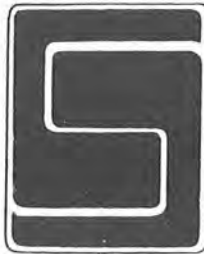


# FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

## ★★★★ Association, Inc.



VOLUME 39, NO. 3

MAY — JUNE — JULY — AUGUST  
1986

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

101 STEPHEN STREET  
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## bulletin

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39th ANNUAL REUNION  
GREENTREE MARRIOTT PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA  
AUGUST 10th to the 17th, 1986

*If you haven't already sent in your reservations,  
please do so as soon as possible.*



## News From The Editor's Desk

by — Clarence Marshall

**Henry Tipperreiter**, 10492 Thornberry Drive, Spring Hill, Florida 33526 — A-880th: Sorry we were not aware of the Association when your Reunion was in Orlando. Florida is really quite a large state, but Orlando is only about 80 miles from us. We sure do hope to join one of your Reunions. What are they like? Are there any planned programs, meetings, and banquets when the men are gathered together?

*(Editor's Note: Our Reunions consist mainly of fellowship, along with a business meeting, Early Bird Dinner on Thursday, P.X. Beer Party Friday, Banquet on Saturday, and perhaps some sightseeing tours).*

**Lamar W. Williams**, 4365 Ruth Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35213 — 69 MP: I joined the 69th MP Platoon when the 69th Infantry Division was being activated, and remained with the Division until it was deactivated following the surrender of Germany. I was then transferred to the 89th Infantry Division, and remained in Mt. St. Aignan, France until the Division returned to the States.

I'm retired from the Chevrolet Division of GMC after 25 years, and have lived in Birmingham over 27 years. I have a Son who served with the 82nd Airborne Division, and who later was a Captain in the Special Forces (Airborne Ranger and Jump Master). I also have two Daughters and eight Grandchildren.

I would like to know very much the address of the following who served with the 69 MP's: **Past President John Moriarty**, **1st Lieutenant Paul W. Hayo** (later Aide to General Bolte), and **Sergeant Reggie O. Vinson**. If anyone has this information, I'll appreciate you advising me. Thanks so much for keeping me on your mailing list. I appreciate being able to keep up with what is going on among Division members. I am enclosing a check for membership, and also a postage and Bulletin donation.

*(Editor's Note: We were able to provide Mr. Williams with all of the addresses that he asked for with the exception of 1st Lieutenant Paul Hayo. The Lieutenant is not on our Association roster, so anyone who can help either contact Mr. Williams or National Headquarters).*

**Ted Snyder**, 3 Carolyn Court, Syosset, New York 11791 — D-271st: I was delighted to discover my old buddy **James Ford** (Tennessee) in the December '85 issue of the Bulletin as newly relocated. I sent him a photo (long overdue 35 years), and he was able to relocate **Homer Davidson** who was also a member of our Unit. I have distributed all of the 271st Regimental pins that I offered for free.

It was a moving experience to hear from others of the 271st who saw the liberation of concentration camp survivors or the tragic remains of those buried alive or otherwise killed by the retreating NAZIS. Documenting the eyewitness recollections of our buddies is important to me and for future generations to verify that the HOLOCAUST really happened and should never happen again.

Hope to see a big turn-out at Pittsburgh this year, and also at Niagara Falls in 1987. I enjoyed the Reunion in Williamsburg last year very much. Phone calls really get the other guys to attend for the first time. Thanks for all of your efforts.

**Charles O. Funk**, R.R. #2, Box 593, Mullica Hill, New Jersey 08062 — F-271st: I just found that I received my 85/86 membership card, so let my last check for \$10.00 go towards the Bulletin and Postage fund. Sorry for my inconvenience. Keep up the good work, and my best to the Bulletin Editor, and all of the Officers.

**John M. Young**, 913 Earl of Essex Court, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454 — K-271st: I am a 69th Division veteran, and would like to join your organization. Please send the particulars, including the dues, etc. I was a member of K-Company, 271st Regiment from Camp Shelby, Mississippi till the Division was broken up in August, 1945. I just learned about your Association from a friend who was in my Company. Thank you for your attention to my request.

**Mrs. William Nebhut**, 5400 Hermit Terrace, Apt. A, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19128: It is with sorrow and regret that I write to tell you of the death of **William Nebhut**, former member of M-Company, 273rd Infantry Regiment. We both attended your Reunion in Williamsburg, Virginia, and did have a wonderful time with **Bill's** buddies from M-Company, and the other people we met. We had looked forward to attending the Reunion in Pittsburgh in 1986.

His death was a sudden heart attack, but he had been ill for almost two years after a stroke. We also had attended the Reunion in Milwaukee in 1982.

He retired from the active reserves in 1971 as a CWO, and had a great fondness for the military life. We would have celebrated our 44th wedding anniversary in September of this year. He was a wonderful person, and needless to say, I miss him terribly. If I am able, I would like to attend the Reunion in Pittsburgh, but will not make any long range plans as of now. I wanted you to know of **Bill's** death so that you would publish it in your Bulletin under Taps.

**Al Kormas**, 12500 Edgewater, #503, Lakewood, Ohio 44107: *The "Big Greek" wrote his usual witty letter to your Editor, but in it he had some serious thought which I would like to pass on to you.*

From a book written by a Combat Marine, the following ----- When I finally got home I wanted to forget the War, but not the men. The older you get, the more you look back. I have been very active in the 1st Division, as a matter of fact, I am the President. If you told me 35 years ago that in 1982 I would be this active, I would have never believed you. Don't misunderstand this; War is the height of man's stupidity. But the truth of the matter is, you are more apt to look back on the camaraderie you experienced, than on the bad stuff. You form a relationship with the men you served with during Combat that can't be equaled anywhere else. You don't meet with them to fight old battles, you meet with them just to be with them again. It is as simple as that.

**Al** also passed on the information that he and his Wife and the **Balzano's** put in a sneak appearance at a Church Dinner where **Bob** and **Vivian Kurtzman** attend. **Vivian** was on the chow line, and our Treasurer was whipping up what looked like a washtub of mashed spuds. We surprised them by yelling "Hey K.P." which got the whole crews attention. It was a delicious chicken dinner, the likes which the Army had never fed us. Afterwards we went to the **Kurtzman** home, and were treated with great hospitality and friendship. **Bob** and **Vivian** serve constantly with American Legion dinners, and Church and volunteer firemen affairs. Taking care of two jobs for the Association just doesn't seem to be enough to keep them busy. Bless them, and all of our other fine Officers.

**Archie Brooke**, 2043 Culley Drive, Mechanicsville, Virginia 23111 — Div. Hq.: I attended the 69th Division Reunion in Williamsburg in August. At that time I paid my 1985-1986 dues at the registration desk, and also contributed to the postage fund in cash. **Mrs. Beswick** handled this, and although I did not get a receipt, a notation was made in the record book. I was only able to attend for one day (Friday).

*(Continued on Page 3)*



## NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 2)

I attended the dinner Friday night for Div. Hq. and Hq. Co., and enjoyed meeting the Bolte family. I signed the register for Div. Hq., but my name was not included in the Bulletin for those who attended. I hope this will help you in clearing your record.

**Rex Kiser**, 5633 Tracy Avenue, Edina, Minnesota 55436 — E-273rd: I received your note saying Calvin Howard had submitted my name and paid my initial dues. I will write him a note of thanks for his generosity. My Wife and I had a nice visit with Howard and his Wife this past summer when we drove down to New Orleans for the National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans.

I trained with the 69th, but served in combat as a replacement in the 9th Infantry Division in July and August of 1944. I received a serious injury of the spine when a mortar shell hit a tree behind me. I have been in a wheel chair ever since. It didn't affect my arms any, so I have been able to take care of myself reasonably well. I have been married since 1949, and have two Daughters who are now out on their own. The best of everything to you and yours.

**Chaplain James W. May**, 956 Clifton Road, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30307 — 271st Inf.: Your good letter reached me as I was recovering from a heart attack. I apologize for the delay in responding. My recovery has been far better than I had dared to hope, and I seem to be doing pretty well as long as I remember that I'm in my seventies and not in my thirties.

I retired in 1980 after teaching 33 years on the School of Theology faculty in Emory University, Atlanta. I continued a little part time teaching, but now I have decided to "really retire" and do only what I choose to do. One of my projects in retirement has been transcribing my correspondence while in the service. I am also transcribing a file of correspondence with the next-of-kin of casualties in the Second Battalion of the 271st Regiment. As you can imagine, working through these old letters has rekindled both happy and poignant memories.

In the summer of 1982 my family and I made a nostalgic trip (for me) along the 69th's route of advance from the Belgium border to Leipzig and Eilenburg. It was exciting indeed to retrace these steps, though traveling alone in the East Zone left us with some nervous moments.

We have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the Bulletin again, and are profoundly grateful, not only for your getting in touch with us, but also for the great work that you are doing for the Association.

**Richard W. Bell**, R.R. #2, Box 44, Watertown, South Dakota 57201 — D-272nd: I always look forward to receiving the 69th Bulletin, and read them cover to cover. I haven't received the Spring issue yet, and hope that it hasn't got lost in the mail. I know there is a lot of work in getting them out, as I owned and operated a small weekly newspaper for 6 years.

We are sure having flood problems here this Spring. This northeast corner of South Dakota is just like Minnesota for lakes, and we call it our Glacial Lakes Region. We had all kinds of snow this winter. The Big Sioux River is drainage for this area, and connects many of our lakes in a chain clear down to Sioux Falls. Lake Kampeska here is entirely in the city limits, and homes are being flooded all around it, as it is over full. Lake Poinsett south of us is 6 feet over normal level, so you can imagine what it is doing to homes and businesses around here. Millions of acres of crop land are under water, and won't be planted this Spring. Maybe this will help the surplus that we have in farm products, but the poor farmers won't have any income. Counties and townships are suffering from roads being washed out.

I am thinking about attending the Pittsburgh Reunion, so I hope all of the information is in the Bulletin. I am retired

on Social Security from the printing trade, so am free to go, although my Wife still works.

**Harold J. Patchen**, 801 Elm Street, Rome, New York 13440 — A-272nd: My Wife and I had a most rewarding experience. We were in Saratoga, New York at the Guthrie Brothers VFW Post on election night. Our oldest son Harold (Jay) knew that I had always wanted to meet some other members of the Fighting 69th. He had located 2 ex-members of the 69th, **Martin Welch** of Saratoga, New York and the 271st, and **Tom Welsh** of Loudonville, New York from the 273rd. I served with the 272nd. We sat for several hours and talked about our lives as G.I.'s and civilians. It was an enjoyable evening. All three of us decided to meet again in the near future. Our Wives enjoyed the meeting almost as much as we did. To climax the evening our Son was elected Commander of the Post. My Wife and I are members of the Post at Rome, New York. I am a Life Member and my Wife is President of the Auxiliary. Other members of the 69th who would like to meet with us can contact me.

**Herb Fish**, 157 Hussey Avenue, Battle Creek, Michigan 49017 — B-777th: I was looking through the V.F.W. Magazine, and ran across the information about your Reunion. I was one of the 10th Armored Division men who made up the 777th Tank Battalion. I was in B-Company. Please send me the information about the Reunion, and also the dues so that I can join.

**Dan Bolton**, 2256 Philippine Drive, #48, Clearwater, Florida 33575 — 69 Div. Band: I am hoping that we will have a good turnout for the Reunion in August, however, I doubt if we could get together a group to play. Many of the men gave up the life of being a musician after the War, and entered other fields, as I did. There are only a few that have indicated that they are still active in music. There is one other project that I have been working on which may be of interest to you.

Back in the early days of the 69th at Camp Shelby, the Band played many concerts in the area and at the Service Club in Hattiesburg. Several of these I know were recorded, and I have been trying to relocate these recordings, so that I can put together a cassette tape of this great organization. I know that the recordings are not the best, as the recording equipment at that time was not as good as the equipment available today. So far I have found several numbers from one of the concerts of the concert band, and several bad practice records of the dance orchestra. These I have put on reel-to-reel tape in hopes that I can find more and eventually make up a cassette.

I have just received some more photos from one of the fellows, and one of them I want to get a copy made and send to you. It is of the Band playing a concert on the lawn in front of the Palace in Copenhagen for the King and Queen of Denmark. After the War we had the opportunity to be with the first allied troops to enter Denmark, and toured the country putting on concerts in many of the cities. We made many trips back to Copenhagen from Bremen. The dance orchestra spent some time playing at one of the large dance halls, however, the most memorable trip was our invitation for the concert band to play in the parade for the King's 75th birthday celebration, and then the concert on the lawn. For this we were each given a silver 2 kroner coin that had been issued for this birthday celebration. I still have mine, and it sure brings back many memories.

For my next Newsletter I need the hotel information for the Reunion. I am sure the fellows will want to know all of this.

**Harry L. Miller**, 1710 Warren Street, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005 — Med. 273rd: Received the Spring Bulletin, and read it from cover to cover. Sure is interesting to read the comments from the members after all these years. The only member of the Division that I have been in contact with is **George "Choppy" Fara**. He was the mailman for Service Com-

(Continued on Page 4)

## NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 3)

pany 273. What a Crapshooter he was. We have exchanged Christmas Cards since 1946.

**Leo M. Martel**, who will be Chairman of the 1987 Reunion, sent me a letter informing me about the Reunion in Niagara Falls. My Wife and I are making plans to attend that one. He also asked if any other former members whereabouts are known so that he could send them information, and invite them to attend. I will send dues for next year, and the extra you can use for what you deem necessary.

**Kermit C. Webb**, 202 Crescent Avenue, Apt. B-4, Louisville, Kentucky 40206 — E-273rd: This probably will be about as big a shock to the gang as the War was in the first place. I have watched every 69th Bulletin for the past 45 years, looking for **Sam Fichthorn's** name in them, with no results until Vol. 39, No. 2. "**Bob**" as I knew him at Camp Shelby, and I went into the 69th at the same time. He had the first squad and I had the second for quite a while. We were together until he was made a Lieutenant in the field over there. After that I never saw him again, or heard from him and I am so glad to hear that he got back safely, and is doing so well in Pennsylvania again.

As many of you know, I was too old to be in the Army in the first place, but I made it without a hit of any kind, which I am thankful for. After returning home, I went back on the road as a salesman, and continued for 50 years including the Army years. I retired in 1981, and I haven't done anything but travel a little and help keep the apartment.

I am sending you some pictures that I got out and looked through. I have a lot that were taken during the fighting, but names are not available on, so they wouldn't mean too much to anyone but me.

I have never been to one of the Reunions. Something always seems to turn up when they are held and it is impossible for us to attend. Maybe some day I'll get to one. I am working on the 80th year now, and sometimes that makes it difficult for us to take many trips. We go out west most of the time. Good luck to all of the old buddies.

*(Editor's Note: Mr. Webb's pictures appear elsewhere in this issue.)*

**William Sorrentino**, 8725 Calder Place, Tampa, Florida 33604 — L-273rd: This letter is to inform those of you that missed the Southeastern Chapter Spring Break, that **Al** and **Cathy Long** did a great job in putting it together, and you missed a wonderful time at Kennedy Space Center and Seascape. We had 30 people attend, and everyone had a great time, with good rooms and plenty of good food. Looking forward to the next get-together .... God Willing.

The Editor's Note about the Defunct Air Cadets Program to get in touch with **Mr. Turner**; I'm one of the defunct cadets that went to Camp Shelby in April, 1944.

**Raymond Van Brocklin**, 3318 West Denison Avenue, Davenport, Iowa 52804 — M-271st & 769th Ord.: I also came to the 69th from Keesler Field. I was assigned to Company M-271st, but later on was transferred to the 769th Ordinance. When my flight crew at Keesler Field was shipped to the 69th, I was home on any emergency furlough. When I finally arrived in the 69th, I was a "loner." Will see you in Pittsburgh.

**George Houseal**, 3170 Sunset Avenue, Norristown, Pennsylvania 19403 — I-273rd: We are sure that you have already heard how great the "Spring Break" mini-reunion was at the Kennedy Space Center in April. This was a Southeastern States get-together, so we were sort of "extras," but were made to feel right at home. **Cathy** and **Al Long** had told us about this, even before we read it in the Bulletin, so we tied this in with a visit to their home. The "Break" was such fun even though it was poorly attended. We decided it was quality not quantity that counted. We were able to make some new

friends that we possibly would not have met at a large Reunion such as the one in Pittsburgh, but now we will certainly hope to see them again in August. It is a real shame that those who thought about attending, but didn't, don't know what they missed.

**Joseph Monteleone**, 1320 Beverly Road, Warminster, Pennsylvania 18974 — A-269th: I goofed on not letting you know that **John Hedl**, formerly of A-269th, passed away on January 13, 1986. I attended his funeral, as we were friends and had kept in touch. I told his Wife that I would let you know. I expect to attend the Reunion in Pittsburgh, however. I have noted that there was no map in the Bulletin with directions to the Marriott from the major highways. Is there any way of getting this information?

*(Editor's Note: We promise to have a map in this issue to get you to the Marriott quickly.)*

**Larry Brown**, 538 Burns Street, Clarkston, Washington 99403 — B-461st AAA: Received your Bulletin, and it was very interesting reading. We always enjoy it so much. I haven't heard anything about the East Coast Reunion of our Battery B. We have made other plans for September, so will not be going. I wanted to mention how hospitable **Ed** and **Jo Gergerich** and **Sam** and **Viv Russell** of Pittsburgh and **Jo** and **Bill Byler** of Erie were to us. Everytime we go to an East Coast Reunion, these people can not do enough for us, and take time to show us the sights. They are really wonderful people.

**Kyle Ellison**, 110 Olympia Drive, Beckley, West Virginia 25801 — L-272nd: I noticed in the last Bulletin a letter written by **Ray Turner** from Forest City, Iowa that he had joined the 69th after the Cadet program at Keesler Field folded. I was one of the individuals that came to the 69th from Keesler Field in April of 1944. I was with the 87th Division (Acorn) at Camp McCain, Mississippi, and went through training in Tennessee and then to Fort Jackson, South Carolina. I stayed with the 69th until the War was over. In the fall of 1945, I was transferred to an Ordinance outfit at Butzbach. I have not had any contact with anyone from the Cadet program. I have been a member of the 69th Association since it first started in the late 40's.

I enjoy reading the Bulletin, but rarely see the names of the people I served with. I was a squad leader in the Mortar Section of Company L-272nd. I am retired now after having worked 37½ years with Appalachian Power Company (a part of the American Electric Power System). I have not been able to attend any of the Reunions, but hope to be able to attend in the future.

\*\*\*\*\*

## MOVING

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Please send this form and your old address label to National Headquarters, 101 Stephen Street, New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068.

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**39th Annual Reunion  
August 10-17, 1986  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

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Pennsylvania Turnpike west to Pittsburgh Exit #6. Follow Parkway West, I-376 through Fort Pitt Tunnel to Greentree-Crafton Exit — bear to Crafton side from Pittsburgh. Follow Marriott Drive signs to Inn. **Alternate** — Bypass Pittsburgh (urban area): East or West Pennsylvania Turnpike to Warrendale - Exit 3. Follow signs to Pittsburgh I-79 South (cross Glenfield Bridge-Neville Island) Take I-79 Pittsburgh Exit to I-279 East. Exit Greentree-Mt. Lebanon ramp. Turn left on Greentree Road and follow Marriott Drive signs to Inn.

**FROM WEST VIRGINIA I-70 EAST:**

Exit I-79 North. Take Pittsburgh Exit I-279 East to Exit ramp Greentree-Mt. Lebanon. Turn left on Greentree Road. Follow Marriott Drive signs to Inn.

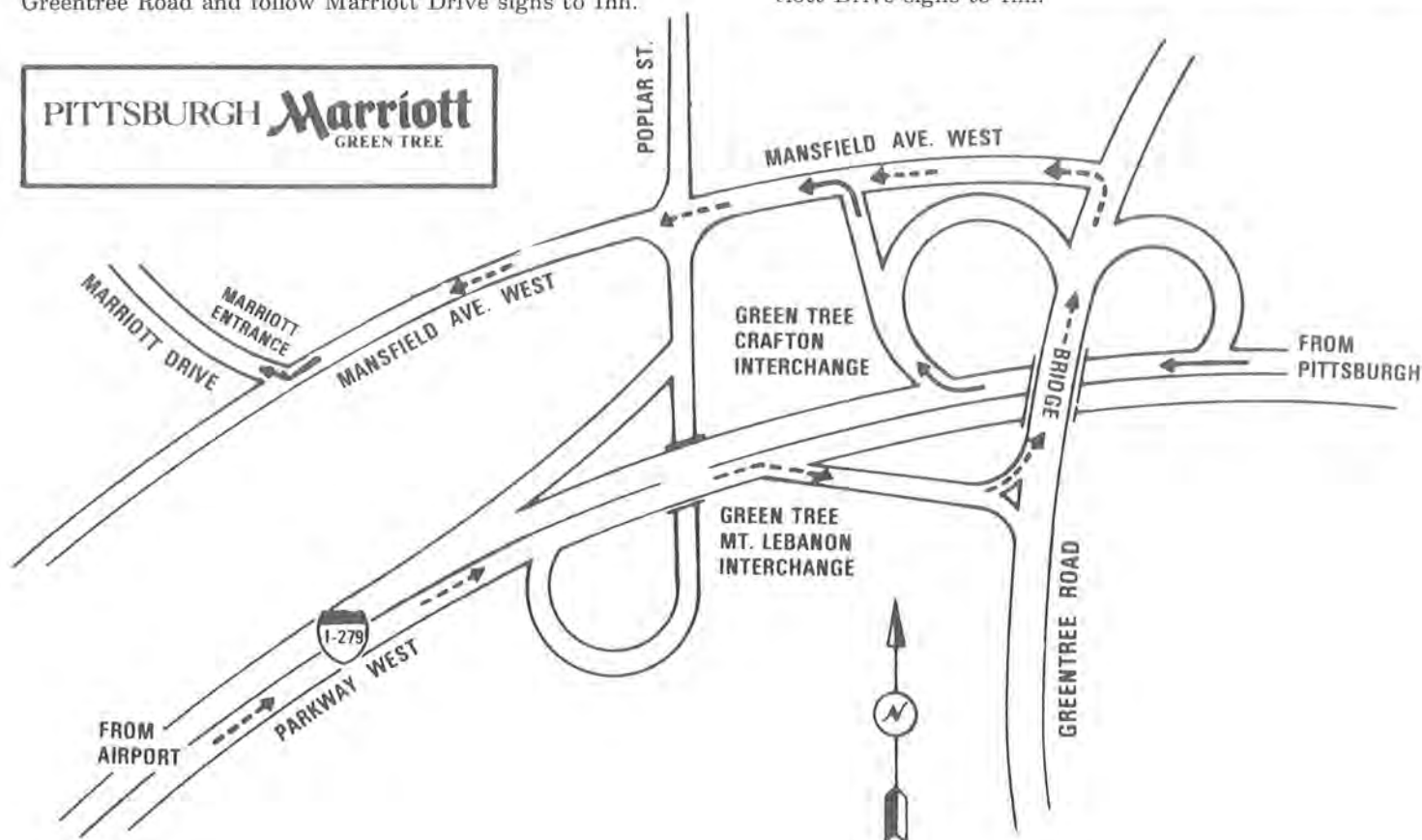
**FROM ERIE, BUFFALO AND NORTH:**

I-79 South across Glenfield Bridge (Neville Island) to I-279 Pittsburgh Exit. Exit Greentree-Mt. Lebanon ramp. Turn left on Greentree Road and follow Marriott Drive signs to Inn.

**FROM**

**CLEVELAND, AKRON, YOUNGSTOWN AND WEST:**

Ohio Turnpike I-80 to Pennsylvania Turnpike I-76, off at Warrendale Exit 3, then take I-79 South, across Glenfield Bridge (Neville Island) to I-279 Pittsburgh Exit. Exit Greentree-Mt. Lebanon ramp. Turn left on Greentree Road and follow Marriott Drive signs to Inn.





## President's Message



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

I want to discuss our yearly Reunions, which I thoroughly enjoy. In fact, more each year as time goes on.

In order to have a reasonably successful Reunion, there must be people that have ample free time to plan and make all arrangements necessary. Also to be able to follow up on these plans to see that they are carried through. Believe me, it is most difficult.

I am sure that we will have a most successful Reunion in Pittsburgh.

When setting up a tour, as a rule a price has to be negotiated and the tour company wants to know how many, etc. It is not extremely difficult to set it up, if it is known ahead of time how many people want to participate.

I talked with **Paul Shadle** and told him "to make it easy on yourself," do the best that you can as far as tours are concerned. (You see **Paul** also has a busy schedule, as far as his own work is concerned).

If any 69'er is interested in wanting to make arrangements for a Reunion in their area, make it known. Also, try to have sufficient assistance. Just as **Leo Martel** has been doing in Niagara Falls for 1987. A report on this affair will be given in Pittsburgh. **Bob Kurtzman**, **Bill Foster** and I met with the committee and toured the hotel facilities in April.

**Jim Kidd**, of Lexington, Kentucky also presented information for a Reunion in his area. He surely appears to be working hard on it. **Bill Foster** and his wife **Betty** traveled to Lexington for a meeting and tour of the facilities in May. Due to **Jo's** illness, we were unable to attend at the last minute.

I want to give everyone something to think about. Some of these Reunions can get to be very expensive, if you plan to be there the entire week. Especially if too many activities are planned. Let's discuss these items at the Reunion in Pittsburgh to see how everyone feels about them. Of course many of us use this time as our vacation and a few dollars won't hurt to have an enjoyable time, will it?

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

Best Regards to Everyone,  
**Bill Beswick**  
President

## Treasurer's Message



**Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.**  
Post Office Drawer 178  
Wilmot, Ohio 44689  
Telephone: 216/359-5487

I am writing this on June 2nd as it is getting close to the deadline for the next Bulletin as **Clarence** and **Earl** want to have it in your hands before the Pittsburgh Reunion.

So far, I have had four requests for Scholarship applications and as of this date only one application has been returned. I gave a June 15th deadline for the applications to be returned, so the other three may still be coming.

This has been a banner year for the 69th and we have broken the record again for dues paying. As of today, I have received contributions from 2,208 members which is 40% of our mailing roster and an increase of over 200 from last year.

My thanks to the 758 who made a postage or bulletin fund donation as this shows your interest in the job that **Clarence** and **Earl** do on the Bulletin, so keep your cards and letters coming in and they will pass your news on in the Bulletins.

I was pleasantly surprised to find that 410 sent in contributions that for some reason or another failed to do so last year. Lets hope this is an indication that more of you are going to be showing up at the future Reunions.

By the time you have finished reading the Bulletin, we will be in the month of July and we hope that your Reunion reservations have been made, so pack your bags and throw them in the jalopy and head for Pittsburgh and we'll see you at the Greentree Marriott from August 10th to 17th.

**Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.**  
Treasurer and Scholarship Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*



"Ain't been in long, have you, mate?"

\*\*\*\*\*

# City of Niagara Falls NEW YORK

## News About the 1987 Reunion in Niagara Falls

As you know by now, the Fighting 69th Reunion in 1987 will be in Niagara Falls. We are very proud of the fact that the Fighting 69th will be here. We are looking forward to making this one of the most memorable Reunions, since Niagara Falls is one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

Plans are underway for one of the largest military parades, including local civilian participation. We are also arranging a variety of accommodations, such as, rooms at the main hotel, motels for more modest prices, even camping grounds for anyone who would like to come in a trailer.

A beautiful fashion show for the women. Special arrangements between the United States and Canada to honor the Fighting 69th with red, white and blue lights on the American Falls. These are just a few of the many events being formulated. The main event, of course, the dinner dance, is to be held in the beautiful ballroom of our magnificent convention center.

Mr. Martel and I felt that you and the full membership would be interested to know what plans are being made for the wonderful men of the Fighting 69th. Perhaps you could pass this on in the next Bulletin.

Incidentally, letters of welcome were mailed to all the new found members listed in your last Bulletin. Response has been good. They have sent us new names and state that they are looking forward to 1987. If anyone has a name that they would like contacted, kindly forward it to us and we will be more than happy to contact them. We will keep you and the membership advised of the progress and events for the Reunion in 1987.

Last but not least, we would like to commend the outstanding job that you have done Mr. Marshall. You have kept the organization together and well informed. With your expertise and knowledge, we would certainly appreciate any suggestions or ideas that you might be able to pass on to us. Looking forward to working closely with you.



Sincerely,  
Leo M. Martel  
Rita Buchalski

\*\*\*\*\*

## Notice to All Former Members of Company E-271st

A special effort is underway to attract all former E-271st members to the Reunion in Pittsburgh in August for an E-Company get-together within the Division Reunion. If you haven't already been contacted, please write to either Carl F. Kaiser, 3056 Sunset Drive, Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania 19608 or James Sharpe, 2040 Menominee Drive, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901.

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## Eight Soviet World War II Veterans Visit The United States

In response to an invitation from Dr. Donald Cole, RODC, who fought with the 69th Division during World War II and who attended the 40th Anniversary Link-Up Celebration on the Elbe River last Spring, eight Soviet World War II Veterans visited Ohio during UNIFYING OHIO FOR PEACE WEEK.

The delegation consisted of **Ivan Katishkin** (Retired Colonel General), leader of the delegation who is Deputy Chief of the Soviet War Veterans Committee in the U.S.S.R. and head of the Moscow Branch of the Soviet War Veterans Committee; **Adolf Feidorov**, Vice Chief of the International Department of the Soviet Veterans Committee and chief interpreter; **Alexey Gorlinsky** (retired Major General of Artillery) whom met the 69th Division at the Elbe; **Alexander Olshansky** (retired Major General) who met the 69th Division at the Elbe; **Ivan Ryjkov** (retired Colonel); **Alexander Silvasko** (retired Captain and retired Director of a secondary school) who met the 69th Division on the Elbe; **Georgiy Prokopiev**, a decorated hero of the Soviet Union; and **Professor Igor Belyaev** (retired Captain) and now Foreign Policy Editor for the Literary Gazette.

They arrived in Cleveland about 12:30 on Friday morning, April 18th. After only a few hours of sleep, they visited schools in Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights where they met and talked with school children about peace, had lunch with the Cleveland Heights City-To-City Program, had a news conference at Cleveland City Hall, met with members of Cleveland City Council and then went to a Memorial Service at the Monument on Mall to those who died in World War II. The American Legion sent two color guards and the Coast Guard sent a color guard to the Memorial Service.

On Saturday they visited the V.A. Hospital at Wade Park and then went to American Legion Post 610 where **Ivan Katishkin** spoke about World Peace to a cheering group of American Legionnaires. That evening there was a large sit down banquet at The City Club attended by over 200 people. American and Soviet Elbe Veterans have taken a vow to do all they can to keep another war from happening and it was heart warming to have these men, now in their sixties and seventies, come so many miles to affirm their commitment to World Peace.

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Vernon Wirth pictured in front of a Nazi Flag which he donated to the Patton Museum at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

# Division Association Chapter (Group) Meetings Across the United States

We are interested in all news from Chapters, Groups, Branches, Companies, Regiments, and whatever, for this column, as it may help build up your events. Mail your date(s), location, banquet cost, and room rates, plus a good write-up, to Earl E. Witzleb, Jr., Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622, as early as possible. Then follow through with a write-up immediately after the event(s).

## Southeastern Chapter

**Allen and Cathy Long, Chairpersons**  
10620 Fernando Street  
Orlando, Florida 32817  
Telephone: 305/277-7820

The "SPRING BREAK" in Titusville, Florida, April 24-27, 1986, was a great success and all those attending agreed we should try to make the "SPRING BREAK" an annual event. Al and Cathy Long did an outstanding job negotiating and organizing this affair and not even a hint of seasickness. I think there were some sore arms from pulling the handles on the "one-arm-bandits"; there was almost continuous entertainment and in-between more food than anyone could eat.

The tour of the Space Center was even more interesting than ever in view of the recent Shuttle explosion with the tragic loss of lives. Our motel furnished us with outstanding breakfasts Friday and Sunday and a delicious dinner Friday evening. Everyone agreed that the total cost of \$135.00 per person for this weekend was the best bargain in a long time; and they were really surprised that more people did not take advantage of this offer. We regret that Bill Foster and his wife had to cancel out at the last minute. He had to go to Niagara Falls with Bill Beswick the same weekend to check out plans for the 1987 Reunion.

The entire group asked that this note voice their sincere condolences to Elsie Irvine and family. Jim and Elsie had to leave Friday morning when notified of her mother's death during the night.

### THOSE PRESENT:

**George and Vickie Gallagher** — Div. MP  
Zephyrhills, Florida  
**Stanley and Ruth Auk** — B-269th Engr.  
Tampa, Florida  
**Bob and Irene McCarthy** — A-880th  
Vero Beach, Florida  
**E. R. and Jacqueline Sams** — H-273rd  
Pinnacle, North Carolina  
**Jim and Elsie Irvine** — Div. Hq.  
Cocoa Beach, Florida  
**John and Helen Hayes** — H-271st  
Indialantic, Florida  
**Bill and Laura Sorrentino** — L-273rd  
Tampa, Florida  
**Jeb and Ruth Stewart** — 69 Recon.  
Port St. Lucie, Florida  
**Ken Sawyer** — D-273rd  
Melbourne, Florida  
**Alfred Faison** — Div. Arty.  
Satellite Beach, Florida  
**Adrian and Margaret Adams** — D-777th Tnks.  
Port St. Lucie, Florida  
**John and Barbara Lee** — D-777th Tnks.  
Simpsonville, South Carolina  
**Al and Cathy Long** — I-273rd  
Orlando, Florida  
**Brad and Verda Snyder** — M-272nd  
Fort Pierce, Florida  
**George and Janet Houseal** — I-273rd  
Norristown, Pennsylvania

Warmest Regards,  
Al Faison



*Bob and Irene McCarthy, E. R. and Jacqueline Sams, Bill and Laura Sorrentino*



*George and Vickie Gallagher, Jeb and Ruth Stewart, Stanley and Ruth Auk*



*At sea off the coast of Cape Canaveral on Board the "Seascope." Everyone in this picture except Stanley and Ruth Auk - we could not find them.*

(Continued on Page 9)



**DIVISION ASSOC. CHAPTER GROUP MEETINGS**  
(Continued from Page 8)



Brad and Verda Snyder, Al and Cathy Long



Adrian and Margaret Adams, John and Barbara Lee, John and Helen Hayes

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## 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion Gettysburg Reunion

The 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion had an excellent turnout at the Holiday Inn, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. There is much to see, if you are a history buff.

Of course our Hospitality Room was always bustling with activity of visiting.

Ralph and Vera Chase were new comers'. This was the first time that we had seen him since 1946. It was especially interesting to me, as he was my gunner for a while. Ralph hails from Hatboro, Pennsylvania.

Another new comer was Hank and Lorrie Pletting. They came all the way from Downers Grove, Illinois. Hank had several friends present to make him feel welcome.

All in all, we had a great crowd. I think everyone had an enjoyable time.

We were all very sorry that Guy Nowels took sick on his way to Gettysburg and had to stop off at his daughter's house in Michigan. We missed seeing you, Guy. Bill Wahl, Thomas Knick and Ed Golden were a little upset that you couldn't make it.

We voted to hold our 661st Reunion in Charlottesville, Virginia next year. Milton "Pat" Patterson doesn't know it yet. I haven't had a chance to contact him as I write this. But, we are going to have to depend on him a whole lot, with our help, of course. But Pat is a good guy. How about it, Pat?

A special note to the attendees in Gettysburg. Chris and Ralph Bragg kept expecting a phone call from their son about the birth of their first grand child. It was a girl, named Ashley Marie Bragg.

Bill Beswick

### 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion Reunion Attendees

#### HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Mel and Ruth Mellinger — Wrightsville, Pennsylvania  
John and Esther Roth — Bay City, Michigan  
Bill and Mary Wahl, (Medic) — Chagrin Falls, Ohio  
Eric and Irene Hughes — Ellenton, Florida  
John and Mary Olchak — Monessen, Pennsylvania  
Bob Jasper — Vandergrift, Pennsylvania  
Henry and Maxine Newstein — King of Prussia, Pennsylvania  
James and Betty Binder, (Medic) — Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

#### RECON COMPANY

Paul and Louise Cole — Lutherville, Maryland  
Dan and Esther Russo — Livingston, New Jersey

#### "A" COMPANY

Bill and Margaret Dawson — Nathalie, Virginia  
*First Timers:*

Hank and Lorrie Pletting — Downers Grove, Illinois  
Ken and Marie Sherwood — Horseheads, New York  
Sam and Gertrude Goldberg — Lakewood, New Jersey  
Jack and Leora Sherlock — Pawtucket, Rhode Island  
Mike and Dorothy Kotnik — Elyria, Ohio  
Elwin "Pat" Patterson — Apollo, Pennsylvania  
Thomas S. Knick — Clifton Forge, Virginia  
Edward Golden — Middleton, New Jersey

#### "B" COMPANY

Bill and Jo Beswick — West Point, Virginia  
Nelson Leaman — Mountville, Pennsylvania  
Ralph and Chris Bragg — Chase City, Virginia  
William J. and Kathy King — Little Compton, Rhode Island  
Peter and Carolyn Baskett — Moscow, Pennsylvania  
Sal and Cris Cucchiaro — Allegheny, Pennsylvania  
Leo and Ellen Levie — Baltimore, Maryland  
*First Timers:*

Ralph and Vera Chase — Hatboro, Pennsylvania  
Frances O'Roark — Hinton, Virginia  
Bill and Ellen Snidow — Pembroke, Virginia  
Frank and Maureen Sindlinger — South Bend, Indiana

#### "C" COMPANY

Charles and Gladys Hollenbach — Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania  
Chuck Yannul — Bellmawr, New Jersey  
Steve and Anne Forgas — Seven Hills, Ohio  
Jules and Pat Slopek — Munroe Falls, Ohio  
M. R. "Dick" Davis — Greencastle, Pennsylvania

#### HONORARY MEMBER

Harold and Dottie Starry — Carlisle, Pennsylvania

#### GUESTS

Paul and Marian Shadle — New Kensington, Pennsylvania  
Earl and Dottie Witzleb — Champion, Pennsylvania

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*Mr. & Mrs. Kermit Webb on their 50th Wedding Anniversary, September 14, 1985.*



*My little Texas Jeep Driver during the rat race across Germany. This was just outside of a town where we freed a lot of Prisoners of War.*



*Peoples Monument in Leipzig, Germany, May 1945. The hole was made by a 500 pound bomb.*



*This picture taken on March 31, 1945 by Lieutenant Howard.*



*Buckley, Fichthorn, Morgan, Snyder, Fomota, and Horn pictured in Chilbolton, England.*

**PICTURES FURNISHED BY KERMIT WEBB**



*The 1985 Reunion at Williamsburg brought together these four graduates of the Benning School for Boys (Fort Benning, Infantry OCS). The smiling faces are Left to Right, Crandon Clark (B-272nd), Edgar (Bud) Parsons (A-272nd), Ed Lucci (A-273rd), and Bill Matlach (E-273rd). Parsons, Lucci, and Matlach were in the same graduating class in August 1944. Crandon graduated the week before. This was the first Reunion ever for Bud Parsons, who did not know that the Association existed until recently. But he made up for it. Not only did he attend the Reunion, but he also went on the tour to the Elbe.*



*H-273rd men taken near the Leipzig Zoo.  
Left to Right: Eddie Dragowitz, Tom Hoffman, Rudy Leyher, Art Knudsen*

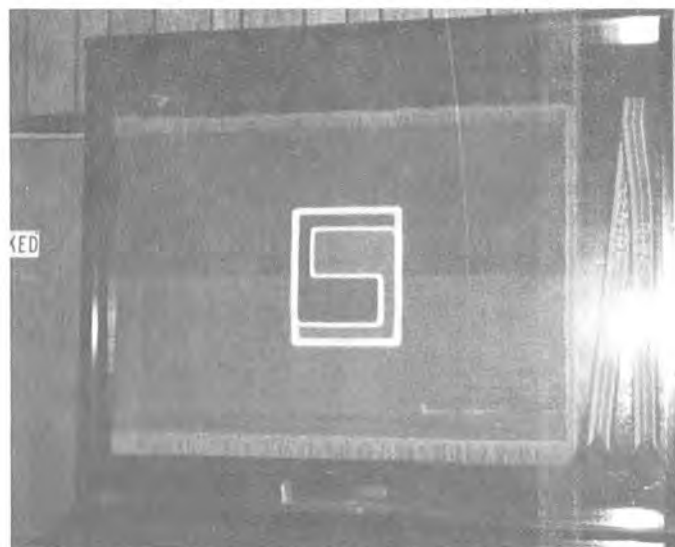


*Division Headquarters Company E.M. Mess Hall personnel*

*Rear Left to Right: Ash, Duffy, Woods  
Kneeling: Hutchins, Silvernale, Webb  
Gentlemen in front not identified.*



*Kalamazoo Piper and also the official Piper for the 69th Infantry Division Association, Glenn B. Vanderlaan, on the Michigan Street Bridge in Chicago, Illinois, April 25, 1986, for the 41st Anniversary of the Meeting with the Russians at the Elbe.*



**The 69th Infantry Division Colors enshrined in glass cases at Fort Dix, New Jersey. In a couple of months, they will be moved to a new Museum that the Post is opening.**



# CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE

May I just make note to all Leaders of Chapters, Groups, Branches, Companies, Regiments, Recon, Artillery and T.D.'s to get your Activities Schedules to Earl E. Witzleb Jr., Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622, as early as possible. We try to work at least a year ahead, as we only put out three Bulletins a year. When mailing in this information, do send your organization's name, person in charge (Chairman), address, city, state, zip, telephone numbers including area codes, dates, location, and anything else that you feel might be of interest for members to know. This may also bring a few new faces, or two, to your group.

## AUGUST 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 1986

724th Field Artillery, C-Battery

NOTE: To be held in conjunction with the 69th Infantry Division Association Reunion.

Battery C, 724th F.A. Dinner will be on Friday Evening, August 15, 1986.

For Information Write:

Vernon E. Tritch, *Co-Chairman*  
3259 Foxianna Road  
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057  
Telephone: 717/944-9080

John W. Turner, *Co-Chairman*  
2148 East Lake Road, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30307  
Telephone: 404/378-3543

## AUGUST 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 1986

69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL REUNION

Greentree Marriott  
101 Marriott Way  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15205  
Telephone: 412/922-8400

Chairpersons:

Paul and Marian Shadle  
1504 Greensburg Road  
New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068  
Telephone: 412/335-9980

Enrico and Ann D'Angelo  
516 Chestnut Street  
Saltsburg, Pennsylvania 15681  
Telephone: 412/639-3037

MAIL RESERVATIONS EARLY

## SEPTEMBER 11, 12, 13, 14, 1986

The above dates have been set and preparations are in progress for C-Battery 880th Reunion to be held at the Sheraton of Greensburg, Pennsylvania. We will try to make it a good one. God Bless you all.

For Information Write:

Enrico and Ann D'Angelo, *Chairpersons*  
516 Chestnut Street  
Saltsburg, Pennsylvania 15681  
Telephone: 412/639-3037

## SEPTEMBER 19th and 20th, 1986

461st AAA Battery B Weekend Reunion  
Leesburg, Virginia

For Information Write:

Dean Ludeman, *Chairman*  
8620 N.W. 13th Street, #203  
Gainesville, Florida 32606

ALL BATTERIES WELCOME

## MAY-JUNE 1987

461st AAA Battery B Weekend Reunion  
San Francisco, California

For Information Write:

Richard and Helen Esacson, *Chairpersons*  
7610 Scenic Court  
Fair Oaks, California 95628  
Telephone: 916/967-5389

## JUNE 18, 19, 20, 1987

461st AAA Battery D Weekend Reunion  
Headquarters First Baptist Church  
5 Oak Street  
Asheville, North Carolina

Members to stay at:  
Mountaineer Inn  
155 Tunnell Road  
Asheville, North Carolina  
Telephone: 704/254-5331

For Information Write:

John C. English, *Chairman*  
3455 Poplar Street  
Riverside, California 92501  
Telephone: 714/686-3335

## Mrs. Ann (Reinhardt) Stevenson Passes Away

Ann Sybil Reinhardt Stevenson was born in Leavenworth, Kansas on November 14, 1922, the daughter of Laura and Emil F. Reinhardt. Leavenworth is the site of a large federal penitentiary and also the site of an important military training school. Her father, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, was a captain in the U.S. Infantry, enrolled at this military school. He later became a Major General and in World War II commanded the 69th Infantry Division, the unit that met the Russians at the Elbe River.

Ann spent her younger years at army posts in Kansas, Texas, Ohio, California, Washington, D.C. and Providence, Rhode Island. She attended high school in Texas, Stephens College in Missouri and the Eastman Conservatory of Music in New York.

In 1943 Ann married Lieutenant W. G. Stevenson and lived at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Camp Hood, Texas and Salt Lake City, Utah.

In 1947 they moved to a small mining town in Eureka, Utah where her husband was a geologist with the Chief Consolidated Mining Company. In 1947 their son Ricky was born. In 1955 after tours in Nigeria, West Africa, Quebec, Oregon and Salt Lake, the family was transferred to Vancouver, British Columbia.

Ann enrolled in the Conservatory of Music of Toronto and graduated in October 1960. Ann set up a music studio in the family home in North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Over the next 20 years, many students in the Delbrook Area enrolled in her classes for piano lessons.

Ann is survived by her husband and by her son and a daughter-in-law Carol, a granddaughter Mindy age 7, and a grandson Quinn age 4, who reside in Redlands, California.

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## Russian Visitation to the U.S.

On April 29th and 30th, Bill Robertson, Dillard Powell, Bill Sheavly, Bud Parsons, Bob Haag, Charles Chapman, Charles Forrester, Don Cole, and I, Bill Beswick, along with our wives, met with a group of Soviet Veterans that we met in Torgau, Germany in 1945 and again in 1985, at the Dirksen Senate Office Building followed by a reception at the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

On April 30th, we accompanied the Soviet Veterans and participated with them while they placed a memorial wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

We re-affirmed our "Oath of the Elbe Pledge" with the following signed by all 69'ers and Soviets present. The Soviet's signing it were: Major General Aleksia Gorlinski, Major General Alexander Olshanski, Colonel General I. S. Katyshkin, A. L. Feidorov, and Alex Silvashko. (This last man was the man in all the pictures with Bill Robertson and was the one that made the first contact with Bill). This document will be presented in Pittsburgh.

### — RE-AFFIRMATION —

#### THIRD MEETING BETWEEN AMERICAN AND SOVIET VETERANS OF THE ELBE

On April 25th, 1945, the United States "Fighting 69th" Infantry Division, commanded by General Emil F. Reinhardt, met units of the Soviet Union's "58th Guard Division" under the command of Marshall Koniev, on the bank of the "Elbe River" at Torgau, Germany. Ending Hitlerite Fascism in Germany.

Veterans of the "Fighting 69th" Infantry Division Association met once again with members of the Soviet War Veterans Committee to celebrate the fortieth (40th) anniversary of that historic meeting. Again on the bank of the "Elbe River," at Torgau, German Democratic Republic, April 25th, 1985.

Today, April 29th, 1986, Veterans of the same two (2) great World War II Army Units meet once again, for the third (3rd) time many miles to the west in Washington, D.C. on the bank of the historic Potomac River in the United States of America.

WE ALL HAVE BUT ONE COMMON GOAL TODAY.  
WE MUST STRIVE FOR WORLD PEACE AND A  
BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO (2)  
GREAT NATIONS.

### SIGNED

AMERICAN VETERANS

SOVIET VETERANS

We presented the Soviet's some attractive gifts: Among them were gold cross pens, a very beautiful Cape Hatteras shoreline scarf, 69th shoulder patches, a pictorial book of the United States and each one received a 69th lapel pin.

My Wife Jo and I were invited to a farewell reception for Ambassador and Mrs. Anatoly Dobrynin at the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C. on April 9th. Mr. Dobrynin is returning to Moscow as Secretariat to the Kremlin. I presented him with a 69th lapel pin and told him to take it with him to Moscow and to wear it with pride and honor. His reply was, "I will." As I explained what it was, he told me that I didn't need to explain it. He already knew what it was.

Bill Beswick

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## Robert Matthews Sends Along the Following:

It was nice to hear from you, but I'm sorry to hear that you have been in the hospital. However, I'm glad to hear that you have had some treatment for yourself. I also hope that your circulation has improved by now.

I am as well as can be expected and doing fair. I still have a little trouble with my back and my right arm.

It was very thoughtful of you to send me the belt buckle. Now I have a buckle and cap, thanks to you.

I don't think I will be able to make it to the Pittsburgh Reunion this year as my Aunt wants me to visit her in Georgia and my Granddaughter wants me to visit her in New Jersey this summer.

I enjoyed myself in Williamsburg with you fellows even though it was a short stay. Maybe we'll meet again one of these days. At least I'm praying that we will.

Robert Matthews

P.O. Box 97

Lackey, Virginia 23694

(Editor's Note: The above letter was received by Robert Kurtzman, our Treasurer, but we believe it was meant to be for Robert Kremin who served in the same company that Mr. Matthews did).

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## 14



# 69th Infantry Division Association 1986 Reunion

## Greentree Marriott

### Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

#### FOR REUNION RESERVATIONS MAIL TO:

Mr. and Mrs. Paul N. Shadle  
1504 Greensburg Road  
New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068  
Phone: 412/335-9980 (Evenings and Weekends Only)

I/We plan to be at the Greentree Marriott for the 1986 Reunion, and plan to attend the following activities . . . so count on us.

Number In Our Party Will Be: \_\_\_\_\_ Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_ Guest(s)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/Area Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

#### WEEKLY EVENTS

	Per Person	Number Persons	Amount
Sunday, August 10th — Early Arrivals — On Your Own			
Monday, August 11th — Early Arrivals — On Your Own			
Tuesday, August 12th — On Your Own - <i>Note: Shopping Mall within 1½ Miles</i>			
Registration 10:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. (No Registration Fee)			
Wednesday, August 13th — On Your Own or City Tour - \$12.00			
Pay Tour Guide at Registration Desk.			
Registration 10:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.			
Thursday, August 14th — Registration 10:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.			
City Tour-\$12.00 - Pay Tour Guide at Registration Desk.			
Board of Directors Meeting — 2:00 P.M. to ?			
Early Bird Dinner — Three Rivers Cruise and Dinner	\$26.00	_____	\$_____
Bus Shuttle — 6:00 P.M. — Buses Leave			
Friday, August 15th — Registration 10:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.			
On Your Own — Including Dinner and Supper			
Friday Morning Golf — 8:00 A.M.			
Green Fees \$9.50 — Golf Carts \$16.00			
If you plan to play golf please check here: <input type="checkbox"/>			
Number Playing <input type="checkbox"/>			
PX Beer Party — <b>TICKETS NEEDED</b>	\$ 5.00	_____	\$_____
Saturday, August 16th — Men's General Meeting — 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon			
Ladies' General Meeting — 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon			
Memorial Service — 2:00 P.M. - Marriott Flag Pole			
Cocktail Party — 6:00 P.M. to 6:45 P.M.			
Banquet and Dinner Dance — 7:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M.	\$25.00	_____	\$_____
Registration Open for Prepaid Reservations			
For Ticket Pick-Up Only.			
Sunday, August 17th — Sunday Breakfast	\$11.00	_____	\$_____
Farewells and Departures			
Monday, August 18th — Farewells and Departures			
Reunion Sub-Total			\$_____

Make Check or Money Order Payable to: 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
(Do Not Make Checks Payable to Paul Shadle)

**NOTE: IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE RECEIVE YOUR RESERVATIONS AS FAR AHEAD AS POSSIBLE.**

WHEN YOU REGISTER AT THE MARRIOTT, TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH THE 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, TO HELP THEM SPEED THINGS ALONG.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A PLASTIC NAME TAG FROM THE ORLANDO REUNION, PLEASE CHECK THIS BOX. ☐

Name Tags will not be made without prepaid advance registration. Failure to attend Reunion will result in a \$2.00 charge for each badge and will be deducted from a refund.

#### DUES

New Dues Year — August 1, 1986 to July 31, 1987

Regular Membership	\$ 5.00	\$_____
Contributory Membership	\$10.00	\$_____
Ladies Auxiliary	\$ 2.00	\$_____
Postage Donation (For Mailing Bulletins — Up to You)		\$_____

Dues Sub-Total \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Paid \$\_\_\_\_\_

# Gene Butterfield Writes About The Defunct Air Cadet Program

Gene Butterfield  
22449 Lake Road  
Rocky River, Ohio 44116

This letter is long overdue, so I now have enough material for three letters. The moving factor now is **Ray Turner's** letter printed in the Bulletin for January-April 1986. **Mr. Turner** has no idea of how many men from Keesler Field went to the 69th Division, but I bet that **Charlie Bolte** (please excuse the familiarity General, but I consider you more of a friend today than as just an Army officer) could tell him almost to a man the number who arrived from Keesler Field. You may recall that besides you and **Miller Harris** almost all of the Division Combat Platoon was formed from the Air Corps Pre-Cadets who had originally transferred from ground troops to the program. In addition, a good number of the Motor Pool came from the same group, besides you, I am sure of **Curtis, Avery** (I think), **Edmonds**, and others who were at Keesler with us.

You may remember that the Combat Platoon had only two members still with it when we arrived, **Corporal Beuthin** (Cadre) and **Andy Lucas** (Hospitalized). Almost all of the rest came either from the M.P.'s (**Brooks** and **Gene Neuendorf**) or from Keesler. I will try a partial list - from memory - of those who were in the Cadet Program with us: **Casimir Max**, **Gardner**, and **Vickers** from the Armored Infantry at Fort Knox via Keesler (more of **Vickers** later on), **Bragg**, **Farley**, **Roehl** (mit der umlaut), **Gottlieb**, **Alonozo**, **Stanley Helper** (do you have his address? I talked with him in April when the Russians were coming to Cleveland), **Reiders**, **Harm**, **Joe de los Rios** (the Venezuelan), a name which has temporarily slipped my mind, the Freshman Half-Back from Michigan State, and so many others whose names and faces I cannot now recall. I know full well that I am going to be embarrassed by the name of some friend from Keesler that I have temporarily forgotten. **Harry Dees**, who died last year, also came with us, but I think was first assigned to the motor pool before becoming A Chaplain's Assistant.

Speaking of dulled memories, this letter was prompted by a slip in **Ray Turner's** letter to you. The V.F.W. National Convention was held in Cleveland in 1947, not 1948. Why do I remember so vividly? I had spent the summer of 1947 in New York at an encampment, then a trip to Washington, to Philadelphia where I spent a week with **Casimir Max**, then back to New York for about five days that had to end with both the end of my money and a real need to return to Cleveland to prepare for **Donald Vickers** of the Air Cadet Program and the third squad of the Combat Platoon who was arriving (with friends) as Delegates to the Convention from Douglas County, Georgia. I was expected to provide the social end of their sojourn in the big city, entertainment and GIRLS. A girl friend was alerted, and agreed to provide us with the female companionship, but when I returned from New York I found that she had let me down. We were one female short. So I finally asked a girl who had been in a Wedding Party with me the week before I had left for New York to serve as a date for **Vickers**, and she agreed - you know her, her name is **Norma Gene**. This coming July we will have been married 34 years, and I think that she still has never forgiven me for fixing her up with a date with **Donald Vickers**.

And like **Ray Turner**, I also transferred from the 87th Division at Fort Jackson to the Cadet Program, A Company, 347th Infantry. You can see how fortunate I was to find myself in the Division Combat Platoon after the two transfers.

**Clarence**, there is something I've been meaning to talk to you about. Starting with last June, I attended, with **Norma Gene**, evening sessions of the Tri-State Reunion in Cleveland on Thursday and Friday nights (was required to be in Chicago on Saturday and Sunday). You reported the names of those attending in the Bulletin, but not ours. Then we went to the National at Williamsburg. I played in the golf tournament, attended the Director's meeting on Wednesday night (didn't speak for the record, but was there when you spoke), talked with **George Gallagher** about the Scholarship Fund, attended the Business Meeting on Saturday, had breakfast that morning with **Frank Nemeth**, conferred with him during the meeting at the front table, and sat next to **Al Faison** during the meeting. Again you did not report the Mrs. and me as having attended the convention. **Clarence**, are you trying to tell me something? Like I am dead and don't realize it?

I will now close hoping that you have made a complete recovery and that we can get together in Toledo. I am now back on my feet and getting around just fine after my stupid accident. If you weren't told, I had a problem with having been bitten by a brown recluse spider while playing golf last September. I didn't recognize the problem and then didn't take care of it right. This led to big trouble, a badly infected leg and a skin graft to close the open wound. I lay around with my leg elevated for three months, but get around fine now and am trying to get my golf game in shape.

Gene Butterfield

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**NEW GENERAL GETS 'BRIEFING'** — Brig. General Lloyd R. Moses, (Fairfax, S.D.), left, newly appointed assistant division commander of the "Fighting 69th" Infantry Division at Fort Dix, examines the battle streamers of the division during a briefing on the 69th's combat history by commander Brig. General Robert W. Ward, (Cincinnati, Ohio). The streamers, affixed to the tip of the division flag, were awarded the "Fighting 69th" for its gallant action in the Rhineland and Central European campaigns of World War II. Highpoint in the battleground history of the 69th came in April, 1945, when the division's troops linked up with the Russians at the Elbe River and split Nazi Germany into two parts. General Moses succeeds General Ward as assistant commander of the 69th, as the latter accepts command of the post and the division on the departure of Major General John W. Harmony September 15, 1956.

## New Men Relocated Since Last Bulletin

**Victor Szokan** — 724th  
 34424 Euclid Avenue, Apt. 250, Willoughby, Ohio 44094  
**John M. Young** — K-271st  
 913 Earl of Essex Court, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454  
**Joseph A. Purtell** — B-271st  
 2220 Fairhill Avenue, Glenside, Pennsylvania 19038  
**Kenneth Johnson** — Can.-272nd  
 792 Laurel Street, Cloquet, Minnesota 55720  
**John Porogi** — 271st  
 414 South Sheridan, South Bend, Indiana 46619  
**Robert Rabbit** — I-273rd  
 49 North Fordham Road, Hicksville, New York 11801  
**Henry Tipperreiter** — A-880th  
 10492 Thornberry Drive, Spring Hill, Florida 33526  
**John Latteri** — A-272nd  
 319 Chili Avenue, Rochester, New York 14611  
**Homer Davidson** — D-271st  
 816 Hemlock, Muncie, Indiana 47302  
**Raymond Mest** —  
 R.D.#1, Boyertown, Pennsylvania 19512  
**Carl Kempf** — AT-272nd  
 527 Bendle Avenue, Shelby, Ohio 44875  
**Gaelano T. Piscitelli** — C-880th  
 61-39 167th Street, Flushing, New York 11365  
**Hugh Hawkins** — A-880th  
 6299 Pinehurst Drive, Spring Hill, Florida 33526  
**Hank Pletting** — 661st  
 7847 Dunham Road, Downers Grove, Illinois 60516  
**Herb Fish** — B-777th  
 157 Hussey Avenue, Battle Creek, Michigan 49017  
**Carl Jaeger** —  
 Centerville Township Hospital  
 5900 Bond Avenue, Centerville, Illinois 62207  
**Jim Van Alstyne** —  
 400 Creekridge Circle, Apt. 20-A  
 Albermarle, North Carolina 28001  
**Louis J. Zippo** — 272nd  
 1835 Bussing Avenue, Bronx, New York 10466  
**Andrew Calhoun** — Hq. 1st Bn.-271st  
 21 East 53rd Street, Savannah, Georgia 31405  
**Harry Shaffer** — B-777th  
 10005 Yacht Club Drive S., Treasure Island, Florida 33106  
**Allen L. Perry** — Hq.-777th  
 1310 Avenue K, Cozard, Nebraska 69130  
**William G. Witte, Jr.** — 273rd  
 13 Jean Mar Drive, Poquoson, Virginia 23662

## You'd look wacky if you wore khaki

By Gerald Kloss

Khaki has been officially retired as an Army uniform color.

— *News Item*

Ay, roll the muffled drums and  
 sound the horn  
 In mourning for color now  
 forlorn!  
 In happier times, both  
 generals and lackeys  
 Proudly strode parade  
 grounds in their khakis,  
 And as the troops marched  
 by, more than one man  
 Would smile and say, "How fit  
 we look — and *tan!*"  
 For then the shade of  
 yellowish-brown rode  
 high,  
 And who could dream its day  
 of doom was nigh?  
 But now the Army, clad in  
 tints of green,  
 Demands that khaki  
 henceforth not be seen.  
 So doff the suntan pants and  
 stash the shirts  
 That GIs wore in war, peace  
 and alerts,  
 For what was once official  
 Army khaki  
 Is now debased to mufti —  
 dull and tacky . . .  
 Sound "Taps," we cry, to  
 start its final rest,  
 As the suntans slowly fade  
 into the west.



69 Quartermaster Co. - Camp Shelby, Mississippi - March 1944





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These three pictures were sent to your Editor by Kurt Nolke of West Germany. Top left is the railroad station and junction at Bebra-Weiterode. Top right are two former members of Company E-272nd, Delmar Fairley and Bernard Brewer. The lower picture only has one identification, and that is the name James Aikey.

*(Editor's Note: None of these men are on our Association Roster. If you can provide any information on them please contact National Headquarters. In past Bulletins we have made an effort to get Mr. Nolke in contact with former members of our Division whom he claims stayed in his home town of Bebra-Weiterode around June or July of 1945. Many of you have responded, but he is still seeking more help. If you can help, either contact National Headquarters or Mr. Kurt Nolke at Gartenstrabe 11 6440, Bebra-Weiterode, West Germany).*

\*\*\*\*\*





## "Taps"

**Clarence J. Brown**  
Box 1862  
Alice, Texas  
A-661st

**William Coveleski**  
729 Fairway  
South Bend, Indiana  
AT-271st

**William H. Nebhut**  
5400 Hermit Terrace  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
M-273rd

**Bernard J. Dunn**  
114 Lakeview Avenue  
Leon, New Jersey  
B-272nd

**Louis S. Marsh**  
6410 Brokenhurst Road  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
Div. Hq.

**Rufus Maynor**  
125 Brucemont  
Asheville, North Carolina  
C-461st

**Col. James K. O'Brien**  
5511 Hoover Street  
Bethesda, Maryland  
C-880th

**John P. O'Connell**  
3546 Maize Road  
Columbus, Ohio  
A-661st

**Charles S. Shattuck**  
904 General Howe Drive  
West Chester, Pennsylvania  
69th Recon.

**Lawrence Van Iseghem**  
3505 Middle Cheshire Road  
Canandaigua, New York  
69 MP

**John Hedl**  
679 Nazareth Pike  
Nazareth, Pennsylvania  
A-269th

**Paul Buck**  
R.F.D. #1, Box 256  
Bethel, North Carolina  
D-461st

**John E. Hammond**  
4540 8th Avenue, N.E. #2405  
Seattle, Washington  
D-461st

**Erasmus Napolitano**  
206 North 8th Street  
Brooklyn, New York  
F-272nd

**Frank Teague**  
1017 5th Street, S.E.  
Hickory, North Carolina  
A-269th

**Harold J. Adelmeyer**  
Box 83  
Theresa, Wisconsin  
A-661st

**Wayne McGourty**  
1485 South Belford Court  
Merritt Island, Florida  
Div. Hq.

**Harvey Milton**  
501 V.E.S. Road  
Lynchburg, Virginia  
769th Ord.

**Melvin A. Wright**  
1325 Boone Street  
Ft. Wayne, Indiana  
D-369th

**Nick Loden**  
54 Jordan Avenue  
Wallington, New Jersey  
Ser. 777th

**J. D. Townley**  
Route 3, Box 187  
Wytheville, Virginia  
C-661st

**James E. Laverty**  
1231 Audubon Road  
West Chester, Pennsylvania  
Med. 272nd

**Edgar Lewis**  
Route 3  
Coshocton, Ohio  
Recon. 661st

**Abram Foster**  
Mapleton Depot, Pennsylvania  
B-661st

**George Von Gerichten**  
P.O. Box 182  
Brookhaven, New York  
M-272nd

**Milton Warrenfeltz**  
Route 5, Box 214  
Hagerstown, Maryland  
I-272nd

## "TAPS"

There will be a great encampment  
In the land of clouds today.  
A mingling and a merging  
Of our boys who've gone away.  
Though on earth they are disbanding.  
They are very close and near.  
For those brave and honored heroes  
Show no sorrow, shed no tears.  
They have lived a life of glory.  
History pins their medals high.  
Listen to the thunder roaring.  
They are marching in the sky!

**Sharpless W. Jones**  
1147 Oak Drive  
Dover, Delaware  
H & S 269th

**Paul Swineford**  
1711 Mohican S.E.  
Massillon, Ohio  
69 MP

**T. I. Viljanen**  
31 Albourne Avenue  
Staten Island, New York

**Rowland H. Moore**  
712 Martin Street  
Grove City, Pennsylvania  
Ser. 879th

**Gilbert E. Ledom**  
Route #1  
Williamsburg, Kansas  
F-272nd

**Mrs. Ann (Reinhardt) Stevenson**  
369 Ventura Crescent  
N. Vancouver B.C.  
Canada  
Daughter of General Reinhardt

**Alan B. Minko**  
5300 West Franklin Street  
Richmond, Virginia  
Med. 272nd

**John Harpootlian**  
27 Beattie Lane  
New Rochelle, New York  
B-661st

**Stanley Rak**  
3551 South Heritage Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois  
H-273rd

**Rocco Onorato**  
49 Westmont Lane  
Vineland, New Jersey  
H-273rd

**John B. Adams**  
Route 3, Box 272  
Rockingham, North Carolina  
H-273rd

**Wetzel Perry**  
Route 1, Box 110  
East Lynn, West Virginia  
H-273rd



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## Some Late Communications From Members of Our Association

**Jim Van Alstyne**, 400 Creekridge Circle, Apt. 20-A, Albermarle, North Carolina 28001 — Hq.-272nd: Would like information concerning the whereabouts of the original members of the I & R Platoon, including the **Oberdorfer brothers, Joe Susco, Joe Manni**, among others whose names escape me at the moment.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**George Gallagher**, 147 El Toro Spanish Trails, Zephyrhills, Florida 34248 — 69 MP & QM:

TO **AL** and **CATHY LONG** and **AL FAISON**:

**Vickie** and I want to thank all of you people for the wonderful time we had at the Florida Chapter get-together. The food and rooms at the Motel were great. The trip on the ship was excellent. We haven't had a good old get-together like that in a long time. I feel sorry for those people who missed this great weekend. Once again **Vickie** and I say Thanks for the wonderful time. We want more.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Isaac Lichtenfels**, 9-D Edgewood Knoll Apartments, Asheville, North Carolina 28804 — C-273rd: **Mr. Lichtenfels** plans to attend the 69th Division Association Reunion in Pittsburgh in August, and would like to have other former members of his Unit do likewise. So what do you say fellows; let's make this a big year for Company C-273rd.

**James W. Wells**, 280 Alabama Street, Kingsport, Tennessee 37660 — C-724th: I am trying to establish a claim for service connected wounds, I need the name and address of the Medic who treated me in the field in Belgium in 1945 for a right knee injury.

*(Editor's Note: We have no knowledge of the MOS of those who are on our roster. If anyone reading this can help this gentleman, please contact him personally).*

\*\*\*\*\*  
Happy to report that I had a phone call from **Bob Kremin**, who is now well on the mend, and plans to be in Pittsburgh for the Reunion in August. I am sure that all of the former members of Company K-271st will be glad to hear this. He had some tough going for a while, but proved that you can't keep a good man down.

Five former members of Company E-271st are going to attend the Reunion in Pittsburgh this year. How about some more of you out there packing your bags and joining us.

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**DON'T WAIT!!**  
**SEND IN YOUR RESERVATIONS**  
**FOR THE REUNION TODAY!!**  
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