

FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★★★ Association, Inc.



VOLUME 44, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER — NOVEMBER — DECEMBER
1990

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

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

bulletin

69th Infantry

Division Monument

(See Page 2)

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69th INFANTRY DIVISION

ACTIVATED MAY 15, 1943
AND TRAINED FOR COMBAT AT
CAMP SHELBY, MISSISSIPPI
UNDER THE COMMAND OF

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES L. BOLTE

EMBARKED FOR COMBAT DUTY
UNDER THE COMMAND OF

MAJOR GENERAL EMIL F. REINHARDT

ENGAGED THE GERMAN FORCES AT THE
SIEGFRIED LINE FEBRUARY, 1945

CROSSED THE RHINE RIVER MARCH 27, 1945
CAPTURING THE CITIES OF KASSEL,
HANN, MUNDEN, NAUMBURG,
WEISSENFELS AND LEIPZIG

ON APRIL 25, 1945
PATROLS FROM THE 69th DIVISION
MET IN THE FIRST HISTORIC
LINK-UP WITH THE SOVIET ARMY
AT THE ELBE RIVER, TORGAU, GERMANY

DEACTIVATED SEPTEMBER 15, 1945
CAMP KILMER, NEW JERSEY

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF OUR COMRADES
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES WITH HONOR AND UNSELFISH LOVE
IN THE DEFENSE OF FREEDOM

THE FIGHTING 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 20, 1991

Pages 39-44
are missing
from this scan

ABOUT THE COVER

The cover depicts the front of our monument. Below you can see the back of the monument. Our 69th Infantry Division Monument will be located on a site in the remodeled area of Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi on Circle Drive. Many more monuments from units trained at Camp Shelby will join ours. The dedication of the monument will take place at Camp Shelby on Friday, September 20, 1991. The date has been changed from Thursday to Friday in hopes that our Jewish members will be able to attend. Our reunion week will be from September 15th thru 22nd of 1991. We do hope that a large number of members, wives, and family plus guests will be able to attend our reunion at Biloxi.



Top Tier or Main Tier
is 5 ft. 6 in. high

Middle Tier is 1 ft. 4 in. high

Base Tier or Bottom Tier
is 1 ft. high

Width across bottom is 5 ft.



THE 69th INFANTRY DIVISION
AND ATTACHED UNITS

69th DIVISION HEADQUARTERS

HEADQUARTERS - SPECIAL TROOPS
DIVISION HEADQUARTERS COMPANY
69th QUARTERMASTER COMPANY
69th MILITARY POLICE PLATOON
69th RECONNAISSANCE TROOP
769th ORDNANCE COMPANY
569th SIGNAL COMPANY
69th DIVISION BAND

271st INFANTRY REGIMENT
272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT
273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT

DIVISION ARTILLERY HEADQUARTERS
724th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
879th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
880th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
881st FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

269th ENGINEER BATTALION
369th MEDICAL BATTALION

TD 661st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
AA 461st ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTALION
△ 777th TANK BATTALION



WITH PROFOUND TRIBUTE TO THOSE SOLDIERS
OF EVERY RANK AND IN EVERY UNIT
WHOSE LEADERSHIP AND COURAGE CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH
TO THE SUCCESS AND GLORY OF THE 69th DIVISION



News From The Editor's Desk



by — Clarence Marshall
Membership Chairman

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

Eugene W. Shollenberger, 811 Chestnut Street, Emmaus, Pennsylvania 18049 — C-881st: I enjoyed one week of pleasure at the 43rd Reunion in King of Prussia. I live only 40 miles from there, and commuted back and forth. I did attend some of the events that took place. I had a great time seeing some of my old friends from C-Battery, 881st, that I hadn't seen nor heard from in years. Some were from the Wire Section and some were from the Gun Crew. I did, at one time, keep in touch with **Frank Guerrieri** and **Isaac Gordon**. I am really glad that I went to this Reunion. I attended the first Reunion in New York City in 1948, and never got back to one until this year. I hope to make the 44th. I would like to find someone to share expenses with for the trip to Biloxi.

Ralph M. Smoyer, Jr., 3006 Arch Road, Norristown, Pennsylvania 19401 — A-273rd: I noted your 69th Reunion announcement in the Norristown Times Herald. I was a member of the Division, Company A-273rd Infantry Regiment. I would like to receive any information regarding future activities, newsletters, etc.

Paul L. White, 2 New London Road, Mystic, Connecticut 06355 — 273rd: I saw in the "Veterans Reunion Column," in my newspaper that there was a 69th Division notice. I had never seen it before. I have never attended, but I want you to know that this 69er is alive and well, and if you have a roster, put me on it. I was in the 273rd Regiment, but I can't remember the Company. I went overseas from Camp Shelby and landed in England. I stayed in Basingstoke for a short time and then crossed the channel to LeHarve, France. Went into action at the Battle of the Bulge, and was with the Division until they met the Russians at the Elbe. I was then put in the Army of Occupation and was working in the War Criminal Prison in Bremen, Germany, during my attached service with the 23rd Division.

James Valentine, Sr., Ridge Road, R.R. #1, Box 226, Thomasville, Pennsylvania 17364 — Ser.-880th: Enclosed are my dues for membership, and a \$10.00 contribution. My name appears on Page 20 of the current news bulletin. I served with the 69th from May 1943 until the War ended. I took basic in Camp Shelby, and special training at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. Then I returned to the 69th and was a T/4 in Service Battery of the 880th Field Artillery. The motor section was my assignment till we got to Leipzig, Germany and the meeting at the

Elbe. The older men were sent home, and I was transferred to the 29th Division. I was sent to Stuttgart as a Motor Inspector for Military Government. I toured southern Germany and checked military vehicles then went back every Saturday at noon with my report. I had no boss all week, and just worked the various towns and cities. Our headquarters was in the old Volkswagen plant, and my room was in a housing development about two blocks away.

Charles Kooles, 5841 S.W. 50th Street, Miami, Florida 33155 — H-271st: I am truly sorry that we will not be in attendance at Valley Forge, at which time I would have liked to thank you for the extra copies of the Bulletin. It's contents were important to me, and your immediate attention is gratefully appreciated. Louise and I are hopeful that this finds you in good health. Say hello to those that you see who remember us. Hopefully, we are looking forward to Biloxi which will be added to the twenty-two Reunions we have been present at. All of them are pleasant memories.

Urban P. Schaaf, 62 Musket Lane, Mashpee, Massachusetts 02649 — Hq.-272nd: Just to let you know that I did not forget the good old 69th. Since I left Pittsburgh, my old home town, I have been busy enjoying Cape Cod where I now live with my son, Dan. I still miss good old Pennsylvania and my V.F.W. friends. I am hoping to pay a visit down that way for a few days. I hope this finds you in good health. Bulletin 43-3 was fantastic, good work.

John W. Wilson, 1244 Westerly Parkway, #36, State College, Pennsylvania 16801 — 569th Sig.: Enclosed are my dues for 1990-1991. I had a pleasant experience on August 17th. I could only be at the Reunion for two hours at the Valley Forge Sheraton, as I was traveling through the area. I did stop though, and ran into five of my buddies from the 569th Signal Company. What a ball we had reminiscing. I wish I could have stayed longer. I was impressed by the manner that my wife, Dot, and I were greeted by the ladies at the registration desk. They were so nice and helpful. You people sure do deserve a great thanks. We hope to make it to Biloxi next year.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Wilson and his wife, Dot, were omitted from the list of attendees as they failed to fill out a registration form.)

Daniel J. Coleman, 101 Ellwood Avenue, Apt. #1, Mt. Vernon, New York 10552 — L-271st: I saw your name and address in one of the Veterans Magazines about a 69th Infantry Division Reunion, Augut 12th to the 19th. I was with the Division when it was formed in May of 1943, until February of 1944 when I was sent overseas to England as a replacement in the 9th Division. I served in the Machine Gun Section of Company L, 271st in the 69th. I have often wondered about some of the men from that Unit, and how they did overseas. **Captain Leonard** was in command, and he was promoted to Major before I was shipped out. I remember a **Lieutenant Wiser**, a **Sergeant Hargraves**, **Sergeant Friday**, and many more that I got to know.

If you can send me any additional information about the Reunion, I just might go as Valley Forge isn't that far from where I live. I would hope to see some of my old friends. The 9th Division was a veteran outfit from Africa and Sicily. I was assigned to a Cannon Company in the 47th Regiment. We went to France a week after D-Day, and I served with them until the end of the War. I came home to the Bronx in October of 1945. I never could figure out how I got so lucky when I changed from a line company to a Cannon Company. I didn't know a thing about a cannon, but I learned fast.

(Continued on Page 4)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 3)

Wasył Zaricki, 23753 Archwood Street, West Hills, California 91307 — Hq. Co., 3rd Bn.-273rd: I would like to become a member of the 69th Infantry Division Association. Enclosed are my dues. I was transferred from the Air Cadets in April of 1944 and served with the 69th Division until I was transferred into the 29th Division at Bremen in 1945.

George W. Browne, R.D. #1, Box 542, Gardiner, NY 12525 — 69th QM: I was a member of the 69th Quartermaster Company of the 69th Infantry Division from November 1944 to June 1945. I would appreciate any information about the Reunion slated for August 12th to the 19th at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

Cecil Ammons, 4309 Bell Hill Road, Bessemer, Alabama 35023 — Hq.-881st: I would like some information on the upcoming 69th Division Reunion. I served in the Headquarters Battery of the 881st Field Artillery Battalion. Any information that you can send me would be very helpful.

George Shapiro, 11370 Twelve Oaks Way, Apt. 217, N. Palm Beach, Florida 33408 — AT-272nd: I just located a former 69th Division member from Fox Company, 271st Infantry Regiment. He was not aware of our Association. Please put him on our mailing list and send him a current News Bulletin. He is **Sidney Rosenblatt** from Coral Springs, Florida. Thanks and best regards.

Paul H. Eagon, 1435 North Avenue, Waukegan, Illinois 60085 — I-273rd: I just sent you **George DeHaven's** address. I have now relocated another man from I-273rd. He is **Eldo DiVirgilio** of Perryopolis, Pennsylvania. I talked to Eldo on the phone and he would like information on the 69th Reunion. I would appreciate it very much if this information was sent to him.

N. VerMerris, 5860 Leisure South Drive, S.E., Kentwood, Michigan 49548 — B-271st: I received a phone call from a Mr. **Bob Younglas** who was with B-Company of the 271st Infantry Regiment. What a surprise to hear from someone from my Company after 45 years. He also sent me a copy of the 271st Regimental History which I had never seen. He told me about you, and said I should write to you and become a member of the 69th Infantry Division Association. I had not known anything about it and desire to become a member. I am enclosing a check for dues for myself and my wife, Betty. Please send me a copy of the last Bulletin that you sent out and any other information that you might have. I was a Pfc. in the 4th Platoon of B-Company as a machine gunner and a runner.

Lee Wilson, 8945 Hope Lane, Stockton, California 95212 — Can.-273rd: I wish to thank you for your birthday and anniversary cards. This is to let you know that my wife passed away November 30, 1989. It seems like I have lost track of my dues payments, and no longer receive the dues notices. I would like to get back in the group in order to attend the Reunion this year. My current occupation as a public accountant allows me to travel in August, where before the combined jobs of working as office manager left little time to meet with former buddies. My wife's cancer problems restricted my travel the last few years. Please forward this on to the Membership Chairman so that I can get back with the Association.

Lucien A. Caron, 1007 Sabattus Street, Lewistown, Maine 04240 — B-271st: I got a call from **Bob Younglas** to see if I had received any news about the 271st and if I would want to join the 69th Infantry Division Association. In this manner I would get information about the Reunion coming up in August. I also got a call from **Sam Casey**.

George T. Whitson, 30 S. West Street, Hillsdale, Michigan 49242 — F-271st: I am writing to you about the 69th Infantry Division Reunion. I was a replacement in F-Company, 271st Infantry Regiment about the time that they passed through Aachen, Germany. I would like to know what pre-planning I would have to make prior to attending the Reunion. Looking forward to your reply.

Gordon C. Thorpe, 2676 Cumberland, Berkley, Michigan 48072 — I-272nd: In 1988 I relocated and then somehow lost track of the address for the 69th Association. I have missed getting the various publications. The June issue of the American Legion Magazine finally provided me with another link. Would you please see that my address is changed, so that I will hear from the Association again.

Earl W. Ramsey, 11341 Jeff Avenue, Lake View, Terra, California 91342: We saw your article in the American Legion Magazine. My husband, **Earl Ramsey**, was in the 69th during World War II. We would like more information about the 69th Association and the Reunions that they hold.

Norman Barratt, 666 Barneson Avenue, San Mateo, California 94402 — Hq.-273rd: Thanks for sending along the photo copy of the Regimental History of the 273rd. As soon as it came, I sat down and read it cover to cover. Enclosed is a remittance to cover the cost of copying and mailing. I plan to send in a donation for the Memorial at Camp Shelby. Hope to be there at the dedication next year. Many thanks again to you and all of the other people who have dedicated so much to keeping the Association going.

Leslie R. Gordon, 14041 Preston Road, #1710-E, Dallas, Texas 75240: I saw in the Veterans Alert in the American Legion Magazine of the 69th Infantry Division Reunion. As a former member I would like to find out more about your Association and the Reunion. Anything you can send will be appreciated.

Paul J. Fleming, 154 Bunce Road, Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109 — K-271st: Left the Company south of Leipzig, and was flown to the hospital at Rheims, France. I was in four additional hospitals, and discharged May 28, 1946. They still listed me as a member of the 271st Regiment from Camp Upton Convalescent Hospital in Long Island, New York.

Mrs. Evelyn Buie, 608 South Edgewood Drive, Dothan, Alabama 36301 — Widow H-271st: I thought you would like to know that the notice about the 69th Division Reunion has been published twice in our local newspaper, The Dothan Eagle. I have enclosed a sheet showing it as published. I wish you all a very wonderful reunion. Tell all of my friends in Company H, 271st, Hello.

Neil J. Shields, 5262 Keepport Drive, #3, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15236 — F-272nd: I just received a phone call from **Frank Hardy** inquiring about the 69th Reunion at Valley Forge. He was one of the early GIs at Camp Shelby. He was shipped out to California and then the Pacific. Please send him some literature.

Colonel William P. Brooks, Jr., 13401 Flint Drive, Santa Ana, California 92705 — Hq.-881st: I have received letters from former members of the 69th telling me that they read my letter and saw the pictures of the 881st Field Artillery Battalion which I sent. These were apparently in your most recent Bulletin. My name must not be on your mailing list because I have not received a copy. Would you be so kind as to send me a copy and if I need to do something more to get on the list, please advise. I hope that you have a most successful reunion.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We hope that we have things straightened out with you and our mailing roster.)

(Continued on Page 5)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 4)

James R. Carawan, 214 Plantation Drive, New Bern, North Carolina 28560 — M-272nd & 69th MP: I have often wondered what has happened in the past years about the Reunions of the Division. I have never heard from anyone about anything. I was a member of M-Company, 272nd part of the time and then transferred to Headquarters and the M.P.s. If you have a mailing list and a newsletter, please include me. I think often of the old Division and would like to be kept posted on its activities.

John J. Moriarty, P.O. Box 393, Holden, Massachusetts 01520 — 69th MP: Thanks for taking all of the steps to bring **Henry Robison** into our Association. The only other name that **Lamar Williams** sent me was for a **Roy C. Patrick** of Augusta, Georgia. I find him on the roster as Division Headquarters. **Lamar** thought he was an MP. I have had phone conversations with **Ray Fahrner** and **Earl Witzleb**. **Earl** is disappointed with the advanced reservations so far, as **Bob Kurtzman** reports not that much action. This was as of June 9th. I tried to assure him that it would pick up in July. One year at a time, and hope for many more. I will advise you if I hear from any others.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *John Moriarty made a gallant effort to get former members of the MP Platoon to the Valley Forge Reunion. The Association owes him a vote of thanks.*)

Norman Fortress, 5916 Port Royal, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815 — E-271st: I would appreciate it if you would send me an application for membership in the 69th Infantry Division Association. I was a member of Company E, 271st Infantry Regiment from March 1944 to May 1945.

Ira Hawkins, Route 1, Box 320, South Boston, Virginia 24592 — Hq.-271st: Another year has passed and I'm sending along my dues. I am also sending along a couple of pictures of former members of the Radio and Wire Section of Headquarters, 271st. Some of us were transferred out of this section to the 121st Infantry Regiment, Headquarters Company, 8th Infantry Division in April or May of 1944. We joined it in France. **John Yingling** was the only one from our group who was K.I.A. on August 8th, 1944. He is buried in the St. James Cemetery in France. I had a pacemaker implanted on February 13, 1990, and am doing good so far. Hope to improve some more.

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

Franklin Haught, P.O. Box 1747, Sun City, Arizona 85372 — A-271st: **Re-Infantry Day at Laurel, Mississippi**: I can't remember any names but will try to relate to you what I do recall. About a week before the event, I was informed that the 69th Division would be demonstrating their weapons for the Air Force at Laurel, Mississippi, and that I would be in charge of the 03 snipers rifle. On the morning of the event we went through a dry run about an hour before it was to happen and I learned that I would be first on the program. We were behind the bleachers which were soon filled with Air Force personnel, and their guests which included several Army Officers. On cue I ran around the right hand side of the bleachers and hit the prone position and fired a clip full of tracers at a designated target. From the right came the M-1 followed by 30 and 50 caliber machine guns, grenade launchers, mortar, etc. Each demonstration was followed by loud applause and cheering. Later the viewers came down for a closer look at the weapons. My clearest memory is that it was a great weekend break mainly because of the good food served by the Air Force, and the genuine hospitality of the

"fly boys" we met. Enclosed are some pictures of former members of A-Company, 3rd Platoon, 271st.

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

Scholarship Recipient, Danni Slimmer: Thank you for the scholarship payment. I have indeed appreciated it throughout my college years. I will finish up my Bachelor's Degree next May in Psychology. I have learned that in this field it is imperative to go on to graduate school. Although I am undecided as to where, Florida and Denver are likely prospects. Thank you for your generous contribution.

James Kehew, 413 Appletree Road, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011 — Div. Hq.: I won't be able to make the Reunion in Valley Forge, but I am going to try and be at **Miller Harris's Barbeque**, and may see you there. I was really planning to go because it is so close, but then the enclosed project came up and I just have too much to do before it starts September 22nd.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *Jim's project is a bike ride that he is going to undertake. An article about this appears elsewhere in this issue.*)

Raymond Norris, 642 Law Street, Aberdeen, Maryland 21001 — F-271st: Sorry I missed the Reunion at Valley Forge this year as I had a medical problem. However, I am doing fine now. I am planning to attend the dedication at Camp Shelby in 1991. I plan on sending some photos of Company F, 271st, in the near future. Keep up the good work.

Sam Talley, 1911 Princeton Avenue, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011 — M-271st: The enclosed list was given to me recently and I promised I would forward it along to you. It is probably outdated after all these years, but here it is for what it is worth. Hope you are fully recovered now from your recent health problem.

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.

HAVE A NEW MEMBER?
HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?

This should be mailed to:
CLARENCE MARSHALL
101 Stephen Street
New Kensington, PA 15068

Memories from Company B, 272nd Infantry Regiment



*Bill Killian, Nick Giannone and Dick Hadley
Camp Shelby — September 1944*



*Nick Giannone, Ellis Wood and Dick Hadley atop the
Empire State Building — November 1944.*



*Bridge on the Werra River at Wittenhausen, Germany, as it was prior to
April 7, 1945. It was destroyed by the Germans just as Company B, 272nd,
prepared to cross it.*



*Dick Hadley and Eddie Mitchell
with Nazi Flag — August 1945.*

**Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
to all 69th Members
and their Families.**



President's Message



Earl E. Witzleb, Jr., President
R. D. #1, Box 477
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606
Telephone: 412/455-2901
Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike

When passing through the Keystone State, stop and see us. Dottie and me welcome all 69ers in the mountains of Acme-Champion, Pennsylvania "WHERE AMERICA BEGINS."



When the flags are waving, (weather permitting), we're home.

"Why Cannot Life's Big Problems Come When We Are Twenty And Know Everything???"

Hello Fellow Members and Wives:

What I thought was going to be the BIG ONE fizzled out. Yes, I was sure surprised at the poor turnout we had at Valley Forge. What hurts most is that the local membership, those living within 150 miles, didn't turn out. I would probably believe most of them saw all the areas of our tours but why didn't they come to our Early Bird, PX Beer Party, and most of all, our Memorial Service and Banquet Dinner Dance. I am sure one or two nights at the Sheraton wouldn't hurt anyone and what fellowship we had those evenings.

The Early Bird proved to be a success as did the Beer Party Friday night with the Mummers of Philadelphia performing for us. I know you have all seen them on TV marching down Broad Street, Philadelphia in the New Year's

parade. We didn't have many more than attended Denver but we all had a ball and those that attended had good fellowship with each other at the large hospitality room. It was the first time I saw some groups playing cards but when you come to a reunion, you do your thing with your buddy friends and also the new ones you make. We were all in it for one thing, to keep our freedom in the U.S.A., and now it's time and overdue for some to once again shake hands with a comrade. Since we didn't do it at Valley Forge, let's do it in Biloxi and Camp Shelby, Mississippi come September 15 to 22, 1991.

Repeating hurriedly about the week long Valley Forge Reunion as the time flew by. Registration for rooms seemed to be confusing but this was lack of help by the hotel. Monday evening we were all treated Philadelphia style, the lights went out from about 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. The tours were good as was the Early Bird, PX Beer Party with the Mummers, and the Saturday evening Dinner Dance with an impressive Memorial Service before the sit-down dinner. Clarence Marshall was delighted with his Honorarium plaque and fan fair that goes along with it. Lily Langtry's "Show On Ice" made the Early Bird which all led up to a farewell breakfast on Sunday at Lily's saying goodbyes while the air filled with, "see you next year at Biloxi." All First Timers were surprised with the great time had by all and the events that kept you moving all week leaving old timers to believe, THEY'LL BE BACK AGAIN.

Those of you who have your names listed in the bulletin with telephone: _____, please send it in. I would like to know who you are too, so send in a picture of yourself and your wife also. Pictures go good with write-ups.

It was nice having a First Timer from the 461st AAA, Battery D at Valley Forge. Aaron and Barbara Mills. I know they enjoyed themselves and will pass the word along to fellow Battery members. Aaron did not want to become a Director since he was the only one present and a First Timer. I didn't know we had 369th Medical members present until I received the attendees list for Valley Forge. I am sure one of them might have been interested in a directors job. Well, it will have to be watched closer next year.

I believe most members were well pleased with the proposed monument that was approved at our General Meeting on Saturday. Very few minor changes were made which proves to me that Jack "John" Duffy and his committee came up with a job well done. It should have been about perfect with the time Jack and some of his committee put in during the year to get it ready for us at Valley Forge. Jack said input from his committee members was very good. Now you can see the finished monument at Camp Shelby, September 20, 1991, when the dedication is made.

It was very upsetting for me to find out our reunion week of September 15 to 22, 1991, had a Jewish holiday, Yom Kippur, right in the middle of it. Our dedication of the monument was to be September 19th but we were able to change this to September 20th giving a day for our Jewish members to travel to Biloxi on Thursday so that they can be at the dedication on Friday. I hope this change will please everyone who plans to attend.

I believe, too, that many mini weekends should be changed so that they will be at Biloxi and the Dedication of the Monument. I hope the Southerners from the Rebel states will make a better showing at Biloxi than the Yankee members from the east did at Valley Forge. Fellow members, we need to see each other one more time and after 45 years plus, it's time.

Speaking of mini weekends, Dottie and I had to just forget many of them this year. Dottie twisted wrong again in early summer and has had her problems up until now. When the

(Continued on Page 8)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 7)

medical doctor wanted to operate she decided to go to a chiropractor who told her the same thing as the M.D. only he would give treatments rather than operate. She liked what she heard so now her neck, hip, and disc of the upper and lower back are starting to come together and fit in place. In two more weeks her treatments will be cut down to one a week. She did manage to live through the 69th Annual Reunion but we sat out the 880th Field Artillery, Battery A at Nashville, Tennessee and the 461st AAA, Battery B at Allentown, Pennsylvania. By the way, how can we be at two places at the same time? You minis will have to watch not to have the same weekends as did the 880th A Battery and the 461st B Battery. We like you all but you know the rest of the story. We had hoped to surprise the Recon Troopers in New Orleans but Dottie just got back to work and the trip might have been just too much. Our annual trip to Salem, Virginia was scratched too but we are going to try to make the short haul of about 150 miles to Central Pennsylvania and their weekend the middle of November. This will tell us how Dottie can make the longer trips which we hope to do again in the near future. I can only sum it up in these few words. Let's all we mini weekenders get together at Biloxi and Camp Shelby in mid September 1991. Do plan on being there, all you good 69th members.

It was nice hearing the telephone ring a few Sundays ago and find on the other end Joe McMurry, Jr. from Jackson, Tennessee. He was a few exits down the pike but planned on stopping to see us if we were home. We were and it was nice talking to Joe and Virginia from I Company, 271st Infantry, plus his sister and brother-in-law Andy and Evelyn Anderson from Brownsville, Tennessee. Joe and Virginia have never been to a reunion but are planning on attending Biloxi. Let's hope you both make it for you'll enjoy it. Remember you 69ers, when you get to Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike stop and visit with Dottie and me.

I'll close with two letters - one from Larry Brown, Battery B, 461st AAA, and the other from Brian Lindner of Waterbury Center, Vermont, who wants information on a William Ricker, Company F, 271st Infantry.

* * * * *

Dear Earl,

I.C. "Bill" Davis is in the hospital in intensive care at Leesburg, Florida. He may be moved to Orlando for more tests. Anyone wishing to mail him a get-well card may do so at his home address: 3351-E Dale Street, Leesburg, Florida 34788.

Larry W. Brown
538 Burns Street
Clarkston, Washington 99403
Battery B, 461st AAA

* * * * *

Dear Mr. Witzleb,

I am working on a project for our local historical society and hope that you may be able to help place a notice in the next Association newsletter. Specifically, I am trying to learn as many details as possible regarding the MIA then POW then KIA status of a 2nd Lieutenant from my hometown. I would like to have the notice read:

**Information wanted
on Lieutenant William Ricker
Company F., 271st Infantry Reg.
who led a daylight combat patrol on February
19, 1945 to the village of Buschem, Germany.**

I especially desire to contact anyone who returned from that patrol. Brian Lindner

Waterbury, Vermont Historical Society
Route 1, Box 4316
Waterbury Center, Vermont 05677

Lieutenant Ricker was first reported MIA then as a POW and finally as KIA when his remains were apparently found near Buschem in 1950. This may have been his first combat patrol as a resulting ambush seems to have cost the lives of several Company F men.

It is also my understanding that the Oct.-Nov.-Dec. 1986 Division newsletter contained a photo in which Ricker appears. Would it be possible to obtain a copy of that newsletter?

Thank You,
Brian Lindner

* * * * *

Dottie and I wish you all the best for the holiday season. Don't eat too much on Thanksgiving, enjoy Christmas, and have a good New Year's with a beginning that brings us all to "OLD MISS" in September at Biloxi and Camp Shelby. Lord willing, we will be together.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS,
Earl and Dottie

Two views of Robert Grimm's historical automobile that he drove in the Independence Day Parade in Lancaster, Ohio



43rd REUNION OF THE 69th INFANTRY DIVISION VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA AUGUST 12-19, 1990

Victor Ostrow, *News Reporter*

Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 273rd Infantry
1612 Lemontree Lane
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904
Telephone: 301/384-4654

We finally made it to the reunion in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania! It was a touch and go situation after a period of three weeks. I was on a previous three day reunion at the Jewish War Veterans Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Upon my returning home I became ill and was immediately rushed to the hospital for surgery. In my 47 years of marriage this was my first operation. (Incidentally, our anniversary is August 28th.) Luckily I was able to get permission from my doctor to attend the 69th Infantry Division Reunion. Each year the reunion seems to get better.

We arrived on Monday early at the Sheraton, but were unable to check in until several hours later. This seemed to be an ominous warning. That same evening I was in the men's room when the lights suddenly went out. I was caught with my pants down, groping in the dark for the exit door. I could hear another voice yelling for help. A young man came in and rescued him and also heard my cry - he lit a match and I was able to find my way out. The fellows roared with delight, naming me (Victor) "The Pottie Man" caught with his pants down. Somehow we managed to grope around the hotel until emergency lights were turned on. It wasn't until 1:00 a.m. that full power was restored.

Tuesday was a historical trip to Philadelphia, my birthplace and home for 18 years. It was amazing - the changes that took place since my departure 55 years ago were unbelievable. Areas that I remembered as run down slums were transformed into homes that were priced at \$250,000 or more - now known as Society Hill. We had a wonderful luncheon at Bistro Romano, also in the Society Hill section. Our trip continued along the Ben Franklin Boulevard, which separates the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers. On Ben Franklin Boulevard we saw museums, and a section of beautiful homes known as Boat Row with illuminated lights that looked like Christmas decorations.



Independence Hall - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Wednesday included the Atlantic City tour. There were not many winners - I lost my \$40 and departed back to the Sheraton Hotel in Valley Forge.

On Thursday we toured the Brandywine Valley, including George Washington's headquarters and the site where his ill clad troops finally defeated the British Red Coats.



George Washington's Headquarters - Brandywine, PA

The Longwood Gardens tour was a sight to behold. They truly are the world's most beautiful gardens. The Dupont Foundation maintains and supports the gardens with a year round crew of 200-300 people who plant flowers and keep the greens neatly trimmed.



Tourist View — Longwood Gardens

The evening highlight was the Lily Langtry Dinner Theatre, a most impressive place decorated with oil paintings and surrounded with beautiful decor and plants. The dinner was excellent. "Champagne on Ice" was the show, which was typical of Las Vegas - beautiful show girls and skaters on ice. Ray Fahrner was called on stage to sing and cuddle up to Lily Langtry. He had us all in stitches.

(Continued on Page 10)

**43rd REUNION OF THE 69th INFANTRY DIVISION
VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA**

(Continued from Page 9)

Friday's activities included the golf tournament and a Plaza Mall shopping trip for the ladies. The beer party was one of the highlights of Friday evening. The "Mummer Band" of approximately 60 or more performed and strutted up to the podium with their outstanding costumes. The music and entertainment helped to liven the entire party. A great time was had by the 69ers and their wives.

Men's and ladies general meetings were held on Saturday. Discussions included the 1991 trip to Biloxi, Mississippi and the 1992 trip to San Francisco, California. Both sites were enthusiastically approved by the membership. The monument in Biloxi is all set - with final approval of the inscribed wording on the stone. Dinner was filet mignon and all the trimmings. A superb band helped liven the party. Pictures were taken, flash bulbs were popping, and groups were taking pictures of friends and buddies.

Sunday's farewell breakfast was held at Lily Langtry's and was a sumptuous array of many foods. We each wished each other good health until next year when we meet in Biloxi for the dedication of the monument. Sadly, we said our farewells and then departed.

Till we meet again, good luck and good health.

Earl's Note: Victor, you did a good job reporting the Valley Forge Reunion for me.



Members of the 69th awaiting the bus tour.



Luncheon at Romano Bistro - Society Hill, Philadelphia, PA



Dancing Fountains - Longwood Gardens



Harrowgate Mummer's Band



Mimmers entertaining the 69ers

**Come to a Reunion
Before It's Too Late!
We Guarantee That
You Won't Regret It!**

Clarence Marshall, Membership Chairman & Bulletin Editor, Honored at Valley Forge Reunion

Clarence Marshall, our very special Membership Chairman, was honored at the banquet on Saturday night for his years of devoted and excellent service to the 69th Division Association. Clarence has been our Membership Chairman for over 24 years. In that time, he has built up the membership from 1,100 to 6,000. Clarence was very pleased and happy with this award. He appreciated this more than any of you know, and he thanks the membership whole-heartedly. Thank you Clarence, for being the special man that you are. We salute you!



Presentation of Honorarium to Clarence Marshall. Frank See, Clarence Marshall and Robert Myers.



Seated: Clarence Marshall and Keith Curtis. Standing: Fred Avery, Walt Doernbach, Dutch Hawn and Bob Myers.

Photos furnished by Frank See

Valley Forge Reunion Trivia

Bob Murphy, B Battery, 881st Field Artillery and Ray Fahrner, A Company, 273rd Infantry, would like to thank the 69ers for their patience at a very busy bar in the hospitality room. We opened the bar at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, August 13th, and by the end of the day we (Bob and Ray) were a team. We were physically tired each night, and slept like babies. I can't speak for Bob, but I lost 16 pounds. The hospitality room was the gathering place for the members, before and after the tours and the Lily Langtry dinner show. The Atlantic City tour to the Casino departed the hotel at 3:00 p.m. and returned at approximately 11:00 p.m. with the bar open. We served drinks until 1:00 a.m. Thursday morning.

One of the highlights at the bar was when the power went out the first night at 8:23 p.m. Candles were placed on all the tables and a candlelabrum was placed on the bar. It was romantic, but we had to close at 10:30 p.m. because there was no air conditioning. The hotel had a piano player in the lobby, and served cold drinks. The elevators were inoperable, so people started bedding down for the night. The restaurants were serving sandwiches and cold meatloaf, which went well with a cold beer. Not a gripe from anyone. I was drinking a nightcap in the hotel bar when the power was restored at 1:00 a.m.

Special guests at the bar were Aaron and Barbara Mills, 461st AAA (AW) Battalion. Although they were First Timers, they melded into the group, and I was especially happy how they were greeted and treated. I heard there were complaints from the hierarchy of the Association about the \$6,000.00 tab to run an open bar, but to see buddies drinking together after 45 years absence, to serve a cold one to those coming off the

road or from the airport, serving the members grandchildren soft drinks, to see the guys still rapping around the tables, and the overall feeling of good fellowship, I say it was worth it.

Several firsts in the hospitality room — jigsaws being put together on several of the tables, and even a little dayroom card playing was in evidence. TVs were set up so that the members could view the tapes of the 69ers Tour of Europe, April 1990.

More trivia: The Harrowgate String Band at the beer party gave us locals a chance to do the Mummer's strut - a traditional dance performed at the New Year's parade along Broad Street in Philadelphia. Everyone at the reunion knows about my love affair with Lily Langtry on stage at the dinner show, late performance.

The memorial service brought tears to my eyes as I looked at four Sergeants (color guard), all on alert for the Middle East. The Sunday morning brunch when we sat with our friends and ate breakfast together. Finally, the goodbyes. Getting more and more teary every year.

As a native Pennsylvanian, thank you for coming to Valley Forge and allowing us to offer you our hospitality. In the words of our former governor, "You have a friend in Pennsylvania." And, in the words of my brethren, the Pennsylvania Dutch (German descent), Auf Wiedersehn, Until we meet again.

Ray Fahrner

Valley Forge Reunion Committee

A note of thanks goes to Pete Garstecki, Cannon Company, 272nd Infantry, from Uniontown, Pennsylvania, for relieving Bob at the bar so he could visit with his grandchildren. Also, thanks to Fred Butenhoff, Company E, 272nd Infantry, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for his assistance at the bar.

Treasurer's Message



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

The 1989-1990 year is over and another fine reunion at Valley Forge is over and I'm sure the reunion was enjoyed by all that had the privilege to attend. Much thanks is deserved to **Frank and Dan**, their wives **Teddie and Helen** and their fine committee for the many long hours they put in. It was a pleasure for **Vivian and I** to work with them at the reservation desk.

When I made out the attendance list, I forgot to include **John Duespohl** from my own unit as a First Timer. This made I-272nd as the leader with First Timers with a total of six, beating out **Bob Younglas** and B-271st by one. The 569th and B-271st were tied with 21 members. Looks like next year there will be more competition as to who is the leader.

1989-1990 set a new record for paying dues as 2,541 made some kind of donation, but we still had 3,148 who did not make any kind of contribution even though they still received the bulletin.

I'm sure **Jack Duffy**, who has done a marvelous job on the Monument to be erected at Camp Shelby next year, will have a report in another part of the bulletin. We will still accept donations for the Monument if you wish to have your named added to the list. We're getting close to the cost figure, but could use a little more to keep from having to take money from our operating fund.

Dues notices will have been sent out before you read this, so if you wish to make a donation, just send it this way.

Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.
Treasurer

Were They Too Young?

For quite some years **Charlie Moore**, Company E, 271st Infantry, from North Canton, Ohio, was thought to be the youngest member of the 69th. **Charlie** had his 63rd birthday this past August, yes he was too young, considering that there are many members, 5, 10, 15 and even 20 years older than **Charlie**. **Charlie** became a senior citizen at the Valley Forge Reunion when **Bill Edge**, Company I, 272nd Infantry, from Bel Air, Maryland, attended a reunion for the first time. **Bill** will reach the ripe old age of 62 in October. At age 15, **Bill** signed up for the draft and told them he was 18 and in May of 1945 he was called up and shipped to Camp Blanding for an I.R.T.C. basic. It was there that he volunteered for the Paratroopers and after a short stay at Ft. Benning, he

dropped out because of a physical ailment and was shipped to the 69th and hit the outfit at the start of the "D" series.

They didn't catch up with **Bill's** age until June of 1945 when Company I, 272nd Infantry was stationed at Crossen, Germany. At the age of 16½, **Bill** was called out of formation and told to pack his bags as he was going home because he was too young.

In 1948 when **Bill** finally reached his 18th birthday, he re-enlisted and stayed in the service until 1953.

Congratulations **Bill** on being the youngest 69er, at least until someone younger comes forth.

Bob Kurtzman

Biloxi and Camp Shelby Report

The 1991 Annual 69th Reunion will be held September 15-22, 1991 at the Biloxi Hilton, Biloxi, Mississippi.

This is a very nice hotel and is situated on Beach Boulevard and right across the road from the Gulf. There are 437 rooms available to us with 179 in the main tower, 150 in an adjacent complex and 108 in two story cabanas surrounding the pool at the rear of the main building. Our one problem is that we can only seat 750 at the Banquet. If we have 750 it will break the record for last year at Valley Forge, so get your reservations in early as we will have no recourse but to refuse your reservation if we attain the 750 figure for the Banquet.

Sunday and Monday will be on your own, but I'm sure you will enjoy the beach and the pool.

Tuesday, we have planned a tour of the Gulf Coast with a visit to the Jefferson Davis home and a visit to the Mardi Gras Museum and lunch at Mary Mahoneys.

Wednesday we have planned a trip to New Orleans. This will be about a seven hour trip and will give you plenty of time to visit the French Quarter and partake of the French Cajun food that New Orleans is so famous for.

Thursday starts with the Board of Directors Meeting from 9:00 am. till noon. Golf tourney in the afternoon and the Early Bird dinner in the evening.

Friday we will spend the day going to Camp Shelby with a tour of the Camp, lunch and then the Monument dedication in the afternoon and more touring of the camp and Museum if time permits. Then our famous PX nite after we have all met with our groups for dinner.

Saturday will be our usual procedure of meetings and the Banquet and dance in the evening. We have the "Stardusters" engaged for the evening - 17 pieces plus vocalist in the Glen Miller style.

Sunday morning we plan a Breakfast Buffet and then it's time for departures and the making of plans for the long trip to San Francisco next year.

There are ten air flights daily into the Gulfport Airport, 3 Eastern arriving from Atlanta, 3 Northwest arriving from Memphis and 4 Continental arriving from Houston. We have made arrangements for a van to take you to and from the Airport at \$10.00 per person, but we must assure them of 60 passengers. We plan to have a form in the next bulletin that you can fill out if you wish this transportation with a place for your arrival and departure times and the Airline you will be using.

Come one, come all and take part in this historic event at Camp Shelby.

Bob Kurtzman and Merle Douglas
Co-Chairpersons

AUGUST 1990 Valley Forge Reunion King of Prussia, Pennsylvania



Mary Ross And Al Kormas at the Valley Forge Reunion.



Victor and Olga Ostrow



Ursula Schiffner and Ray Fahrner doing the mummers strut.



Garnet Whitley by monument with Valley Forge Sheraton Hotel in the background.



Ted Schiffner and Garnet Whitley at 69th marker in Valley Forge Freedom Foundation.

How the Artillery Handled It

A Little History of the Monument in Leipzig, Germany

William P. Brooks, Jr.
Colonel USA (Retired)
881st Field Artillery Battalion
13401 Flint Drive
Santa Ana, California 92705

Dear Mr. Witzleb:

I recently sent in pictures of all units of the 881st Field Artillery Battalion which I commanded from activation until shortly after hostilities. They were published in the most recent Bulletin. As a result I have received a number of very kind letters pointing out things which happened during that time.

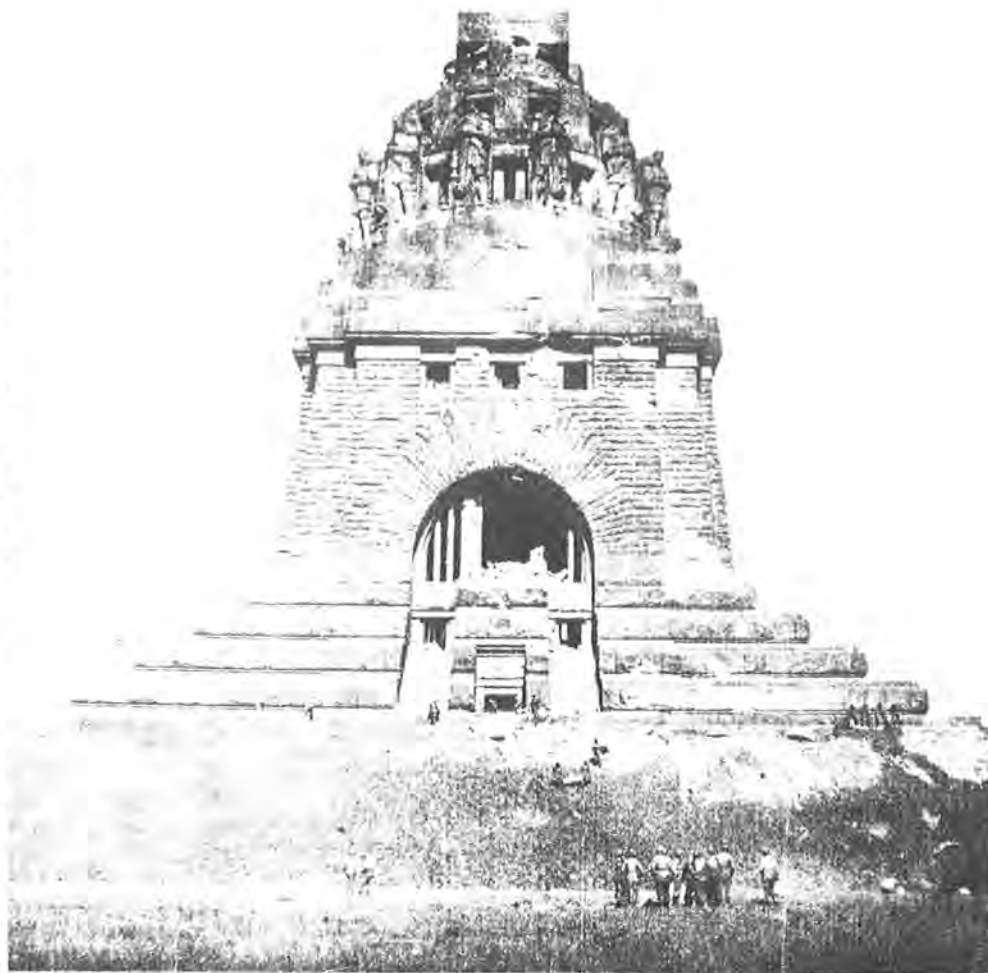
One of them enclosed a picture of the monument in Leipzig with a notation about my conducting fire on the monument. Inasmuch as the writer seemed interested I replied giving the facts as I remember. Enclosed is a copy and perhaps the picture and letter might be of use to you and/or the museum.

About 10:00 a.m. on the day the U.S. First Army was trying to overrun Leipzig. I was called on the radio by **General Maraist**, CG of Division Artillery. My battalion was at that time on the outskirts of Leipzig, conducting fire missions at the request of forward observers. The 2nd Division was approaching Leipzig from one side and the 69th from the other.

He said, "Brooks there is a park on the outskirts of Leipzig which is astride our main route and in it is a monument from which fire has been causing casualties in the advancing company of the 273rd. The monument is reported as being the Headquarters of an SS Unit conducting the defense of Leipzig. I have called **General Reinhardt** and recommended halting the infantry in place and allowing the artillery to eliminate the resistance. I want you personally to get into position to observe this monument and destroy it with artillery fire. I will contact Corps and get an 8" unit with concrete-piercing ammunition assigned to conduct the fire."

He gave me the location of the park and I took off in my jeep. I found a company of the 273rd halted about 2 or 3 blocks from the park and I walked forward to a row of houses near the park. I found that the infantry company had already established an OP in the attic of a house directly on the park. Unfortunately their radio operator had just been killed by a sniper. I went up to the attic and found one of the artillery F.O.s there. I can't recall exactly but I believe he was from B-Battery. We had a perfect view of the park and the monument. I was astonished at the size of the huge structure.

I sent back a fire-mission, using the coordinates of the monument from the map I had taken with me. They reported "On-The-Way" and the big 8" shell sounded like it just cleared the attic when it went over. I heard it detonate and scanned



the whole park for point-of-impact and was about ready to sense "Lost" when I looked closely at the monument and saw smoke coming from a hole just above the entrance. (You can see the hole in the picture). I couldn't believe my eyes but sure enough the very first shell had hit the monument and penetrated. I called back a sensing of "TARGET" and you should have heard the disbelief on the other end. (The odds of getting a target hit in these conditions was astronomical.) I described the immense size of the target but they still doubted. I called for 3 more rounds and they all hit the monument but impacted just above the entrance opening and a little right. I sent back a correction sensing of something like 10 yards over and 5 right. The 8" commander came back with "What do you want me to do, breathe on the sight?"

As I recall, we continued firing for some time using both the 8" unit and our own 105s. As you can see, we didn't destroy it but the fire from the area ceased and it was obvious that the first round had just about wiped out the CP. Incidentally, unknown to me, one of our forward observers had been captured and was being held in the monument. He came away unscathed and I as recall received a Silver Star for his stalwart behavior while captive.

William P. Brooks, Jr.
Colonel USA (Ret.)

News from the Valley Forge Plaque and Living Tree Committee

H. Raymond Fahrner, Chairman
Member: Company A, 273rd Infantry
Forge Gate Apartments, 33 E 1
Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19446
Telephone: 215/855-9696

James Henry, Assistant Chairman
Member: Company F, 272nd Infantry
9 Main Street - Upland
Brookhaven, Pennsylvania 19015
Telephone: 215/874-3010

Daniel Evers
Member: 269th Engineers, Company B
4950 Grant Drive
Brookhaven, Pennsylvania 19015
Telephone: 215/874-1197

George Weston
Member: Anti-Tank, 271st Infantry
173 Tanglewood East
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854
Telephone: _____

George Phillips, Past President
Member: Company G, 271st Infantry
4300 23rd Avenue North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33713-4651
Telephone: _____

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

DOGWOOD AND PLAQUE AT THE FREEDOMS FOUNDATION

It was unfortunate that of the five buses which departed the hotel on Tuesday of our reunion week to tour Valley Forge Park and Philadelphia, only one bus found the Congressional Medal of Honor Grove at The Freedoms Foundation. Maps were issued to those members who desired to see the grove with our memorial stone. Most were impressed by what they saw, and most agreed that the tree was dying. This committee will remain active with two objectives in mind. First: Communication will be established between myself and the administrators. Second: The replacement of the dying tree with a young dogwood tree. Periodically, I will visit Valley Forge and clean the plaque. I will forward reports on my progress.

**1991 69th Infantry
Division 44th Annual Reunion
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI
Dedication of 69th Division Monument
at Camp Shelby, Mississippi
SEPTEMBER 15-22, 1991**

This Form Will Get You Your Medals, Awards and Decorations Free!

Takes about 6 months.

Anything from the Good Conduct Medal on up will have your name engraved on it.

Date _____

MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER
9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63132

Sir:

- (1) It is respectfully requested that my Military Records be checked for the MEDALS that I am entitled to - and that such be mailed to me at the address given below. I know that I am entitled to the following: (however, I may be entitled to some that I am not aware of.)

(Please Print)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

- (2) The following information is furnished to check my personal records as requested above:

Last Name First Middle

HOME OF RECORD at time of entry into the Service:

Date of Enlistment: _____

Date of Discharge: _____

(If more space is needed, please attach letter to this form)

Serial or Service Number: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Respectfully Submitted,

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Battery B, 880th Field Artillery Camp Shelby - December 1943

Picture Furnished by Frank Alfiero



O.C.S. Class #214 - Graduated at Fort Benning, Georgia, April 10, 1943

Many of these men became Officers of the 69th.

Picture furnished by Brigadier General James Gibson



THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE



by — Dottie Witzleb
Ladies Auxiliary Editor
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Telephone: _____

Virginia Weston, *Chaplain*
173 Tanglewood East
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854
Telephone: _____

Auxiliary Officers, will you please complete your address by sending me your telephone number and also please send me a picture of yourself for publication since this is the new angle Earl wants to install. He, as well as others, would like to see what you look like. He is now asking everyone who sends in a write up to send a picture of themselves or even the family.

* * * * *

Ladies,

With another successful reunion behind us, I want to say Thanks to a lot of people. First to the Officers for their support, then to all the ladies who attended, those who manned the Registration Tables and helped with the gift exchange. To those who made and brought the 71 lap robes, 1 shoulder wrap and 54 pairs of foot warmers, and those who helped count, pack and deliver these to our Vets, Thanks. I am certain they will enjoy using all these articles. Last and not least, to our Sunshine Lady, Marge McCombs, a special thanks for her time and work in sending all those Birthday and Anniversary Cards.

We had a paper on the table with the lap robes, etc., for those bringing them to sign. When we counted them we could not find it. Would the person or persons who brought the bag of bedroom shoes please let us know and send me the pattern. For those who might want the size it is 36 x 45, for lap robes, washable material.

A special thanks to our Reunion Committee for all the work they did to make it such an enjoyable time for us. Valley Forge is such a beautiful area and there is so much nearby to see and do. I'm certain all the ladies enjoyed the Fashion Show they secured for our program. Our own ladies were great in their modeling of the fashions.

A reminder to those who are coming to the meetings for the first time. Each lady brings a small gift to be used in our gift exchange, so each lady goes home with a memento of the meeting.

We want to thank Mary Lee Bolte for bringing us word of our wonderful lady, Mrs. Bolte. We miss her presence and wit at our meetings.

We are still as busy as ever here in Pembroke. Our annual Lord's Acre Sale is to be this weekend, so I'm busy baking and preparing for this.

We enjoyed seeing all of you in Valley Forge and look forward to seeing all of you again at our next Reunion. Until then,

God Bless,
Ellen Snidow
Ladies Auxiliary President

DOTTIE'S NOTE: Ellen, remember you still have two more letters to write. One for each of the next two bulletins. I should get one in December and the other about early April of 1991. We missed your letter in the last bulletin but you were excused being on the European trip which I know you and Bill enjoyed very much as did the others.

* * * * *

Hi Ladies,

Missed a lot of you at Valley Forge. With only 859 attending, it meant that only about 410 or less were ladies since some of that number were other guests. The men had 449 which didn't meet the 1,000 that Earl was counting on for our first year on vacation that got us as far as Valley Forge. Now we head for Biloxi, Mississippi for our second year. It will be a long walk but we are on vacation you know, since the Presidency of the 69th is for two years.

Our week at Valley Forge ended up very nicely but the beginning was a nightmare. We arrived at the Sheraton a little before 8:00 P.M., was given our room key which was not suitable for me since if Earl needed to have meetings, I could not have gotten any rest, which was a requirement from the Chiropractor. I have been having, neck, back, and hip problems, which had me about down missing two months of work. I am pretty good now after quite a few treatments. It ended up we moved to the Raddison, getting a very nice one bedroom suite with a sauna in it. We managed to get in it by 12:30 A.M. the next day and I was ready for a good week but the following morning (Monday), many members urged Earl to move back to the Sheraton and be with the crowd. He agreed to it, ending up back in the same room but getting the empty room next door for a parlor, which they put a couple of tables and chairs in for Earl to meet with members. This took our Monday and hopefully we could start off Tuesday better. Earl got his Board Meeting room set along with the general membership meeting room and head table for the Saturday banquet dinner dance and Memorial Service.

We did enjoy the trip to Atlantic City although I lost 25¢ and Earl the other nine dollars and seventy-five cents. plus

(Continued on Page 18)

THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE

(Continued from Page 17)

another ten bucks. Not a bad evening as we did have fun. Earl wanted a hot dog so he bought two for himself and one for me. Needless to say, one was enough for him and a half for me. They had the works and more and it did stall him only getting half of the second one down. We walked the boardwalk to settle the hot dogs. The other tours we did not take since we saw them dozens of times.

The Beer Party was nice although Earl missed much of the Mummers performing. The Early Bird at Lily's was great which probably made our week plus a good Memorial Service, banquet, and evening.

We were to stay until Monday to settle with the Sheraton along with the Treasurer and Reunion Chairpersons, but it was done on Sunday. To make things worse, when Earl took members to our made up parlor Sunday afternoon, he found things moved out and another group moved in. After much discussion, he got another smaller parlor halfway around the floor. We used it a little Sunday night except another hassle arose. Earl requested that they set up a bar, only when they did, they set it up with opened bottles which meant they took them from other rooms when the persons moved out. Earl did report this to the DER and Liquor Control Board, but told them not to do anything about it. He said just to make closer checks with that facility and more often.

Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 69th Infantry Division Assoc. August 15, 1990 King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

President Snidow called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Invocation was presented by our Chaplain, Virginia Weston. The entire assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Snidow introduced all the Officers. All were present. They were: Ellen Snidow, *President*; Maria Keller, *Vice President*; Stefania Nemeth, *Secretary*; Ellen McCann, *Assistant Secretary*; Virginia Weston, *Chaplain*; Marge McCombs, *Sunshine Lady and Assistant Chaplain*.

The secretary read the minutes of the Denver meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

Marge McCombs was thanked for her devotion to her job as Sunshine Lady and was presented with a token of our appreciation. An addition to her favorite collection, a Precious Moment Figurine, was presented to her.

There were 26 new 'First Timers' present and each rose to be recognized and welcomed.

Mary Lee Bolte, daughter-in-law of Mrs. Bolte, represented the late General's family and reported on Mrs. Bolte's health and extended to us her best wishes. We sent our best wishes and deep regard to Mrs. Bolte.

Before the little gifts were to be distributed, the President asked if anyone had not received a ticket when she came in. Those omissions were rectified.

It was announced that we have an increase in membership over last year and presently have 690 members.

Marge McCombs reported that she sent 2,583 cards last year. She has always done and is continuing to do a remarkable job. We were pleased to hear that her husband is feeling better.

The ladies were thanked for the many robes, bibs, etc. These will be taken to the Coatesville, Pennsylvania Veterans

So should I call this a good week or not. I enjoyed it with Earl and all you other good friends which makes our week, but I was glad to get on my way home. I really thought the President should have gotten a better deal than he got, not the Treasurer and his friends. Is the politics starting up in the 69th again? I hope Earl doesn't have to battle that again with others like they did in the early sixties that has made our reunion what it is today. We have a good bunch of 69ers both men and women plus families and guests, let's keep it that way. Don't let a few ruin it for all of us.

Well, we're on our way to Biloxi - that will take a year to get to. I'm wondering what I'll run into there, but who cares, just so we have a bed to sleep in. Come on all you 69ers - members, wives, families, and guests, let's have a big showing for the dedication of the monument at Camp Shelby and show up Valley Forge by having 1,000 members along with wives, families and guests. We can always pitch a tent on the beach.

When you get this bulletin, winter will be with us, so ladies get making the lap robes and other items for our veterans at a hospital near Biloxi. They went this year to a veterans hospital in the area where Ann Walters, a past Ladies Auxiliary President, volunteers her services several times a week. Have a good Christmas Holiday season and we'll see you next year in Biloxi if not sooner at the Tri-State Maple Festival weekend in Meyersdale, Pennsylvania.

Dottie

Hospital. The dimensions of 36" x 45" and of washable material were given for the benefit of the newcomers and anyone who had not made lap robes before. A suggestion was made that we save our hotel soaps and shampoos to supplement any other gifts.

Virginia Weston made a motion to again send \$500.00 to the V.A. Hospital for comfort needs and it was seconded by Shirley Sarafan. Virginia Weston spoke to us giving a resume of her 20 years' service to the Ladies Auxiliary and requested that someone else consider being our Chaplain next year. Hers will be difficult shoes to fill.

A Memorial Service was conducted by Virginia Weston for our deceased members.

Maria Keller suggested that extra copies of the Minutes be kept and one of them go to the historical archives.

Gifts were distributed while the ladies who were to be models prepared for our entertainment, a Fashion Show by Dotsy Landau of the 'Pearl & Oyster Boutique,' Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. Unique wearables at affordable prices were shown. The models were, in order of appearance: Emily Fletcher, Kathleen Murphy, Helen Evers, Ted Nemeth and Florence Keller. The ladies enjoyed a very unique display of fashions, many hand-painted and hand-embroidered. After the show they had the opportunity to examine the fashions closer and, of course, had the pleasure of purchasing the beautiful jewelry, accessories and dresses.

Mr. Chalmer Pearson, Vice-President of the Association, brought us up to date on the major decisions made by the men including the dates of the future conventions. The 1991 Reunion will be in Biloxi, Mississippi in September. In August, 1992, in San Francisco, California. The 1993 Reunion will be in Rochester, New York.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. and Benediction was given by Marge McCombs.

Respectfully submitted,
Stefania M. Nemeth
Secretary

Ellen McCann
Assistant Secretary

Former Squad Leaders 1st Platoon, Co. F - 272nd



S/Sgt. Rettman, S/Sgt. Schaffer, S/Sgt. Boyer. Valley Forge Reunion.

Picture Furnished by Joe Schaffer

Former Members of Co. G-273rd, at Valley Forge



Standing, Left to Right: Al Aranson, Ollie Young, Steven Sauerzopf, Orville Schultz, Ed Stagg

Seated, Left to Right: Bob Ainley, Joe Panganiban, Ray Hotter, Billy Beecher

Picture furnished by Orville Schultz



Aaron Taulbe, John Sukey and Ray Fahrner - Company A, 273rd Infantry, at the Tri-State Reunion, Elyria, Ohio, June 1990. Aaron and Ray had not seen John for 45 years.



Artillery Mechanic Rico D'Angelo checking a Civil War Cannon.

Picture furnished by Al Kormas

**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.

New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

William J. Edge, Sr. — I-272nd
525 Woodbury Way, Belair, Maryland 21014

Ralph E. Smith — Div. Hq.
P.O. Box 5515, Lacey, Washington 98503

James M. Tsafos, Sr.
Box 472H, R.D. #2, Glenmoor, Pennsylvania 19343

Charles R. Brennan — A-271st
218 Bynum Ridge Road, Forest Hill, Maryland 21050

Earl W. Ramsey
11341 Jeff Avenue, Lake View Terra, California 91342

Gordon C. Thorpe — I-272nd
2676 Cumberland, Berkley, Michigan 48072

George DeHaven — I-273rd
R.D. #2, Box 139, Narvon, Pennsylvania 17555

Harry May, Sr. — C-271st
9755 Larson, Overland Park, Kansas 66214

Robert Shaw — B-273rd
3693 Slopeview Drive, San Jose, California 95148

Ralph W. Taylor — D-271st
617 West Northrup Street, Lansing, Michigan 48910

George W. Browne — 69th Q.M.
R.D. #1, Box 542, Gardiner, New York 12525

Daniel J. Coleman — L-271st
101 Ellwood Avenue, Apt. 1-F, Mt. Vernon, New York 10552

Frank Hardy — F-272nd
2800 Patterson Avenue, Suite 100, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Eldo E. DiVirgilio — I-273rd
Box 529, Perryopolis, Pennsylvania 15473

James W. Long — D-777th
Route 2, Box 1420, Hamptonville, North Carolina 27020

Hubert J. McEntee — Recon 661st
1 Tudor Lane, Apt. 7, Lockport, New York 14094

Lisle E. Dare — Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd
606 Washington Street, Cheney, Washington 99004

Edward M. Rothstein — Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd
134 Autumn Road, Lakewood, New Jersey 08701

Adolphe Mena — C-661st
5300 Collinsville Road, Fairmount City, Illinois 62201

Raymond C. Anderson — B-661st
8 Woodland Drive, Great Valley, New York 14741

Sidney Rosenblatt — F-271st
11726 N.W. 29th Court, Coral Springs, Florida 33065

Henry M. Robison — 69th M.P.
2137 Baltimore Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45225

Cecil Ammons — Hq.-881st
4309 Bell Hill Road, Bessemer, Alabama 35023

Francis J. Carrig
4275 Shortsville Road, Shortsville, New York 14548

William Melton — H-273rd
P.O. Box 101, Whitwell, Tennessee 37397

Harold McAdam — C-777th
Route 3, Ogdensburg, New York 13669

George Iwamoto — A-271st
1105 D Rycroft Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Norman Fortress — E-271st
5916 Port Royal, Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46815

Fred B. Kohl
6625 Country Line Road, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66216

Paul Wolf — Hq.-777th
213 Delaware Street, Evansville, Indiana 47711

Harold R. Sprang — E-273rd
192 State Route 603, Shiloh, Ohio 44878

Mack Pusey — Hq.-881st
Route 3, Box 108, Queenstown, Maryland 21658

Robert Tarr — Hq., 1st Bn., 272nd
2907 West Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, Florida 33609

John Teehan — M-272nd
154 Coyne Place, Belford, New Jersey 07718

James R. Carawan — M-272nd & 69th M.P.
214 Plantation Drive, New Bern, North Carolina 28562

Harold Oling — Hq.-880th
4242 Wooster Avenue, San Mateo, California 94403

Bennie D. Berell — Hq., 2nd Bn., 273rd
2319 Paden Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39204

Julius Casper — Hq., 2nd Bn., 273rd
R.D. #3, Box 34, Washington, Pennsylvania 15301

Ver Don R. Parker — Hq., 2nd Bn., 273rd
963 Signora Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Paul L. White — 273rd
2 New London Road, Mystic, Connecticut 06355

James Bellissimo
219 Crescent Avenue, Ellwood City, Pennsylvania 11617

Eldon Weaver — Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd
1002 N. Old Manor Road, Wichita, Kansas 67208

Wallace Hall — Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd
229 Akela Drive, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383

Herman Scott — H-273rd
Route 9, Box 400, Statesville, North Carolina 28677

✓ **Ralph M. Smoyer, Jr.** — A-273rd
3006 Arch Road, Norristown, Pennsylvania 19401

Hiram W. Burgin
539 Coolidge Place, Paramus, New Jersey 07652

Edward Sullian — C-272nd
300 Park Shore Drive, Naples, Florida 33940

Jim Barkley — C-881st
Utica, Michigan 48000

John F. Fox — 569th Signal
227 Grant St. Route 2, Wesbury, New York 11590

John A. Settember — B-271st
285 Pinecroft Place, Blue Bell, Pennsylvania 19422

Carl J. Wummer — E-271st
311 South Miller Street, Shillington, Pennsylvania 19607

Arthur L. Hall
20140 N.E. Sandy Blvd., Space 17, Troutdale, Oregon 97060

John J. Denery — H-273rd
208 Veja Baja Drive, Rio Rancho, New Mexico 87124

Jerome Ghedotti — A-273rd
25672 29th South, Kent, Washington 98031

Marvin L. Freeman — Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd
178 Lake Evelyn Drive, W. Palm Beach, Florida 33411

Hollis A. Durant — H-272nd
16 Bunker Hill Avenue, Stratham, New Hampshire 03885

Ralph Dimenna — M-273rd
32-A Larkspur Court, Asheville, North Carolina 28805

Fred Peiffer — 273rd
510 North Allison Street, Greencastle, Pennsylvania 17225

Bernard H. Hillman — A-272nd
7350 Kinghurst Drive, #101, Delray Beach, Florida 33446

Elwood Y. Coleman — G-271st
Route 6, Reidsville, North Carolina 27320

Colonel James E. Stacy, Ret. — M-271st
28255 Faircrest Way, Escondido, California 92026

Irving Mittelman — Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd
2166 Bronx Parkway East, Bronx, New York 10462

LeRoy K. Van Sickle — Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd
307 Devonshire Drive, Kokomo, Indiana 46901

- What -
No Miss (Mrs.) Valley Forge
 - No -
But We Have
THE BIG FIVE
OF VALLEY FORGE

WHAT, TWO FROM PENNSYLVANIA

I can't believe it - both from the East

If the camera isn't broke, we'll have a Miss (Mrs.) Biloxi. Possibly a Miss (Mrs.) Camp Shelby, too.

Ladies, get to Biloxi early (Monday or Tuesday) so the judges (100 of them) can make the right, proper selection of their QUEEN(S). You need not bring your husbands with 100 judges. (ALL MEN)



JOHN MORIARTY, MASSACHUSETTS



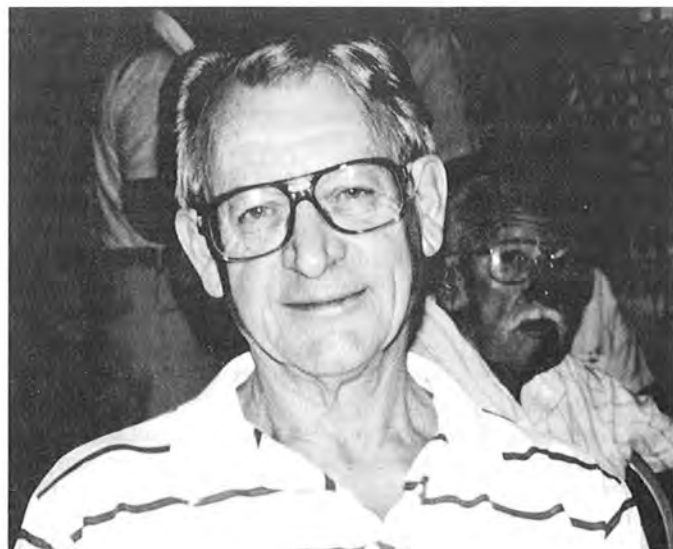
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Fighting 69th soldiers relive fraternal bonds

THE TIMES HERALD

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1990

WEEKEND EDITION



Robert Martin/The Times Herald

Former officers of the "Fighting 69th Infantry Division" commemorate the meeting of American and Russian soldiers at Torgau, Germany in 1945. From left: Colonel Walter Holmlin, Colonel Warren Everett, First Lieutenant Raymond Tworck and Major James Eibling.

By Donna Cavanagh
Times Herald Staff

More than forty years have come and gone, but the "Fighting 69th Infantry Division" lives on.

This week, about 700 members of the World War II division gathered at the Valley Forge Convention and Exhibit Center for their annual celebration and remembrance of what one veteran called "the most dramatic and moving time of our lives."

"We fight this war every year," said former communications officer Pierce Rice, an Arlington, Virginia resident who was the original cartoonist for "The Green Hornet" comic strip. "Each year the war gets better and better."

Other 69th Division members enjoy the fraternal spirit the reunion provides.

"We just like to get together and clear up the cobwebs that exist about those days," said Edward Lucci, a certified public accountant from Lynbrook, New York.

Lucci attributed the strong bond among the veterans to the fact that they were so young when they served their three years in Europe.

"I would guess the average age of the men was somewhere around their early to mid-20s," Lucci said. "Few were older than that."

Nicknamed the "Battling Bivouacing Bastards," the 69th included infantry, engineer, rifle and other support companies which forged their way across Europe in an effort to halt the Germans.

Organized in 1941, the division originally encamped in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, under the command of General Charles L. Bolte.

"Our first major action was at the Battle of the Bulge in February 1945," said former Corporal Earl Witzleb, now president of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association which has 5,700 members. "Half of us were sent to England to stop the advances of the Germans, and then we went to France to relieve the 99th Division."

After securing positions in France, the division went to Germany, where it overtook the town of Leipzig.

"That was probably our biggest battle," Witzleb said. "We just banded together."

Lucci also recalled that each victory brought the division closer to the most critical combat action.

"We moved to front lines — Belgium at the German border," recalled Lucci, who was a second lieutenant. "We then started 70 days of combat until we met the Russians at Torgau, which is east of Berlin near the Poland border," Witzleb noted.

The meeting at Torgau split the German forces in half, forcing them to surrender, he said.

Much of the success of the division is credited to the support services of the engineer companies.

"If we needed to get across water, we'd call them," Lucci said. "They would come and build a bridge."

Although the reunion is a celebration of days gone by, the association works to keep its war battles alive in the minds of younger generations.

Our reunions involve the whole family," said William Matlach of West Islip, New York. "We used to bring our children, and there would be parties for them."

(Continued on Page 23)

FIGHTING 69th SOLDIERS RELIVE FRATERNAL BONDS (Continued from Page 22)

Lucci added that the children of the infantrymen began to form close friendships because of the strong bond between their parents.

"Our wives are also an important part of this association," said Brookhaven, Delaware County resident, Daniel Evers. "Our ladies auxiliary works very hard for our association."

According to Dorothy Witzleb, the wives look forward to the convention as much as their husbands do.

"We enjoy seeing each other every year; we usually have a wonderful time," she said.

In an effort to keep the channels of communication open between veterans of the 69th Division, the association hosts the week-long convention in a different city each year. This year's event concludes tonight with a dinner-dance at the convention center.

"It keeps the interest alive, and allows us to see the country," Witzleb said of the annual get-together.

This year, the association planned a variety of activities for the group including tours of Valley Forge National Historical Park and Philadelphia, and a casino trip to Atlantic City.

Last night, the Philadelphia Mummer band "Harrow Gate" performed a special tribute to the 69th Infantry Division.

The Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association attempts to reach as many veterans as possible, but Witzleb admits that it's not an easy chore. Anyone who served with the 69th Division who wants to participate in the group's activities can contact Clarence Marshall at 101 Stephen Street, New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068.

Memories of wartime vivid, but bittersweet for veterans

By Donna Cavanagh
Times Herald Staff

World War II provides bittersweet memories for the members of the "Fighting 69th Infantry Division."

As young men, the division soldiers had to leave families, education and careers to take on the responsibility of stopping Nazi troops in Europe.

"The memories are so vivid," said Edward Lucci, a certified public accountant from Lynbrook, New York, who served as a second lieutenant in a rifle company. "We all depended on one another."

The battle that most of the "Fighting 69th" remembers is the takeover of the town of Leipzig in Germany on April 18, 1945.

"I was pinned down in the city hall building in Leipzig," Lucci recalled yesterday during the group's annual reunion. "The only cover we had was an underground toilet which had steps that led to the outside."

German soldiers continued to shoot at the Americans on the ground from windows in the city hall.

Lucci remembered that during the night-long battle, one of the men near him was shot in the jaw.

"Another soldier ran outside the shelter, and he was killed, right there," he said.

Although the 69th infantrymen recognized Germany as its enemy, they said the enemy was capable of compassion as well.

"When we made rescue efforts to get to our men, they never, ever tried to shoot us," said Pierce Rice, a communications officer with the division.

Other veterans agreed. "We were all human beings. They were just trying to protect the town, we were trying to take it over," Lucci said.

The Leipzig battle came to an end after tankers hammered away at the city hall building, he said.

"Eventually the mayor and the building's inhabitants surrendered," Lucci said. "After that the mayor committed suicide because he lost face."

Last year, the association offered its members the opportunity to relive their days in Europe.

They held a reunion with Russian soldiers commemorating their meeting at Torgau, a German town near the Polish border.

The two armies had split the German troops in half, forcing their surrender.

Germany may resurrect painful thoughts for ex-soldiers like Lucci, but it provides fond memories as well.

Lucci met his German wife, Johanna, after the takeover of Leipzig.

The couple eventually settled in Long Island and raised four children.

"She was a beautiful woman," he said of his wife, who died in 1987. "Everyone at home accepted her because she was a nice, wonderful lady - the United States became her home."

A Yank In the ETO

WRITTEN BY AN UNKNOWN INFANTRYMAN WHILE
STILL IN THE ETO 1944

Where the heavy dew whips through the breeze
And you wade in mud up to your knees.
Where the sun don't shine and the wind blows free.
And the fog's so thick you can hardly see.
Where we live on brussel sprouts and Spam
And those powdered eggs not worth a damn
In town you eat their fish and spuds,
And wash them down with a mug of suds.
You hold your nose while you gulp it down
It bites your stomach, then you frown,
For it burns your tongue, makes your throat feel queer.
It's rightly called "bitters," it sure ain't beer.
Where prices are high and queues are long
And those GI Yanks are always wrong.
Where you get watered scotch for two shillings a snort
And those Limey cabbies never stand short.
And the pitch black nights when you stay out late
It's so bloody dark you can't navigate
There's no transportation, so you have to hike,
And you get knocked on your arsh by a goddam bike.
Where most of the girls are blonde and bold
And think a Yanks pockets are lined with gold
And there's Picadilly Commandos with painted allure
Steer clear of them or you are burnt for sure.
And any damn fool knows it's worse than a cold,
So it's best to go straight - like a soldier.
But if you take chances and some of you may
Be sure and check in with the medics with the green lantern.
I'm not complaining but I'll bet you know
Life's rougher than hell in the ETO

Submitted by Howitzer Al Kormas

1989-1991 Appointed Committees

The President is on all committees. Please keep him informed. All committee chairmen should send a postcard or letter to **President Earl Witzleb** one week before each bulletin deadline stating the condition of his committee even if it should say "No Report At This Time." It is the responsibility of all committee members to attend at least the next two reunions.

* * * * *

ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO COMMITTEES

SOUVENIRS AND JACKETS

Delete **William C. and Reba Sheavly**, Company M, 272nd Infantry as the Souvenir Chairmen. They did a very well organized job for at least ten years with the souvenirs. The new souvenir chairman is:

Frank and Stefania (Ted) Nemeth
Member: 269th Engineers, Company B
66 Gaping Rock Road
Levittown, Pennsylvania 19057
Telephone: 215/945-3809

I am sure **Ted** will fill the bill as assistant very well. I believe **Frank** is going to handle the hats (red and blue) in the purchasing of them instead of **William "Bill" Beswick**, 661st Tank Destroyers. The two men talked this over at Valley Forge. Correct me if I am wrong.

A new recent item started only a year ago that has caught on fast is 271st, 272nd, and 273rd crests. I am sure other crests can be purchased if members are interested such as 661st Tank Destroyers, 777th Tank Battalion, 461st AAA Battalion, Field Artillery, and etc. They have been selling at cost which is \$5.00 and postage of \$1.00 for a total of \$6.00 by mail order. **Frank** has agreed that **Ray Fahrner** will handle these orders which you can inquire about by writing:

H. Raymond "Ray" Fahrner
Member: Company E, 273rd Infantry
Forge Gate Apartments, 33 E 1
Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19446
Telephone: 215/855-9696

Alex Kormas is your jacket, plackets, T-shirts, hats and other clothing items salesman.

Add to the REUNION ACTIVITIES/SITE SCREENING COMMITTEE

Robert Myers, *Past President*
Member: Division Headquarters
10453 Cumberland Drive
Sun City, Arizona 85351
Telephone: _____

Delete the **CLARENCE MARSHALL HONORARIUM COMMITTEE** which consisted of the following members:

Frank See, *Chairman*, 777th Headquarters Tank Battalion
Frank Nemeth, *Secretary*, 269th Engineers, Company B
Frederick Collet, Company D, 271st Infantry
Crandon Clark, Company B, 272nd Infantry
Robert Haag, Company H, 273rd Infantry
John J. Moriarty, *Past President*, 69th M.P. (Military Police)
Robert Myers, *Past President*, Division Headquarters
Joe Selb, 769th Ordnance

If you attended the Valley Forge Reunion and in particular the Saturday evening banquet dinner dance, you would have seen for yourself the splendid job this committee did.

The plaque given to **Clarence** was one to cherish forever and I am sure he will do this. The presentation to him was to the tee and hit each remark perfectly. Job well done committee, as you did do your homework.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE OF 1990-1991 DIRECTORS

Robert Pierce, 273rd Infantry
144 Nashau Court
San Jose, California 95139
Telephone: _____

Douglas Hall, Division Artillery
(724th, 879th, 880th, 881st Battalions and Headquarters and Headquarters Battery)
Route 1, Box 175
Loranger, Louisiana 70446
Telephone: _____

Lewis "Boyd" Ellsworth, Special Troops
(Division Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 69th Division Band, 69th M.P.s., 69th Recon, 569th Signal Company, 769th Ordnance, and 69th Quartermaster Co.)
Knoxville Road, R.R. #1
Steubenville, Ohio 43952
Telephone: 614/282-2327

James Eibling, 269th Engineers
1380 Camelot Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43220
Telephone: 614/451-3306

George McPherson, 661st Tank Destroyers
Post Office Box 4585
Huachuca City, Arizona 85616-0585
Telephone: _____

Frank See, 777th Tank Battalion
1235 West Wood Drive
Phoenix, Arizona 85029
Telephone: 602/866-6992

369th Medical Battalion - No Representative

461st AAA - No Representative

Dillard Powell, 271st Infantry
306 Kelso Court
Cary, North Carolina 27511
Telephone: _____

Crandon Clark, 272nd Infantry
395 Albin Court
Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450
Telephone: 201/444-6179

Enough changes for this bulletin. A few more will be listed in the next issue.

New Dues Year Began August 1, 1990

Regular Membership \$ 5.00
Contributory Dues \$10.00
Ladies Auxiliary \$ 2.00

**SEND YOUR DUES IN NOW!
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

Mail to: **Robert Kurtzman, Sr.**
Post Office Box 178
Wilmot, Ohio 44689

1990 Valley Forge Reunion at King of Prussia, Pennsylvania



Past Presidents



Group of First Timers



Company E, 272nd Infantry Regiment



Company H, 273rd Infantry Regiment



First Timers Harold and Catherine Crowley



Tom Heath and Joe Loudon



Barbara, Chet and Richard Yastrzemski



Alex Zubrowski

1990 Valley Forge Reunion at King of Prussia, Pennsylvania



Joe Aiello and Art Hume



Ursula and Ted Shiffner



Joseph and Florence Giglietta



Bill and Patricia Ruebsamen



Paul and Marge McCombs, Sunshine Lady



David and Mary Lee Bolte



Chet Yastrzemski and George Phillips



Joe and Pat Slopek

1990 Valley Forge Reunion at King of Prussia, Pennsylvania



June and Bob Anderson



Mary and Del Balzano - Rhoda and Nat Green



Sheraton Inn Valley Forge



Longwood Gardens

The Philadelphia Mummers Association's Harrowgate String Band performing at the Beer Party at Valley Forge



MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS BY INDIVIDUAL UNITS

UNIT	Members on Roster	Members Contributing	Amount Contributed	Percent of Roster	Average Per Cont. Member	Average Amt. Per Rost. Mem.
Division Hq. - Hq. Co.	165	74	\$ 777.00	.45	\$10.50	\$4.71
Division Band	29	13	126.00	.45	9.70*	4.35*
Division MPs	24	16	172.00	.67	10.75	7.17
Division QM	32	19	194.00	.60	10.21*	6.07
Recon Troop	102	40	442.00	.40*	11.05	4.34*
269th Engineers	228	92	952.00	.41*	10.35	4.18*
369th Medics	117	57	486.00	.49	8.53*	4.16*
569th Signal	96	50	546.00	.52	10.92	5.69
769th Ordnance	37	20	196.00	.54	9.80*	5.30
271st Infantry Regiment	1006	508	5,231.00	.51	10.30	5.20
272nd Infantry Regiment	1029	516	5,411.00	.51	10.49	5.26
273rd Infantry Regiment	951	492	5,526.00	.52	11.25	5.81
879th Field Artillery Bn.	152	72	718.00	.48	9.98*	4.73
880th Field Artillery Bn.	215	98	805.00	.46	8.22*	3.75*
881st Field Artillery Bn.	149	78	777.00	.53	9.97*	5.22
Divarty	75	38	385.00	.51	10.14*	5.14
724th Field Artillery Bn.	177	97	933.00	.55	9.62*	5.28
461st AAA Battalion	244	49	360.00	.20*	7.35*	1.48*
661st Tank Destroyer Bn.	347	98	906.00	.29*	9.25*	2.61*
777th Tank Battalion	209	80	813.00	.39*	10.17*	3.89*
Unknown Units	253	22	232.00	.09*	10.55	0.92*
Sustaining	11	3	22.00	.28*	7.34*	2.00*
Associate	18	5	50.00	.28*	10.00*	2.78*
Honorary	19	4	47.00	.21*	11.75	2.48*
TOTAL	5,689	2,541	\$26,112.00	.45	\$10.28	\$4.59

*Asterisk indicates below Association average.

556 Members or 9½% of the roster contributed between \$15.00 - \$100.00 for a total of \$10,787.00 or 42% of all the contributions.

3148 Members made no contribution for dues year 1989-1990.

2335 Members have made no contribution in the past six years.

1236 Members have contributed in each of the past six years.

402 Members have contributed in 5 of the past six years.

242 Members have contributed in 4 of the past six years.

231 Members have contributed in 3 of the past six years.

190 Members have contributed in 2 of the past six years.

240 Members have contributed in 1 of the past six years.

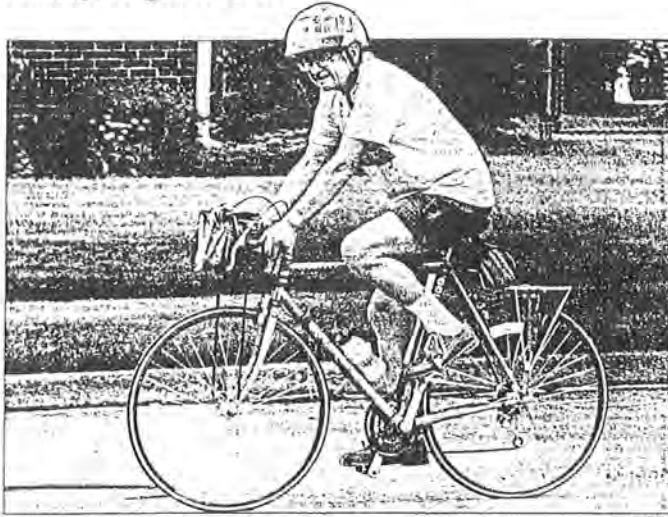
535 Contributing Members are new since 1984-85

Bicyclist to pedal his cares away on ride

THE PATRIOT

Harrisburg, PA

Monday, August 6, 1990



LONG RIDER — Jim Kehew trains for the 1,600-mile bicycle trip from Portland, Maine, to Orlando, Florida, in September.

By Lynn Gourley Karl / Patriot-News

He gave it some thought — about five minutes. That's how long **Jim Kehew** of Camp Hill says he took to decide to take part in a fund-raising bike ride from Portland, Maine to Orlando, Florida.

That's right — Maine to Florida. A ride totaling about 1,600 miles. That's more than many people drive in a month.

Pedal for Power North-South, sponsored by the League of American Wheelmen, will run for three weeks — from September 22 to October 13 — and bicyclists will average about 70 miles per day. They'll go through such cities as Worcester, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Fayetteville, South Carolina, and St. Augustine, Florida. They'll spend two rest days in Washington, D.C., and Savannah, Georgia.

Although camping is often the norm during these trips, this group will stay in motels along the way.

"It's sort of deluxe," Kehew laughs.

Breakfast and dinner will be provided, making riders only responsible for their lunches.

Half the funds raised from the ride will benefit LAW's Bicyclists' Educational and Legal Foundation. The other half will go to the rider's favorite cause. Kehew, who must raise \$2,500 to ride, has chosen the Bicycling Federation of Pennsylvania as his cause. He serves as the federation's volunteer executive director and editor.

Long-distance rides are nothing new to Jim or his family. In fact, bicycling is a Kehew family affair.

In 1974, Jim and his wife, Esther, pedaled from Oregon to Washington, D.C., researching a cross-country bike trail for a national cycling organization in Montana.

Several years later, the couple, along with their daughter Peggy, biked 500 miles in Holland, Belgium, France and England.

In 1985, Jim and Esther participated in the Great British Bike ride, a 1,000-mile camping trip with 200 other riders.

The route took them from the southern tip of England to the northernmost point of Scotland.

On this trip, though, Esther won't be riding. Instead, she was selected to drive one of three sag wagons accompanying the riders. Sags carry food and water for them. Jim calls them "moving feasts." "I should be riding with him but I haven't kept in shape like he has," Esther said. "I don't want to ride 100 miles a day!"

Jim Kehew began riding about 30 years ago. "Very few adults were riding then," he explains, "so I was sort of an oddity." Since then bicycling has grown by leaps and bounds as a form of fitness and recreation among people of all ages.

In 1963, Kehew helped establish the Harrisburg Bike Club. Today, the organization has grown to more than 1,000 members. He is the former editor of the club newsletter and still has the club phone number ring in his house.

To train for such a lengthy trip, Kehew has been riding as much as he can. He does both short and long-distance rides.

"It's good to just get the body in shape and used to sitting on a seat," he explains.

The Kehews recently rode in a 350-mile weeklong trip to Ohio. "It was great training for this upcoming ride," Kehew says.

He doesn't plan on changing his diet for or during the ride. "I think riding that distance enables you to eat anything you want because you burn it off during the day, which is nice," he says. "You get stronger as you go along instead of worn out. I get refreshed by a good night's sleep."

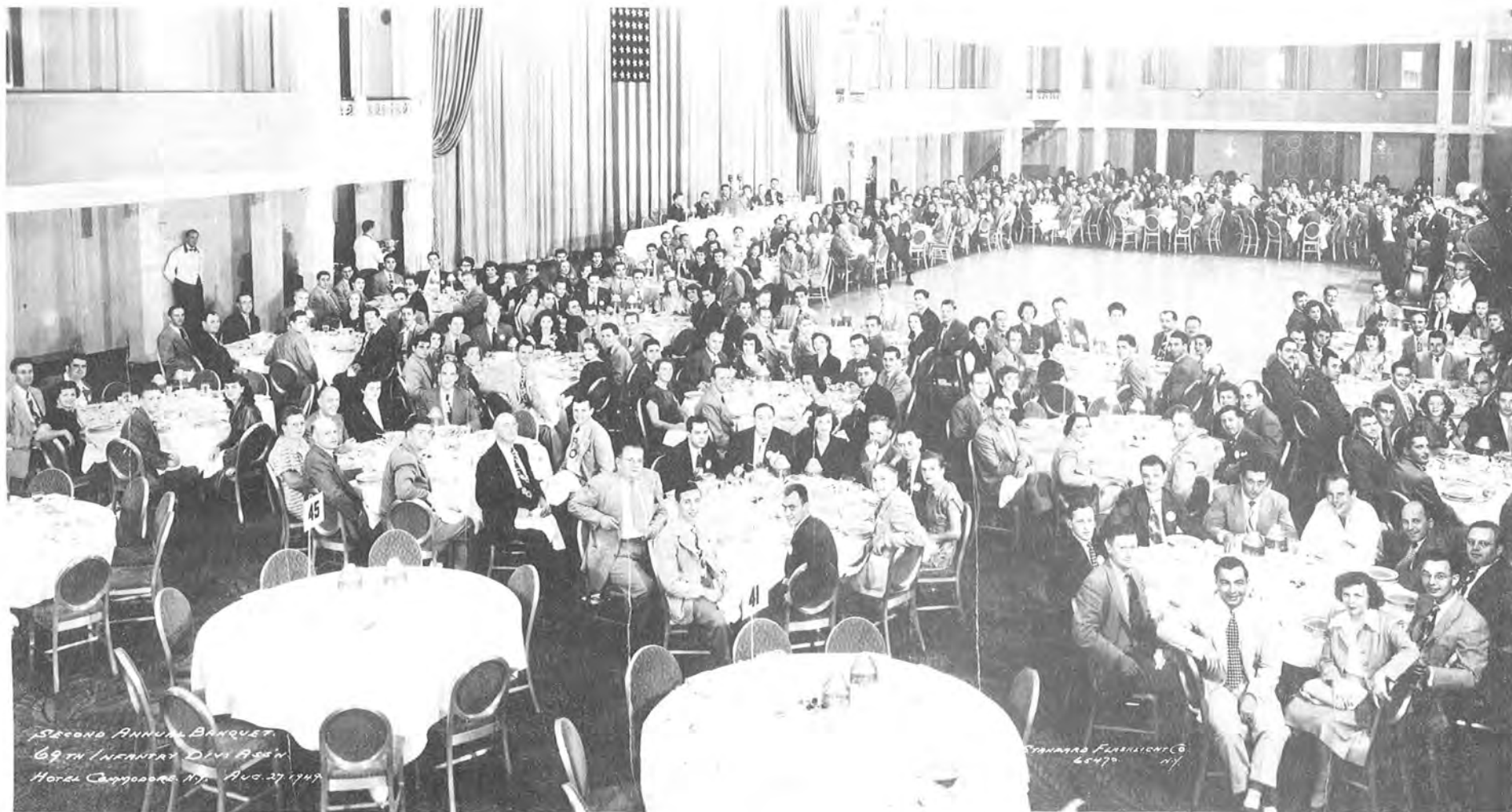
He'll take one bike with him for the ride and plans to have it overhauled before the start. "I'm not much of a mechanic," he says. "Neither one of us had a flat tire riding across country." Just in case, a mechanic will accompany riders on the trip.

About 80 people are expected to participate in this north-to-south venture. Jim explains that the routes were selected by bicyclists and back roads were picked wherever possible.

In addition to raising funds for bicycling causes, Kehew is riding to prove something — to himself. "I'm interested in seeing if I can do it," he says.

He'll celebrate his 74th birthday on the second day of the ride.





SECOND ANNUAL BANQUET
69TH INFANTRY DIV ASSN
HOTEL COMMODORE, N.Y. AUG. 27, 1949

STANDARD FLASHLIGHT CO
65470 N.Y.

**2nd Annual Banquet
69th Infantry Division Association
August 27, 1949
Held in the Hotel Commodore
New York City, New York**

Picture Furnished by Edwin Weiss

W.A. Vengen, 64, classic pianist, passes away

Thursday, June 14, 1990

The Philadelphia Inquirer

By Ralph Cipriano, Inquirer Staff Writer

When William A. Vengen gave a piano lesson at his home in Delaware County, he took frequent breaks to serve cookies and milk. He also loved to discuss philosophy with his students.

"He was quite a character," said Coulson Conn, who has two sons and a daughter who learned the piano from Mr. Vengen.

"He was not only a fine pianist, but he also taught them a little about life and philosophy in the process."

Mr. Vengen, a classic pianist known by his students for his philosophical musings, buoyant spirit and diverse intellectual interests, died Monday at Riddle Memorial Hospital in Media. He was 64 and had been a resident of Upper Providence, Delaware County, for the last 31 years.

The son of a music teacher, Mr. Vengen was born and raised in Bluefield, West Virginia, where he was recognized as a child prodigy on piano. As a child, he won the National Federation of Music Clubs' stat competition in West Virginia several times.

His music career was interrupted by World War II, where he served as a decorated Army veteran of the FIGHTING 69th INFANTRY DIV. that fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

After the war he attended the Newark Conservatory of Music in Newark, New Jersey and the Julliard School of Music in New York City.

For three decades, he taught contemporary and classical music at his home. He also performed at various functions and clubs in the Philadelphia area, including the Union League, the Torresdale Country Club, the Kennedy Supplee mansion in Valley Forge Park, and the Kimberton Inn in Phoenixville.

"He had an amazing command of the keyboard," said his wife of 36 years, the former Stella Mendelowski. "He played everything from memory. He never took a sheet of music wherever he played. He had an amazing ability to improvise, and that's what made his playing so special."

As a piano teacher, Mr. Vengen was an inspiration when he sat down at his solid-oak Steinway grand, a former pupil said.

"He was such a presence," said Marilyn Kaufman. "He was so exciting and he was such a wonderful musician he would make me want to play it the way he could."

"He was a stickler on technique, including scales, theory and exercises," said a daughter, Lauren Mechell, also a music teacher. "He also could get along with anybody. No matter who you were, he made you feel special. He had a knack for making people feel comfortable."



At his home, Mr. Vengen frequently showed students his antique bottle collection. He loved to participate in archeological digs and landfill excavations, at which he had found about 3,000 bottles from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

Mr. Vengen often could date a bottle just by looking at it. He also could tell what type of glass it was, what minerals were used to make the glass, and whether the glass originally held medicine, such as bitters, or poison.

"He was a storehouse of information," his wife said. "We counted on Dad to be our encyclopedia of general knowledge. You could name your topic, and he would give you all the information on everything from music to the history of aviation."

Mr. Vengen frequently got his students interested in his hobbies, whether it was collecting antique bottles, or the study of wild flowers. He also was known for his unflinching optimism. "He was always full of enthusiasm," Conn said. "He left people feeling good. When you ran into him and talked for 10 minutes, you went off saying 'That was fun' and 'I didn't know that.'"

When Mr. Vengen had a heart attack three weeks ago, he was taken to Riddle Memorial Hospital, where Kaufman, his former pupil, is a nurse.

"We talked for a while," she said. "He hadn't changed. He was just so positive, he assumed he was going to be fine."

Besides his wife and daughter, he is survived by another daughter, Cynthia Yates; a son Robert W.; two grandchildren, and a sister.

Why Not 1990 Reunion Week



Two old soldiers met the day after the August 1990 Reunion. They hadn't seen each other in over 46 years.

On the right, Bill Duncan, former Platoon Sergeant, I&R Platoon, 271st Infantry. Now, a retired Lieutenant Colonel and a semi-retired businessman living in California.

On the left, Jim Gibson, former Platoon Leader, I&R Platoon, 271st Infantry. Now, a retired Brigadier General, USA, living in Virginia.

Brig. Gen. James M. Gibson, U.S.A. Retired
4900 Chowan Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22312

Earl's Note: Did you meet in Virginia or California?? Valley Forge isn't that far from Alexandria, Virginia. You could have met four other couples and two singles of which I believe William Duncan, California was one member present at Valley Forge. How about let's see you all at Biloxi, Mississippi in 1991.

Memories from the Second Platoon of D Company, 273rd Infantry

Kenneth A. Sawyer
2935 Turtle Mound Road
Melbourne, Florida 32934

I am sending in these pictures taken back in 1945 in hopes that you can use them in the bulletin. These men were all members of the Second Platoon of Company D, 273rd Infantry. Six of them are frequent attendees at our reunions - **Ken Sawyer, Ronald Hendrickson, Seth Mohr, Hank Kaminski, Art Ayres and Lew Tenney**. The other four may come yet. There are three other second platoon members who come to the reunions, but I don't have photos of them. These pictures might encourage us all.



Ken Sawyer



Roland Hendrickson



Seth Mohr



Dick King



Lloyd Hulbert



Art Ayres, Russian and Wayne Kruper



Carl Williams



Don Millikin



Hank Kaminski



Lew Tenney

Near War's End

With the encouragement of Alan H. Murphey, formerly of the I&R Section, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 273rd Infantry, I'm enclosing an item that might someday be of use to you and Clarence Marshall for the Bulletin.

Toward the end of the war, censorship was relaxed to the extent that we were allowed to write home about action in which we had taken part, if we waited a prescribed interval. Shortly after the Battle of Leipzig, I wrote a series of V-Mail letters describing what had happened, from my own, very narrow point of view as a Pfc. in the Headquarters Platoon of Easy Company, 273rd Infantry. I made copies for some of the people mentioned, and apparently turned one in to 2nd Battalion Headquarters for their historical records.

Alan Murphey is currently researching the taking of Colditz by the 3rd Battalion in April of 1945, and wrote the National Archives for 273rd Infantry After Action Reports (AARs) for that month. Among the material they sent him was a copy of this narrative, which had been on file (and even classified!) all these years. Alan got my address from Clarence, and sent a copy to me. It may be longer than you can use; I'd be glad to make it shorter if you like.

Sorry we did not get to Valley Forge this summer. Best wishes to you and Dottie and all members of the 69th.

Granger Tripp

Earl's Note: Granger, thirty lashes. You were only two hours away from Valley Forge. We missed you and all of Easy Company, 273rd members from the Eastern Coast. Now you'll have to run a reunion for us taking the gang of 69ers to West Point. It would be nice having a reunion in New York north of the Big Apple along the Hudson.

LEIPZIG

Leipzig was an added burden, an unexpected, extra task thrown our way when another unit found itself pinned down on the way to the city.

We had just completed a breathtaking, nerve-wracking drive across Germany, riding on the spearhead tanks for days on end, sometimes fighting, sometimes just chasing, but always sitting on the knife-edge of a possible ambush or counter-attack. Then we reached our objective, moved into a wonderfully opulent mansion, and settled down for rest and reorganization.

The order to move caught us tired and dejected, and we slept on the tanks that took us back — back because we had already passed Leipzig. This was a clean-up job, necessary, nasty, unwanted.

I had to wake up Willie from a sound sleep, although he was standing up, half draped over the open turret of a TD. We dumped our blanket rolls and walked around the block to a row of houses that was to be our assembly area. The place was welcome mainly for the protection from possible falling flak from the AA guns that kept chasing away our artillery observation planes.

We leaned up against the sheltered side of a house and ate a K-ration. Someone had a bottle of ketchup for the meat portion. We gave away a jar of honey because it was too heavy to carry. Igor settled down to read *Time*. The Captain called the platoon leaders up for a conference.

There wasn't much information available at first; George Hicks, Blue Network radio commentator, walked over and wrote down some names and chatted for a while. He said the army wanted to surrender, but the mayor insisted on a fight. The city was nearly surrounded; estimates of the defending force ranged from 30,000 on down. We sat there in the sun

and tried to sleep and remade our packs and I guess prayed a little, or maybe a lot.

The kitchen truck drove up and gave everyone three boxes of K-rations. By then we had no place to carry them, but we had to stuff them in over-filled pockets somehow. I went over to the jeeps and got extra batteries for the little 536 radios the platoon leaders carry. They handed out grenades and ammunition and advice on street fighting (stick to the backyards) and we tried to sleep some more.

The Captain came back from battalion with the attack order and called the platoon leaders again. The other division was moving into the city without opposition. Fox company was going to mount a company of tanks and make a dash for the city hall. We had to clean out the outlying districts, move through the ball park and the cemetery and secure the railroad station.

It started out easily enough. We walked along behind the rifle platoons as they searched each house, listened to our artillery swish overhead, and tried to persuade the civilians to stay indoors. We would threaten them with our carbines, and they would walk around the corner and watch from another exposed position.

Somebody said, "I wonder if they'll fire a shot in this damn battle," and then somebody did. "Why don't these guys learn to be more careful," we said. "Hope no one hurt himself." Then there was a burst of machine gun fire, not brisk and guttural, like ours, but faster, a high pitched, hysterical rattle. "That's Jerry." Almost immediately there were machine guns and rifles clamoring incessantly.

Willie and I and the Executive Officer had squeezed onto a love-seat in someone's garden and were talking about Jerries' necking. We got out of there and set up a CP in a house, calling the platoon for information on the radios. It embarrasses me to call them in the middle of a fight. I'm always afraid they'll say, "For God's sake, don't you know I'm busy?" But that radio is their only way to call for help, and we have to keep in touch with them.

We ate bread and jam out of the kitchen, and Igor read me a year-old German newspaper that said the V-bombs were destroying 700 families a week.

There was firing outside, but the flimsy house walls gave me a false sense of security. I tried to go to sleep again. I opened my eyes and watched a litter team trot by, crouching low as they moved. There was a machine gun on the sun porch upstairs and a mortar in the backyard. The firing stopped after a while, and the situation became more clear: the Jerries were dug in in fox-holes all across the ball-field. Our first platoon was to follow five light tanks out across the field and dig them out, with bayonets, if necessary.

No one was pleased with that order, but no one questioned it. Two men from the first platoon were in the house, in the room with me. They gave each other a significant look and lay down on the floor. They looked to be about 18 years old. They waited for a while, until someone came in and said quietly, "Let's go."

The two kids sat up, looked at each other again, and pulled themselves to their feet. "Well, let's go," one said, and they walked out. I saw them again when they were halfway across the field, walking close behind the tanks, crouched over. There was a deadly, tense silence across the green grass as they moved deliberately up to the fox-holes. Then one Jerry stood up, put his hands in the air and called "Kamerad". They let him come forward, and suddenly heads popped up all over the field. Soon there was the familiar double column of Jerries, hands clasped behind their heads, walking toward our lines.

That action wasn't part of the plan; at least, it wasn't part of our plan. The Jerries were there to delay us, and they

(Continued on Page 35)

NEAR WAR'S END

(Continued from Page 34)

succeeded, even though they eventually surrendered. We moved on across the field and waited to reorganize again.

A medic went over and looked at a dead Jerry lying in the gutter. He took his pistol and hid it inside his jacket; he offered me his field glasses, but they were all covered with blood, so I kicked the glasses into the gutter and followed the Exec off into the cemetery.

It was dark by then, and we soon lost contact with the platoons ahead of us. We groped our way through the cemetery, expecting to hit Jerries at every step. A car drove by, and we all jumped in the bushes.

"Don't step on those graves," the Exec whispered hoarsely, and the word was whispered back along the line, automatically, the way every word is whispered back from man to man. I thought that we were lost, and I wondered if we would have to dig in there for the night and how we would avoid the graves if we did.

There was a little firing up ahead, and after a while, about 2230 or so, we came to a stone house near a cemetery gate. There was a broad stone sidewalk leading from the gate to a huge monument. We stopped there, and the Exec said, "Dammit, I've got to find the Captain," and walked off into the darkness.

We sat there and waited, trying to keep quiet, but every time someone sat down, his equipment would bang on the cement and ring out in the clear, cool night air. We couldn't contact anyone on the radios. I had Headquarters 536 and turned it off because it burped out a continual roar that carried a good distance. Frankie had carried the SCR 300 the whole distance, and I knew how his shoulders felt with the continued pressure of 50 pounds of clumsy equipment. I knew I ought to offer to carry it a while, but I wanted to move around and try to contact someone. Willie thought he heard someone walk past with a 536 turned on, and hurried out onto the street to look for him.

The time dragged on. A boy from George Company asked me if I were from Easy Company. He said he and four other men had been on patrol and were lost. I told him to stay with us, and he seemed relieved, so I didn't tell him how precarious our situation was. I said we were waiting and walked away before they could ask why.

Suddenly, there were some rifle shots and three loud explosions close by, to our left. "Bazooka," someone said, but it wasn't ours, and we just hugged closer to the building. The waiting seemed interminable. A lieutenant from an attached heavy machine-gun section quietly posted guards. Somebody snored, loud, and got poked in the ribs.

At last the Exec came back. He had found the Captain, who knew where the platoons were. "Cross the road, two at a time," he said, "and we'll open that house for a CP."

I went across with him, running low. We had to cross an exposed fence, and one of the K-rations under my armpits fell onto the sidewalk. I picked it up, threw it over the fence, and fell over after it.

We put the CP in the basement in a room next to one with a coffin in it. There were racks for more coffins along the wall, and Willie and I lay down on two of them. I heard the Captain send a patrol to explore the monument that held so many Jerries. Everyone thought we would stop there for the night, but the Captain said we would move on in an hour.

I was too tired to care. The Captain spoke with an effort, and as soon as he had given the attack order, his chin hit his chest, hard, right in the middle of a question from a lieutenant. The lieutenant asked him twice more, answered the question himself, and went out. I went to sleep.

Willie woke me gently, apologetically, at one o'clock. He had a cigarette lit for me, and I tried to kill the taste of sleep with long drags. We snuck out the back way, by-passing the monument, onto a broad street. I kept thinking how beautiful it must have been, because it reminded me of an avenue at home. We walked a long way, and my feet hurt from the hard pavement and dirty socks.

We stopped and lay down in our tracks. Troops passed us going the other way, but it wasn't for quite a while that I realized it was our company, going back. We retraced our steps a long way, and sat down on the doorstep of a store. Every time we stopped, Willie went to sleep, and sometimes I don't think he woke up in between stops. Every once in a while he'd open his eyes and say, "Hello, Jimmy" and then go back to sleep.

We walked through a huge factory grounds for hours, past row upon row of airplane engines, crated and neatly stacked. The Captain was trying to find a way through it, but on his map it showed the factory area to be an amusement park, and he was searching literally and figuratively in the dark. About four-thirty he gave up and took us into the basement of a factory, where some slave laborers gave us their bunks. The captain was feeding us sleep like shots in the arm; we got an hour there, and started out again at dawn.

It was better in the light. We found a gate to the factory yard and walked unmolested along a broad boulevard toward the railroad station. We picked a house for a CP, and found the second platoon resting inside. They had a squad of the third platoon with them, and they knew where the first platoon was, so we greeted them like long-lost brothers. It's no fun to have your company spread all over a hostile city, with no contact from one to another.

John Allen, a wise-drawling Californian, gave Willie and me a mattress, and we slept another half-hour. They woke us up and said the wire section had to go back and find the end of the battalion line and lay wire to the company.

We felt better in the sunlight, with the firing intermittent and distant. We found the line, and, on the way back to the company, cheered the surprising sight of a huge American flag waving regally from an apartment house balcony. The owner, a rail-thin, harsh-voiced woman, shouted hysterically, "I'm an American, but I've been here ten years, and they won't let me go back, and they treat me terribly, and it's been awful, but I'm glad you're here, and now they'll have to treat me better, won't they?"

We said yes, and on the way back with the wire, we took her picture and went up to call. Her apartment looked like a Gotham sitting room of the 1890's, with the addition of a half-dozen flags, pictures of Indians and other Americana. She was obviously eccentric, rattling on incessantly about her troubles, her friends in the states, and what she would tell the Germans. "That'll be all right, won't it?" she asked. We told her to give the Jerries hell and went back to the company.

We ate K-rations and got ready to move out again. Things were going well now, and the platoons searched houses on three parallel avenues rapidly and methodically. There was no opposition, and we were able to move fast.

Halfway down one street we spotted a light truck and a sedan in a yard. Willie made for the truck and I for the sedan. Someone beat Willie to the truck, but there was no key in the sedan, so I had it all to myself. I unscrewed the ignition switch, pulled it out, and called Willie. He arrived with a short piece of wire, ready to connect the missing links on the switch. He managed to get a spark on the third try. "I wonder if it's booby-trapped," he remarked, and I stepped on the starter. I knew it was working by the smell of the exhaust as soon as by the sound of the motor.

(Continued on Page 36)

NEAR WAR'S END

(Continued from Page 35)

We dumped the SCR 300, Frankie and our equipment in the back seat and followed the Captain as he supervised the searching. The boys took some prisoners and brought us the pistols to carry for them. Most of the prisoners were officers, haughty, clean-shaven, well-dressed. They looked down their noses at their dirty, ragged captors, but we were not disturbed.

Then we came to the City Hall, where Fox Company had its fight. The streets were filled with rubble, broken streetcars, broken glass. There were stalled tanks and abandoned weapons and everywhere an air of desolation. The captain went inside to find out how Fox had fared, and we followed the platoons, stopping occasionally for pictures, weaving past blocks of prisoners, lined up three abreast in the streets.

We met the liaison officer on a jeep, and he sent us off to find the exec and the captain. We found the exec relaxing with a glass of beer at a corner bar, so we all had a glass, and got a glass of water for the car battery. I went back alone to the City Hall to pick up the captain and his runner, but he had left, and a Fox Company platoon leader told me which way he had gone.

As I drove along, looking for him, his jeep driver hailed me. "The captain's been looking for you. He wants you to go downstairs," he said. I followed a procession down to a huge wine cellar. People were shouting and rushing out of the place, loaded with bottles of wine. The doorway was jammed, but when they saw me they all shouted "Un Americain!" and let me past. I don't know why they all spoke French, but they did. An assistant driver and the armor artificer were guarding a huge wicker basket of champagne and other wine for the company. When I got there, they left with the basket and told me to bring more.

I didn't know how to pick out good wine from bad, but I knew I wanted champagne. "Get the bottles with the big tops," a GI told me, and pointed to the rear. A Frenchman triumphantly handed me two bottles of champagne, crying "Good, gut, tres bien," all at once. There was too much to carry alone, so I raced back to the company and picked up Willie.

By the time we got back, a sergeant from Fox Company had things well under control. He chased the Germans away, slowed down the entry of the recently-freed slaves, and guided the GIs to the best spots. We hurriedly filled a paste-board box with anything that seemed to be champagne and which the Frenchman admitted was "Good, gut, tres bien." We loaded it on the sedan and drove toward the outskirts of town.

We found a lovely, breezy boulevard, and we parked the car and opened a bottle of champagne. It turned out to be pink, and the label said "1832," so we separated all the bottles like that for private use and put the rest back in the box. We took turns drinking out of the beer glass in which we had gotten the water for the battery, watching the stream of traffic on the road.

There were hundreds of liberated slave laborers pushing their possessions before them on pushcarts; a stream of army traffic; trucks; guns; MPs, spic and span in clean uniforms; correspondents, sage and busy; staff officers with map cases; kitchens; messenger jeeps, liaison jeeps and just jeeps, the kind that swarm in and behind every operation like so many impatient dogs on a leash. "Cheers, Jimmy," Willie said. "All the best Willie," I told him.

We went back to the CP, where the boys had things well under control. They were distributing C-rations, assigning areas of responsibility for the night, preparing to rest. Willie and I picked up Frankie and went out to the park for supper. We had K-rations and champagne, took pictures, and relaxed. German civilians looked at us, dirty, ragged, unshaven, and frowned their disapproval of the ration boxes on the lawn.

After supper, we drove slowly through the park, asking directions of a pretty blonde German girl. It's strictly against regulations to talk to civilians, but we were too exhausted and excited to worry about rules. The girl spoke English, and we talked to her about the war. She didn't know why Germany didn't stop fighting, although she admitted that we had won the war. "But you have the planes and guns and food," she said.

We admitted we would probably soon leave Leipzig. "And after you come the Negroes, for us women?" she asked. We wanted to know who had told her that, because a liberated British PW had already reported the prevalence of that belief behind the German lines. But she couldn't explain it, other than that it was a rumor.

"But you'll take all our rings, won't you?" she said. We said no. "Do the American troops stay at civilian houses?" We admitted we did. "I have an extra room," she smiled. "Perhaps I shall have an American at my house tonight." We smiled politely at that engaging prospect and went back home to bed.

That night we slept, slept the heavy drugged sleep that had been our dream for so long. Igor tried to wake me for guard. "Granger," I heard him say, "I've been calling you for 15 minutes. Please, as a personal favor to me, please get up." When it was my turn to wake Willie, I lifted him by the shoulders, stood him on his feet, aimed him for the door, and went back to sleep myself.

We had expected to move to the edge of the town the next day, to defend it, rest, reorganize, and recover our lost sense of balance. As I dragged myself back to consciousness the next morning, I heard the Captain talking on the battalion phone. "Good God, man, aren't we ever going to rest? . . . All right, we'll be ready."

We were afraid to ask, but he told us anyway.

"Be ready to move at 0830," he said. "We're going back to the CCA, back to the spearhead . . ."

Leipzig had its points, but I would have preferred to sleep.



"I want a long rest after the war.
Maybe I'll do a hitch in the regulars."

269th Engineers Company A

Photos were Supplied By
Staff Sergeant Charles E. Krichten

*Photo at Right: Pfc. Montgomery, S/Sgt.
Krichten, T/5 Knox, Pfc. Thomas, Pvt. Evans*

April, 1944



*Pfc. Wozniak, Pfc. Enoria, Pvt. Brewster and S/Sgt. Krichten
April 1944*



*Names Unknown. Do you recognize anyone?
Taken at Lake Shelby*



Colonel Everett inspecting machine guns.

Warren Kunkel Passes On

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY 880th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

John J. O'Connor, President, 880th Field Artillery
4512 Maple Avenue
Brookfield, Illinois 60513

Dear Members:

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of the passing of Warren Kunkel, our Secretary-Treasurer. Warren passed away June 8, 1990, after his short suffering illness. May he rest in peace now and hereafter. There was a memorial service on June 10, 1990 at 3:00 p.m. and burial was June 11, 1990 at 10:00 a.m., in Covington Memorial Gardens, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Warren's daughter, Sandra, called my home Saturday evening (June 9, 1990) but I was not at home, so Peggy took the call. I tried to verify the information I had with the Obituary Department of the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette on late Saturday night and was informed that there was no visitation, along with the facts I gave you above. I tried to contact Betty Kunkel Sunday morning but was unable to do so. Therefore, the facts from Sandra's call and the call to the newspaper were the only information I had on hand.

The only one I phoned was our Vice President, Emil Paoletta, to advise him of Warren's death and that the Membership would be so advised by letter. Thirty to forty phone calls were out of the question. Therefore, this letter was the advisable thing to do.

As a personal thought, I will miss Warren as a good friend and an energetic worker for our Headquarters Association. He was the main driving force to get us together and did a superb job for us. I know that our most sincere sympathies and condolences go out to Betty Kunkel and her family in this time of sorrow. Keep Warren in your thoughts and prayers.

Your sympathy and condolences may be directed personally to Betty Kunkel and her family at: 6407 Sunland Drive, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815. The telephone number is (219) 486-3406.

Now life must go on for all! The postcards sent with the latest letter should be returned, whether or not you are going to attend Headquarters dinner (August 17, 1990) at the 69th reunion in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. It costs nothing to return the card. Please! Your attendance could be a tribute to Warren.

Thank you for your indulgence with this letter.

Sincerely,
John J. O'Connor

**Requesting More Biographies
For the Reprint of the
DIVISION HISTORY BOOK
DEADLINE IS NOW DEC. 15, 1990
LIMIT: 150 WORDS**

Send to:

**69th Infantry Division Military History Book
Turner Publishing Company
P.O. Box 3101, Paducah, Kentucky 42002-3101**



Enrico D'Angelo, Al Kormas, Lowell McFarlin and Robert Williams at the Tri-State Banquet in Elyria, Ohio.



Al Kormas, John Hawley and Enrico D'Angelo. Al and Enrico stopped to pay a visit to their comrade John Hawley upon returning from Valley Forge. August 19, 1990.



Mr. and Mrs. William E. Leslie at the Boone, North Carolina 880th C-Battery Reunion. September 14, 1990.

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

We are interested in all news from Chapters, Groups, Branches, Companies, Battalions, Regiments, Recon, Artillery, AAA, T.D.'s and whatever, for this column, as it may help build up your events. Mail your date(s), location, banquet cost, and room rates, plus a good write-up, to Earl E. Witzleb, Jr., Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069 or R.D. #1, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606, as early as possible. Then follow through with a write-up immediately after the event(s).

By now everyone should know where news material, article and pictures should be mailed. Your Coordinating Manager and Editor will do a superb job of handling it for you, our members.

COME VIEW THE DEDICATION OF THE 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION'S MONUMENT AT CAMP SHELBY, HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI SEPTEMBER 20th, 1991. REUNION WEEK — SEPTEMBER 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22, 1991.

We are sorry that YOM KIPPUR fell in this week when it was selected. No other weeks are available in late August or September. To try to help solve the problem, the Reunion Committee has changed the day going to Camp Shelby from Thursday to Friday for our Jewish members. They are hopeful that you will worship YOM KIPPUR, Wednesday, September 18th, then fly to Biloxi on Thursday, September 19th so that you can make the trip to Camp Shelby with us on Friday, September 20th.

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 & News Reporter
R.D. No. 1, Box 477
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

or
P.O. Box 69
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
Home Telephone: 412/455-2901
(Call anytime, day or night; weekends or holidays)
Dottie's Work Telephone: 412/433-1713
(Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike

"The Family With Two Addresses — But One Home — When the flags are waving, (weather permitting) we're home — Welcome To All 69ers — Stop In, Call, or Write."

Like to be a Tri-Stater of the 69th Infantry Division Association? It only costs 15¢. Buy a postcard and write the following on it: Name: Husband, Wife and Children, Street R.D., P.O. Box, City, State, Zip, Telephone/Area Code and your Unit and mail it to one of the addresses listed in our address, preferably the Acme 15610. We'll be waiting to hear from you soon.

HEY, ELYRIA WAS GREAT - Thanks Jimmy Jones, Norma Jean and Eugene Butterfield. BUT LOOK, We have three and possibly five SPRING weekends in store for you all.

1991 (Tentatively) April 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14
WORLD FAMOUS MAPLE FESTIVAL

Meyersdale, Pennsylvania
Holiday Inn, Junction of Route 48 East and U.S. Route 219
2 miles east of Grantsville, Maryland

Room Rates Reasonable

Train Ride, Cumberland to Frostburg and return

Committee:

George and Wife Murphy, (H1, 272nd Infantry)
Route 2, Box 87
Frostburg, Maryland 21532
Telephone: 301/689-3222

Donald and Ruth Newman, (H1, 272nd Infantry)
Box 267
Grantsville, Maryland 21536
Telephone: 301/895-5188

W.L. and Wife Yutzey, (H3, 272nd Infantry)
Box 153, Lincoln Avenue Extension
Meyersdale, Pennsylvania 15552
Telephone: _____

*VISIT WITH US TO REALLY SEE
HOW MAPLE SYRUP IS MADE*

* * *

1992 Dates will be late May or early June

Details to follow in later bulletins depending on remodeling of World Famous Horse Shoe Curve. Other activities tour of Lincoln Caverns and Boat cruise with lunch on Raystown Lake plus shopping for the women.

Committee:

L. Vaughn and Betty Woomer (Company F, 271st Infantry)
813 Highland Drive
Tyrone, Pennsylvania 16686
Telephone: 814/684-0185

*ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS
OF PENNSYLVANIA*

(Continued on Page 46)

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

(Continued from Page 45)

1993 June 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14th — Dates Firm

By Popular Demand from Tri-Staters

CANAAN VALLEY RESORT — Deer Lodge

Route 1, Box 330

Davis, West Virginia 26260

Golf, Swimming, Scenic Chairlift Ride, Cass Railroad Train Ride (Dress Warm), and many other attractions. Most events are firm at this early date.

Committee:

Vernon and Norma Hanlin (Hd-Company, 271st Infantry)
Box 118

Mt. Storm, West Virginia 26739

Telephone: 304/693-7658

Earl and Dorothy (Dottie) Witzleb, Jr.

(Company E, 273rd Infantry)

R.D. 1, Box 477

Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

Telephone: 412/455-2901

**COME AND RELAX AND HAVE FUN IN THE
BEAUTIFUL CANAAN VALLEY OF WEST VIRGINIA.**

* * *

1994 Late May or Early June

Being discussed and planned in the State of Ohio

1995 Late May or Early June

Being discussed and planned in the State of Pennsylvania

* * *

Elyria was all it was built up to be. Jim, Norma, and Eugene showed us a well planned weekend. The food was excellent and reasonable plus once again we had a top rated Hospitality Room which was large and stocked well. Our ladies put the icing on the cake with their most famous dishes and desserts. It was top rated as all Tri-State Hospitality rooms are. Many hours were spent in it going over things of the past, present, and we are looking to the future. Old timers left us down in Elyria but new timers made our weekend. Hope to see both old timers and new timers at future weekends.

Wednesday was a great gathering day with the hospitality room opened in mid-afternoon and evening so the bull could begin to flow. Tri-State does not have a general meeting nor do we have dues. Discussions just go on with our fun events as the days go on. We are on weekends to have fun and enjoy ourselves with other nice 69th members and guests. The planning is left up to the coordinator. As mentioned, we are pretty much sure of five more weekends. We sure would like to visit the state of Indiana so Tri-State members in Indiana (Ainley, Cowin, Haag, Hartman, Jeffries, Lantz, Luzander, Marsh, McGinnis, McPherren, Mills, Pearson (George and Phyllis), Redmond, Sniadecki, Swisher, Tenney, Turner, Walker, Wallpe, Weber, Wysong) get to work.

Also we would like to go to North Carolina, especially at Grove Park Inn, Asheville, so members get planning (Dillon, Haines, Scott, Sessoms, Stamey). We would also like to visit Virginia, especially Charlottesville or Harrisonburg, so Charles and Frances Yannul do join Tri-State and get something started for us. We would enjoy going to Michigan, Kentucky, and Tennessee, but we have few members in those states. Tri-State likes to get around and see our area. We really don't want to visit the same city more than twice. Now we only meet in the spring and the years are passing us by too fast.

Thursday was a fun tour day, but we did not take the trolley ride to Cleveland to see the historical sites. Instead we visited a huge Christmas display store with lunch at a very

nice restaurant in one of the bays of Lake Erie. We then went on to Blue Hole for the afternoon. The evening was spent in the hospitality room or shopping at a mall walking distance from the Holiday Inn. In fact, it was too close for me as Dottie did do some shopping.

Friday was very interesting with a very nice warm day to take us on a boat ride to Putin Bay. We traveled the entire little historical island with lunch about mid-day. Needless to say this tour got to the Tri-Staters. We were a very tired bunch of B-Sers or I mean T-Sers, but we enjoyed every minute of it. Late in the evening the Hospitality room refreshed us for Saturday. Saturday was the golfers day (don't know who won) and shopping for our better halves who know how to use the checkbook and credit cards. Nice going ladies and Dottie. The evening banquet and entertainment was again top rated. After a short cash bar, Jim and his Canadian Pipers presented the colors to us Tri-Staters. A short memorial prayer remembering our buddies who have passed on was given before our dinner. Food was excellent, but you had to hurry to get seconds. The Canadian Highlanders then retired the colors and we continued with an evening full of entertainment. Nice job committee.

Those who were in attendance were:

FT=First Timers

Tie for first place:

C. Frank and Arlene Carey, F Company, 271st Infantry
Reinholds, Pennsylvania

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

C. Ashmead Fuller, Jr., F Company, 271st Infantry
FT — Jackson, Mississippi

L. Vaughn and Betty Woomer, F Company, 271st Infantry
Tyrone, Pennsylvania

Tie for first place:

William and Freda Clayton, 269th Engineers
North Bend, Ohio

Daniel and Helen Evers, 269th Engineers
Brookhaven, Pennsylvania

Frank C. and Stefania (Ted) Nemeth, 269th Engineers
Levittown, Pennsylvania

Ward E. and Marian Peterson, 269th Engineers
Glen Mills, Pennsylvania

Tie for first place:

Dell and Mary Balzano, 879th Field Artillery
Highland Heights, Ohio

William H. and Mary N. Harr, 879th Field Artillery
Bainbridge, Ohio

Jim S. Jones, 879th Field Artillery
Aurora, Ohio

Alex and Margaret Kormas, 879th Field Artillery
Lakewood, Ohio

Eugene and Norma Gene Butterfield, Division Headquarters
Rocky River, Ohio

Clarence Marshall, Division Headquarters
New Kensington, Pennsylvania

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

Robert N. and Wanda L. Grimm, L Company, 271st Infantry
FT — Lancaster, Ohio

Robert and Jeannette Walsh, L Company, 271st Infantry
FT — Aurora, Ohio

Earl Kendle, Headquarters, 272nd Infantry
FT — Bay Village, Ohio

Robert G. and Jean Shaffer, C Company, 272nd Infantry
Massillon, Ohio

Charles E. Weaver, C Company, 272nd Infantry
FT — Columbus, Ohio

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

(Continued from Page 46)

FT=First Timers

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

John and Ruth McGolerick, Jr., K Company, 272nd Infantry
Knoxville, Maryland

Peter E. and Helen Garstecki, Cannon Co., 272nd Infantry
Uniontown, Pennsylvania

H. Raymond Fahrner, A Company, 273rd Infantry
Lansdale, Pennsylvania

John A., Wife and Daughter Sukey, A Company, 273rd Inf.
FT — Lorain, Ohio

Aaron B. and Joan Taulbee, A Company, 273rd Infantry
FT — Wilmington, Ohio

Earl E. and Dorothy A. Witzleb, Jr., E Company, 273rd Inf.
Acme, Pennsylvania

Earl G. and Gertrude Richardson, K Company, 273rd Infantry
FT — Niagara Falls, New York

Joseph S.E. and Mary Lou S. Crown, 569th Signal Company
FT — Poughkeepsie, New York

George C. and Dorothy Hepp, 569th Signal Company
FT — Delmar, New York

Carl R. and Mildred Stetler, 569th Signal Company
Reading, Pennsylvania

Brownie A. and Anna Belle Parsons, 724th Field Artillery
FT — Charleston, West Virginia

Harold Wepler, 724th Field Artillery
FT — Genoa, Ohio

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

Lowell and Marjorie McFarlin, 880th Field Artillery
FT — Jeromesville, Ohio

Robert and Irene Williams, 880th Field Artillery
FT — Lorain, Ohio

Lester E. Hart, 881st Field Artillery
FT — Williamsfield, Ohio

Gilbert and Susan Rocco, 881st Field Artillery
Erie, Pennsylvania

Andrew and Larua LaPatka, 777th Tank Battalion
New Castle, Pennsylvania

George and Vickie Gallagher, 69th M.P. and Q.M.
Zephyrhills, Florida

73 attended the Elyria, Ohio reunion with 26 being First
Timers.

34 from Ohio	2 from Florida
15 from Western Pennsylvania	2 from Maryland
11 from Eastern Pennsylvania	2 from West Virginia
6 from New York	1 from Mississippi

Those who did not attend, we missed you and you know who you are. Let's go Old Timers. Robert and Wanda Grimm were looking for Robert and Margie Grimm. Ashmead Fuller came all the way from Mississippi as did George and Vickie Gallagher come from Florida. We hope those of you who did not attend due to being sick are well again. James (Jim) Lynch who was in charge of our Erie weekend along with his wife, Jane and Gilbert and Susan Rocco, is now in a nursing home. His address is: James Lynch

Rouse Home, Post Office Box 207
Youngville, Pennsylvania 16731

We also hope that Susan Rocco is well on her way to recovery. Susan was playing a young girl, and fell and broke her leg. She made Gilbert take her to the national reunion at the Sheraton Hotel Plaza at Valley Forge (King of Prussia) for the week. She's a tough little cookie. We all care a lot about our sick. Let us know how you are doing.

Sunday we had our usual going home breakfast and our weekend was over for another year. We planned to see each other at Valley Forge and most of us did.

Now we ask all Tri-Staters to come to Meyersdale, Pennsylvania 1991, Altoona, Pennsylvania 1992 and Canaan Valley Resort, Davis, West Virginia 1993 for three more good weekends. In between we want to see you at Biloxi, Mississippi 1991, San Francisco, California 1992 at the Airport Marriott, and Rochester, New York 1993. If you still have some weekends left in you, Dottie and I ask you to take in a Central Pennsylvania Branch weekend. One will be coming up in November at Lebanon, Pennsylvania. If you live more to the West remember the Mid-West Group weekends which are usually held in the spring.

"WHY CAN'T LIFE'S BIG PROBLEMS COME WHEN
WE ARE TWENTY AND STILL KNOW EVERYTHING?"

Mid-West Group

Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri,
North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas

Gaylord and Ruth Thomas, Coordinators
432 Doty Street
Waupun, Wisconsin
Telephone: 414/324-4065



Fran and Zita Enright, News Reporters
7304 West Georgia Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53220
Telephone: 414/541-9598

SPRING MEETING

The Mid-West Group gathered at Interlaken Resort on Lake Como (near Lake Geneva, Wisconsin) on April 22, 23, and 24.

We were happy to have Earl and Dottie Witzleb and Bob and Vivian Kurtzman join us again, and we were glad to see Alex and Marge Kormas arrive with the Kurtzmans. Other attendees were:

Earl Abel — Union, Michigan
John Barrette — Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin
Fred and Mavis Butenhoff — Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Fran and Zita Enright — Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Al Haag — Janesville, Wisconsin

(Continued on Page 48)

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

(Continued from Page 47)

Curt and Evelyn Peterson — Madison, Wisconsin
Gene and Ethel Pierron — Belgium, Wisconsin
Phil and Harriet Sparacino — Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Gaylord and Ruth Thomas — Waupun, Wisconsin
Charles and Pat Walsh — Glendale, Wisconsin
Wayne Weygandt and Thora Miller — Ottawa, Illinois



Curt Peterson and Earl Witzleb



Chuck and Pat Walsh



Earl Abel and Bob Kurtzman



Al Kormas, John Barrette and Gaylord Thomas

Interlaken's large, pleasant hospitality room overlooking Lake Como was the ideal place to greet friends, catch up on the latest news, and reminisce about "the old days." Sunday dinner was at the Interlaken Resort, followed by more good conversation in the hospitality room.

The weather cooperated on Monday and provided a beautiful, sunny day for golfers at Evergreen Country Club near Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

Non-golfers toured Yerkes Observatory at Williams Bay, Wisconsin. Yerkes, operated by the University of Chicago, was built about 1895 with a large donation from Chicago businessman Charles T. Yerkes. The observatory has the largest refractor telescope in the world.

A delicious dinner was enjoyed at Anthony's Steak House. This was followed by more conversation, picture taking, and discussion of plans for our next get-together.

On their way home, the Kurtzmans and Kormas' stopped to visit Chalmers Pearson who was in the hospital in South Bend, Indiana and could not attend the Spring Meeting. Dottie and Earl visited Wisconsin Dells and the Holland, Michigan Tulip Festival before heading for home.

We want to thank Curt and Evelyn Peterson for arranging an enjoyable get-together for the group. Watch for the announcement of the next Mid-West Spring Meeting to be held in 1991.

(Continued on Page 49)

**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS,
UNITS, AND GROUP MINI-WEEKENDS
ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**
(Continued from Page 48)

AND HERE IT IS . . .

**APRIL 25, 26, 27, 1991
MID-WEST GROUP SPRING MEETING
PHEASANT RUN**

The Mid-West's largest resort and convention center, located near St. Charles, Illinois on State Route 64, three miles west of State Route 59.

Rate: \$80.00 per night, plus tax

PROGRAM:

Thursday, April 25: Check in after 4:00 p.m. Hospitality Room. Dinner at the Resort.

Friday, April 26: Golf. Outing for non-golfers. Dinner Show at Pheasant Run Theatre: "Little Shop of Horrors." Cost of \$39 per person includes dinner, play, tax, and gratuity. Hospitality Room.

Saturday, April 27: On your own.

Check-out time is 12:00 Noon.

RESERVATIONS:

Call the Resort directly, (708) 584-6300, to make reservations for room, golf, and the dinner show. A deposit for one night (or a credit card number) is required. The Resort will hold a block of rooms for the Mid-West Group until March 26, 1991. Late callers may not be located near the Group.

For answers to questions about the meeting, contact:

Fred or Mavis Butenhoff, Committee Chairpersons

3217 South 55th Street

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53219

Telephone: 414/541-1584

Central Pennsylvania Branch

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

Frank and Arlene Carey, Chairpersons and News Reporter
4 Dennis Drive

Reinholds, Pennsylvania 17569

Telephone: 215/484-4974

Dear Fellow 69ers:

We certainly hope that all of you are well and happy. All is well here at the ranch. We and our Committee are anxiously waiting to entertain a large number of you in November in the City of Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

Arlene and I attended the National Reunion at Valley Forge in August. We want to thank Frank and Teddy Nemeth and Dan and Helen Evers for a superb job of planning and organizing. Also a thank you to their hard working committees. Well done boys and girls. But then again, when you consider they are all Central Pennsylvania people, you can expect nothing but the best.

I am writing this on September 3rd, to meet the printer deadline of September 8th. I mention this so you all realize that it sometimes is difficult to get some pertinent news in these newsletters. Also, we don't know when this Bulletin will be sent out.

We can tell you that we expect 175 people at our Central Pennsylvania Banquet, Friday, November 16th. We started with a block of 50 hotel rooms, but I asked for and got an additional 20 more. So if the weather cooperates, this will be a fairly large reunion.

We are already looking at sites for 1991. We are reluctant to make any firm commitments yet as we want to consult with you about it when in Lebanon.

Anyone of you folks that have any suggestions for a reunion site, please let us know about it. We will go anywhere in our geographical area to help a Committee set up a reunion. So write or call us and let us know what is on your mind. We are here to serve you.

That is about all we have for now. Please try and meet with us November 15th to the 18th in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. All the flyers are mailed. Deadline for reservations is October 8th. Anyone out there who was inadvertently missed, please let us know at your earliest convenience.

Stay well and happy and keep in touch.

Earl's Note: Frank, you met the September 8th deadline but we will be lucky if the bulletin is out by Thanksgiving. Shall I call you a rookie number 4 or shall I just tell you as I tell others. We, Clarence and I, with the wishes of the 69th Infantry Division Association, only put out three bulletins a year which is one every four months. To make sure of getting your news in on time, we ask that you work at least one year in advance so that your article of importance gets in at least two bulletins before your event(s). Thanks much number 4 but I think you're number 5. So what else is new.

69th Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Joseph Wright, News Reporter

Route 4, Box 1973

Forsythe, Missouri 65653

Telephone: _____



Tony Dastra, Dutch Hawn, and Al Crisp, former Motor Pool Sergeant, Motor Pool Officer and Dispatcher, together again at mini-reunion of Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

A MINI-REUNION B.B.B. STYLE

First Sergeant Miller Harris called the men of the Division Headquarters Company by an official notice to rendezvous at the temporary CP in Spinnerstown, Pennsylvania, while the rest of the Division personnel was in

(Continued on Page 50)

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

(Continued from Page 49)

bivouac at the Valley Forge Sheraton. The convoy followed the treacherous Pennsylvania Turnpike challenging the best efforts of former Transportation Platoon Drivers and finally they reached their objective.

The command post was a 2 story timber ceilinged residence with a huge fireplace of field stone, indoor latrines, and was camouflaged by a natural forest of pine and other local forestry. The mess line started inside the CP, after a nice happy hour featuring wine and cheese, not usual in the average mess hall, and led through the kitchen, where ham and barbequed chicken with salad and vegetable were served by mess sergeant **Mary Louise Harris** and two junior recruits, to tables on the patio. This was quite different from standing and eating in the rain.

The after dinner time was spent in looking at pictures and telling tales, most of which were true if embellished by the years, and return to the Command Post noted above.

Those attending were: **Clarence Marshall, Jim Kehew, Fred Avery, Dutch Hawn, Al Crisp, Walt Doernbach, Bob Silberg, Sumner Russman, Keith Curtis, Jack Duffy, Bob Myers, Tony Dastra, Gene Butterfield and Joe Wright**, who is responsible for this report.

All agreed it was a most successful operation. On to Biloxi.

Earl's Note: This event happened during our reunion week at Valley Forge on Friday evening, when all units go their own way and have a mini-evening of a few hours to go to another area or restaurant for dinner before returning to Headquarters and the PX Beer Party Night. This year the beer party had the privilege of presenting one family of the Philadelphia Mummers which are seen on nationwide television on New Year's Day from famous Broad Street, South Philadelphia. The Mummers were good; terrific for our entertainment.

69th MPs (Military Police)

Carl A. Miller, Reporter
1016 Marion Road
Bucyrus, Ohio 44820
Telephone: 419/562-7029



69th MPs present at the Valley Forge, Pennsylvania Reunion.

Thanks to the Association Officers and all of the Reunion Committee, my wife and I had a very pleasant time at this year's reunion. We had two first timers and their wives from the MP Platoon which made it that much more enjoyable. I am sending a photo of the seven members present which is a record number for us.

I have a suggestion for the committee for future reunions. We have quite a few members who don't arrive until the last few days of the week and there are usually no tours planned for Friday other than the golf tournament and that makes Friday an empty day. Maybe a tour could be planned for that day in the future.

Earl's Note: Carl, I don't know all your MPs names. Next time write them on the back of your picture. I believe those seated in the front are **Carl Miller, George Gallagher, and James Moody**. In the back standing is **John J. Moriarty**, then I don't want to guess on the other three being **Joseph Kennedy, Lamar Williams, and Frank Williams**.

269th Engineers

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



Hi Engineers:

We had a good turn-out at the Valley Forge Reunion with 19 269ers in attendance and a nice turn-out of 5 First Timers. Hope you all enjoyed the tours, the show at Lily's, the Mummers and the banquet. Everyone seemed to think it was a fine week. It was good to see everyone once again and I hope you all had a safe trip home!!

Since **Dan Evers** and I were Co-Hosts of the Valley Forge Reunion, we were kept pretty busy so I must apologize for my not spending more time with the Engineers and their wives.

From H & S Company, or as **Bill Foster** says "Heartache and Sorrows," we had **James and Dotty Eibling, Ohio; Warren Everett, Virginia; Bill and Betty Foster** with guests **Bonnie and William Wach, Pennsylvania; Walter Holmlin, New Jersey; Ray and Dolly Twork, South Carolina, First Timers; Helen Jones, widow of Sharpless Jones and daughter Helene, Delaware.**

From A Company, **Joseph and Christine Monteleone, Pennsylvania; Frank and Grace Packard, Massachusetts; Charles Krichten and Wife** (I apologize for not knowing her name), Maryland, *First Timers*.

(Continued on Page 51)

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

(Continued from Page 50)

From B Company, Dan and Helen Evers and 'Danni', Pennsylvania; Ernest and Mary Krause, Illinois, *First Timers*; Ernest and Mary, bring your clubs next time; Ward and Marian Peterson, Pennsylvania, *First Timers*; James Riley, Pennsylvania; William Riggle and Son, Bill, Jr., Indiana; Frank Sullivan, Massachusetts; Albert and Helen Winchester, Pennsylvania; Robert and Faye Winslow, Florida; Frank and Ted Nemeth, Pennsylvania.



Company B, 269th Engineers: James Hall with mallet, possibly Bob Winslow holding the post. In the rear, left to right, Frank Gudman, Ben Thornburg and ??.

From C Company, Lawrence and Jean Roeder, Kentucky; Leon Yablon, New Jersey, *First Timer*.

Sorry to hear that Ray and Leona Hull couldn't make the Reunion. At the last minute, Leona suffered a broken ankle and I hope it is on the mend and she is up and about.

I'm glad I was able to see the fine painting by Ray Twork of the 'East Meets West.' Hope it can be made into a poster so everyone can get one.

Can't wait to go to Biloxi, Mississippi next September. I assure you I won't be so busy and I'll spend more time with ya' all. It should be a good reunion and I'm sure we'll have some First Timers from the south, like Sidney Poirrier, our jeep driver.

Enclosed is a photo of Company B taken along some river in Mississippi. It's the first time I've ever seen this particular photo. James Hall with mallet, Bob Winslow holding the post (I think), in rear left to right Frank Gudman, Ben Thornburg and ???.

So — you all take care and the best always.

Your Ole Buddy,
Frank

661st Tank Destroyer Battalion



Mike and Dorothy Kotnik, *Reporters*

43191 Dellefield Road

Elyria, Ohio 44035

Telephone: 216/324-6801

Pat and Julio Slopek, *Reporters*

140 Fox Run Drive

Munroe Falls, Ohio 44262

Telephone: 216/688-1497

Our reunion was held at the Holiday Inn, Elyria, Ohio, during the week of June 4th, 1990. There was a total of 61 people attending the banquet on Saturday night.

We were delighted to have five First Timers attending and hope to see you next year at Chase City, Virginia as Ralph and Chris Bragg will host the 1991 Reunion next spring.

Those in attendance were:

- Eugene and Ethel Pierron, Belgium, Wisconsin
- John and Evelyn Spencer, Fallston, Maryland
- Joseph and Marian Jenei, Greentown, Ohio
- John and Leora Sherlock, Pawtucket, Rhode Island
- Julius and Pat Slopek, Munroe Falls, Ohio
- Charles and Frances Yannul, Bellmaur, New Jersey
- Jack and Jane Sutar, Lynchburg, Virginia
- William and Kathy King, Little Compton, Rhode Island
- *Adolphe Mena, Fairmont City, Illinois
- *Charles and Marge Edkins, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- *Vito and Theresa Capobianco, Brooklyn, New York
- Warren and Dorothy Mitchell, Redwood City, California
- Mrs. Le Grand (Sally) Woolley, Pebble Beach, California
- Ralph and Chris Bragg, Chase City, Virginia
- Elwin Patterson, Apollo, Pennsylvania
- Stanley and Gertrude Green, Battle Creek, Michigan
- William and Mary Wahl, Chagrin Falls, Ohio
- *Thaddeus and Evelyn Mace, Mt. Clemens, Michigan
- William and Ellen Snidow, Pembroke, Virginia
- Steve and Anne Forgas and Son and Daughter, Seven Hills, Ohio
- William and Jo Beswick, West Point, Virginia
- Thomas Knick, Lynchburg, Virginia
- Melvin and Betty Davis, Sullivan, Indiana
- Donald Miller, Prescott, Arizona
- Edward and Rose Marie Cibik, Apollo, Pennsylvania
- Edward and Mary Krenek, Maple Heights, Ohio
- Ralph and Vera Chase, Hatboro, Pennsylvania
- George and Helen Ringer and Betty, Hopedale, Ohio
- William and Margaret Dawson, Nathalie, Virginia
- Walter Jamerson, Lynchburg, Virginia
- *Raymond and Rose Marie Anderson, Great Valley, New York
- Michael and Dorothy Kotnik, Elyria, Ohio

*Indicates First Timers

REMEMBER GROUPS: Send in your information early so that it can appear in at least 2 issues of the Bulletin to give everyone time to plan and prepare to attend your mini-reunions.

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

(Continued from Page 51)

Company A, 273rd Infantry

H. Ray Fahrner, News Reporter
Forge Gate Apartments, 33E1
Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19446
Telephone: 215/855-9696



Three reunions in a row, we have had ten members present. At the Valley Forge Reunion, Company A had two First Timers. They were:

Harold Crowley, Elmhurst, New York
Bob Rosane, Richford, Vermont

Completing our total of ten were:

Jim Carroll, Levelland, Texas
Jim Ezell, Jonesboro, Arkansas
Ray Fahrner, Lansdale, Pennsylvania
Jack Hubbard, Orlando, Florida
Ed Lucci, Lynbrook, New York
Pierce Rice, Arlington, Virginia
Aaron Taulbee, Wilmington, Ohio
Bennie Srubar, Houston, Texas

It was great meeting Bob after 45 years. Harold had attended a reunion in New York so he was missing for 43 years. We all gathered in **Jim Carroll's** suite, guys and wives, for a rap session. The discussion centered on the places where we were wounded, guys who bought the store, where we ended up in Germany when the 69th sailed for home. Thursday afternoon we all gathered outside the hotel for picture taking. While the guys posed, their ladies snapped the shutters. Many were leaving Friday, so the Able Easy dinner Friday evening was a bust. While nine dined at Stauffers, four others dined in the hotel. It was my fault we didn't get together, as I was tied up with my bartending duties in the hospitality room.

The Saturday night banquet found **Harold** and **Kathryn Crowley**, **Aaron** and **Joan Taulbee**, **Ed Lucci**, **Pierce Rice**, **Bill Robertson** (1st Battalion Headquarters), **Ray Fahrner** and **Ray's** Brother-in-Law, and Nephew **Norm Hublers**, dining together under A Company's guideon.

No shows included: **Bill Leet**, **Ken Carner**, **Bill Nettles**, **Jack Houghton**, and **Russ Haberman**. All of them had indicated they would be in Valley Forge. We pray that their absence was not due to illness. Heartening was the return of an Association charter member, **Pierce Rice**. After many years of absence, **Pierce** gave us all the pleasure of his company.

Accompanying their husbands were the following ladies: **Kathryn Crowley**, **Jean Rosane**, **Mary Carroll**, **Allamae Ezell**, **Jackie Hubbard**, **Marcella Srubar** and **Joan Taulbee**.

That's the news from Tryhard Red Able.



A Company, 273rd Infantry, at roll call, Valley Forge Reunion.

Left to right: Ed Lucci, Aaron Taulbee, Ray Fahrner, Bennie Srubar, Jack Hubbard, Jim Carroll, Harold Crowley, Pierce Rice, and Jim Ezell. Missing from roll call was Bob Rosane.

Company D, 273rd Infantry

Kenneth A. Sawyer, News Reporter
2935 Turtle Mound Road
Eau Gallie, Florida 32935
Telephone: 407/254-7175

The reunion at Valley Forge was another rewarding occasion for those members of Company D, 273rd who were in attendance. The hoped-for largest turnout ever did not materialize, but the 11 couples who came, made up one of the largest showings from company sized units. The happy group consisted of **Bob** and **Betty Joe McCarty**, **Dan** and **Cathy McHugh**, **Seth** and **Joan Mohr**, **Art** and **Cathy Ayres**, **Hank** and **Julie Kaminski**, **George** and **Barbara Johnson**, **Allan** and **Mary Blackmar**, **Charlie** and **Bertha Hoefer**, **Ed** and **Mary Case**, **Paul** and **Elaine Gornbein**, and myself and my guest, **Fran Collard**. **John** and **Helen Oplt** cancelled out at the last moment for medical reasons, while **Arthur** and **Eloise Lohrbach** and **Lewis** and **Mary Tenney** bowed out due to other commitments. For the first time in many years there were no First Timers in the group (What happened, Seth?)

All 11 couples turned out for the Early Bird Dinner at Lily Langtry's on Thursday, a Company Night at Charlie's Place on Friday, the Banquet Saturday evening and a Saturday luncheon in the Kaminski Room at the Sheraton. **Hank** and **Julie Kaminski** set up a Polish Deli with everything from sausage to nuts, and all diets were quickly forgotten. The featured drink of the day was fuzzy navel.

Although nobody had made a killing on the excursion to Atlantic City, we all went home after the reunion feeling richly rewarded. The dozens of photos taken during all the events will serve to remind us of the grand time spent with

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

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wonderful friends. It would be great to have some new faces next time. I hope those missing members who are capable of attending will give it an early try. Please drop me a line even if you are unable to join us because of health or other causes. I will be only too happy to pass your message along.

In remembering comrades gone from our midst, we sadly noted the recent loss of Roy Fritze who was with us in Denver last year. Flowers sent by our group were deeply appreciated by his dear Lavon. We all received beautiful notes from her along with pictures of the grave and photos taken in Denver. Roy's cheerful countenance will not soon be forgotten.

Company E, 273rd Infantry



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

Coordinator and News Reporters
R.D. No. 1, Box 477
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

or
P.O. Box 69
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
Home Telephone: 412/455-2901
(Call anytime, day or night; weekends or holidays)
Dottie's Work Telephone: 412/433-1713
Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**"THE FAMILY WITH TWO ADDRESSES — BUT
ONE HOME, WHEN THE FLAGS ARE WAVING
(WEATHER PERMITTING) WE'RE HOME — WELCOME
TO ALL 69ers — STOP IN, CALL, OR WRITE." Exit 9 —
Pennsylvania Turnpike**

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"

Sorry, Sorry, Sorry???? Why, Why, Why???? E Company, 273rd let me down. With most of our members living in the East, New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Eastern Coast and Florida, Valley Forge wasn't all that far away. Oh, I see, you're all coming to Old Miss next year. Well, I do hope so for we will be dedicating a monument at Camp Shelby and you'll be in Biloxi. Remember Biloxi???? I don't.

I remember Valley Forge and that's where we all should have been, especially from Wednesday on. What a great time everyone had at Lily Langtry's Dinner Theatre that entertained with a great ice show. Then on Thursday there was the Early Bird Dinner. Then came the PX Beer Party on Friday night featuring the Harrowgate String Band Mimmers strutting and dancing as they do at the New Year's parade along Broad Street in Philadelphia. I am sure you all have seen them on TV. Well, they were in person at our Valley Forge Reunion. I might also add that the hospitality room was open Monday at 1:00 pm. through Saturday until everything was gone. What a job our bartenders did in the persons of Ray Fahrner and Bob Murphy, who never let you go dry. Saturday found us having an enjoyable Membership Meeting with the passing of our monument to be dedicated next year. Our cover and Page two shows you the fine work and hard hours put in with the Committee led by Chairman Jack (John) Duffy and his crew. We had a fine Memorial Service before our dinner dance started, closing out a week long full of fun-filled activities and tours and you name it.

Our loyal, and they have to be loyal coming every year to our reunions, were :

Joseph and Virginia Aiello, New York
Tony and Doris Bummara, New Jersey
Arthur and Marian Hume, Michigan
John and Ruth Maas, New Jersey
William and Jane Matlach, New York
Al and Lottie Shires, Florida
Harold and Peggy Sprang, Ohio
President & First Lady Earl and Dorothy (Dottie) Witzleb, Jr.
Pennsylvania

You stay-at-homes didn't give me any support. Bummara, Mass, and Sprang were First Timers which helped us have eight members and eight first ladies present. We lost the banner to A Company since they had ten members, seven wives, and six guests. Only problem was Ray Fahrner (A Company), didn't have our cook-out for us as promised but we will forgive him since he was busy attending bar for all those fine 69th members, wives, and guests. It was a top rated hospitality room this year, to say the least and plenty of room to maneuver around.

Next year it is E Company's turn to host A Company and it will be done with that fine southern hospitality that the South is noted for. Al and Lottie Shires (I'm telling you now), from Florida and our rebel friends will be the host of the Friday dinner before we go to the PX Beer Party. Why this??? Because you were out-voted, two rebels, fourteen Yankees. I'm sure Al and Lottie will find us a nice restaurant somewhere in the South.

Let's go E Company, 273rd — Beat, Beat, Beat A Company, 273rd next year in Biloxi. Plan now September 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22, 1991 at the Hilton Hotel, Biloxi, Mississippi for another good reunion. Make this a reunion vacation trip where you will see once again friends and buddies that you haven't seen in forty-five years. Only this time you'll see the better half or should I say halves. And there it is, now you'll find out the rest of the stories and tales. See you all in Biloxi.

Company I, 273rd Infantry

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

With another great reunion behind us, we all look forward to the next one. Company I again was among the top in attendance with 15 members. We were disappointed however,

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

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that so many of our buddies from Pennsylvania and New York did not attend. I feel partially responsible as I did not find time to send out my annual personal appeal letter that I usually send. Each year we have increased our fold. This year was no exception with **First Timers Paul and Elaine Eagon and William and Rita Smith.**

Next year is Biloxi, Mississippi and the dedication of our 69th Division Monument at Camp Shelby. Years ago I heard a profound expression that I can never forget: "No man should pass through this life without leaving his mark on the earth." The monument at Camp Shelby will surely fulfill this need for our Division and those of us who served her cause.

Camp Shelby, and especially Hattiesburg, bring back many bitter-sweet memories; **General Bolte** astride his horse riding through the barrack areas looking for G.I.'s screwing off or cigarette butts on the ground; DeSoto National Forest with its swamps, black snakes, water moccasins, and mosquitoes; how about the jungle training area with its hanging vines like a Tarzan movie, the spiders, chiggers, and God only knows the names of the other frightening crawly things; and last but not least, the attitude of the townfolk toward us "Yankees" (who talked funny), just looking for some hospitality or companionship.

Please don't rule out Biloxi as a place for a reunion. Many guys have very fond memories of Biloxi, Gulfport, and New Orleans. This area is a prime vacation spot, in fact, Biloxi was rated as one of the top ten vacation locations in the United States. Let's all meet next year and lay on the beach and combine a neat, restful vacation with our reunion and Monument Dedication.

724th Field Artillery C-Battery

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

John W. Turner, Co-Chairman
2148 East Lake Road, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30307

or
Post Office Box 1645
Decatur, Georgia 30031
Telephone: 404/378-3543

"The Turner's have two addresses in the Peach State"

BATTERY C, 724th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION ATTENDED 69th DIVISION REUNION AT VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA

The following Battery C, 724th Field Artillery people enjoyed the 69th Division Reunion. They had their own Battery C Dinner at Bocconcini's Restaurant on Friday evening followed by their Battery C get-together. They were: **Coy and Erline Horton, Robert and Margaret Hollister, Vernon and Mary Tritch, Anthony and Geanie Szaro, Al and Polly DiLoreto, Louis Psaltis, Harold Wepler, John Turner, Melvin Baer** and his friend, **Virginia**. We hope Melvin and Virginia can stay with us longer at the next reunion.

We welcomed and enjoyed the company of **Robert and Ann Ross, Company I, 272nd Infantry, Charles Weaver, 272nd Infantry and Brownie Parson, Battery A, 724th Field Artillery**, at our Battery C dinner. We expect a good turnout at Biloxi next September.



Company I, 273rd Infantry - Valley Forge, Pennsylvania Reunion

Standing, left to right: Ernie Rowe, Bob Rogers, Jim Castrale, Justin Bloom, George Pursey, Carl Macknair, Chester Ritchie and Bob Pierce.

*Seated, left to right: George Houseal, Bill Armstrong, Erwin Sanborn, Paul Mickiewicz, Paul Eagon and Nick Vallacci.
Bill and Rita Smith not in the photo.*

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS,
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879th Field Artillery Battery B

Joseph P. and Ann Scurti, News Reporters
240 Tinton Place
East Northport, New York 11731
Telephone: 516/368-2189



It was a wonderful experience to have attended the 43rd Annual Reunion at King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. My wife, Antoinette, and I enjoyed every day of our stay from August 16th through the 19th. We are grateful to the 69th Infantry Division Reunion Committee members who made the arrangements. Of course, the Saturday night Banquet Dinner Dance and Memorial Service was a memorable highlight. We were deeply moved by the Memorial Service and physically moved to the dance floor by a great band playing in the Glenn Miller tradition. What a treat! All of the arrangements and activities were top-notch.

This was my first reunion but it won't be my last. My comrades and I from Battery B set some sort of attendance record for ourselves this time. **Captain Ernst Heller**, our Commanding Officer, was also a First Timer and he was largely responsible for the six of us in attendance: **Ernie Heller**, **Edward Bell**, **George Smith**, **Joe Scurti**, **John Arbuckle** and **Sal Massare**. The two photographs shown attest to the fact that six of us represented our unit.

Three of our gracious wives, too, came along. **Jane Heller**, **Florence Bell** and **Ann Scurti** had a great time. The girls became friends in record time.

I feel that Battery B veterans will be even better represented at future regional and national reunions. Our current roster includes twenty-four names and addresses and is growing.

It's been gratifying and there are some good times ahead. Thank you.

Joseph P. Scurti

Earl's Note: I hope your growth doubles or triples at Biloxi for our Monument Dedication at Camp Shelby. All 69th members should attend this great event. Please send me one of your rosters.



Battery B, 879th Field Artillery

Left to right: Sergeant John Arbuckle, Captain Ernst Heller, Sergeant Edward Bell, Pfc. Joseph Scurti



Standing: Corporal Salvatore Massare, Sergeant Edward Bell, Captain Ernst Heller. Sitting: Corporal George Smith, Pfc. Joseph Scurti

880th Field Artillery Battery A

John G. Barrett, News Reporter
6374 Brandywine Trail
Norcross, Georgia 30092
Telephone: 404/448-6513

MINI-REUNION, A BATTERY, 880th F.A. BN.

A Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion, held its Fifth Annual Reunion in Nashville, Tennessee, September 20-22, 1990. Attending were **James and Geneva Bilbrey**, **John and Pat Barnett**, **Izzy and Ruth Bombardier**, **Frank and Dorothy**

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

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Cavlovic, Bill and Shirley Dunn, Dan and Zora May Eidson, Tom and Betty Ellis, Lloyd and Janice Gerth, Jim Harrington, Delmar and Betty Jeffries, Bill and Anne Johnson, Dale and Sharon Mayeaux, Bob and Irene McCarthy, John and Julia Pilot, Duffy and Rose Redmond, Rex and Ruby Sausaman, Henry and Irene Tipperreiter, Vince Ignatosky, and Mrs. Margie Harreld. Special guests were Glenn and Barbara Blake, Mrs. Joy Northern, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Eidson, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Pilot, and Keith and Jean Bilbrey. Total attendance was 44, a record so far!

Motel and tour arrangements were handled by James Bilbrey, who did his usual excellent job.

Special events included tours of Nashville, Country Music Hall of Fame, Grand Ole Opry, General Jackson Showboat, and the regular Saturday night banquet at the Executive Plaza Inn.

Earl's Note: Sorry Dottie and I didn't get to Nashville for your weekend. We would have liked to have attended. It was questionable when we were at the National Reunion at Valley Forge when we talked to James and Geneva Bilbrey. Dottie has been going to the chiropractor since the last of May and only made it to Valley Forge. To date she is still going twice a week. Hopefully come November she will be cut down to once a week and even still, better once or twice a month. Sorry, but hopefully we can make your next one.

I do want to get together with James and Geneva since Dottie's aunt and uncle live in Madison, Tennessee, for the purpose of having a National Reunion in Nashville. Just today (October 14th) we had a visit with Joe and Virginia McMurry from Jackson, Tennessee and his sister and brother-in-law from Brownsville, Tennessee, with the hopes of getting a committee for that reunion which could be as early as 1994. I'm going to be working on it shortly since I have promised so many good 69th members in Valley Forge that I would do so.

Another thing, we were supposedly going to attend the 461st AAA, Battery B weekend on the same September days at Days Inn, Allentown, Pennsylvania, but can't be in two places at one time and Dottie really wasn't up to traveling. I am sure we will make both weekends some time in the future years. We even gave up on going to New Orleans for the 69th Cavalry Recon Troop weekend and the 461st AAA Headquarters Battery and Medical Detachment weekend at Salem, Virginia this year due to Dottie's condition. Let me say those two would have given us problems too, since they were the same weekend. You groups will have to spread things out more if you want Dottie and me to attend. We can't be in two or more places at the same time.

Dottie is doing real well now except for the chiropractic treatments twice a week but this will end soon, I do believe. We do hope to take in The Central Pennsylvania Branch weekend in November. It's only about 150 miles away on the road towards Valley Forge and it's all Pennsylvania Turnpike driving.

LET ME REPEAT TO YOUR GROUP AND ALL GROUPS. DOWN THE ROAD DOTTIE AND I HOPE TO GET AROUND TO ALL MINI WEEKENDS OVER THE COMING YEARS. IN RETURN, I EXPECT TO SEE AS MANY OF YOU AS POSSIBLE ATTENDING NATIONAL REUNIONS. REMEMBER, THE NATIONAL 69th WEEK LONG EVENT IS A REUNION: ALL OTHERS ARE ONLY MINI-WEEKENDS.

I know we all have fun at mini-weekends seeing all of our good buddies but at a national we see all our good buddies from all minis plus many more who all worked together to accomplish one main thing.

You are all invited to join with us, the Tri-State Group, at our weekend in early April 1991 for the Maple Festival at Meyersdale, Pennsylvania to see how maple syrup is made from the trees to the cans or bottles. Remember too, our National Reunion in September at Biloxi, Mississippi and Camp Shelby to dedicate a 69th Monument on Circle Drive. Some year in the future Camp Shelby expects to have around 18 monuments on this drive from all units that trained there during World War II.

May I just say one more thing, YOU CAN'T FIND A BETTER BUNCH OF AMERICANS than a 69th member, his wife, and family plus their guests. We all have fun sensibly even when we were younger.

Former Members of the Radio and Wire Section of Headquarters, 271st Inf.



Left to right: Dister, Diers, Kosoff, Yingling, Davis and Mallott.



John Yingling, K.I.A. August 8th, 1944 in France, while serving with the 8th Division.

Pictures furnished by Ira Hawkins

West Meets East

This picture was taken when I went East to visit my old buddy, Julian C. Godsey last May. It was taken in his home with his wife Catherine. I have entitled it: "WEST MEETS EAST, a reversal of our "East Meets West" at the Elbe.

Godsey and I were close buddies in the Third Squad of Company L, 273rd, Second Platoon, I think. William Sorrentino, now in Florida, was our Squad Leader. Godsey is the only one whom I have stayed in contact with, so it was great seeing him again and visiting in his lovely home in Hanover, Virginia.

I think I've put all the necessary information on the back of the picture, but to identify the subjects correctly, looking from left to right: Julian Godsey, Catherine Godsey, Eldon Atwood, and Dr. Marjie Atwood.



Hope to make a reunion one of these forthcoming years.

Eldon M. Atwood
775 Desert Gardens Drive
El Centre, California 92243-4415
Telephone: 619/352-6488

Earl's Note: I think this deserves another meeting between the Atwoods and Godseys at a location called the Hilton Hotel, Biloxi, Mississippi. I believe your dream will come true. You made a reunion with Godsey and no doubt will meet other friends like James and Mary Jolly - California, Anthony and Genevieve Plasic - Pennsylvania, Herman Walker - Indiana, and many other L-Company, 273rd members who will attend the Monument Dedication at Camp Shelby.

Glad to be at Valley Forge

Lester E. Hart, C-Battery, 881st Field Artillery of Williamsport, Ohio writes enclosing an article on Philadelphia. They don't have money to keep the parks going. I noticed at the cemetery things were neglected.

We had a nice time at the reunion. It would be nice if the Association could donate some money toward the park, but I know that takes a vote and the amount would not elevate the problem.

I thought the business meeting went rather smooth this year (no big complaints). The bus trips were all good. They had a ball at Atlantic City. I walked 4 miles of the Boardwalk myself. Trump's place was really something, especially after lark.

We also had a real nice time in Elyria, Ohio with the Tri-State Group.

Cash crunch robs cradle of liberty

Budget cuts threaten Philadelphia Independence Park

The Orlando Sentinel

Sunday, August 26, 1990

PHILADELPHIA — A crack in an old bell is nothing compared with new maintenance problems at Independence National Historical Park, which may start closing buildings as early as October because of budget cuts.

In fact, the once-troublesome, now-revered crack in the Liberty Bell is one of the few sights that may remain open to the public if the park is forced to get by on the money they now expect.

"We have literally reached the point where we can't maintain the park," Bernie Goodman, the park's acting superintendent, said Friday.

Independence Hall is developing a leaky roof, original wood is rotting and everything from light poles to brick and flagstone walkways are in disrepair.

Signs at the far end of the three-block mall north of Independence Mall near downtown Philadelphia warn: "Danger: Uneven walking surface. Enter at your own risk."

Sand has been thrown over some of the brick surface, rippled by roots from trees that shaded what used to be a popular picnic area. Plastic bags cover light poles once topped by globes. None of the 11 fountains work.

Park officials said they don't have enough money to make repairs and pay the staff needed to keep buildings open.

Officials said they need about \$8.5 million in the budget year beginning October 1 to maintain what they did this year for \$7.9 million - which included some temporary building closings. But they expect to be about \$483,000 short.

In addition, park officials say they need a bigger chunk of money from a maintenance fund for parks in the region. Only \$60,000 of the requested \$175,000 for reroofing Independence Hall came from the fund this year, so only a fourth of the job was done. Pieces of metal have been shoved under some of the red cedar shingles to keep out water.

Money shortages could cause the closing of all but Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell Pavilion and the Vision Center in October, Goodman said.

Potential targets: Congress Hall, where George Washington was inaugurated for a second term; Old City Hall, former home of the Supreme Court; and Franklin Court, where steel ghost structures outline the site of Benjamin Franklin's home and print shop.

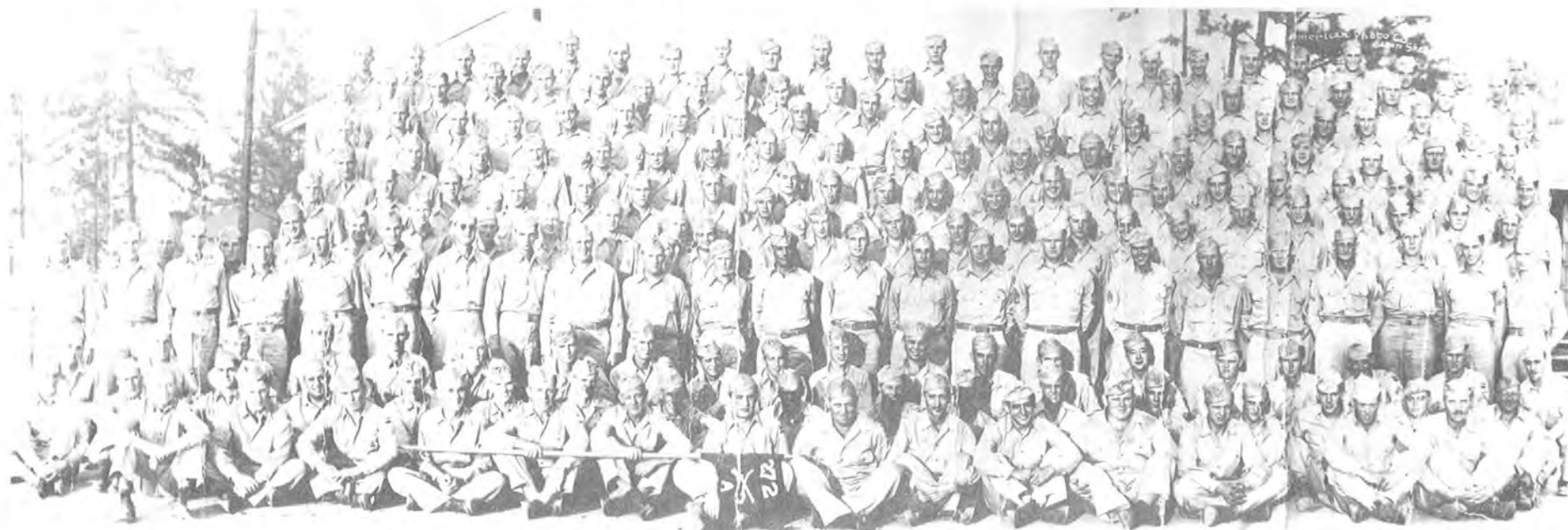
Goodman said those buildings attract about 1.3 million people a year.

The situation has Goodman and visitor services director Kathy Dilonardo showing off the weak points of a park they'd rather boast about. On Friday, their guests including Rep. Robert Borski, D-Pa.

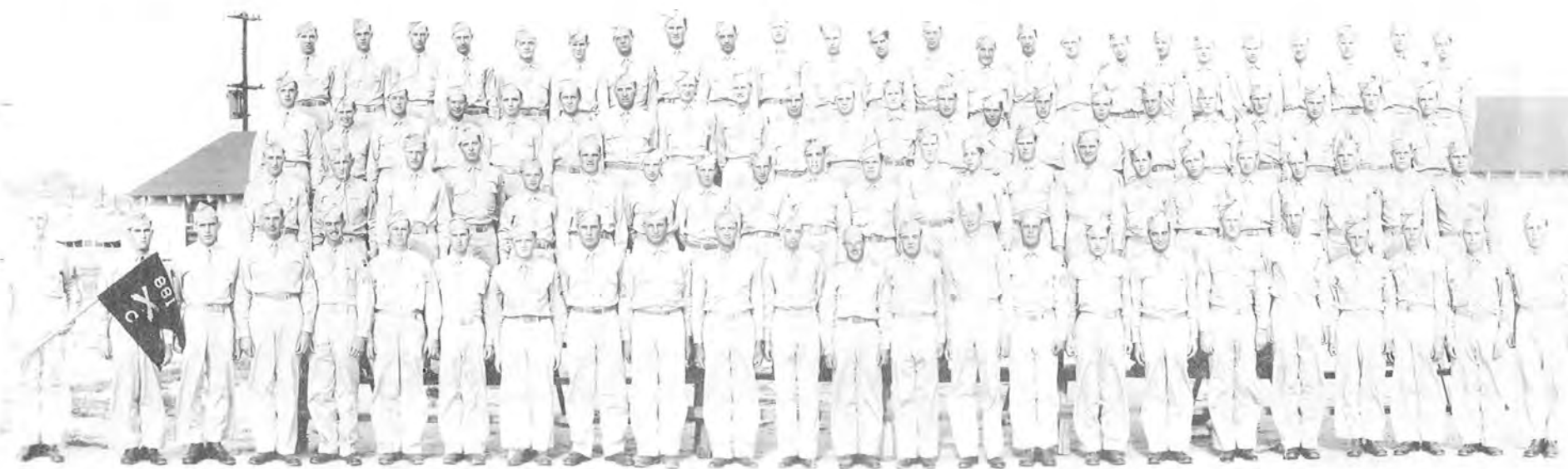
Borski and five other Philadelphia-area congressmen this week appealed for help in a letter to the regional director of the Interior Department, James W. Coleman Jr., whose office is a short walk from Independence Hall.

Like other national historic parks across the country, the Philadelphia Park is federally funded via the National Parks Service, which is part of the Interior Department.

Company A, 272nd Infantry Regiment, Camp Shelby - 1943, Picture sent by Bob Lydy



C-Battery of the 881st Field Artillery - Sept. 1943, Picture furnished by Dan Jones



Attendance by States at the 1990 Valley Forge, Pennsylvania Reunion

STATE	MEMBERS	ATTENDEES
Pennsylvania	100	189
New York	54	124
New Jersey	46	85
Ohio	33	58
Florida	28	48
Illinois	18	34
Maryland	16	29
Michigan	16	28
Virginia	14	23
California	10	20
Massachusetts	10	16
Wisconsin	9	14
Indiana	7	15
West Virginia	7	15
North Carolina	7	13
Connecticut	5	12
Nebraska	5	9
Texas	5	8
Arizona	4	10
Louisiana	4	9
Georgia	4	7
New Hampshire	4	7
Colorado	3	8
Delaware	3	7
Arkansas	3	6
Tennessee	3	6
Alabama	3	5
Iowa	3	5
Montana	3	5
South Carolina	2	10
Kansas	2	4
Kentucky	2	4
Mississippi	2	4
Missouri	2	4
Minnesota	2	3
Idaho	1	2
Nevada	1	2
New Mexico	1	2
Oregon	1	2
Rhode Island	1	2
Vermont	1	2
Oklahoma	1	1
Washington	1	1
District of Columbia	1	1
TOTAL	449	859
East	396	758
West	53	101

57 FIRST TIMERS

20 Just Dropped By

223 Valley Forge Tour

238 Atlantic City Casino

234 Brandywine Tour

606 Attended the Early Bird

30 Attended the Banquet

353 Attended the Breakfast Buffet

No record kept on the PX Nite

1990 Reunion Attendees Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

If your name does not appear on this list, it means that your registration form was inadvertently left in your envelope, or you failed to fill out a form while you were there. We apologize if your name has been deleted.

***Indicates First Timer*

**Indicates you were just a visitor for the day*

69th DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Fred Avery Virginia
Eugene and Norma Gene Butterfield Ohio
Albert and Henrietta Crisp New Jersey
Guests: William and Virginia Irwin
Keith and Colleen Curtis Iowa
Walter and Ann Doernbach, Sr. New Jersey
Jack and Mary Duffy New York
Dutch and Jeanne Hawn Colorado
Guests: Alice Onken and The Hawns Daughter
George Loikow Virginia
Clarence Marshall Pennsylvania
Robert Myers Arizona
Sumner Russman Oklahoma
Sigmund and Joanne Salacinski New York
Arthur and Mathilde Seski Michigan
Joseph and Eleanor Wright Missouri

69th M.P.s

George and Vickie Gallagher Florida
Joseph and Audrey Kennedy New York
Carl and Ruth Miller Ohio
James Moody North Carolina
John Moriarty Massachusetts
***Lamar and Olma Mae Williams Alabama*
Frank and Helen Williams Pennsylvania

69th RECON

Boyd and Stella Ellsworth Ohio
Charles Fox Maryland

269th ENGINEERS

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

James and Dotty Eibling Ohio
Warren Everett Virginia
William and Betty Foster Pennsylvania
Guests: Bonnie and William Wachs
Walter Holmlin New Jersey
***Ray and Polly Twork South Carolina*

COMPANY A

Joseph and Christine Monteleone Pennsylvania
Frank and Grace Packard Massachusetts

COMPANY B

Daniel and Helen Evers Pennsylvania
***Ernest and Mary Krause Illinois*
Frank and Teddie Nemeth Pennsylvania
***Ward and Marian Peterson Pennsylvania*
James Riley Pennsylvania
William Riggle, Sr. Indiana
Guest: William, Jr.
Frank Sullivan Massachusetts
Albert and Helen Winchester Pennsylvania
**Robert Winslow Florida*

(Continued on Page 60)

1990 VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA**REUNION ATTENDEES***(Continued from Page 59)***269th ENGINEERS (continued)****COMPANY C**

Lawrence and Jean Roeder Kentucky
 *Leon Yablon New Jersey
 Helen Jones, Widow of Sharpless Jones Delaware
Guest: Helaine Jones

369th MEDICAL BATTALION

William Bowman Virginia
 Brooks and Ethel Drake West Virginia
 **Lester Yury Texas

569th SIGNAL COMPANY

Mark and Alexandria Bareford Pennsylvania
 **Ralph Becker Ohio
 Adolph Eichhammer Florida
 Frank and Geraldine Fisher Indiana
 **John and Trudie Fox New York
 *Carl Fritch Pennsylvania
 George and Dorothy Hepp New York
 Ed and Fran Hoskins Texas
 William and Eileen Jones Florida
 John and Jean Kastanakis Alabama
 Joseph Kotsko Ohio
 **Willard and Jean Lantz Pennsylvania
 Forest Lucas Pennsylvania
 Kenneth and Hester Manning West Virginia
 Seymour and Doris Nash New Jersey
 Curt and Evelyn Peterson Wisconsin
 Donald and Lois Pierce Pennsylvania
 Margie Redmond, Widow West Virginia
 Carl and Mildred Stetler Pennsylvania
 Julius Tivald New Jersey
 Jack and Freda Wilhoit Florida

769th ORDNANCE COMPANY

Irving and Shirley Sarafan New York
 Fred and Kay Scheller Illinois
 Joseph Selb New Jersey
Guest: Vilma Mackouse

271st INFANTRY REGIMENT**HEADQUARTERS COMPANY**

John Barrette Wisconsin
 John and Barbara Davis Pennsylvania
 William Duncan California
 **Ray and Bertha Jones Pennsylvania

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1st BATTALION

Albert and Edith Carbonari Connecticut
 Merrill and Elizabeth Embick Pennsylvania

COMPANY A

Irvin Hunsberger Pennsylvania
 **Walter and Josephine Jaworski New York
*Guests: Mr. and Mrs. William Ross and
 Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Bodalski*
 Charles and Marion Oliver Louisiana
Guest: Ruby White
 George and Rita Wolff South Carolina
*Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wolff, Mr. and Mrs. Robert
 Wolff and Mr. and Mrs. Wally Miller*
 Emil and Elena Zerenga New York
*Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Bleecker and
 Mr. and Mrs. Blancato*

COMPANY B

Lumir Bocek Nebraska
Guest: Patsy Moeller
 Martin and Rogene Buol Colorado
 Kenneth and Dorothy Curran New Hampshire
 Phil and Ruth Delphey Pennsylvania
 Thomas and Lorraine Hancock Illinois
Guest: Betty Jouvenaux
 Earl and Millie Hansen Tennessee
 Joseph and Mary Lantz Maryland
 **Adam Lee Pennsylvania
 **Charles and Peggy Mabe Pennsylvania
 Henry and Mary Milner Missouri
 Harold and Cynthia Moore Tennessee
 Charles Nicely Pennsylvania
 Bill and Vera Noone Pennsylvania
 **Orrie Pullen Michigan
 **John and Gloria Settember Pennsylvania
 William and Jo Sheehan New Jersey
 Kenneth and Lillian Upton Louisiana
 Charles and Pat Walsh Wisconsin
 **James and Barbara Walsh Connecticut
 Wayne Weygandt Illinois
Guest: Thora Miller
 Robert Younglas Michigan

COMPANY D

**John and Shirley Fleming Pennsylvania
 Al Haag Wisconsin
 Paul and Margie McCombs Pennsylvania
 Ted Snyder New York

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2nd BATTALION

Donald and Mary Connelly Arizona
Guests: Mr. and Mrs. William Stender
 Len and June Deering New York
 Don and Ila Hall Florida

COMPANY E

Elmer and Erma Broneske Colorado
 Robert and Betty Dimmick Georgia
 Mario and Freda Fattore New Jersey
 Irving and Etta Gotkin Florida
 Carl and Edith Kaiser California
 Charles and Kathy Moore Ohio
 William and Rita McCall New Jersey
 Dale and Helen McGee Florida
 John McNamara New York
 **Robert Ort Indiana
 *Charles Lotto Florida
 Bing Poon Washington, D.C.
 Paul and Marian Shadle Pennsylvania
 James Sharpe Wisconsin
 **Carl and Jane Wummer Pennsylvania

COMPANY F

Frank and Arlene Carey Pennsylvania
 Cecil and Alene Cottle Ohio
 Lucious and Mae Murphree Mississippi

COMPANY G

Clifton and Pauline Barbieri Virginia
 Joseph and Florence Giglietta New York
Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Crupi
 Clarence and Lena Goon Ohio
 Zane and Zelma Gray Arkansas
 Nathan and Rhoda Green New York
 Glenn and Nadine Hunnicutt Nebraska
 Clarence and Shirley Jensen New York
*Guests: Erik Jensen, Trudy Hallett and
 Gail and Kurt Owen*

(Continued on Page 61)

**1990 VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA
REUNION ATTENDEES**

(Continued from Page 60)

271st INFANTRY REGIMENT (continued)

COMPANY G (continued)

George and Agnes Phillips Florida
Guests: Ardys and Jacki Gallagher Pennsylvania
Ralph and Josephine Plugge Illinois
David and Mary Scatena Pennsylvania

COMPANY H

Norman and Wanda Borkowski Michigan
Albert and Eleanor Panara New Jersey
James and Margaret Zawitoski Maryland

COMPANY I

George and Ursula Vlad New York

COMPANY K

**Robert and Irene Bishop Massachusetts
Worley and Mae Smith Michigan
Guest: Connie Brough

COMPANY L

Ralph Fitzgerald Maryland
Guest: Betty Ballou

COMPANY M

Bill and Reba Sheavly Maryland

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

Dillard and Anita Powell North Carolina
George and Lina West Pennsylvania
George and Virginia Weston New Jersey
Richard and Bille Yeagley Pennsylvania
Alfred and Marie Zelenty New Jersey

CANNON COMPANY

Alfred and Rita Blain Massachusetts

SERVICE COMPANY

Leroy and Maria Keller Virginia
*Charles Senosk Massachusetts

MEDICS

John and Margaret Moore West Virginia

272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

James and Kay Cassidy New York
Guest: Daughter Kathleen
Raymond and Polly Naylor Florida

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1st BATTALION

**Mrs. Joseph Fitzpatrick West Virginia

COMPANY A

*David Butvinik New Jersey
**Robert Lydy Nevada
Guest: Barbara Kumfer
Raymond Olson New Jersey
Guest: Eileen Rimmer
Edgar and Frances Parsons North Carolina

COMPANY B

Crandon and Jane Clark New Jersey
Leo and Margaret Moore Ohio

COMPANY C

Gerald and Elizabeth Emmons Pennsylvania
Charles Weaver Ohio
Louis and Louise Savarese New Jersey

COMPANY D

*Paul Winters Pennsylvania

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2nd BATTALION

David and June Wittman Montana

COMPANY E

Fred and Mavis Butenhoff Wisconsin
*Arthur Caola New Jersey
Santo and Rosemarie DiGirolamo Pennsylvania
Allen and Muriel Histan Pennsylvania
Tony and Florence Keller New York
Milton and Dorothy Lutes Pennsylvania
*Gerrit and Jeanette Maas New Jersey
*Kenneth Shayne New York
*Thomas Smith Delaware
Lawrence and Lois Terpstra Michigan
Roger West Michigan
Chet and Barbara Yastrzemski New York
Guest: Son Richard

COMPANY F

Norman and Dorothy Allen Wisconsin
**Charles and Virginia Boyer Pennsylvania
Herb Callaway Texas
Donald Fuerst Florida
James and Peach Henry Pennsylvania
William Herron New Jersey
*Richard Hess Pennsylvania
**Lynn and Betty Johnson Virginia
Joseph and Anne Nunes Rhode Island
Donald Rettman Florida
Joseph and Sally Schaffer Oregon
Neil Shields Pennsylvania
Guest: Lillian Jones
Edward and Elaine Wade Kentucky
Melvin and Louise Wardin Michigan

COMPANY G

Anees and Barbara Barakat Pennsylvania
Clarence Burke Pennsylvania
**Anthony and Mary Curcio Illinois
William and Lynn Danahy Nebraska
*Frank Dusi Ohio
Val and Edna Frauenhofer New York
Will and Barbara Frazee Ohio
Arthur Held New York
Michael and Mary Kertis Delaware
Ray Lehman Iowa
William and Miriam Lilien New York
Joseph and Louise O'Donnell Pennsylvania

COMPANY H

John and Audrey Murphy Connecticut

COMPANY I

Frank Aplan Pennsylvania
**Robert Cline Montana
William and June Devitt Massachusetts
**John Duespohl Pennsylvania
Guest: Son Gary
**William Edge Maryland
Dennie and Elsie Haltiwanger Florida
James and Marie Herbison Massachusetts
Kenneth and Edris Hull New Mexico
Robert and Vivian Kurtzman Ohio
Pat and Janice Lushbaugh Maryland
Edward McDonnell New York
John and Betty McGraw Pennsylvania
Chalmer and Reita Pearson Michigan
Thomas and Jeanne Reardon Pennsylvania
**Robert and Anne Ross New York
**Eugene and Ada Wilson Virginia
**Thomas Yelich Michigan

(Continued on Page 62)

**1990 VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA
REUNION ATTENDEES**
(Continued from Page 61)

272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT (continued)

COMPANY K

Donald and Catherine Ruppert Pennsylvania
Joseph and Marilyn Tukis New Jersey

COMPANY L

Joseph and June Gibbons Michigan
Russell and Rosanna Meinecke Maryland
John and Elizabeth Nelson New Jersey
Bernard and Edith Zaffern Michigan

COMPANY M

Lido and Louise DalPorto West Virginia
Pete and Ruby Labinsky New Jersey
Floyd and Catherine McCalip Mississippi
Joseph and Katheryn Makosky Pennsylvania
Carl and Dorothy Rapp Florida
Richard and Claire Sodorff Idaho
*John and Margaret Teehan New Jersey
Raymond and Alice Wolthoff Florida

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

George and Jeanne Shapiro Florida
Robert and Evelyn Silberg Maryland

CANNON COMPANY

Peter and Helen Garstecki Pennsylvania
Frank and Blanche Sniadecki Indiana

MEDICS

Charles and Mrs. Brown Pennsylvania

273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

*Richard Bramble New Jersey
Ben Foy North Carolina
Guest: Ralph Mash
Jim and Norma McLean Montana
Norman and Juanita Pickford Illinois
*Thomas Watson New Jersey

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1st BATTALION

Rocco and Rosalie Campagna Pennsylvania
Roy and Sara Gilstrap Georgia
Charles and Lorraine Goodhart Pennsylvania
John and Janet Havey Arizona
Guest: Daughter Anna
*Joseph and Eleanore Kapnick New Jersey
William Robertson California
*Ralph and Cecilia Scholtz New York
Arthur and Barbara Seidenstricker Pennsylvania

COMPANY A

James and Mary Carroll Texas
*Harold and Catherine Crowley New York
James and Allamae Ezell Arkansas
H. Raymond Fahrner Pennsylvania
Guests: Norman W. and Norman F. Hubler
Jack and Jackie Hubbard Florida
Edward Lucci New York
Guests: Tom, Dan, Joan, Stephen and Mike Ensminger
Pierce Rice Virginia
Robert and Jean Rosane Vermont
Bennie and Marcella Srubar Texas
Aaron and Joan Taulbee Ohio

COMPANY B

Eugene and Marilyn Mischke Illinois
Robert and Lynn Peaso New Jersey

COMPANY D

Arthur and Kathe Ayres New Jersey
Allan and Mary Blackmar New York
Paul and Elaine Gornbein New York
Charles and Bertha Hoefer New York
George and Barbara Johnson Virginia
Henry and Julia Kaminski Pennsylvania
Robert and Betty McCarty Louisiana
Dan and Kathy McHugh Virginia
Gordon and Joan Mohr New York
Kenneth Sawyer Florida
Guest: Fran Collard

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2nd BATTALION

Victor and Olga Ostrow Maryland
Ted and Ursula Schiffner New Jersey
Garnet and Florence Whitley Virginia

COMPANY E

Joseph and Virginia Aiello New York
*Tony and Doris Bumbara New Jersey
Arthur and Marian Humes Michigan
*John and Ruth Mass New Jersey
William and Jane Matlach New York
Al and Lotti Shires Florida
*Harold and Peggy Sprang Ohio
Earl and Dorothy Witzleb Pennsylvania

COMPANY F

Gilbert and Marion Clark Pennsylvania
John and Marjorie Fain Florida
Thomas and Jean Graves North Carolina
Walter and Shirley Harpain California
*Richard and Lorraine Hopkins California
Richard Israel Virginia
*Fred and Miriam Scherer New Jersey
Samuel and Anne Woolf New York

COMPANY G

Robert and June Ainley Indiana
Alfred and Elizabeth Aronson New Jersey
Willard and Dorris Beecher Florida
Raymond Hotter Illinois
Guest: Edmonde Hotter
Ruth Johnston, Widow Pennsylvania
*Robert Kirk West Virginia
Joe and Diane Panganiban California
Stephen Sauerzopf Pennsylvania
Orville and Beulah Schultz California
Edson and Tory Stagg Pennsylvania
*Ollie and Pearl Young California

COMPANY H

*Robert and Roberta Andrew Pennsylvania
Bert and Rhoda Eckert New York
Al and Elvira Francavilla Pennsylvania
Charles and Ruth Green Michigan
Robert and Maxine Haag Indiana
Thomas Hoffman Florida
Leland and Lola Jones Kansas
Howard and Jane Keyser Pennsylvania
Arthur and Christie Knudsen Florida
Charles and Agnes Leskus Pennsylvania
Charles and Doris Locke New Jersey
John and Arylene Mowrey West Virginia
Anthony Mruk New York
*Richard Parent New Jersey
E.R. and Jacqueline Sams North Carolina
Murry and Helen Schulman New York
Bernard and Sally Shimanowitz New Jersey
Jake and Violet Stark Pennsylvania
Raymond Szkudlarek Ohio
Francis and Anna Blais Maryland

(Continued on Page 63)

1990 VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA
REUNION ATTENDEES
(Continued from Page 62)

273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT (continued)

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION

**Joseph and Caroline Gawek New York
Charles Hoffman Florida
**David and Miriam Malchick New York
**Albert and Margaret McMunn Pennsylvania
Tod and Pauline Morgan Ohio
**Michael Ossewaarde Washington
John and Judy Sneary Ohio
Earl and Anna Walters Pennsylvania

COMPANY I

William and Beverly Armstrong Iowa
Justin and Robbie Bloom Maryland
James and Audrey Castrale Nebraska
George and Mrs. DeHaven Pennsylvania
**Paul and Elaine Eagon Illinois
George and Janet Houseal Pennsylvania
Carl and Bernice Macknair Pennsylvania
Paul and Aldona Mickiewicz Florida
Robert and Theresa Pierce California
George and Frances Pursey Ohio
Chester and Olive Ritchie Virginia
Robert and Doris Rogers Illinois
Earnest and Betty Rowe Delaware
Erwin and Carmen Sanborn New Hampshire
Nicholas and Ann Villacci New York

COMPANY L

James and Mary Jolly California
Anthony and Genevieve Plasic Pennsylvania
Herman Walker Indiana

COMPANY M

*Walter LeVan Pennsylvania
Edward and Rosemary Radlowski New York

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

**Sterling Post Pennsylvania

CANNON COMPANY

Arlie and Parley Boswell Illinois
*Albert Rice Pennsylvania
Mary Ross, Widow New Jersey

MEDICS

Harry and Jackie Levin Pennsylvania

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION ARTILLERY

Alfred Faison Florida
*Charles and Lois Kaercher Pennsylvania
William Spurrier Massachusetts
*Paul Thomas Ohio
Brantley and Ruth Watkins Maryland

724th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

BATTERY A

Earl Abel Michigan
William Harsch Florida
Paul and Mayreta Kitner Pennsylvania
Walter and Rosalie Mormello Pennsylvania
Bill and Patricia Ruebsamen California

BATTERY B

Thomas and Helen Heath New York
John and Sophie Pierce Pennsylvania

BATTERY C

Al and Polly DiLoreto Ohio
Robert Hollister New York

BATTERY C (cont.)

Coy and Erline Horton North Carolina
Louis Psaltis Illinois
Anthony and Jennie Szaro New Jersey
John Turner Georgia
**Harold Wepler Ohio

879th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Phil and Elizabeth Colombo New York
Harold and Emily Fletcher Pennsylvania
Alex and Margaret Kormas Ohio

BATTERY B

John Arbuckle New York
Edward and Florence Bell New York
George Smith Nebraska
**Ernst and Jane Heller Ohio
**Joseph and Antoinette Scurti New York
William and Mary Harr Ohio
Frank and Kathleen Kruger New York

Guests: Robert and Gerri Athenas
Jason and Jeffery Regan and
Henry and Josephine Kruger

SERVICE BATTERY

Dell and Mary Balzano Ohio
Bruce and Mary Young West Virginia

880th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Stanley Bratt Illinois
Al and Melba Brier Pennsylvania
Howard and Barbara Carlton New Hampshire
John and Doris Cooper Illinois
Stuart and Elinor McGowan New York
Eugene and Carolyn McGreevy Maryland
Robert and Marilyn McKee Maryland
John and Peggy O'Connor Illinois
Emil and Peggy Paoletta Ohio
Michael and Lucille Pendrick Arkansas
**Donald Ray New Hampshire

BATTERY A

James and Geneva Bilbrey Tennessee

BATTERY B

Frank and Joan Alfiero New Jersey

BATTERY C

Enrico and Anne D'Angelo Pennsylvania

881st FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

**Cecil Ammons Alabama
James and Tillie Boris Pennsylvania

BATTERY A

Francis and Zita Enright Wisconsin
James and Irene Liguori New York
Guest: Son Raymond

BATTERY B

Joseph and Jeanette Brady New Jersey
Raymond and Marian Derr Ohio
James Moen Minnesota
Robert and Kathleen Murphy Pennsylvania
Gilbert and Susan Rocco Pennsylvania
Phil and Harriet Sparacino Wisconsin
Eugene and Jacqueline Tabacchi Pennsylvania

(Continued on Page 64)

1990 VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA
REUNION ATTENDEES

(Continued from Page 63)

881st FIELD ARTILLERY (continued)

BATTERY C

**James and Fay Barkley Michigan
Joseph and Sybil Conner Georgia
Harold and Mary Ann Early Ohio
Lester Hart Ohio
Paul and Josephine Molinari Connecticut
Joe Sarna Illinois
Eugene Shollenberger Pennsylvania
**Donald and Elaine Taylor Pennsylvania

SERVICE BATTERY

*Damian and Josephine Carbo Pennsylvania

461st AAA BATTALION

BATTERY D

**Aaron and Barbara Mills Delaware

661st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

COMPANY A

Robert and June Anderson Kansas

COMPANY B

Peter and Carolyn Besket Pennsylvania
William and Jo Beswick Virginia
**Charles Rodgers Pennsylvania
William and Ellen Snidow Virginia

COMPANY C

Robert and Jean Hughes Pennsylvania
Julius and Ellen Slopek Ohio
Charles and Frances Yannul New Jersey

RECON COMPANY

Daniel and Esther Russo New Jersey

777th TANK BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

George and Jane Dendle Pennsylvania
Franklin and Gloria See Arizona
Gaylord Thomas Wisconsin

COMPANY A

Harry and Lorraine Keeney Pennsylvania
John and Mary Koke New Jersey

COMPANY B

Alex Zubrowski New York

COMPANY C

**Harold McAdam New York
John and Ellen McCann Massachusetts
Henry and Jean Putala Connecticut
Guests: Jean Samsel and Stanley Ladny

COMPANY D

James and Thurlo Bristol Pennsylvania
Andrew and Laura LaPatka Pennsylvania
Alex and Florence Lasseigne Louisiana
George Singleton Maryland
Victor Tedesco Minnesota
Guest: Dick Kadue
Earl and Dollie Weaver Pennsylvania

SERVICE COMPANY

Robert Weise New York

Memories from the 1990 Valley Forge Reunion



Al Kormas, Lily Langtry, and Enrico D'Angelo before the performance at Thursday night's dinner-theatre.



*Emil and Peg Paoletta
Banquet night at the Sheraton Valley Forge*



Boyd and Stella Ellsworth on banquet night.

Photos furnished by Enrico D'Angelo

B-Company, 271st at the 1990 Valley Forge Reunion Reception



Front Row: Bill Sheehan, Orie Pullen, John Settember, Bob Younglas

Center Row: Jim Walsh, O.T. Cary, Chuck Walsh, Phil Delphey, Tom Hancock, Wayne Weygandt, Lumir Bocek

Back Row: Hank Milner, Chuck Nicely, Sam Casey, Harold Moore, Martin Buol, Adam Lee, Kenneth Curren, Charles Mabe, Joe Lantz, Kenneth Upton

From: Robert J. Younglas

3529 Three Mile Road

Traverse City, Michigan 49684

Well, another great reunion. "B" Company, 271st, had a good turn-out. We had twenty-three (23) men at the reunion and twenty-two (22) at the reception on Thursday evening. I am enclosing a picture of the group at the reception. Bill Noone was missing but made the big dinner with his Mrs.

We had men from the Middle West and the far south and it really puzzles me as to why so many from the local area were no shows.

I hope the new Bulletin gets out on time as they seem to be getting later each time. Some of the men did not receive the last one prior to leaving for the reunion and I think that was one reason for some of the no shows.

I realize the amount of time and work it takes to put out the best Bulletin printed but I think we should have a cut-off date for submission of material and stick by it so that the Bulletins are in the mail in plenty of time to reach the members so they are not outdated when received. I think some of the members wait for the spring publications to make reservations for the reunion so they know which functions they want to attend and when it is late, they just don't have time for reservations, so they just don't attend.

Please don't look at this as sour grapes because that is not my intention.

I still have some copies of the 271st History, "Trespass Against Them," and if any member wants one, send me a check for \$6.00 to cover my cost and I will get it in the mail to them.

1991 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. 44th ANNUAL REUNION

**Dedication of 69th Monument at Camp Shelby
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI**

September 1991 - Hilton Hotel, Biloxi, Mississippi

Any more medals like this around?

I am enclosing a photo of an item I purchased in Berlin in 1945/46. I don't remember if I purchased it from a street vendor or from a shop. It was only \$25.00 so I figured I could afford it. I've not seen another one like it and don't know how many of our boys have one. The seller told me that it was made from melted down German coins, silver, no longer in circulation. The camera did not clearly pick up the inscription very well but it states: TARGAU-ELBE and the Russian equivalent on the right side, MONUMENT IN HONOR OF THE MEETING BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND RED ARMY and the Russian equivalent on the right side of the monument and on the bottom, APRIL 24, 1945. It is slightly larger than a silver dollar.

Arthur S. Moore
91 Campfield Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06114

Earl's Note: Red may not take too well on black and white. I hope it turns out for the best. Possibly one of our European Tour members has one.



George E. Echols, 105; was oldest U.S. war veteran

WASHINGTON (AP) — George E. Echols, the oldest known American war veteran, died July 26 at age 105. The Department of Veterans Affairs said Monday that Echols died at the Veterans Administration Medical Center here after a brief illness. He was born in Athens, Georgia, and served with the Army from 1914 to 1919, including service in France during World War I.

Echols' death means the oldest known U.S. war veteran is Nathan E. Cook, 104, of Phoenix, who is also the only known living veteran of the Spanish-American War.



Bill and Inez Sells wearing shirts that they made naming all the members of C-Battery, 881st. His has all the men's names on it and hers has all the ladies names on it. Very pretty. Worn by them at Boone, North Carolina in September 1990.



Clarence Jensen carrying the U.S. Flag in Memorial Day Parade in Penn Yan, New York 1990.



Clarence Jensen by his restored 1954 Willys's Jeep.

Christmas 1945

Do you remember what you had for dinner in 1945? I do. The menu below describes what we ate while in the Bremen Port camp while impatiently waiting for a ship to take us home. We in Battery B, 224th Field Artillery Battalion, had been scheduled to go home before Christmas and had been transferred from Blexen, Germany to the Port of Bremen to board ship and go home.

However, in typical Army fashion we were "bumped" from the list and an infantry unit sent home instead. We had to wait for several days for another assignment. We were not your average group of happy campers! The young Lieutenant that had been assigned the task of getting us home had cashed in all of our soldiers deposits, etc. and had over \$10,000 in cash in a musette bag. He was not allowed to turn it back in so for days he carried all that money with him fully expecting to get mugged.

The Lieutenant was a redheaded, battle field commission. At mealtime he would come to the spot where we were standing in a humongous line waiting to eat and needle us about being lowly enlisted men. He always received a cigar at officers mess and he delighted in blowing the smoke at us. He said that he had accepted the commission only as a means of avoiding standing in line at mealtime. This was all in fun, though, and we all threatened to steal his bag of money so we could visit him in the brig and blow smoke in his face.

But it was a great meal and we were all in a state of mixed emotion. It was great to be going home but we were saddened by the delay that kept us in Germany until after Christmas.

Keep up the good work,
Ben F. Hart
(Formerly Battery B, 879th F.A. Bn.)

FRONT OF MENU BEFORE YOU OPENED IT

CHRISTMAS 1945



BREMEN PORT COMMAND
APO 751

INSIDE OF MENU WHEN IT WAS OPENED UP

A Christmas Message

"Peace on Earth and Good Will Toward Men," the traditional spirit of the Yuletide season, assumes a new significance for those men and women serving in the armed forces on this Christmas Day of 1945.

As we sit down to enjoy our Christmas dinners, we are grateful that the peace of the world has again been restored, and that the terrible conflict, in which we were called upon to defend our country, has finally ended victoriously.

While expressing our gratitude, we pray that we may reflect in our every thought and action, both as soldiers and citizens, the truly Christian spirit of good-will toward our fellow-man. Peace and good-will are inevitably linked together, and in order to have the one, we must practice the other.

I convey my sincerest wishes for your good cheer and happiness.

H.B. VAUGHAN, Jr.,
Major General USA
Commanding

Menu

* PINEAPPLE JUICE		
* ROAST TURKEY — SAGE DRESSING		
CRANBERRY SAUCE	*	GIBLET GRAVY
CANDIED SWEET POTATOES		
BUTTERED ASPARAGUS	*	CARROT STICKS
ASSORTED PICKLES		
HOT ROLLS AND JELLY	*	BREAD AND BUTTER
HOT MINCEMEAT PIE		
* SLICED CHEESE		
* COFFEE		
* APPLES NUTS CANDY		

The Battle for Eilenburg

EUGENE D. BUTTERFIELD

22449 Lake Road
Rocky River, Ohio 44116

The pictures are of Eilenburg, Germany apparently taken on April 23, 1945. Our Division History records that the City was attacked on the 21st day of April and was taken on 23 April (Page 85 for text and two additional pictures of devastated city). The enclosed pictures were furnished by then **Captain Herbert Callaway**, Commanding Company F, 272nd Infantry. **Herb** and **Lieutenant Colonel Robert Bement**, the Division Artillery Operations Officer, are the source of all of my information, other than the Division History.

The History says that Eilenburg was one of the toughest fights of the Division and "an Artilleryman's dream." And that over 8000 rounds were fired of white phosphorus and high explosive. **Bob Bement** says that about 8800 rounds were fired, ALL of them high explosive and that no W.P. was used. The History is correct when it says that . . . "the City was flattened . . ." These pictures and the two on pages 81 and 82 of the History will attest to that last fact. The History fails to give the reason for the "flattening" of Eilenburg.

There was an SS Training Center near this City and that group of "worthies" apparently occupied the city after the civilians left and after they had strung out the usual white bed sheets on all buildings and houses to indicate the surrender

of the city. After F Company entered the city the white sheets were pulled in and the German troops opened fire on our infantry. F Company retired and the white sheets reappeared and they were again ordered into the city. Again the sheets were pulled in and the firing began. What surprised me was when **Bob Bement** told me that all of this was being relayed to **Lieutenant General Huebner**, the Commanding General of V-Corps. It was **General Huebner** who ordered the Infantry out of the city and said "Not one more infantryman is going to lose his life there. We'll take the city with artillery alone."

Lieutenant Colonel Bement got the job of setting up the firing orders for the Artillery attack and also of going down to the F Company area and telling **Captain Callaway** to withdraw his troops until the Artillery attack was completed and they were again ordered to go in. The firing took 72 hours from three Battalions of 105's, TWO Battalions of 155's (we had in addition to our own 724th, the 592nd Artillery Battalion of 155's from the 106th Division). They had given us fire support in Belgium and apparently we kept them. It also was a well kept secret. We also had 'Two 8' howitzers that we had obtained in order to break open the Battle of Nations Monument in Leipzig. The History says that that battle began on April 21st at 1245 hours without any artillery preparation and ended by 0800 on April 23rd, so we still had all of the artillery used there with us when we were ordered to take Eilenburg with artillery alone. When the 69th Division was ordered to flatten a city, it did it completely.





Tour of the Former Members of the "Fighting 69th" Infantry Division Association April 19th to May 7th, 1990

By William R. Beswick

It must be made known that I am not an English scholar. Hence, this is written as I remember it, and in my own words.

EUROPEAN TOUR, INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF THE "FIGHTING 69th" INFANTRY DIVISION

Fifty-four members of the "Fighting 69th" Infantry Division, some of their wives and two sons, for a total of one hundred people, from twenty-six states assembled at the California Lounge of the John F. Kennedy Airport in New York, for the first leg of a nineteen day tour of England, Netherlands, Belgium, France, West and East Germany, Poland, the Soviet Union and Finland.

We arrived at Heathrow Airport in London, in the early afternoon on April 19th, and started the tour of London on arrival. We saw many of the sights that had been seen by some of the 69ers way back in 1944. We finally arrived at the hotel for afternoon tea.

The following day, April 20th, we left for Winchester, stopping to visit the Monoliths at Stonehenge. It was a cold, wet and windy visit. In fact, the worst weather we were to encounter. We continued on to Winchester, to visit the town and Winchester Cathedral. We missed the planned reception by the Lord Mayor Frederick Allgood, Mayor of Winchester, due to the fact that the tour guides elected to go to Stonehenge before Winchester and the fact that I never received Mayor Allgood's letter before I left home. These people THANKED US for coming to England in 1944 and returning again in 1990.

Most of us were presented with a book of Winchester by part of the reception committee, composed of David and Janice Smith and Mrs. Elizabeth Ashlin-Wood. These three people were some of those that were entertained Christmas Eve 1944 at a Christmas party given for the young English youngsters, these three people were six and seven years old. Another man, named Tony King, came to show us a set of checkers that a G.I. had made and given him for Christmas 1944. He treasures them dearly.

The following morning, we departed London for Dover, where we boarded a Giant Hovercraft (that's one of the crafts that rides on water or land on a cushion of air). The Hovercraft crosses the English channel from Dover to Calais, France in forty minutes. It requires one hour, thirty minutes for a water borne ferry.

We boarded buses at Calais for the trip to Amsterdam. There were many BUNKERS and MACHINE GUN NESTS, still located between Calais and Amsterdam. We traveled the canals of Amsterdam while having dinner by candlelight. The hotel was situated in such a manner, that many of us got lost looking for our room.

The next morning we left for Margraten and Henri-Chapelle Cemeteries, where we met several people that were

taking care of 69ers graves, as volunteers. Jos Brands, his wife and two daughters was one family of volunteers. We met some very pleasant people and invited them to have lunch with us.

Wreaths were placed at these two cemeteries by fellows from various units. Very beautiful wreaths, indeed. Many pictures were taken and many individual prayers were said. Fellows were all over the cemeteries looking for a friend or a buddy of long ago.

We continued toward Bullingen, Reischeld, Geischeld and Meischeld, to take pictures of the DRAGON TEETH on the SEIGFRIED LINE. Some of the teeth were still there, and in peoples backyards. They haven't attempted to remove them, flowers are planted all around them. Bill Snidow saw the building where he was wounded and took a picture of it. I think he was quite excited seeing it again.

We traveled on toward Cologne and were able to visit around the area. We were unable to go in the Cathedral, it was closed.

We continued after a night of fast rest and had a Rhine River cruise. I think everyone enjoyed it. We visited the East Bank of the Rhine and the town of Remagen. We spent the night in a familiar hotel. It was the one we spent the night in in 1985, but with a new name. It's now called the Moat House in Kassel.

We left Kassel early to spend a couple or three hours at Bebra-Witerode, as guests of Kurt Nolke. (He was the gentleman that visited us with his two sons in Pittsburgh.) He had an enjoyable breakfast for all of us. Many of us received a book about the area, and were invited to return again by Kurt and the Burgermeister.

Bad Hersfeld was not far away, it was just before crossing the Frontier into East Germany. Crossing the Frontier was far different that it was in 1985. In 1985, passports and the Manifest were thoroughly checked. The number of people on the buses was counted three different times. This trip they never took up the passports, boarded the buses, nor stamped our passports. Our passports were not stamped at any time going into or out of East Germany. On our arrival in Eisenach, which was the first town in East Germany, we picked up our East German tour guides and the CBS Camera crews from Charles Kuralt's Sunday Morning News program, which broadcasted the tour of the former members of the "Fighting 69th" Infantry Division, on May 6th, 1990.

We traveled through Gotha, Erfurt, Weimar, Naumburg, Weissenfels and Lutzen, before arriving in Leipzig, at the Merkur Hotel, which was one block from the Leipzig Railroad Station. I guess plenty of 69ers remember that place.

After arriving in Leipzig, we all refreshed ourselves before going to the GALA dinner with all the trimmings, such as wine, champagne, vodka and anything else that you may have wanted. We had been invited to this dinner by the Soviets. On our entrance to the very large hall for dinner, we were received and welcomed by Soviet Lt. General Vladimir Orlov and ninety Soviet Veterans and some of their wives, who gave us a tremendously loud standing ovation. General Orlov addressed the American and Soviet Veterans, as well as the German Dignitaries, including Mayor Gerstenberger of Torgau. Bill Beswick responded with an address. Mayor Gerstenberger was responsible for all the arrangements. General Orlov stated how proud and pleased that he was to meet with so many American Veterans of the "Fighting 69th," that had met with the Soviet Union's 58th Guard Division at Torgau on the Elbe River, cutting Adolph Hitler's Fascist Army in two. Thus hastening the end of World War II in Europe.

Before anyone had a chance to sit down, I went to the center of the floor with a German and Soviet interpreter.

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1990 EUROPEAN TOUR OF THE FIGHTING 69th

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I made a loud shrill whistle. The place became quiet. I told everyone to intermingle with each other, not to sit in their own little group. Mix it up and get to know each other. They all did this and everyone appeared to enjoy it. I believe it is one night all of us will remember.

Many small medals were given by the Soviets and the Americans gave many nice gifts to the Soviets and Germans. There were many toasts given by the Americans and Soviets. Maps were drawn on napkins and tablecloths, attempting to show each other their route and line of defense on the way to Torgau and Strehla, East Germany.

The dinner and party broke up about 11:30 p.m. and we returned to the Merkur Hotel. In all the Hulla-Baloo, I don't remember what I ate for dinner.

Sam Goldberg, A-661st T.D. Bn., got sick at the dinner, had to go to the hospital in Leipzig and had all of us worried, especially his wife Gertrude. They had to leave the tour and return home. As of this writing, he is okay.

April 25th, 1990 was to be a very busy day for us, as we departed the hotel about 8:30 a.m. for Torgau and the festivities. The Torgau town square was a hub-bub of adults and many, many children. They both appeared to be looking for a little friendliness and affection. I heard many of our people say they had picked up many children. The small children wanted the Americans to pick them up and hug them. The older people wanted to shake hands. Lots of chewing gum, candy and American money exchanged hands as souvenirs. Welcomed givers and recipients.

There was an old-fashioned oompa-oompa band in the center of the square. It was enjoyed by everyone. The 69ers were mixing with the crowd, exchanging gifts and mementos. The band started out for the Soviet Monument on the Elbe River, the sight of EAST MEETS WEST, where the "Fighting 69th" met the Soviets 58th Guard Division. Everyone fell in behind the band for the three or four block walk, for the welcoming speeches. Members of the former 69th Division placed a wreath at the monument in memory of our fallen comrades in World War II.

During the ceremonies, I was presented a book about events between the Americans and the Soviets. I, in turn, presented it to Mayor Gerstenberger, the Mayor of Torgau. Today it occupies a place in the Museum located in Hartenfels Castle which is located on the Bank of the Elbe River in Torgau, East Germany.

We boarded the buses for the local cemetery, to place a wreath on Joe Polowsky's grave.

We were to yet receive another surprise, when the Soviets expressed their desire for us to accompany them to the local Soviet Cemetery to place a wreath on the Soviet Tomb.

The reception that we were to encounter next was very delightful, the food was good and plenty of it. It was sponsored by the officials and Mayor Gerstenberger of Torgau. The reception was located in the town Reception Center.

We departed Torgau around 4:00 p.m. for East Berlin for our hotel, dinner and a night of rest.

The following day, we had been invited to Tiergarten to place a wreath at the Soviet Monument. The Soviets had flown in a battalion of marching troops from Moscow, which were very sharp, along with a one hundred piece band, in honor of the American and Soviet Veterans. It was a sight to behold at the precision they had. Tiergarten is the location of the final sight for all the Soviets killed in the Berlin area in World War II.

During the afternoon some of the people went shopping at Ka De We, an extremely large department store in West

Berlin. Some of us went to a War Memorial, which is guarded by each of the four countries, U.S.A., Britain, France and the Soviet Union, on a rotating basis. While we were there, it was Britain's turn. There was some confusion about permission to place a wreath, but it was soon cleared up.

We passed through Check Point Charlie on several occasions. Boy what a difference it was from in 1985. We also saw places that the wall had been knocked down. The entrepreneurs were selling pieces of the wall. Many of us got a piece. We purchased many souvenirs.

Early the next morning, we left for Dresden for a day of sightseeing. We saw a block long Mosaic on the side of a building, depicting the various phases of German culture and periods of the country. During all the bombing in Dresden, in which a church had been bombed very nearby in World War II, this Mosaic was untouched.

We were supposed to have spent the night in a Dresden Hotel, but the East German Government cancelled our rooms three days before our departure from the States. American Express jumped in and immediately made arrangements for us to return to the Merkur Hotel in Leipzig. It was an unfortunate incident.

We boarded a train from Leipzig to Krakow, which turned into an experience. What should have been a six to six and one half hour ride, was stretched into a twelve and one half hour train ride. Some people were upset, while some took advantage of the situation and made some new friends out of 69ers they had not met. We did not know until three days before we left home that it would take so long. We could not get a plane into Krakow from Berlin or Leipzig. Only Polish planes could fly into that particular airport. No Polish planes came from East Germany. But we were able to charter a plane out to Moscow. It was Polish (Lots Airline).

After arriving in Krakow, we visited Renaissance Square and the Collonade shops. Also a very large and beautiful church on the square. It was adorned by leaf gold all over, it sparkled. We came upon a group of youths preparing for a bike race. We gave some of them American flag pins. Many of us had them to give out all over Europe.

We went to see the Black Madonna Shrine at the Jasna Gora Monastery in Czestochowa, Poland. That is truly a beautiful sight. Everything in the church is covered with leaf gold.

While passing by a Soviet Monument in the middle of town, I saw where someone had spray painted on the monument, "Soviets Go Home." At least it didn't say "Yanks Go Home."

Auschwitz concentration camp was something to see. Tons of human hair that had been shorn from the people as they were admitted, tons of eye glasses, and many, many prosthetics that the prisoners had been stripped of. Over the main entrance to the barracks part of the camp hung a sign, in German "Work makes freedom." Down the road about one and a half mile is Auschwitz Birkenau Camp #2. There are no buildings standing here, only the guard towers and barbed wire. Auschwitz has all the buildings still standing. All are brick, Polish Army barracks from World War I.

The following morning we boarded a Polish plane for Moscow, which is a city of enchantment and wonderment (this is one of my words). There are many things to see. It will hold you in awe. You can spend weeks there and not see it all. We stayed at the Cosmos Hotel, which is truly first class.

We visited the Armoury Museum and a church inside the Kremlin Walls. The Armoury Museum contains the very colorful horse drawn carriages of Peter the Great and Catherine I, also of Catherine II. Along with some that belonged to the early Russian Dignitaries. Many of these had

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1990 EUROPEAN TOUR OF THE FIGHTING 69th (Continued from Page 71)

loads of leaf gold. The Ascension and Assumption Cathedrals had several onion dome steeples each. Each steeple and all the trim was covered in leaf gold. In fact, leaf gold is everywhere. The Tsar Cannon and the Tsar Bell is located in the Kremlin walls. The Tsar Bell is the largest ever made. The first time it was rung, a large chunk was knocked out. The Tsar Cannon was never fired from what I understood. We then took a bus tour of Moscow.

May Day, May first was interesting. It was not what we expected to see. May Day had been changed to a parade of Tradesmen and of the people. There were many people present. We had reserved seats, and to the right about 400 feet from Mikhail Gorbachev. He was standing on the podium on Lenin's Tomb. We could see him, but wouldn't have known who it was, unless we were told. A couple of people had binoculars and they passed them around. A personal pass was required to enable you to get into Red Square. After arriving at Red Square, you must pass through three gates. Each gate required pass checks. The Soviet War Veterans Committee, commanded by Air Marshall Alexander Silantiev issued them for us. Lt. General Vladimir Orlov brought them to us. I had met General Orlov in 1985, and when I made it known to him that we 69ers wanted to come to the Soviet Union, he issued me the invitation. You can request to go to the Soviet Union, but you must still be invited by someone. That is, at least up to the present time. You must seek an invitation.

We went up to the Moscow overlook and made our first contact with the youthful black marketers. They had all sorts of pins, medallions, flags, etc. for sale. The black marketers were mostly English speaking youths. When they were caught, the police would take them in. It was amusing to watch them trying to outwit the police.

Roubles and Koubecs were not needed, nor wanted. American dollars were good enough and in fact, requested.

I had been told by some 69ers that they had never met up with a Soviet Veteran of the 58th Guard Division. We met many of them in Torgau and Moscow, that had been in Torgau in 1945. They were most anxious to meet and talk with us. Each one of them had a small gift or medallion to give to a fellow Veteran, especially to a 69er. I received a 58th Guard Division medallion from one of them. A man from the 58th told me that he is trying to migrate to the U.S.A. this fall.

We had an excellent evening of entertainment. The Soviet War Veterans Committee sponsored each of us with a ticket to the Moscow Circus. It was a marvelous evening. We came out around ten or ten-thirty, it was still daylight.

Many of the people stayed around the hotel lobby discussing the days events.

We had the honor of escorting the Soviet Honor Guards to place a wreath at the Soviets Unknown Soldiers Tomb, in Moscow. I had made this request prior to the trip, it had been approved. That is an honor reserved for visiting foreign dignitaries. But, after all, weren't we? The Honor Guards have a unique method of walking up the steps at the Tomb.

We attempted to visit Novodevichy Convent, the burial sight of Brezhnev, but, it was closed. Some of the people walked down to Swan Lake just below Novodevichy, where the Ballet Swan Lake was written.

The Soviet Armed Forces Museum is a beautiful edifice to the Soviet Veterans of World War II. One thing that thrilled me was the very large Panorama that covered an entire wall, depicting the meeting of the American 69th Infantry Division and the Soviet 58th Guard Division at Torgau on the Elbe River, April 25th, 1945.

There were many artifacts of World War II on display.

I was given a book of "Yanks meet Reds" by General Orlov and I, in turn presented it to Air Marshall Feidorov, to be placed in the Museum. It occupies space therein.

I had presented a laser copy of the "Oathes of the Elbe" pledge to General Orlov at the reception in Torgau. He presented it to Air Marshall Feidorov to be placed in the Soviet Armed Forces Museum, in HONOR to the members of the former 69th Infantry Division and Soviets 58th Guard Division. This plaque was presented to us to take to Europe by Sam Popkins of A-271st. It was a beautiful plaque on an oak background.

After lunch on May 2nd, we started our farewells to the Soviets we had visited with in Moscow and its environs, for our journey to Leningrad on Aeroflot, a Soviet Airline. It was only two hours away.

Someone had given General Orlov a 69th hat. He was proud of it and was waving it wildly as we departed Moscow for Leningrad. His wife had accompanied him to visit with us. She is a very gracious lady.

We arrived in Leningrad in the afternoon at the Pribaltiyskaya Hotel, another fine first class hotel, overlooking the bay of the Baltic Sea.

We first visited Vasilyevski Island which was the sight of our hotel and the sight of the old stock exchange which is now the Naval Museum and shipping port. Stopping for a visit to the Cruiser Aurora, sight of the start of the Russian Revolution in October 1917. Again, we met up with the youthful black marketers trying to make a dollar.

Next, we visited Piskariokoye Cemetery, the sight of the burial of one half million Soviets that lost their lives from the atrocities of World War II, during the period 1941-1945. These were from freezing, starvation and killing at the hands of the Germans. It was a very moving experience. An eternal flame graces the entrance.

Twenty-one and one half million Soviets lost their lives during World War II. Many soldiers went off to war, only to find on their return home that their entire family was deceased. In some villages, nine out of ten people lost their lives.

Saint Isaac's Cathedral is truly a beautiful place. It is presently being renovated, as many places of interest are at present. The murals on the walls and ceilings are fabulous. They were painted many years ago and appear to have recently been completed. Of course, they are being restored. Scaffolding is presently set up on one entire side of the magnificent structure.

People were everywhere on the streets lined up to purchase scarce items such as shoes, soap, razor blades, etc. Some of our people joined them to shop. Weren't they brave? On our return from a tour of Leningrad, we saw some of our people on the street shopping, mixing in with the crowd.

Some of us walked down to the Baltic Sea just to take pictures. I just wanted to wash my hands in it just to say I had. The water was a brilliant blue.

That night we went to a Russian Folk Dance show. It was a pleasure. You see them on television but don't often have the opportunity to see it live. They were great as was the music.

We crossed back and forth across the Neva River on several occasions. The draw bridges are not opened in the daylight hours, only at night. All ships come in and go out after midnight and before six a.m.

There are apartments everywhere. Many of the villages are still like old Russia with the small individual homes. The cities contain apartments. Two families share a single bathroom and a single kitchen. But they have their own sleeping quarters.

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1990 EUROPEAN TOUR OF THE FIGHTING 69th (Continued from Page 72)

The bus ride to Petrodvoret was well worth the time. Petrodvoret means "Peter's Castle" and was the summer palace of Peter the Great and Catherine the First. They occupied it from 1714 to 1725.

It is beyond the imagination to think that anyone would have as much leaf gold installed on so much of the trim, etc. Leaf gold is everywhere, including on the fountains of the gardens. This castle would cost billions of dollars.

The rooms are heated by tiled stoves. The fire is built in an adjoining room to heat the room you are to occupy and there is no two stoves similar. Again, the murals on the walls and ceilings are fabulous, as are the tapestries.

The next stop was the Hermitage, which was the winter palace of Peter the Great and Catherine the I, equally as beautiful as Petrodvoret. The inside stairwell at the entrance was virtually covered with leaf gold with jade columns. The great room was one hundred feet long and sixty feet wide. It contained one hundred sixteen (I counted them) columns, twenty-two feet high and three feet in diameter with Doric Volutes and each was covered with leaf gold as was all the trim.

There were Da Vinci paintings on display. The Litta Madonna was one of those I am familiar with. There are also Raphael, Giorgione, and Rembrandt paintings on display.

We traveled to and were well received at the Leningrad branch of the Soviet War Veterans Committee by a Soviet. (He gave me his card but it was in Russian, so I don't know what it says.) They told us how honored they were to receive former members of American's famous "Fighting 69th" Infantry Division in their Leningrad Soviet War Veterans Committee Headquarters.

Leningrad is also a city of enchantment. It would take months to see it all. There are many beautiful sights, such as the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul located in the Peter and Paul Fortress. Also the Russian Museum, just to name a couple. I must not forget to mention Pushkin Palace, also known as the Catherine Palace.

We departed Pribaltisjkaya Hotel for the train station. Again we encountered the youthful black marketers. The police were kept occupied by them.

It took five and one half hours for what should have been a three and one half hour train ride. (This train ride, I thought would be enjoyed by everyone. It would give them time to meet and talk over their experiences. Also many of the fellows had not been on a train since World War II troop trains.) Anyhow we arrived in Helsinki, Finland finally. We stopped in a city in Finland for over an hour.

When we crossed the Frontier from the Soviet Union to Finland, it was almost like entering another world. The lifestyles were very different. Prices are extremely high. Someone told me that they had paid \$7.50 for a beer in American dollars. A shot of whiskey was similar in cost. Their average annual salary is \$25,000, which is much higher than in the U.S.A.

We toured Helsinki and the environs. We saw their waterfront, with a very large ferry under construction. It is a massive piece of machinery. It should transport thousands of people.

There is still evidence that the Germans invaded Finland. A popular monument in the center of town has shell marks in the base, which has been left as a grim reminder. We stopped at the Temppeliaukio Lutheran Church. It was carved out of rock. Finland is built on rocks. The ceiling contained five and one half tons of copper. It was a magnificent structure.

Part of the people returned home one day ahead of the others. What may have been a disaster was averted by an alert air crew. While making their check-off they located a hydraulic oil leak. They cancelled the flight, but the people were rescheduled on a later flight.

I must tell this. When touring Petrodvoret, I stopped to purchase a couple of souvenirs in their shop. I gave the lady an American flag pin. She motioned for me to wait while she looked under the counter and produced a small Soviet flag pin and pinned it on my jacket.

I don't think any trip would be completely written if it did not contain the names of the men that were responsible for placing the wreaths at various sights.

MARGRATEN CEMETERY

Robert Anderson	A-661st
William C. Sheavly	M-271st
Raymond Olson	A-272nd

HENRI-CHAPELLE

Crandon Clark	B-272nd
William Matlack	E-273rd
Thomas Heath	B-724th

TORGAU MONUMENT

Joe Sarna	C-881st
Boyd Ellsworth	69th Recon
William D. Robertson	273rd

POLOWSKI'S GRAVE

John Havey	H-273rd
Kim Packard	A-269th
Daniel O'Shea	C-724th

TIERGARTEN (BERLIN)

Joe Loudon	D-777th
Robert Bement	Divarty
Edward Lucci	A-273rd

MOSCOW UNKNOWN SOLDIER'S TOMB

Donald Durst	AT-271st
Paul Gornbein	D-273rd
Robert Holister	C-724th

All of this is not the complete story. It is only as I can remember it. There is much more and many small incidents that only the individual person can comment about. I enjoyed all of the trip. There were some points that some of the people may not have been pleased with such as the long train ride. But there is one consolation. THANK GOD WE ARE AMERICANS.

NOTICE: DO NOT SEND XEROX COPIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS.

If you send the originals, they will be returned to you after publication. If you are afraid to send us your originals, go to your local printer and ask him to make you a velox or some form of the original that is printable. If you send us Xerox copies of your photos, we cannot guarantee that they will be in the Bulletin. They do not reproduce well at all.

Former Members of the 3rd Platoon, A Company, 271st Regiment

Pictures furnished by Franklin Haught



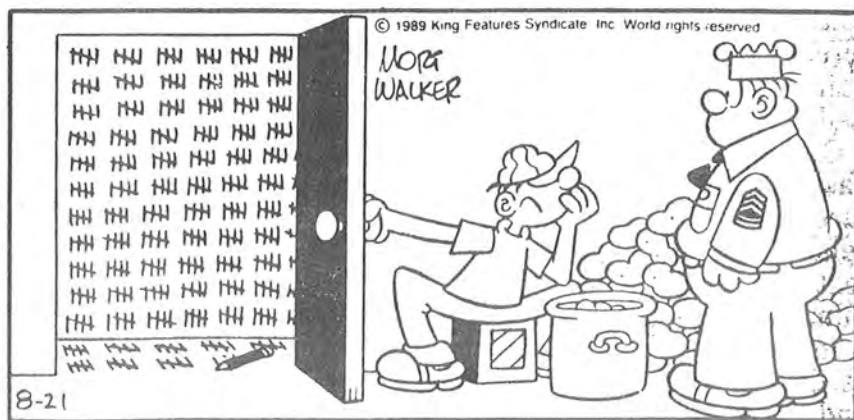
From left to right: John Gauer, Jim Tyree, Tony Graziose, Charles Cuttner — August 1943



Left to right: Me, Unknown, Platoon Sergeant Jim Parks, Bradley, Jim Tyree and Charles Cuttner.



Left to right: Kneeling - Sergeant Palmer, Arm on Knees - Jim Richardson, Behind Jim's left shoulder - Bonello, Kneeling right - Bernbaum, Standing right - Franklin Haught. Other 6 Unknown.



George Iwamoto Writes

George Iwamoto
1105 "D" Rycroft Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
J.S.A.

Aloha from sunny and cool Hawaii! I would like to have more information on your 69th Infantry Division Association, plus your application form and newsletters, etc.

I'm Japanese-American and served with the 271st Infantry Regiment and joined the 69th as a replacement in Company A in Hescheld City and crossed the Rhine River and the Elbe River and went on to Leipzig City till war's end.

Enclosed find some old photos taken in Europe before the war ended. We were in Philadelphia City October 1989 visiting our 69th Caucasians ex-Army friends and had the most wonderful time there. They gave me your address to join your Association when we got back to Hawaii but I was too lazy to write and it took us 10 months to write to you . . . please excuse us???

May God richly bless you as you continue to serve HIM!

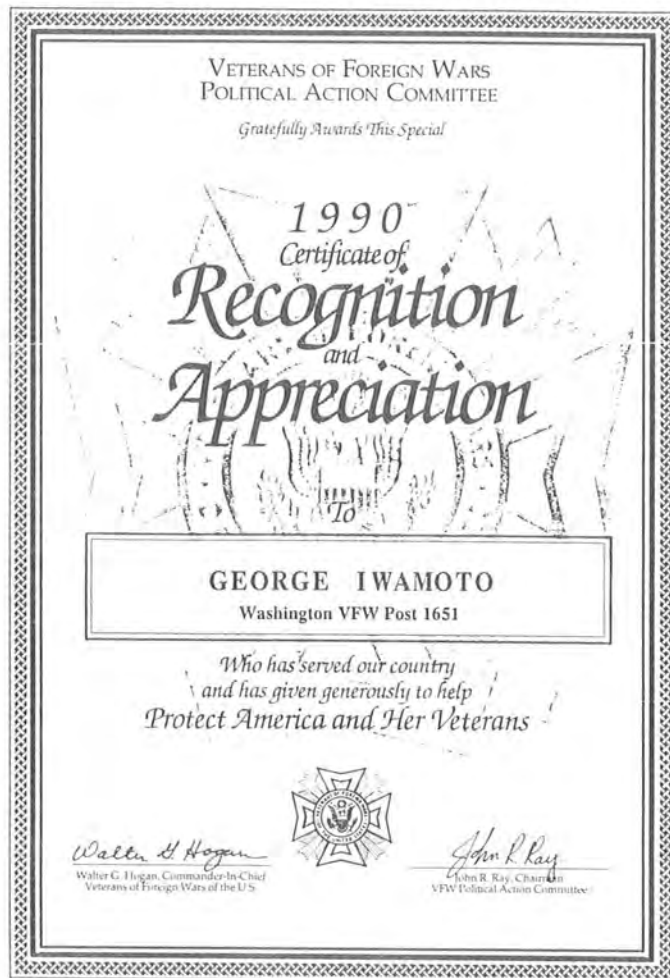
Mahalo nui loa & Aloha!
George and Joyce Iwamoto
69th Veteran from Hawaii!



Borderline between Germany and France.



U.S. Army and Navy combined efforts in first inland amphibious operation on the Rhine River. Germany 1945.



T/Sgt. George Iwamoto, Company A - 271st. Germany 1945.

***** 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.

1990

DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE FOR 1990-1991

Dues Year: August 1, 1990 to July 31, 1991.

Postage and Bulletin Donations Accepted

69th Monument Fund donations are now being accepted.

Monument will be dedicated at Camp Shelby, Mississippi September 20, 1991 during the Biloxi Reunion.

Mail dues checks and donations for monument and bulletin postage to:

ROBERT KURTZMAN, SR., TREASURER

Post Office Drawer 178, Wilnot, Ohio 44689

"WHY CANNOT LIFE'S BIG PROBLEMS COME WHEN WE ARE TWENTY AND KNOW EVERYTHING???"

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.

* * * * *

APRIL 6, 1991

Deadline for news material and pictures

Bulletin Volume 44, Number 3

May, June, July, August, 1991

Bulletin due out in June 1991

* * * * *

APRIL 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 1991

TRI-STATE SPRING WEEKEND

TRI-STATE BLUE IS THE FAMILY GROUP

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

(Other States Invited Too)

Earl E. and Dottie Witzleb, Jr., Coordinators

R.D. No. 1, Box 477

Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

or

P.O. Box 69

Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069

Telephone: 412/455-2901

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

Dottie's Emergency

U.S. Steel Work Telephone: 412/433-1713 or 1701 or 1702

Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike

"The Family With Two Addresses — But One Home — Welcome All 69ers — When The Flags Are Waving (Weather Permitting) — Stop In, Call, or Write."

Holiday Inn

Route 48 and U.S. Route 219 in Maryland

East of Grantsville, Maryland

Featuring Maple Festival

(Come see how maple syrup is made from the tree to the jar or can.)

Meyersdale, Pennsylvania

Hospitality Room (Open from arrival day until ????)

Good, no business to discuss.

Indoor pool

Banquet

Sunday Goodbyes and Breakfast

Committee:

Mr. and George Murphy, 272nd Infantry

Route 2, Box 87

Frostburg, Maryland 21532

Telephone: 301/689-3222

Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Newman, 272nd Infantry

Box 267

Grantsville, Maryland 21536

Telephone: 301/895-5188

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Yutzey, 272nd Infantry

Lincoln Avenue Extension

Box 153

Meyersdale, Pennsylvania 15552

Telephone: _____

Come on 272nd and members living in Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Western Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina, support your committee.

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**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE**

(Continued from Page 76)

APRIL 25, 26, 27, 1991

MIDWEST GROUP SPRING MEETING

PHEASANT RUN: The Mid-West's largest resort and convention center, located near St. Charles, Illinois on State Route 64, three miles west of State Route 59.

Rate: \$80.00 per night, plus tax

PROGRAM

Thursday, April 25: Check in after 4:00 p.m. Hospitality Room. Dinner at the resort.

Friday, April 26: Golf. Outing for non-golfers. Dinner Show at Pheasant Run Theatre: "Little Shop of Horrors." Cost of \$39.00 per person includes dinner, play, tax, and gratuity. Hospitality Room.

Saturday, April 27: On your own.
Check-out time is 12:00 Noon.

RESERVATIONS: Call the Resort directly, (708) 584-6300, to make reservations for room, golf, and the dinner show. A deposit for one night (or a credit card number) is required. The Resort will hold a block of rooms for the Midwest Group until March 26, 1991. Late callers may not be located near the Group.

For answers to questions about the meeting, contact:

Fred or Mavis Butenhoff
3217 South 55th Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53219
Telephone: 414/541-1584

* * * * *

APRIL-MAY-JUNE 1991

661st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

Location: Probably will be held in southern Virginia or northern North Carolina. Details are only being discussed at this publishing.

Committee:

Ralph and Chris Bragg
831 North Main Street
Chase City, Virginia 23924
Telephone: _____

* * * * *

JUNE 11, 12, 13, 1991

461st AAA BATTERY B WEST COAST WEEKEND

Circus Hotel Casino
Reno, Nevada

Details are not complete with this publication. They will be in the next bulletin and in the flyers mailed out by Battery B.

Committee:

Larry W. and Milly Brown, *Chairpersons & News Reporters*
538 Burns Avenue
Clarkston, Washington 99403
Telephone: 509/758-2180

* * * * *

JUNE 1991 (Tentative Month)

COMPANY D, 272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

Location: Iberia, Louisiana

Motel: To be announced at later date

Agenda: Being completed at the time of this publishing.
Should be ready for the next bulletin or flyers will be mailed to roster members.

Committee:

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Geoffroy, *Chairpersons*
R.D. #2, Box 78
Erath, Louisiana 70533
Telephone: _____ Please send to Earl

AUGUST 31, 1991

Deadline for news material and pictures for this bulletin.

Bulletin Volume 45, Number 1

September - October - November - December 1991

Bulletin due out in November 1991

PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for this bulletin is before our 1991 Annual Reunion at Biloxi, Mississippi and Camp Shelby Monument Dedication September 20, 1991. Please note that our Monument date has been changed from September 19th to September 20th so that our Jewish members will be able to use Thursday as a travel day. They have a holiday on September 18th "Yom Kippur" and many of them want to be at the dedication.

* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 1991

Mini weekends scheduled in conjunction with the 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION'S REUNION at Biloxi Hilton Hotel, Biloxi, Mississippi and Camp Shelby for the dedication of the 69th Monument. These units are as follows:

69th DIVISION HEADQUARTERS

AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Contact: Eugene Butterfield, 216/333-5723; Clarence Marshall, 412/335-3224 and Robert "Bob" Myers.

69th M.P.s (MILITARY POLICE)

Contact: John J. Moriarty, 508/867-6004; Carl Miller, 419/562-7029; and James "Jim" Moody.

69th QUARTERMASTERS

Contact: George Gallagher, 813/788-5924 and Victor Woo, 415/261-0523.

569th SIGNAL COMPANY

Contact: George Hepp

769th ORDNANCE COMPANY

269th ENGINEER BATTALION

Contact: Frank Nemeth, 215/945-3809

COMPANY E, 271st INFANTRY

Contact: Paul N. Shadle, 412/335-9980

COMPANY E, 272nd INFANTRY

Contact: Chester "Chet" Yastrzemski, 516/283-3875 or December through March 31st, 619/485-6165

COMPANY G, 272nd INFANTRY

COMPANY I, 272nd INFANTRY

Contact: Chalmer Pearson and Robert "Bob" Kurtzman, Sr., 216/359-5487

COMPANY A, 273rd INFANTRY

Contact: Edward Lucci, 516/593-6592 and H. Ray Fahrner, 215/855-9696

COMPANY D, 273rd INFANTRY

COMPANY E, 273rd INFANTRY

Contact: William "Bill" Matlach, 516/669-8077 and Earl E. "Skip" Witzleb, Jr., 412/455-2901

COMPANY H, 273rd Infantry

Contact: Jacob "Jake" Stark, Jr., 717/939-4802

COMPANY I, 273rd INFANTRY

724th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Contact: John W. Turner, 404/378-3543 and Vernon E. Tritch, Jr., 717/944-9080

777th TANK BATTALION

Contact: Joseph "Joe" Loudon, 419/475-0770 and Frank See, 602/866-6992

If your unit gets together with the 69th Infantry Division's Annual Reunion and you want listed, please contact Earl E. Witzleb, Jr., 69th President, at R.D. 1, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606 or telephone 412/455-2901. We do not want to miss any unit that holds a so-to-speak mini with the 69th Annual Reunion. See you all at Biloxi.

(Continued on Page 78)

SEPTEMBER 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 1991

69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

44th ANNUAL REUNION

Dedication of 69th Division Monument at Camp Shelby
September 20, 1991 - Hattiesburg, Mississippi

REUNION HEADQUARTERS:
Hilton Hotel, Biloxi, Mississippi

Schedule of Events:

Sunday-Monday — On Your Own.

Tuesday — A tour of the Gulf Coast with a visit to Jeff Davis' home, Mardi Gras Museum, and Lunch at Mary Mahoney's - six hours.

Wednesday — A trip to New Orleans with visits to various places. Lunch will be on your own - seven hours.

Thursday — Board of Directors Meeting from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Golf Tournament in the afternoon. Then on to the Early Bird Buffet.

Friday — We will spend the day going to Camp Shelby with a tour of the Camp, lunch and then the Monument Dedication in the afternoon and more touring of the camp and Museum if time permits. Then our famous PX Beer Party night after we have all met with our groups for dinner.

Saturday — Regular Agenda

Sunday — Breakfast Buffet

There are ten flights into Biloxi each day, 3 Northwest that come in from Memphis, 3 Eastern Metro from Atlanta and 4 Continental that come from Houston. The hotel as yet does not have a limousine service but we have made arrangements for a van that will cost \$10.00 each. We will have a place on the registration for plane arrival and departure times if they want picked up.

COMMITTEE:

Robert Kurtzman, Sr., Chairman
610 West Maple Street
Wilmot, Ohio 44689
Telephone: 216/359-5487

Merle E. Douglas, Co-Assistant Chairman
Post Office Box 1465
Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564-1465
Telephone: _____

Guy N. Rogers, Co-Assistant Chairman
607 Hampton Circle
Jackson, Mississippi 39211
Telephone: 601/956-4026

Jack Duffy, Monument Advisor Chairman
28 Cypress Street
Rochester, New York 14620-2306
Telephone: 716/271-4194

Donation gifts are being accepted from members by our Treasurer.
Please mark them Monument Fund.

(Continued on Page 79)

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE

(Continued from Page 78)

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1991

First Dues Notice should be mailed to all members on record except those who attended and paid dues at the Biloxi, Hilton Reunion. Thanks for paying your 1991-1992 dues at the reunion or as early as possible after receiving the dues notice.

* * * * *

DECEMBER 1991

Deadline for news material and pictures for this bulletin, Bulletin Volume 45, Number 2

January - February - March - April, 1992

Bulletin due out in March 1992

All material for the San Francisco Airport Marriott due this bulletin. Robert "Bob" Pierce, Reunion Chairman, please take note.

* * * * *

OCTOBER 11, 12, 13, 1991

Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Stay over or leave Sunday

461st AAA, HEADQUARTERS BATTERY
AND MEDICAL DETACHMENT WEEKEND

Holiday Inn (LOCATION SUBJECT
Salem, Virginia TO CHANGE)
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 will have a block of rooms reserved. Rates will be the best possible. Should be the same or very close to 1989. Code word will be 461st.

For reservations call 703/389-7061

Hospitality Room, Shopping, Dinner Saturday Evening. We should have some entertainment. Do come - can't wait to see you!!

Committee:

Allen H. Whitley, *Chairman*
Route 6, Box 70
Marion, Virginia 24354
Telephone: Office: 703/783-5566
Home: 703/783-5515

Francis H. Breyette, *News Reporter*
1137 Orkla Drive
Golden Valley, Minnesota 44527
Telephone: 612/545-2281

* * * * *

1992



WHO HAS WHO BEHIND BARS?

MAY-JUNE 1992

TRI-STATE SPRING WEEKEND

TRI-STATE BLUE IS THE FAMILY GROUP

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

(Other States Invited Too)

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

R.D. No. 1, Box 477

Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

or

P.O. Box 69

Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069

Telephone: 412/455-2901

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

Dottie's Emergency

U.S. Steel Work Telephone: 412/433-1713 or 1701 or 1702

Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike

"The Family With Two Addresses — But One Home —
Welcome All 69ers — When The Flags Are Waving
(Weather Permitting) — Stop In, Call, or Write."

Hotel/Motel: Details Not Complete

Location: Altoona, Pennsylvania

Tours: Being planned at present time.

Featuring famous horseshoe curve of Conrail and Amtrak.

Committee:

L. Vaughn and Betty Woomer, *Chairpersons*

Company F, 272nd Infantry

813 Highland Drive

Tyrone, Pennsylvania 16686

Telephone: 814/684-0185

August 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 1992

69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 45th ANNUAL REUNION

San Francisco Airport Marriott

1800 Old Bayshore Highway
Burlingame, California 94010

Telephone: 415/692-9100

Close to International Airport
and U.S. Interstate Highways

350 ROOMS AND SEVERAL SUITES

Singles and Doubles: \$70.00

plus 8% State and City Taxes=\$75.60

Suite: 65% off the published 1992 rates

Rates are good for 3 days prior and after reunion week dates.

HOSPITALITY ROOM — TOURS — EARLY BIRD
PX BEER PARTY — BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING — GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AND
AUXILIARY MEETING — MEMORIAL SERVICE
— BANQUET DINNER DANCE — SUNDAY GOING
HOME BREAKFAST

Committee:

Robert "Bob" Pierce, Company I, 272nd Infantry

144 Nashua Court, San Jose, California 95139

Telephone: _____

(Continued on Page 80)

**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE**

(Continued from Page 79)

SEPTEMBER 1992

461st AAA, BATTERY-B, EAST COAST WEEKEND

Location Pittsburgh or Erie, Pennsylvania

Details are in the planning stages with more to follow in future bulletins.

Committee:

Edward "Ed" and Jo Gergerich
318 Hawthorne Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15209
Telephone: _____

William "Bill" and Jo Byler
2625 Post Avenue
Erie, Pennsylvania 16508
Telephone: _____

* * * * *

1993

WE ONLY PUBLISH THREE BULLETINS A YEAR, ONE EVERY FOUR MONTHS SO GET YOUR NEWS MATERIAL, PICTURES, AND MINI WEEKENDS IN EARLY AND EARLY IS AT LEAST ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE OF YOUR EVENT DATES. WE CAN HELP YOU WITH MINI WEEKENDS: HOW ABOUT MINIS SUPPORTING OUR 69th ANNUAL REUNIONS.

* * * * *

JUNE 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 1993

TRI-STATE SPRING WEEKEND

TRI-STATE BLUE IS THE FAMILY GROUP

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

(Other States Invited Too)

Earl E. and Dottie Witzleb, Jr., Coordinators
R.D. No. 1, Box 477
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

or

P.O. Box 69
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
Telephone: 412/455-2901

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

Dottie's Emergency

U.S. Steel Work Telephone: 412/433-1713 or 1701 or 1702
Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike

*"The Family With Two Addresses - But One Home -
Welcome All 69ers - When The Flags Are Waving
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BUSINESS TO DISCUSS - RELAX IN THE COOL
VALLEY AIR - SLEEP WELL - GOLF - FELLOWSHIP
WITH FRIENDS OF THE 69th DIVISION ASSOCIA-
TION - BANQUET - ENTERTAINMENT - GOING
HOME SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Committee:

Vernon and Norma Hanlin, Headquarters Company, 271st
Box 118

Mt. Storm, West Virginia 26739

Telephone: 304/693-7658

Earl and Dorothy Witzleb, Jr., Company E, 273rd

R.D. 1, Box 477

Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

Telephone: 412/455-2901

August-September 1993

**69th INFANTRY
DIVISION ASSOCIATION
46th ANNUAL REUNION**

**Holiday Inn,
Rochester, New York
(TENTATIVE)**

Program and details
being worked out at present time.

HOSPITALITY ROOM - TOURS - EARLY BIRD
PX BEER PARTY - MEMORIAL SERVICE -
BANQUET DINNER DANCE - SUNDAY GOING
HOME BREAKFAST

MUCH MUCH MORE TO COME
IN LATER BULLETINS

Committee:

John "Jack" Duffy, Chairperson
Division Headquarters
28 Cypress Street
Rochester, New York 14620
Telephone: _____

Get Your News in Early!

**FOUND A NEW MEMBER?
HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS?**

**THIS SHOULD BE
MAILED IMMEDIATELY TO:**

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

Line Logic:

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



"Taps"

"TAPS"

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

Henry Uniszkievicz
148 Freeman Street
Brooklyn, New York
Recon 661st

Andrew G. Wayland
R.D. #4
Brookville, Pennsylvania
C-661st

Arthur Shinder
11 Bristol Road
Windsor Locks, Connecticut
F-273rd

Raymond J. Cusimano
P.O. Box 888
LaCombe, Louisiana
Hq., 2nd Bn., 271st

Sanford H. Graham, Jr.
517 Georgia Avenue
Chester, West Virginia
Hq., 2nd Bn., 271st

Cletus M. King
19 Ranch Court
Bowling Green, Ohio
B-273rd

John E. Jones
179 Summit Avenue
Hagerstown, Maryland
569th Signal Co.

George Molcan
217 Duquesne Avenue
Cheswick, Pennsylvania
L-271st

LeRoy Curtis
Box 357
Talihana, Oklahoma
C-880th

Harold J. Hendrix, Jr.
3017 Johnson Road
Stevensville, Michigan
E-271st

William A. Vengen
551 Dog Kennel Road
Media, Pennsylvania
Hq., 3rd Bn., 272nd

Harry Hallahan
55 Dulittle Street
North Babylon, New York
69th Recon

John A. Shiffer, Jr.
R.D. #1, Box 151
Elliottsburg, Pennsylvania
Hq., 777th

Arthur W. Berger
746 Winfred Place
Orange Park, Florida
Div. Hq.

Joseph C. Wood
6 Cedar Lane
Rockland, Massachusetts
E-273rd

Sam B. Selph
Hickory, North Carolina
Hq., 2nd Bn., 273rd

Lewis E. Lawson
Rushville, Indiana
Hq., 2nd Bn., 273rd

Lawrence Reifsnnyder
P.O. Box 547
Boyerstown, Pennsylvania

George J. Roup
1726 Nash Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
A-269th

Robert Roper
R.F.D. 2 Delra Lane
Yorktown Heights, New York
Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd

Dr. LeGrand Wooley
2864 Forest Lodge Road
Pebble Beach, California
Hq.-661st

Walter Kagan
71 Perrin Avenue
Pawtucket, Rhode Island
AT-271st

Roy Fritze
706 North Grand Avenue
Charles City, Iowa
D-273rd

William H. Barber
2005 Rockledge Street
Atlanta, Georgia
L-273rd

Robert F. Alexander
320 Rock Raymond Road
Downington, Pennsylvania
D-273rd

Stanley Zawicki
8422 Bedford Road
Pasadena, Maryland
A-661st

William F. Pennington
Route 1, Box 135
Marion, Virginia
Hq. & Med.
461st AA

Col. Dale F. McGee, Jr.
321 Oglethorpe Blvd.
St. Augustine, Florida
E-271st

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

Francis L. Burrows
3809 8th Street
Baltimore, Maryland
Med. 271st

Tom Berlin
R.R. #1, Box 61A
Detroit, Texas
A-271st

August J. Hoin
2205 32nd Street
Bay City, Michigan
Hq. Divarty

William E. Kramer
8206 Narvon Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Hq., 2nd Bn., 273rd

Frank Lucci
Box 326
Republic, Pennsylvania
273rd

Marlin Marquart
6162 Martin Road
Coloma, Michigan
A-879th

Allen Quimby
HC 32, Box 2830
Rangeley, Maine
A-661st

Oliver Tipton
New Summerfield, Texas
69th Recon

David J. Wharrey
648 Charette Place
Sewickley, Pennsylvania
Med. Hq. 271st

George H. Willard
41 1 Guilford Avenue
Hagerstown, Maryland
B-271st

J. W. Smith
Brundige, Alabama
H-271st

Elwin Daby
31 Calam Avenue
Ossining, New York

Frank T. O'Keefe
204 Glendale Road
Upper Darby, Pennsylvania
Hq., 661st

James R. Phillippe
220 N. Jefferson Street
Bloomington, Indiana
Hq., 3rd Bn., 272nd

Mead M. Rea
1042 Gardner Road
Dayton, Ohio
769th Ordnance

Lawrence B. Sonksen
1843 Carson
Aurora, Colorado
F-273rd

Ralph Ward
Box 141
Mittie, Louisiana
569th Signal





the 69th

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69th Trip to Europe

Submitted by Corky and Len Halpenny

The European Tour was an outstanding success! We are amazed and grateful for the terrific amount of background planning and arranging done by Bill and Jo Beswick, and for their efforts all through the journey to insure that each and everyone of us were enjoying ourselves. In addition to the Beswicks, many on the buses helped the laggards (like us) by offering to carry a camera or tote bag or lifting heavier items on and off the bus.

There were so many highlights it is difficult to keep them in focus. One of the most important to many of us was to observe first-hand the changes brought about Perestroika and Glasnost in the East-block countries we visited. When we returned from East Germany in 1985, our reaction was "We've seen communism now and have no desire to return." This changed when we had an opportunity in 1990 to see the steady deterioration of the Communist threat to the world.

Two highlights are especially memorable. One was the opportunity to see Leningrad, which is so different from Moscow. The second was the opportunity to fly the Polar

Route between Los Angeles and Frankfurt. The return trip was entirely in daylight, and we were able to see parts of Iceland, Greenland, Labrador, Rupert's Land, Hudson Bay and Manitoba. We passed within 150 miles of where Len was born.

We take this opportunity to express our thanks to those of American Express who labored diligently to insure the success of the venture — Joao Freitas of the Washington office and the bus leaders, Pauline Dawson, Elaine, and Derrek Brown. Pauline, who led for our bus, continually amazed and pleased all of us with her thorough knowledge of medieval European history and with her continual jokes and stories.

If another trip is undertaken in 1995, we'll do our best to make it, but who knows what the next 5 years will do to our mobility!

Best regards to all,
Corky and Len Halpenny

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Pages 70 through 73 for a detailed report of the Fighting 69th European trip submitted by William Beswick.)

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR 1991

From Your Officers and Editors.

See You All In Biloxi