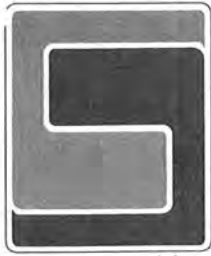


FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★★ *Association, Inc.*



VOLUME 42, NO. 3

MAY — JUNE — JULY — AUGUST
1989

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

101 STEPHEN STREET
NEW KENSINGTON, PA 15068
412/335-3224

bulletin

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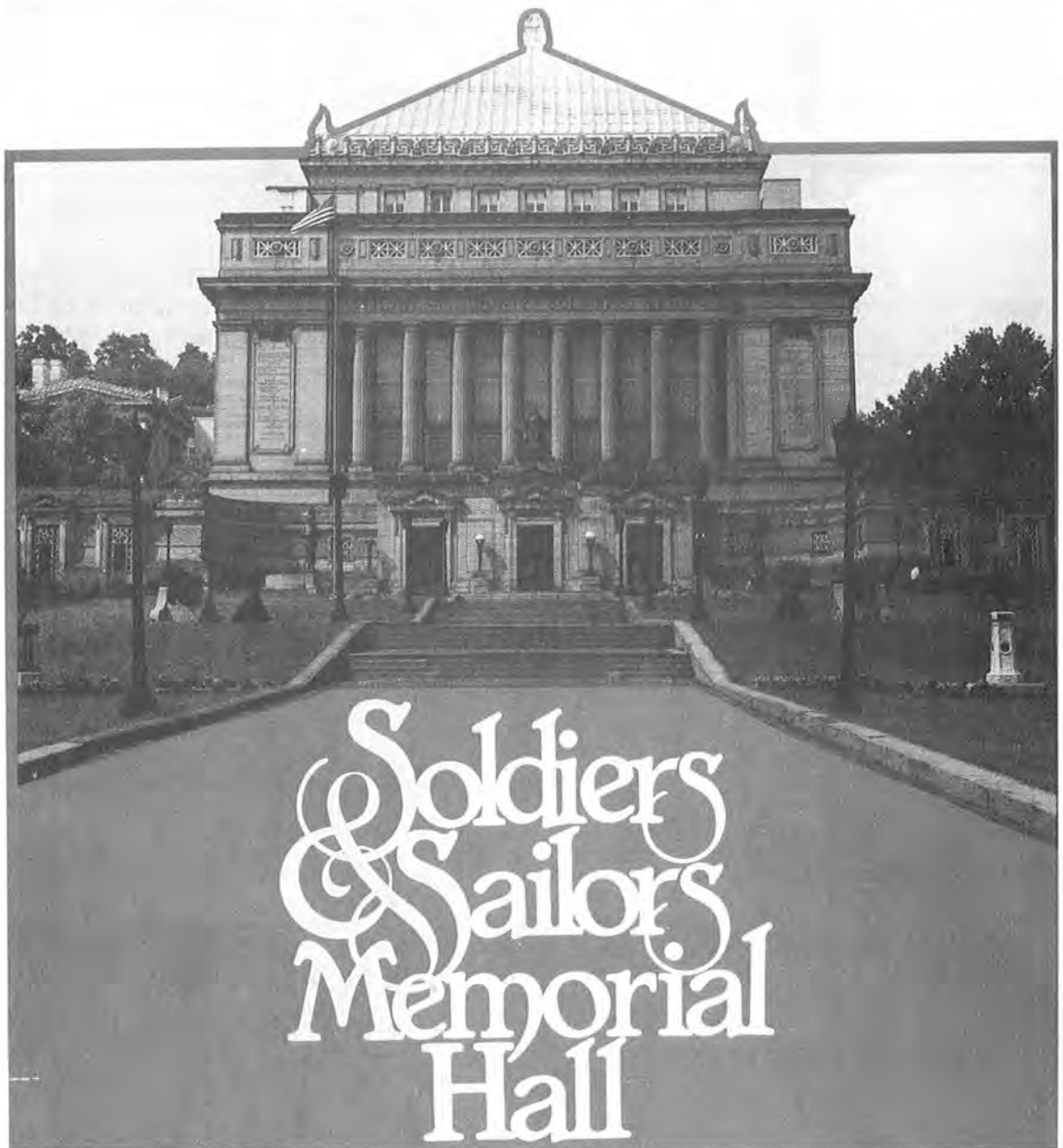
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*Deceased



Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall was built between 1908 and 1910 as a monument to the veterans of the "War for the Suppression of the Rebellion of the Southern Slaveholders" - known today as the Civil War. In 1963 the building was rededicated to the memory of all wars or armed conflicts in which the United States has been or may hereafter be engaged. It was officially given landmark status by the Pittsburgh History and Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County. In 1974 Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall was entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 1989 REUNION

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

DENVER MARRIOTT HOTEL S.E. — DENVER, COLORADO

AUGUST 20th to 27th, 1989

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 Denver, Colorado from August 20th to August 27th 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: _____

	* * * * *	Per Person	Number Persons	Amount
Weekly Events				
Registrations: Monday, August 21st - Friday, August 25th, 1989 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.				
Check Bulletin Board for Wednesday Evening and Saturday Times		\$ 7.50		\$
Sunday, August 20th — Early Arrivals on your own.				
Monday, August 21st — Early Arrivals on your own.				
Tuesday, August 22nd — Coors Brewery Tour, leaves 5:30 P.M.				
(Includes Mexican Buffet Dinner)		\$ 18.00		\$
Wednesday, August 23rd — City of Denver Historical Tour, leaves at 9:00 A.M.		\$ 15.00		\$
Thursday, August 24th — Air Force Academy Tour (Includes Lunch) leaves 9:00 A.M. ...		\$ 20.00		\$
Early Bird Dinner - Grand Ballroom - Cash Bar 6:00 P.M. - Dinner 7:00 P.M. ...		\$ 19.00		\$
Friday, August 25th — Golf Tournament. 12:00 Noon Start — Details and Tickets				
available at Registration Desk.				
Red Rock and Georgetown Tour, leave 9:00 A.M. Lunch on your own		\$ 14.00		\$
Board of Directors Meeting - 9:00 A.M., Salon 5				
PX Beer Party - Grand Ballroom 9:00 P.M. to Midnight (Ticket Required)		\$ 5.00		\$
Saturday, August 26th — Men's General Meeting 9:00 A.M. to Noon, Salons E-F-G-H				
Ladies' Auxiliary Meeting 9:00 A.M. to Noon, Salons A-B-C				
Banquet Dinner Dance-Grand Ballroom 6:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M.				
Cash bar 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.				
Memorial Service 7:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.				
Be in your seats at 7:00 P.M. Dinner at 7:30 P.M.		\$ 25.00		\$
Sunday, August 27th — Farewell Breakfast Buffet - 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.				
Site to be announced		\$ 9.50		\$
Farewells and Departures - See you all next year.				

Reunion Sub-Total \$ _____

DUES

New Dues Year - August 1, 1989 to July 31, 1990

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

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENT IN FULL OR REQUEST MAY BE DENIED.

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.

World War II Veterans Are Reunited After 42 Years

Reprinted from THE DOMINION POST, West Virginia
Thursday, November 10, 1988

This Reunion took place at the Tri-State Canaan Valley Weekend in June of 1988.

After 42 years, World War II buddies **John Romano** of Westover and **Vernon L. Hanlin** of Mt. Storm were reunited this summer.

John had given **Vernon** his address when he was discharged from the Army the earlier of the two and left Europe in 1945. **Vernon** misplaced the address, but found it this spring and invited **John** to the 69th Infantry Division's meeting of Tri-State veterans in June at Canaan Valley. For a while, each soldier served in a different unit, which explains why **John** wasn't invited outright.

"I was glad to see him," **John** says. "We were in our 20s when we served together. After all that time he looked the same, except he had gotten older and grayer, like me."

Vernon tells much the same story. "Except for being a little bit grayer and gaining some weight, he was just exactly the same. I would have known him anywhere and him me, too."

For a long time right after Germany surrendered, the two spent most of every waking day and night together as members of the 417th evacuation company.

"For six months, we drove a tractor and trailer together taking out American tanks that had been disabled during the war," **Vernon** says. "We'd go from sun-up to sun-down. They wouldn't allow us to drive at night. We slept right in the M-19 Prime Mover. Sometimes we'd be out for 10 days at a stretch. We survived on K rations."

The M-19 rode on 34 wheels — 24 on the back and 10 up front. **Romano** was the driver and trained **Vernon** to be an assistant. "You get to know a guy pretty good under those conditions over such a long period of time," **Vernon** says. "**John** was a good soldier, a little reckless at times, but he was dedicated to his work."

Their work together involved bringing in disabled tanks from back country areas. "Sometimes we'd bring back tanks with dead soldiers in them," **Vernon** says of the grim task. "We were stranded in the snow several times."

During the war, **Vernon** had seen much of the actual dying as a member of the 69th Infantry Division, which gained renown at the Battle of the Bulge.

Vernon received the Bronze Star for bravery because of his actions at Uberrickshod, Germany, on February 22, 1945. Armed with a bazooka, he went ahead of his infantry unit and knocked out a German half-track that had the Americans pinned down. He also owns two battle stars.

During the fighting, **John** served with the 923rd Heavy Automotive Maintenance Company in Belgium, where he repaired gasoline tankers that had been damaged at the front.

He owns a battle star for that and was often under bombardment by the Germans. "They'd shove their V-1 rockets at us, usually at suppertime. I saw a lot of them when I was at Antwerp. The Germans threw things at that town like it was a pin cushion. They wanted the fuel there that the Allies had gotten control of.

"A V-1 would come over with fire coming out its end. When the fire stopped, it would come straight down and blow a square block out. I've seen it."

Romano recalls a monument in Brussels erected after the war in memory of Belgian prisoners the Germans had absconded to work arming the missiles. The monument is a V-1

missile, a dud, full of sand. The prisoners had secretly replaced explosives with the sand to save the lives of their compatriots.

"After the war, things were moving so fast I couldn't keep track of what was happening across the street," **Romano** recalls. "They were busting up old units and making new ones. That's how **Vernon** and I got together.

"For a time, we lived in barracks that had been occupied by the German SS. I took pictures of it then and the soldiers at the reunion this summer enjoyed seeing them. I took a lot of pictures. **Vernon** even remembered the pin-up girl on our M-19, but neither of us could remember her name."

The Reunion also brought sadness to **Romano** because it reminded him of the death of his brother, **Sammy**, who was killed in action at St. Lo, France, soon after D-Day. **Sammy** served with the 80th Infantry Division, which wore the Three Blue Ridge Mountain Patch, partly composed of West Virginians. **John** visited his grave at St. James, France.

John is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars at John Frazer Post 9916 in Westover. Retired, he and his wife, **Margaret Ann**, stay active in veterans' activities. She is a member of the VFW ladies' auxiliary at Westover.

John has served at military funerals in this area since he returned from his European service. He works now two days a week restoring a World War II Honor Roll for soldiers from Riverside who served during the conflict.

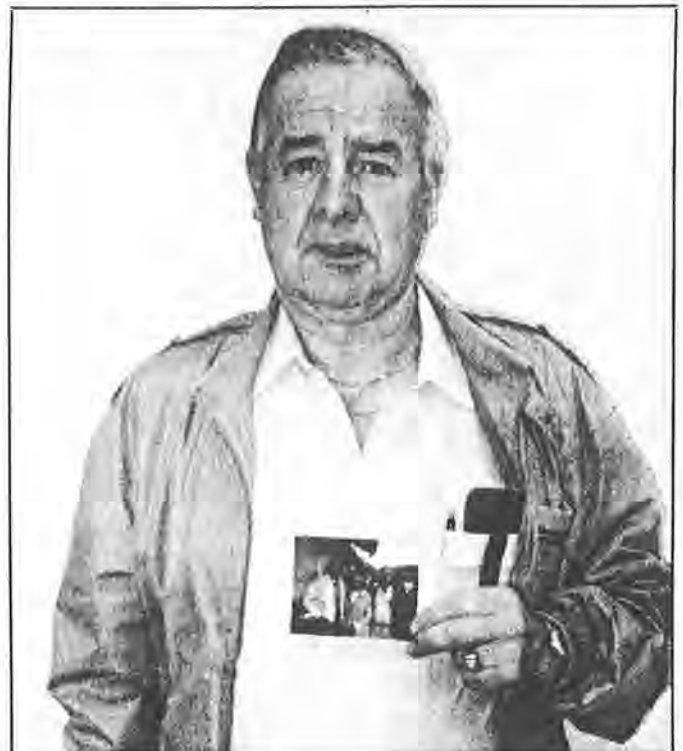
Vernon, a retired sawmill operator, runs a motel at Mt. Storm.

John is a retired mine machinery mechanic. He worked 21 years for the FMC Mining Equipment Division.

After the Reunion, **John** and **Vernon** spent a day at **Vernon's** Mt. Storm residence.

"He was a good soldier who did his duty," **Vernon** says of **John**.

"He was a brave soldier. His medals tell it," **John** says of **Vernon**.



John Romano holds a photo of him and his Army buddy, Vernon Hanlin, taken this summer.

ATTENTION



After you have saluted your colors, it's time to read your new and latest Bulletin. It tells you that you are almost too late to make the plane, train, bus, or wagon train to Denver so if you haven't signed up by now, better do so in the next day or two. Welkos **"Dutch" Hawn**, our 1989 Denver Reunion Chairman, is awaiting your arrival along with the rest of his committee. So you better get the old Model T a rollin.



Dutch Hawn — 1989 Denver Reunion Chairman

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Telephone: 412/335-3224

It appears that our Bulletins are getting later and later with each issue. Many letters and telephone calls were received on this past Volume 42, Number 2 Bulletin, as to when it would be out. I would say our Number 2 and Number 3 issues have been a couple of weeks later than in past years. Number 1 Bulletin is O.K. if you get it around Thanksgiving time. Clarence and I try our best to get good Bulletins published three times a year and at the right time of the year. We will do better in the future but we will have to move our deadlines for news material and pictures ahead somewhat. This will hurt Reunion Chairmen and their committees most of all but we are going to need final Reunion prices by December 1st of each year to get Bulletin 2 out on time. We cannot, any longer, wait until January or later on prices for tours, early birds, banquets, etc. Deadlines already published will remain the same as follows:

1989

SEPTEMBER 9, 1989

Deadline for material and pictures
Bulletin Volume 43, Number 1
September - October - November - December, 1989
Bulletin due out in November 1989

* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 10 to OCTOBER 12, 1989

First dues notice mailed out to all members on record.
Exception: Those who paid dues at the Denver, Colorado Reunion in August for the dues year 1989-1990. Thanks for paying early and getting it off your mind so you can think Valley Forge, Pennsylvania in 1990.

* * * * *

1990

JANUARY 6, 1990

Deadline for material and pictures
Bulletin Volume 43, Number 2
January - February - March - April, 1990

Valley Forge Chairpersons Dan Evers and Frank Nemeth should have all information for Bulletin publication about the Valley Forge, Pennsylvania 1990 Reunion.

Bulletin due out in late February or early March 1990. We must be on a good schedule for this Bulletin since vacations are scheduled early and all our members want to come to Valley Forge.

* * * * *

JANUARY 7 to 31, 1990

Second dues notice mailed out to members on record for 1989-1990 dues year.

Exception: Those who paid at Denver, Colorado Reunion in 1989 or from the first notice in September 1989, will not get an envelope. Thanks for paying your dues early and remember a Bulletin postage donation is greatly appreciated by your Editors. It keeps the big Bulletins coming to your home.

Old Soldiers Never Die - They Just Fade Away

Pictures show the funeral procession of our General Charles L. Bolte on Thursday, February 16, 1989 going from Fort Myer Chapel To Arlington National Cemetery.

Those who attended the service at the Chapel and burial at Arlington were:

William and Betty Foster, *President*

269th Engineers - New Cumberland, Pennsylvania

Earl E. Witzleb, Jr., *Vice President*

Company E, 273rd Infantry - Acme-Champion, Pennsylvania

Robert and Vivian Kurtzman, Sr., *Treasurer*

Company I, 272nd Infantry - Wilmot, Ohio

Linda (Kurtzman) Doyle, *Host and Navigator*
Burke, Virginia

William and Ellen Snidow, *Chaplain*

661st T.D. Battalion - Pembroke, Virginia

William and Jo Beswick, *Past President*

661st T.D. Battalion - West Point, Virginia

Charles Chapman, Headquarters
Springfield, Virginia

Enrico D'Angelo, C Battery, 880th Field Artillery
Saltsburg, Pennsylvania

Charles Fox, Recon Troops
Washington, D.C.

George Loikow, Headquarters
Falls Church, Virginia

Leonard and Janice Lushbaugh, Company I, 272nd Infantry
Funkstown, Maryland

Pierce Rice, Company A, 273rd Infantry
Arlington, Virginia

William and Reba Sheavly, Company M. 271st Infantry
Reistertown, Maryland



Honor Guard Assembly



Caisson



Caisson



Caisson - Riderless Horse



Riderless Horse



Bolte Family



Unloading the Casket



Moving the Casket



Grave Site on Saturday

Dear Bob,

Enclosed please find a check in the amount of twenty-five dollars in memory of General Bolte to be added to the Division Monument Fund.

Although not a complete surprise, General Bolte's passing leaves a memory of a good and honest man who was as a soldier, concerned and caring for those under his command. May he rest in peace.

Sincerely

Dear Mr. Kurtzman,

Enclosed please find a small check in expression of sympathy of General Charles L. Bolte's passing. I wish it to be used for the 69th Division Association Monument fund to be erected at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

Our sympathy goes out to the family, especially Mrs. Bolte.

Sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Poole
Cannon Company, 273rd Infantry

Dear Bob,

The enclosed check is in memory of General Bolte. We plan to give an additional amount for the Monument Fund. This of course, may be used for the monument.

Leroy is busy with income tax returns. I'm into many things. We are completing 5 years work on Camp Jamestown 4-H Administration Building. We hope to break ground September 5th and have it completed before Christmas.

Best to you and Vivian.

Sincerely,
Maria Keller

**Any member or mini-groups wishing to make donations
in memory of General Bolte,
please do so to either
the Camp Shelby Memorial or the Camp Shelby Museum.**

Dear Bob,

Sorry to hear of General Bolte's passing. I never knew or saw him as I joined the 69th in France as a replacement and was assigned to pioneer squad of A&P Platoon of 2nd Battalion, Headquarters 273rd. Everyone I have talked to spoke highly of him and deeply admired him and he in return must have loved the 69th.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Reunion in Lexington and am looking forward to more. Good Luck with the monument and the best to you and yours.

Sincerely,
Garnet Whitley

Bob,

I was Division Wire Chief with the 569th Signal Company. General Bolte requested me to join the cadre to form the 69th Division. I was stationed with Post Signal Office in Shelby. He impressed me so much that I did not hesitate to join him.

Anthony Bonito
1813 Paulding Avenue
Bronx, New York 10462

Dear Sir,

It was with great sadness to receive the news of General Bolte's death. May he rest in peace.

Enclosed is a check for the Memorial Fund. Hope it will help to make the fund grow.

Sincerely,
Ralph P. Reeves, Sr.
7820 W. Paradise Drive
Peoria, Illinois 61614

News From The Editor's Desk



by — Clarence Marshall
Membership Chairman

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

Clifton B. Stolpe, 2 Eaton Circle, Bella Vista, Arkansas 72714 — Ser. 273rd: I contacted **Art Trelease**, who served in the same Unit as myself, and it surely was nice to hear from him after so long. He has been in Las Vegas for all these many years. I would like to see a lot of our enlisted men and officers at Denver. I intend to be there, and would like to have the addresses of more of the men from the Unit. **Ed Lucci** really brought back a nightmare I will never forget. His story tells all except the horrible clean up at night, trying to do it in blackout conditions. Many of the men from Service Company, 273rd, were assigned to do things that were almost impossible. We did our best though, and words could never describe it.

Virgil Spanos, 11144 Saucier Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63141 — K-271st: I received the News Bulletin and it was very enjoyable reading. After all of the years, it was great to read about the men of the 69th again. I see that you have been getting together for a long time. The only one I have seen during the years is **1st Sergeant John Henry Cross**. In 1963 he lived in Melbourne, Florida, but I have no idea where he is now. I have a copy of the History Book for Company K-271st, which was printed in Leipzig, Germany. I was with the 69th at the link-up on the Elbe, and spent a total of 30 months overseas. I have never been to any of the Reunions because I didn't know that the Association existed. Do you have any addresses for the following men? **James Curran**, **Vernon Nauer**, **Lieutenant Al Nock**, **Lieutenant Lashley**, **Sergeant Hogan**.

Larry Smith, Route 10, Box 324A2, Algood, Tennessee 38501 — K-273rd: In your May-June-July-August 69th Bulletin Taps column, you listed **Hilmer Bunsness** as being in A-273rd. Just to keep the records straight, **Bunny** was the 1st Sergeant of K-273rd, and the best one I ever knew. After the end of World War II he transferred to the Air Force, and finished his career in that arm of the service. It took me 42 years to locate him, and I did talk to him and set up a meeting. He passed away before this happened. I felt very sad, as we had many memories to relive. Maybe it was God's will that some things remain not relived.

Walter H. Whitmer, 5916 Inkster Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan 48033 — Med.: I have been in touch with **Chuck Henderson**, a former Medic in the 69th Division, and he furnished me your name and address. I was also a Medic

in the 69th during combat times. Anything that you can send me to help relocate former members that I served with would be appreciated. Men that I remember are my former C.O. **Major Charles Owens**, **Captain Laskey**, **Lieutenant Colonel Lynch**, **Captain Scott**, **Lieutenant Adams** and **S/Sergeant Estey**. My memory is not the best after 40 odd years. I think I served in H-Company of a second Battalion, but I'm not sure of what regiment.

Sam Rodriguez, 4206 Alamo Street, Simi Valley, California 93063 — 69-QM: Thank you for the names and addresses. I am in the process of writing all of the boys. They all brought memories from many years back. Do you have any information on our **Colonel Small**? Do you have any addresses of men from Arizona? I was inducted into the Service from Arizona. I remember some of the fellows from there, some of them being Indian boys. I have written **Victor Woo** to see if we could have some kind of mini-reunion out here on the West coast. We are all getting up in years, and don't know how much longer we will be around. God bless you for your time and concern.

J. L. Theisen, Jr., 4465 North Shore Drive, Mound, Minnesota 55364 — Med. 272nd: Just wondering if we missed a Bulletin, or if the information on the Reunion in Denver is late. Thought it was about time for it to be along. Last Bulletin we received was September-October-November-December 1988, and it didn't contain any pre-registration stuff.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Your letter was dated April 24th and the last Bulletin was mailed out on April 18th, so it just hadn't got to you yet.)

Paul P. Blitz, 318A Savannah Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21221 — Hq. 2nd, Bn. 271st: In the May issue of the VFW Magazine I noticed that the 69th Infantry Division was having a Reunion in Denver this August. I was a member of the Communications Platoon Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 271st Regiment, when the Division was activated at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. I served with this Unit from May 1943 till I was sent to England as a replacement in May 1944. I had many friends while with this outfit, and wonder how many of them are still around. Some may be attending this Reunion, and if so, you may have a list of their names and addresses, as well as those who are not attending. If you could send me names that you have addresses for, it would be greatly appreciated. I remember our Platoon Leaders were **Lieutenant Hanberry** and **Sergeant Jack Murray**.

Aaron B. Taulbee, 4740 SR 73, West Wilmington, Ohio 45177 — A-273rd: Thanks for sending me the News Bulletin. I have already utilized the reservation and registration forms found in the Bulletin. I am glad you are putting me on the mailing roster. I thought I was put on it when I paid dues back in 1987, but I didn't hear anything more from the Association after that. I want to receive the Bulletins regularly, as they are full of useful information. I was in the 3rd Squad, 1st Platoon of Company A, 273rd Infantry, until wounds sent me back home in May of 1945. I have not kept in touch with anyone that I served with, and it is very difficult to remember their names. I do remember our Platoon Leader was a **Sergeant Hubbard**. Perhaps if you can send me some names from that Unit it will refresh my memory. I am looking forward to my first 69th Division Reunion in August.

Fred E. Fiedler, R.R. #1, Box 615, Genoa City, Wisconsin 53128 — I-272nd: I saw your notice in the American Legion Magazine, and would like all of the information concerning the August Reunion in Denver. I took basic at Shelby and was with Company I-272nd all the way through the Bulge, and to the Elbe River and the wait for the Russians. I live in the very bottom of Wisconsin on U.S. Route 12 only 4 miles from the Illinois border.

(Continued on Page 10)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK
(Continued from Page 9)

Dean I. Daniels, 2231 Stahlwood Drive, Sandusky, Ohio 44870 — K-272nd: Upon reading the April American Legion Magazine, I noticed an item about the 69th Infantry Reunion in August. This is the first time I have ever seen or heard about the 69th since World War II. I was a member of Company K, 272nd Infantry at Camp Shelby, Mississippi from May 1943 till approximately May 1944. At that time I guess the Division was broken up as I never heard anything else about it after I was shipped out as a replacement. I went to Fort Meade, Maryland and then Miles Standish, then to England and France where I joined the 83rd Division until December 1945, when I was discharged. Before I left Camp Shelby I was Company Clerk and Mail Clerk for K-272nd. Have quite a few memories of Mississippi and the men in my Company. I have been a member of the 83rd Division Association for a number of years.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Daniels asked if we had an Association and I assured him that we did, and have had one for years. He also inquired about Company and Division rosters which we do not have. These will be available as IBM print-outs at the Denver Reunion.)

Maynard W. Pechman, 3023 46th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50310 — Hq., 2nd Bn., 273rd: I am enclosing a check for membership. I served in Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 273rd. My picture appeared in your last Bulletin courtesy of **Ron Rabinovitz**, a close friend. I would appreciate a copy of that recent Bulletin.

Primor A. Palmer, 24 Stillwater Avenue, Mechanicville, New Jersey 12118 — Would you please send me more information about the 69th Reunion. I served with that Unit, and would be interested in attending. Thank You.

Reverend Sherriell E. Storey, 3816 Camelot Drive, Lexington, Kentucky 40503 — Hq.-272nd: I was privileged to attend one day of the 1988 Reunion in Lexington, Kentucky. It was a real joy to renew acquaintance with a few of the men whom I remembered from World War II in Europe. I was a Chaplain in the 272nd Infantry. I want also to say that I really appreciated the article "A Day in April" by **Morton M. Vitriol**. I was there, and almost lost my life. I was ministering to a man who had been hit, and came close to being a victim of an 88 shell.

I have been working in a ministry for the elderly since 1976. We have been building apartment buildings and nursing homes sponsored by the Christian Churches. I have resigned this position and will be moving back to Canton, Ohio, where we lived for 27 years. I will be close to the **Bob Kurtzmans**, and will look forward to visiting with them. My wife and I had intended on being in Denver, but our move will prevent attending this year. My best wishes for a great time in Denver.

Lamar W. Williams, 4365 Ruth Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35213 — 69th MP: I joined the 69th Infantry Division when it was being activated in May 1943. Since I had received a commission in the Corps of Military Police, I was assigned to the M.P. Platoon. Other Officers in the Platoon included **Major John O. Tower**, Commanding Officer, **Paul Hayo** (who was later aide to General Bolte) and **Jim Warren**. **Major Tower** was in command during training at Camp Shelby, and went overseas with the Division, as did **Jim Warren** and myself. After we were overseas, **Major Tower** was assigned to Military Government. He was a fine Officer, and we regretted to see him leave the Platoon and the Division. After a successful career in the education field and an Officer in the Army reserve, **John** retired and lived in Jenison, Michigan. We regret that he passed away February 8, 1989.

I stayed with the 69th M.P. Platoon until Germany surrendered, and then had the assignment of the Division Prisoner of War Discharge Center in Weissenfels, Germany. We processed some 8000 P.O.W.s during the weeks following the surrender. I was assigned to the 89th Division after the break up of the 69th for shipment back to the states. In civilian life, I was employed by Chevrolet Division of G.M. Corporation and retired January 1, 1980 as Zone Organization Manager, Birmingham, Alabama. I'm still in good health and hope to attend the 69th Division Reunion in Denver this year, along with my beloved wife.

Walter K. Bernhardt, 45 Country Squire Road, Palos Heights, Illinois 60463 — F-271st: Thank you for your correspondence and information. I received three responses from F-271st buddies through my letter in the Bulletin. I know most of them who are a part of the Association, but I wouldn't have the time to write all of them. Would appreciate the addresses for **Thomas Gitchell**, **Peter Dunn**, and **Russell Sampsell**. Sorry I didn't get back to you sooner, but some medical problems and surgery put a dent in my activities. I have enclosed three pictures which I hope will fit in your Bulletin. You mentioned in your letter that you were in the 187th General Hospital at Tidworth, England. It sounds familiar and perhaps was not far from Portsmouth or London in the southern part of England. The hospital that I was in was close to an airfield. I have some old Stars and Stripes magazines and some Yank Magazine issues which were given out at the hospital, but I don't believe there is any identifying information as to what hospital I was at.

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

Louis W. Pohopek, 62 Cider Hill Road, York, Maine 03909 — D-272nd: I plan to attend the Reunion in Denver, and am anxious to get in touch with former members of my Unit, D-272nd. If you can furnish this information, it will help make the Reunion more meaningful. If this should be directed to someone else, please forward it along.

Jack Duffy, 28 Cypress Street, Rochester, New York 14620 — Div. Hq. & Hq. Co.: Much of 1988 has been spent in preparation for my retirement from the City of Rochester on October 1st. Since then, I have been getting my personal affairs in good order, and in getting my consulting business started. I'm sorry that we were not able to spend more time together at the last Reunion. That was one of the busiest weeks we've had in a long time. It looks like Denver will be another after reading **Dutch Hawn's** agenda. We will be driving out, then going on to the Grand Canyon, the Painted Desert, and the Petrified Forest, before heading home.

I don't remember if I sent you a set of the enclosed prints before, but anyway here is another. They were taken somewhere after crossing the Rhine, and I can't recall who the fellows are in them. Perhaps you might recognize some of them, or some other members might.

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

Victor Ostrow, 1612 Lemontree Lane, Silver Springs, Maryland 20904 — Hq., 2nd Bn., 273rd: It is always good to hear from another 69er. I have just spoken to him on the telephone, and he would like to join our organization. He is **Sol Schindler** of Bethesda, Maryland. It will soon be time for our annual Reunion in Denver, Colorado. Happy times for renewing old and new friendships and lasting memories. Hope to see you and our old buddies.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Schindler's complete address is included in the New Men Relocated column.)

(Continued on Page 11)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 10)

Al Bukovec, 146 East 272nd Street, Euclid, Ohio 44132 — B-724th: Thanks for the nice article about our B-724th Reunion. We had a very good turnout for our weekend. I tried to have someone else handle it, but they let me know that they want to return to Ohio. Our guys come from all over the United States, even Finland. Must be doing something right. Hope you can come in 1990 when we meet again. I have enclosed a newspaper article about the death of **Roy L. Williams**. Roy was a truck driver in Battery B, and I think he drove the Diamond T truck for number 2 Howitzer, which was **Sergeant John Pierce's** gun and crew. He was an ex-President of the Teamsters Union.

Glenn Daniels, 215 Court Street, Columbiana, Ohio 44408 — B-272nd: It was great talking with you. I am glad I saw your announcement in the V.F.W. magazine. I am one of the fellows from the Division that did not keep in touch with some of my former buddies. Now that my wife and I have retired, we do some traveling, and are planning to go to the Reunion in Denver. I hope that I can reestablish contact with some of the fellows from my Unit before Reunion time, and try to get them to attend.

James R. Blackwood, P.O. Box 138, Holly Pond, Alabama 35083 — B-271st: I am a former member of the 69th Infantry Division. For the last few months, I have been corresponding with **Robert Younglas** of Traverse City, Michigan. He gave me your name and address, and said if I wanted to join the Association, that you would send me the information. That is my desire, so will you please send me what I need.

M. S. McClendon, 2635 Lee Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71301: I was in the 69th Division, and would very much like some information concerning the Reunion. Have been trying for months to find out something about the Division. I was talking to a friend who saw your announcement in the V.F.W. Magazine. I will do my best to attend the Reunion.

Earl Hansen, 387 Yant Road, Pulaski, Tennessee 38478 — B-271st: I have been in touch with **Bob Younglas**, and he has advised me that there is a 69th Infantry Division Association. I was a member of that Unit during World War II, and would like to become a member. In **Bob's** first letter he mentioned the dues and how to join, but I misplaced it. He was kind enough to send me your name and address again. I would appreciate it if you would give me the details on joining the Association, and also about the Reunion coming up in August. My wife and I plan to attend, if at all possible. I am retired, but my wife still has 2 years to work, so we won't be able to attend for the full week. She will only be able to get off from her work for about three days. I would like to receive the News Bulletin that **Mr. Younglas** spoke about.

Charles Yannul, 927 West Browning Road, Bellmawr, New Jersey 08031 — C-661st: In the process of notifying my outfit of the Reunion for the 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion, I have gathered some information about some of our buddies. It is new to our outfit, so possibly you can correct your records. We have learned that the following men are deceased: **Sam Irla**, **Guy Tornbene**, **Jack Cashion**, **Harlan Cheeseman** and **Walter Grossman**.

Robert J. Younglas, 3529 Three Mile Road, Traverse City, Michigan 49684 — B-271st: The following two men have been relocated and are confirmed. They are namely **James R. Blackwood** and **Henry Milner**. You mentioned in a recent letter that **Charles Henderson** was keeping up with the 271st Medics. If I could get his address, I would like to contact him

to see if he has any names that I am looking for. I don't know how the Medics were carried. We are still looking for **Carl Koch** who was our Medic and received a Bronze Star for action in the first few days of combat. I received a phone call from **Pat Kohlheim** (daughter-in-law of **Walter Kohlheim**) and she advised me that **Walter** has been deceased since 1987. I mailed a letter to **William T. Kiernan** in Lafayette, Indiana, and it had been opened but was returned marked Deceased.

Raymond Dansereau, 46 Peyster Street, Albany, New York 12208 — C-272nd: I received the Spring issue of the News Bulletin and was particularly interested in the article "John Erikson" by **John Barrette**. I also crossed the Atlantic on the **John Erikson** as a member of Company D-272nd. I knew that it was formerly a Swedish Liner, and that it was overcrowded on our trip. I was seasick for the entire journey and remember sitting on the deck in the dark wishing that a German torpedo would put me out of my misery. (In retrospect, quite short sighted), that is all I can remember. **Mr. Barrette** did a good job composing the article and I appreciate your printing it.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: I returned back to the states on the **John Erikson** as it was part hospital ship then and also the return of P.O.W.s.)

Sam Johnson, 6062 Sydney Drive, Huntingdon Beach, California 92647 — Hq., 2nd Bn., 273rd: When my copy of the Bulletin comes, I read through it over and over again trying to pick up some information on my old buddies. Imagine my surprise when I saw the picture of the Anti-Tank Platoon, Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 273rd, on our way to Camp Kilmer. In the picture are **Vince Carmany** (deceased), myself and "Chief" **Kilmer**. I always enjoy the Bulletin, and look forward to each edition.

Joe Weber, 1030 Durham Road, Wallingford, Connecticut 06492 — AT-271st: I am a former member of Anti-Tank Company, 271st Infantry. I was with the 69th from Shelby till the end of the War, after which I was transferred to the 52nd Ordnance. I enjoy receiving the Bulletin very much, and as they say in the N.B.A., it is FANTASTIC. I won't be able to make the Reunion in Denver, but I am looking forward to the one in Valley Forge. I am retired now, and feeling fine. Hope this finds you all in good health.

John A. Tujague, 1364 Loretta Drive, Tustin, California 92680 — Hq., 2nd Bn., 272nd: My good friend **Anees Barakat** recently was talking to my by phone, and asked me if I would be attending the 69th Division Reunion in Denver this year. I told him that I hadn't known anything about it. He said he would arrange for something to be sent to me. I received several of your past Bulletins from **Earl Witzleb** for which I was most grateful. I was a member of the 69th from early 1944 till after the end of the War in Europe. I would like to join the Association, so please send me the needed information. As for the Reunion, I will not know if I can attend until after I return from an overseas trip. If at all possible, you may be certain that I will be there.

Ralph L. Bayless, 30 Jodie Lane, Apt. C, Wilmington, Ohio 45177 — E-271st: I got your address from the Veterans Paper "Military." I served in the 69th at Camp Shelby, Mississippi from May 1943 to May 1944, and was then transferred to the 88th Division in Italy. Do you have any information on the early days at Shelby, and did any of the originals go on with the 69th? As we get older we think back quite frequently. Thank you for your time. I served in E-271st in the Great Camp Shelby.

(Continued on Page 12)

(Continued from Page 11)

Kenneth D. Hull, 5164 Mesa Del Oro, N.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87111 — I-272nd: As always I enjoyed the recent issue of the Bulletin, and it was with great interest that I read the story about the John Erikson. I was sent ahead to this ship as an advanced party to get it cleaned for the troops that were to come aboard. It had brought German prisoners of war to this country, many of them injured and there were bloody bandages and other junk to get rid of. Our detail was on board the ship three days early. Many years have passed since it sailed out of New York, and the 272nd History Book states that the entire Regiment was on it and the S.S. Santa Maria. Eight thousand troops were aboard the John Erikson. The big ship sailed on November 15th and docked at South Hampton December 1st, a voyage of 15 days.

I was fortunate to have been an Officer, as all of us had excellent accommodations. I was assigned to a cabin on B-Deck, which was the second one down from the top of the ship. The room had six bunks installed, and three Chaplains shared it with me. Having gotten there first, I selected the top bunk next to the port hole. The three Chaplains, all 1st Lieutenants, were Eugene Frein, Sherriell Storey, and Daniel Fichlin.

What a time we all had during the crossing. Directly across from our room was another full of Medical Officers, and they had a crap game started before the ship sailed. I am certain this game continued the whole trip. Later I was made Commander of B-Deck, which was full with I-272nd men. The enlisted men slept five high in their compartments. Where they were quartered had been a reading room in days past, and now the men sleeping in the top bunks would lay in bed and carve their names in the fine big wooden beams overhead. The British Aircraft Carrier stayed right in formation behind us the whole voyage. Every morning we could look out and see that all of the 35 ship convoy had changed positions during the night, but the carrier remained right behind us. The freighters looked like they were going to sink with their heavy loads, as the waves made them rise and fall in the water.

Looking forward to seeing you in Denver.

Frank Lee, 1702 Bayard Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21222: Thank you for sending me the News Bulletin. I was in the 69th Division May, June, July and August, 1944, but can't remember what Unit I served in. In the middle of August, 1944, I was transferred to the 75th Division in Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky. I served in the Battle of the Bulge and was badly frozen. Thank goodness I recovered. After discharge I spent 40 years in the steel mill at Sparrow Point, Maryland. I have been retired for four years. Your Bulletin brings back a lot of good memories.

Ernest Krause, 444 Pioneer Drive, Addison, Illinois 60101 — 269th Eng.: I saw in an issue of the American Legion Magazine that the 69th Division was having a Reunion in Denver in August. I was a member of the 269th Engineer Battalion from activation at Camp Shelby, through Europe, and up to V.E. day. I would like any up to date information on the Division and its activities.

Lloyd M. Lippman, 1805 Joslyn, 92, Helena, Montana 59601 — K-273rd: Please send me information on the 69th Division Reunion. I was a member of Company K, 273rd Infantry from February 1945 till July 1945.

Walter Haag, 420 Paramount Drive, Millbrae, California 94030 — B-881st: I received a letter from Mrs. Mary Anderson that her husband Vernon "Andy" Anderson passed away on March 30th. He was our Battery B Mess Sergeant.

The local paper wrote a nice obituary about him, and his post-war life. I never got to see him since the war years, but we had kept in touch through letters and Christmas cards. He did attend a couple of Reunions in the early years, ones that I didn't attend. We missed them on a trip out West, during the Scottsdale Reunion. Hope to see you in Denver in August.

FOUND A NEW MEMBER? HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

THIS SHOULD BE
MAILED IMMEDIATELY TO:

Clarence Marshall
101 Stephen Street
New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068

Do You Remember the Young Lady in this Picture?



She was the ticket taker in the tailor shop in the rear of PX-22. She worked with a Mrs. Harris. She would like to hear from any former 69ers who recognize her, and patronized PX-22. She is now:

Mrs. Francis F. Prine
3001 Brookwood Avenue
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

She is 68 years old - married - has one son and one grandson. She lived in Hattiesburg during the War.

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
 (Call anytime, day or night, weekends or holidays)
 (If Driving thru Pennsylvania - Stop By Exit 9
 — Pennsylvania Turnpike)

Aw, to be young again and I guess I am at 63 and a half. The above picture was taken at an early Reunion, (at that time Reunions were held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in Washington, D.C.) and will not appear any more in a Bulletin, so I better take another look at me at the age of about 25. Yes members, we all better take another look at ourselves and note that father time is catching up with us. We are in our 60's, 70's, and 80's if not older or should I say younger. Isn't it time we all get together once again not at a training camp (Camp Shelby) or on the battlefield (Europe) but here in the United States, our country, which we fought for to keep it free and allows us to do very much as we please. Yes, I say, think it over members and even at this date decide to go to Denver, Colorado at the Denver Marriott Southeast on I-25 at Hampton Road to see your old buddies and friends for possibly the last time.

We regulars at Reunions are so happy to see a new first timer, and we are still getting many of them each year, that it makes our hearts bubble with joy to once again see some great G.I. who we haven't seen in some 40 plus years. Also, you other members who haven't been to a Reunion for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 years, think about coming and only tell yourselves and your wife, we're going to Denver for the week of August 20th to 27th so we can again see my old buddies and meet their lovely wives. What a Reunion this would be with a thousand of us plus our mates. Yes, do consider bringing your children and their mates plus their children. It sure

would be nice to see the young ones again who were just teenagers back in the 50's.

Remember how we had to babysit for them and I still remember the Reunion in Washington where one of our teenagers ran through the plate glass door at one of the hotels. Sure would be nice to see her again with all the others. Then too, how about all of our scholarship award winners we have had and wished them much success during their college days and into the real world. We would like to see them and hear from them. Member parents do be proud of your children and bring them along for just one more time.

Please members and your tribes, do consider Denver in August for our 69th Infantry Division Association 42nd Reunion which will be a memorable week for all of us. It's getting later than we think as time is running its course on all of us and the Marriott along with "Welkes Dutch Hawn" and his committee wait our arrival in mile high city. Again at this late date do consider Denver since they have the room for us and we all would like to meet each other just one more time.

I look forward to seeing you all as does Dottie. She still remembers you from making out dues cards only by name so now let us make it in person and come see us at our room for a "Mile High Chat" that we have never had together. We are a happy bunch of BBB's which you'll find out making you want to return again at the next Reunion in Valley Forge, (King of Prussia) Pennsylvania. Don't put off until next year, but come this year, to Denver. They can handle us. Next year may be too late.

Moral of the story is . . . you can't please 'em all

"A MULE CALLED HINEY"

An old farmer and his grandson owned a mule called Hiney. Things weren't going very well on the farm and the bills were mounting. They decided it would be best to take Hiney to the city to be sold.

The old farmer and his grandson started to walk Hiney down the road. A woman saw them and shouted, "You foolish people! Why are you walking when you have a mule you could ride?" They decided she had a point and climbed on the mule.

Down the road a way another woman called to them, "What fools you are! With both of you riding that mule, he will become exhausted and drop dead!" So the old man climbed off.

A little farther down the road a farmer shouted, "You foolish lad, making your old grandfather walk while you ride! Aren't you ashamed?" The boy climbed off and urged his grandfather to get back on.

A short time later an old woman called out, "You foolish man! That poor mule looks as if he is going to drop dead. Get off and carry him for a while!"

Thinking that she had a point, the grandfather dismounted, hoisted the mule onto his back and headed toward the city. When he came to a bridge he lost his footing and dropped the mule into the river. Of course the poor animal drowned.

The moral of this story is this: If you try to please everyone, you will lose your Hiney.

**1989 69th INFANTRY DIVISION
 ASSN. 42nd ANNUAL REUNION
 Denver Marriott Southeast - I-25 at Hampton Avenue
 DENVER, COLORADO
 August 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 1989
 !!! REMEMBER TO REGISTER EARLY !!!**

Members of B Co., 271st Infantry

1st Sergeant Hancock and myself have been trying to contact as many men as we can in an effort to create a mailing list for the benefit of all concerned. To date we have sixty-nine names and addresses of which ten are deceased. We have written letters to everyone on the list but some have not answered or are deceased.

If anyone has any addresses and telephone numbers, even if they are old, contact me and I will attempt to trace them and get correct addresses. I have traced three people from a note book Bill Noone had from 1945 so it can be done.

If anyone would like a copy of the mailing list, please contact me and I will get one out in the next mail. If you have any photographs mail them to me and I will copy them and return your prints.

Most of the photographs in this Bulletin are from **Orrie Pullen** of the first Platoon.

We expect to have about ten men from the Company at Denver in August and would like to see more, so if you know of anyone who does not belong to the Association, contact them and let's see if we can't get back together after all these years.

Bob Younglas
3529 3 Mile Road
Traverse City, Michigan 49684
Telephone: 616/947-4827



Left-Lester Nelson — Right-Buck Sims



Former Medic Carl F. Koch



Erkshausen 1945 — Back Row, Left to Right: McCoy, Tucker, Morris, Rivest, McKinney, Rhom. Front Row: Corn, Albright, Milner, Nolan, Butrico



Ziegleroda 1945 — Back Row, Left to Right: West, Rhom, Pullen, Tucker, Noone, Morris. Front Row: Corn, Halcom, Butrico, McCoy



*Rear Row, Left to Right:
Noone, Pullen, Halcom,
Frank Regis (Barber)
Front Row: Buck Sims,
Ray Rivest*

*In Window:
Nelson Annapharge*

*Picture taken in
Ziegleroda, Germany*

Treasurer's Message



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

The 69th Infantry Division's fiscal year for 1988-89 is rapidly drawing to a close and the dues response has set a new record with 2,400 members making some kind of contribution. 720 have made a postage contribution. 362 have paid dues for the first time, either because they are new members or just neglected to pay. 1325 have paid dues for the fifth consecutive year and 2490 on the roster have not paid any dues for the past five years. What do we do with the 2490?

Reunion reservations are starting to come in and in the first two weeks I have received 50 reservations, so it looks like a good number of us will be spending the fourth week of August in Denver and enjoying Dutch and Jeanne Hawn's hospitality and renewing old friendships with our friends from the 69th. If you haven't already done so, please get your reservations in to the Marriott and to me for the activities.

Mrs. Bolte's request that donations made in memory of General Bolte be made toward the Camp Shelby Memorial have resulted in my having received \$744.00 so far and my thanks go out to the 35 members who have made those contributions. I personally feel that this is a good indication that the 1991 Reunion be held in the Camp Shelby area for this purpose. The remarks made at the Lexington Reunion in regards to sending a small delegation of Officers to Camp Shelby for this purpose is a degrading and slanderous remark to the integrity of the Fighting 69th and its members.

Once again, don't forget to get your reservations in. Since we will be driving to Denver, we will be leaving on August 16th and making a stop at our son Bob's in Kansas City, so if your reservation hasn't been received by that time, Forget it.

* * * * *

We Lost A Friend

I saw General Bolte on numerous occasions at Camp Shelby as well as at past Reunions, but it wasn't until 1976 at the Brandywine Hilton that our relationship become more personal. As one of my hobbies is knitting, I had undertaken a project to make an afghan in the pattern of the 69th insignia, bearing four stars and four "Bs." The finished product was presented to him at that Reunion. From that time forward General Bolte always greeted me with a broad smile, a firm handshake and an acknowledgement as to the whereabouts of the afghan . . . "It's in my room."

Vivian and I are fortunate to have our daughter live in the Northern Virginia area near the Bolte's. During our frequent visits to her, we always made time to visit General and Mrs. Bolte. In all likelihood we were the last 69ers to see him prior to his stroke. On July 3, 1988 we spent time with them at their Alexandria apartment and listened as they discussed their pending move to an assisted-living apartment.

It was also during that visit that we discussed the possibility of erecting a monument to the 69th at Camp Shelby. The General spoke of it enthusiastically, smiled, and stated that he would certainly like to make another trip there and see the monument in place. Unfortunately, it was a mere eight days later that his dream was eluded when he suffered a stroke.

We next visited them in late October, he was in a nursing home, Mrs. Bolte in the assisted living apartment. It was heartbreaking to see him in bed, unable to talk. Yet his hand still had a grip like a vise. When we saw him again in December he appeared somewhat better as we were able to converse . . . The grip was still there.

Those two visits were difficult. To see such a strong man confined to a bed with no possibility of walking again was almost too much to bear.

After his death, it was Mrs. Bolte's request that donations made in his honor should be directed toward the erection of the Camp Shelby Monument.

With that in mind, I sincerely hope that the membership will see that dream come true, erect a monument at Camp Shelby in honor of our two great Generals and all 69ers and hold a Reunion in the immediate area.

I am glad to be able to say that I knew General Bolte and proud to have been a "Bolte Bastard."

Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.

Special Attention to All Members of Our Association

Due to changes in Postal Regulations: It is imperative that you keep us advised if you change your address. The Post Office will no longer forward our mail. If they return one of our Bulletins, it will cost the Association \$2.74. So if you don't keep us current with your address, you may miss some of our literature. Resending of Bulletins has gotten more costly, and will only be done at our discretion.

So please take heed if you want to receive our mail on a regular basis.

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.

THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE



by — **Dottie Witzleb**
Ladies Auxiliary Editor

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8221 Galway Lane
Richmond, Virginia 23228

Margie McCombs, Sunshine Lady
1184 Thorndale Road
West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380
Telephone: 215/269-0810

Guess I'll start off with the bad news and hopefully get better as this column progresses. First off, **Clarence Marshall** was mugged near his home coming from Eat 'N Park restaurant where he had coffee before turning in for the night. He was knocked to the ground which broke his glasses and put ten stitches in his face near his good eye. He did not know whether it was a male, female, white, or black that did the job on him. Some of his wallet items had been found but the dollars in it will be gone forever. Glad to say he is coming along fine which the Central Pennsylvania members can attest to since he went to their banquet on April 15th.

Paul McCombs, husband of our Sunshine Lady, **Margie**, had a stroke on Wednesday, February 15th and is improving steadily. **Paul** was in the hospital for weeks, then to a Rehabilitation Center for more weeks before being able to get home. **Paul** and **Margie** did miss the Central Pennsylvania Branch banquet dinner. If you wish to send **Paul** a card, his address is:

Paul McCombs
1184 Thorndale Road
West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380

Our own **Jim Lynch**, who along with his wife **Jane**, and **Gilbert** and **Susan Rocco** ran our Tri-State Erie weekend, had a serious operation just before Easter at a Warren hospital. After he started feeling better and gaining strength, he had a second operation at an Erie hospital. We were glad when he got back home and improved steadily so that the Erie weekend could be a go instead of a cancelling. **Jim** is feeling much better but you still can send him a card to:

James "Jim" Lynch
9 Timothy Avenue
North Warren, Pennsylvania 16365

Received word from **John Mowrey** that he is just home from the Charleston Memorial Hospital after suffering a heart attack Sunday night/Monday morning, April 2/3, and is now recovering slowly which will take time to get back to full strength. **John's** address is:

John Mowrey, Jr.
126 Woodbridge Drive
Charleston, West Virginia 25311

Earl talked to **Richard Cutrell** on May 12th and found out that he had broken his hip about a year ago and is almost completely recovered. His wife **Gail** recently had heart surgery and is now home from the hospital. It will take time for **Gail** to get back to full strength. If you unit members (269th

Engineers) and other 69th members wish to send cards to the **Cutrell's**, the address is:

Richard and Gail Cutrell
R.D. #5, Box 280
Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania 15666

Richard would like to see **Ward** and **Marian Peterson** in the worst way to talk over memories of the past while in the service. They just may meet at the Tri-State weekend at Erie which will be the end of May. This article must get to the printers next week so we hope they do meet very soon.

Betty Foster had a mild stroke and is doing well now. Her husband **Bill**, our President, is coming along good from the problems he has with his leg. If you care to drop them a card, it should go to:

Betty and William Foster
803 Elkwood Drive
New Cumberland, Pennsylvania 17070

Earl just recently had a call from **Milton "Milt" Halainen** who was wondering how things were with the Division Association, Tri-State Group, and Central Pennsylvania Branch. He was glad to hear everything appears to be good and that it looks like a good turn out is in the making for Denver. **Milt** is holding his own and feels about the same as when we last saw him. He questions as to when he can make another event of the 69th but wishes all members and families well. **Milt** would like to hear from his friends too. You may write him at:

Milton Halainen
Post Office Box 201
Troy, New Hampshire 03465

Another person who we need to ask God's blessing on is **Buss Harmon's** wife. **Elizabeth** recently had serious surgery and it is doubtful if they will make the Denver Reunion. **Elizabeth** and **Buss** are friends of **Clarence Marshall** who usually take him to Reunions. **Elizabeth's** address is:

Elizabeth Harmon
R.D. #2, Box 289
Oil City, Pennsylvania 16301

Clarence plans at present are to take an Amtrak train from Erie, Pennsylvania to Denver. **Earl** and **Dottie** may take Amtrak or **Dottie** may fly and **Earl** take Amtrak. **Dell** and **Mary Balzano** are also taking Amtrak as are some of the Mid-West Group members. However, I hope we all get to Denver for a real nice Reunion.

(Continued on Page 17)

Auxiliary President's Report

Hello again,

It's Spring here in Ohio, the flowers and trees are in bloom, the grass is growing and needs to be mowed at least twice a week. Everything is awakening to this new season in anticipation of the warmth of summer.

We had a lovely relaxing weekend in mid April attending the Central Pennsylvania gathering at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, a beautiful part of the country. They are such a nice group of dedicated 69ers. We always feel welcome and enjoy the time with all of them.

Have plans to be with the Mid-West Group in Elkhart, Indiana in late May, will come home Sunday and leave on Friday for Erie, Pennsylvania and the weekend with our Tri-State Group. We will have friends from California with us for a few days after the Tri-State then in a few days we will be going to Canada for our annual two weeks of fishing. We'll get much needed rest there and many fish we hope, ha ha.

Sorry to hear that many of our 69th friends are ill, some minor and others extremely serious. Do wish for all the very best and their return to good health soon.

Reservations for activities at the Denver Reunion are coming in daily, should be a nice turnout. Ladies remember our Denver area Veterans with lap robes, bibs, wheel chair caddies, etc. Lap robes can be made by knitting, crocheting or patch work quilting. All must be washable. Size is 45x36 inches. Don't forget your little gift for our exchange during the Saturday morning ladies meeting (one or two dollars, nothing more).

Bob and I are looking forward to the Denver Reunion with great anticipation as Dutch and Jeanne Hawn along with their committee, have a full week of interesting things going on for your enjoyment. No one should be bored while there. Do get your reservations in early. See you all in Denver.

God Love You,
Vivian M. Kurtzman
Auxiliary President
Fighting 69th

* * * * *

Care of Veterans

Article from the Chicago Tribune, Tuesday, April 18, 1989

ELMHURST — What's a World War II veteran? Answer: Old and forgotten.

As a veteran of "the big war," I decided to seek medical help from Hines Veterans' Hospital in Melrose Park.

"Are you a Vietnam veteran?"

"No, I was too old."

"Well, then, are you a Korean veteran?"

"No, but I did serve three years in World War II."

"Sorry, we don't treat World War II veterans any more unless they can prove they are destitute or have a medical problem related to World War II."

"Well, I served overseas, but was never wounded. Doesn't that count?"

No, it doesn't — and you don't look destitute; that's a nice suit you're wearing."

"Look, I have a heart problem — can't you at least take my blood pressure?"

"No, you aren't eligible for our services."

"What if I have a heart attack while leaving your hospital? That wouldn't look good in my obituary in The Chicago Tribune."

"Well, we'll take it just this once, but please don't ever come back here again."

As I was leaving, I thought of all the World War II veterans who think they are entitled to treatment at veterans hospitals — and when the time comes, they will discover they are not eligible. I wonder if the day will come when Hines will say, "Sorry, we don't treat Vietnam and Korean veterans anymore."

Russ Roberts

* * * * *

I'm still not getting too much news for our Ladies column. We would like to read good news but ladies, if your husband is sick or has had an operation, do let us know so that members can send cards to their buddies. Lately we have been hearing of a lot of heart surgery and by-passes which is becoming more common. Don't forget yourself and inform us too if you have been having some health problems so that a card and note will be the medicine you need to get back on the right road. From now until October I'll be looking for a lot of news. You can also write on how you like this year's Reunion in Denver. It's going to be a good one with many nice tours and social events. Don't forget your lap robes and bibs. I hope to see all of you in Denver and do have a safe trip.

Dottie

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Charles and Edith Chapman at the Banquet in Lexington

**LADIES AUXILIARY BULLETIN MATERIAL AND PICTURES
SHOULD BE MAILED TO: DOROTHY (DOTTIE) A. WITZLEB**

P.O. Box 69 Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069

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

Telephone: 412/455-2901 should you need information in a hurry.

Can Anyone Recognize These Fellows?

These five photos were furnished by **Jack Duffy** of Rochester, New York, with no identification. The men in them are assumed to be former members of **Division Headquarters** and **Headquarters Company**. If you can give us assistance with any of them please contact National Headquarters.

[illegible]

**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

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
(Call anytime, day or night; weekends or holidays)

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

I am sorry and very sorry to Joseph "Joe" Wright that I did not mention him as an assistant to Chalmer Pearson at the golf tournament in Lexington, Kentucky last year. I never knew it and it wasn't mentioned in the write-up I received concerning the tournament on Page 20 of the last Bulletin. I just took it for granted that Frank Nemeth helped Chalmer at the tournaments. So I'll correct the last paragraph of that write-up to read —

Chalmer Pearson from Vandalia, Michigan, is the chairman of the golf tournament, with Joseph Wright, Forsyth, Missouri, assisting.

Was Frank just a golfer and if he was, how come he didn't win? He uses an eraser quite often on the links chipping off strokes. I am sure this year's "Chuck Herring Memorial Golf Tournament" at Denver will be bigger and greater than any to date.

Remember the golf tournament at Denver begins at 12:00 noon, on Friday, August 25th. So all you member golfers and wives bring your clubs. I don't believe it will be as warm as it was in Lexington. You may need your winter underwear.

A short note with an enclosure.

The attached notice has been running in our local weekly newspaper for about a month. I have a question — did the 69th meet the Russians at the Elbe or did the 9th do it?

As I recall, I was in Eilenburg when the link-up took place. Anyhow, I sort of dislike this notice's claim if it is not true. Article as follows:

New Jersey Chapter of the 9th Infantry Division is being formed at this time. Anyone who was a member of this famous division during World War II is eligible to join. The 9th Infantry Division fought from the invasion of North Africa, November 8, 1942, to the Elbe River, Germany, where it made contact with the Russians in May of 1945. Those

few men who lasted till the end earned eight battle stars, numerous Presidential Unit Citations, and various other honors.

In the course of its fighting through Africa, Sicily, France, Belgium, and Germany, the 9th Infantry suffered 24,000 casualties including almost 5,000 killed. The 9th Infantry Division Association has an annual reunion in different sections of the country for the survivors. The many local chapters serve to keep the members in touch with one another.

Anyone who served with this outfit or its attached units and is interested in joining the newly formed New Jersey Chapter, write or call Ed Hopkins, 110 Hollywood Avenue, Metuchen, 08840, 549-4121.

The above was sent in by:

John B. Trampler
185 Burnett Avenue
Maplewood, New Jersey 07040
Cannon Company, 271st Infantry

How did you like the new 69th insignia on the cover and back pages of the last Bulletin? If you didn't notice the change, then take a look at this issue. I think it is a big improvement and makes the two pages look better. Pierce Rice of A Company, 273rd Infantry, suggested this when Enrico D'Angelo and I visited him at his home the day after General Bolte's funeral. Any other members who would like to see changes in the Bulletin feel free to write me with your suggestions.

I'm going to make a suggestion at this time. Reading the black and white copy of our Bulletin is very good and interesting news. If possible, I would like anyone sending news to the Bulletin to also enclose a photo of yourself and wife too, so that we can see who you are. You send us your name, address, unit, and telephone number plus the write-up, but we never see your faces. This we would like to have from each of you. Those of you who are news reporters are especially urged to follow this request. Also it would be nice to see some faces in the Editor's column. I am sure other buddies would like to see who you are so that they can say, "Gee, How Young He Looks."

Again, when writing, please, if possible, type your letter or write big and plain so that we can make everything out. Some of the letters we get are worse than chicken scratching and hard to decipher. This will help Clarence and I along and make it easier for our Bulletin girl, Mira, who is doing a fine job, and improving with each issue. Don't you like reading the Bulletins? Yes - Yes - Yes.

How did you like the cover on the last Bulletin? This was drawn by Mira's (our bulletin girl) boyfriend, David Donahue, free hand. Clarence wanted the picture with the riderless horse so we used the picture I have of the General riding his horse at Camp Shelby. That picture was used on a previous Bulletin and also on the flyer you received telling of the death of General Charles Bolte.

I am finding it difficult along with my committee to locate members interested in holding our Reunions. We have one coming at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania after Denver but have nothing for 1991 and 1992. I have been thinking a good idea would be to have units run Reunions for the Division Association. Most units get an average of fifty at their mini weekends which would be ample help in running the show. Think about it, talk it over at your next weekend, and put a show on for the Division. I know the Mid-West group ran the Milwaukee Reunion as did Central Pennsylvania branch run the Host Reunion in Harrisburg the last time around. It's good for groups to do this if members in an area aren't willing to do a Reunion for the gang of good 69 BBB's.

(Continued on Page 20)

DOTTIE AND ME
(Continued from Page 19)

Dottie and I are very sorry we didn't make the 461st AAA Battery B Weekend but Lake Tahoe and the Lakeside Inn were just a little too far. Maybe next time. We hope to attend your weekend next year in the East. I am hopeful that it will be at Valley Forge with the Division Association. We did attend the Central Pennsylvania weekend and had a very good time with nice people. Many of them plan to be in Denver. Before this Bulletin reaches many of you we will have attended the Midwest Group Weekend as well as my own Tri-State Group Weekend in Erie, Pennsylvania. Dottie's vacation time limits our visits each year. Sorry we didn't make the 661st T.D.'s Weekend due to another commitment and I understand the Westerners from Arizona and the West had a two day get-together but nothing has come to me on this other than what I heard through the grapevine. I hope this is a start for that group which has been idle for a few years. We need good groups that enjoy themselves on weekends and plan for the Division Association's Annual Reunion where we can all get together.

Has anyone decided on 1992 when I asked all groups to attend a National Reunion? I hope to be hearing something on this very soon. Time passes by pretty quick and only a few Bulletins will be published before that time is here. Do plan for National Reunions members, since the enjoyment found in the hospitality room is well worth the trip besides all the other events and activities. Dottie and I hope to see you all in Denver this coming August. What, only a month away. Be there because we all come.

I believe an answer to the short letter/note in this column is - it was the 69th Infantry Division that officially met the Russians to end World War II.

We are on our way to Denver. All yours 69 BBB's have a safe and enjoyable trip to mile high city. We'll be looking for you.

Earl and Dottie

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George Straley of B-661st T.D. Battalion Passes Along This Information

George H. Straley, 2723 Shipley Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19810 — Hq., 661st T.D. Bn.: It is sad for me to report the death of my old friend and comrade, John E. "Jack" Rickert, who suffered a fatal heart attack in his apartment at Ocean City, New Jersey, January 5th of this year.

We served together in Company B, 661st T.D. for some months before I was transferred to Hq., 661st, and he was transferred out of the battalion and sent overseas as a replacement. Jack finally saw action with the 100th Infantry Division. A lot of the fellows who knew and liked Jack never knew what happened to him after he left the 661st. He was captured by the Germans while manning a machine gun post in the Vosges Mountains during the Battle of the Bulge, in January 1945. He finished out the war in a concentration camp.

Jack's health was never very good after the war. He was in and out of VA hospitals, most recently the one in Elsmere, Delaware, but was living alone and getting along very well in his Ocean City apartment over the past ten years. I kept in touch with him, and I will miss him.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Former Members of Service Company, 273rd Infantry



Norman Feinberg, Mail Carrier



Left to Right: Cliff Stolpe and Herb Polfus



Left to Right standing: Cliff Stolpe, Halverson, Magelerei
Squatting: Ringo

Pictures furnished by Cliff Stolpe

More on the Shuler Bible Story

Submitted by Lynn C. Johnson
Company F, 272nd Infantry

Dear Editor,

I should like to be permitted to participate in the quest for the final resting place for Daniel R. Shuler's Bible. When our nation became party to the conflict, I was a student at West Virginia University. Along with others, I was also a student in the school's R.O.T.C. Program, and, upon being selected for the Advanced Program in my junior year, we were subsequently activated in the Army as P.F.C.s, I believe. At the end of the then current school term we were given the election of Infantry, Armored or Tank Destroyer Basic Training.

I, along with three others, opted for Tank Destroyer Basic Training, but, in the Army's own inimitable way, the four of us wound up at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and Armored Force basic training. Our Company at Fort Knox was a unique training company as about 3/4 of the men in it were R.O.T.C. students from several eastern colleges.

It was at Fort Knox that I became acquainted with Daniel R. Shuler. As I recall, he was a southern young man with a very distinctive southern accent. It comes to mind that he had come from a similar R.O.T.C. program at The Citadel at Charleston, South Carolina. I further seem to recall that he was from a professional military family. It lingers in my mind that his father may have been the Commandant of the school (Citadel) or at least held some position with the school. My recollection of Daniel R. Shuler at Fort Knox is that he was a very "Gung Ho" military man - at that time. Our time at Fort Knox was during the summer of 1943. After we completed the Armored Force Basic Training, all the R.O.T.C. students were returned to their respective colleges to await openings for us in O.C.S.

And, in the Army's own inimitable way, after giving us 16 weeks of Armored Force basic training, it sent us to the Infantry O.C.S. at Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon completion, I was assigned to the 69th Division at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Upon reporting in, I was assigned to F Company, 272nd, under Captain Herb Callaway.

I heard nothing further of Dan Shuler until we were in England, when Robert F. Scott, a W.V.U., Basic Training, and O.C.S. classmate told me that Dan Shuler was in his regiment (271st or 273rd). Bob was killed on a patrol in the Seigfried Line not too long after the 69th went on line. It has been through the writing in the 69th Association publication that I have learned of Dan Shuler's death.

At the time it happened, the story we heard was that the platoon (or patrol) - presumably Dan's - was in a German pillbox when someone's foot (or boot) caught on the pull pin of a satchel charge causing the explosion that killed all. After it happened, we were all cautioned to leave explosive charges outside of any enclosed gathering.

It is not my intention to further confuse this already confused matter, but I feel, and have felt, that I was a contemporary of Dan Shuler, having had basic training with him and his schedule of O.C.S. and assignment to the 69th were somewhat parallel with mine. Another contemporary of mine at W.V.U., Basic Training, O.C.S. and the 69th is James R. Kidd, who was in charge of the Reunion at Lexington, Kentucky last year (which I was constrained to miss). I feel fairly sure that Jim will also remember Dan Shuler from Fort Knox.

With best wishes,
Lynn C. Johnson (F-272)

Does Anyone Remember Bernard O. McCormick?

I noted in ARMY TIMES that you are the contact point for an upcoming Reunion of the 69th Infantry Division. Therefore, my reason to contact you. One of my uncles, (now deceased), served in the 69th. I never got to know him very well, and on a long shot, thought I would write on the chance at your next Reunion, someone would remember him, and his military service.

The following is what I can offer to assist: My Uncle was Bernard O. McCormick from Sewickley, Pennsylvania. He was a T-4 in rank and I think he was with an AAA Battalion. He initially served in the Coast Artillery assigned to the Philadelphia area. When the 69th was forming, he volunteered and went to Camp Shelby, Mississippi with the Division. He deployed overseas with the Division and remained with the 69th until after V-E day when he came back to the United States for discharge. He returned to Sewickley for a few years, then moved to Florida where he remained until his death (to the best of my knowledge). I do know that he served in combat, being trapped behind German lines for several days, prior to safe return to United States lines. His ETO ribbon had two or three battle stars.

Enclosed is a picture of him taken in Germany after V-E day, prior to returning home. This may help some of your veterans identify him at your Reunion this year. If possible, I would appreciate the return of the picture.



Thank you for your interest in this request. I am sure you get many such requests, and I hope this is not too much of a bother to you. Any and all information you might be able to obtain is appreciated.

Best wishes for a successful Reunion.

Sincerely,
George H. Duell, Jr.
Colonel
Infantry - USAR

New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

Art Cook — E-272nd
2615 Cook Drive, Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501

Walter J. Whitmer
5916 Inkster Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan 48033

Pete Timpanelli — Med., 1st Bn., 271st
50 Jesse Avenue, Stratford, Connecticut 06497

Frank Lee
1702 Bayard Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21222

Orland P. Pullen — B-271st
811 Southlawn, Jenison, Michigan 49428

Raymond A. Rivest — B-271st
94 Fairview Avenue, Chicopee, Massachusetts 01013

Wayne Weygandt — B-271st
1913 Columbus Street, Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Herbert G. Erhart — E-271st
P.O. Box 579, Eagar, Arizona 85925

Charles E. Weaver — C-272nd
1001 Bainbridge Place, Columbus, Ohio 43228

William V. Rehman — A-271st
30420 12th Avenue, S.W., Federal Way, Washington 98003

Fred E. Fiedler — I-272nd
R.R. #1, Box 615, Genoa City, Wisconsin 53128

Louis W. Pohopek — D-271st
62 Cider Hill Road, York, Maine 03909

Jim McLean — Hq.-273rd
706 Chestnut Street, Anaconda, Montana 59711

Richard Daniels — B-272nd
215 Court Street, Columbiana, Ohio 44408

Dean I. Daniels — K-272nd
2231 Stahlwood Drive, Sandusky, Ohio 44870

Roger Declercq — Hq.-273rd
2117 Rosewood Lane, Alexandria, Minnesota 56308

Aaron B. Taulbee
4740 S.R. 73 West, Wilmington, Ohio 45177

Sol Schindler
5015 Rodman Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20816

Ralph Savino — G-273rd
239 Brookside Circle, Florence, Massachusetts 01060

Maynard W. Pechman — Hq., 2nd Bn. - 273rd
3023 46th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50310

Paul P. Blitz — Hq., 2nd Bn. - 271st
318A Savannah Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21221

James R. Blackwood — B-271st
P.O. Box 138, Holly Pond, Alabama 35083

M. S. McClendon
2635 Lee Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71301

Judson F. Bartholomew — A-880th
210 Chamber Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865

Earl Hansen — B-271st
387 Yant Road, Pulaski, Tennessee 38478

Henry Milner — B-271st
HRC 69, Box 2033, Ironton, Missouri 63650

Ralph L. Bayless — E-271st
30 Jodie Lane, Apt. C, Wilmington, Ohio 45177

Primor A. Palmer
24 Stillwater Avenue, Mechanicsville, New Jersey 12118

Erwin D. Seba — Hq., 777th
2508 4th Avenue, Leavenworth, Kansas 66048

John A. Tujague — Hq., 2nd Bn. - 272nd
13641 Loretta Drive, Tustin, California 92680

Lloyd M. Lippman — K-273rd
1805 Joslyn 92, Helena, Montana 59601-0112

Ernest Krause — 269th Eng.
444 Pioneer Drive, Addison, Illinois 60101

Robert Aaron — K-272nd
Country Club Road, R.D. 2, Box 3915
Ellwood City, Pennsylvania 16117

Ellis M. Benson
426 Fulvia Street, Leucadia, California 92024

Eric H. Johnson — 269th Eng.
165-03 Grand Central Parkway, Jamaica, New York 11432

Graham S. McConnell, M.D.
Box 629, Tekoa, Washington 99033

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: 717/532-2974

Gaylord W. Thomas — Member - Hq. Co. 777th Tk. Bn.
432 Doty Street
Waupun, Wisconsin 53963
Telephone: 414/324-4065

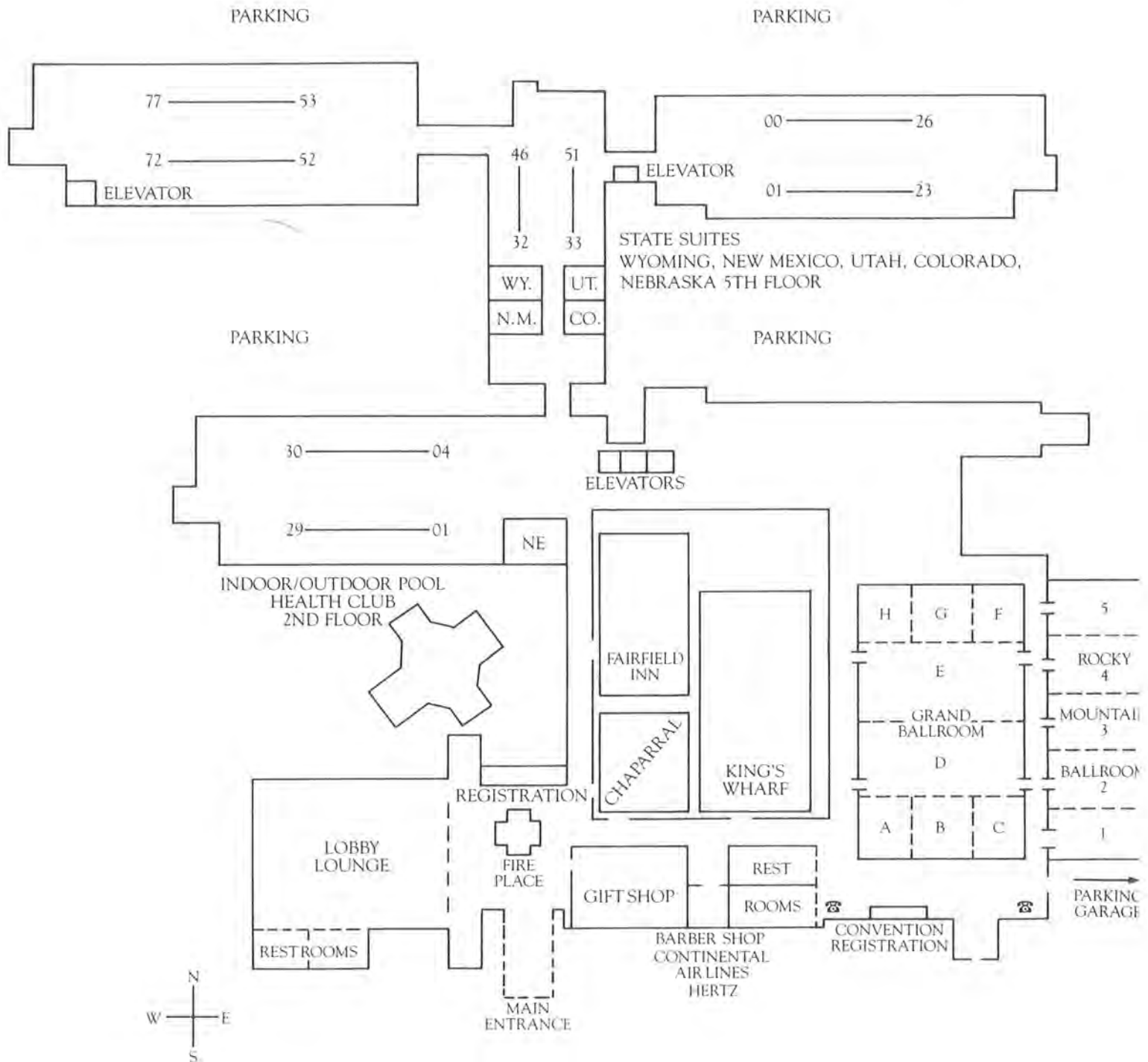
Jacob Stark, Jr. — Member - 273rd Inf., Co. H
691 Dunkle Street
Enhaut-Steelton, Pennsylvania 17113
Telephone: 717/939-4802

I'm hoping that we get some results at Denver but the interest seems to be lacking in members wanting to take charge to have a Reunion in their home area. I have checked with some members but they shy away from wanting to be Reunion Chairmen. We need a chairman and should have a committee of at least eight to ten couples to really run a Reunion right. You all, I am sure, know what the other requirements are.

Robert Kurtzman and **William Foster** seem to be the most interested in holding a Reunion in Biloxi, Mississippi. I have had inquiries from New Orleans, Kansas City, Huntsville, Detroit, San Francisco, Baltimore, Seattle, Indianapolis and a location somewhere in Texas but it seems members in those areas don't want to be bothered. If a member or members from the areas mentioned are interested in running a reunion, please go to your bigger hotel in the area and get things started or go to the Convention Bureau in that area and let them help you.

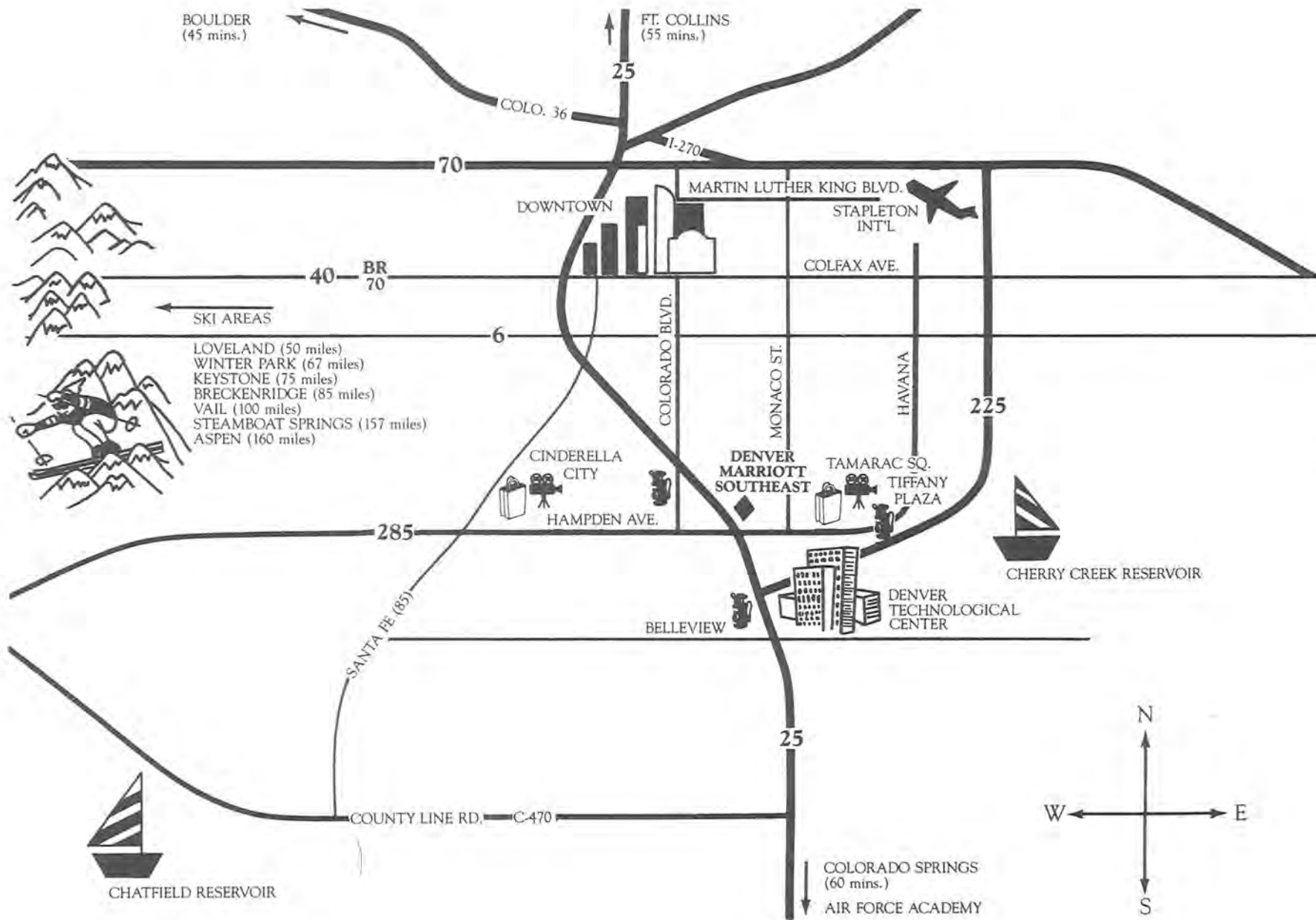
Time is running short but if you need help, feel free to call me or one of my committee members. We need at least two locations by the time we leave Denver.

Denver Marriott Southeast - Floor Plan



For the Saturday Night Banquet Dinner Dance, early registrations will sit in the Grand Ballroom. Late-Late-Late registrations and walk-ins will sit in the Rocky Mountain Ballroom.

Denver Map





February 15, 1989. Black Angus Lunch, Mesa, Arizona. Left to right: Frank See, John Havey, Keith Curtis, Bob Myers.



March 1, 1989. Frank See's patio in Phoenix. Left to right: Barbara Yastrzemski, Bob Myers, Frank See, Ray Fahrner, Chester Yastrzemski.



March 3, 1989. Leonard and Corky Halpenny, 69th Lunch, Crescent Hotel, Phoenix, Arizona.



March 3, 1989. Frank See's home, Phoenix, Arizona. Left to right: Keith Curtis, Don Ballard, Bob Myers, Ray Fahrner.



March 3, 1989. Crescent Hotel Luncheon to honor Chet and Barbara and Ray Fahrner visit. Left to right: Bob Myers, Chester Yastrzemski, Colleen and Keith Curtis.

**The happy faces
of 69ers
getting together and
having fun doing it!**

Pictures furnished by Bob Myers

Ordeal of Liberation at Colditz

George F. Harper of Albuquerque, New Mexico has sent some information on Colditz requested in the September-December Bulletin. It is taken from a Master's thesis written by Eric Narveson, a history teacher at a junior high school in Fremont, California. He recommends for further reading "*Colditz: The German Side of the Story*" by Reinhold Eggers and "*Escape from Colditz*" by Patrick R. Reed.

* * * * *

In the spring of 1945, two gigantic enemy armies had invaded Germany seizing or destroying everything in their paths.

The end of the war — the liberation of Europe — was in sight. Among the many places captured by the Allies that spring were Nazi prisoner of war camps. The storybook castle at Colditz with its cache of "problem prisoners" was one of them. Colditz lay roughly in the center of a geographic triangle formed by the cities of Leipzig, Dresden and Chemnitz (now Karl Marx Stadt) in Saxony, Germany. In April, 1945, the Soviet First Ukrainian Army was advancing from the east, pushing a torrent of refugees ahead of it, while the U.S. First Army was advancing from the west.

Colditz had been a summer hunting lodge for Saxony kings for nearly 800 years, had fallen to the Imperialists in the Thirty Years' War and been occupied by the Swedes. In 1800, Colditz became a prison and in 1828, an insane asylum. The Nazis turned Colditz into a concentration camp in 1933; in the late 1930's, the grounds were used as a Hitler Youth Work Camp.

In October, 1939 the castle was an Allied prisoner of war camp. At first it held Polish officers captured in the invasion of Poland. Later Colditz housed only the most dangerous and habitual escapers — the Germans thinking it an excellent idea to keep all their most troublesome prisoners in one jail. Colditz gained a proud reputation among Allied prisoners of war as the camp for "bad boys." The castle held captive Czechs, Poles, Dutch, Belgians, French, Yugoslavs, Britons, Canadians, Indians, South Africans, Australians, New Zealanders and Americans.

The men were not discouraged by the fact that the Germans considered their camp escape-proof. An escape attempt occurred on the average of once every ten days for more than four years. Escapers tried every route: through walls and bars, over roofs and ceilings, under floors and foundations. Some were quick and impromptu and others were long and well planned. French prisoners spent eight months digging a 144-foot tunnel through solid rock, using table knives and soup spoons, only to be discovered by the Germans with less than a week's work left before breaking out. Other escape efforts were equally daring and imaginative. British prisoners even built a glider in the castle attic (although it was never flown).

Between escape attempts, prisoners busied themselves with baiting their captors, organizing pantomimes, musicals and full-dress 'ballets' featuring tough-looking POWs prancing about in paper tutus. A rough-and-tumble version of English soccer, called stoolball, was also popular. Food rations for prisoners were adequate, if not exactly delectable. Food parcels from home were occasionally permitted and were put into a pool for all to share.

The French, Polish, Dutch and Belgian POWs were removed from the camp in 1943. The remaining prisoners were primarily from the British Commonwealth. Escape attempts began to taper off after June 6, 1944 when the Allies landed in Normandy.

In the fall of 1944, new "special prisoners" began arriving at the castle, including three Americans captured by the Gestapo during the German conquest of Hungary in March. Other "special prisoners" included a nephew of Winston Churchill, the eldest son of the Viceroy of India, a nephew of Queen Elizabeth and King George VI, a Polish general who was the leader of the Warsaw Uprising of 1944, and John Winant, Jr., son of the American Ambassador to Great Britain. These men were kept separated from the rest of the prisoners, and their activities observed day and night. The Germans felt these men could be used to bargain for certain treaty concessions, for anything less than unconditional surrender.

A plan for a special rescue mission by parachutists was developed by the British and became a directive from SHAEF to the First Allied Airborne Army, but was never carried out, due primarily to the swiftness of the Allied advance into Germany.

The Allied POWs became apprehensive when a Soviet plane strafed the castle on April 9, and even more so on the next day when the remnants of a retreating German infantry regiment arrived in the town of Colditz and began arming the people of the town. The captain had orders to make a stand at the Mulde River, a few hundred yards west of the castle.

By April 11, the inhabitants of Colditz could see and hear the war first-hand. They also followed the progress of the U.S. First Army from BBC reports received on a hidden radio.

The Camp Headquarters received an order from the Army Command Area IV to move the "special prisoners" to another prison 50 miles east of Colditz upon receipt of a code word. On April 12, thousands of refugees were pouring over the town bridge across the Mulde to avoid the "inhuman" Russians. In town, the men continued to prepare a last-ditch defense, including planting explosives that dated from World War I under the town bridge.

Sometime after 5:00 p.m. the code word arrived, but the order was disputed by the Senior British Officer, W. "Willie" Tod, Brigadier E. F. Davies of the British Army, and Lt. Col. Florimond Duke of the U.S. Army. After agreeing to send the Colditz security officers and a heavy guard with the two trucks, the "special prisoners" were moved out, escorted by two motorcycles, an armored car and the reluctant security officer.

The next morning, the last vestiges of an SS division arrived in the Colditz area and prepared to defend the hills east of the castle. Sometime during the following 72 hours, the SS troops went to a concentration camp two miles south of Colditz where they murdered 400 Hungarian Jews who were being used as slave laborers. Four of the Jews managed to survive by crawling under the bodies of the dead.

On April 14 the order was received to destroy-evacuate the castle. The prisoners were to be moved east on any available transport, which consisted of one antique motor car and two horse-drawn carts. Tod refused to move his men and asked the Kommandant to inform headquarters of this. When the Kommandant could not get anyone at headquarters to take responsibility for the consequences of a forced move, he decided to ignore the order.

During the morning a watcher among the prisoners spotted American Thunderbolt fighter planes to the southwest. Twenty prisoners spelled out the letters "P-O-W" on the black cobblestones in the courtyard with sheets and blankets. One of the planes flew directly over the castle and the prisoners waved and cheered. They could clearly see the pilot and hoped that he had recognized them.

(Continued on Page 27)

ORDEAL OF LIBERATION AT COLDITZ (Continued from Page 26)

In the afternoon, as the outskirts of town were being hit by artillery fire, **Tod** and **Duke** went to the Kommandant and persuaded him to surrender the German garrison to the POWs. To avoid arousing suspicion of nearby SS, prison guards would remain at their posts. They were ordered not to fire upon prisoners or approaching American soldiers. No national flags or white flags were to be shown.

The Kommandant demanded compensation for his surrender: a safe conduct agreement and exoneration from any complaints of alleged violations of the Geneva Convention governing correct treatment of prisoners of war. This was granted with two exceptions. The first was the killing of **British Lt. Michael Sinclair** while he was attempting to escape on September 25, 1944. That had been "the Red Fox's" sixth escape attempt. He was only 26 years old when he was shot by a German sentry. **Tod** and **Duke** demanded a full investigation after liberation. The second was responsibility for the safety of the "special prisoners." If they suffered any harm prior to their safe liberation, the staff at Colditz would be held responsible.

On April 15 American Thunderbolts reappeared and began strafing strongholds in the town and a half-dozen American Sherman tanks entered the open fields two miles west of the castle and began firing. When the SS on the ridge returned fire, their aim was poor and several rounds fell on the town, killing many German defenders. They ceased firing. American artillery was firing at the castle and killed a German corporal and a French prisoner was injured. **Lt. Kenneth B. Dodson** of the 73rd Armored Field Battalion, Ninth Armored Division, intended to destroy the castle but firing was stopped when it was reported that French and British flags were hanging from the castle windows.

The battle continued for the rest of the day and into the night. **Captain Guy Nunn** was one of five American prisoners at Colditz and at 3:00 a.m. the Kommandant chose him to leave the castle and contact the Americans and lead them back to the prison to accept its surrender. **Nunn** waited until dawn, but when he went out he was greeted by machine gun fire. He identified himself to the GIs by calling, "This is kosher." It was a stroke of genius. No Nazi would use a Jewish word like "kosher," not even as a trick.

The two GIs (advance scouts from their company) recognized the uniform and followed him back to the castle. As soon as they were inside the gates, one of the soldiers went into a guard box and emerged with a framed picture of Adolf Hitler. Raising the portrait above his head, he smashed it to the cobblestones and ground it under his boot heel. A roar of cheers went up from the prisoners' windows in the castle. With that simple gesture they knew that they were finally free.

Colonel Shaughnessy arrived later to formally accept surrender of the castle and its garrison. Within two days of liberation, the ex-prisoners were on their way to England. The castle was occupied by American troops from the 9th Armored and 69th Infantry Division. They were forced to abandon Colditz in July, 1945 because the castle was located in a region by then designated as the Soviet occupation zone. Later, the castle was used as a hospital for Soviet officers suffering from venereal disease. In 1949, now part of newly created East Germany, Colditz returned to its unhappy function of insane asylum.

Weapons Platoon, Company F, 271st Infantry

Pictures furnished by **Walter Bernhardt**



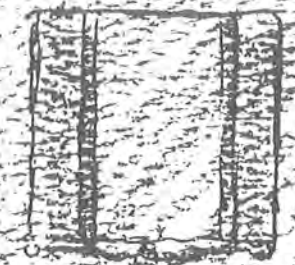
Weapons Platoon, Company F, 271st Infantry, in Cerco, Belgium, February, 1945. Rear Left to Right: Romanski, McKenna, Paley, Tenney. Front: Bernhardt, Farris, Gitchell



Weapons Platoon, Company F, 271st Infantry, Belgium. Rear Left to Right: McKenna, Gitchell, Romanski, Bernhardt. Front: Tenney and Popich



Cheateau de Bruttelle at Liesse Gizet, France. Around January 1945. Company F-271st stayed here for a few days.



CHARLES LAW

1895-



MENTOR AND
he prepared us for the fra

Our link with the general whose loss we mourn here is owed our fond recollection of the intense period in which he presided over the Sixty-Ninth Division's being made ready for battle, and the long years following, during which the bonds forged in Mississippi, between the general and ourselves were only strengthened, but we pay honor, too, to his splendid career, in France, seventy years ago, with



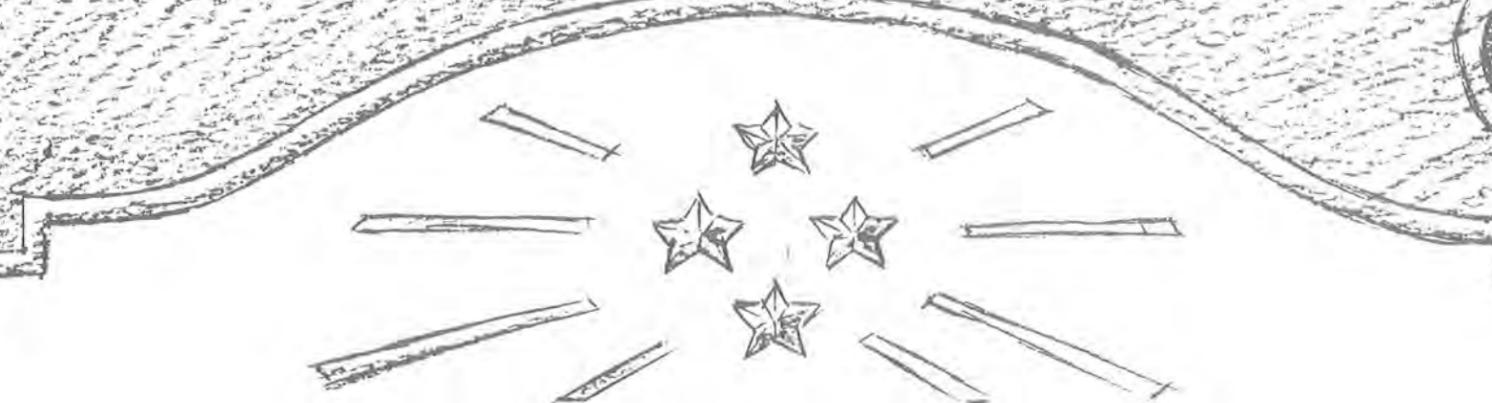
RENCE BOLTE
1989



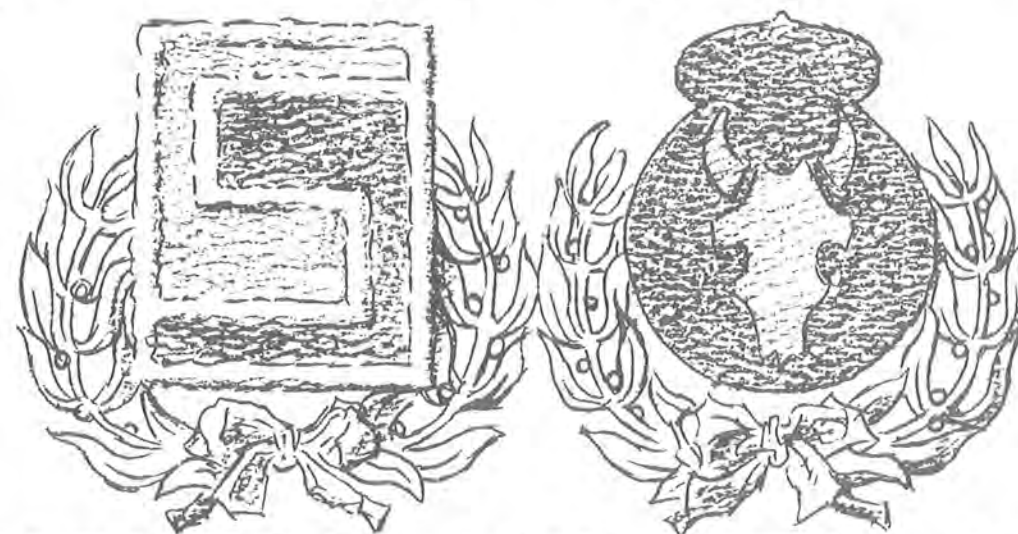
ND LEADER
y and preceded us into it



the Fourth Division, and during our own war, in command of the Thirty-Fourth Division in Italy, and before and after that in peacetime, with the famous Fifteenth Infantry in China, at the Command and General Staff School, the Army War College, and at the head of the Seventh Army and then the American Army in Europe itself, from which he returned home to retire as Vice-Chief of Staff.



CHARLES LAWRENCE BOLTE
1895-1989



MENTOR AND LEADER

he prepared us for the fray and preceded us into it



Our link with the general whose loss we mourn here is owed our fond recollection of the intense period in which he presided over the Sixty-Ninth Division's being made ready for battle, and the long years following, during which the bonds forged in Mississippi, between the general and ourselves were only strengthened, but we pay honor, too, to his splendid career, in France, seventy years ago, with

the Fourth Division, and during our own war, in command of the Thirty-Fourth Division in Italy, and before and after that in peacetime, with the famous Fifteenth Infantry in China, at the Command and General Staff School, the Army War College, and at the head of the Seventh Army and then the American Army in Europe itself, from which he returned home to retire as Vice-Chief of Staff.

**69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 1989 REUNION
42nd ANNUAL REUNION
461st AAA BN. - 661st T.D. BN. - 777th TANK BN.
DENVER, COLORADO
AUGUST 20th to 27th, 1989**

Reservations:

Denver Marriott Southeast
I-25 at Hampton Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80222
Telephone: 303/758-7000
Toll Free: 800/228-9290

HOUSING: Please reserve one of the following:

_____ King 1 person; _____ King 2 persons; _____ Double-Double 2 persons;
_____ Double-Double 3 persons; _____ Double-Double 4 persons.

All rooms are \$52.00 per night plus 11.8% local taxes = \$58.14

I / We plan to arrive (day) _____, August _____, 1989. (Check in after 2:00 P.M.)

I / We plan to depart (day) _____, August _____, 1989. (Check out time - 12:00 Noon)

I/We will be bringing guest(s) _____ Adults _____ Children

I/We wish to be quartered in the same area as: Unit _____

Send Confirmation to: (Please Type or Print)

Name: _____

Street / R.D. / P.O. Box: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Telephone / Area Code: _____

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

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I authorize Marriott Southeast 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 three 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 20, 1989.

Dear Earl,

Here are some pictures for the Bulletin. I have heard from B. J. Smith in Spokane, Washington and "Chuck" Williams from Reno, Nevada recently because of my name appearing in the 69th Bulletin.

Thanks much! If you know the whereabouts of any of these men, I would appreciate hearing.

Sincerely,
Frank Buddenbaum

Photo right: Headquarters Company, 273rd Regiment, 69th Infantry Division

Back Row, Left to Right: "Pop" Weatherby, Vern Grantham, Frank Buddenbaum, S/Sgt. "Mert" Nuttal, Bob Richardson, John Cobb. Middle Row, Left to Right: Doug Hyde, "Chick" Moyer, "Hermie" Whacker, "Jo-Jo" Kanick, Sgt. Ken Teeter. Front Row, Left to Right: "Rich" Bryant, "Jack" Yealy, H. L. Smith, Mike Hatzis

Somewhere in Germany 1945

"Mert" and Bob are buried in Germany.



After the War
Kassal, Germany 1945
"The 268 Nite Club"

Left to Right:
Frans, Taylor, Bud,
Baldwin, Eman,
B. J. Smith, Donahue,
Brussard, Mahafey,
Harness, Port,
Bolling, Nissman

Photo Left:

Left to Right: P.F.C. H. L. Smith, P.F.C. Tom "Fats" Nagle, THE STATUE, P.F.C. Frank Buddenbaum, Sgt. Ken Teeter.

Grimma, Germany 1945

Photo Right:

Left to Right: Bobby J. Smith, THE STATUE, Sgt. Ken Teeter.

Headquarters Company
273rd Regiment,
69th Infantry Division



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

(Continued from Page 32)

880th Field Artillery A Battery

John G. Barnett, Reporter
6374 Brandywine Trail
Norcross, Georgia 30092

I would appreciate it if you would mention in your next Bulletin that A Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion is having its fourth weekend from September 28th to October 1st, 1989. It will be at the Holiday Inn, Florence, Kentucky. Anyone wishing more information can call me at 404/448-6513 or write me.

We have located another veteran of A Battery — **Judson F. Bartholomew**, 210 Chamber Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865.

I am sorry to report that the following comrades of A Battery have been reported as deceased: **John Meisenholder**, **Peter Walko**, **Salvatore Frendy**, and **F. W. Piepenbrok**.

Thanks to all of you who spend so much time to make the 69th Infantry Division Association a smashing success! Your Bulletins are must reading and contain so much information.

Note from Earl: Lots of luck on your weekend and enjoy it. Follow up with a report on how it went and who attended for the "Division Association Unit Mini-Weekends" section of our Bulletin. Make sure your members pay National Division Dues to keep these Bulletins coming to each member. Hope to see many of your unit members at Denver in August. Track record only shows one A Battery member attending the National Reunion in three years and that was **James and Geneva Bilbrey** from Tennessee, who attended the Lexington, Kentucky 1988 Reunion. You fellows and sweethearts will enjoy the tours, meetings, fellowship, and banquet dinner dance at the higher level of the Association. Will we see some of you in Denver?

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

269th Engineers

Frank and Ted Nemeth, Coordinators
66 Gaping Rock Road
Levittown, Pennsylvania 19057
Telephone: 215/945-3809

Hi Ya'll:

Hope to see you in the mile high city of Denver next August coming. They'll think they are being over run with "flat-landers" from the 69th Infantry Division. We'll all probably be a huffing and puffing all over that state since we are not as young and virile like we were after "Basic Training."

I've enclosed a couple of photos that **George Roup**, Company A, sent me of the good old days down on the Leaf River, Camp Shelby, Mississippi. It's hard to forget building those bridges and tearing them down, only to build them up again

for a record and then tearing them down. It was a good day to be on KP or Guard Duty. Those photos are of Company A and showed they did a good job on this bridge, since a tank is going over it.

The photo of **Ward Peterson** and **Albert Winchester** of Company B was a pleasure to take since neither of these guys could recognize the other and when I introduced them they both said, No! that's not **Peterson**! No! is that really **Winchester**. Gee! It's only been a little over 40 years since they parted company and only live a few miles apart. **Winchester** was the jeep driver for **Peterson**. Maybe that's why he'd rather stand than sit around - can't forget those rough rides!



*Left to right: Company B, 269th Engineers
Ward Peterson (Lieutenant) and Albert Winchester*

Lately we've lost three men from Company B and knew them all well. **Sergeant W. P. Sample** came in on the Cadre and made a couple of the Reunions over the past few years. He was the sergeant that greeted me when I arrived at 269th Engineers at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. I never could get over his slow Texas drawl and I'm sure all the guys will think back and miss him. Condolences to his wife **Anne** and family.

Peter Fox will always be remembered for the big man he was and also the soft spoken man. He never had a harsh word for anyone. I'm sure all the guys in the 1st Platoon and B Company will miss him.

Frank Velarde was in the 3rd Platoon and was a good soldier who just did his job and got along with everyone real well, stayed pretty much down in Texas after the war.

If you can't make it to Denver, ya gotta make it to King of Prussia in Pennsylvania (Valley Forge) for the Reunion, since the Co-Hosts will be **Dan Evers** and yours truly. This is a lovely area and a nice hotel with lots to do nearby. We'll give ya all the details later so all you Engineers start saving your pennies (\$) for late 1990.

So — Best to you and yours and take care.

Your Ole Buddy,
Frank

(Continued on Page 34)

**1989 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
42nd ANNUAL REUNION
DENVER COLORADO - Denver Marriott Southeast - I-25 at Hampton Avenue
AUGUST 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 1989**

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

(Continued from Page 33)



November 1st, 1944 - West Ponton Site, Leaf River, Camp Shelby, Mississippi. (Bridge Photos sent in by George Roup)



*Maybe someone will remember the tank
"You Never Know"*



*Corporal Anthony Leti, Pfc. Michael O'Connor,
Corporal Michael Ventura*

269th ENGINEERS

Photos gathered by Frank Nemeth, 269th Engineers
Secretary, 69th Infantry Division Association



November 1st, 1944 - Ponton Brige, Leaf River, Camp Shelby, Mississippi, (George Roup and ?)



*Left to right: Corporal Williams, Pfc. Cornell, Sergeant T/4
Buckett, Pfc. Reynolds - Taken in Naunhoff, Germany.*



Captain D. O. Thornton, C.O. of Company B

(Continued on Page 35)

269th ENGINEERS

Photos gathered by Frank Nemeth, 269th Engineers
Secretary, 69th Infantry Division Association



Left to right: Sergeant Earl Christner, Joe Egineton, Carl Bahaus, ? Hall, ? Hershey, Al Winchester, Roy Fletcher, Berman Schalbaugh — Photo taken at Shelby, Mississippi

661st Tank Destroyer Battalion

Charles (Chuck) and Frances (O'Roark) Yannul,
Coordinators and Reporters
927 West Browning Road
Bellmawr, New Jersey 08031
Telephone: 609/931-2125
or 2nd Home
R. 1, Box 35-A, Route 33
Hinton, Virginia 22831

Attendance List - 1989 661st T.D. Reunion Harrisonburg, Virginia

Leonard Addorisio — Stratford, Connecticut
Bill and Jo Beswick — West Point, Virginia
Jim Binder and Libby — Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Ralph and Chris Bragg — Chase City, Virginia
Richard Brown (First Timer) — Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Ralph and Vera Chase — Hatboro, Pennsylvania
William and Audrey Coen and 2 Guests — Parkersburg,
West Virginia
Paul Cole — Lutherville, Maryland
Sal and Crystal Cucchiaro — Allegany, New York
Dick and Betty Davis — Greencastle, Pennsylvania
Bill and Margaret Dawson — Nathalie, Virginia
Leo and Grace Dove — Dayton, Virginia
Steve and Anne Forges and son Alan — Seven Hills, Ohio
Sam and Gertrude Goldberg — Pembroke Pines, Florida
Stanley and Gertrude Green — Battle Creek, Michigan

Harold and Peggy Hicks — Hatboro, Pennsylvania
Linwood Hobgood and Son — Richmond, Virginia
Walter Jamerson — Lynchburg, Virginia
Tom Knick — Clifton Forge, Virginia
Mike and Dorothy Kotnik — Elyria, Ohio
Ed and Mary Krenek — Maple Heights, Ohio
Nelson and Betty Leaman — Rheems, Pennsylvania
Leo and Ellen Levie — Baltimore, Maryland
Millard and Ruth Mellinger — Wrightsville, Pennsylvania
Harry and Edna Murray — Bedford, Virginia
Milton Patterson — Charlottesville, Virginia
Marcel and Carol Pugsley — Yoder, Indiana
Joe and Helen Purnell — Lebanon, Pennsylvania
George and Helen Ringer and Betty (First Timer) —
Hopedale, Ohio
Dan and Esther Russo — Livingston, New Jersey
Carlo and Carol Scampini — Chicago Heights, Illinois
Burnell and Louise Scott — Warsaw, Virginia
John and Leora Sherlock — Pawtucket, Rhode Island
Julius and Pat Slopek — Munroe Falls, Ohio
William and Ellen Snidow — Pembroke, Virginia
Charles and Alma Stuart — Speedwell, Virginia
Jack and Jane Sutor — Lynchburg, Virginia
Martha Venable (widow of Ralph Venable)
Jefferson, Georgia
Bill and Mary Wahl — Chagrin Falls, Ohio
Chuck and Frances Yannul (Hosts) — Bellmawr, New Jersey
2nd Home, Hinton, Virginia

(Continued on Page 36)

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

(Continued from Page 35)

Got this far on your letter this morning when yours arrived in the mail. We were waiting for you at the Reunion but can understand since you had short notice.

The Reunion of the 661st turned out great. We had 40 actual members and an attendance at the supper Saturday of 77 counting friends and relations. Largest turn-out that anyone can remember.

We have a double-wide mobile home down there and though the walls gave a little bit, we got everyone in for a happy hour on Saturday afternoon. Another surprise we had, was the arrival of seven couples a day early which helped make things even better.

One of our members, Lawrence Dove, was unable to attend the Reunion so Saturday morning, we took a trip out to see him and amongst his visitors was his old destroyer commander, Marcel Pugsley.

There were two first timers, Richard Brown of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and George Ringer of Hopedale, Ohio.

Since we've been having a faithful turn-out from the folks in Ohio and surrounding areas for a long time, it was decided that Ohio in early June next year would be the site of the next get-together.

Thanks many times for sending us the 69th Bulletin as it's so very handy to have the latest information when hosting a Reunion. I posted your Tri-State information on our bulletin board. It was brought to my attention that neither Walt Grossman or Ralph Venable's death has been published in the Bulletin, both of whom died more than a year ago. Ralph's widow, Martha, stayed with us in Hinton, Virginia and seemed to enjoy meeting old friends again.

Due to prior commitments we most likely won't be able to make the Tri-State or Denver but surely would like to see you in Ohio or whenever you go to Atlantic City (everyone goes, sooner or later), you had better not pass us by without stopping to see us. Almost all routes take you, at the most, within 5 or 10 miles of our Bellmawr address - we're right across the river from Philadelphia.

Note from Earl: I love to write notes. For a first timer you did real well with your report Frances or should I say Chuck. After all, we are a men's organization. (69th Infantry Division and all our attached Mini-Weekends). But not really, we need all you lovely gals as our secretaries to keep us straight. After all us old men are getting older while you wives all seem to be getting younger. We do need you gals and the Auxiliary to the Association proves my point. They are a fine bunch of wives, girlfriends, and lady guests. I know all the mini's have great women who do more than their share too.

Dottie and I were sorry we didn't make your Harrisonburg, Virginia weekend but as I said, we did have another commitment that I couldn't get out of. We will attend your next year's weekend in Ohio if the information gets out early enough and if you do not have it May 30-31, June 1, 2, 3, 1990. You will read in the Bulletin where this weekend has already been set up for the Tri-State Group Spring Weekend at the Holiday Inn, Elyria, Ohio - just off the Ohio Turnpike at Exit 8. All you 661ers are welcome to visit us at that time and especially those from Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

The only trouble stopping at your home going to Atlantic City is that we may need a few more dollars and I am sure you would help us out. Maybe it would be best to stop on our way back to cry on your shoulders about our losses. Oh well, anyway Chuck and Frances want all members of the 69th to stop and visit with them if you go to Atlantic City to walk

on the boardwalk, take in the sun on the beaches, and help finance New Jersey by playing the machines at various locations in Atlantic City.

Thanks for posting our Tri-State notice on your bulletin board. I hope you have encouraged all your members to attend the 69th National Reunion at the Southeast Denver Marriott, August 20th to the 27th of 1989. 661ers usually do have a nice turn-out at the national and do tell them to pay dues of \$5.00 or \$10.00 plus \$2.00 for their lady so that Bulletins keep coming to your door three times a year.

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 in Florida or Orlando Area - Visit the Dunlaps"

Jack and Mary Snyder, Photographer

10 North Cannon Avenue

Joplin, Missouri 64801

Postage is skyrocketing, now 25¢ but I guess if it goes cross country it still is a bargain. Well, rather than write 60 plus letters I think it better if I write something in the Bulletin for all E-Company and 69th members to read. This way I reach 5,800 plus members.

Company E, 273rd Infantry Regiment does not have a mini-weekend unless you attend a Tri-State Spring or Fall weekend when we have several E Company members attending. So our get-together is at the National Reunion of the 69th Division which will be held in Denver, Colorado this August 20th to 27th, 1989. Welkos "Dutch" Hawn, our 1989 Reunion Chairman, has stated that he will try to keep all unit members as close to each other as possible so E Company members should be located in one area as near to each other as possible.

I do hope you all plan to attend with wives, girlfriends, and guests. We have been getting more members in recent years than in the past with only three members and wives attending the 1986 Reunion in Pittsburgh. We have jumped to eleven members, wives, and guests in 1987 at Niagara Falls and eight members and wives at the Lexington, Kentucky Reunion in 1988. Those mentioned figures should be doubled to include all that attended. Won't you help make the Denver 1989 Reunion a big success with all E Company members attending. I don't know if Davisson Dunlap, our CO, will be present but he sure treated us in Lexington to a swell dinner of your choice. Thanks again Davisson.

(Continued on Page 37)

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

(Continued from Page 36)

At the National, Friday night is party night for units before going to the beer party. That is each unit, engineers, headquarters, field artillery, you name it - go their own way and have a dinner banquet of their own. E Company does it too and we'll do it in Denver as in the past. I am sure there are many good eating places in Denver like McDonald's, Wendy's, Eat 'N Park, Hardy's, and many more fine restaurants. We'll try one.

Remember to stop and see Dottie and Me at our room. The door is always open. We can chat for hours over a glass of water and some peanuts. Let this be my invitation to all E Company members to come to Denver in August and see each other once again, many of whom we haven't seen in 40 plus years and it's getting late fellows.

It was nice seeing Joseph Naticak and his wife just recently at the Central Pennsylvania banquet last April 15th. By the way, did you all get your income tax check from Uncle Sam? What could be a better way of spending it than at a Division Reunion and one is coming soon.

Take care, be good, stay healthy, have a safe trip to Denver, and may God treat us well throughout the many months and years that still be before us. See you all in Denver.

Dottie and Me (Earl)

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Southeastern Chapter

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia,
Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina

Allen and Cathy Long, Chairpersons
Route 1, Box 514
Mount Dora, Florida 32757
Telephone: 904/735-2923

THE "SPRING BREAK" scheduled for April 7th, 8th and 9th at the Highlander Private Resort was cancelled due to the few responses received. We are sorry more of you were unable to make plans to attend, because we did have a lot of surprises in store for you for a good time.

We want to thank those of you who did show interest and intentions for attending, but the Annual Reunion is the most important to all of us, and hopefully we will see all members in Denver.

We have tried (as have others) unsuccessfully, to have a Southeastern Spring Break, and feel it is now time for someone else to come forward and be chairpersons. We know there is someone out there who can be more successful than we have been in our attempts, to bring people together for a group get-together.

Have a safe trip to Denver and hope to see you there.

X-Chairpersons,
Al and Cathy

Note from Earl. Sorry to hear of the misfortune of our Southeastern Chapter in not getting enough interest to have a mini-weekend. I do believe this is the second one in a row that had to be cancelled. Come on you southerners, let someone from the above seven states get something started. You know we would like to have another 69th Division Reunion in the south, particularly in Mississippi or Louisiana so that we can go back to Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, to dedicate a 69th Monument and also either be part of the dedication of the museum or to at least visit it after its dedication. This will all happen in 1991 so I, as "Reunion Activities/Site

Screening Committee Chairman," am looking very hard for a Reunion site in the south for 1991. Members we should do this soon or get off thinking about it but up to date, our Treasurer has received many hundreds of dollars that is earmarked 69th Monument.

This came about when our General Charles L. Bolte passed away earlier this year and the Bolte Family requested no flowers, but to send contributions to our Division for the monument. Will someone in the south near Camp Shelby get a reunion proposal and be chairman to run it for hopefully 1991? Do send it to me very soon and come to Denver to present it to my committee for consideration.

The southeast usually supports our Division Association Reunion well, especially Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Arkansas which we appreciate and are looking forward to seeing each of you in Denver soon.

Company H, 273rd Infantry

Bert Eckert, Reporter
130 Exeter Street
Brooklyn, New York 11235

Our Mini-Reunion of the First Platoon, H Company, 273rd Infantry, held at Orlando, Florida, proved to be a good get-together. It was held January 25th to the 28th, 1989. We all plan to be in Denver for the Division Association Reunion with the rest of H Company members. Let's have a record turnout of H Company, 273rd. Jake Stark says, "don't put off until next year for it's later than you think."



Left to Right: Top - Tom Hoffman, Bert Eckert; Bottom - Charlie Locke, Charles Green, Art Knutson, Leland Jones



Left to Right: Ruth Green, Rhode Eckert, Doris Locke, Christie Knutson, Lola Jones

(Continued on Page 38)

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

Company H, 271st Infantry

Norm Borkowski, Reporter
8110 Menge
Center Life, Michigan 48015

This picture appeared in our Bulletin Volume 42, Number 1, September, October, November, December, 1988 and stands to be corrected. It reads Sergeant Al Panara and Second Sergeant Norm Borkowski. It should read Sergeant Al Panara and P.F.C. Norm Borkowski

Al Panara and P.F.C. Norm Borkowski



☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Headquarters Battery and Medical Detachment 461st AAA Battalion

Francis H. Breyette, Reporter
1137 Orkla Drive
Golden Valley, Minnesota
Telephone: 612/545-2281

Allen Whitley, Chairman of our weekend at the Holiday Inn, Salem Virginia, in mid-October, is patiently awaiting our arrival. A block of rooms have been set aside for our AAA group and needs to be filled by each of us so do phone your reservations in early. The number is 703/389-7061 to get the Holiday Inn. Our hospitality room will be open for our chit chat and finding out what new has happened to each of us. There will be time for shopping and Saturday after our evening dinner, plans call for some entertainment. We are looking for a large turn-out this year.

The Holiday Inn is easy to find off of Interstate 81.

Earl's Note: Dottie and I plan to be at your weekend once again this year. We do hope that all your members are paying association dues to keep our Bulletins coming to each member. All 461st AAA members, wives, and guests are invited to attend our Association Reunion in Denver and also since most members are living in the East (Virginia - North Carolina) Valley Forge isn't that far away in 1990.

69th Cavalry Recon Troop

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

69th Recon Troop 38th Annual Reunion Orlando, Florida - October 25-29, 1989

Michael P. Moscaritolo, Chairman and Reporter
19 Trotters Circle
Kissimmee, Florida 32743
Telephone: 407/348-6527

or
575 Sherman Avenue
Roselle, New Jersey 07203
Telephone: 201/245-8159

Gordon Ewing, Co-Chairman
504 Timberlane Court
Lake Mary, Florida 32746
Telephone: 407/322-4860

Paul E. Fowler, Co-Chairman
3615 Palm Valley Circle
Oviedo, Florida 32765
Telephone: 407/365-3852

The 38th Annual Reunion of the 69th Recon Troop will be held at the High Q Quality Inn, 5905 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819, on October 25-29, 1989.

The High Q Quality Inn is a 21 story high hotel within minutes drive of many of Central Florida's finest attractions and finest restaurants. The toll-free phone number for the hotel is 1-800-228-5151.

Paul Fowler, Gordie Ewing and I have been able to negotiate a room rate of only \$32.00 per couple per night, plus tax of course. The quicker you mail in your reservation card, the quicker we can let other troopers know who will attend the Reunion. Also, call another trooper and let him know you are coming. From all indications, this is going to be one of the best attended Reunions.

At our Richmond, Virginia Reunion, it was voted that we try a 5 day Reunion as Florida is quite a distance to travel for many Troopers and that there are so many things to see and do. If you do plan on coming, make this a must. Also, if you wish to come prior to October 25th and leave later than October 29th, the hotel has graciously consented to give us the same low rate for that period of time. The restaurants here are many, they are excellent and the prices are unbelievably low.

Please note and make changes on your Troop roster that the area code has been changed from 305 to 407. This includes Paul Fowler, Gordie Ewing, Ralph Stafura (yes - he's coming) and myself.

The Saturday night banquet at the hotel will be a sit down dinner. The main course will be a Prime Rib dinner cooked the way you like it. If you prefer fish or chicken, let one of the committee know your preference and we will accommodate you. The price of the dinner will be less than \$20.00 each.

Gordie, Paul and I will have information available for all of the central Florida attractions. We will also make arrangements for a bus to take us to Cape Kennedy which is only one hour away. Of course, nearby there is Disney World, Epcot, Sea World and Cypress Gardens. There are many more interesting places to go and things to see, but these mentioned above are the most popular and at least one whole day is needed to enjoy each attraction.

(Continued on Page 39)

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

(Continued from Page 38)

The deadline to reserve your room is **October 1, 1989**. We would like everyone to stay in the same hotel. You may cancel your reservation during the last couple of days if you find you are unable to attend and still get your refund. We do not want you left out. So bring your shorts as it does get warm in the daytime and take along your swim suit as the hotel does have a heated pool.

We will have a hospitality room open every evening with a bar and a refrigerator. We will supply the set-ups, beer, soda, and all the goodies — you bring your favorite beverage. Those that are coming by plane, know what day, what time and which airline and we'll do our best to have transportation available for you.

If any Trooper has any questions they wish answered, please phone or write to **Paul, Gordie** or myself and we'll have an answer for you. I would like to see 50 Troopers attend this Reunion, so plan now for your vacation to coincide with our Troop Reunion for October 1989 in Florida and I'm certain all our wives will love us more for it.

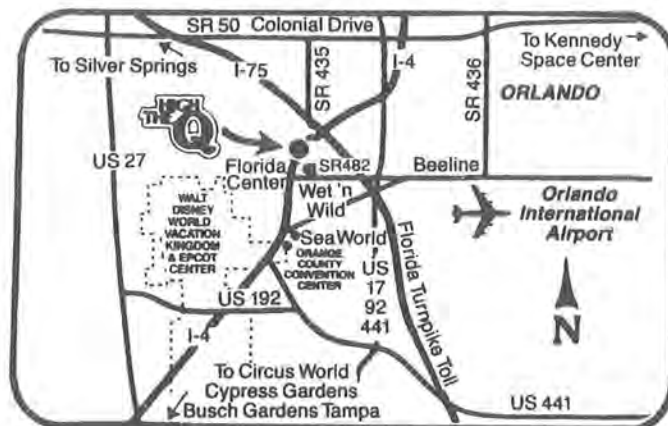
For those men who wish to golf we have several nice courses nearby. The Atlantic Ocean is approximately 50 miles away and the Gulf of Mexico is about 1½ hours by car.

A reminder again: the dates for the 69th Recon Troop Reunion is:

October 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 1989

Please plan to attend - next year may be Too Late!!! Please read the 69th Division Bulletin also for further information.

Respectfully,
Mike Moscaritolo
Reunion Chairman



Earl's Note: Sorry Mike and all you Troopers, but Dottie and I can't make your weekend in sunny Florida in October unless something unforeseen comes up. With our long trek to Denver and the other Mini weekends we committed to go to, it is impossible, due to Dottie only having so many days of vacation from USX (US Steel). I'll say as I did to the 661st T.D.'s that if you are close to us next year, we'll be there. Do get your notices in early like I requested the Destroyers to do.

I hope some of your Troopers make the National Reunion in Denver for it will be nice to see them again. May I suggest to the Troopers for next year, 1990, to come to Valley Forge once again with the Division on August 12th to the 19th, 1990 at the Sheraton Valley Forge Hotel, North Gulph Road and First Avenue, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406. I'm sure your CO, **Lewis Boyd Ellsworth**, would be happy to see this happening. Make sure all Troopers pay their National Dues to keep the good Bulletins rolling from the press to each of us three times a year. We don't want to fall back to two Bulletins nor do we want to make smaller ones and put most of the good news in File 13.

Hey Mike and Troopers, you do have a few Troopers on our Tri-State roster and any others living in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Michigan come see us in New Kensington this November 1989 and at Exit 8 of the Ohio Turnpike at the Holiday Inn, Elyria next May 30, 1990. It might also be good to mention that I am sure the Troopers would welcome any 69er to their October Orlando, Florida weekend and especially those of you living in Florida now that the Southeastern Chapter is on hold. All the information is in this write-up. So until Denver or Valley Forge, Troopers have a good one in Florida.



(Continued on Page 40)

RESERVATION CARD

THE QUALITY INN - HIGH Q

Located in Orlando's Florida Center

5905 International Drive Orlando, Florida 32819

Please reserve the following accommodations.

One night deposit required, please.

☐ **Single Room @** & ☐ **Double Room @ \$34.88**

ALL ROOMS WITH TWO OVERSIZED BEDS.

ARRIVAL DATE _____

DEPARTURE DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

GROUP **69th RECON TROOP**

NO. OF PERSONS IN PARTY _____

PLEASE PRINT

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

(Continued from Page 39)

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 and Reporter*
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)

Our 1988 Fall Weekend (November) was held in 1989, February 3, 4, and 5. This was due to not being able to get earlier dates at Oglebay's Wilson Lodge to see the "Festival of Lights" during the Christmas season. It is a beautiful display of Christmas lights of many hundreds of thousands of bulbs making up many dozens of displays. If you missed it as many Tri-Staters did, you should go to Wheeling, West Virginia and see them running from November to the first weekend of February each year. Possibly in a few or more years the Ellsworths may give us another chance and do it again for us. Next time get the Holiday Inn instead of Wilson Lodge. They say this show of Christmas lights is much better than the one presented at Niagara Falls if you have ever seen them.

Many of our members did not show because they felt the weather would be bad and it was. Probably the worst weekend of the winter season which was a very good mild winter for we people in this part of the country. We almost thought we were living in Florida but there was no sand around to prove it. Those who did make it braving rain, sleet, ice and then snow were:

Clarence Marshall, Division Headquarters

New Kensington, Pennsylvania

Ted and Rosemarie Edstrom, Division Headquarters

Fairview Park, Ohio

Cliff and Katherine Eley, C Battery, 880th Field Artillery
Columbus Ohio (First Timers)

Dr. Lewis and Fern Pugh, C Battery, 880th Field Artillery
Cadiz, Ohio

Enrico and Anne D'Angelo, C Battery, 880th Field Artillery
Saltsburg, Pennsylvania

Robert and Vivian Kurtzman, Company I, 272nd Infantry
Wilmot, Ohio

Paul and Marian Shadle, Company E, 271st Infantry
New Kensington, Pennsylvania

Earl E. and Dorothy Witzleb, Company E, 273rd Infantry
Acme - Champion, Pennsylvania

L. Vaughn and Betty Woomer, Company F, 271st Infantry
Tyrone, Pennsylvania (First Timers)

Lewis "Boyd" and Stella Ellsworth, Company F,
271st Infantry — Steubenville, Ohio
(Hosts for this weekend and many thanks from all of us)

Cancelled due to a death in the family were:

Cecil and Alene Cottle, Company F, 271st Infantry
Portsmouth, Ohio

Even though we were only 19 strong which rivaled the 17 we had a year earlier at the Sheraton Inn South, Pittsburgh, over the Thanksgiving weekend, our small group enjoyed every minute of it. It was enjoyable to listen to Vivian Kurtzman talking about and comparing the Ohio Amish with Vaughn and Betty Woomer who discussed the Pennsylvania Amish. Very good evening which was enjoyed by all. The Woomers did miss seeing the Cottle's hailing from the same Company and a 40 year meeting of one another. Our hospitality room was well stocked which pleased the group. Boyd and Stella did a troopers job and many thanks to the two of you for a good weekend at Wilson Lodge, Oglebay Park, Wheeling, West Virginia.



Rosemarie and Ted Edstrom



Cliff and Katherine Eley



Earl and Dottie Witzleb

(Continued on Page 41)

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

(Continued from Page 40)



Katherine Eley, Paul and Marian Shadle

Our fall weekend winning unit was C Battery, 880th Field Artillery with three couples. What unit will beat them at our fall weekend this November 17, 18, 19, 1989 at the Days Inn, 300 Tarentum Bridge Road, New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068. We will be in Clarence Marshall's home town and with the entertainment Saturday evening after the banquet dinner, you'll be glad you came to New Kensington. If you come a day earlier (Thursday), we'll have a tour on Friday probably to Historic Fort Ligonier and Fallingwater by way of Seven Springs Resort for a delicious luncheon or a tour of the Architecture of Pittsburgh. See you in the fall, then winter can come so that we have a real nice white Christmas once again.

Some Tri-State members say we should cut out the fall weekend while others want it and say it's the best since we are few in number and know each other better. One can't go against this since we were a very close group (17) at the Sheraton Inn South, Pittsburgh and (19) at Wilson Lodge, Oglebay Park, Wheeling, West Virginia. I'll try at least one more fall weekend and since I have the entertainment booked whether we have 17, 19, or 119.

It will be nice to see how beautiful the mountains of western Pennsylvania are in November. The light will be on so I hope to see as many as possible and I'll pay the entertainment if need be.

Committee: Earl and Dorothy "Dottie" Witzleb
and Clarence Marshall

880th Field Artillery Headquarters Battery

Warren and Betty Kunkel, *Chairpersons*
6407 Sunland Drive
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815
Telephone: 219/486-3406

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

The first Reunion of your own — How very special! There are a few nice days in store, and we hope all of you can take part.

Thursday - "Hello and Welcome"

Friday - River Cruise on the Majestic with lunch and entertainment. A visit to Station Square then to the Blue Angel for dinner.

Saturday - On your own till banquet time.

Golf available. Mall right across the way. Shuttle available upon request. Lots to explore!

Sunday - Farewells till we meet again!

ALL COME and MAKE IT A GRAND NO. ONE

The Dates: July 13, 14, 15, 16, 1989

The Place: Sheraton Inn of Greensburg, Pennsylvania

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

880th Field Artillery C Battery

Lowell McFarlin, *Co-Chairman*
89 North High Street
Box 236
Jeromesville, Ohio 44840
Telephone: 419/368-7363

Lewis G. Pugh, *Co-Chairman*
Route 4, Grant Street
Cadiz, Ohio 43907
Telephone: 614/942-3721

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

Tuesday - Welcome Everyone!

Wednesday - Bus tour to Amish Country with guide and dinner at an Amish home and "Fun Night" in the evening.

Thursday - On your own till banquet time.

Friday - Farewells and "take care" till we meet again.

Flag Factory near by that welcomes visitors and golf course available. Many other things to discover.

Come on "C" Battery, let's get together. We've got some years to reminisce. Those of you who haven't yet attended will discover what you have been missing, and those that have been together know how good it can be!

SEE YOU AT ROSCOE VILLAGE!

August 8, 9, 10, 11, 1989

August 12-19, 1990
69th INFANTRY DIVISION
43rd ANNUAL REUNION
Sheraton Valley Forge Hotel
N. Gulph Road & 1st Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

(Continued on Page 42)

879th Field Artillery

Phillip Colombo, *News Reporter*
156-20 65th Avenue
Flushing, New York 11367
Telephone: 212/886-0363



AN ODE TO OUR FIRST SERGEANT

We were a small group of men from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where we had our training to join the 69th Division Cadre to be stationed at Camp Shelby, with the Headquarters Service Battery of the 879th Field Artillery Battalion.

After dismounting from the bus the first person we met was a gentleman by the name of Edward J. Stark. He was our first sergeant and friend from then on out.

We at the time didn't know how blessed we were to get such a compassionate man who took us under his wing and treated us all as part of a big family. From the time that we met till today, I know he had good feeling towards all of his men in his command.

When it came time to split the Battery he asked, and so as not to separate friends, who would like to go where, then had the orders cut. If he knew you had a birthday he would get you the day off (if we weren't in the field).

When we were in camp it was open house to our wives who were living in town on all holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.

If a man was in the hospital he would take the time to write the man's family.

We were blessed to have as our First Sergeant Edward J. Stark, who helped guide many of the young men in the beginning of their lives and I hope to see him and his wife at the Colorado Reunion.

Phillip Colombo

Company C, 272nd Infantry

Richard A. Foy, *News Reporter*
1075 Pebble Hill Road
Doylestown, Pennsylvania 18901
Telephone: 215/348-8257

"B" COMPANY (272nd Infantry) AIN'T HERE

Forty-four springs ago in Germany, I was serving temporary duty to our 1st Battalion Headquarters. I was assistant to S-4 (1st Lieutenant Donald Swan). Just after the Rhine River was crossed in the vicinity of Koblenz, S-3 and S-4 sent me on a harrowing night time mission.

I was directed to find "B" Company, attacking the Nazis. We had 2 AT Platoon 1½ ton Dodge 6x6 prime mover trucks. The chow, mail duffle bags, ammo and medical supplies for B Company. I had six enlisted men including the drivers. Maybe some are still alive. Please help with these heroes names. I will never forget their bravery.

Blackout march was the order when we arrived on the north side of Koblenz City, which had fallen to the 69th that afternoon. While passing very slowly through the narrow stone walled streets, with many balcony type of overpasses, we were fired on by some bad losers in the houses. The lead truck had some shrapnel marks. B Company had moved forward in pursuit of the Nazis. S-3's location was obsolete by about 4 to 5 hours.

A German Catholic nun told me that some American soldiers were being held in a large cave in the nearby hills, and that the Germans may be hiding in the cave too. I reasoned that the Americans or Germans soldiers could help me find B Company.

Upon locating the caves, the drivers stayed with the vehicles, and we all just raced into these candle lit caverns. We were several hundred feet into the cave, lined with benches, when we came upon hundreds of German citizens, hiding out from the U.S. Army. We picked out about 8 Wehrmacht Soldats, with civilian outer clothing over their uniforms, but their boots gave them away. I don't remember finding any GIs in the cave. The Nazi prisoners were helpful and cooperative and helped us find B Company about five miles outside of Koblenz City.

B Company was regrouping and resting up after fighting the whole day. We picked up a total of 52 prisoners. Some were wounded and all were beat up looking. When we got back to the 1st Battalion, 272nd Headquarters, I think our MPs took over the prisoners.

This mission took about 8 hours in the darkness. I remember that an EM on my mission was firing his 45 pistol over the heads of the POWs because of an attempted escape. I do recall putting my M-1 rifle in the face of the first prisoner we caught in the cave. His soldier boots unwrapped his hiding out attire. He was totally cooperative while looking into the 30 caliber execution rifle that I was holding on him.

I do not believe that 1st Battalion Headquarters made any special, or let's say adequate recognition, of the six enlisted men accompanying me on this mission.

Please send me the details of this mission, if you are one of the brave souls who were with me in the before written escapade. I confess now that we were lost in enemy territory for over six hours that night.

Just after the happenings of my short story, I was assigned to C Company, 272nd Infantry, as Weapons Platoon Leader.

I left for the CBI from Plotsa GDR in July 1945. I served in Austria in the 26th, 83rd, and the 42nd Infantry Division until late '46.

I have a spare Division History Book that I found in a book store for \$15.00 in Columbus, Georgia in 1978.

I also have an all original Walther P-38.

If anyone is interested in these items, please write or telephone me at the address listed above, so that we may discuss some arrangements.

Sincerely,
Richard A. Foy

To The Crew Members Of The USS Stark

DEDICATION

Written by request to be read at the
Dedication of the Soldiers' Lot in the
Cemetery at Freeport, Pa. Decoration Day,
May 29th, 1880. Post No. 32, G.A.R.

TO OUR DEAD SOLDIERS

BY REV. JOHN J. FRANCIS,
BIRMINGHAM, PENNSYLVANIA

I.

Standing amid the silent graves of those we've loved, —
The graves of sire and son, of matron and of maid, —
Where rest the fondly cherished of a hundred homes,
Here side by side beneath the budding spring flowers laid, —
In this, the quiet city of the slumbering dead.
Above the rolling river, 'neath the skies of blue,
With tearful eyes, and swelling breasts, —
BRAVE, LOYAL HEARTS —
We dedicate this sacred plot of earth to you.

II.

To YOU, who in the hour of war's dread, awful strife.
When foe met foe upon the fatal, reddened sod,
Laid as a sacrifice, home, comfort, blood and life,
Upon the altar of your country and of God: —
To YOU, the brave defenders of the dear old flag.
Our nation's fallen heroes. — patriots strong and true,
In memory of your noble deeds, with grateful hearts,
Your *living* comrades dedicate this spot to YOU.

III.

Here let the youth of our beloved country read
Upon these tombs the lesson by your valor taught;
And from the green graves of our nation's martyrs learn
At what a mighty price their liberties were bought.
Here let them learn to cherish well the sacred trust
Committed to them by these honored dead, who sleep
To-day beneath the flag, on mountain, hill and plain,
While millions gather 'round their
flower-strewn graves to weep.

IV.

Brave Comrades! from the dust in which your ashes rest,
Could you but for a moment rise to life again,
And look abroad upon the land you died to save,
Would you esteem the sacrifice you made as vain?
No! from four hundred thousand tongues would rise the cry, —
This glorious heritage is *worth* the price it cost;
Guard well till time's last day fair Freedom's soil,
And not *one drop* of martyr-blood will e'er be lost!

V.

Here then, upon this grand Memorial Day, brave hearts,
As we rehearse your deeds which ne'er can be forgot,
With sweetest song, and flowers and silent tears and prayers,
We dedicate to you to-day this sacred spot: —
A *sacred* spot, so long as loyal hearts are true!
Sacred, so long as Freedom is a holy thing!
And God, I doubt not, looking down on us and you,
Smiles his approval of the tribute which we bring.
May 25th, 1880.

* * * * *

Note from Earl. I received this poem in an envelope with
no return address. Please write and let me know who you are.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Greetings from Camp Shelby,

Hattiesburg, Miss.



Though skies awhile be overcast,
There's blue beyond the clouds above;
Soon shall the storm of war be past,
And all our thoughts be only love.

This postcard was sent to Earl by Vernon Hanlin of
Mount Storm, West Virginia.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



George and Vickie Gallagher at the Banquet.

THIS IS YOUR LIFE

Yes, Bill, this is your life for ten years from 1978 to 1987 at the 69th Infantry Division Association Reunions. Can you name the Hotel - Motel - Resort, City, State, and tell us something about each of the pictures. The years are 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, and 1987. Yes Bill Matlach, this is your life during the month of August most of the years.

These pictures are from the files of our photographer Chester Yastrzemski and I think he is wrong on the first one, 1978. This picture is either from 1977 or 1983. In 1978 we were at the Greentree Marriott Inn, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Bill, can you catch Yaz on any of the other pictures?

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***** 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.

By now everyone should know where news material, articles and pictures should be mailed to. Your Coordinating Manager and Editor will do a superb job of handling it along with Dottie who takes care of the ladies mail. Thanks for getting it in on time.

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

1989

JULY 13, 14, 15, 16, 1989

880th HEADQUARTERS BATTERY WEEKEND

Sheraton Inn of Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Route 30 East

Across from Westmoreland Mall

Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601

Tour - Golf - Hospitality Room - Saturday Banquet

Committee:

Warren and Betty Kunkel, *Chairpersons*

6407 Sunland Drive

Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815

Telephone: 219/486-3406

Enrico and Anne D'Angelo

516 Chestnut Street

Saltsburg, Pennsylvania 15681

* * * * *

NEW DUES YEAR STARTS AUGUST 1, 1989

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, 1989 to July 31, 1990

Postage and Bulletin Donations Accepted

AUGUST 8, 9, 10, 11, 1989

880th FIELD ARTILLERY C-BATTERY WEEKEND

Roscoe Village

381 Hill Street

Coshocton, Ohio 43812

Telephone: 614/622-9310

Rooms available \$65.40 per day (includes tax)

Call or Write

Roscoe Village Inn

300 North Whitewomen Street

Coshocton, Ohio 43812

Telephone: 1/800-237-7397

Hospitality Room - Fun - Excitement - Tour(s) - Banquet

Committee:

Lowell McFarlin, *Co-Chairman*

89 North High Street

Box 236

Jeromeville, Ohio 44840

Telephone: 419/368-7363

Lewis G. Pugh, *Co-Chairman*

Route 4, Grant Street

Cadiz, Ohio 43907

Telephone: 614/942-3721



(Continued
on
Page 47)

AUGUST 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 1989
69th INFANTRY DIVISION
ASSOCIATION 42nd ANNUAL REUNION

Marriott's Denver Southeast, Interstate 25 at Hampden Avenue
(U.S. 285) Denver, Colorado 80222

Telephone: 303/758-7000 Toll Free: 800-228-9290

Committee:

Welkos "Dutch" Hawn, Chairperson
2445 South Cody Road, Lakewood Colorado 80227
Telephone: 303/986-7604

* * * * *

Tours / Early Bird, Thursday / PX Beer Party Friday 9:00 P.M.
Banquet Dinner Dance Saturday / Golf Tournament, Friday A.M. / Memorial Service
Meetings, Saturday - Membership and Auxiliary

Friday is the evening for groups and companies to go out for dinner at another restaurant before the beer party.

Banquet Facilities: Grand Ballroom - 850, Rocky Mountain Ballroom -500; Total 1,350

Room Rates: \$52.00 + 11.8% Tax = \$58.14, Single, Double or Quad

As usual, the Division will have a Hospitality Room.

The Marriott has 595 guest rooms so we should all be together

BUT DO RESERVE EARLY.

We have 400 rooms at present.

Stapleton Airport to the Marriott - \$5.00 per person

REUNION COMMITTEE:

Dutch & Jeanne Hawn, Co-Chairpersons

Fred Avery

Andrew & Joan Both

Jack & Mary Duffy

Dick Hadley

Mel & June Liverance

Bob Myers

Joe & Sally Schaffer

Joe & Eleanor Wright

John Gradomski

Bobby & Thelma Bement

Bud Bell

Elmer & Erma Broneske

Keith & Colleen Curtis

George & Edna Harper

Joe Loudon

Frank & Gloria See

Dick Stoddard

John & Janet Hazey

Registration Room Bulletin Board Will Have Any Changes,
Announcements, and Messages to Members Posted and Current.

(Continued on Page 48)

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE
(Continued from Page 47)

SEPTEMBER 9, 1989

Deadline for material and pictures
Bulletin Volume 43, Number 1
September - October - November - December, 1989
Bulletin due out in November 1989

* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 10 to OCTOBER 12, 1989

First dues notice mailed out to all members on record.
Exception: Those who paid dues at the Denver, Colorado
Reunion in August for the dues year 1989-1990. Thanks
for paying early and getting it off your mind so you can
think Valley Forge, Pennsylvania in 1990.

* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 28, 29, 30, OCTOBER 1, 1989

880th FIELD ARTILLERY A-BATTERY WEEKEND
Holiday Inn
Florence, Kentucky

Committee:

John G. Barnett, *Chairperson and Reporter*
6374 Brandywine Trail
Norcross, Georgia 30092
Telephone: 404/448-6513

* * * * *

OCTOBER 13, 14, 15, 1989

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.
Stay over or leave on Sunday.
461st AAA, HEADQUARTERS BATTERY
AND MEDICAL DETACHMENT WEEKEND

Holiday Inn
Salem, Virginia
1919 Frontage Road
Salem, Virginia 24153

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

We have a block of rooms reserved. Rates are not completely
set but they will be the best possible.

Reservations:

Call 703/389-7061
Jo Ann Arnold, Service Manager
Code Word - 461st AAA

Reserve early and visit with some of the World's Finest!
Hospitality Room - Shopping - Dinner Saturday Evening.
We hope to have some entertainment for you.

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

OCTOBER 25-29, 1989

69th RECON TROOP - 38th ANNUAL REUNION

The High Q Quality Inn
5905 International Drive
Orlando, Florida 32819
Telephone: 1/800-228-5151

Committee:

Michael and Mary Moscaritolo, *Chairpersons*
19 Trotters Circle
Kissimmee, Florida 32743
Telephone: 407/348-6527

Paul and Mildred Fowler, *Co-Chairpersons*
3615 Palm Valley Circle
Oviedo, Florida 32765
Telephone: 407/365-3852

Gordon and Fern Ewing
504 Timberlane Court
Lake Mary, Florida 32746
Telephone: 1/407-322-4860

* * * * *

NOVEMBER 16, 17, 18, 19, 1989

TRI-STATE GROUP FALL WEEKEND

Tri-State Blue is the Family Group

Days Inn

300 Tarentum Bridge Road
New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068
Telephone: 412/335-9171

16th — Option day to attend

17th — Possible Fall Tour

18th — Shopping and Saturday Evening Banquet with
entertainment hot out of Pittsburgh and Italy. You'll like
the two hour show.

19th — Breakfast for our goodbyes until Spring. Winter
can move in any time.

Committee:

Earl and Dottie Witzleb
R.D. 1, Box 477
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606
Telephone: 412/455-2901

Clarence Marshall

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

Come visit Clarence Marshall in the well stocked
Hospitality Room in his home town of New Kensington.
Only 50 rooms - Sign up now, first come basis until they run
out. Call Dottie 412/455-2901.

* * * * *

1990

JANUARY 6, 1990

Deadline for material and pictures
Bulletin Volume 43, Number 2
January - February - March - April, 1990

Valley Forge Chairpersons Dan Evers and Frank Nemeth
should have all information for Bulletin publication about the
Valley Forge, Pennsylvania 1990 Reunion.

Bulletin due out in late February or early March 1990. We
must be on a good schedule for this Bulletin since vacations
are scheduled early and all our members want to come to
Valley Forge.

(Continued on Page 49)

**Come to a Reunion
You won't regret it!**

— 49 —

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE
(Continued from Page 49)

SEPTEMBER 8, 1990

Deadline for news material and pictures
Bulletin Volume 44, Number 1
September - October - November - December, 1990
Bulletin due out to members by Thanksgiving.
* * * * *

SEPTEMBER (Month) 1990

First Dues Notice should be mailed to all members on record except those who attended and paid dues at the Valley Forge Sheraton Reunion. Thanks for paying your 1990-1991 dues early.

A Big Hello to All 880th
C-Battery F.A. Battalion
from Irvin Richau



July 4, 1988. Giving the kids a ride with trailer and my tractor. Me in the red cap. The wife said take care of those kids in the park north of the shop. I built 50 or more of these 2 wheeled trailers and sold them all.



Irvin Richau's Home — Halliday, North Dakota

DECEMBER 8, 1990

Deadline for news material and pictures
Bulletin Volume 44, Number 2
January - February - March - April, 1991
Bulletin due out during month of March, 1990
* * * * *

1991

JANUARY (Month) 1991

Second Dues Notice should be mailed to all members on record except those who attended and paid at the Valley Forge Sheraton Reunion and when paying on the first dues notice.

Niagara Falls 1987
Reunion Chairman Writes:

Dear Bob,

Sorry we could not make the Reunion at Lexington because we were at my son's wedding in Sacramento, California and you guessed it, it was August 20th. We really wanted to be there to thank everyone personally that helped to make the Reunion in Niagara Falls such a success.

People like you and Vivian, Clarence Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Foster, and especially our committee from the Niagara area; they all put in many hours that weekend and they may be sure it was gratefully appreciated.

I cannot express how proud I am of the 69th and the people who have been keeping the association alive for so many years. Doubly proud when you and the Association had the Reunion in our fair city.

We also wish to thank everyone for the grand plaque that is hanging very proudly in our family room. It was delivered by Bruno Maj.

On another matter, I want to thank Mr. Marshall and Edward Miller for putting in the 69th Division Bulletin, Volume 41, No. 3 on Page 21, a picture of the Second Platoon of Company L-271st. I could not believe my eyes when I saw the picture of some of the platoon members and recognized PFC. Niedringhaus. We both were in combat as buddies and fought side by side. I would appreciate it if anyone has his address or his whereabouts are known. I would like to contact him after all these years.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all the ladies for their efforts in putting the bibs and lap robes together. The reception and warmth shown at the Buffalo V.A. Hospital towards the 69th still gives me a very warm feeling.

God bless you and the men of the Fighting 69th and may you continue to enjoy bigger and better Reunions and any endeavor you undertake.

Sincerely,
Leo Martel

A man looks at a portrait on the wall and says, "Brothers and sisters I have none; but this man's father is my father's son." At whose portrait is he looking?

I was told this little gem more than 50 years ago and am still puzzled as to the answer.

Answer: The man is looking at a picture of his son.

Original Author Unknown
Submitted by H. D. Rager

President's Message



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

This is my last message to you, but I still have a little to say. First, I have just signed the contract for the 1990 Reunion to be held at the Sheraton, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. We have reserved 400 rooms in the Sheraton and Raddison (the two hotels adjoin in the same complex). The August rate is \$65.00 per room. It is exceptionally easy to get to by auto. So much for this. The dates are August 13th to 19th.

Now concerning Denver, Colorado. The rooms are filling up fast. As of this writing, we have about 100 for the banquet and about 100 rooms reserved. I have arranged for a special discount rate with United Airlines and Hertz Auto Rental as described in the right column. The 420-VB number must be used to get this discount.

I am going to try something new this year. We will have a Past Presidents' breakfast on Thursday morning at 7:00 a.m. This will be before the Air Force Academy trip which will leave at 9:00. This is for PAST PRESIDENTS ONLY.

I received the following letter:

Dear Sir:

Have just received my 69th Division Association Bulletin since 1987 and read with interest about the proposed monument for Camp Shelby. I think it's a wonderful idea and would be willing to make a donation for it.

I plan on attending the Denver Reunion which will be my first one and definitely would look forward to a 1991 Reunion in Mississippi as I have fond memories of Camp Shelby.

I've sent my dues in and hope I continue to receive the Bulletins so I can keep up on the monument progress and reunion sites.

Sincerely,
Aaron B. Taulbee
4740 S.R. 73 West
Wilmington, Ohio 45177
Company A, 273rd Infantry
3rd Squad, 1st Platoon

Denver Transportation Tips

United Airlines is pleased to offer the attendees of the 69th Infantry Division Association Reunion in Denver, Colorado, a 5 percent discount off unrestricted coach fares or 40 percent discount off lowest applicable fares, including first

class. This special offer, available only to attendees of this meeting, applies to travel on domestic segments of all United Airlines and United Express flights. These fares are available through United's Meeting Plus Desk with all fare rules applying.

United Meeting Plus Specialists are on duty 7 days a week, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. ET to make your reservations. Call today, as seats may be limited. Please refer to account number 420-VB.

United States and Canada 1-800-521-4041

As a United Meeting Plus attendee you also qualify for special discount rates on Hertz rental cars. This offer is good only with United Airline booking.

Mileage Plus members receive full credit for all miles flown. Tickets will be mailed by United or you can pick them up at your local travel agency or United Airlines ticket office.

DENVER STAPLETON AIRPORT 69th Infantry Division Association

August 13, 1989 through September 3, 1989

Car Type	Day	Week	Weekend
Economy	29.00+	139.00%	N/A
Compact	35.00+	149.00%	N/A
Intermediate	37.00+	169.00%	N/A
Full-Size 2 door	39.00+	189.00%	N/A
Full-Size 4 door	39.00+	189.00%	N/A
Luxury	44.95+	269.00%	N/A

+ = miles per day included

% = 700 miles per week included

Additional Miles = .30 per mile

Budget is accepted as the official car rental supplier for the meeting of the 69th Infantry Division Association on August 20, 1989 through August 27, 1989.

For reservations, please call 800/772-3773 and be sure to mention the 69th Infantry Division Association.

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Murry Galuten Writes:

300 Patio Village Terrace, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33326

May I correct the article on the history of the Scholarship Fund that appeared in the last 69th Bulletin.

I conceived the idea to give the 69th Association a reason and purpose to exist other than the usual reasons of bull sessions at annual Reunions. This was the format of most Army Associations. I broached this subject to Sol Rosenblatt and Cy Baron. After many discussions we decided to go ahead. We brought this up to the New York Chapter meeting and it was wholeheartedly approved. Our Legal team of Sherm Lawrence, Hy Goldstein and Lester Milich drew up the necessary papers. That was our start.

I won't go into the details of how we raised the money. It wasn't easy. It took a few years before we felt able to fund the first 4 year scholarship. We spoke to General Reinhardt to name the fund after him. He was thrilled. And so it was.

The great support of Sammy Woolf, Bill Matlach and ALL the New York Chapter members helped make this a complete success.

While I am at this typewriter I would add another bit of our history. The Birthday and Anniversary cards.

I was the chairman of the Reunion when Hy Goldstein was President. It was at the Shoreham Hotel that I started collecting the names of the members, their wives and children. We took their birthday and anniversary dates and the following year started to send out the cards. My wife handled it the first 10 years and then Doris Baron took over and ran it many years thereafter. Just felt I had to keep the record straight.

Sincerely your 69th buddy,
Murry Galuten

Tri-State Group in Erie, Pennsylvania

I'm not pushing Tri-State like some division members think, but I needed fill to make four pages with these pictures to complete the Bulletin since it was already finished at 52 pages.



Jane & Jim Lynch, Erie Co-Chairpersons



Gilbert & Susan Rocco, Erie Co-Chairpersons



Barbara & Chester Yastrzemski, Tri-State photographer & wife



Ray Szkudlarek, Co-Winner of Tri-State 1989 Plaque



Jacob & Violet Stark, Jr. Co-Winner of Tri-State 1989 Plaque



Tri-States teenager Colleen, granddaughter of Ray Szkudlarek



Paul & Mayreta Kitner



Jim Jones, Elyria, Ohio Co-Chairperson with David Wharrey



Earl Witzleb, Jr., Coordinator of Tri-State, giving Frank Carey, new Chairman of Central Pennsylvania Branch, some friendly tips and advice on his duties.



Eugene Butterfield, Elyria, Ohio, Co-Chairperson (Sorry Norma, I haven't a picture of you) with George Gallagher.



Barbara and George Johnson, newly appointed Director of the Tri-State "Chuck Herring Junior Memorial Golf Tournament" succeeding Frank Nemeth.



Jean & Bob Shaffer - Charlotte Naginonis



Earl Witzleb, Jr., Coordinator of Tri State and Jim Lynch ready to award the 50-50 raffle won by Vivian Kurtzman.



Vickie and George Gallagher, Tri-States distant runners coming from Zephyrhills, Florida.



Stefania (Ted) Nemeth, Helen Evers, and Violet Stark, bosses of the 1990 69th Valley Forge Division Association Reunion.



Herman Walker & Ray Fahrner

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**Tri-State
Group
In
Erie, Pennsylvania**



Freda & Bill Clayton



Carl & Mildred Stetler



Virginia & David Wharrey



Tillie Boris & Violet Stark



Ray Fahrner & John Gruber, Company A, 273rd Infantry, meet after 40 years.

☆☆





the 69th

INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

101 stephen st., new kensington, pa. 15068

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A Word On Our Center-Fold

The memorial tribute to the late **General Bolté**, in the center of the Bulletin, was put together by a member of A Company, 273rd, originally a New Yorker, long a resident of Arlington, Virginia, **Pierce Rice**.

Pierce's connection with the Association dates from the initial meeting at Colonel Adams' quarters on Governor's Island, held at **General Reinhardt's** request to explore the possibility (dubious in the minds of many) of reassembling, for social purposes, the gang that made up the 69th. He has the gloomy suspicion that, of that half dozen fellows brought together for that purpose, he is the sole survivor, which, if the case, makes **Pierce** the Senior Member of the Association.

Pierce, with the Division from its inception in May, 1943, may be remembered by his companions from Company A less as the Communication Sergeant than as, so to put it, the Class Artist. He spent a lot more duty than off hours pencil in hand, and when peace descended on us, he was on the staff, as its cartoonist, of the Division paper, **THE SENTINEL**. Back in the States, after the actual launching of the Association, for many years his drawings appeared on the covers of, and inside, the Bulletin.

The memorial plaque pairs the patch of the 34th Division with our own because it would be unreal to suppose that **General Bolté** assigned second place in his affection to the outfit he led through a strenuous fall and winter of struggle across the mountains of Italy. We can be flattered that his regard for ourselves was as strong as proved to be the case. The other patches shown are of the Fourth Division, in which he served during the First War, and the Seventh Army, which he commanded in Occupied Germany. The pin is the badge of the CAN DO Regiment, the 15th Infantry, which was stationed in Tien-Tsin, China, during the Twenties and Thirties, the War-Lord days. The decorations in the shadowy background are only a portion of those actually awarded the general.