is not'... They also wanted to know if the Russians were paying our expenses. Lastly, traveling first class in Europe is not to be compared with traveling first class in the U. S. Let me give you a warning. If you decide to make a trip to Europe, you will have a wonderful time. Please have enough sense to take your own toilet paper. Because if you don't, you will find that just about the only thing the stuff they give you there is good for, is shining one's shoes. It could very easily be used for waxed paper. If I had read an account of all that I saw, I would not have believed it. There is a difference between our way of life and their way of life. I hope, and I am sure that you would agree that our way is indeed the best way. SIGNED: RONALD J. PEDRICK

NOTE! EVERYTHING IN PARENTHESIS ARE COMMENTS OF Loar Quickle...

- - - "FIGHTING 69ERS A SPECIAL BREED

Many persons have joined our organization for one reason or the other but we never really knew why until after the Return to the Elbe Tour took place. Some are relatives of veterans other just like what we do, with most of them paying dues more regularly than the majority of our veterans, who have more reason to belong and support our programs, really.

At this point we have quite a number of the persons who participated in the tour, coming to the reunion. They call it having a reunion of the Tour members within our regular reunion. When you come, and we hope you do, you will discover what a congenial crowd they can be and why the Tour was such a success. Those signed up thus far are: The Peter Goldsteins, The Anthony Kellers, William Matlachs, Wade L. Johnsons, George Phillips, Joseph Wrights, Frederick Dickes, Cy Kennedys, William Lillien, Arthur Grundys, Ray Fahrner, Harold Starrys, Jake Starks, Joseph Stars, Sol Rosenblitts, George Shapiros, Herbert Callaways, Murray Zynes, Ralph Plugges and Denman H. Ayres, John Moriarty & daughter. The above members represent a good cross-section of our membership and, they are coming from pretty good distances to attend.

Already they are writing letters to find out if there is to be another tour in 1970, the 25th anniversary of the Elbe River Link-up. At least 20 couples have wanted to reserve for seats. So you know they must have had a wonderful time. Perhaps this time, with proper planning they can relax more and enjoy more of the fellowship that was everlasting on the first one.

In the next bulletin you will read another article that expresses an entirely different view-point on the tour. Everyone places different values on what he saw and will write from a different angle. The next article was written by George Straley of Wilmington, Dela. and the 661st Tank Destroyers.

AS A RESULT OF THE TOUR- -

We have made arrangements to have a red rose bud laid on the grave of every 69th Veteran Killed in action, if he is still buried in either Henri-Chapelle or the Margraten Cemeteries. The board of directors with pushing by Irving Sarafan and George Shapiro and a few others that went over there last year, voted to spend your money, the dues, to have this ceremony performed every April 25th.... The board thought this was the most significant date in our history and deserved to be the day our veterans would be so honored. If you were with us in combat, I am sure you will be extremely proud to know this is being done this April 25th for the first time. If you have a buddy that was killed in action, you can find out where he is buried and make this special arrangement on your own too. The person to write to is: VAGN G. CALLEN, AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION, 20 RUE QUENTIN BAUCHART, PARIS 8eme, FRANCE. He will make all the arrangements for you. By paying your dues you will be participating in this wonderful program. We anticipate it costing us in the neighborhood of \$100 each year.

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Did you know your board of directors are made up of veterans living all over the country. We are constantly in touch with them. At the last meeting held in the Nassau Inn, Princeton, 22 of them showed up. The meeting there lasted from 1:00 P.M. Sunday afternoon 'til 5:30 P.M. Is it any wonder then that your organization is a good one and has a wonderful program projected for you? The affairs we have are not a brainstorm of one officer but are suggested by many and thoroughly discussed before being offered to you.

READ WHAT THE 661 T.D. BN IS DOING

Besides George Straley and Burr Peterson being interested in the 69th Association, we now have another one desiring to tell others about the Reunion in August. RALPH W. BRAGG of Chase City, Va. wrote to Tom Maupin, our Virginia Chairman and said: "I received your letter concerning the Reun. of the 69th. I am pleased to know that this action has been taken, but I was with the 661st TD Bn. I have been in touch with several of my friends that was in B 661 that live as far west as Tex. and Kansas, and many in Penna. Are these boys invited. I am extremely interested in this meeting and would personally contact my friends about the Reunion."

Ralph it is good to have you interested and believe me, the 661st was as much of our Division in Combat as any rifle, heavy weapons etc. Clarence Marshall is going to send you an up-to-date roster of all names we have at present. It should be much larger and with the ones you send in, I am sure it will start swelling.

Handwritten scribbles and signatures at the top left of the page.

MR ROY D SLOAN
227 BOSLER AVE
LEMOYNE PA
A 271

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PRINCETON, N. J.
PERMIT NO. 248

345 SIXTH AVENUE
NEW KENSINGTON, PENNA.

FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION
******Federation, Inc.**

NEW CHAPTERS ARE SPROUTING ALL OVER.....

On May 13, 1966 Harry G. Austin, Jr. and Clarence Marshall sent out a letter to all area Pittsburghers inviting them to attend a meeting at the Pittsburgh Hilton for dinner to explore the idea of a West Penna. Branch of the Fighting 69th and discuss the advisability of inviting the National organization to hold a reunion in Pittsburgh. ACCORDING TO A LETTER FROM HARRY TODAY, they formed a new WESTERN PENNA. BRANCH OF THE "FIGHTING 69TH".....J. V. GAMBONE, 281 ORVILLE DR. PITTSBURGH WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT. CONGRATULATIONS~ J. V. I am sure you will live up to the tradition set by all other officers of our beloved association. We have always thought a branch in Pittsburgh would do very well and now we know it. GAMBONE's first name is Jim and he served with 769 Ord. At this point they have already put in their bid for the 1967 reunion. If we do not get enough response to the questionnaire sent out in the last bulletin, it looks like they have a new born B A B Y on their hands. The 1967 reunion site has not been resolved as yet.

The picture below shows a most handsome couple, Harry G. Austin and wife Roseann.



They are hard at work at Registration desk in Harrisburg 1965.... Picture at right shows what good company our membership chairman, Clarence Marshall keeps. She is Bert Moore, wife and a lovely one too, of genial Charley Moore of E-271.....Please note Roseann doing all the work whil Harry talks.

