

# FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

## ★★★★ Association, Inc.



VOLUME 41, NO. 3

MAY — JUNE — JULY — AUGUST  
1988

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

101 STEPHEN STREET  
NEW KENSINGTON, PA 15068  
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## bulletin

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Left to right: Leo Martel, Robert Holscher, Rita Martel  
Robert Holscher is the Chief of Volunteer Services, Veterans Medical Center, Buffalo, New York

Lap Robes Made and Donated by  
69th Division Women's Auxiliary Members  
September 1987  
at the Niagara Falls, New York Reunion.

# FALL OUT, RAINCOATS & SKINNER

## Your Holding Your Bulletin, Not Yourrrrr . . . .

### SO READ IT



Clarence Jensen - (left) G Company, 271st Infantry, Penn Yan, New York  
Earl Witzleb, Jr. - (right), E Company, 273rd Infantry, Acme-Champion, Pennsylvania

Some of the fun and clowning around at Thruway Inn, Niagara Falls Reunion, New York.

I want to see all you Thruway Inn members at Campbell House Inn - The Kentucky Inn, Lexington, Kentucky, June 14 thru 21, 1988. Come see Dottie and me and all Tri-Staters at our hospitality room.

☆☆

## THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE



by — Dottie Witzleb  
*Ladies Auxiliary Editor*

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1184 Thorndale Road  
West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380  
Telephone: 215/269-0810

Hello again all,

As I write this, I can see the tulips blooming, the grass so pretty and green, the dogwood and flowering crab bursting into bloom so you know spring is here, but by the time you read this it will be a few weeks until our Lexington Reunion.

Hope many of you have plans made to attend. We are looking forward to another great week in a part of these beautiful United States that has not hosted a Reunion. I am sure there will be many sights to see and things to do that only the Blue Grass state has to offer.

Ladies, don't forget the lap robes, bibs, etc. for the

Veterans at the Lexington V.A. Hospital, which is just a few miles from the Campbell House where our Reunion will be going on, (size of lap robes is 36 x 45). You will find a picture in another part of the Bulletin that was taken at the Buffalo V.A. Medical Center as their volunteer was accepting the lap robes from Rita and Leo Martel, that were brought to the Niagara Falls Reunion last September. Also, don't forget our exchange at the ladies' meeting on Saturday morning, nothing expensive, a one or two dollar gift is fine.

(Continued on Page 3)

Barbara Kidd has assured me of an interesting program for our meeting. We again plan to have coffee and danish starting at 8:00 A.M. at poolside before our Saturday 9:00 A.M. meeting which will be held in the North Ballroom, so all of you gals attending the Reunion, please try to come. Bob and I attended the Central Pennsylvania gathering along with Pat and Janice Lushbaugh in April. What a great group of 69ers. Also have plans to go to Tri-State in West Virginia in June. Before Tri-State, we'll be driving to Shawnee, Kansas to attend the high school graduation of our oldest grandson Robert Joseph Kurtzman III. He is one of their honor students and has been accepted at Kansas State. We are so proud of him, as you might guess.

We'll be going to our favorite Canadian fishing lake for a few weeks in late June and then must get things in order at home and start thinking Lexington, and the Fighting 69th Reunion in August.

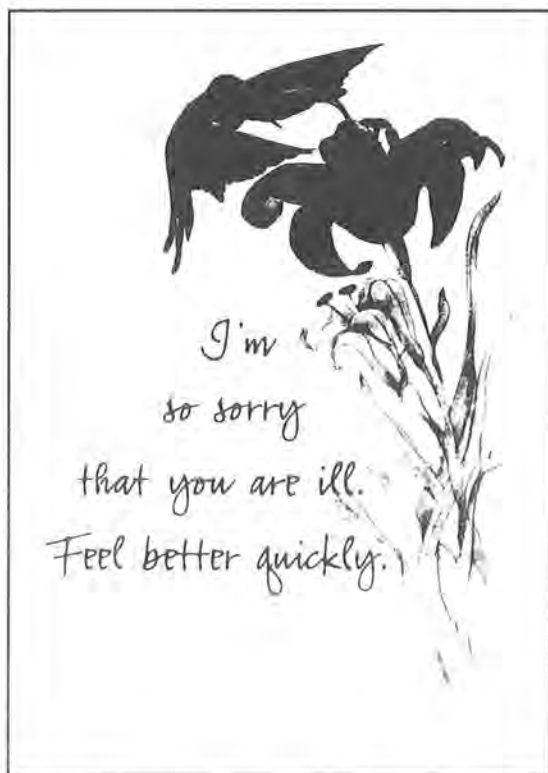
Gee, where does the time go? Any of you coming through our area, give us a call at 359-5487 and stop by, we would love to have you. Hope to see all of you in Lexington, Kentucky.

God love you,  
Vivian Kurtzman  
Ladies Auxiliary President

\* \* \* \* \*

Thank you Midwest Group, I really enjoyed the card. It shows so many of our 69th members and wives do care about others. This card, along with the many others received, has helped in my recovery. In January, the doctors cleared my kidney stone with medication and now the gall bladder operation in April will have me in good condition for Canaan Valley and Lexington. I'll see you all at one or the other if not both of the beautiful site locations.

Dottie Witzleb



Inside the card was written: The Midwest Group sends greetings to you both!, Earl and Dottie. Hope you are feeling much better by now Dottie!

## D'Angelo Sends Special Thanks!!!!

A most sincere "Thank You" to all for prayers offered, floral gifts, calls, cards and visits during my recent illness and hospital stay. It was such a good feeling knowing so many of you were thinking of me and were concerned about my well-being.

Everyday "Mail Call" brought your precious Get Well Messages and I was so very grateful knowing we had so many wonderful friends.

All of you had a hand with my recovery and for this we say . . . . .

"God Bless and Keep You All!"  
Thanks again . . . We Love You!!!!

Enrico, Anne and Family too!

\* \* \* \* \*

## D'Angelos Grandparents . . . again: IT'S A BOY

We have a new grandchild, a boy named Brian Michael, parents Anita and Carl Johns and a sister Nicole Jeanine. Brian weighed in at 8 lbs. 3 ozs., 21 inches long, February 10th. This makes a total of 5 grandchildren, 4 girls and 1 boy. We Love It!!!!

Other grandparents are Robert and Dorreen Johns also of Saltsburg. It is their first grandson too!

Anne has retired as of May 1st. Enrico loves the idea but Anne has not gotten accustomed to not being among the public after 27 years in banking.

Fellow workers complimented her with a monetary gift, a large cake, pizza party from one of the directors and a dinner in her honor.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Look Ladies,

. . . these are pictures taken from last years Auxiliary Meeting at Niagara Falls, New York. Doesn't the gift table look good. Remember to take a couple dollar gift when you attend an auxiliary meeting. Yes and you are all welcome to attend which usually features some good entertainment or a special speaker of interest to the ladies. Ladies Auxiliary Meeting at Lexington will start at 9:00 A.M. and continue to about noon.



(Continued on Page 4)





Since most of your husbands are retired, get them away from the TV for a week and come to Lexington August 14th to the 21st or part of the week. The grass will be there when you get back home with fond memories of the Reunion and talking about the next one coming in 1989. See you there at the Campbell House and on tours. Have a safe trip.

Dottie

**LADIES AUXILIARY  
BULLETIN MATERIAL & PICTURES  
SHOULD BE MAILED TO:  
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should you need information in a hurry.**

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Sergeant Gordon Smith, Sergeant Gretinger, and Sergeant W. Callahan, former members of AT-273rd.  
Picture furnished by George Endres

## Blinded Veterans Can Call BVA for Help

Four decades have passed since the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) started serving blinded veterans. We have enhanced the lives of many blinded veterans through our field services and outreach employment programs; however, we have only made a dent in the blinded veteran population.

Because we live primarily in a visually oriented society, it has not been easy to establish contact with many of our visually impaired veterans. This is why we are asking you for help in locating legally blinded veterans so that we can inform them of benefits they rightly deserve. Contrary to what many people think, it is not necessary for veterans to have been blinded in the military to receive benefits from the Veterans Administration. Blind rehabilitation and possibly pension are but two benefits available to veterans even if blindness occurred many many years after military service.

BVA services are not limited to veterans benefits, we also inform blinded veterans of state and community resources that are available.

The BVA could make a difference between night and day in a blinded veteran's life.

For more information about the BVA contact:

Mr. George Brummel  
National Field Service Director  
Blinded Veterans Association  
1726 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Telephone: (202) 223-3066  
FTS: 634-1901

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## The following article was found in the Family Leisure Section of the Indiana Gazette of Feb. 20, 1988

Date: August 26, 1944

The laundry at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, ran out of netting it used to bag each soldier's dirty clothes while they were being washed so they tied all the pieces together with a firm string. The soldiers complained that in doing this, the laundry had punched holes in their socks.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Chicago Rabbi in East German Post

BERLIN (AP) — Rabbi Ernst M. Lorge of Chicago will take over East Germany's tiny Jewish community, its members said today. He will replace another American who is leaving after a contentious eight-month tenure.

Rabbi Isaac Neuman said on Sunday he will leave East Berlin on May 16, primarily because of tensions with the East Berlin Jewish community's leader.

Jewish community members, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the community's president, Peter Kirchner, had informed them about Rabbi Lorge's appointment.

Thanks to Bill Beswick, the above was picked up out of the Richmond News Leader of May 4, 1988.

# News From The Editor's Desk



by — Clarence Marshall  
Membership Chairman

101 Stephen Street, New Kensington, PA 15068  
Telephone: 412/335-3224

Harry N. Smith, 4011 Deerpark Drive, Sherman Oaks, California 91403 — 271st & Div. Hq.: On a recent tour of the Grand Canyon, I spotted the 69th insignia on a bolo tie worn by a fellow tour member. Naturally, we struck up a conversation, and he turned out to be Mr. Crandon Clark of Ridgewood, New Jersey, who is an Association member. Needless to say, my wife and I spent a delightful week in the company of the Clarks. He was good enough to send me a recent issue of the Bulletin, as well as provide me with the name and address of a person who has been on my mind over these many years.

I had been transferred into the 69th in May of 1944, and left the Division around October of 1945, when I was sent home to be discharged. Although originally with the 271st, when we got to France my (then) knowledge of the French language became known through my records, and I was transferred to Division Headquarters for work as an interpreter. My boss was Major Carl Christol. As the Division approached Germany, Major Christol was assigned the job of maintaining a Division Liaison Section, which kept a situation map and provided daily briefings for the various Regimental Liaison Officers. It became my job to assist Major Christol with this work which lasted through the summer of 1945.

Mr. Clark advised me that my old friend the Major was now living in California, and even supplied me with his phone number. I called him, and we had a long breakfast together, at which time we made some photos. I enclose herewith copies of the "then and now" photos, and thought that you might find them interesting. I came into the 69th from the A.S.T.P. Unit in Syracuse University. If anyone remembers me, I would enjoy hearing from them.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Smith's pictures appear elsewhere in this issue.)*

Murry Schulman, 82-46 215th Street, Queens Village, New York 11427 — H-273rd: Just a note to tell all that what a wonderful time my wife and I had at the Reunion in Niagara Falls, even though the weather did not cooperate. As of January 1st of 1988, I have retired, but my wife is still working. In January we enjoyed an 11 day cruise through the Panama Canal, making stops at Cayman, Panama, Costa Rica, and Acapulco. In February we took a leisurely ride from New York to Florida. On our return trip, we stopped off in Pinnacle, North Carolina to see a buddy, Elijah Sams. Since I am retired now I plan to become more active with the 69th Division Association. See you in Lexington, Kentucky.

Irwin A. Nicholson, 617 Patricia Road, Hurst, Texas 76053 — Med-272nd: We have not attended a Reunion since Orlando, but may include Lexington in our next travels. Mary Ann and I were in Pittsburgh last fall for a Nurses Reunion at Allegheny General (Class of 1947). It was on limited time, as we flew in on the day of the Reunion. We drove to Warren and to Akron, and then back to Texas. Not much time for socializing. I want to congratulate you and Earl for the fine job that you do on the Bulletin. Hang in there, and we may see you both in Lexington.

Galen Carney, R.D. #1, Box 166, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15906 — Hq.-271st: I enjoy the Bulletin very much, so keep it coming. Since you started sending it to me about two years ago, I have made contact with five of my old friends from my Company. The latest contact I made was a great surprise. It was my former Platoon officer Lieutenant James Gibson. He informed me in a letter that he retired from the Army in 1973 as a Brigadier General. He had served in Korea and Vietnam. The other fellows I made contact with were: Ed Lansford, Walter Mueller, Ira Hawkins and Herbert Garber. Perhaps sometime I may get to a Reunion. I just found out recently that my son-in-law is Dottie and Earl Witzleb's pastor.

George Endres, 158 North Prospect Avenue, Bergenfield, New Jersey 07621 — AT-273rd: I have attended 4 Reunions, but have never seen anyone from my Company. Despite this fact, I will see you in Lexington, Kentucky this summer. I have enclosed some pictures of my Unit.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Endres's pictures appear elsewhere in this issue.)*

Orville Schultz, 1085 Fair Oaks Avenue, Arroyo Grande, California 93420 — G-273rd: I was interested when reading in the last Bulletin that several of the former G-273rd members attended the Niagara Falls Reunion. Sorry to have missed them. While attending the Arizona Reunion, I had the pleasure of renewing the acquaintance of Lieutenant Kotzebue. We had not seen each other since my hospitalization in Germany. I was saddened to read that he has since been listed under "Taps."

My wife and I will not be able to attend the Kentucky Reunion, but have our sights set on Denver, Colorado in 1989. Hoping of course to see many of my old buddies there. I enjoy the Bulletin and the many letters from the men. My doctor of the past 32 years was a jeep driver for H-273rd, Dr. William Matousek. We always converse about the 69th when I see him. I think the memorial idea has a lot of merit. Keep up the good work.

John W. McGolerick, Jr., 903 Weverton Road, Knoxville, Maryland 21758: I am sending along my new address. My wife and I will be attending the Tri-State Group weekend in Canaan Valley. I don't know at this time about the 69th Reunion at Lexington. This is the first time we will be attending a get-together for former Division members.

Louis L. Roman, 6342 Morse Avenue, North Hollywood, California 91606 — C-880th: I am sending along three pictures. One is a group of Battery C-880th war buddies taken somewhere in Germany over 40 years ago. The other two pictures were taken on the S.S. Costa Rico Victory ship with former members of the 69th Division on their way home around March of 1946. I am not furnishing any names, as I feel it would be more interesting to try and pick out yourself. I would like to thank Lowell and Marjorie McFarlin for giving us year after year an interesting and informative Newsletter: "On the Way Fired from Jeromesville, Ohio." Keep up the good work.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Roman's pictures appear elsewhere in this issue.)*

*(Continued on Page 6)*



(Continued from Page 5)

**Henry Samborski**, 111 Anthony Drive, Danville, California 94526 — 273rd: I have found it most difficult to catch up with you, so I have enclosed a picture of my wife and I. We are both Vets, but she is Harvard and I am Stanford. We travel extensively and even take time to look over our apricot, prune, and plum trees.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. and Mrs. Samborski's picture appears elsewhere in this issue.)

**Harold Dillingham**, R#18, Lot 99, Orange Acres M.P., Sarasota, Florida 34238 — A-777th: The way I have been moving around, my mail is all mixed up. I have paid my dues and hope to receive the Bulletin with information about the upcoming Reunion. **Vernon Wirth** sent me your address, and said that you could get my mail straightened out. He feels that our Unit will have a good turnout at the Lexington Reunion. The fact that it is close to Fort Knox where many of us trained will be a drawing card.

**Lucious I. Murphree**, 936 Sycamore Drive, Grenada, Mississippi 38901 — G-271st: I just learned that the 69th Infantry Division has an Association. I served overseas with this Division. Would like to know more about the Association, as to joining and attending the Reunions.

**Harold A. Sorenson**, 2216 State Street, LaCrosse, Wisconsin 54601 — Ser. & L-273rd: Do you have the 51 page write-up on: "The Russian American Linkup 25 April 1945"? I believe this was developed by the 273rd Regiment including **Captain George J. Morey** and **Master Sergeant Paul H. Murdoch**. Is membership aware of this material? Can it be made available to all who are interested? Can I help?

**Ira Hawkins**, R-1, Box 320, South Boston, Virginia 24592 — Hq.-271st: I have been trying to get information about **John Yingling**. The two of us were in Hq. 271st in the 69th Division. He was a radioman, and I was in the wire section. He was transferred to the 8th Infantry Division and was supposed to have been K.I.A. I would like to know if he was brought home, or is still buried overseas. He was from York, Pennsylvania, and I wrote to the Red Cross there but they came up with a blank. I also wrote to the Bureau of Records in St. Louis, but still didn't come up with any answers. I remember the names of quite a few of the men from my Unit and the majority of them are members of the Association. If anyone can help me with any information on **John Yingling**, I would appreciate it.

**Robert J. Younglas**, 3529 Three Mile Road, Traverse City, Michigan 49684 — B-271st: After receiving the News Bulletin and talking to you, I would like to know if we are still able to get the 69th History Book and also that of the 271st Regiment. I was the Platoon Sergeant of the first platoon in B-271st. I lost contact with the men from the 69th, as I remained in the Army to complete 28 years and retired in January of 1964. I have contacted **Bernard Ochs** by phone and relocated **Kenneth Upton**. I have sent letters to **George Burrows** and **George Willard**. I would like to have the addresses for **Philander Delphey**, **Tom Hancock**, and **Archie McGrew**. I will be in Lexington and hope to have a large group from my Unit there.

**Charles W. Chapman**, 7412 Exmore Street, Springfield, Virginia 22150 — Hq. Divarty: I regret to advise that one of my good friends from 69th days of yore died recently. He was **Howard J. Franklin** of East Orleans, Massachusetts. I believe you may have his address as Camarillo, California. He and I were in the same Unit. Please see that his wife **Ann Franklin** gets a copy of the News Bulletin which lists him under "Taps."

**FOUND A NEW MEMBER?  
HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS?  
THIS SHOULD BE MAILED TO:**

**Clarence Marshall**  
101 Stephen Street  
New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068

**Clarence Burke**, 120 Center Avenue, Pitcairn, Pennsylvania 15140 — G-272nd: Thanks for your card and the clarification on **Guy Stewart**. Enclosed is a copy of the mail that I sent to **William Hecht**, which was returned. The post office furnished two different forwarding addresses, but it doesn't appear that either of them are correct either. Apparently he doesn't care if he receives 69th mail or not.

**Clifford E. Brenner**, 45 7th Street, Mt. Wolf, Pennsylvania 17347 — Hq.-881st: In the recent issue of the News Bulletin Vol. 41, No. 2, the picture at the top of page 37 caught my eye. It was labeled "Brandenburg Gate." What it was is the "Russian Soldiers Monument." I was stationed in Berlin and when I first went there, Russian soldiers were assigned there, something similar to Arlington National Cemetery. Brandenburg Gate was a structure built with traffic accesses across the "Unter Den Linden," the main drag through Berlin, where city offices as well as world embassies were located. Just off of the "Unter Den Linden," was the Reich's Chancellory. I am not being critical of the Bulletin, as it is a great publication.

**Edward H. Shelton**, 5568 Mayberry Lane, Cincinnati, Ohio 45239 — Can.-273rd: After all these years I am finally writing to try and get reacquainted with my friends of the old 69th Division. I served with Cannon Company, 273rd under **Captain Nagy** from Camp Shelby up until it was broke up in Germany. I receive your name and address from a friend of mine who is very active in the 6th Armored Division Association. I am now retired and would like to attend Reunions, and meet some of the fellows I was close to during the War.

**John J. Willis**, 22 Lincoln Place, Monticello, New York 12701 — 69th Recon: In the Spring issue of the 69th Bulletin there was an article "Scholars in Foxholes." The article mentioned a book by **Louis Keefer** to be published in mid-1988. I would appreciate information on how the book may be purchased, or how I can contact **Mr. Keefer**. I would like to commend you on the excellent job you are doing on the Fighting 69th Bulletin. Keep up the good work.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Your Editor unfortunately lost Mr. Keefer's address, but hopes to receive correspondence from him again in the near future.)

**George Houseal**, 3170 Sunset Avenue, Norristown, Pennsylvania 19403 — I-273rd: The last issue of the Bulletin was great and thanks to **Bob Pierce**, Company I, 273rd was well represented. **Bob** does need new "specks" though, as that was **Erwin Sanborn** next to him, and not me. **Bob** has done a great job getting I-Company men to the Reunion and the Association would do well to make him a Director. Another person who deserves some recognition is **Justin Bloom**. He attended his first Reunion last year and has been writing and calling members to get to this year's Reunion.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Those in attendance at the Reunion from the 273rd Regiment can select Mr. Pierce as their representative for Director.)

(Continued on Page 7)

## NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 6)

**Edward C. Miller**, 1503 Hauser, Helena, Montana 59601 — L-271st: I didn't see much news about the 271st in the last issue of the Bulletin, so decided to get on the ball and dig into my old trunk in the attic and see if any of my old pictures still existed. I found some negatives, and had this one enlarged so the men could be identified. Hope you have room in the Bulletin to print it. The men in the picture are from the Second Platoon, Company L, 271st Infantry. If anyone knows addresses of any of these men, I sure would appreciate them. I have some pictures from Camp Shelby and Europe if anyone in the Company wants to write me for a copy.

I did find two of my buddies that I had lost contact with for 43 years. They are **Russel Kydd** and **Tony Lahti**. They were surprised to hear from me when I called them on the phone.

Sorry I won't be at Campbell House Inn. It looks like a beautiful place. If a Reunion is held near Camp Shelby or Denver, Colorado, I will do all I can to be there.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Miller's picture appears elsewhere in this issue. I requested addresses for the 2 new men that he relocated. None of the men in the picture are on our Association Roster, so if relocated, we would appreciate them also.)*

**Robert L. Pierce**, 144 Nashua Court, San Jose, California 95139 — I-273rd: I am still working at my never ending pursuit of relocating ex 69er's, especially those from Company I, 273rd Infantry. I have been working with an old list of our former Company Commander, **Carl Macknair**. I have managed to relocate six more members. It also occurred to me that I may have other names on my list that are not on the 69th Association Roster. I am enclosing a list of new and suspect names and addresses. If they are not on your list, please add them, and see that they get a copy of the Bulletin. I have contacted all of them about attending the Reunion at Lexington, but maybe a boost from the Association may help. In the near future, I plan to write an article for the Bulletin to identify these new found members, in addition to some other interesting information about Company I.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: All of the new men that Mr. Pierce sent along were added to the Association Roster, and provided with a copy of our latest News Bulletin.)*

**Joseph N. Conner, Jr.**, 3171 Dallas Road, S.W., Marietta, Georgia 30064 — C-881st: I was an original member of the 69th Division, C Battery, 881st Field Artillery, when it was organized in 1943. It has been a long time ago, and regretfully, I have never become a member of the Association. I would like to join and become an active member. Although I have not attended any previous Reunions, I plan to be in Lexington this year. Please send me all of the necessary information. I'm looking forward to seeing many of my old buddies.

**Sumner Russman**, 2512 Lynn Lane, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73120 — Div. Hq.: **Bob Myers** of Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company, and myself, visited **Colonel Andrew Casper** and his wife **Mary** in Fayetteville, Arkansas during the month of April 1988. I met **Myers** in Tulsa, and we drove over to Fayetteville from there. In the course of our trip we spent time with **John Crittenden** of the Medical Battalion, at Westville, Oklahoma. The **Caspers** are enjoying retirement and a good visit was had by all.

**Norman Schmidt**, P.O. Box 154, Wimbledon, North Dakota 58492 — F-272nd: I like the Bulletin of the 69th Association very much. You fellows are doing a great job. I was in F Company of the 272nd Regiment at Camp Shelby, and enjoy all of the news from there.

**John Purdie**, P.O. Box 589, Fayetteville, North Carolina 28302 — Hq.-271st: Your Reunion announcement appeared in the Fayetteville Observer Times under "Letters to the Editor." I served in Regimental Headquarters, 271st, from about August 1944 to July 1945. I had not heard of any prior Reunions, and would like to know about your plans for this year.

**Henry Povinelli**, 27 Grant Drive, North Valley Stream, New York 11580 — Ser.-272nd: I was cleaning up some old papers and came across this old Bulletin from 1955. Maybe if this was inserted in our next Bulletin, we could find out how many of our current members remember these old timers.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Picture from this '55 Bulletin appears elsewhere in this issue.)*

**A. Earl Clegg**, 3183 South, 8620 West, Magna, Utah 84044 — F-273rd: I read in the Association Bulletin about your health problems and wish you a full and speedy recovery. I pass on to you an endless "Thanks" for all that you have done for the 69th Infantry Division Association over these many years. You must enjoy your many hours of labor, and we of the Association are certainly the recipients of your many talents. Those of you who have built the 69th Association into the working body that it is are truly to be commended. On the 18th of April it was 43 years since I was wounded in Leipzig, Germany, and sent back to the United States to spend the rest of my Army days in recuperation, until being discharged in June 1946.

**Jack H. Hartzog**, 204 Ridge Road, Sikeston, Missouri 63801 — L-273rd: I appreciate the names that you sent, and it seems that **Samuel Geddes**, **Harvey Myerson**, and **Donald Scott** do ring a bell. I would like to have their addresses if possible. If I am not mistaken, **Myerson** was our Company Mail Clerk. Here are some other names that I remember which aren't on your Association list. **Sergeant William Freynak**, **Sergeant Peter Mackachinar**, **O'Conner** or **O'Connell**, **Rascon**, **Hannah**, **Callaghan**, **Sergeant Lonjero**, **1st Sergeant Mitchell-felt**, **Real** or **Reel**, **Romano**, and **Leonard Barbello**.

I have kept in touch, and also stopped to visit **McCoy Shealy** of Leesville, South Carolina. Another name and address I can give you is for **James Henson** of Blytheville, Arkansas. **Jim** and I worked together at the Air Force Base in Blytheville. I was the civilian Personnel Officer there and later on, was transferred to Little Rock Air Force Base, from where I retired in January of this year.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Anyone knowing the whereabouts of any of the men listed above from L-273rd, please contact National Headquarters or Mr. Hartzog, and furnish us with their address.)*

**Richard A. Himes**, 436 Toby Road, Kersey, Pennsylvania 15846 — C-881st: Just to let you know that in your September to December Bulletin, the picture on page 34 of the fellow skinning the deer is me. I did almost all of the preparing of animals for Battery C, 881st Field Artillery.

**James C. Webb, Jr.**, P.O. Drawer 370, Demopolis, Alabama 36732 — D-777th: I enjoyed talking to you and appreciate you giving me **Robert (Bob) Goodman's** address. He was the Company Commander of Company D, 777th Tank Battalion. I called him and we had a very enjoyable conversation, after having not seeing or talking to each other in 43 years. He is going to try and make the Reunion in Lexington and I am also. I would appreciate any information that you have on the 777th Tank Battalion and the 69th Infantry Division.

(Continued on Page 8)



## NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 7)

**Karl Petersen**, 27214 Cabrera, Saugus, California 91350 — B-461st AAA: The 69th Bulletin is very interesting, and is responsible for the 461st getting together. I note that Battalion Headquarters and the Medics are now getting together for Reunions, and **George and Hazel Stein** attended. Maybe now we can look forward to a Battalion Reunion.

I drove up to **Christa's** over Easter and got to look over the Lakeside Inn. It has beautiful rooms, with all accommodations, and she has reserved 20 rooms for us. The rates are \$45.00 a day for a double. Reservations should be made 30 days prior to arrival. I am concerned about those arriving by Air. The nearest large airport is Reno, Nevada, and it is 45 miles away. Cars can be rented there, or commuter flights can be taken to South Lake Tahoe - Stateline, Nevada, which adjoin each other. Complete information will be available at the Canton, Ohio Reunion.

**Thomas N. Ellis**, P.O. Box 462406, Garland, Texas 75046 — A-880th: The following was sent to the Personnel Section at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and forwarded to your Editor by them.

I would appreciate some help in relocating former service buddies from World War II. Here is the information that I have on them:

**Joseph DeLoach**, Shreveport, Louisiana - **Abraham Vandine** - **Elmer Wood** - **Forest Crawford** - **Fermin Jinzo**. These men, and myself, served in Battery A of the 880th Field Artillery. Any and all help will be appreciated.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Our Association has none of these 5 men on our roster.)

**Thomas McCullough**, 3318 North Lee Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19134: I served with the 69th Division at Camp Shelby, Mississippi in May of 1943. After basic training I was sent as a replacement overseas, via Camp Shanks, and assigned to the 5th Infantry Division. I am now 63 years old and retired, and would like to hear about the 69th Association and your Reunions. I would also like to join the Association.

I have an incident concerning your home town of New Kensington, Pennsylvania that I would like to relate to you. While going overseas, I received a small bag that contained a razor, shaving cream, and some other gifts, and this bag had been made up in New Kensington. After all these years, I don't remember the couples name, but during 1943-1944 we wrote to each other often. The lady advised me that she was a school teacher, and that they had no children. She asked me if I minded if they called me their "adopted soldier." I was wounded in July of 1944 and November of 1944, and I lost track of this couple because I ceased to write letters. When I saw your Reunion announcement and your home town, it brought back memories of those two nice people who to this day, never found out what happened to their "adopted soldier."

**Robert B. Slade**, 606 Adams, Newburgh, Indiana 47630 — A-273rd: I was in the 69th for about 8 months and that was just about the longest I stayed in any one place. I remember the long "D" Series with the 65th Division. I had some good friends in the 65th Division. I also remember the Japanese-American Unit which was at Camp Shelby. My neighbor, **John McGauley**, served in Cannon Company, 273rd. **Frank R. Barnett** was a good friend and fraternity brother of mine. He served in a weapons company in the 271st, and then was transferred to Division Headquarters, due to his knowledge of the Russian language.

**Frazier Davidson**, 3361 West 14th, Eugene, Oregon 97402 — M-272nd: I was a part of the 69th Division at its beginning in May of 1943 at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. I was a Private in Company M of the 272nd Infantry Regiment. I never went overseas, as I was released on a disability discharge. My records showed that I was legally blind. In 1966 and 1967 I had two corneal transplants, and now have good vision with glasses.

I would like to hear from former members of Company M. Some names that I remember are: **Richard Goldbach**, **Bearden**, **Baumer**, and **Benson**. I have heard somewhere that **Benson** was killed in action in the Battle of the Bulge. There is a **Jesse Clift** living here in Eugene, Oregon who was a Mess Sergeant in one of the companies. All of these named men went overseas to England in October of 1943. **Colonel Charles Lanham** was our Regimental Commander. Many of the 69th Cadre came from Camp Adair, Oregon. I was born in Philadelphia, but was drafted from Dayton, Ohio.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: How about sending us the address of former Mess Sergeant **Jesse Clift**.)

**Howard W. Swick**, 408 Ohio Avenue, Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865 — E-271st: I read in the local Newspaper that the 69th Infantry Division will be holding a Reunion in Lexington, Kentucky August 14th-21st. I was wondering if these Reunions are open to everyone and well attended by the former members of the Division. I went overseas as an infantry replacement, and was assigned to Company E, 271st Regiment, which I stayed with till deactivation. I would appreciate your answers to my questions concerning the Reunion.

**John Oplt**, 1617 Schobert Drive, Swansea, Illinois 62221 — D-273rd: Your article about former service men entitled to the Bronze Star was right on it. However after 40 some years, there is still the usual snafu with anything connected with the service. It takes about 2 letters and 3 months to get it. I received mine from St. James, New York from a fellow who had received it and forwarded it to me. His name was completely different from mine and he had served in the 101st Infantry of the 26th Division. I am only 20 miles from the Army Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, and my medal went from there to St. James, New York and was then forwarded to me.

**Paul G. Molinari**, 407 Woodland Street, P.O. Box 1781, Manchester, Connecticut 06040 — C-881st: I was very thankful for your letter in which you contacted three new addresses for me. One of them, **James Musa**, I was already in contact with. He is the one who told me about the Reunions and the Bulletins. I have written the other two, and am waiting for a response. Maybe a few more from Battery C, 881st, will come to Lexington this year. I also received the page from the past Bulletin showing many of the fellows from my former outfit. I recognized everyone of them, and was able to put names to all. I remember both of **Mrs. Ilse Gordon's** husbands, **Nat Suckerman** and **Ike Gordon**. I called **Mrs. Gordon** but she was not at home. I wrote to her hoping that she might have **Frank Gurrieri's** address. She had mentioned that he was living in Belleville, New Jersey, but that he has an unlisted phone number. If I get in contact with him, I will send you his address and try to get him to come to Lexington in August. I have enclosed a check for postage so that you can send me some past Bulletins. Looking forward to meeting you at the Reunion.

\* \* \* \* \*

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:** In closing this column for this issue, I would like to enter the fact that there is an interested party in the State of Texas who would like to bring our Reunion there. So if any of you members from the Great State of Texas would like to assist with a Reunion in your home state, contact National Headquarters, and we will forward the information along.



## President's Message



**W. R. Foster, President**  
803 Elkwood Drive  
New Cumberland, PA 17070  
Telephone: 717/774-2396

I write this with great enthusiasm concerning the article I had in the last Bulletin about a monument at Camp Shelby. I have poled the Executive Committee and Board of Directors and the results were overwhelming in favor of erecting a monument; only 1 negative vote, 25 in favor. Moving the Reunion to Biloxi, 2 No - 23 Yes. Accepting donations, 4 No - 22 Yes. I have had quite a number of letters, every one in favor of all, with pledges of money and even a check.

I have discussed this with **Dutch Hawn** and he is willing to move the Denver Reunion. "No problem," he said. I have a chairman who is really enthused, **Merle Douglas**. He handled things in Mississippi for **Bob Myers** when we were there in 1980. I will have a full report in Lexington. I can report that we have, as of May 20, about 175 reservations for the banquet and almost 3 busses for Fort Knox. By the way, I need a volunteer for souvenir sales.

See you in Lexington.

**Bill Foster**  
President

\*\*\*\*\*

## MOVING

Please print your new address below:

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

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

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

Please allow six weeks advance notice.

## General's Aid

**Earl E. Witzleb, Jr., Vice President** — Member E-273rd  
R.D. #1, Box 477  
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606  
Telephone: 412/455-2901



*General Charles Bolte on the right with 69th photographer, Chester Yastrzemski.*

I just talked with **General Bolte** (May 18) on the telephone and he sounds just fine. Also was happy to be able to say a few words with his wife, **Adelaide**, who is still confined to the apartment and doubts are that she will be able to attend the Lexington Reunion. I am sorry to have to report this to our membership and especially, the ladies of the Auxiliary. The General says he will be in Lexington with his two sons, **Phil** and **Dave**, and looking forward to the day at Fort Knox with the gang. He is still active and quite busy going to the many activities that he has been involved with. One of his sons will be in touch with me and inform me of the plans of the General, their arrival time, departure time and any other information needed.

I will need a few nice shiny cars to get the General and take him back to the Lexington Airport, so any of you that are driving to Lexington and want to be in the welcoming party, please let me know. If you care to, drop me a note saying you are interested and any information you can give me pertaining to your car and free time that you plan to have. We do need large cars, not mini ones. Also those interested, I'll get in touch with each of you early in the week at Lexington.

## Spring!

When sprouts erupt from fertile sod  
And dogwoods don their finery,  
When grass feels lush to shoeless feet  
And winter fades in memory . . .  
When foals test out their wobbly legs  
And kittens venture to explore  
When songbirds wake the world at dawn  
And butterflies return once more . . .  
When dandelions dot the lawns  
And whirligigs soar from the trees,  
When tulips bloom in brilliant hues  
And lilacs gently scent the breeze . . .  
When tiny buds burst forth with joy  
And daffodils proclaim, "Tis spring!"  
My heart refills with hope and warmth  
As God commands the earth to sing.

Can Lexington be that far away. See ya all there and ya all come to Lexington. You'll not be sorry as the group keeps growing and you don't want to miss a buddy who was a friend.

**Earl**

## Treasurer's Message



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

I am writing this on the 2nd of May as the deadline for material for the next Bulletin was April 30th and am sure Earl and Clarence want to get things done early.

The dues response for 1987-88 has been excellent and we have set another record. Last year on June 2nd, I had received dues from 2,239 members and this year a month earlier 2,253 have sent in dues, so we are improving. 681 have sent in postage donations compared to 658 last year and even though new membership is up from last year, only 310 sent in dues for the first time either because they were new members or just neglected to pay, so this gives us an indication that more are becoming regular dues payers.

The reservations for the Lexington Reunion started coming in on March 31st and so far 45 have been received and 4 of those are 1st timers. 57 have already indicated that they will be making the Fort Knox tour, so it looks like the Campbell House will be pretty empty for a few hours on Thursday with the majority of those attending to be on the tour. It's still not too late to make up your mind to head for Lexington, so pack your bags and be on your way. It may be a little warm in August, but the pool will be refreshing and Frank and Arlene Carey's hospitality room will be cool and well stocked.

## Scholarship Report:

With the Board of Directors of the Scholarship Fund, selection of one or more awards from the three applications that have been asked for, it now appears that the Scholarship program will have run its course unless a decision is made to extend the program further.

A meeting of the Scholarship Board of Directors will be held in Lexington to select one or more recipients and to discuss the extension of the program.

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

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

**Pay your dues early and keep  
our Association moving.**

## Veterans To Get Cabinet Rank

Last November, the U.S. House of Representatives promoted America's veterans.

It passed H.R. 3471, a bill that would raise the Veterans Administration from the status of an independent agency in the federal government to one of Cabinet-level rank, represented by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The bill, which has the announced support of the President, now awaits action by the U.S. Senate.

**H.R. 3471 gives the veterans a voice at the top level of government.**

The new Secretary would report directly to the President on matters of concern to veterans and their families. Policies dealing with veteran affairs would be decided at the Cabinet level, rather than by the Office of Management and Budget. The appointment of the new Department's top officials would require confirmation by the Senate.

Cabinet membership is deserving of an agency that has grown so much over the years. Since its creation in 1930, the VA has become the largest independent agency in the government, serving nearly 80 million veterans, their dependents or survivors. That number represents nearly one-third of our nation's population.

It administers the largest health care system in the world, including 172 medical centers, 229 outpatient clinics, 117 nursing home care units, 16 domiciliaries and 189 Veterans Centers.

The VA conducts a variety of medical research activities. It contributed to the discovery of a cure for tuberculosis, the development of pacemakers for heart patients, the perfection of kidney transplants, the development of the CT scanner and the laser cane for use by the blind.

It also administers the home loan assistance program for vets, GI education and training programs as well as compensation, pension and life insurance programs. The home loan guaranty program has benefited more than 12 million veterans and their dependents. Nearly 3 million receive disability compensation or pensions and more than 1 million widows or other survivors are paid compensation or death pension benefits.

When our country needed protection, the veterans provided it. In return, Congress made certain commitments to them for their sacrifices. The services promised were provided through the VA. Now, with an eye to the budget restraints facing Congress, the new Department of Veterans Affairs will be charged with protecting the veterans and their rights.

As a veteran of World War II, support H.R. 3471 and its prompt enactment into law.

\*\*\*\*\*

**If You Love  
Your Freedom,  
You Can Thank  
Our Veterans!**

\*\*\*\*\*

# VP SPEAKS OUT



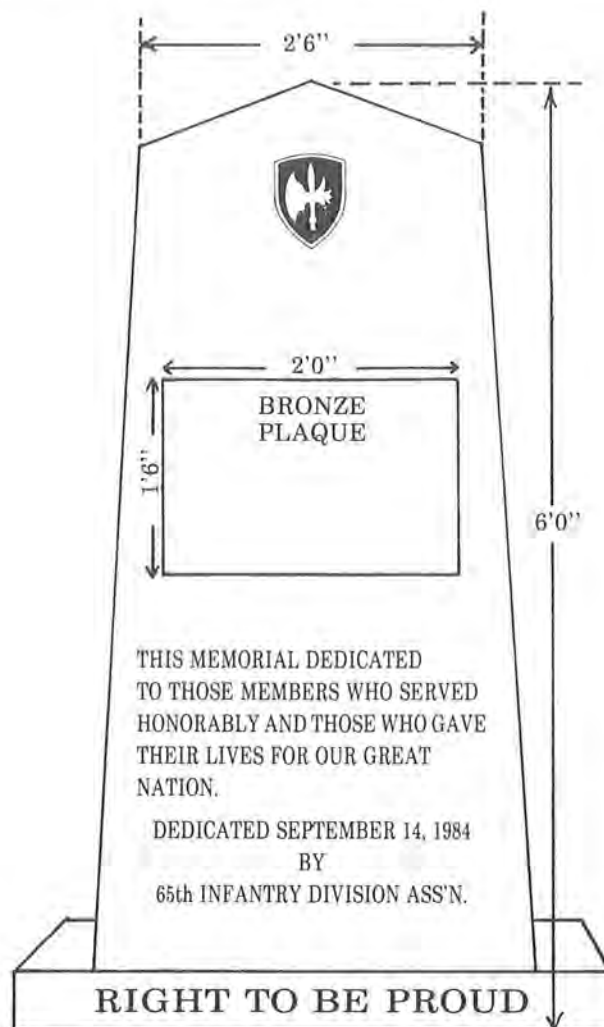
**Earl E. Witzleb, Jr.**  
*Vice President, 69th Infantry Division Association*  
 Post Office Box 69  
 Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069  
 or  
 R.D. #1, Box 477  
 Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606  
 Telephone: 412/455-2901  
 (Evenings after 7:00 P.M. and Weekends)  
 (If Driving thru Pennsylvania - Stop By Exit 9  
 — Pennsylvania Turnpike)

Somewhere in this Bulletin will be pages of new proposals to the By-Laws. Read them carefully and several times so if you get to speak on the floor at our meeting, you will know what you are talking about. We cannot spend all day in discussion over them.

Thanks to the many members who sent letters asking all kinds of questions about the proposed monument that we plan to purchase and erect at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi in the year ahead. I am most pleased to announce that all letters I have received are in favor of the monument with the cost coming from the General Fund or by asking for contributions from members. On the right side of this page is a blue print of the monument the 65th Division Association erected at Camp Shelby. Ours, I do believe, would be very much the same other than wording.

I have been in discussion with **William L. Foust**, Editor of "The 65th Halbert" Newsletter of the 65th Division Association. Bill has just taken over this duty for the 65th. We do have a few things in common. Both divisions did train at Camp Shelby. Bill is from Murrysville, Pennsylvania; right in between Clarence, located in New Kensington, and myself, located in Acme-Champion. Like the Bulletin, The Halbert is being printed at Buhl Brothers Printing in New Kensington. The Bulletin is being mailed from Pittsburgh and the Halbert from Murrysville. Our last one was a big one - 64 pages, and the 65th - 56 pages. Ours is published three time a year and the 65th Association twice a year. We had 362 at our Niagara Falls Reunion; they had 219 at Kansas City. We will be in Lexington in 1988 and they will be in Louisville. We will go to Fort Knox on Thursday and they will go on Friday. We have a committee to run our Reunions and they have a committee that uses the Visitors Bureau to run their tours. Our hotels are \$49.00 a room up to four and theirs \$52.00 a room for 2 persons with an additional \$15.00 per person. We put out a nice Bulletin and so do they. (Mira is on the ball.) By the way, Mr. Foust was also in the 69th Division, B Company, 269th Engineers.

## 65th INFANTRY DIVISION MEMORIAL



Lettering 1½" High  
 Width of Monument 10"

### BRONZE PLAQUE

2'0" Wide x 1'6" in Height

65th INFANTRY DIVISION  
 ACTIVATED AUGUST 16, 1943  
 AT CAMP SHELBY  
 TRAINED HERE TO JANUARY 3, 1945  
 MAJOR GENERAL STANLEY E. REINHART, COMMANDING  
 SERVED IN FRANCE, GERMANY AND AUSTRIA  
 JANUARY 22 - AUGUST 31, 1945  
 UNDER XII and XX CORPS  
 GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON'S 3rd ARMY  
 CAMPAIGNS  
 RHINELAND ★  
 CENTRAL EUROPE ★  
 583 MILES OF ENEMY TERRITORY TRAVERSED IN 60 DAYS  
 DIVISION DEACTIVATED LINZ, AUSTRIA  
 AUGUST 31, 1945

(Continued on Page 12)



## VP SPEAKS OUT

(Continued from Page 11)

Camp Shelby has a museum which the 65th is much involved with. Bill would like the 69th to get involved with it too. I am sure any 69th member living in the Hattiesburg area could become our representative by checking with Camp Shelby or T. D. "Dough" and Helen (McLeo) White. Then report back to us in Lexington.

\* \* \* \* \*



### T. D. "DOUGH" WHITE

T. D. White and Donald Evans share the work and the credit for creating the displays in the Camp Shelby Military Museum. (65th Infantry Division, Excerpt from the Halbert)

## How It All Started

The museum idea began with Helen McLeod White's photograph albums, which she displayed in September 1984 when the 65th Infantry Division Association returned to Camp Shelby to dedicate a monument on the parade ground.

We had a couple of mess hall tables out there," White said. One of the things was my wife's photo album. This guy asked what ever happened to this Helen McLeo cause he used to dance with her at the USO. I told him I married her and that she was sitting over there talking to another boy she used to dance with. That's how it started."

Since then the memories that have been packed away in garages and attics have been pouring into Camp Shelby - binoculars, canteens, mess kits, captured German and Japanese weapons and flags, uniforms, orders, patches, medals and diaries.

\* \* \* \* \*

The 65th Division Association and Camp Shelby plan to dedicate this museum in 1991 or 1992 and would like the 69th to be a part of it. They will have their Reunion back there in Hattiesburg, whichever year, and would like us to return to that area for our Reunion. Think it over 69th members.

By the way, Bill and I have an agreement that either of us can use material from each others Bulletin or Newsletter (Halbert). Anyone remember Helen McLeo at the U.S.O.?

Clarence has been after me for months now to find a place to get our history books reprinted since he is about out of stock, only having a few left. I have tried eight printers in our area and Pittsburgh with no results. None of them want to touch it. Finally, just three blocks from the first printer that I went to and a suggestion from another printer, I found a printing outfit that will do the book for us but we must act quickly since prices could go up and I did struggle to get them as low as they are. Believe it or not, the Mennonites will do it.

Our original book is priceless and if you have one, take care of it. Work like the German printers did way back 40 years ago can't be duplicated. It was made of a special dot and did you know that it has brown and black printing. So hold on to your old history book.

The Mennonite Publishing House will do our book for \$13.95 for 200 copies and \$4.00 a book for each additional 100 copies. I think we should get at least 300 copies printed if approved by the Board of Directors. Then they could be sold for \$12.00 or more plus \$2.00 postage if mailing is required. My suggestion price would be \$15.00 plus \$2.00 postage. Think about it members and Board of Directors.

Dottie and I were pleased to be invited by Joe Quade and Ed Siergiej of the Veterans Planning Consultants to attend and be a part of the Military Veteran Leaders Group at a weekend Seminar at Valley Forge, April 15th thru 17th. We did represent the 69th Infantry Division along with Francis Bennett of the M.P. Battalion, Raymond Buch of the 11th Armored Division, John Grady of the 542nd Parachute Infantry Association, Edmund Hooven of the 63rd Infantry Division, Herbert Kaster of the 8th Air Force, E. L. "Lucky" Loiacono of the 10th Armored Division (he knows Vernon Wirth of our 69th), Lee Matousek of Special Forces Association, Colonel Bruce Pifel (Ret.) of the National Officers Association, Edward Svrcek of the 329th Field Artillery Battalion, Joe and Ed, all the wives, personnel from the Valley Forge Convention Center, and a representative from each of the hotels and major motels of the Valley Forge area.

We were on the move from early in the morning until late at night with tours, discussions, and presentations from everyone. I hope I did give some good input from the 69th as the others had interesting discussions also. Valley Forge knows we will be there in a few years and will be looking for us.

In between, Dottie and I found time enough to visit and attend the Central Pennsylvania Branch Spring Banquet on Saturday evening, April 16th. Very nice turn out Dan and Helen Evers. Enough said for this time so until Lexington, I'll say so long. Dottie and I will see you all there, stop by our room, and have a safe trip.

**1988 69th ANNUAL REUNION**  
**Campbell House Inn & The Kentucky Inn**  
**LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY**  
**AUGUST 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 1988**

# 724th Field Artillery Battalion A-Battery

Photos provided by  
K. Earl Abel  
71257 Dawn Drive  
Union, Michigan 49130



*1st Howitzer Section: T. Haley - Chief of Section, S. Gamble - Gunner, S. Jensen - Ammo; Cannoneers - W. Dane, Bittilari, Chapman, Jarriel, Eddie, Szaro, Tyndol, O. Pascol - Driver.*



*2nd Howitzer Section: Firing Battery Chief - S/Sgt. John Mullet, Gunner - Cpl. Cleaver, Ammo - Cpl. Fusilier, Driver - T/5 H. Burn, Cannoneers - Pfc. Wrigley, Piscotto, Chestnut, Flannery, Bruner, Galshy, Nersche, Edwards.*



*1st Lieutenant M. S. Fineberg Recon Officer and Captain F. C. Dickman, Commanding Officer Germany 1945*



*T/5 Donald K. Motter receiving "Soldier's Medal" for rescuing Howitzer and Tractor from fire during combat.*



*4th Howitzer Section: Chief of Section - Sgt. Hopper, Gunner - Cpl. Kidd, Ammo - Cpl. Fair, Driver - T/5 Motter, Cannoneers - Pfc. Joe Marion, William Harsch, Tony Baker, Del Camera, Halyak, Charles Cousland, Hurt, Petroski, Cruiser.*

# Reunion Activities/Site Screening Committee

**Earl E. Witzleb, Jr., Chairman**

*Vice President - 69th Division Association*

Member - E-273rd

R.D. #1, Box 477

Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

Telephone: 412/455-2901

**George Gallagher** — Member - 69th M.P. & Q.M.

147 El Torro Street, Spanish Trails

Zephyrhills, Florida 34248

Telephone: 813/788-5924

**John T. Hawley** — Member - 269th Engineers

330 East Fort Street

Shippensburg, Pennsylvania 17257

Telephone: 717/530-2974

**Gaylord W. Thomas** — Member - Hq. Co. 777th Tk. Bn.

432 Doty Street

Waupun, Wisconsin 53963

Telephone: 414/324-4065

**Jacob Stark, Jr.** — Member - 273rd Inf., Co. H

691 Dunkle Street

Enhaut-Steelton, Pennsylvania 17113

Telephone: 717/939-4802

As of May 15, 1988, I have not received or heard of a member of our Association that is interested in having a Reunion in his own back yard so to speak. Not a single inquiry or proposal has been received by me nor has any of my committee reported receiving any.

We will not be in too bad of shape this year without a Reunion site proposal since two are lined up, Denver and Valley Forge, plus a Camp Shelby Reunion will fit in somewhere. It possibly looks like the Camp Shelby Reunion will go next year, 1989, with the other two being pushed back a year.

I do want to meet with my committee on Wednesday, August 17th at 7:30 P.M. in my room along with the Chairman of the southern Camp Shelby Reunion, **Dutch Hawn** - Chairman of the Denver Reunion, **Dan Evers** and **Frank Nemeth** - Chairpersons of the Valley Forge Reunion, and any others that might have a Reunion site proposal. We want to keep looking three years ahead on Reunions so that time will allow for good planning of an important week for 69th members.

I do have information from hotels, resorts, and large motels from many sections of our country, the United States of America.

\* \* \* \* \*

## What Is A Reunion

by Maurice Neil

(65th Infantry Division, Halbert)

It's plain to see - a chance to meet old buddies,  
like you and me.

To have some fun and relive our lives.

For the girls to meet the other wives.

The little it costs, and at our age -

It's like enlarging a book, with another page.

So come on and meet us. You will have fun -

It will make you feel like you are number ONE!!

## Kenneth Reber Writes:

My name is **Kenneth M. Reber**. I was a Corporal in the 724th Field Artillery Service Battery. I was a gun mechanic and 50 caliber machine gunner. **Jack Donahue** was our 1st Sergeant. I have lost touch with everyone. When the 69th broke up, I went with the 29th Division and got discharged with the 78th Division, April 13, 1946.

I have been watching the Reunions in the V.F.W. magazine for years.

Here is a little info about myself:

I am 63 years old, am a general business contractor in business since getting out of the Army, and in business with my one son, who is a veteran of Vietnam, as **Reber & Reber Builders**. My oldest son is in California, he is a building inspector for earthquakes. My middle son is in business with me, my youngest son is a bricklayer in England. I was married to an English girl from Reading, England. She came over here, all 3 sons were born here in the United States. I am no longer married to her. She returned to England approximately 34 years ago. I was married 3 more times after her and it didn't work out. No other children. I am living with a woman the last 10 years. We are partners in everything and get along fine.

If you know of anyone from Service Battery, I would appreciate you letting me know. I am not one for traveling — I've done enough traveling. We live in a small town called Cressona. It is where I was born. You may have heard of Alcoa Aluminum, this is now Cressona Aluminum. Our backyard adjoins Cressona Aluminum property. Now that I have wrote about half a book to you, I finally saw something about the 724th, I didn't think anyone was around anymore.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who was in the 724th Field Artillery Battery when it started at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and broke up in Germany. I have some pictures from Camp Shelby if anyone from Service Battery is interested. Please write to me.

I wrote to a **Ralph Nickolls** from California that was in B Battery, 724th Field Artillery. I saw his name in the V.F.W. magazine. He answered my letter and gave me the address of Service Battery 724th. I would like addresses of men from the Service Battery, especially **Sergeant George Bramlette** (not sure of the spelling of his name). I think he was from Georgia.

**Kenneth M. Reber**

131 Pottsville Street

Cressona, Pennsylvania 17929

Phone: (717) 385-1935

After 4:00 P.M.

\*\*\*\*\*

## memo...

## The Jacket Man Is Right!

To Earl,

C.P. Kilmer, N.J. (Staging Area) ..... 24, November '44

Brooklyn P.O.E. (Embarked) ..... 1, December '44

On U.S.S Lejeune crossed Atlantic

Southampton, England (Debarked) ..... 12, December '44

Reading, England Area ..... 13, December '44

("B"-881st) (at Camp Rawikhet)

Portland, England ..... 22, December '44

Weymouth, England (Embarked) ..... 23, December '44

on L.S.T. crossed English Channel

LeHavre, France (Debarked) ..... 24, December '44

\*From the M/R of an Ex-1st Sergeant **Walter Haag**

The Lejeune did go to Southampton on that trip as you described above. I found out I wasn't even on the Lejeune. I was on the Marine Panther that did go to Bristol, England. We'll have to get something on that ship in the future. Earl



# Dottie and Me



*Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.  
Vice President, 69th Division Association*

**Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.**  
*Bulletin Co-ordinating Manager*  
Post Office Box 69  
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069

or  
R.D. #1, Box 477  
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606  
Telephone: 412/455-2901  
Tri-State Blues Family Group Headquarters  
(Evenings after 7:00 P.M. and Weekends)

**"THE FAMILY WITH TWO ADDRESSES — BUT ONE HOME — WELCOME ALL 69'ers — STOP IN, CALL, OR WRITE." Exit 9 — Pennsylvania Turnpike**

Since I am now retired and on pension plus collecting social security, this means I am now 62 years of age. One of the youngest in the division, so you see, we are all getting older and that means it's time we all make an appearance at a Division Association Reunion. As you know one is forthcoming August 14th through 21st, 1988 at the Campbell House Inn and The Kentucky Inn, Lexington, Kentucky. Hope to see you there. Only Charles L. Moore, Company E, 271st Infantry, North Canton, Ohio; Chester Yastrzemski, Company E, 272nd Infantry, Southampton, New York, and a few other are younger. Note the E Companies since I come from E of the 273rd Infantry.

It's not too late yet even if the last Bulletin said "Deadline for Making Hotel Reservations is August 3rd, 1988." It only means you must take room availability after that date and I am sure they will find a place for you to room. We want to beat the 700 plus that the Niagara Falls, New York Reunion had. We are looking for a lot of first timers and old timers too.

Since I am around the house more, call me anytime should an emergency or question come to your mind pertaining to the 69th - 412/455-2901.

Spring is in the air and mini weekends have started with Central Pennsylvania kicking it off. We are now looking for reports of the weekends, and some appear on other pages of this Bulletin.

April 15, 16, 17, 1988, Central Pennsylvania Branch- 58 present; April 27, 28, 29, 30, - May 1, 1988, 661st Tank Destroyers- 32 present; April 29, 30 - May 1, 1988, Midwest Group - No report to date. Any month, 1988, D Company, 273rd Infantry - No report to date.

Mini weekends of units, please watch your Calendar of Coming Events page so that we don't have two on the same weekend if at all possible. How could Dottie and me have taken in the Midwest Group and the 661st Tank Destroyers this

year. We got out of it by Dottie being in the hospital again. This time she had a gall bladder operation and she is doing fine. She'll be ready for Canaan Valley, Lexington, and a few others later in the year. She is just getting over receiving many cards from her kidney stone troubles of January from all of you fine 69ers and wishes to thank you all.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Earl:

Please find enclosed an early picture of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 271st Infantry, 69th Division. This was done shortly after activation at Camp Shelby. I was the adjutant and company commander at the time.

In event the Association doesn't have such a picture, I'm very glad to provide the one enclosed. Perhaps at the coming get-together some may recall old friends and some of the events of those very busy days.

At any rate, Mrs. Chiles (Mary Jane) and I are in the process of relocating, and in the process, are coming across many most interesting things, as foot lockers, etc., from what seems like just a few years ago - that is how I came across the picture of August 1943.

Receiving the "Bulletin" is always a treat. Sometimes I even see a name that I remember. My last contact with the Division was about December '44 when you all were moving forward by train. I was part of the 3rd Army stationed at Conflans-Jarny, France and did have the treat of seeing many. Since then we have attended the Scottsdale, Arizona gathering and it was so much of a pleasure also.

I do hope that you can find a use for this picture.

**Austin C. Chiles**  
1318 Clara Lane  
Davis, California 95616

\* \* \* \* \*

Austin, you had me scared since your letter was dated 5 April, 1987 and the envelope 5 April, 1988, I know I am bad in holding letters but hopefully not that bad, a year. I do get a lot of mail and it keeps me moving especially with all the other things tossed in between. Your letter tells me you could have some articles for the Camp Shelby museum that is now being put together. To you and Chuck Moore, thanks for the pictures which I will use in the next Bulletin, Volume 42, Number 1, due in the mail to members shortly after Thanksgiving. I have another idea for this Bulletin that will give us more space for large pictures, hoping to bring out the faces much better. This idea will only be done in each Number 1 Bulletin, so if anyone has large pictures, get them to us for Number 1 Bulletins by watching our deadlines for Bulletins.

We goofed in Bulletin Volume 41, Number 1 on page 44, top picture furnished by Jack Hubbard. It's not Company H, 273rd Infantry Regiment but it is Company A, 273rd Infantry Regiment. Thanks to Ray Fahrner this error was caught and I am surprised that Jake Stark and others from both Companies didn't pick it up. I thought I didn't see Jake on that picture. We do make errors so correct us members.

\* \* \* \* \*

Earl:

Charles and I were looking at the 69th Bulletin from December. We recognized a picture of him with a hanging deer. Charles is a 661st T.D. Headquarters Company man. He doesn't remember the name of the town, but they were waiting to meet the Russians on the Elbe. Two buddies and Charles cooked the deer on a Coleman stove over a period of days.

We enjoy the Bulletin very much and hope to make a Reunion before long.

**Charles and Libby Burchett**

*(Continued on Page 16)*

## **Richard Bell Writes:**

Hi Earl and Dottie:

Just thought I would drop a line and let you know how much I appreciate receiving the 69th Bulletin. I couldn't put the last one down once I started reading it.

I found Acme on the map. I figured it was close to Champion! I've been to Mt. Pleasant to visit Nick Etze years ago.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Earl and Clarence:

I would like to write to you a few general remarks about a number of things. I thought the last Bulletin was outstanding at 64 pages. I would guess that the rough copy you sent to the printer for typesetting must have made a pile of paper 4 to 6 inches in depth, and it must have been quite a job to organize it all into some sort of continuity.

Regarding the troop ship "Lejeune." I am only familiar with the 272nd's journey across the Atlantic. Our Regiment, with a few other troops, left New York harbor on November 15, 1944 on the troopship "John Erickson" in convoy with many other ships. Included with these ships was a small air craft carrier which followed us all the way. The "John Erickson" was the former Swedish liner "Kungsholm." We docked at Southampton on December 1, 1944. Our Battalion, with a few other troops, was stationed at Lopscombe Corners, six miles east of Salisbury. I remember being on some very short rations for a week or two until some supply problems were ironed out.

Following is a statement made by General Omar Bradley, quoted in Lt. Col. Eddy Bauer's "History of World War II."

"The rifleman trudges into battle knowing that statistics are stacked against his survival. He fights without promise of either reward or relief. Behind every river, there's another hill - and behind that hill, another river. After weeks or months in the line, only a wound can offer him the comfort of safety, shelter and a bed. Those who are left to fight, fight on, evading death, but knowing that with each day of evasion they have exhausted one more chance for survival. Sooner or later, unless victory comes, the chase must end on the litter or in the grave." end of quote.

These magnificent generations of World War II were faced with an awesome task. From Africa to the Arctic north, the Fascist dictators were in control. From the Aleutians to the shores of Australia, the Japanese were in control. India and Hawaii were endangered. For the most part, these men went forth, uncomplaining, and accomplished incredible fetes to reverse this situation, and go on to victory.

The ASTP article "Scholars in Foxholes" was interesting. I was put into college in this program from the 89th Division, Camp Carson, Colorado, where I was a 81mm mortar gunner. I graduated from ASTP into the Aviation Cadet program at

Keesler Field, and when that folded, I found myself back in 81 mortars with the 69th.

I left the 69th in June of 1949 at Weissenfels, Germany, bound for the USA. Transportation wasn't available until September 1, my birthday, when I loaded on the Liberty Ship "Tareyton Brown" at LeHavre. It was fitted with 500 bunks and there were 700 of us. I got to sleep on the steel deck, but I didn't mind. We stopped at Newport, England, for a load of ballast to weight us down. We arrived in New York September 15, 1945.

**Richard Bell, Company D, 272nd Infantry**  
Rural Route 2, Box 44  
Watertown, South Dakota 57201

\* \* \* \* \*

To all leaders and organizers of the mini weekends whether it be a company, battalion, or just small groups, I want to make the following recommendations to you.

If you have something on the Calendar of Coming Events page, I would like you to start talking to your unit and have them plan for a mini weekend that brings you all to a National Division Association week and who cares if you come for the entire week. I want you to come for only days if that's all your members can afford.

I would like to set the years of 1992, 1996, and 2000 as the years we all get with each other at a National Reunion. Talk about it at your next event and give me some feedback on my suggestion. I am only asking to do this every four years and your Division Association is surely entitled to have everyone together a few times. You'll like the National Reunion I am sure.

Members, I hope these Bulletins are what you want. Any changes or recommendations will be appreciated by both Clarence and myself. How do you like the Reunions? I hope they too are what you want and like. I believe the format of the Lexington Reunion is one of the best. Room rates are low, many good tours at very reasonable prices. Looks like we will be doing something all the time, and most of all, you'll be there with the wife, family, or guests which is what makes a Reunion. Without you nothing would happen. Yes, even you are important to the 69th so do come to Lexington and be a part of us. That's what makes a Reunion, members and loved ones. Dottie and I will see you there during the week. Have a safe journey in your travels and have a good summer too. Until then, bye bye for a while.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Earl,

Congratulations on becoming our Vice President of the 69th Division Association. You have always been a mainstay of the Association and represent the continuity required to maintain the status of the Association at the high level already achieved.

Respectfully,  
**Robert L. Pierce**  
Company I, 273rd Infantry

### **NEWS MATERIAL AND PICTURES FOR THE BULLETIN SHOULD BE MAILED TO:**

**EARL E. WITZLEB, JR., P.O. Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069**

or R.D. #1, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

**CLARENCE MARSHALL, 101 Stephen Street, New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068**

### **LADIES AUXILIARY MATERIAL AND PICTURES TO:**

**DOROTHY A. WITZLEB, P.O. Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069**

or R.D. 1, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606



# Resolutions/By-Laws Committee

**Leonard Lushbaugh, Chairman** — Member I-272nd  
204 North Antietam, Box 93  
Funkstown, Maryland 21734  
Telephone: 301/739-2828

**Enrico D'Angelo** — Member - 880th F.A.  
516 Chestnut Street  
Saltsburg, Pennsylvania 15681  
Telephone: 412/335-6678

**Robert "Bob" Bement** — Member - 724th F.A.  
P.O. Box 524  
Mancos, Colorado 81328  
Telephone: 303/533-7683

**Dillard M. Powell** — Member - A-271st  
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**Leonard C. Halpenny** — Member - 269th  
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**Raymond Wolthoff** — Member - M-272nd  
5609 14th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33707  
Telephone: 813/347-6975

**Phillip Colombo** — Member - 879th F.A.  
156-20 65th Avenue  
Flushing, New York 11367  
Telephone: 212/886-0363

## Membership:

It has come to my attention that there are several things that exist that may need to be changed in the By-Laws and Resolutions. I have attempted to take this information and work up that which I feel will take care of these concerns.

First, it is felt that due to our age and good management, that we consider a second Vice President. I feel that this is a needed office in our Organization to insure proper leadership should one of our Officers be unable to serve for any reason. Please study this well. I have tried to put safeguards in this to eliminate any politics with this office.

Second, it seems that there has been some confusion about the order of Chairman of the Nominating Committee and what Units make up our Organization. I have tried to clear this up and hope that I have done so.

I and my committee will recommend the following changes to the Board of Directors and you, the membership, at our meetings at the Campbell House Inn, Lexington, Kentucky, during our Reunion.

**L. A. Lushbaugh, Chairman**  
By-Laws and Resolutions Committee  
P.O. Box 93  
Funkstown, Maryland 21734

\* \* \* \* \*

# Fighting 69th Infantry Division Proposed Changes to the Constitution and By-Laws

## CONSTITUTION CHANGES

### ARTICLE IV, ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT.

The management of the Association shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Board of Directors not to exceed twenty-four (24).

### ARTICLE IV, AMENDED TO READ.

The management of the Association shall be a President, one First Vice President, one Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Board of Directors not to exceed thirty (30).

### ARTICLE I, SECTION 2, VICE PRESIDENT.

There shall not be more than one (1) Vice President, the Vice President shall be a member of the Board of Directors and shall perform the duties of the President during his absence or disability.

### ARTICLE I, SECTION 2, AMENDED TO READ.

There shall be one First Vice President and one Second Vice President. The First Vice President shall be a member of the Board of Directors and shall perform the duties of the President during his absence or disability. The Second Vice President shall be Chairman of the Future Reunion Site Committee and shall perform the duties of the First Vice President during his absence or disability. The First Vice President and the Second Vice President after serving their two year term, shall move up to the office of President in succession and shall not be denied this privilege without just cause.

### ARTICLE I, SECTION 5, BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and those members not to exceed twenty-four elected by the membership, with eight being elected each year to serve a three year term. Membership each year shall include a representative from; Division Headquarters-Special Troops; 271st Infantry Regiment; 272nd Infantry Regiment; 273rd Infantry Regiment; Division Artillery; 269th Combat Engineers; 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion; and the 777th Tank Battalion. The Board of Directors during the intervals between Reunions, shall carry out the policies adopted by the Association.

The Board shall have the authority to designate the time and place of each Annual Reunion (subject to the approval of the General Membership at the Annual Reunion). The Board shall have the authority to set the amount of Annual Membership Dues.

### ARTICLE I, SECTION 5, AMENDED TO READ.

The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, First Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and those members not to exceed thirty (30) elected by the membership, with ten (10) elected each year to serve a three year term. Membership each year shall include a representative from each Unit as outlined in Article 2, Section 2. The Board of Directors, during the intervals between Reunions, shall carry out the policies adopted by the Association. The Board shall have the authority to designate the time and place of each Annual Reunion (subject to the approval of the General Membership at the Annual Reunion). The Board shall have the authority to set the amount of Membership Dues.

(Continued on Page 18)



**RESOLUTION/BY-LAWS COMMITTEE  
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE  
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
(Continued from Page 17)**

**SECTION 6, TERM OF OFFICE.**

The term of office for all elected offices of the Association (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) shall be for two (2) years beginning at the conclusion of the Reunion at which they were elected and shall continue until their successors are duly elected and installed.

**SECTION 6, AMENDED TO READ.**

The term of office of all elected offices of the Association (President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) shall be for two (2) years beginning at the conclusion of the Reunion at which they were elected and shall continue until their successors are duly elected and installed.

**SECTION 7,  
SUCCESSOR APPOINTMENTS BY PRESIDENT.**

In the event that the Secretary or Treasurer is not able to serve due to mid-term resignation or other causes, the President is empowered to appoint a successor to serve until the election at the next Reunion. The interim officer is entitled to all the rights and privileges described in the By-Laws. In the event that the office of Vice President is vacated for any reason, the position shall be filled without the right of succession by the Immediate Past Chairman of the Nominating Committee to serve until the next Reunion.

**SECTION 7, AMENDED TO READ.**

In the event that the Secretary or Treasurer is not able to serve due to mid-term resignation or other causes, the President is empowered to appoint a successor to serve until the election at the next Reunion. The interim officer is entitled to all the rights and privileges described in the By-Laws. In the event that the office of the Second Vice President is vacated for any reason, the position shall be filled without right of succession by the Immediate Past Chairman of the Nominating Committee to serve until the next Reunion.

**ARTICLE II, SECTION II  
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE.**

This committee shall report to the Reunion its recommendations for the Officers and new Board Members of the Association for the ensuing term.

Each Annual class of the Board of Directors upon completion of its three year term of office, shall become the Nominating Committee for a term of one year, terminating at the conclusion of the Annual General Membership Meeting of the 69th Infantry Division Association. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall commence with the following Units and shall follow in chronological order:

1. 271st Regiment
2. 272nd Regiment
3. 273rd Regiment
4. Division Artillery
5. Special Troops
6. 269th Engineers
7. 777th Tank Battalion
8. 661st Tank Destroyers

**SECTION 2, AMENDED TO READ.**

This committee shall report to the Reunion its recommendations for the Officers and Board Members of the Association for the ensuing term.

Each annual class of the Board of Directors beginning its

third year in office shall become the Nominating Committee for a term of one year terminating at the conclusion of the Annual General Membership Meeting of the 69th Infantry Division Association. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall commence with the following Units and shall follow in chronological order. If the designated Chairman of the Nominating Committee is not in attendance, the Chairmanship shall pass to the Unit next in order until filled.

1. 269th Combat Engineers
2. 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion
3. 777th Tank Battalion
4. 369th Medical Battalion
5. 461st AAA
6. Special Troops: Consisting of Division Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 69th Division Band, 69th M.P.'s, 69th Recon, 569th Signal Company, 769th Ordinance, and any other unnamed attached Units to the 69th Infantry Division.
7. 271st Infantry Regiment
8. 272nd Infantry Regiment
9. 273rd Infantry Regiment
10. Division Artillery: Consisting of 724th F.A. Battalion, 879th F.A. Battalion, 880th F.A. Battalion, and 881st F.A. Battalion.

Respectfully Submitted,  
The Resolutions Committee  
L. A. Lushbaugh, Chairman

It is the recommendation of the Resolution Committee, that to insure a proper transition to the proposed changes in the Constitution and By-Laws, that the person who received the second largest vote for Vice President at our 1987 Reunion, be installed as our Second Vice President for a one year term at our 1988 Reunion. That he serve with all the duties and privileges of this office.

Respectfully Submitted,  
L. A. Lushbaugh, Chairman  
The Resolutions Committee

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



"Joe, yesterday you saved my life & I swore I'd pay you back. Here's my last pair of dry socks."

*This picture was published in the  
July 1955 issue of our News Bulletin.*



*How many of these folks can you recognize? This issue consisted of 4 pages, quite a difference from the recent one that we put out. At that time the Bulletin was taken care of in the Law Office of Hy Goldstein at 135 Broadway in New York City.*

☆☆



**Don't be Delinquent!**  
**Pay Your '55 Dues TODAY**  
 Be a Member in Good Standing.

# The Deer Hunt in Kentucky

Ted Vincent  
Route 3, Box 345  
Hartford, Kentucky  
42347  
Company A,  
269th  
Combat Engineers



## SATURDAY:

- 1:00 A.M. Alarm clock rings
- 2:00 A.M. Hunting partner arrives, drags you out of bed
- 2:30 A.M. Throw everything except kitchen sink into pickup
- 3:00 A.M. Leave for deep dark woods
- 3:15 A.M. Drive back home and pick up gun
- 3:30 A.M. Drive like hell to get back to woods before daylight
- 4:00 A.M. Set up camp - forgot the damn tent
- 4:30 A.M. Head into woods
- 6:05 A.M. See eight deer
- 6:06 A.M. Take aim and squeeze trigger
- 6:06½ A.M. CLICK!!!
- 6:09 A.M. Load gun, watching deer go over hill
- 8:00 A.M. Head back to camp
- 9:00 A.M. Still looking for camp
- 10:00 A.M. Realize you don't know where camp IS
- NOON Fire gun for help - eat wild berries
- 12:15 P.M. Run out of bullets - eight deer come back
- 12:30 P.M. Strange feeling in stomach
- 12:35 P.M. Realize you've eaten poison berries
- 12:45 P.M. Rescued!
- 12:55 R.M. Rushed to hospital - stomach pumped
- 3:00 P.M. Arrive back at camp
- 3:30 P.M. Leave camp to kill deer
- 4:00 P.M. Return to camp for bullets
- 4:01 P.M. Load gun, leave camp again
- 5:00 P.M. Empty gun at squirrel that is bugging you
- 6:00 P.M. Arrive back at camp - see deer grazing in camp
- 6:01 P.M. Load gun
- 6:02 P.M. Fire gun
- 6:03 P.M. One dead pickup
- 6:05 P.M. Hunting partner returns to camp dragging deer
- 6:06 P.M. Suppress strong urge to shoot partner
- 6:07 P.M. Fall into campfire
- 6:10 P.M. Change clothes - throw burned ones into fire
- 6:15 P.M. Take pickup - leave partner and damn deer in woods
- 6:25 P.M. Pickup boils over (hole in block)
- 6:26 P.M. Start walking
- 6:30 P.M. Stumble and fall - drop gun in mud
- 6:35 P.M. Meet BEAR!
- 6:36 P.M. Take aim
- 6:37 P.M. Fire gun; barrel blows up (plugged with mud)
- 6:38 P.M. Shit pants
- 6:39 P.M. Climb tree
- 9:00 P.M. Bear departs - wrap %@\$#\*#@%!!! gun around tree
- Midnight Home at last!
- SUNDAY Watch football game on TV, slowly tearing hunting license into little bitty pieces - place in envelope and mail to game warden with VERY clear instructions where to place it!!!

# Former Members of Battery C - 880th Field Artillery

Pictures furnished by Louis Roman



*This picture was taken in Germany. No identification was given for those in the picture.*

*The two pictures below were taken on the U.S.S. Costa Rico on the return trip home around March of 1946.*





Dear Readers:

As an English instructor at Westmoreland County Community College (in Western Pennsylvania), I have the opportunity to interact with students of all ages from many walks of life. Over the course of a semester, they often become comfortable enough with me to share significant events of their lives. Such was the case this past semester with one student. **Earl Witzleb.**

Seeing that Bulletin was a trip down Memory Lane! You see, my father, **Fred Gilg**, was a member of the Fighting 69th. I fondly recall the many Reunions we attended when I was a child.

So, to all of you who served with my father, I'd like to say, "Thanks!" And a special thanks to you, Earl, for taking English 163!

Always,  
Lynn Gilg Soyka

\* \* \* \* \*

I hope many of you still remember the name **Fred Gilig**, of Murrysville, Pennsylvania. I also recall those Reunion years when everyone brought their children and the Division

supplied a room for the children and chaperones to keep them straight while the dinner banquet and dance was going on. In those days Reunions were only weekends with the gathering day being Friday, the meeting Saturday morning, Memorial service Saturday afternoon, and the banquet that evening. We have come a long way from those years of going between New York and Washington D.C.

As you all know everything comes in bunches. Last June 1987, our church, Calvary United Methodist of Acme and the Indian Creek Valley Methodist Charge changed ministers which they usually do every so many years. Our new minister was **Reverend David Bowman** and his wife **Gail**, who came to us from a church in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. **David's** hometown was Beaver Falls and **Gail's** was Johnstown. A few weeks later, our Bulletin, Volume 41, Number 2, January, February, March, April, 1988, had been delivered to our members. **Dottie** received an excited call coming from **Gail** who said she and **David** had been visiting her parents and as she usually did, scanned through the 69th Bulletin when it came to her dad's. She noticed the **Dottie** and **Me** column and screamed, I know these people. They are members of **David's** church in Acme. She wanted to know what it was all about and **Dottie** proceeded to tell her the story of myself being one of the two Editors of the Bulletin. To make a long story short, **Gail's** dad is a member of the 69th serving with Regiment Headquarters Company of the 271st Infantry. His name is **Galen** and wife **Ethel Carney**, R.D. #1, Box 166, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15906.

It just so happened today, May 15th, as I am finishing my part of the Bulletin, I had the opportunity to go to the parsonage and meet Galen and his wife. I tried hard to get them to come to Canaan Valley and also Lexington, but at least have them thinking about it. So all you 271st Headquarters members drop Galen a card and get him to come to Lexington. My thanks to Mrs. Lynn Gilg Soyka for a very nice letter.

☆☆

## Former Members of Second Platoon, Company L, 271st



Left to right: S/Sgt. Harry Shulman, Pfc. Evans, Pfc. Itzkoff, Pfc. Marshal, Pfc. Guthrie, Pfc. Freeze, Pfc. Freeman, Pfc. Niedringhaus. Lt. Richard A. Geer (not pictured) was Platoon Leader. Picture furnished by Edward C. Miller

## Robert B. Slade, Former Member of A-273rd, Sends along the following informative letter and pictures.

Just recently, a friend of mine in Evansville, Indiana who served at Shelby in the 272nd Infantry, gave me the most recent copy of the "Bulletin." I had never previously seen the publication, and I just wanted you to know how much I had enjoyed reading it!

Since I served in A Company of the 273rd Infantry, I was particularly interested in the Company news on page 43. And to see the pictures of **Sergeant (Miles?) Daily, Bodie and Lieutenant Nettles**, all of whom I remember very well!

I came to Shelby and to A Company, 273rd Infantry, in March (I believe) of 1944 from an ASTP assignment at Syracuse University, New York. I think our whole student detachment was sent to the 69th, Engineering and Language students alike. I believe we got there close to the time that **General Bolte** was moved to another assignment and when **General Reinhardt** took over the Division

When I sent my new address home, my family had a "sinking spell" as when they saw that "APO 417" they thought I was long gone overseas!

A Company, 273rd, at that time had some original cadre personnel, others who had come into the unit as they entered the Army and had stayed there - plus many from ASTP and Air Corps. We even got a 62 year old Corporal who had played in Army bands in Panama for many years, and he was assigned to just play his clarinet in the Day Room until his situation could be straightened out!

**Captain Notgrass** was CO at that time. **Lieutenant Tankman** who had been in the South Pacific and wounded, was a Platoon Leader as was **Lieutenant Nettles** mentioned above. The First Sergeant was a very capable younger man whose name was **Brooks**.

I well remember the man who handled our mail calls! He was a very charming guy of Hispanic origin and we all called him "T/5." He brought us lots of good humor and laughs along with the mail.

I had a couple of unique experiences while in A Company, 273rd!

The first was that I was sent to participate in Army Cooks and Bakers School which was carried on at Camp Shelby Post Headquarters. We were quartered, and did our practice cooking, in companies that were part of a training detachment which provided basic literacy training to draftees from the Sixth Service Command who were what we today would call functional illiterates. The trainees also got a kind of pre-basic training military indoctrination. It was pretty interesting.

My second unique experience was that when I finished C&B School, and returned to A Company, **Captain Notgrass**, the CO, told me that the 69th had gotten a new (and final) quota from Second Army under which men could be sent to Infantry OCS at Fort Benning, Georgia. He felt that I might have a good shot at getting one of the assignments, and that was the end of the kitchen for me! I went right back to regular troop duty.

I went through the OCS interview process, etc. and was really pleased to learn that I had been one of those selected to go to Benning. It seems to me the quota was for 40.

And then Second Army advised the Division that the quota had been cut in half and those of us who had been picked had to take the Officer Candidate Test on a competitive basis. I was pleased to be one of the successful testees, you can be sure! We went to the Division Signal Company to take the exam.

The Division was getting closer and closer to departure for Europe. The group heading for Benning left their units and were in Division Headquarters Company for a brief period of time, then to a 2nd Army Casual Company in another part of Shelby.

I was commissioned at Benning, ended up in the Philippine Islands, and was able to get back and re-enter Wabash College at Crawfordsville, Indiana in the fall of 1946, graduating in 1948.

I joined inland Container Corporation shortly after graduation. I worked for Inland (in Evansville, Indiana) for 38 years and retired at the end of 1986.

My 8 months or so in the 69th at Camp Shelby were a highlight experience of my 3½ years active duty! I had lots of good friends all around the Division who I had known at Syracuse (and other places) and made many new ones in A Company, 273rd Infantry. Am still grateful that **Captain Notgrass** made such an effort to get me started in the OCS qualification procedure for that was to provide yet another very interesting Army experience for me.

I am enclosing a group of pictures. that were all taken in the A Company area, in early fall 1944. I have identified them as best I could.

Warmest good wishes to you and all involved in the 69th Infantry Division Association activities!

Sincerely,  
**Bob Slade**



*Pfc. Robert Slade*

*(Continued on Page 23)*



*Pfc. Murray Rosenberg*



*Sgt. Robert Boylan  
and S/Sgt. Robert Hartley*



*Seated T/Sgt. Jim Egger and Sgt. Brandon  
Person standing not identified.*



*Officers Mess Hall*



*4th Platoon Mortar Hut*



*Bulletin Board in front of  
Company Headquarters*



*Company Headquarters A-273rd*



*A-273 Mess Hall  
Earl Schueltz believed to be Mess Sergeant*



# New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

**James Henson** — 273rd  
512 Cherry Street, Blytheville, Arkansas 72315

**McCoy Shealy** — L-273rd  
Route 2, Box 146, Leesville, South Carolina 29070

**Lucious Murphree** — G & F, 271st  
936 Sycamore Drive, Grenada, Mississippi 38901

**William R. Sherman** — B-273rd  
434 17th Street, N.W., Barberton, Ohio 44203

**Johany Jones** — B-269th  
1941 Pinehurst Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37216

**Charles P. Bowne** — A-269th  
3410 South Park Road, Kokomo, Indiana 46902

**Robert J. Younglas** — B-271st  
3529 Three Mile Road, Traverse City, Michigan 49684

**Roy W. Moore** — C-881st  
P.O. Box 220, Jenkinsburg, Georgia 30234

**Eugene K. Wilson** — I-272nd  
General Delivery, Mineral, Virginia 23117

**Harry N. Smith** — Div. Hq. & 271st  
4011 Deerhorn Drive, Sherman Oaks, California 91403

**Edward H. Shelton** — Can. 273rd  
5568 Mayberry Lane, Cincinnati, Ohio 45239

**Paul G. Molinari** — C-881st  
407 Woodland Street, Manchester, Connecticut 06040

**Arthur S. Moore** — C-881st  
91 Camfield Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06114

**Marrio M. Mucciario** — I-273rd  
150 Monroe Avenue, Waterbury, Connecticut 06705

**Walter M. Gerwin, Jr.** — I-273rd  
29 Belemd, Wynantskill, New York 12198

**Evans Lovelace** — I-273rd  
Route 1, Box 31, Mooresboro, North Carolina 28114

**James E. Long** — I-273rd  
#3 Riverside Terrace, Quincy, Illinois 62301

**Ernesto Boisse** — I-273rd  
1217 Beryl Street, San Angelo, Texas 76903

**Everreth H. Kiefer** — I-273rd  
Route 1, Box 1391, Perryville, Missouri 63775

**Edwin Barnes** — I-273rd  
32758 Robinette, Warren, Michigan 48092

**John Purdie** — Hq. 271st  
P.O. Box 589, Fayetteville, North Carolina 28302

**Robert B. Slade** — A-273rd  
606 Adams Street, Newburg, Indiana 47630

**James C. Webb, Jr.** — D-777th  
P.O. Drawer 370, Demopolis, Alabama 36732

**Irving Novick**  
71 Beechdale Road, Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522

**Kenneth Upton** — B-271st  
3320 North Arnoult Road, Unit 115  
Metairie, Louisiana 70002

**James Knight** — 273rd  
317 South Grand, Evansville, Indiana 47713

**Frank R. Barnett** — Div. Hq. & M-272nd  
150 East 58th Street, New York, New York 10155

**Archie McEvoy** — G-271st  
1528 LeRoy, Ferndale, Michigan 48220

**Thomas McCullough**  
3318 North Lee Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19134

**Frazier Davidson** — M-272nd  
3361 West 14th, Eugene, Oregon 97402

**Howard W. Swick** — E-271st  
408 Ohio Avenue, Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865

**Richard E. Carris** — Hq. 2nd Bn., 271st  
223 Joyce Court, Elkhart, Indiana 46516

**Cecil L. Fisk**  
17450 Northland Drive, Sand Lake, Michigan 49343

**Joe P. Bell**  
1610 Lilliput Court, Venice, Florida 34293

**Floyd McConkie** — C-273rd  
3716 West Jefferson, Alma, Michigan 48801

**William J. Curley** — C-272nd  
706 East Monroe, Casey, Illinois 62420

**Robert H. Thurston**  
133 Old Boston Post, Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475

**David L. Gillispie**  
7749 Infirmary Road, Ravenna, Ohio 44266

**Elmer E. Gatchell** — C-724th  
4230 Clifton Avenue, Lorain, Ohio 44055

**Myron Johnson** — G-271st  
R.F.D. #5, Box 6, Columbus, Nebraska 68601

**Norman J. Steffen** — M-272nd  
1211 Snowflake Court, Edgewood, Kentucky 41018

**Joseph A. Mays**  
Route 1, Box 123, Webster, Kentucky 40176

**Frank W. Fisher** — 569th Sig.  
1418 East Bowman, South Bend, Indiana 46613

**John T. Gruber** — A-273rd  
345 Orchard Spring Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15220

**Jim L. Nelson** — E-271st  
923 Fifth Street, Prosser, Washington 99350

**Harold Zeiger** — K-272nd  
Box 68, Sawyer, Michigan 49125

**B. E. Swanson**  
323 East Stolley Park Road, Grand Island, Nebraska 68801

**Nick Serge** — Medic  
459½ Hampton Road, Fairmont, West Virginia 26554

**Thomas Yelcich**  
18093 Country Club Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48152

**Tony Securo** — Med. 1st Bn., 271st  
Route 2, Box 340, Fairmont, West Virginia 26554

**William H. Howell**  
808 Burchfield Road, Allison Park, Pennsylvania 15101

**James H. White** — B-271st  
2911 Lyncrest Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37214

**Ralph H. Becker** — 569th Sig.  
2695 Edwin Drive, Xenia, Ohio 45385

**James L. Mynes** — K-273rd  
1411 Regency Boulevard, S.E., Decatur, Alabama 35601

**Travis E. Steele**  
2090 Kingswood Avenue, Deltona, Florida 32725

**Rudy Weidmann** — Can. 272nd  
12106 Danville Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45233

**Carl F. Mosher** — D-461st AAA  
823 Robertson Street, Marine City, Michigan 48039

**Emerson F. Diehl** — M-272nd  
5212 Greencroft Drive, Dayton, Ohio 45426

**Richard Goldbach** — M-272nd  
314 Washington Road, Apt. 709  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15216

**Martin Gerstel** — D-271st  
355 East 72nd Street, Apt. 5-E, New York, New York 10021

# Former Members of C-Battery, 881st Field Artillery

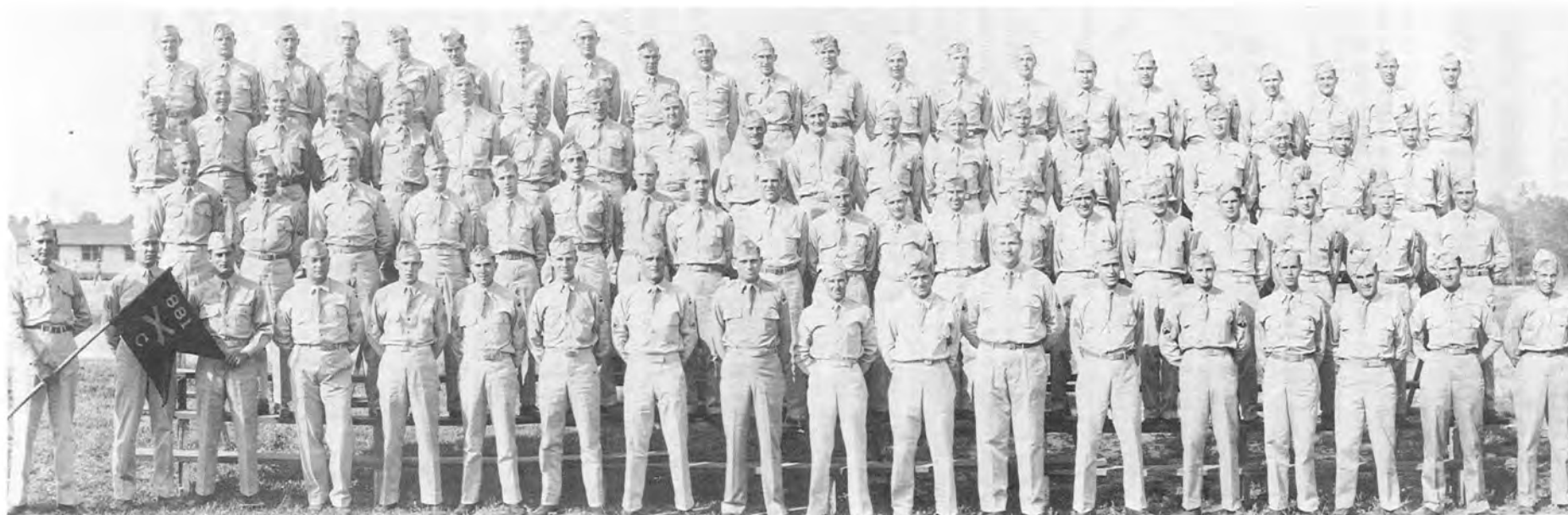
Pictures furnished by Paul Molinari



*Back Row left to right: Bernard Cato, Anthony Acocella, Paul Molinari, Vernon Hill, Donald Pomes, Arthur Moore.  
Front Row left to right: Frank Lariccia, Elmer Galloway, John Bauman, Lynn Farrar. In the leaning rest position: Hugh Milstead, Jim Musa*



*Top Row: D. T. Jones and Frank Gurrieri  
Bottom Row: Sol Meldorf, Joe Domerstat, and Paul Molinari*



## Lexington, Kentucky Reunion Attendees Take Note of the Following

The following information is most important to those of you who plan to do a lot at Lexington other than what is planned. Also if you are going to the PX Beer Party at poolside on Friday evening, August 19th, beginning at 9:00 P.M., you can be a part of the entertainment. Read the following and if interested, send your note or postcard to:

**Jim Kidd**, *Lexington Kentucky Reunion Chairman*  
222 Al-Fan Court  
Winchester Kentucky 40391  
Telephone: 606/744-0463

## LEXINGTON VISITORS' GUIDE

As you register for the 1988 Reunion at Lexington, you will be given a **Lexington Visitors' Guide**.

This Guide has much useful information for you, especially if you have not been in Lexington previously. Main topics include: Hotels and motels, dining (types of restaurants: American, Barbecue, Cafeterias, Cafes-Pubs, Continental, Contemporary, Delicatessen, Family, French, Hotel-Motel, Italian, Mexican, Oriental, Pizza, Quick-Serve, Seafood, Steak and 24-hour Service.)

It also lists attractions, Museums, Places of Historic Interest, Tennis Courts, Golf Courses, Swimming Pools, Children's Recreation, Shopping Malls and Areas, Transportation and Tours and Special Events.

## DON'T FORGET YOUR BADGE!

Don't forget to bring your badge and wear it at the Lexington Reunion.

LEXTRAN, the Lexington transit system, will let you ride free on their buses if you are wearing your 69th Reunion tag (either your permanent badge or your temporary badge.)

## PX BEER PARTY TO FEATURE 'POLKA BARONS'

Featured at the PX Beer Party at 9:00 P.M., Friday, August 19th, will be the Polka Barons, a 6-man band that is strong on polkas and German folk songs.

The Beer Party will be held in the pool area of the Campbell House Inn, Lexington, Kentucky.

The band's primary repertoire is listed below. If you have preference for any numbers, send a list of your preferences as soon as possible to **Jim Kidd**, Reunion Chairman, 222 Al-Fan Court, Winchester, Kentucky 40391. A post card will do.

In addition, if there is any singing group among 69ers, let Jim know and the song the group would like to do at the PX Beer Party. If possible, the Polka Barons will work it in their program and provide accompaniment.

Send **Jim Kidd** (address above) your preferences from this list:

**Beer Garden Memories —**  
Ach Du Lieber Augustine  
Immer Noch Ein Tropchen  
Hi Li Hi Lo  
Lauterbach

## Polkas

Grosvater's Polka  
Madam Leutner's Polka  
Baden Polka  
Too Fat Polka  
Bella Bocca Polka  
Strip Polka  
Beer Barrel Polka  
Lichtensteiner Polka  
Pennsylvania Polka  
Mein Hut  
Helen Polka  
Pizzicato Polka  
Blonde Bombshell

## Waltzes

Drunten im Hinterland  
Kommt Ein Vogerl Geflagen  
Kuckuk, Ruft Aus Dem Wald  
Du, Du, Liegst Mir Im Herzen  
Lilli Marlene  
Wine, Women and Song  
Tales From Vienna Woods  
Skater's Waltz  
Wald Teufel



Henry and Bernice Samborski  
Mr. Samborski served in the 273rd Infantry Regiment.  
(We need your Company)

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

## *"Guard It Wisely"*

*You got it from your father,  
it was all he had to give.  
So it's yours to use and cherish  
for as long as you may live.  
If you lose the gift he gave you,  
it can always be replaced.  
But a black mark on your name son,  
can never be erased.  
It was clean the day you took it,  
and a worthy name to bear.  
When he got it from his father,  
there was no dishonor there.  
So make sure you guard it wisely,  
after all is said and done.  
You'll be glad the name is spotless,  
when you give it to your son.*



KENTUCKY  
HORSE PARK



The  
Headley-Whitney  
Museum  
Lexington, Kentucky

SHAKER  
VILLAGE  
OF PLEASANT HILL  
near Lexington, Kentucky

Visit  
Spendthrift Farm



and share a  
winning tradition.

The  
Hunt-Morgan  
House  
Lexington, Kentucky



Visit  
a Kentucky  
tradition.  
The home of  
the Kentucky  
Maker's  
Mark



**This Is Lexington, Kentucky**

# 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 1988 REUNION

## 461st AAA BN. - 661st T.D. BN. - 777th TANK BN.

### CAMPBELL HOUSE INN — LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

### AUGUST 14th to 21st, 1988

Registration form to be mailed to:

**Robert J. Kurtzman Sr.**  
P.O. Box 178  
Wilmot, Ohio 44689  
Phone: 216/359-5487

I/we will attend the 69th Infantry Division Association Reunion at Lexington, Kentucky from August 14th to August 21st and will attend the following activities.

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

Street / R.D. / P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone / Area Code: \_\_\_\_\_ First Timer ☐ Second Timer ☐ Old Timer ☐

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Wife's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Weekly Events

|  | Per<br>Person | Number<br>Persons | Amount    |
|--|---------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Registrations: Monday, August 15th - August 19th, 1988 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 Noon and<br>and 1:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. Check Bulletin Board for Saturday times ..... |               |                   | NO CHARGE |
| Sunday, August 14th — Early Arrivals on your own.  |               |                   |           |
| Monday, August 15th — On Your Own.   |               |                   |           |
| Tuesday, August 16th — Shaker Village Tour, leaves 9:30 A.M. ....  | \$ 16.00      |                   | \$ _____  |
| Wednesday, August 17th — Kentucky Bourbon Tour, leaves 9:30 A.M. ....  | \$ 11.00      |                   | \$ _____  |
| Thursday, August 18th — Fort Knox Tour, leaves 8:30 A.M. ....  | \$ 16.00      |                   | \$ _____  |
| Early Bird Buffet - Poolside - 7:00 P.M. ....  | \$ 18.00      |                   | \$ _____  |
| Friday, August 19th — Golf Tournament. 8:30 A.M. Start. Tickets must be purchased<br>from Hotel. Green Fee \$13.50, ½ Cart \$6.50.                             |               |                   |           |
| Check box if you plan to participate. Green Fee <input type="checkbox"/> ½ Cart <input type="checkbox"/> Do Not include cost.                                  |               |                   |           |
| Blue Grass and Horse Farm Tour, leave 9:30 A.M. ....   | \$ 11.00      |                   | \$ _____  |
| Board of Directors Meeting - 1:30 P.M.   |               |                   |           |
| PX Beer Party - Poolside - 9:00 P.M. ....  | \$ 5.00       |                   | \$ _____  |
| Saturday, August 20th — Men's General Meeting 9:00 A.M. to Noon  |               |                   |           |
| Ladies' Auxiliary Meeting 9:00 A.M. to Noon  |               |                   |           |
| Memorial Service at Flag Pole 2:30 P.M.  |               |                   |           |
| Banquet and Dinner Dance - Ballroom - 6:30 P.M. to 1:00 A.M.,  |               |                   |           |
| Cocktails 6:30 P.M., Dinner 7:00 P.M..   | \$ 20.00      |                   | \$ _____  |
| Sunday, August 21st — Farewell Breakfast Buffet - 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. ....   | \$ 8.00       |                   | \$ _____  |
| Farewells and Departures - See you all next year.  |               |                   |           |

Reunion Sub-Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### DUES

New Dues Year - August 1, 1988 to July 31, 1989

|   |         |          |
|---|---------|----------|
| Regular Membership .....                        | \$ 5.00 | \$ _____ |
| Contributory Dues .....                         | \$10.00 | \$ _____ |
| Ladies Auxiliary .....                          | \$ 2.00 | \$ _____ |
| Postage and Bulletin Donation (up to you) ..... |         | \$ _____ |

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

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

Make Check or Money Order Payable to: 69th Infantry Division Association

If you do not have a plastic badge from earlier Reunions, please check box. ☐

Permanent badges will only be made if your request is accompanied by an advance prepaid Reservation. Failure to attend Reunion will result in a \$3.00 charge for each badge and will be deducted from your refund. Please fill out this form and mail them in with your check 30 days prior to the Reunion. If you do this, it will make our job much easier and save you time at the Registration Desk.

**69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**  
**41st ANNUAL REUNION**  
**461st AAA BN. - 661st T.D. BN. - 777th TANK BN.**  
**LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY**  
**AUGUST 14th to 21st, 1988**

Registration Form to be mailed to:

**Campbell House Inn**  
1375 Harrodsburg Road  
Lexington, Kentucky 40503  
Phone: 606/255-4281

**HOUSING:** Please reserve one of the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 bed 1 person; \_\_\_\_\_ 1 bed 2 persons; \_\_\_\_\_ 2 beds 2 persons;

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 beds 3 persons; \_\_\_\_\_ 2 beds 4 persons.

All rooms are \$49.00 per night plus 10¼% local taxes = \$54.02

I / We plan to arrive (day) \_\_\_\_\_, August \_\_\_\_\_, 1988. (Check in after 2:00 P.M.)

I / We plan to depart (day) \_\_\_\_\_, August \_\_\_\_\_, 1988. (Check out time - 12:00 Noon)

**Send Confirmation to:** *(Please Type or Print)*

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

Street / R.D. / P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**In order to Confirm Reservation, One of the Following Must Accompany This Form:**

Check or Money Order (One Night's Lodging) Payable to the Campbell House Inn, or Major Credit Card Number and Date of Expiration.

The following Credit Cards are accepted: American Express, Master Card, Visa Card, Diner's Club, Carte Blanche and Discover.

Credit Card Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize Campbell House Inn to make charges on my Credit Card.

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_

If this form has been filled out by anyone other than the person for whom this reservation has been made, give the name, address and telephone of the person filling out the form.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reservations must be received not later than two weeks in advance. If a particular type of room is unavailable, the next most suitable room will be assigned. No particular room, room type, or location can be guaranteed. Deposit returnable on 72 hours cancellation notice, before August 14, 1988.



**69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
41st ANNUAL REUNION  
461st AAA BN. - 661st T.D. BN. - 777th TANK BN.  
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY  
AUGUST 14th to 21st, 1988**

Complete this form or send legible copy to:

**The Kentucky Inn**  
Attn.: Karen French  
525 Waller Avenue  
Lexington, Kentucky 40504  
Phone: 1-800/843-6123

**Please reserve the following:**

Single (1 person) @ \$49.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Double (2 persons) @ \$49.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Kentucky Tax is 10¼% = \$54.02

I / We plan to arrive (day) \_\_\_\_\_, August \_\_\_\_\_, 1988. (Check in time - 2:00 P.M.)

I / We plan to depart (day) \_\_\_\_\_, August \_\_\_\_\_, 1988. (Check out time - 12:00 P.M.)

**Send Confirmation to: (Please Type or Print)**

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

Street / R.D. / P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**In order to confirm reservation, one of the following must accompany this form:**

Check or money order (one night's lodging) payable to The Kentucky Inn, or Major Credit Card Number and date of expiration.

**I wish to confirm my reservation by:**

Credit Card Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Room block held until 30 days prior to scheduled arrival. Therefore, you must send in your reservation and advance deposit, so it can be received no later than July 14, 1988. Any forms received after that date are on a first-come, first service basis.

----- Cut Here - Mail to above address -----

**AIR TRAVEL TO LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY**

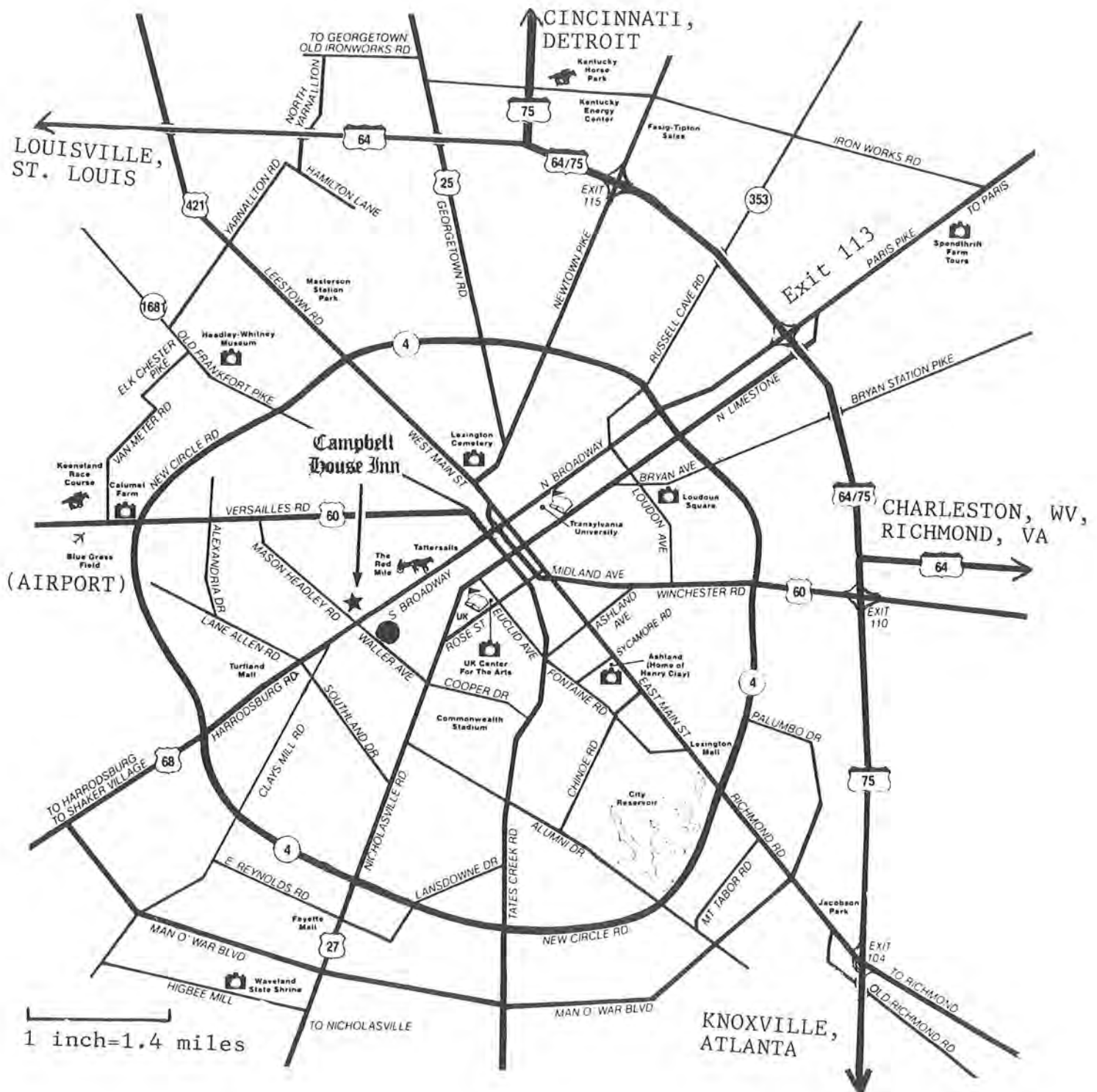
Lexington Airport is serviced by U.S. Air, Delta, Piedmont, United Air Lines, and Comair.

Free limousine service is furnished by the Campbell House Inn by calling 255-4281  
after your arrival and ask for the limousine.

Since this is the centerfold, you can easily open the staple, take out the page you need, close the staple, and your Bulletin is still intact. Otherwise, get a xerox copy for either of the Inn's and notice to **Bob Kurtzman** of your activities.

# LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

## Map showing principal roads and streets in and around the city of Lexington.



# 1987 NIAGARA FALLS REUNION

Pictures by Chester Yastrzemski, 69th Photographer, Company E, 272nd Infantry





# 1987 NIAGARA FALLS REUNION

Pictures by Chester Yastrzemski, 69th Photographer, Company E, 272nd Infantry



\*\*\*\*\*

# Division Association Chapters, Units, and Group Mini-Weekends Across the United States

\*\*\*\*\*

We are interested in all news from Chapters, Groups, Branches, Companies, Battalions, Regiments, Recon, Artillery, AAA, T.D.'s 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 15622-0069 or R.D. #1, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606, as early as possible. Then follow through with a write-up immediately after the event(s).

First I do hope and believe that at Mini-Weekends old unit buddies meet again and again year after year and strike great friendships. Secondly, unit leaders should make all efforts to get his members to attend Division Association Annual Reunions where great friendships can be made with other members of the division who were not associated with your particular unit. I urge and invite all units to make a special effort to attend the Lexington, Kentucky Reunion in August and let's top the 700 plus we had at Niagara Falls. We can hit 1,000 plus this year if we all give the Division Reunion a try just once. You'll be back again, I'm sure.

Vice President Earl E. Witzleb, Jr.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Company E, 273rd Infantry

COMING FROM ALL 50 STATES

Earl E. "Skip" and Dorothy A. "Dottie" Witzleb, Jr., *Reporter*  
R.D. No. 1, Box 477

Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

or

P.O. Box 69

Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069

Telephone: 412/455-2901 (Evenings after 7:00 P.M. and Weekends)

Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike

*"The Family With Two Addresses — But One Home — Welcome All 69ers — Stop In, Call, or Write."*

Davisson F. Dunlap, CO

1601 CNA Building

Orlando, Florida 32802

Telephone: 305/849-0300 (Office)

or

795 McIntyre Avenue

Winter Park, Florida 32789

Telephone: 305/645-0154 (Home)

*"When if Florida or Orland Area - Visit the Dunlaps"*

The dates August 14 to 21, 1988 are fast approaching and soon will be gone. Did you leave yourself out again? I hope not for we are all getting older and you do want to see your buddies of World War II and some 40 plus years ago one more time. Yes, one more time. Lexington, Kentucky is in the mid section of our country (United States of America) which is not too far away from the north, south, east, or west. E Company 273rd, make an effort to attend and be 100% strong. Let's beat the 11 members plus 10 wives and 1 guest that we had at Niagara Falls, New York.

Davisson Dunlap plans to be there and so does Aiello, Dicke, Gleason, Gooding, Hume, Matlach, Orlowski, Shires, Tripp, Winnicki, and Witzleb with their wives or guest(s). Our mini Reunion will be held in conjunction with the 69th Infantry Division Association's Reunion this year at Lexington and our dinner will be on Friday, August 19, 1988 at 6:30 P.M.

We hope to get back in time to take in a little of the PX Beer Party at Poolside. Then do stay over for the Division Association Banquet dinner dance on Saturday. In fact, come for the week but a few or couple days will be just fine. I'm looking forward to seeing 50 of the top troops and wives of the 69th Infantry Division.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Tri-State Group

TRI-STATE BLUE IS THE FAMILY GROUP

Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Western Maryland, Western New York, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

*(Other States Invited Too)*

Earl E. and Dottie Witzleb, Jr., *Coordinators*

R.D. No. 1, Box 477

Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

Exit 9, Pennsylvania Turnpike

or

P.O. Box 69

Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069

Telephone: 412/455-2901

(Evenings after 7:00 P.M. and Weekends)

*Tri-Staters are on the move to the final one weeker — Campbell House Inn, Lexington, Kentucky.*

Canaan Valley is over and the old four wheeler and the new TBirds, Classics, and Cad's are roaring over the mountains, across West Virginia and into Kentucky for the 69th Infantry Division Association 41st Annual Reunion at the Campbell House Inn and The Kentucky Inn at Lexington. We will join many, many fine 69th members and their wives and guest(s) for a week long celebration of fun and socializing at the hospitality rooms, on tours, at the early bird, beer party, banquet-dinner dance, meetings, and the MEMORIAL SERVICE to honor our beloved comrades who fought so dearly for our nation. Yes, we will have enjoyment with fellow members while they rest in peace.

Tri-State urges all members of the 69th, 461st AAA, 661st T.D.'s, and 777th Tank Battalion to attend the 69th Infantry Division Reunion at Lexington and top the 700 plus that was at Niagara Falls, New York. We will have a hospitality room in Lexington or better still, at the Campbell House. We are happy that we are one of the final four of many, many fine units that make up this great 69th Association of ours with the best auxiliary in the nation. Remember the dates August 14 to 21, 1988.

It was nice to know that the Division now has a "Chuck Herring Memorial Golf Tournament" in honor of Chuck Herring who started and was the first chairman of that event which goes on Friday mornings at the Division Reunions. This year at Lexington will be the first one in honor of Chuck. Chalmer Pearson now heads up this group which is for both

*(Continued on Page 35)*

# DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS, AND GROUP MINI-WEEKENDS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

(Continued from Page 34)

men and women. I know Lottie Herring is most appreciative of this event and has told me so. She plans on being in Lexington. Since Chuck and Lottie were rapid Western Pennsylvania and now Tri-State Group members, I conferred with Chalmer Pearson and we both agree that the Tri-State golfing will now be known as the "Chuck Herring Junior Memorial Golf Tournament" with its first one being held at Canaan Valley Resort championship course. It will be and was a two day event on Thursday and Saturday with Chalmer Pearson in charge, and hopefully he will be our golf pro. This also is for both men and women with our next one being held in Erie, Pennsylvania in 1989. It's like the other races before the Kentucky Derby so for practice, all you golfers of the 69th are invited to come to Erie next year. Then you'll be sharp for the national tournament later on.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Central Pennsylvania Branch

**Daniel and Helen Evers, Chairpersons**

4950 Grant Drive  
Brookhaven, Pennsylvania 19015  
Telephone: 215/874-1197

**Frank and Ted Nemeth, Reporters**

66 Gaping Rock Road  
Levittown, Pennsylvania 19057  
Telephone: 215/945-3809

Central & Eastern Pennsylvania, Eastern Maryland,  
Delaware, New Jersey, Washington, D.C. and New York

The Central Pennsylvania Chapter held their spring get-together in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on April 16, 1988, at the Continental Inn and once again, was hosted by Dan and Helen Evers. It was a nice turnout with 59 people in attendance who enjoyed a fine meal and many were lucky recipients of nice door prizes. Many of them baked by our hostess Helen Evers. (I didn't win one though).

President Bill Foster gave an up-to-date report on the monument for Camp Shelby and Vice President Earl Witzleb gave a report on the Tri-State Reunion at Canaan Valley coming up in June. Treasurer Bob Kurtzman asked everyone to get their reservations in as soon as possible for Lexington to make it easier for the committees.

Dan Evers is looking for someone to take over the Chapter Chairman's job as he and I will be pretty busy working on the 69th Division Reunion in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, coming up in the near future.

Those in attendance were: Dan and Helen Evers, Bob and Vivian Kurtzman, Pat and Janice Lushbaugh, Earl and Ann Walters, Carl and Mildred Stetler, Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Paul and Margie McCombs, Charles and Lorraine Goodheart, Ray Pugliese, Ward and Marion Peterson, Paul and Marian Shadle, Ray Fahrner, Joe and Frances Naticak, Tom and Fran Novitsky, Bill and Betty Foster, Jake and Vi Stark, Paul and Maryeta Kitner, Michael and Mary Kertis, Ray and Helen Szkudlarek, Frank and Arlene Carey, Jim and Jane Lynch, George and Virginia Weston, Frank and Ted Nemeth, Enrico and Anne D'Angelo, Elizabeth Hawley, Walt and Eby Howland and Rebecca (9 months old), Art and Nancy Holgate,

Alex and Marge Kormas, Sam and Hazel Fichthorn and Carl and Bernice Macknair.

Everyone received a nice little table gift and hated to leave when it was over. I think that's why the hotel kept dimming the lights on us.

See ya,  
Frank Nemeth

\* \* \* \* \*

**NOTE TO FRANK:** I only get 58 attending. Remember John Hawley went fishing and didn't get back in time. That's why we had to eat prime rib of beef. Tom and Fran Novitsky, I believe, were the daughter and son-in-law of Joe and Frances Naticak. We missed Bill and Jane Matlach (Sam and Hazel Fichthorn were there too) and Edward Lucci. Naticak, Fichthorn, and Witzleb were E Company, 273rd Infantry as were Fichthorn and Fahrner, A Company, 273rd Infantry. Hope to see you all in Lexington, Kentucky in August.

Earl

\* \* \* \* \*



Ray and Helen Szkudlarek



Michael and Mary Kertis

(Continued on Page 36)



## 269th Engineers

Frank and Ted Nemeth, Coordinator

66 Gaping Rock Road  
Levittown, Pennsylvania 19057  
Telephone: 215/945-3809

Territory: All 50 of Our States

Hi Engineers:

Writing this on short notice, as usual I wait till the last minute, and I hope to see you all in Lexington in August. Report will be short since I'm enclosing our usual Engineer

photo page and some well written letters by Jim Eibling which I found to stir up some old memories of Camp Shelby and overseas.

Sent out for names to add to our company roster and out of 14 letters, I only got three answers so I'll wait a little while longer and then I'll type up what I've received.

I know one thing they always said — "The Engineers were on the move" and now I really believe it after working on the rosters.

So - I'll close for now and to all you golfers, swing hard and get your money's worth, don't forget to bring your sticks to Lexington. This is the 'year of the Engineers'!!!

Your Ole Buddie,  
Frank

NOTE: Count all your strokes this year, Frank, so someone else has a chance.



Left to Right: Leona and Ray Hull, Ted Nemeth, Darrell and Evelyn Orn, Gene Huggins, Pete Sample, Dan Evers and John Pontieri. Company A and Company B, 269th Engineers at PX Nite in Niagara Falls.

\* \* \* \* \*



Jim Eibling, H&S and Company A, 269th Engineers

Dear Frank,

It was good to see so many 269th Engineers and wives in Niagara Falls. I wish I could have spent more time with all of you and to have seen Bill Foster installed as President. And thanks to you again, Frank, for your unselfish work as Association Secretary and, also, as our Battalion liaison person.

On my sojourn to New Orleans after the Reunion, I made a side trip to Camp Shelby. It was a bit disheartening to observe that the temporary buildings that we used had been torn down and replaced in some areas with concrete block structures. What I missed seeing the most were those coal-fired kitchens. How did our cooks ever feed our men pancakes with those smoke pots? One of the original theatres has been preserved for a permanent future museum. I met the camp commandant and he arranged a private tour of the present

(Continued on Page 37)

**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS,  
UNITS, AND GROUP MINI-WEEKENDS  
ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**

*(Continued from Page 36)*

temporary museum. It is already fairly well equipped except that memorabilia of the 69th Division are needed. If anyone wants to lend or donate relics, the address of the curator is: T.D. White, Building 6634, Camp Shelby, Mississippi 39407.

Then I went to the Paul B. Johnson State Park which is only a few miles from Camp Shelby. Originally, the park was developed by the County and the Army as a recreational facility for Camp Shelby personnel; to be taken over by the State after the War. The park is beautiful with a man-made lake, camp sites, cottages, lodges and swimming and boating facilities. The 269th Engineers will remember helping to build this resort using German PW's for pick and shovel work and bulldozers and road graders for the heavy construction.

One noteworthy contribution of our Engineers was a 100 foot long wooden pile bridge over a creek in the park. I drove around the lake for quite a while trying to find the bridge before realizing that it must be under water. Sure enough, according to the park ranger, after the War the lake was greatly expanded by increasing the height of the dam. A few years ago the State partially drained the lake and, much to their surprise, exposed the bridge, intact. How about that bridge builders!

**Jim Eibling, 269th Engineer Battalion**  
1380 Camelot Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43220

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Clarence,

For your consideration for the Bulletin, here are two photographs that should interest the 69th members that were at the Elbe in April 1945.

One shows the floating bridge at Torgau, built by the Soviets a few days before our great pull back. Possibly, it is the only photo of the bridge taken by an American. The Soviets forbid anyone to take a picture of the bridge or to be near it during construction or after completion. So why did I take it? Don't ask! Needless to say, they refused to let us 269th Engineers participate in the planning or erection of the bridge — just for a token show of cooperation. Shades of things to come.

On a related subject, the second photo is of our sign planted near the place that Lieutenant Robertson and Lieutenant Silvasenko met. As most 69th men will recall, the sign appeared in many news sources, usually with the two Lieutenants shaking hands in front of the sign. The sign came about through the foresight of Colonel Holmlin, C.O., 269th Engineers Battalion. A few days before the link-up, the Colonel suggested that I, as the Battalion S-3, have drawn up, an appropriate design of a sign to be used in the event that the 69th became the first division to contact the Soviets. I was a little slow (nuts - I forgot all about it) to get something started; however, Lieutenant Ray Tworck, Assistant S-3 and a commercial artist, overheard the conversation between the Colonel and me and, without saying a word, sketched up a design. When the Colonel subsequently asked how the sign was coming along, Lieutenant Tworck (bless his soul) instantly produced the sketch. We liked it and, after some minor design changes and skilled help of the battalion's sign painter, it was ready to take to Division Headquarters. Colonel Holmlin presented it to General Reinhardt just in time for the big event.

So far as I know, when we pulled back, the sign was still in place. Does anyone know what happened to the sign? The Soviets would have been inclined to keep the sign because of their eagerness to identify with the 69th Division. How do I

know this? Well, besides the stories brought back by Bill Beswick, et. al., from the 40th Anniversary fete, I have some personal insight. For example, in 1975, I spent a couple of weeks touring the USSR on a joint solar energy venture. When my hosts found out that I had been in the 69th at Torgau, they toasted our Division at all the banquets which was just about every night. Of course, I reciprocated with a toast to the 58th Guards Rifle Division. My Soviet hosts tried long and hard to find a former member of the 58th Guards and, finally, at a town near Tbilisi, Georgian SSR, they located a chap who had been at the Elbe. He wasn't sure that he had been in the 58th Guards, but he seemed to remember our 69th patch.

**Jim Eibling**  
269th Engineers Battalion



\* \* \* \* \*

*(Continued on Page 38)*

**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS,  
UNITS, AND GROUP MINI-WEEKENDS  
ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**  
(Continued from Page 37)

Dear Earl,

I received the Bulletin this morning, and after reading the whole thing, I find it's time that maybe I could add my two cents worth. Being that I can't get around much anymore, (my eyes and legs wer't kaput), this is the only way I can do it.

On the bit about the USS LeJeune, (I thought our whole Division was aboard)?? so let's take it from the top, as far as the 269th Engineers were involved. We left Shelby Wednesday, November 22, 1944 . . . Arrived at Camp Kilmer, Friday, November 25th . . . left Wednesday, November 29, 07:15 . . . Arrived at Staten Island, New York, November 29, 12:00. At this point we boarded the LeJeune, and were assigned our quarters and duties. Captain Wolski volunteered A-269-E for kitchen (galley) detail. I was lucky - the CPO in charge of supplying the galley with foodstuff picked me on his crew (Skeels was his name from Carnegie)???

Back to the meat of the subject, we embarked Friday, December 1, 1944, 09:30. Arrived at "Southampton, England" Tuesday, December 13, 1944, 16:50. . . just in time to watch the Limey dockhands have their spot of tea, with an M1 Tank on a crane hanging in mid-air. We ended up at Northwood Park near Winchester, and more training, on the Thames.

As per your note: Did you proof read the article. Glasgow is mentioned twice. I don't think we could have disembarked three places at the same time.

So for what you can make with it . . .

I remain cordially,  
**George J. Roup, A-269-E**  
8 Bennett Place  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15208

\* \* \* \* \*

## 661st Tank Destroyer Bn.

**William "Bill" Beswick and Jo Beswick, Chairpersons**  
P.O. Box 576

West Point, Virginia 23181  
Telephone: 804/843-2696

Territory: All 50 of Our States



Dear Fellow 661'ers,

How about it? Let's attend the Annual Fighting 69th Reunion in Lexington and visit the Blue Grass Country. There is lots to see and many things to do, many places to go.

Fort Knox is nearby, we can visit in a body. It might bring back some pleasant memories. How long has it been since you visited an army post? I'm sure you will find it interesting. Maybe different than you might have remembered it.

**Jim and Barbara Kidd** have an excellent program arranged.

Come on, enjoy yourselves and visit with old friends.

**Bill Beswick**

**About the 661'ers (and possibly all units):**

According to the number of people appearing at our Annual Reunions, it appears that our ranks are dwindling.

We had a nice crowd at the Twin Bridges Marriott, Alexandria, Virginia which is just across the bridge from Washington, D.C. But not as many as we have had. We have had as many as 98, this time we only had 32.

Is it because of not wanting to go to the larger cities? If so, please let us know. Drop me a card - let's talk about it. You missed a good time in Niagara Falls and Washington, D.C.

**Bill Beswick**  
P.O. Box 576  
West Point, Virginia 23181

**Bill:** Let's hope the ranks aren't falling yet. My Tri-State was down this year too at Canaan Valley from what I expected. Hopefully, if the members don't make a unit mini weekend, they are saving for a national week long Reunion and our national should have first priority over minis. The national is growing and hopefully within the next couple years we expand the walls of convention centers for our banquet and dinner dance night. I do expect more 661st T.D.'s at Lexington than the eight with seven wives and one guest you had at Niagara Falls last year.

**Earl**

\* \* \* \* \*

## Company I, 272nd Infantry

**Kenneth D. Hull, Reporter**

123 Brackenridge Drive  
Apartment #225

San Antonio, Texas 78209

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Please send to Earl

We intended to get to the Reunion last summer but had to miss as we had plans made to fly to Montreal which we did and we both had a ball. Now we are all set to go to Lexington and want to drive the trip in order to take in a lot of the country. We have been to the city before but it was way back many years ago. Our hotel is confirmed and we have booked some of the events with **Kurtzman**. I do not know what to expect when we arrive there but will be looking forward to seeing some of the men I used to know.

Since I will be seventy-eight my next birthday, I suppose I will be a lot older than most in attendance but over the years both of us have made a lot of effort to remain as young as we could. **Edris**, my wife, is golfing today and we both were at the pool yesterday and I have had a good walk this morning — you see, we are trying.

Enclosed is another picture that I felt you might be able to use. I, **Kenneth D. Hull**, on the left and **George A. Martin** is seen on the right. We were both 1st Lieutenants, he was with the 3rd Battalion, Headquarters Company, while I at the time, was with I Company of the 3rd Battalion, both in the 272nd Regiment.



(Continued on Page 39)



**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS,  
UNITS, AND GROUP MINI-WEEKENDS  
ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**

*(Continued from Page 38)*

**Ken:** I am sure you will be greeted by a dozen I Company, 272nd men and myself. Come see me at our room and do make yourself at home by introducing yourself to all members of the 69th. They are a great bunch of men with lovely wives. I was treasurer before Bob took over for me in the middle of a term of office due to illness.

**Earl**

\* \* \* \* \*

## Company G, 273rd Infantry

**Homer D. Rager, Reporter**

2469 28th Street, S.W.

Akron, Ohio 44314

Telephone: 216/745-8440

**Mr. Robert W. Ainley, Reporter**

754 Colonial Way

Greenwood, Indiana 46142

So good to see you and all of the 69ers at the 40th Annual Reunion at Niagara Falls — excellent Reunion. June and I are looking forward to seeing all of you in Lexington next August.

The Bill Beecher's called yesterday reminding us of the good time we all had at Niagara Falls and in December, when we visited with them in Clearwater, Florida. They were looking forward to a visit from the Fred Johnston's from Bradford, Pennsylvania.

Thanks for running the letter and pictures from Homer Rager on Page 37 in the last Bulletin. Good to learn of Don McKee and see the photograph taken in Grimma, Germany in 1945.

Thought you might want the enclosed picture taken at Niagara Falls - the five of us were in Company G, 273rd.



From left to right:

**Al Aronson**, Cliffside Park, New Jersey

**Ed Stagg**, Flemington, New Jersey

**Bob Ainley**, Greenwood, Indiana

**Fred Johnston**, Bradford, Pennsylvania

**Bill Beecher**, Clearwater, Florida.

Bill and Cathy MacLaughlin, Sanford, Florida, were also at the Reunion but didn't make the picture.

Hope that all of the above Company G, 273rd friends will be in Lexington along with many more from G Company.

Best Regards

**Bob Ainley**

## 879th Field Artillery C Battery

**Frank J. Sniadecki**

24511 Ardmore Trail

South Bend, Indiana 46628

I am enclosing a few pictures of some of my buddies that were with me in the 879th C Battery at Camp Shelby. They may bring back some memories to some of the guys.

I haven't been to any of the Reunions but my wife and I are planning on attending the one in Lexington this year. Hope to meet some of my friends there who were with me in the 879th C Battery and the 272nd Cannon Company.



*Bottom row left to right: Lagreco and Williamson*

*Top row left to right: Brotsky, Sniadecki, Pesetty, Williams, Smith, Pendergrass*



*Pendergrass, Pesetty and Smith*



*Bartolomoa, Storment, Sniadecki, Williams, Smith, and Sliemer*

*(Continued on Page 40)*

**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS,  
UNITS, AND GROUP MINI-WEEKENDS  
ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**  
(Continued from Page 39)



*Bartolomoa, Gibbons, Sniadecki and Stern*

\* \* \* \* \*

## Company I, 273rd Infantry

**Robert L. Pierce**  
144 Nashua Court  
San Jose, California 95139  
Telephone: 408/226-8040

Between Carl Macknair and myself, we have managed to located six (6) more Company I members. I don't know how Carl did it, but I called 23 different cities west of the Mississippi River and queried every person listed with the same name as on the Company I Roster, hoping it was a relative. Those we located are:

**Ernesto Boisse** — San Angelo, Texas  
**Walter M. Gerwin, Jr.** — Wynantskill, New York  
**Everreth H. Kiefer** — Perryville, Missouri  
**Evans Lovelace** — Mooresboro, North Carolina  
**James E. Long** — Quincy, Illinois  
**Marrio M. Mucciario** — Waterbury, Connecticut

Deceased: Dale Aleo, Nick Oresick and Corporal Ray Tomlin

The latest list of names and addresses will be available at the Reunion, courtesy of **Edna Harper**; copies will also be sent to those who cannot attend.

There is one correction to the last Bulletin on Page 55. The neat little guy, our youngest member of Company I, is actually **Erwin Sanborn** and not **George Houseal**.

Trusting my memory, the men in the photographs are as the captions read:



*Heckey, Germany. Sergeant Berlin Conrad and Everreth Kiefer. Conrad passed away about 1970.*



*Picture taken near St. Vith, Belgium. Left to right: Robert L. Pierce, Donnelly, Marvin Peterson, Sergeant Kelleher and Sergeant Walter Gerwin. Donnelly was shot 7 times through the chest and lungs; returned to Philadelphia to "sit on the front porch and drink beer with the old man." Peterson killed in action at Colditz.*



*Tony Rende (sitting), James Long, Richardson, John German, Lieutenant Ryan and Sergeant Sherman Lollar. Richardson accidentally shot himself in the leg; Lieutenant Ryan was shot in the shoulder and left eye at Colditz.*



*Polenze Air Base, Germany. Sergeant Chester Ritchie, Earl Agne, and Ernie Boisse.*

# 269th ENGINEERS

Photos from Frank Nemeth, Reporter 269th Engineers; Secretary 69th Infantry Division Association



*This photo was cut down in the 69th Division Book so I'm enclosing the full photo.*

*Company B, 269th facing left to right: Junior Edmundson, Frank Nemeth, John Pszekaza. Second Row: Joe Dickerson and William Corpman. Do you know more? I'm not sure.*



*W.O. Bickerstaff*



*Lieutenant Charles P. Bowne, 3rd Platoon Company A, 269th Engineers*



*Lieutenant Tom Clark receiving the Bronze Star at Nettershausen, Germany by Lieutenant Colonel Holmlin.*

**1988 69th ANNUAL REUNION**  
**Campbell House Inn & The Kentucky Inn**  
**LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY**  
**AUGUST 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 1988**



## Division Headquarters - Liaison Section



*Liaison Section of Division Headquarters in Naunhof, Germany - April 1945*

## Then

..... **And** .....

## Now



*Major Carl Christol and Harry Smith in Naunhof, Germany - April 1945.*



*Professor Carl Christol and Harry Smith in Sherman Oaks,  
California - February 1988.*

\*\*\*\*\*



# Returning the Bible of 2nd Lt. Daniel R. Shuler 0-552040, Company C, 273rd Infantry Killed in Action, Germany February/March 1945

Submitted by Edgar A. Parsons (Bud)

1913 South Lakeshore Drive  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

Dear 69th Members:

Following are notes and extracts of letters concerned with the finding of a Bible, a little over 43 years ago.

This Bible was found by Ernest Jones, Company A, 272nd Infantry Regiment, near Miescheid, Germany, after a tragic accident of which many of you may have heard about.

The Bible belonged to 2nd Lieutenant Daniel R. Shuler. As described more fully as you read on, Shuler was probably not killed at Miescheid. Ed Lucci believes he was killed about two weeks later.

I am submitting this in hopes that it will be of interest to you, the membership. More than that though, I am hoping that someone out there may be able to help locate the next of kin of Dan Shuler, which will enable us to return the Bible.

Sincerely,  
Edgar A. Parsons (Bud)

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a letter written by Ed Lucci to Charles W. Altsman, on November 11, 1985, which describes the circumstances surrounding the finding of the Bible.

Ed Lucci  
23 Evergreen Avenue  
Lynbrook, New York 11563

Charles W. Altsman  
1706 Pecos Street  
Amarillo, Texas 79102

Dear Charlie,

What better day to write to you than today, Veteran's Day! It's been a while since the last time I wrote you anymore than just a blurb in the back of a Christmas Card.

This year at the Reunion in Williamsburg, Edgar "Bud" Parsons showed up for the first time. Bud Parsons was in my class at OCS in Fort Benning. We were commissioned on the same day, in fact, Bud was in my platoon and bunked across the aisle from me.

In Williamsburg, he told me that he was a platoon leader in A-272nd and that when we pulled out of Kamberg, they moved into our positions on the line. He further said that he was given the mission of taking the pill box that we were going after, because it was still not taken at that time and that he spent a lot of time in Miescheid on reconnaissance in preparation for the assault. About a week ago, Bud sent me the enclosed article, written by Paul Gornbein, mortarman from D-273rd. In the article, he described what happened to us as his most unforgettable episode of the war. But, when I read the article, I find that none of his facts are accurate.

I started to write a letter to Bud Parsons to tell him the whole story as it happened, because he seems to be genuinely interested in the details, then I decided to send it to you first, to have you check it out and add whatever you can to it. I have told and retold this story hundreds of times. More correctly, I have told parts of the story hundreds of times.

The whole story is a long one, and it is difficult to keep the interest of a group of people. There are too many interruptions and distractions. Most people just generally ask "What happened!" and let me say whatever I want to say about the incident. They very seldom ask for specific details. When they only hear parts of the story, it's easy to see how the facts can and do become confused. This then, is the story as I plan to write it to Bud Parsons.

"Fifty-one men were killed in the collapse of a building in Miescheid on February 22, 1945. The town, if you can call it that, consisted of a few houses on both sides of a road, just beyond the "Dragon's Teeth" on the Siegfried Line. The building was a two story residence on one side and a barn on the other side. It was occupied by a rifle platoon of B-273rd. The conditions were crowded at best, with only candles and make-shift oil lamps for visibility after dark.

I was the leader of the 2nd Platoon of A-273rd, and we were given the mission of assaulting and taking a pill box. The pill box was not an ordinary pill box. It consisted of an interconnected pill box, a troop shelter and a turret. It was on the nob of a hill covering an area of about 180 degrees. There was a dirt path running parallel about 10 yards in front of the position. The path and the area between the path and the pill box were mined. We decided to go with two squads, the platoon sergeant and our attached medic. The third squad leader, Bill Lyon, had a cold and we decided not to risk taking him, but we used his best men to replace the newer and greener men in the first and second squads. One man, James T. Hosey, actually begged me to come along, because he did not want to be left out again. For the mission, the patrol was armed with two flame-throwers, which we gave the 2nd squad leader, Juke Black, who volunteered for it, and the other to Bob Gardiner our biggest and strongest BAR man. We also carried two "Satchel" charges and two shaped charges, "Beehives," which we gave to the three assistant squad leaders, Dave Troy, Bill Douden, J. W. Garrison, and our best scout, Al Madden. We also carried two BARs, and two bazookas.

To get to the pill box we were to go through Miescheid, and because of the apparent importance that was attached to the mission, both the Battalion Commander, Major Salladin, and the A-273rd Company Commander, Captain Notgrass, were in Miescheid. When we arrived in Miescheid late that night, they told me to shelter my men in the building occupied by Lieutenant Hutto's platoon and come to B Company CP. Major Salladin and the members of his staff that were there wanted to review the plan of attack. The building occupied by Lieutenant Hutto's platoon, was across the road and to the right of the CP. The building was already overcrowded and dimly lit. The men with the flame-throwers and the explosives went into the building last and stood or leaned with their backs to the wall that separated the living quarters from the barn. They were the nearest to the front door in what was probably the only uncluttered area in the whole place.

When I came back from the meeting, I put my head in the doorway and told the Platoon Sergeant, Bill Hoilman, to get the men ready to move out. I stepped back from the building and to the left near the barn area to take a "leak," came back to the doorway and said, "OK, let's go." I was about 5 feet from the building with my back to the doorway when something hit me in the area of the lower ribs and threw me 5 or 6 feet through the air towards the road. My first instinct was to keep right on crawling the hell out of there and look for cover, but as I turned around and looked at the doorway, Charlie Altsman, the 1st squad leader, said to me "Lieutenant, the men." Charlie and Jake Waldrup, one of the riflemen, were the only two of the original 26 men to walk out of the building. They were directly behind me and moved to the right of the doorway and were not in the direct path of the blast.

(Continued on Page 44)

We tried to get back into the building, but the doorway was completely blocked by debris. We tried to get in through the barn area, the wall separating the two sides of the structure was completely intact and there was no way to get through to the men. What had happened was an implosion. The ceiling of the ground floor and the roof of the building were sucked down onto the ground floor, crunching and suffocating the occupants. We climbed onto the collapsed roof, still trying to get inside, when we heard sounds of life. I shouted out for someone to get an axe. Within seconds, someone did produce an axe and we got started to chop away at the roof to get to the men that were still alive. I say someone, because we were on the front line, under blackout conditions and it was very difficult to distinguish who was who.

There were 200 or more men in Miescheid. Within a few minutes everyone there knew that something had happened. Major Salladin climbed up to the roof, took the axe from my hands and ordered me to get back. He probably didn't even know who I was, but I recognized him and yielded. I stepped back to the area where I landed after the blast and watched, while the Major took over the rescue operation. Five men, Lieutenant Hutto and 4 of the men from his platoon, were taken out of the building alive. In the process someone yelled for a stretcher. I answered that we had one. Our Medic, Therrell Draper, brought one along and it was leaning against the building on the barn side.

Fires began to break out inside the building. Someone called for water. There was no water. From where I was standing in the rear, I responded that there was a shell crater, about thirty feet wide and half filled with water on the way to the pill box, just outside of Miescheid. A bucket brigade was quickly organized using helmets and buckets. The fires continued to spread somewhat and in response to someone's inquiry, I yelled out that there were still two fully loaded flame throwers and unexploded charges in the building. In view of the double threat of the fires reaching the explosives and also illuminating the area, exposing the rescuers to enemy fire, further rescue efforts were abandoned.

The building collapse was the result of the detonation of one and only one of the shaped charges that we were carrying. The shaped charge or "Beehive" is an explosive designed to blast a hole through three feet of concrete by directing the entire force of the charge into a small point. It is detonated by pulling the string on either of two attached fuses; one a 15 second fuse and the other a 30 second fuse. Apparently someone accidentally pulled one of the fuses and the blast was pointed out through the doorway, directly at my back. The resulting vacuum in the enclosed area behind the charge sucked down the ceiling and the roof of the building.

Who actually pulled the fuse, or how the fuse was actually pulled, is a matter of speculation. It had to be one of my 26 men or one of the 32 men of the platoon from B Company. There were a total of 58 men in the building; 51 of them were killed in that one brief moment. The two survivors from my platoon, Charlie Altzman and Jake Waldrup, are on our current Division Association roster. Lieutenant Hutto received the Silver Star for returning to help in the rescue operation after he, himself, was rescued from the building. I don't know who the other 4 men from his platoon that were rescued are.

Strange as it may seem, there were eyewitnesses to this entire incident. One of them was Hugh E. Taylor, a rifleman who was transferred from B Company to my platoon after Leipzig. I was talking to him one day in Grimma and he told me that he was standing guard in the doorway of the building directly across the road. He also told me that when he related

to others, "that a Lieutenant came out of the building and was trying to get back in," no one would believe that such a Lieutenant ever existed. Another witness had to be the man who quickly brought me an axe, when I shouted out for someone to bring me an axe.

The next thing I remember after the rescue was abandoned, was being back in the B Company CP, being given a sedative and told to lay down on a blanket that had been laid on the floor and after that I remember being back at the A Company position on the Belgian side of the international border. I have no idea how I got back to B Company's CP or back to A Company's position. I remember having a little soreness in the back. I found out several years later when I had X-Rays taken, that the soreness in the back was a broken rib that eventually healed by itself. It was a long day for us!

Charlie, I would like for you to fill some of the gaps in the story. What happened inside the building, if anything, while I was down in the B Company CP with Major Salladin? Where were you and Jake during the rescue operation? Can you remember who actually carried the explosives? Most of all, I would like you to check the story as a whole, to see if you agree or disagree with the facts as I stated them.

I still haven't given up hope of meeting you at a Reunion. The next two will be in Pittsburgh and Niagara Falls.

Best regards to you and Jerri.

Your buddy,  
Ed Lucci

\* \* \* \* \*

December 20, 1985

Dear Eddie,

First of all I will apologize for not answering your letter earlier and thank you for enclosing Paul Gornbein's report.

I read Paul's report first and then your letter to me and the memories came flooding back. I had not thought of this for so long that I was "shook" for several hours after reading and then rereading your letter. I will agree with Paul on one point - in that this was the most single horrifying memory of the war.

Your letter is so vivid and so correct, as I remember, that I can add very little to the details.

I know that I was sitting right in the doorway of the barn, leaning back against the door frame watching for your return from the CP. As soon as I saw you, I told Bill Hoilman, "here comes Eddie" and then I followed you away from the barn doorway. I moved a few steps to your right and also started to take a "leak." The blast hit and the force lifted and slammed me away and face down. By the time that my head cleared and I could see and think again, the roof of the barn was already down and the fires from the flame throwers were going and the rounds were cooking off from the heat. I could hear men screaming from inside the barn. I could see a hole in the wall under the edge of the roof and could see someone moving. I crawled in under the edge of the roof and helped two men out thru the hole. I do not know who they were. I started to go back but someone pulled me away from the hole. These two were the only ones that I could see that were still alive, but I could hear others back under the roof still calling and screaming.

I remember seeing two men on the roof of the barn trying to get back in. That must have been you and Major Salladin.

I was not injured in the blast but was in shock so do not remember anything more of that night, but next remember being given a three day pass for R&R to Paris by Captain Notgrass. By the time that the pass was over and I returned to the Platoon, replacements had been assigned to replace those who we had lost.

Still hoping that someday we can make contact with you. Hope you are well and enjoying life.

Your buddy,  
Charlie Altzman

(Continued on Page 45)



**RETURNING THE BIBLE OF**  
**2nd LT. DANIEL R. SHULER, CO. C, 273rd INF.**  
(Continued from Page 44)

January 16, 1988: Extracts of a letter written by Bud Parsons to Ernest A. Jones, Jr.:

"... Ernest, you may remember that when Co. A first went on the line, near the West German-Belgian border, the company was pretty widely split apart. This was before Dahlem, and before going through the Siegfried Line.

"I have no recollection of what happened to the other rifle platoons of Co. A, but I am confident that the first platoon, and I believe only the first platoon, was assigned to a little village called Miescheid. We moved into Miescheid at night, very cold, lots of snow.

"And, of course, scared stiff. I remember, in getting my orders being told by Captain VanBilliard (remember him, the company commander?) or someone else, that there had been a terrible accident in a barn in Miescheid, but not to worry.

"Ernest, the next enclosure is a copy of a letter that was written by Ed Lucci, then a 2nd "Looie" like I was, and also with a rifle platoon of Co. A, 273rd Infantry Regiment. Ed and I had gotten to "shooting the breeze" at the 69th Williamsburg reunion, and of course one of the subjects that came up was where did you first see any action. I mentioned Miescheid, and Ed went then on to ask how I knew about Miescheid. (Letter referred to is on previous 2 pages.)

"Ernest, the enclosed letter from Ed Lucci will fill in the details of this little adventure . . . .

**Bud Parsons**

\* \* \* \* \*

January 21, 1988: Extracts from a letter written by Ernest A. Jones, Jr. to Bud Parsons, in reply to the above letter.

"As I read about the Ed Lucci letter, it sure put me in a state of shock. I had all but forgotten about the building and men lost at Miescheid. You see, after this had happened for some reason the weapons platoon along with others went through the center of this small place and I recall what you have spoken about, I was so young and in a state of shock, as one of the other men found a shoe with a foot in it and also a glove with a hand and watch still on part of the wrist. It's terrible to recall this but this was true as I saw the glove and hand. We were ordered to pick up any part and it would be buried some place. I did not do this. One of the older men took over and did it. I just wandered around half in shock and watching the rest.

"What I did find was a little Bible and I've had it all these years, wanting to try to return it to its owner, but not knowing how. On the inside it said "Presented to Dan Shuler by Lee Andrus." The Bible was found across the street from the barn. It had been wet. I dried it out and carried it through the rest of the war and brought it home, hoping someday to find its owner, but felt it may have belonged to one of the dead men.

"It is in English, and its size is about 3" x 4½" x 1½" thick, with Holy Bible on the back binding. What I had written in it at the time was it was found in Germany during the war, after we had entered or were entering into combat and was found in Miescheid, a town where I said 57 men or boys lost their lives. I was told 57 lost their lives, but all other details of what Ed Lucci said, was as I recall, what was told me all those years ago except for his personal details.

"I never thought that I'd hear anyone bring it up again. I had nearly forgotten. Would you contact Ed Lucci and see if he would have any information on a Dan R. Shuler? Maybe we could locate the owner if it wasn't one who was killed.

"I have the Bible here in front of me, took me some time to find it, but it was packed away. I'd be glad to send it to him or you if you feel there's a chance of finding its rightful owner.

"I recall very little as to when we went into combat. I have problems recalling the whereabouts we were and so on.

I even can't recall just how I came to go into the small town of Miescheid, how scared I was and in shock about all the men . . . .

**Ernest A. Jones, Jr.**

Box 24, Charleston, Maine 04422

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Parsons' and Mr. Jones' letters from which the above extracts were taken, was reproduced and copies sent to Ed Lucci and Clarence Marshall.

February 9, 1988. Extracts from a letter of Bud Parsons to Ernest Jones, Jr., with copies to Ed Lucci, and Clarence, Marshall, Membership Chairman.

Dear Ernest:

Your comments about being on a cleanup detail for the explosion around Miescheid were most interesting. The Bible that you picked up, with the inscription, "To Dan E. Shuler by Lee Andrus" as Andrus being the presenter, and that you carried the rest of the war, can probably be traced somehow.

In the back of the history of the 69th Division, is a list of those who were killed. I turned to the listing, and there is a name, Daniel R. Shuler, 2nd Lt., 273rd Infantry Regiment. With a little detective work and some cooperation from various people, I think you will be able to return the Bible to a relative of Shuler . . . . .

"If Shuler were married, and especially had a child, the remembrance would be most meaningful to him/her."

**Bud Parsons**

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Clarence Marshall replied in part, as follows:

"I have looked through all of the old information that I have available here at my desk for the 273rd Infantry Regiment and the following is all that I find for Dan Shuler. This is from a listing of all of the Officers of the 273rd Regiment, dated 31 January 1945.

"2nd Lt. Daniel R. Shuler, 0-552040 Unit Commander of Co. C-273. There are no addresses on this list. Until my shoulder gets better, I cannot check old info that I have which I have stored in a cupboard on my second floor. Perhaps you can do something with his serial number; through Service Records in St. Louis. Give it a shot; it's worth a try."

\* \* \* \* \*

Parsons addressed an appropriate letter of inquiry to the U.S. Army Administration Center, St. Louis, Missouri 63132, and is awaiting a reply.

\* \* \* \* \*

February 18, 1988: A phone conversation from Ed Lucci to Bud Parsons resulted in the following:

Ed Lucci stated that he knew Dan Shuler very well. He also stated that he was sure that Dan Schuler was not killed in the Miescheid accident. He was killed about two or three weeks later. He felt that he must have left some of his things at the barn for storage. Ed Lucci remembered that a Bill Robertson (then 2nd Lt., Battalion S-1) now Dr. William D. Robertson, 5102 Copperfield Lane, Culver City, California 90230, 213/838-8176) would be the man to ask about Dan Shuler. He recalled that Dan Shuler and Bill Robertson had gone to school together and that they were close friends. Ed stated to Bud that Bill Robertson would probably know of Shuler's next-of-kin.

Bud stated that he knows Bill Robertson well. They had been on the same tour bus that went to Torgau in 1985, and also went to Moscow, Leningrad and Tallin together. He stated that he would send a copy of Jones' letter to give him some background on the subject and then call him.

\* \* \* \* \*

*The Bulletin will keep you informed of developments of this little research project on behalf of the next-of-kin of our fallen comrade, 2nd Lt. Daniel R. Shuler, Co. C, 273rd. However, if any readers know of Shuler's next-of-kin please get in touch with Parsons, who is coordinating this search. His address and phone number appear elsewhere in this article.*

**Mine Platoon  
from  
Anti-Tank Company  
271st Infantry Regiment**

Pictures furnished by Lawrence E. Miller



*Donald Hudock, former member of AT-271st Regiment*



**1988 69th ANNUAL REUNION  
Campbell House Inn & The Kentucky Inn  
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY  
AUGUST 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 1988**

# Anti-Tank Company 271st Infantry Regiment

Picture furnished by Lawrence E. Miller





## The following from Len Braverman of A-724th Field Artillery

I was editor of the "Trampscript" Newspaper put out for Division Artillery. After the War in Leipzig I received a commendation for getting the paper out in 5 days at the end. I also put out a newspaper for all of the Batteries in Divarty while we were in occupation in Nordenham, Germany.

While going through some old stuff, I came upon the two items below. I thought they might be good for reprint in the News Bulletin. They bring back a lot of memories to me and they may be nostalgic for all the men of the 724th.

### An Open Letter From A Father To His Son

Dear Son:

I wish I had the power to write  
The thoughts wedged in my heart tonight  
As I sit watching that small star  
And wondering how and where you are.

You know, Son, it's a funny thing  
How close a war can always bring  
A family, who for years with pride  
Has kept emotion deep inside.

I'm sorry that when you were small  
I let reserve build up that wall.  
I told you real men never cried,  
And it was Moms, who always dried  
Your tears, and smoothed the hurt away.  
So that you soon went back to play.

But, Son, deep down within my heart  
I longed to have some little part  
In drying that small tear-stained face  
But we were men — men don't embrace.

Now suddenly, I find my son  
A full grown man, with childhood done.

Tonight you're far across the sea  
And waging war for men like me.  
Well, somehow, pride and what is right  
Just doesn't seem to go tonight.

I find my eyes won't stay quite dry.  
I find that sometimes men DO cry.  
And if we stood here face to face  
I'm afraid we'd find men do embrace.

Son, dads are quite a funny lot  
And if I've failed you in some spot  
It's not because I loved you less  
It's just this cussed manliness.

But if I had the power to write  
The thoughts wedged in my heart tonight  
The words would ring out loud and true  
I'm proud, my boy, so proud of you.

Writer Unknown

(Contributed by T/5 Edison J. Nunez, Jr., Headquarters Battery.)

## THE FIGHTING 69TH

Some of you will remember back  
in nineteen forty three,  
When we started a new division  
to send across the sea.

The men came from everywhere  
New York, California, and Texas,  
But we knew it would take us all  
to overcome the Axis.

We took our training in Shelby  
through rain, and wind and mud,  
But when we moved to Kilmer,  
we were feeling pretty good.

One day the captain came and said,  
"Look what you're getting free,  
A trip to dear Ole England,  
that land across the sea.

On first day of December,  
in the year of nineteen forty four,  
We loaded on a vessel  
and we left the New York shore.

For thirteen days we traveled  
with water all around,  
And all of us were wondering  
if land would ever be found.

We learned to like ole England,  
but of course we couldn't stay.  
We had to load our equipment  
and travel on our way.

We came through France and Belgium,  
but we didn't stay there long.  
We'd come into a town one day  
and the next day we'd be gone.

We came through the Seigfried line  
with our colors flying high.  
We were out to win this war  
or know the reason why.

Dashed across the country  
to Torgau playing hell—  
We were first to meet the Russians  
then all Germany fell.

Now that the war is over  
and we've nothing left to do,  
We just sit around and think, of home,  
and the ones we love so true.

The sixty ninth is breaking up,  
it will never be the same  
As it was in the days before  
it made it's combat name.

So here's to a great division,  
we think it's mighty fine,  
And we think we'll never find another  
like the "Fighting Sixty Nine."

Author Unknown

\*\*\*\*\*

*Why is it that opportunity is supposed to knock only once,  
yet temptation bangs on the door constantly?*

*There's no sound in the world as ominous as a low whistle  
from a mechanic underneath your car.*

*Getting old is when it takes you longer to rest that it did  
to get tired.*

# 271st Infantry Division

Pictures furnished by  
James R. Kidd,  
Lexington, Kentucky Reunion Chairman

## 69th INFANTRY DIVISION MEETS RUSSIANS.

This shows another meeting of men of Company F, 271st Infantry who met the Russians at Colditz the first week of May 1945. Left two 69th men: Sergeant Brown and Ray Schlegel. Center Gi unknown. Third from right was a South African POW released from Germans; he served with Company F for a short time. Women in photo were Russians brought to Germany for slave labor.



Walt Combs (left) of Concord, North Carolina and Company F, 271st Infantry and Earl Fox of Darien, Illinois of 2nd Battalion, HQ. Company, 271st Regiment, pose by sign pointing to Margraten Cemetery, Holland. Many men of the 271st who died in the fight against the Nazis were buried at Margraten. Photo taken August 6, 1945, just after news of the atomic bomb had been received in the Stars and Stripes.



T/Sgt. Fred D. Fitch, Company F, 271st Infantry, rides a German Count's horse at Markrohlitz, Germany, in June 1945. Fitch was part of Company F billeted in the Count's castle which was (we were told) built by monks around 900 A.D. and later taken over by one of the local ruling families. Fitch is from Johnsonburg, Pennsylvania. Markrohlitz is now in East Germany.



## 69th INFANTRY DIVISION BAND IN CONCERT.

The Band played a concert on a castle terrace in June 1945 to Company F, 271st Infantry Regiment and some soldiers from other 2nd Battalions, 271st Units. Company F was billeted in the castle for several weeks. Location: Markrohlitz, a few miles west of Weissenfels, Germany. This area a short time later was turned over to the Russians and is now part of East Germany.

# 461st AAA Battalion Joins 69th Infantry Division

Dear Earl,

I am submitting the following account of the attachment of the 461st AAA Battalion to the 69th Infantry Division and also a letter of commendation from the Commanding Officer of your Division, General E. F. Reinhardt, to the Commanding Officer of the 461st AAA Battalion, Colonel John F. Bonner, in regard to that occasion.

On March 10-11, 1945, the 461st AAA Battalion was attached to the 69th Infantry Division so that its gun Batterys could provide Anti-Aircraft protection to the Division Field Artillery Battalions.

The AAA Batterys were deployed as follows: A Battery to 879th FA Battalion, B Battery to 880th FA Battalion, C Battery to 881st FA Battalion and D Battery to 724th FA Battalion.

Though our association took place rather late in the campaign, there was still enough air and ground activity to assure both of each others importance in reaching our ultimate goal.

I am sure that many friendships must have grown out of our relationship during this time and if any of the Field Artillery men remember and want to contact any of the Anti-Aircraft friends they may have made, drop me a line and I will do what I can to reunite you.

In the meantime, I am nearly finished on a complete resume of our activities during the war and will have a more full report on our time spent with the 69th Division at a later date.

One thing we learned during the war if nothing else was the need for all of the various branches of the armed services to coordinate and cooperate with each other in order to reach their ultimate goal.

I am sure that our time spent with the men of the 69th Division was an experience and a pleasure we will always remember.

We can always be proud of our joint effort to the cause.

It is great to know that bond of friendship and cooperation that existed between the men of the Fighting 69th and the men of the 461st AAA Battalion so long ago in 1945, is still going strong and may it last to eternity.

1st Sergeant John C. English  
3455 Poplar Street  
Riverside, California 92501  
Telephone: 686-3335

# Reproduction of Actual Letter on 69th Infantry Division and 461st AAA Battalion Parting Company

HEADQUARTERS  
69TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO 417, United States Army.

23 June 1945

SUBJECT: Departure of 461st AAA AW Bn.

TO : Commanding Officer, 461st AAA AW Bn.

1. On 9 March 1945, the 461st Anti-Aircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion was attached to the 69th Infantry Division. This attachment coincided with the entry of this division into active operations against the enemy at the Siegfried Line. From that date, your battalion became an internal part of the 69th Division fighting team. Throughout our operations against the enemy, your battalion has shared the discomforts and often the hardships of the men of this division. At all times, the officers and men of your battalion have loyally and faithfully performed their duties in carrying out their primary mission of providing antiaircraft support. Their high morale, loyalty and fighting spirit were always an inspiration to the men of the 69th Division.

2. Since the cessation of hostilities, your battalion has continued to demonstrate its fine spirit and whole-hearted cooperation. All tasks have been performed in a most exemplary manner. I unhesitatingly share with your battalion whatever glory has come to the 69th Division throughout its tour of duty in this theater.

3. The time for your departure from our midst has now arrived. I deeply regret that our close association must be terminated. Wherever your battalion may be sent, it carries with it my heartiest wishes for its future success. I hope that, at sometime in the future, we may again be together in action against our enemies in the Pacific Theater. Bon Voyage and Good Luck.

E. F. REINHARDT,  
Major General, U.S.A.  
Commanding.

\*\*\*\*\*

*I have gone out  
to look for me  
If I should get back  
Before I return  
Please hold me until I get here.*



\*\*\*\*\*

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE

\*\*\*\*\*

May I just make note to all Leaders of Chapters, Groups, Branches, Companies, Battalions, Regiments, Recon, Artillery, AAA, and T.D.'s to get your Activities Schedules to Earl E. Witzleb Jr., Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069 or R.D. #1, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606, 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. Then bring them to a National Reunion to meet a-l-l-l-l of the gang.

### 1988

# **AUGUST 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 1988 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION 661st TD. BN., 777th TK. BN. - 461st AAA**

**Campbell House Inn, 1375 Harrodsburg Road, Lexington, Kentucky**

**IT WILL BE OUR 41st REUNION. How many do we have left? Come visit an old buddy or make new friends. Bring wife and family - Guests are welcome too.**

### **Committee:**

**James R. and Barbara Kidd, Chairpersons**

**222 Al-Fan Court**

**Winchester, Kentucky 40391**

**Telephone: 606/744-0463**

**\* \* \* \* \***

### **Campers, RV's, Trailers**

If you wish to camp or park your recreation vehicle while at the Lexington Reunion, there are four places in the Lexington area:

1. **Clay's Ferry Campground** — (Exit 99 off I-75 to KY25 to Clay's Ferry)
2. **Kentucky Horse Park** — (Exit 120 off I-75, 7 miles north of Lexington)
3. **Bluegrass KOA** — (Exit 120 off I-75, east of US 62, ¼ mile)
4. **Fort Boonesborough State Park** — (Exit 95 off I-75 to KY627 to KY388)

You may obtain a free copy of **Kentucky Outdoor Recreation Guide** (Directory of Campgrounds, Marinas and Golf Courses) by writing to: **TRAVEL**, Frankfort, KY 40601

Or call toll-free 1-800-225-TRIP, from anywhere in the continental U.S. and provinces of Ontario and Quebec, Canada. You also may wish to ask for maps and other travel material on Kentucky.

## **AIR TRAVEL TO LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY**

Lexington Airport is serviced by U.S. Air, Delta, Piedmont, United Air Lines, and Comair.

Free limousine service is furnished by the Campbell House Inn by calling 255-4281 after your arrival and ask for the limousine.

*Continued on Page 52)*

**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS  
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE**  
(Continued from Page 51)

**AUGUST 14, 15, 16, 17 18, 19, 20, 21, 1988**

**BATTERY C, 724th FIELD ARTILLERY**

Note: To be held in conjunction with the 69th Infantry Division Reunion at Lexington, Kentucky.

Battery C, 724th Field Artillery luncheon or dinner will be on Friday, August 19, 1988.

**For Information Write:**

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

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

\* \* \* \* \*

**AUGUST 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 1988**

**COMPANY E, 273rd INFANTRY**

OUR REUNION will be held in conjunction with the 69th Infantry Division Association Reunion at Lexington, Kentucky.

OUR DINNER BANQUET will be held at another location on Friday evening, August 19, 1988 at 6:30 P.M. Then we'll try to make some of the Division Beer Party at poolside.

SEND A CARD saying you'll be there to:

Earl E. "Skip" and Dorothy A. "Dottie" Witzleb, Jr.  
R.D. #1, Box 477  
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

or

P. O. Box 69  
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069  
Telephone: 412/455-2901 (Evenings after 7:00 P.M. and Weekends)

Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike

"The Family With Two Addresses — But One Home — Welcome All 69ers — Stop In, Call, or Write."

\* \* \* \* \*

**AUGUST 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 1988**

**TRI-STATE GROUP**

OUR REUNION, (not a weekend) will be held in conjunction with the 69th Infantry Division Association Reunion at Lexington, Kentucky. All Tri-Staters should make every effort to attend.

OUR DINNER BANQUET will be held Saturday evening, August 20, 1988 with the 69th Division, 461st AAA, 661st T.D. Bn., and the 777th Tank Bn. at 6:30 P.M. — Cocktails with the gang and dinner at 7:00 P.M. Dancing follows to the tunes of the 50's and 60's until 1:00 A.M. Stick around.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on Tri-State at the 69th in Lexington and the 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL 41st REUNION, send room reservations to Campbell House Inn or The Kentucky Inn and activities reservation to Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr., found on other pages of this Bulletin.

\* \* \* \* \*

**NEW DUES YEAR STARTS  
AUGUST 1, 1988**

**Mail to:**

Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.  
Post Office Box 178  
Wilmot, Ohio 44689

**Dues:**

Regular Membership ..... \$ 5.00

Contributory Membership ... \$10.00

**Ladies' Auxiliary**

Membership ..... \$ 2.00

**Dues Year:**

August 1, 1988 to July 31, 1989

Postage and Bulletin Donations Accepted

**SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 1988**

Dues Notices mailed to all members on record.

Exception: Those who paid at the Lexington, Kentucky Reunion will not get a notice. Thanks for paying early, the year is longer that way.

\* \* \* \* \*

**SEPTEMBER 9, 10, 11, 1988 WEEKEND**

**69th CAVALRY RECON TROOP**

Richmond, Virginia

**Committee:**

Lewis "Cowboy" L. Vaughan, Chairperson  
903 North 10th Avenue  
Hopewell, Virginia 23860  
Telephone: 804/458-4992

Lewis Pickett, Chairperson  
Route 1, Box 773  
Doswell, Virginia 23047

Lewis "Boyd" and Stella Ellsworth, Coordinators  
R.D. #1, Knoxville Road  
Steubenville, Ohio 43952  
Telephone: 614/282-2327

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**SEPTEMBER 10, 1988**

Deadline for material and pictures

Bulletin Volume 42, Number 1

September - October - November - December

Bulletin due out in November 1988

\* \* \* \* \*

**SEPTEMBER 16, 17, 18, 1988**

**461st AAA BATTERY B WEEKEND**

New Market Hilton  
320 Market Avenue South  
Canton, Ohio 44702  
Telephone: 216/454-5000

**Committee:**

Fred and Helen Fisher, Chairpersons  
933 Park Avenue, S.W.  
Canton, Ohio 44706  
Telephone: 216/454-4465

Larry W. and Milly Brown, Reporter  
538 Burns Avenue  
Clarkston, Washington 99403  
Telephone: 509/758-2180

(Continued on Page 53)

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS  
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE  
(Continued from Page 52)

OCTOBER 4, 5, 6, 7, 1988

880th FIELD ARTILLERY C-BATTERY  
MID-WEEK GET-TOGETHER

Sheraton Ocean Park Inn

Cape Cod - Eastham

Starts Tuesday - Ends Friday

The tentative agenda looks like this:

Check in on Tuesday (Weekends would be much higher)

Bus tour to Mayflower and Plymouth Plantation  
on Wednesday

Visit to Provincetown and a whale watch cruise on Thursday

Annual Banquet - Thursday night

Farewells on Friday

We again will have a hospitality room for visiting and  
snacking.

Committee:

John Wallace

Post Office Box 745

Wellfleet, Massachusetts 02667

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OCTOBER 14, 15, 16, 1988

Friday, Saturday, Stay over or leave on Sunday

461st AAA, HEADQUARTERS BATTERY &  
MEDICAL DETACHMENT WEEKEND

Holiday Inn - Salem, Virginia

1919 Frontage Road

Salem, Virginia 24153

(South), I-81, Exit 40, turn left, take first right on to Skyview  
Road. Motel is in the northeast quadrant of the intersection.  
Can't miss it.

Rates are not completely set yet but be assured the best  
possible.

Reservations: Call (703) 389-7061

Joann Arnold, Service Manager

Code Word: 461st AAA

Reserve early and spend a little time with some of the  
World's Finest!

Saturday evening, dinner together, 3 meat menus \$9.95.  
This will be in our meeting room.

Committee:

Allen H. Whitley, Chairman

Route 6, Box 70

Marion, Virginia 24354

Telephone: Office - (703) 783-5566

Home - (703) 783-6615

Francis H. Breyette, News Reporter

1137 Orkla Drive

Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427

Telephone: (612) 545-2281

Most of you people live in the area not far from Lexington,  
Kentucky where the 69th Infantry Division Association  
will be holding their Annual Reunion, August 14th to the  
21st. Please try for this one. You will enjoy it, they are  
looking for you and will welcome you.

Francis H. Breyette

\* \* \* \* \*

NOVEMBER 1988

TRI-STATE FALL WEEKEND

Tri-State Blue is the Family Group

— TENTATIVE —

Bob and Margie Grimm's Camp

Committee:

Bob and Margie Grimm, Chairpersons

Tideoute, Pennsylvania

or

114 Farragut Avenue

Vandergrift, Pennsylvania 15690

Telephone: 814/484-7410 or 412/568-1782

OR

Ohio - West Virginia (probably will be November-December  
1989, January 1990)

Visit Olgeby Christmas Lights

Hospitality Room — Banquet

Committee:

Lewis "Boyd" and Stella Ellsworth

R.D. #1, Knoxville Road

Steubenville, Ohio 43952

Telephone: 614/282-2327

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**1989**

JANUARY 7, 1989

Deadline for material and pictures

Bulletin Volume 42, Number 2

January - February - March - April, 1989

Bulletin due out in late February or early March, 1989

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JANUARY 1989

Second dues notices mailed out to all members on record.

Exception — Those who paid at the Lexington, Kentucky  
Reunion and from the first notice in September or  
October will not get any. Thanks for paying in 1988.

It's hard to explain why you must pay dues twice in 1989.

Remember the dues year August to July of the following  
year.

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MAY 6, 1989

Deadline for material and pictures

Bulletin Volume 42, Number 3

May - June - July - August, 1989

Bulletin due out in late June or early July, 1989

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MAY 19, 20, 21, 1989

461st AAA BATTERY B WEEKEND

Lakeside Inn and Casino at Lake Tahoe

Christa Ward, Group Co-ordinator

Post Office Box 5640

Stateline, Nevada 89449

Telephone: 1/800-624-7980

The Inn is on Highway 50 at Kingsbury Grade

Tentative Schedule:

Rooms: \$40.00

Friday - Ski Lift/Snack

Saturday — Boat Ride/Lunch

Dinner at the Inn

Sunday — Goodbyes and will see you next year.

(Continued on Page 54)







## "Taps"

**James W. Harvey**  
3914 Pintail Court  
Orlando, Florida  
569th Sig. Co.

**Herman R. Strauwald**  
747 Brucker Avenue  
Spring Valley, California  
K-273rd

**Barry B. Shelton**  
4402 Country Club Blvd. N.  
Seven Springs, Florida  
69th Recon & Div. Hq.

**Lawrence E. Miller**  
Box 172  
Milford, Maine  
AT-271st

**Joseph J. Savin**  
1765 Gerald Avenue  
East Meadow, New York  
B-272nd

**John Kissel, Jr.**  
7 Halsey Lane  
Remsenburg, New York  
M-272nd

**Elroy C. Kleinhammer**  
210 South Wapello Avenue  
Mt. Prospect, Illinois  
K-272nd

**Logan Bishop**  
802 Graylyn Drive  
High Point, North Carolina  
D-461st AAA

**Estel Snyder**  
Route 4  
Abilene, Kansas  
Hq. 661st

**Andrew Laurich**  
Box 144  
McDonald, Pennsylvania  
B-661st

**Marvin Wiges**  
2313 North 92nd Avenue  
Omaha, Nebraska  
F-273rd

**James P. Satcho**  
104 Barbera Drive  
McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania  
G-272nd

**Robert Sipe**  
40 Park Village  
Shelby, Ohio  
G-273rd

**Hilmer Bunsness**  
107 Mt. Valley Drive  
San Antonio, Texas  
A-273rd

**Alfred Wojciechowski**  
5725 North Hope Street  
Philadelphia, PA  
Hq. 2nd Bn., 273rd

## "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!

**Dave Davidson**  
1220 Templeton Circle  
Earlsville, Virginia  
C-271st

**William Lewchuk**  
Route 16, Box 776  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

**Ralph Bauman**  
R.D. #2, Box 64  
Mertztown, Pennsylvania  
F-272nd

**Hector Pividal**  
3607 Horatio  
Tampa, Florida  
69th M.P.

**Sam R. Webb**  
5952 Indian Grave Road  
Roanoke, Virginia  
E-273rd

**Stanley Auk**  
4305 Santiago Street  
Tampa, Florida  
B-269th

**Max N. Long**  
330 Johnson Avenue  
Bridgeport, West Virginia  
Ser. 273rd

**Gene L. Wright**  
224 Caribou Trail  
San Angelo, Texas  
A-273rd

**Roy A. Irwin**  
537 Hackman Road  
Lititz, Pennsylvania  
A-273rd

**Karl E. Willis**  
P.O. Box 33  
Federalsburg, Maryland  
B-273rd

**Paul Henner**  
14080 Nesting Way  
Delray, Florida  
Med. 272nd

**Robert Hamilton**  
569 Maple Avenue  
Doylestown, Pennsylvania  
Div. Hq.

**Morris D. Korel**  
958 Armfield Circle  
Norfolk, Virginia  
B-879th

**Robert D. Thayer**  
Luther, Montana  
H-272nd

**Dale Alee**  
**Nick Oresick**  
**Ray Tomlin**  
I-273rd

**John Olchak**  
111 Myers Street  
Monessen, Pennsylvania  
Hq.-661st

**John Pemberton**  
2314 South 5th Street  
Ironton, Ohio  
Hq. 2nd Bn., 271st

**George Mayr, Jr.**  
118 Sipple Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland  
AT-271st

**Samuel J. Grubbs**  
3999 Old Route 8  
Allison Park, Pennsylvania  
H-273rd

**Anthony Acocella**  
Cleveland, Ohio  
C-881st

**Edward A. Schlag**  
380 Valley Drive  
Waldorf, Maryland  
Medic-273rd

**Wilson A. Wright**  
26392 Lancer Lane  
Port Charlotte, Florida  
A-777th

**Preston M. Smith**  
Box 2  
Omena, Michigan  
D-273rd



the 69th

INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

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THREE!**

