

FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

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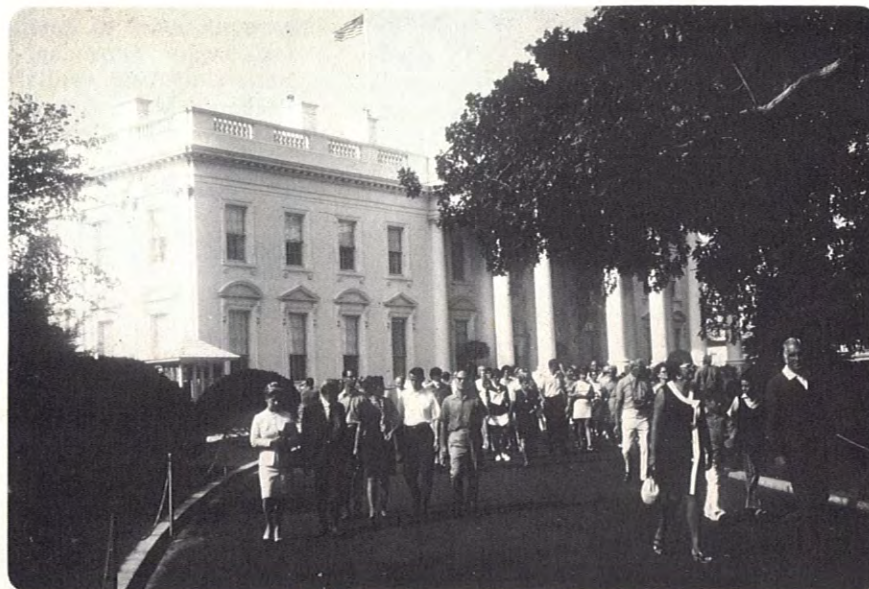
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bulletin

VOL. 24, NO. 3
JULY, 1971

The pictures below depict some of the wonderful moments in the history of our annual Reunions . . . The upper photo is the Memorial Ceremony at the Arlington Cemetery and the White House below.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BILL MATLACH



LOOKING BACK

by Bill Matlach

Another year, another reunion coming up, this time in Harrisburg.—And as reunion time approaches, thoughts always turn back to the last reunion attended, perhaps last year, perhaps the year before . . . perhaps the year before that.

Last year's gathering took place in our favorite reunion town, Washington, D.C.—somehow we never seem to tire of visiting that city—and small wonder, for the Nation's Capitol was virtually made for the tourist, a beautiful, beautiful city.

For the Reunion Committee, Washington offers the ultimate in sight-seeing tours, and in 1970 we had some of the best. On Friday morning, a visit to the White House and a guided tour of its interior, some rooms to be later recognized on TV. A major disappointment to all—Dick and the family were not on hand to greet us.

From there, a swing over to the Capitol and another guided tour, this time led by a young lady who, we hear tell, shall long be remembered by those 69-ers present . . . perhaps somewhat less appreciated by the 69th ladies. At least one couple, having been recently familiarized with the machinery purring (?) under that magnificent dome, decided to forego this portion of the tour, substituting instead a leisurely stroll down The Mall, a short exploration of a portion of the Smithsonian Institute, and a detour through the lush botanical gardens, before rejoining the others for lunch.

Of course, the one historic landmark which is a "must" for any Washington 69th reunion is Arlington Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, since the Saturday afternoon Memorial Ceremony plays such an important part in every reunion.—And this one was no exception: after the customary riotous motorcade, characterized by a continuous state of confusion and innumerable separations in the line of cars, all managed to arrive safely at the Tomb. Conversely, the ceremony of placing the wreath by President Sammy Woolf and the Board of Directors went off without a hitch, due, no doubt, to the assistance of the superb military contingent assigned to guard the unknown hero. The sound of Taps echoing through Arlington signalled the end of the ceremony.

Naturally, Harrisburg cannot equal the sight-seeing opportunities of our Nation's Capitol. However, to those who are interested in American history, a visit to nearby Gettysburg and the Civil War battlegrounds is guaranteed to prove extremely interesting and worthwhile.

But then, that represents only a minor aspect of holding a reunion. The real purpose is to meet with old comrades and renew friendships under enjoyable circumstances—and knowing the live wire branch we have in Central Pennsylvania you can be sure the circumstances being planned will be enjoyable. More on that elsewhere in this bulletin.

JOHN H. GIDEON, 88 F.A. Bn. writes of reading about the Reunion in the June edition of the Legion Magazine and saw a notice of the reunion of our Division. John, it is the 69th you served with in Camp Shelby. He is seeking information on the Reunion. Join us for a good time, John. Home Bx. 356, Carmichaels, Pa.

B. A. HUMPHREYS, 769 Ord. Co., writes for information concerning time and place of Reunion . . . Some of your buddies always show up, Sgt. Humphreys. He lives at 544 Lillie St., Chillicothe, Ohio 45601.

TOM BERGE, Hqs. & Hqs. Co. writes: I was with the 69th Div. at Cp. Shelby, Miss. in 1943 to Oct. '44 to the staging area. I was with Hq. Co. from leaving Cp. Shelby to May '45 at Leipzig, Germany. Then transferred to the 29th Div. Will you mail me a list of Hqs. and Hqs. Co. and Sp. Troops? I will not be at the Reunion, but there are a few men I would like to know if they are still living. Clarence Marshall, one of your old buddies will send all information to you, Tom. He lives at 261 So. Lennox, Casper, Wyoming 82601.

T. SGT. EDWARD J. LANG, E-73 and 1365th Photo Squadron, CMR Box 3196, Norton AFB, Ca. 92409 writes: As a former member of Co. E, 273, 69th Inf. Div. I was very interested in seeing that the old outfit was having a reunion in August. Unfortunately I won't be able to attend, as much as I would like to as I will be over in Vietnam at that time, but I would like to be remembered to any of the guys who attend from the old company E of the 273rd. I was with the 69th from Cp. Shelby to the Elbe. Also if you have any other news about the 69th, I would appreciate it if you could send it to me. Best of Luck at the Reunion and I wish I was there.

Ed. note! I am sure Bill Matlach will be happy to find an old buddie. Bill was one of our former presidents, Sgt. Lang. He has an article on the reunion last year in this issue. Very good luck to you in Vietnam and God speed. We all hope they pull the corks out of that place before you get there.

FRANK A. ROPER, H-271 who appears in comments in another item in this bulletin writes again and he says: "Sure did enjoy the bulletin, thanks. I have an army buddie up in Attleboro, Mass. I haven't seen in 20 yrs. and we have planned to meet at the 69th Reunion. He also was with H-271. What I would like you to do is send him a bulletin so he can make the necessary reservations. Thanking you in advance. His address is: ARNOLD T. FOX, H-271, 582 Pleasant St., Attleboro, Mass. 02703.

WALTER A. PERRY writes: "Please send me information on your notice of Reunion of 69th Division in the American Legion Magazine. Perry is a former member of B Batt., 88th Field Artillery. He lives at 5 Kittredge St., So. Peabody, Mass. 01960." Join your other buddies, come and have a wonderful week-end of fellowship, Walt.



**269th ENGINEERS BN***From Frank Nemeth***661st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION***By Bill Beswick*

SEEK—STRIKE—DESTROY was the Motto of the Tank Destroyer "Hell-Cats" during World War II. It meant SEEK the enemy, STRIKE the enemy, and DESTROY him. Today, it should have a much more significant meaning:

SEEK—but when you seek, SEEK out old friends.

STRIKE—but when you strike, STRIKE up new friends.

DESTROY—but when you destroy, DESTROY the miles that separate old friends and new.

The annual reunion of the "Fighting 69th" is the place to do these things.

Word has been received from Col. Donald B. Miller, 9 Holly Drive, Prescott, Arizona 86301, our former Bn. Commander, is making plans to attend the reunion this year, and, wants to be included in our plans and preparations.

So come on, FALL IN, and let's all give OUR colonel a great big WELCOME!

Then you can return home and say we SOUGHT, we STRUCK, and DESTROYED, as we did in 1945.

How about it? Won't we see you in Harrisburg?

NOTE! The above item written by Bill Beswick even made your editor wish he was a member of such a fine Battalion.

AND . . . THE WAY TO GET THEM OUT IS THE WAY THE 661ST TD'ERS ARE DOING IT. They sent out a letter urging their members, 358 on our rolls, to attend the Harrisburg Reunion. Why don't you join them and furnish material for the bulletin and come to the Reunion too!

RICHARD "DICK" STRATTON, 569 Sig. and 907 N. 19th St., Camden, N.J. 08105 called 5/20/71 and stated he liked the bulletin very much. He plans to come to the Reunion in Harrisburg. He would like to hear from anyone that remembers him. He requested a roster of the 569 Sig. Co. We talked for a half hour re: the Fighting 69th. He is proud to have served with it. So are we, Dick. How about all you buddies of Dick meet him this year. Lester Milich knows him and Dick was very happy to have seen him in Philadelphia a couple of years ago.

All I remember well from the Washington Reunion is that we all had a good time. The highlight in Washington was a new face in the person of JAMES SEARS, who we haven't seen in 25 years. We also had out the regulars in JOHN PONTIERI, DALE HIGHFIELD, ED DAVIS, LEO MCGILLEEN, CHUCK HERRING, STUART MCGREGOR AND OUR Honorary Mother, ROBBIE MCGREGOR. We are looking for a bigger and better turnout in Harrisburg, since we have so many of our members living in that area. I intend to write to all of them once again and urge them to join us in the wonderful fellowship. Other Engrs. who attended were: WALT GOEBEN, MAX GOODMAN, JOHN BULLER, MAX WEINZJERL, LON STEINBRUNNER, JERRY RODELLI, JOE MONTELEONE, JOHN HAWLEY, BOB TURNER AND SHARPLESS JONES. If I left out anyone, please forgive me. At this point, I intend to join the balance of the Board of Directors at a meeting on May 23, in Saddle Brook, N.J. Am hoping to see John Pontieri. The Engineers took action at Washington to start a large photobook of "B" 269. I have it started and it is coming along very well. All you members attending last year remember to send the promised photographs. We have not had much publicity in the past few bulletins, but hope this helps to remedy it somewhat. The 661st TD Bn. have sorta taken over some of the glory of being the best with the mostest at all the reunions. Some of us were disappointed in the arrangements for the "Beer Party" on Friday evening last year and a complaint was registered at the Board meeting and Loar Quickle advised me that there is a new arrangement this year. You can come and drink water if you want to, have beer, cocktails or just talk. You spend what you want. This new arrangement will be reflected in the registration charge.

Come one, come all and help the builders of the 69th have a good time. Let us recapture the honor of having the largest attendance of any Battalion. Leo's and by "B" had the record for Company attendance in Washington. We hope to establish a new record. Come on in to the fold and help your Company turn out a record attendance. The best fellowship and good time is at tops when a good turnout is made. See you!





NEWS OF G-271

The proud company named "GEORGE" lost out to B-269 Engineers last year as the one with the mostest attending the Reunion. Don McCoppen, Giglietta, Fernandez, Scott Gresham, Plugge and our friend DeCarlo from Uniontown, Pa. have not been showing in recent years. We are so close in Harrisburg, Wayne Nelson will not have an excuse for not attending. Clarence and Shirley Jensen should make this one. Just roll out of bed Clarence, and head south. Bill Eck should try to make arrangements and leave his restaurant, called the "Shack", on the Boulevard in Philadelphia and have some real fun for a change. Perhaps MacDougal will leave the mid-west and pay us another visit. Bob Daniels or Red to most of us, came with his handsome son last year and all the lady folk were goo goo eyed. He sure is a handsome man. The son, I mean! Wouldn't it be nice to have Don McCoppen and Bud Curtis in the fold all at once. Memories would be a flyin! If you have never spent an evening with Joe Star and George Phillips, you have never had the best time of your life. We usually have to separate the two so the other tables will have some laughs too. Now, Shorty Reynolds is something else. If anyone from A-271 can out talk him on the issues of who won the war, he has to be good. Only Cecil Fernandez can do that. We hope he makes it this year. He promised to come to New Haven, but let us down. He must be hiding that beautiful wife of his. All that food on Thursday night at Schindlers in Harrisburg should be quite an enticement for ALL of you to show up.



Colonel Carroll and his 271st Regimental Staff at Winchester, England.

If you were in Co. G, 271, Mar. '45 in Sinzig, you will remember Murph and Aichele. They had just filed papers to become battlefield Lts. Two great persons, neither of whom we know of their whereabouts. The gas tanks you see at the bottom of the picture were filled with wine when they returned to Co. Hdqs. Can you top this one? Loar Quickle would like to hear and send the story with a picture. The picture is below.



STANLEY W. BRATT writes Asa Cowden and inquires how to get in touch with someone to receive application for our Scholarship for his daughter Nancy. Necessary papers sent on to him.

BOB SILBERG, Hqs. & Hqs. Co., sent in a check for \$20. for 1970-71 dues. Bob thanks a million . . . The Scholarship Fund is larger now! We missed you last two years.

RICHARD B. STEUER, an attorney of Cleveland, O. sent in his dues and a check for \$25. to be credited to the Scholarship Fund in memory of Gen. Reinhartd. Thanks a million Dick. He is a great person and we are honoring him once again this Reunion.



69TH INFANTRY DIVISION *Association, Inc.*

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH
HARRISBURG, PENNA.

Twenty-fourth Annual Reunion

Dear Fellow Sixty-Niner:

As you now know, our Twenty-Fifth Annual Reunion of the Fighting 69th will be held at the Holiday Inn Town, Harrisburg, Pa. on Thursday, Aug. 19th thru Sunday, Aug. 22, 1971. As our twenty-fifth, this reunion has a special significance; but in addition it is also being dedicated to the memory of our esteemed leader, General Emil Reinhardt.

Our Central Pennsylvania Branch has planned a program that we think will be of interest to all of you; both adults and youth. The reunion site in Harrisburg is centrally located and easily accessible by plane and major highways. We hope that you will make every effort to attend this very special reunion and even suggest that you arrange your vacation so that you can spend additional time, before or after the reunion, in our area. We have many attractions to make a prolonged visit worthwhile. To assist you, a packet of brochures relative to our area will be available to you upon registration at Holiday.

We urge you to make your hotel reservations early and also to complete and return the reunion form in the Bulletin so that we can publicize your name as one planning to attend. Members of your unit will then know who will be attending and you can plan for your own unit reunion at Harrisburg.

We also ask for your assistance. You may have knowledge of men in your area who served with the 69th, but are not known to the Association. Please inform them of the reunion and invite them to attend. If you will also send their name and address to Mr. Clarence Marshall, 101 Stephen St., New Kensington, Pa. 15068, they will receive our Annual Bulletins and Association News. Thank you.

Hope to see you in Harrisburg!

Yours in Comradship,

Harold M. Stary



MAIL CALL

TONY POLITO, 661TD writes us to send a copy of latest bulletin to a former buddy . . . WM. F. MONAGLE, 221 N. Drexel Ave., Havertown, Pa. 19083 (Hq. Co.). He said: "See you in Harrisburg."

Our good friend IRV GOTKIN advised he liked the format of the last bulletin. He spent a few days with a buddy from E-271, PAUL DI GIOIA, 1296 Pegwood Ct., Columbus, O. 43229. Paul was with the 69th from activation until the Elbe meeting. They were both transferred to Bremen until Mar. '46 and came home together. Paul's wife's name is Antoinette and has two sons and a daughter. He plays the accordion and has his own band.

CLARENCE MARSHALL, Hqs. & Hqs. Co., wrote that he thought the latest bulletin was the best in a long time. He liked the added touch of color.

WM. PEKLINSKY, K-272, and 891 Edna Ave., Weirton, W. Va. 26062 wrote to Clarence Marshall and stated he is married, wife: Vera and children WM., Jr., John and James. Works for Weirton Steel and is managing a musical career for his three sons. They are called, "The Skip Peck Trio". Maybe we can work them in on some occasion. . . .

VAN W. PITTMAN, 2507 Adeline St., Hattiesburg, Miss. 39401 writes that he has been trying to find out if we had an association and, if we had reunions. He was referred to Clarence Marshall. He says he will attend next reunion. No unit served with was given. Our Friend JOE WRIGHT wrote Clarence from the Ozarks and requested a new decal for his NEW car. He told his dealer that whoever purchased his old car would have to pay dues to the association if he retained the decal on the car. He requested to be remembered to Loar Quickle, Murray Zyne, and Sol Rosenblitt. DWIGHT R. DAVIS, K-272, sent in \$5. for dues and stated: "Very much enjoy the newsletter but seldom see many names from K-272." Note Bill Pelinsky's name above. . . .

EUGENE SCHMALZREID, D-272 writes that Co. D-272 has a reunion every year and Gene ended up in the 106th Div. in the battle of the bulge. However, he has kept in touch with his 69th buddies. He has a roster of 80 D-272 men and is checking his roster with Clarence Marshall's. He says they are a swell bunch.

A letter from the University of Calif. may be of interest to many of you. "Dear Sir: Carl Q. Christol, Prof. of International Law and Political Science at the Univ. of So. Calif., has been awarded the Dart Award for academic innovation in the field of American Constitutional Law. The Award, named after the Chairman of the University's Board of Trustees, is granted annually and carries with it a stipend of \$2,000." Professor Christol was a member of Division Hdqs., G-3 section, all of us in the 69th Inf. Div. Association congratulate you very, very much on this wonderful award, professor.

GARLAND AND FRANCES O'ROARK, R#1, Box 35, Hinton, Va. 22831 writes to find out how to obtain a picture of the 69th gang in front of the Capitol's House Wing. They were the lucky winner of the Color T.V. in Washington last year. Your request has been sent on to Pierce Rice, our Reunion Chairman in Washington, D. C.

FRANK A. ROPER, H-271 writes he joined our division 1944 in Camp Shelby. He would like very much to see some of his old war buddies. Looking forward to hearing from some of them. Frank's address is Belk-Lindsey Dept. Store, Melbourne Shopping Center, Melbourne, Fla. 32901. A copy of the most recent bulletin has gone his way.

ARTHUR C. WELLINGHOFF, Box 854, Kenner, La. 70062 and former member of 2nd Bn Hqs. Co., 273rd Regt. writes he read the notice of the Reunion in the VFW Magazine and wanted to know if we had dues and information regarding the Reunion and the history of the association. He went in the army from Ohio. Kenner is around New Orleans. We are very happy to hear from you Sgt. Wellinghoff. Will be happy also to have you and your wife come to Harrisburg. NOW! Any of you 2nd Bn Hqs., 273 members join your former Sgt. and make this one a good turnout. . . .

DONALD JOHNSON, Hq. Co. 3rd Bn 271, wrote some time ago while forwarding his dues and promised that he would make one of the future reunions. How about 1971 in Harrisburg, Pa. Don? He also inquired as to an old buddy, "Sarge" List from Mattoon, Illinois. Any of you Hqs. men know where we can locate him. Clarence Marshall would go right to work on signing him up. 2219 No. Carolina St., Saginaw, Mich.

WALTER DONALD, H-271st, has been a NYC policeman for over 20 years. He has five children. Don included with his letter a check for the Scholarship Fund along with a contributing member check of \$10.00. Thanks Walt—it all goes to work for the good of the Div. Association. Hope you can make one of the reunions. 73-16 53rd Ave., Maspeth, N.Y. 11378.

EUGENE LOVEJOY, 271st Reg't, wrote a nice letter but did not give his old unit; but must list it as above as he mentions Paul Shadle as being in the regt. motor pool as Sgt. and he did double as Gene's driver. Eugene is still in the reserve. Eugene E. Lovejoy, Lt. FA USAR, 1819 17th Avenue, Grafton, Wisc. 53024.

LEROY CURTIS, C Bty. 880 FA Bn, after leaving service finished up his education at Oklahoma State U. and is now teaching Voc. Agriculture at Buffalo Valley High. Box 357, Talihina, Oklahoma 74571.

GEORGE CIANO, Div. Hq. Co., formerly of Philadelphia has moved to Wilmington, Delaware. You may remember him as George Ciancaglini. Nice to hear from you George. See you in Harrisburg. 1300 Ridge Road, Wilmington, Del. 19809.

WILLIAM W. CAMPBELL, A.T. Co., 272 writes: "It is my understanding that the 69th Infantry Division will have a Reunion this year. As a former member of the Division, I would be interested in attending. Please forward me any information you may have concerning the affair." Be glad to see you Bill.



NEW ADDRESS FOR CLARENCE MARSHALL

Clarence Marshall our Membership Chairman has moved to 101 Stephen St., New Kensington, Pa. 15068. Anyone wishing to contact Clarence should write to the above address.

GAD! DID WE GOOF!

In our last Bulletin we made up the hotel reservation return sheet because the Holiday Inn Town reservation cards had not arrived. So . . . what did we do but typed in Single Rooms at \$14. per person a day instead, \$14. per day. . . . Please forgive us!

The reservation cards arrived after the Bulletin had been printed, however, they have been included in this bulletin.

PUBLICITY

Our Good Friend GEORGE H. STRALEY, 661st Tank Destroyers, volunteered to do the publicity releases for the forthcoming reunion. If you remember, George did such a wonderful job in Philadelphia a couple of years ago. Why don't some of you members write up your own releases for your local area giving the dates of the 69th Inf. Div. Association Reunion, and where it is to be held. Help us get all the publicity possible.

PAPERBACKS WANTED

If you have any old paperback books laying around that you want to get rid of, send them to Irving Sarafan, 14 Vincent Rd., Spring Valley, N.Y. 10977. Send them in packages of 10 or less as printed books for Vietnam Veterans. Irving will send them on at his expense.

WE NEED HELP

One of the most difficult parts of putting a Bulletin together is having the news on hand to put into the Bulletin itself. Some of you members attending the Reunion should write up what happens between you and your fellow buddies, giving names and send it on to Loar Quickle, George Phillips or any other officer of the Association. They will see that it appears in one of the forthcoming issues. Come on, HELP US.

EARN'S DOCTOR'S DEGREE

LEONARD KESSLER, A-271 has earned his Doctorate in education. I am sure all the Able Company members will want to write Len and congratulate him. He visited Loar Quickle several times at the Princeton University Store and went away with several books each time. We congratulate you Len as it is an enormous accomplishment, and well deserving.

ABOUT OUR DUES NOTICES . . .

We realize that each time we send out our dues notices that there are many who have already paid their dues. As an example, those attending the reunion always pay their dues for the ensuing year at that time. When we have the notices addressed and returned to the treasurer, he has to go through all the nearly 5,000 notices and pull out the ones that have paid. The same procedure would have to be done when the second notice goes out. To avoid paying the shipping charge to the man who is the treasurer, we have the notices sent directly to our mailing address in Pittsburgh where they are addressed and sent on their way. We have a notation on the notice that states "if you have paid your dues ignore the notice." If the same is true of the life, and honorary members, please excuse us as it saves us many hours of labor. Just remember, we know you are a life member or an honorary member and you will be kept on our mailing roster. PLUS . . . we are proud to have you and the ones that pay their dues regularly.

HOW ABOUT YOU? HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES LATELY? If you like to receive our bulletins, please give us a hand with the finances, by paying the next time the bulletin has the dues notice insert. THAT IS THIS CURRENT BULLETIN! Did you know that about (ONLY) 1/5 of our membership pays dues each year? Now you can see what it would mean if 1/3 to 1/2 of our members paid up once in awhile.

Sol Rosenblitt, H-271 is now lolling on the white sands of Florida. He just wrote that he is going to tour the West for about 6-8 weeks and end up at the Reunion in Harrisburg. Then off to Europe. Wow! Retirement must be nice!

TEAR OFF AND RETURN TO: CLARENCE MARSHALL, 101 STEPHEN ST., NEW KENSINGTON, PA. 15068

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

UNIT SERVED WITH WHILE IN THE 69TH DIV. _____

WIFE'S NAME _____ CHILDREN'S NAMES _____

PLEASE GIVE US A BRIEF SUMMARY OF YOUR WORK AND HOBBIES FOR USE IN A FUTURE BULLETIN.

REUNION RESERVATION FORM

AUGUST 19, 20, 21 and 22

Please fill in the following form and send to ASA Cowden, our treasurer, so he can keep the Holiday Inn Town and the Pennsylvania (Central) Chapter informed of progress of the number of persons that will be attending.

NAME _____ UNIT _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP CODE _____

Registration fee will be \$11. per person this year. The fee includes the Saturday Night Dinner Dance and all other functions of the reunion. No registration fee for children under 18.

Please find enclosed my check to cover registration fee.

Number attending _____ at \$11. per person . . . Total \$ _____

I will pay my registration fee at the reunion _____

Please Check

Number of Teens attending _____ Number of sub-teens _____

I will attend the Early Bird Dinner Thursday Evening at Schindlers and desire to make _____

Number of Reservations

The 'Early Bird' dinner at Schindlers on Thursday will be held at 7:00 P.M. The cost per person will be \$3.95. (Note! You can go back for seconds and thirds. . . . All you can eat and the food is very good. . . .) This is not included in registration fee.

Tear off below and send to: Asa Cowden, Thos. Jefferson Bldg., Apt. 408, Drummers Lane, Wayne, Pa. 19087.



the 69th

INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

101 stephen st., new kensington, pa. 15068

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