

FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★★ Association, Inc.



VOLUME 46, NO. 2

JANUARY — FEBRUARY — MARCH — APRIL
1993

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

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

bulletin

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WE ARE CELEBRATING OUR



AT THE 1993 ROCHESTER REUNION

69th
Infantry
Division
Association



**First
to Meet
the
Russians**

GENERAL CHARLES L. BOLTE
GENERAL EMIL F. REINHARDT

News From The Editor's Desk



by — Clarence Marshall
Membership Chairman

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

C. R. Hottman, Jr., 613 Golf Course Drive, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32547 — Hq., 3rd Bn., 273rd: Enclosed is my membership renewal. Sorry I wasn't at the Frisco bash, but Pat and I went to England instead. We went over to Germany and spent a week at Gemund, a tourist spot, just a few miles from Udenbreth, described in Alan Murphy's story. We had a very pleasant day at Udenbreth. We got back over to Frankfurt later on and drove to Colditz and visited the museum. We were out of the U.S. for 40 days. I have drafted a description of our trip and if you think you could use it and some pictures for the bulletin, I'll be happy to send them to you. I was surprised that Russian troops are still stationed in Grimma and also at the camp at Altenhain.

I will definitely be in Rochester and Nashville is just up the road a piece.

Almost forgot. May I have three or four copies of the bulletin in which Murphy's article, *Udenbreth Revisited*, appeared? I left mine with Reinhold Bolz who owns the house wherein we sheltered from those daily doses of 88's back in 1945. I hope the extra funds I have added will cover the cost of them and the postage.

Robert L. Pierce, 144 Nashua Court, San Jose, California 95139 — I-273rd: Recently I got a call from an ex-69er who read about the 69th Division Association in a back issue of the VFW Magazine. He is anxious to join the Association. Please add his name to your membership list so he will be on the distribution for the next bulletin. I sent him a copy of the January-April 1992 Bulletin. I also gave him your address and **Bob Kurtzman's** address. I told him he could send his dues and the dues for his wife to join the Ladies' Auxiliary directly to the treasurer.

In any case, I am sending you all of the pertinent data. He is: **Charles Wentz** of Cannon Company, 272nd Regiment, and his wife's name is **Mary**. They live at: 407 Bundy Lane, Laurinburg, North Carolina 28352.

Joseph Spreitzer, 62-49 60th Avenue, Maspeth, New York 11378 — A-879th: I am a former member of the 69th Infantry Division since its activation in May of 1943 and was the last member of A Battery, 879th Field Artillery in September of 1945. The reason for this letter is to ask you if I could obtain 7 69th arm patches. The reason for 7 is that I have 7 grandchildren and some have requested one. I would be willing to pay for them. Thank you for your help.

Gene Tabacchi, 349 East 2nd Street, Beaver, Pennsylvania 15009 — B-881st: We missed you at the Frisco reunion. Since then I have located another member of our unit, Battery B of the 881st Field Artillery Battalion. He is **Richard P. Dalton**, 662 Courtwright Boulevard, Mansfield, Ohio 44907. He was a gunner corporal in our battery but preceded us overseas. He served in the Pacific Theater and, as a reservist, did a tour in Korea. Now retired, he had worked for the telephone company and a public relations and advertising outfit. **Richard**, **George Newman** and I and our wives held a mini-reunion recently at Salt Fork Lodge near Cambridge, Ohio. Both, as well as myself, plan to attend the Rochester reunion.

Another note, **Dick Stoddard**, who was our battery recorder who stayed in the service to retire as full colonel, has had some health problems. Although his situation is serious, he continues to lead a fairly active life, mountain biking and skiing. I am sure he would enjoy cards and letters from his former battery mates. His address is: **Richard Stoddard**, P.O. Box 2039, Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80477.

Hope you had a nice holiday and thanks for the outstanding work you have done for the Association.

Matthew C. Masem, 1901-40th Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33713 — 273rd: I served with the 273rd Infantry at Camp Shelby, Mississippi from April to October of 1943.

I have never attended a reunion of the 69th Infantry Division but would be interested in any information regarding the coming reunion(s).

Mr. Nathan S. Green, 5 Westwind Road, Yonkers, New York 10710 — G-271st: My good friend and fellow squad member **Harry Goldstein**, 7 Cooke Road, Lexington, Massachusetts 02173, was erroneously listed as deceased on our Bulletin some time ago. His name might have been erased from your membership list, and if so, please reinstate him. Also, renew sending the Bulletin to him, as it was discontinued and he'll like to get it.

As you know, G Company was a line unit, and we were issued shelter halves to sleep in. We had to have a friend to combine with to create a shelter, or tent. **Harry** was that friend and we slept together. After about 48 years, I would like to see the person that was replaced by my dear wife **Rhoda**. I do hope he'll come to Rochester so that we can renew our friendship.

John C. English, 444 South Higley Road, #119, Mesa, Arizona 85206 — D-461st AAA: By the grace of God and **Verna's** tending loving care, I have survived my stroke and am well on my way to recovery.

My first major effort is to revive the quarterly newsletter that I have for too long neglected. I want to remind you again that you, not I, are the news and without your help there would not be enough news to make it worthwhile.

The things that are always of interest to the members are: reports of deaths and illnesses, weddings and births, how you are spending your retirement years, where you have gone, what you have done, and any other experience you may have had; and your interests such as sports, sewing or others.

I want to thank all of you who have helped so much in the past, especially the wives who have done such a good job of reporting.

Most of you have rallied beyond the call to unity. Some, however, have shown little or no interest. Because cost, time and effort has increased so over the years, we find it necessary to delete the names of those who do not care from our mailing list so as better to serve those who do. We'll gladly

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NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 2)

reinstate those who are dropped if they write a couple of lines to show us that they do care.

That time of year is upon us now when we all recall those Christmas days together during the war: Camp Haan 1942, England 1943, and Germany and the Battle of the Bulge, 1944.

Now we wish to know that your seasons this year will be happy and prosperous. Bye for now, and God bless you all.

Kermit Nordeen, 3436 Karen Drive, Joliet, Illinois 60436 — AT & Cannon-273rd: I recently met a buddy from my Army days in the Fighting 69th. He told me about this organization and I would very much like to join. I was in the 69th from its beginning in early 1943 until the war ended.

I came to Camp Shelby with a Cadre from the 96th Division at Camp Adair, Oregon. I was Platoon Sergeant in AT Company, 273rd and later when they started the Cannon Company, I was Platoon Sergeant there.

John E. Kemnitz, 1713 20th Avenue South, Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201 — Service, 880th FA: It has been a long, long time since I have had any connection with my former comrades. This past year my wife passed away. I would love to hear from any of my former Battery members. I have three wonderful children, a boy and 2 girls. They all live close by.



Mr. and Mrs. John E. Kemnitz — September 1946

Richard S. Peckham, 30 Spring Rock Road, New Windsor, New York 12553 — C-271st: **Bob Kurtzman** has forwarded my membership card as well as a few nifty decals, one of which I've already attached to the rear window of my car.

Yes, I think it was the West Downs School in Winchester and yes, I do remember the Christmas Party and the rubbery tasting turkey! Am I correct in my remembrance of a small chapel on those school grounds? They had a guest book there in which I found the name of a friend of mine from my home town who was in the 87th Division who spent some time in a German POW camp. I wrote home about seeing the name and my parents were aware at least of where I was in England at that time. I think it was there also that I first encountered stone walls topped with broken glass. A number of us were in the habit of sneaking into town most nights and I can

remember my initial flight over the wall ending up with a gashed hand. I suppose you didn't do those sorts of things!!

The name **T/Sergeant Bob Younglas** has been reverberating through my mind and I have the face of a T/Sergeant before my mind's eye of a relatively tall fellow familiar to me from Camp Shelby and whom I met in a rest camp in Germany after the war. A real pleasant guy. Since leaving the 69th from Winchester he was the only 69er that I have seen since. He spoke at the time of many that I had known at Shelby and also of some who did not make it back.

I have all good intentions of making it to Rochester next year and look forward to talking with you.

Sam Rodriguez, 4206 Alamo Street, Simi Valley, California 93063 — 69th QM: It was a great time at the Reunion in San Francisco. The weather was perfect and the tours were super. The greatest pleasure was seeing some of the old buddies again. The San Francisco tour was the best for me. I have enclosed of picture of myself and **Epi Granillo**. I live in Simi Valley and **Epi** lives in Mesa, Arizona. We were drafted at the same time in February of 1943 in Arizona and went to Camp Adair for basic training. From there we were transferred to the 69th in Camp Shelby. We had not seen each other for 48 years. We also met some of the other men from our Company. This was my first time at a reunion and I know I won't miss any more. It is my hope that some of the other members of the 69th Quartermaster will attend future reunions.



Sam Rodriguez and Epi Granillo

On the way to the Alcatraz tour meeting after 48 years.

Clifford K. Koutnik, 205 East 4th Street, P.O. Box 203, Neligh, Nebraska 68756 — Cannon-271st: My name is **Clifford Koutnik**. I was part of the Cannon Company, Able Battery, 271st Regiment, Third Battalion, 69th Division. Enclosed is a clipping taken out of the Omaha World Herald, Omaha, Nebraska. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to previous commitments. (I am a retired Postmaster and now play in dance bands).

The reason for writing is to attempt to solicit some aid in finding a friend of long ago. Perhaps you can be of help in steering me in the proper direction. His name is **John Trampler** (Corporal) and his last known residence was Newark, New Jersey.

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NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 3)

John and I were close buddies. We went through basic together in Camp Roberts, California and stayed together all through Europe. He was the Gunner and I was the Lanyard Man on the same Cannon (105). Throughout the years of rebuilding our lives, all contact has been lost - to which I am remiss. I have tried tracing him through the Legion Magazine to no avail. The Legion has since discontinued tracing practices.

Our squad was disbanded right after the war, and all of us went to different areas of Europe. I to the Paris area to billet officers. The squad, naturally, lost all contact with each other. It would be profoundly gratifying to me, at this point in my life (67), to be able to locate the former squad, and most especially John. Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Incidentally, did you know that if you saw action, you can apply for the Bronze Star through your Veterans Service Office?

Was the reunion held eventually and, if so, how did it turn out? Thank you for any help you can give me.

The following is a list of people under which and with whom I served. My memory has faded on the rest of the crew.

Crosby, John H. Captain, Commanding Officer
Chapman, John F. 1st Lieutenant, Executive Officer
King, Leonard A. 1st Sergeant
Hain, Clarence E. Tech 5, Mail Clerk
Port, Richard B. 2nd Lieutenant, Battery Officer
Cunningham, Clifford T/Sergeant, Battery Sergeant
D'Angelo, Donald Sergeant, Chief Section
Trampler, John B. Corporal, Gunner Second Section
Koutnik, Clifford K. ... PFC, Lanyard Man, Second Section

William Sheavly, 218 Sacred Heart Lane, Reistertown, Maryland 21136 — M-271st: As you can see I now have my computer working and have first of all gotten all the names together for Company M, 271st Regiment and have them listed on the attached printout. When you have the opportunity will you please check them against your mail file and if there are any changes, please mark them on my copy and return. If you find some addresses or names that you do not have, please feel free to change your records.

I have always wanted a computer and now find that it is a big help in doing some of these things that I have wanted to do for a long time. Getting into one of these things is the main job and further being able to properly retain wanted information.

Hope that this letter finds you in good health and that everything is going as well as can be. Before I forget, I think you fellows do a fantastic job in putting together the Bulletin. I just hope that our membership appreciates the work you do. Some members work at improving things and others just sit back and try to criticize everything that is being done.

I had a letter from Bill Beswick and he tells me that he is getting along better and is able to do a bit of walking. However, his knees are not as great as he would like to hope. He tells me that he is considering getting together another trip to Europe in 1995. So we shall see just what happens.

Take good care of yourself and say hello to anyone I might know in the area, and as for yourself, please have a happy and healthful New Year.

Kenneth Y. Buckless, 14 Walden Pond Avenue, Saugus, Massachusetts 01906 — B-271st: I was with Company B, 271st Infantry, 69th Division which was part of the "Link-Up Division" at Torgau, Germany on April 24, 1945 on the Elbe. Thanks for looking me up.

Joseph H. Marion, 11381 East 37th Street, Yuma, Arizona 85365 — A-724th: Thanks for your help in locating the combat history of the 724th Field Artillery Battalion. John Oesch has sent me a copy from the one he saved, since it was published in Germany. It has been a big help in pinning down dates and locations for the story I am writing for our family of my war years.

Enclosed are some pictures I have of the 2nd Section Gun Crew (155mm Howitzer), Battery A, 724th Field Artillery, 69th Division, and the Battery picture taken at Camp Shelby. I have identified as many of the men as best I can remember on the back of the pictures. If any of them are suitable for publishing in the Bulletin, you are welcome to use them.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Joseph's pictures appear elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin.)

William P. Higgins, 676 North 57th Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska 68132 — B-272nd: My wife and I were first timers at the San Francisco reunion in August and enjoyed it immensely. After corresponding over the past several years, we were able to join the Hadleys and Giannones; reach back for 47 years and then bring each other up to date.

Enclosed for a future bulletin is a photo of the Battle Patrol, 1st Battalion, 272nd Infantry taken in Weissenfels, June 15, 1945. I would be glad to hear from other patrol members, or members of Company B, 272nd.

I have recently become acquainted with George Smith of Battery B, 879th Field Artillery. He is a grand person with many interests and does not let his wheelchair limit his activities. George lives in the Fitzgerald Veterans Home, 156th and West Maple Road, Omaha, Nebraska 68116 and I am sure he would like to hear from former buddies.

Sorry I was not able to meet you in San Francisco, but I hope all goes well with you.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: William's photo appears elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin.)

FOUND A NEW MEMBER? HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

THIS SHOULD BE MAILED TO:

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

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.

69th Infantry Division 1993 Rochester, New York 46th Annual Reunion August 8th - 15th, 1993

Jack and Mary Duffy, Chairpersons
69th Division Headquarters Company
28 Cypress Street
Rochester, New York 14620-2306

TOURS

SAM PATCH CANAL CRUISE

Tuesday, August 10th, 1993

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

C'mon aboard! Take in the quiet, the beauty and nostalgia of the City of Rochester from this unique perspective.

Our guests will enjoy cruising the Genesee River and Erie Canal with river breezes, city vistas and captain's tales aboard the newly remodeled Sam Patch, a 54-foot, 49-passenger canal boat chartered to begin hourly excursions from its city dock on the edge of historic Corn Hill. Casual, comfortable cruises on the Sam Patch appeal to all who enjoy boating through Rochester's past and present.

Itinerary

9:35 a.m.	Depart hotel (Walk time from hotel approximately 15-20 minutes)
9:55 a.m.	Board Sam Patch Cruise Boat
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	Historic Canal Cruise
1:35 p.m.	Depart hotel (Walk time from hotel approximately 15-20 minutes)
1:55 p.m.	Board Sam Patch Cruise Boat
2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Historic Canal Cruise

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CLASSIC FINGER LAKES WINE COUNTRY EXCURSION

City Tour, Overlooks, One Attraction,
Winery Tour and Tasting

Wednesday, August 11th, 1993

10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Hospitality hosts will greet guests with transportation to begin their excursion. Brief introductions and an overview of the day will be given during the ride.

As we head towards the Finger Lakes area, guests will enjoy the Indian history and folklore which is such a lasting legacy of this area. Once in the lakeside city of Canandaigua, step back into history as you view the beautifully restored mansions of superb architectural detail along Main Street and Gibson Street.

Sonnenberg Garden and Mansion will be our first tour stop. At Sonnenberg, visitors will be intrigued by the fabulous gardens including the Italian rose gardens, a greenhouse conservatory, and the outstanding Japanese gardens. These are surrounded by water fountains, streams, and reflecting ponds. Stroll through this historic legacy of an era of wealth and elegance including a 40-room stone mansion built by the philanthropic Thompson family in 1887.

Then discover the fine art of winemaking at Rochester's finest winery. We will end our day with a tour and wine-tasting

at Casa Larga, our internationally award-winning winery with its breathtaking view of Rochester. Become a connoisseur while tasting the award-winning Rieslings. Visit Casa Larga and enjoy a spectacular view of the surrounding countryside from Monroe County's highest point.

As you experience Casa Larga, marvel at how nature, people, and technology work together to create the art of winemaking. Enjoy the history, winery facilities, gift shop, and special wine tasting which will highlight our day.

Then, sit back and enjoy a relaxing ride back to Rochester after spending an exciting day as guests of Rochester Rendezvous, Inc.

Itinerary

10:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m.	Gather group
10:30 a.m.	Depart Rochester
11:15 a.m.	Arrive Sonnenberg Gardens
11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m.	Tour Sonnenberg Mansion and Gardens
	Lunch (on your own)
2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	Casa Larga (tour and tasting)
4:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.	Return to hotel

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FINGER LAKES RACE TRACK OUTING

Wednesday, August 11th, 1993

12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.

The group will depart Rochester approximately 12:00 noon, going directly to Finger Lakes Race Track, arriving for the first race - Post Time 1:05 p.m. A special winner's trophy presentation, with photographs in the winner circle has been arranged for the group. Prior to one of the races, 6 of your guests will be escorted to the Winner's Circle to watch that race and present the winning trophy on behalf of the 69th Infantry - 50th Anniversary of World War II.

Itinerary

11:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.	Gather group at the Genesee Plaza Holiday Inn
11:45 a.m.	Depart
11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Travel to Finger Lakes Race Track
1:05 p.m.	Trophy presentation
5:15 p.m. (approx.)	Depart for Rochester
6:00 p.m.	Arrive at the Genesee Plaza Holiday Inn

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ROCHESTOUR MUSEUM SAMPLER

Mini City Tour with Two Museums

Thursday, August 12th, 1993

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Hospitality hosts will greet guests to begin their tour of Rochester. A brief introduction and overview will be given.

Be our welcomed guests with a scenic and fascinating familiarization tour of the City of Rochester. Enjoy viewing some of the city's finest museums, residential areas, and historical sites. This tour reflects Rochester's rich culture and history dating back to the early 1800s, as well as current day attractions, restaurants and shopping opportunities.

One highlight of the tour will be a visit to the International Museum of Photography at the George Eastman House. One of the finest photographic museums in the world, located in the elegant mansion of George Eastman, founder of Eastman Kodak Company. Situated on Rochester's most

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**69th INFANTRY DIVISION 1993 ROCHESTER,
NEW YORK 46th ANNUAL REUNION**
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historical and lavish avenue, the museum boasts the largest and most comprehensive photography and cinematography collections in the world. Guests will long remember the opulence and grandeur of Mr. Eastman's mansion, gardens, and his own Dryden Theater, galleries, gift shop, and other amenities.

No visit to Rochester would be complete without a tour of the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum. Internationally renowned, the museum houses the country's foremost collection of Victorian furniture, unique examples of nineteenth century glassware, ceramics and silver, oriental export objects, miniatures, antique doll houses, toys and nearly 20,000 dolls.

Itinerary

9:45 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	Gather group at the Genesee Plaza Holiday Inn lobby
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	International Museum of Photography at George Eastman House
12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	Margaret Woodbury Strong
2:45 p.m.	Return to the Genesee Plaza Holiday Inn

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THE GRAND ROCHESTOUR

City Overview with Two Stops

Thursday, August 12th, 1993

Friday, August 13th, 1993

10:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. both days

Hospitality hosts will greet guests to begin their tour of Rochester. A brief introduction and overview will be given.

Be our welcomed guests with a scenic and fascinating tour of the City of Rochester. Enjoy viewing some of the city's finest museums, residential areas, and historical sites, including such notable homesteads as that of: Susan B. Anthony, the women's suffragette, and George Eastman, the founder of Eastman Kodak Company. We will also see the University of Rochester, High Falls Park area, and the prestigious and restored areas of East Avenue and Corn Hill.

This tour reflects Rochester's rich culture and history dating back to the early 1800's.

Choice of Two Stops:

1. No tour of Rochester would be complete without a stop at our world renowned "High Falls Park" in the heart of downtown. This stop continues to be a favorite for visitors and local residents alike. **OR**
2. Perhaps the highlight of our tour will be a stop at Rochester's famous Lamberton Conservatory in Highland Park where exotic flowers and foliage plants from around the world are displayed in lush tropical settings. Originally designed in 1911, in the style of a Victorian greenhouse, the conservatory is divided into plant display areas with horticultural themes. A waterfall and elevated observation platform enhance the tropical setting that highlights the colorful and fragrant flowers on exhibit. **OR**
3. A stop at either City Hall, with its famous collection of mayoral portraits or the Monroe County Office Building, which has played a prominent role in the development of our community. Each of these magnificent buildings has been recently renovated and both are listed in the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, D.C.

Itinerary

9:45-10:00 a.m.	Gather group
10:00 a.m.	Depart
	City Tour includes Two Stops:
	• High Falls Park
	• Lamberton Conservatory
	Drive-Bys:
	• Susan B. Anthony House
	• International Museum of Photography at George Eastman House
	• Museum Mansion District
	• Corn Hill
	• University of Rochester
	• Highland Park
2:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m.	Return to Genesee Plaza Holiday Inn

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Hospitality and Guest Information Services Desk

Wednesday, August 11, 1993	1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, August 12, 1993	1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday, August 13, 1993	1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: To be determined (host hotel, convention site, airport, company)

Hospitality and Guest Services Representative from Rochester Rendezvous, Inc. will be available to staff an Information Desk. It can be located in the hospitality suite, lobby, break area, or mezzanine area at the host hotel so visitors are provided the following services during their conference:

1. **Sightseeing Information and Registration, Tour Ticket Sales and Pick-Up** for pre-arranged sightseeing tours.
2. **Customized Itinerary Services** - for visitors needing guidance on how to explore Rochester and other nearby sites and attractions on their own.
3. **General Guest Information** - such as copy services, postal service, currency exchange, clothing needs, etc.
4. **General Reservation Service** - for guests wishing to pre-arrange and confirm concert tickets, court and tee times, salon times, etc.
5. **Restaurant Reservation Service** - for guests needing pre-arranged meal reservations for breakfast, lunch, or dinner as needed throughout the conference. Guests will receive a reservation card from the Hospitality Representative to show as confirmation. This is ideal for those "on your own" evenings.
6. **General Guest Hospitality** - to welcome visitors upon arrival, direct them to their appropriate meeting, registration area, check-in and departure, hospitality suites, or other destinations during their stay.
7. **Discount Coupon Distribution** - for shopping and other services where possible.

* * * * *

MEETING ROOMS

Registration Room (Association): Open Monday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Minimum capacity 100. To include bulletin board space, house telephone, long tables and chairs.

Hospitality Room: Minimum capacity 300. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. Refreshments to be paid for and served by the Association Committee. Open bar at no charge to members or guests. Service to include all well drinks, keg and bottled beers, wines and soft drinks.

1993 Rochester Reunion Travel Information and Helpful Hints

AIRLINE SERVICE

AMERICAN, UNITED, CONTINENTAL, U.S. AIR,
TRANS WORLD, NORTHWEST, DELTA and MOHAWK

We have negotiated special group airfares with Dollinger Travel, in Rochester, New York. To take advantage of these discounts you should make your flight reservations for this meeting by taking the following steps:

1. Call Dollinger Travel at 1-800-444-6045 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (Eastern Time)
2. Advise that you are an attendee for the 69th Infantry Division Association in Rochester and wish to speak with a group agent.
3. Please be prepared to provide the agent with an appropriate mailing address, phone number and seat preference. Tickets and boarding passes will be mailed to you approximately 3 weeks prior to the meeting.
4. Upon arrival at the new Rochester International Airport, use the courtesy phone to contact the Holiday Inn - Genesee Plaza for the Courtesy Van pickup.

MOTOR VEHICLES

FROM THE EAST: Take I-90 (NYS Thruway) to Exit #45 and Route 490 West. Continue on Route 490 to Downtown Rochester and Exit at South Clinton Avenue. Stay on Clinton Avenue across Woodbury Boulevard, Court Street, Broad Street and East Main Street to Mortimer Street. Turn left onto Mortimer Street across St. Paul Street to the rear entrance of the Holiday Inn.

FROM THE WEST: Take I-90 (NYS Thruway) to Exit #47 and Route 490 East. Continue on Route 490 until you approach Downtown Rochester. Take the left hand lane to the Plymouth Avenue Exit. Turn right onto Plymouth Avenue and take the left hand lane to West Main Street. Turn left

Battle Patrol 1st Battalion 272nd Infantry

June 15, 1945
Weissenfels, Germany

Back Row: Jerry Krupnick, Paul Duckworth, Bob Tarr, Ken Holcraft, Nick Giannone, George Wilson, Jim Gregg, Denton Morriss, S/Sgt. Tom Bassinger, Sgt. George Wood

Front Row: Bill Higgins, Sgt. Vince Mazza, Lt. Francis DeLoach, (holding Stubby) Arthur Justis, Dave Butvinik

Photo sent by: William Higgins
676 North 57th Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska 68132



onto West Main Street and stay in the left lane across the river to the Holiday Inn.

NOTE: If you should miss I-90 Exits #45 or #47, go on to Exit #46 and take Route 390 North. Then follow the directions below.

FROM THE SOUTH: Take Route 390 North until you approach Rochester and take the LEFT HAND fork toward the Airport. DO NOT TAKE THE RIGHT HAND FORK. Exit at East Henrietta Road (Route 15A) and turn right onto East Henrietta Road to the merger with Mt. Hope Avenue (Route 15). Turn right onto Mt. Hope Avenue and continue to the end. Cross South Avenue and turn left onto Clinton Avenue. Continue on Clinton Avenue across Woodbury Boulevard, Court Street, Broad Street and East Main Street to Mortimer Street. Turn left at Mortimer Street and across St. Paul Street to the rear entrance of the Holiday Inn.

NOTE: If you are coming north via Route 15, change to Route 15A at Springwater, New York, and continue on Route 15A until it merges again with Route 15 at Mt. Hope Avenue within the City. Then follow the directions above.

THE DIRECTIONS ABOVE ARE DESIGNED TO
ACCOMMODATE A SERIES OF ONE WAY STREETS
WITHIN THE DOWNTOWN DISTRICT.

— SEE MAP ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS PAGE —

GENERAL INFORMATION

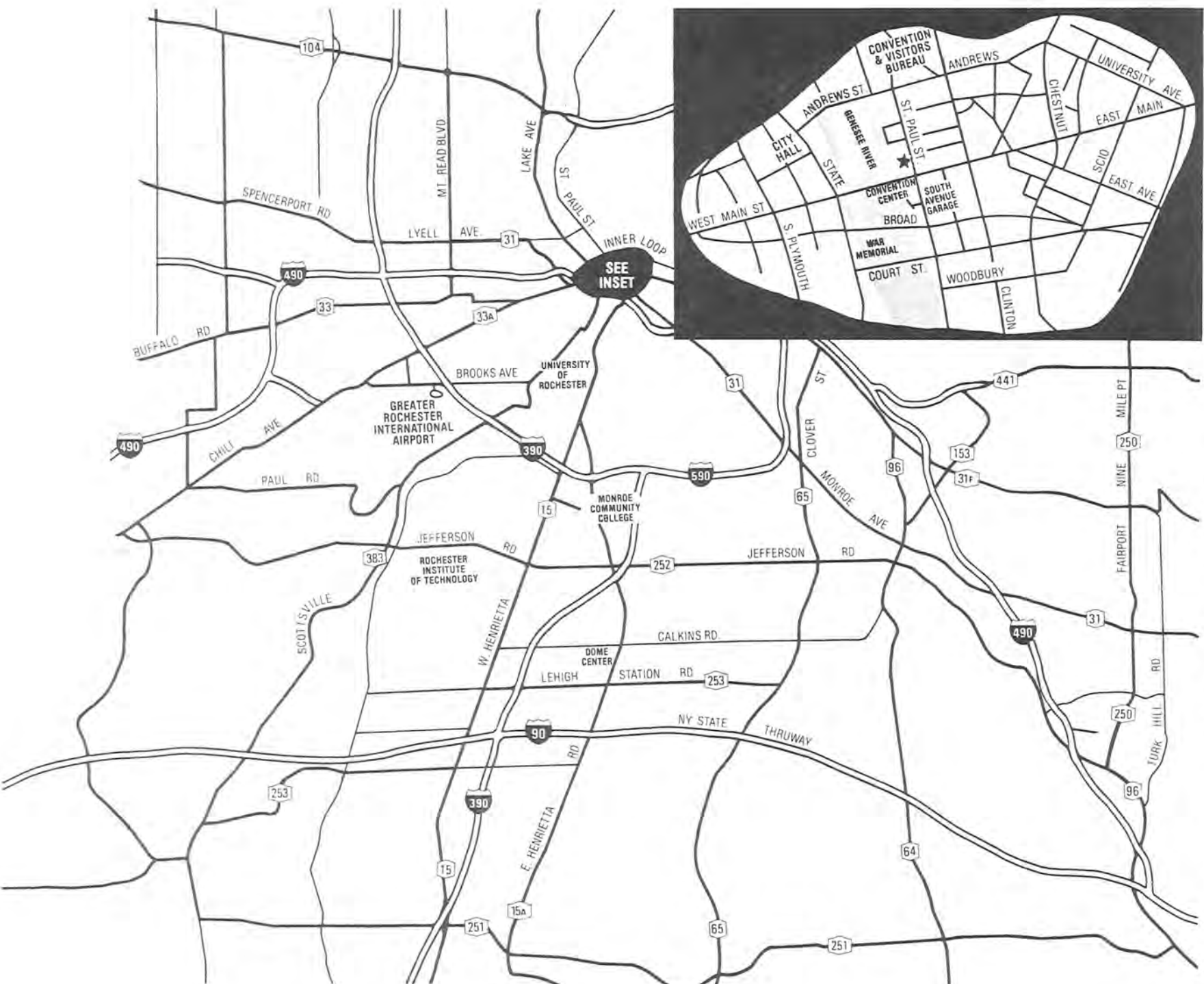
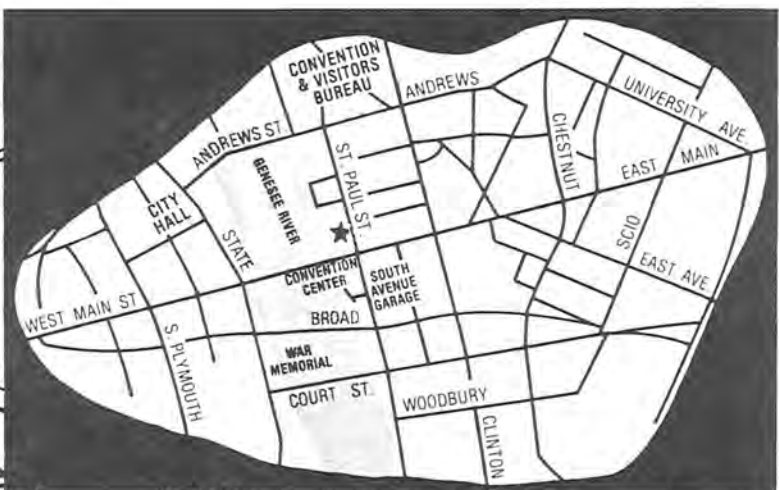
PARKING: Courtesy parking in the Ramp Garage at the Holiday Inn is restricted to vehicles no higher than six (6) feet. Larger vans and motor homes must be directed to other nearby parking facilities. Please check with Hotel Registration Desk for directions.

GOLFERS: We will be playing at a Municipal Course which can provide rental clubs, pull carts and motor carts. Please wear some form of 69th Division identification (caps, shirts, jackets or name tags).

VISITOR ASSISTANCE: A special Information Desk will be provided on the Mezzanine Floor of the hotel for anyone interested in Restaurant Reservations, UNIT DINNERS, Theater Tickets, Special Tours, Churches, Beauty Salons, Shopping, etc.

Rochester, New York

46th Annual Reunion - August 8th to 15th, 1993



Second Section Gun Crew, (155mm Howitzer) Battery A, 724th Field Artillery



Dietkirchen, Germany

Back row: William E. Harsch, Audrin Kidd, Ernest R. Hopper. Middle row: Boyd E. Hurt, Edward Hahalyak, Charles Cousland. Front row: Joe Marion, Donald Moter, George Petroski, Curtis Fair



Camp Shelby, June 1944 - Survey Section

Harold Goodwin, Karlos E. Abel, William G. Ruebsamen, Doyle McCallister, Mike Makula



*War games in piney wood
Camp Shelby, Mississippi - July 1944*



*Lefty Kreh - June 1945
Tollwitz, Germany*



*Cleaning cosmoline from 155 howitzers
Camp Ranikhet, England - December 1944*

Photos submitted by: Joseph H. Marion, 11381 East 37th Street, Yuma, Arizona 85365

President's Briefing



Welkos O. "Dutch" Hawm, President
2445 South Cody Court
Lakewood, Colorado 80227
Telephone: 303/986-7604

This briefing comes during the doldrums period. As I view it, the September through December period normally follows our annual reunion. Therefore, the joy and experiences of time spent with old friends and comrades has already been recorded in our memories in Volume 46, No. 1.

Now comes No. 2, the doldrums period. Seems that not much is happening. Plans are being formulated for our many mini-reunions and the 46th reunion of the National 69th to be held in Rochester, New York are virtually finalized. Volume 46, No. 3 will awaken the interest in many of us to again share the enjoyment of getting together in good fellowship. I know that you will be interested in the plans of Jack Duffy and his committee for our Rochester Reunion. I am sure that Jack will enlighten us all on that score. I hope that a great number of you 69ers will make a real effort to attend. It's easy to figure out a reason not to attend but hopefully we will have a lot more "can do" people this year. As surprising as it may seem after all these years, we have had at least 124 First-Timers at the last two reunions in Biloxi and San Francisco. Let's have the same type of response at Rochester. I hope that a great many of the 124 First-Timers from the past two years become Second-Timers and then Old-Timers. Look for ways and reasons to attend, and scrap those negative thoughts.

As usual, there will be items of interest and of concern to some of our membership and that's as it should be. On the national level it would seem to me that the two functions of most concern are our annual reunion and the bulletin which is published three times annually.

First is our reunion. To this point we have had no one, to my knowledge, come forth with a viable recommendation for a site in 1995 and 1996. I know there are a great many areas, basically East of the Mississippi, that would be great, and the job to chair a meeting in any of those areas would be a most satisfying experience. The help is available and whoever chairs a reunion, together with his committee will have tremendous personal satisfaction. The task is never as large when you are looking back at it as it was looking ahead. Believe me - we need you!

We do have other choices, and I hope you will think of them, and be prepared to discuss some of them at Rochester:

1. We could consider requesting mini-reunion groups to host the Annual Division Reunion in a rotation to be decided.
2. We could pick a desirable city and turn the planning over to a convention bureau or national hotel chain. However, we would lose a lot of our personal input. We would give them our requirements, get their proposals, and conduct most of the negotiations by mail and telephone.
3. We might have our site committee select a possible location and afford a two or three man group reasonable expenses to make a trip to the site, and finalize plans for the reunion.

You may have other considerations or recommendations at the Rochester Reunion.

I believe that our bulletins have stood the test of time but as we age, it would be well to look for help for Earl and Clarence. Eventually, health considerations may require back-up support.

Through this bulletin, I would remind Walter Holmlin that as Chairman of the 1992-1993 Nominating Committee consisting of the 1992-1993 Board of Directors, he must come up with a complete slate of officers. This includes the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and also 10 Board of Directors members for the 1994-1995 year.

My final reminder concerns one of the objectives of the Association stated in our constitution - Article II, section (c) - to promote social relationships between the members of the Association. In that spirit, let's make every effort to attend the Rochester Reunion and enjoy the experience of good fellowship with as many of our 69ers as we can.

My best wishes to you all for a happy 1993 and be kind to each other.

Edward A. Schalk Elected National Commander of 40/8



Edward A. Schalk of Company C, 272nd, was elected Chef De Chemin de Fer (National Commander) of the 40/8. The Honor Society of the American Legion on September 26th at Louisville, Kentucky. Ed lives at 606 W. Water Street, Teutopolis, Illinois 62467.

Treasurer's Message



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

We are now into the last half of 1992-1993 and we can only hope that the last half will be as good as the first.

The San Francisco Reunion, though smaller than usual, made itself outstanding in quality. Noting all the things that Jack Duffy and his committee have planned for Rochester, I'm sure it will be equal and much larger in attendance. Please do get your reservations in early.

Although membership who have paid dues this year is running behind those that paid last year, receipts are higher due to the members contributing slightly more. We hope this continues as we have been spending more than we have been receiving and are slowly using up the savings account.

The Board of Directors have noticed this and at the San Francisco Reunion raised our dues to \$10.00 and have done away with the \$5.00 regular dues. We hope that those who have been only sending \$5.00 can up their ante to the \$10.00 starting with the Reunion this year.

PLEASE NOTE ABOVE.

Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.
Treasurer

— LAST CALL — 69th Division History Book

Turner Publishing has advised us that they have 100 copies of our beautiful 208 page HISTORY BOOK on hand as of February 1, 1993.

They will accept orders now for \$39.95 including shipping/handling.

If you have missed getting a personal copy or copies for your children, here is a chance to make sure that you get your copy while the supply lasts.

Send your check to:
Turner Publishing Company
P.O. Box 3101
Paducah, Kentucky 42002-3101

The telephone number is:
(502) 443-0121 or (502) 443-0128

Historic Elbe bridge may face demolition

THE STARS AND STRIPES Sunday, January 24, 1993

Submitted by: Mr. Ronald MA Hirst
PSC 14, Box 6801
AOP AE 09192



TORGAU, Germany (AP) The historic bridge over the Elbe at Torgau, where U.S. and Soviet units linked up at the end of World War II, is in serious disrepair and may be torn down, an official said Friday.

The bridge is likely to be destroyed unless a buyer or a sponsor can be found to salvage the decaying structure, said Gunter Hofmann, an official in the Sachsen state Economics Ministry.

The bridge has been closed to traffic. A new bridge is being constructed near the old one and is slated to be completed in July.

The fate of the old bridge will be decided then, Hofmann said. The stone foundation of the bridge was constructed in 1836, and a steel frame was added in 1895.

In the afternoon of April 26, 1945, patrols of the U.S. 69th Infantry Division met forward elements of the Soviet 58th Guard Division at Torgau, some 75 miles south of Berlin.

The linkup split north and south Germany and left Hitler cut off in Berlin.

Seeking Elbe GIs

My name is Michael Petrovich Korolev. I live in Moscow, Russia. I am a World War II Veteran and a member of the Russian Federation of War Veterans, having fought with the Soviet Army from Stalingrad to the shores of the Elbe. I met American soldiers. Up until today, I remember those meetings with warm feelings.

Do you think it would be possible for me to get in touch with American Veterans who were on the Elbe? I would dearly love to correspond. Who knows, I may possibly hear from one of the men I met in those joyous days when we realized that the war was at last ended.

If you are interested in corresponding with Michael, you can write to him at:

Michael Petrovich Korolev
142432/Russia
Moscow District, Chernogolovka
Centralnaya Street, No. 18, Apt. 36

271st Infantry Regiment



DeSota National Forest, Camp Shelby
about 1943

Left to right in foreground only.

Lt. Col. John Dunlop - (formerly of the 96th Division) Battalion Commander, 1st Battalion, 271st Infantry. Lieutenant Colonel Dunlop was in command when the 1st Battalion, 271st captured the Leipzig Monument. He retired from the regular Army as a full colonel. Present address unknown.

Captain McFadden — Then Company Commander of Company A, 271st Infantry. Present address unknown.

Captain Merrill C. Embick — (formerly of the 96th Division) Then Company Commander of Company B, 271st Infantry. Later became Battalion S-3, 1st Battalion and also Company Commander of Company D, 271st in combat.

Captain Douglas Baird — Then Company Commander of Company D, 271st. Now located in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Photos sent by:
Merrill C. Embick
P.O. Box 3053

Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701

Camp Shelby, Mississippi
271st Infantry - About 1943
Left to right

Lieutenant Scott — 271st Infantry
Present address unknown.

Captain Trevelyn Trainer — (formerly of the 96th Division). Present address unknown.

Lieutenant John Zerr — (later captain). Became Company Commander of Company C, 271st Infantry. Commanded Company C in battle for Leipzig Monument. Company C suffered heavy casualties at the monument. Present address unknown.



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

CLARENCE MARSHALL, 101 Stephen Street, New Kensington, PA 15068
EARL E. WITZLEB, JR., P.O. Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
or R.D. #1, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606

LADIES AUXILIARY MATERIAL AND PICTURES TO:

DOROTHY A. WITZLEB at the same two addresses above listed for Earl.

THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE



Dottie Witzleb

by — Dottie Witzleb
Ladies Auxiliary Editor
 P.O. Box 69
 Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
 Home Telephone: 412/455-2901
 Work Telephone: 412/433-1713 (8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Monday through Friday)

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



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 Richmond, Virginia 23228-3013
 Telephone: 804/266-1194



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 Telephone: 813/347-6975



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 Telephone: 215/945-3809

Ellen McCann, Assistant Secretary
 39 Mayflower Road
 Woburn, Massachusetts 01801
 Telephone: _____ Please send to Earl

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

Edith Chapman, Chaplain
 7412 Exmore
 Springfield, Virginia 22150
 Telephone: 703/451-1904

Jeanne Hawn, Co-Chaplain
 2445 South Cody Court
 Lakewood, Colorado 80227
 Telephone: 303/986-7604

A Message from your Auxiliary President, Maria Keller

Greetings to the Ladies of the 69th Auxiliary:

Happy New Year! and a healthy one too. The year has started off in Virginia mild and pleasant. We look forward to at least one snow this winter. The snows of my childhood are no more.

It was nice hearing from so many of you at Christmas. I would urge those of you that have not shared the pleasures of our reunions to mark your calendar for the reunion in August and make plans to join us in Rochester.

The Reunion Committee is busy planning a most interesting week and we are excited about being a part of it. Our 69th Division Association originated in New York and since then, the New York members have been excellent leaders. We appreciate our past association with such great folks.

We hope you are working on the lap robes for the Veterans Hospital in Batavia, New York. Lap robes should be made of washable yarn, 36" x 45". They may also be sewn or quilted if you do not knit or crochet. The veterans appreciate all of our work.

The business of an increase in dues for the ladies will be voted on in August. It has been suggested that this amount be \$5.00.

Our chaplain will need the name and family of any deceased ladies for the memorial service which is a standard part of our program. Please let us know of anyone we have lost.

Our sincere appreciation is expressed to our lovely Sunshine Lady who sends our birthday and anniversary cards. We wish Margie McCombs a belated happy birthday at the end of 1992.

Ladies, I urge you to read the Bulletin. It is chock full of news and information. I am still collecting old issues of the Bulletin for the library in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. If you have old issues you can spare, please get them to me.

Jack and Mary Duffy, Co-Chairmen of the 1993 Reunion in Rochester, New York, are expecting us in Rochester August 8th to 16th or any part thereof, so mark your calendars right now and make your plans.

Sincerely,
 Maria G. Keller
 President, Women's Auxiliary

**Come on Ladies, get those husbands
 of yours to bring you to Rochester.
 We'll have a great time!**

**69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 1993 REUNION
46th ANNUAL REUNION ★ 50th ANNIVERSARY
461st AAA BN. - 661st T.D. BN. - 777th TANK BN.
HOLIDAY INN — Genesee Plaza, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK
AUGUST 8th thru 15th, 1993**

Reservations:

HOLIDAY INN - GENESEE PLAZA
120 East Main Street
Rochester, New York 14604-1699
Telephone: 716/546-6400 Fax: 716/546-3908

HOUSING: Please reserve one of the following:

\$68.00 + Single _____ \$68.00 + Double - 2 persons _____ \$68.00 + Triple - 3 persons _____
\$68.00 + Quad - 4 persons _____ ALL REGULAR ROOMS - \$68.00 + TAX***

Print full names of ALL persons sharing room: _____

NOTE: Special accommodations required: (if available)

HANDICAPPED _____ KING SIZE BED _____ NON-SMOKING _____

I / We plan to arrive (day) _____, August _____, 1993. (Check in after 3:00 P.M.)

I / We plan to depart (day) _____, August _____, 1993. (Check out time - 12:00 Noon)

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

If possible, I/We wish to be quartered near other guests from the same Unit (Specify): _____

Send Confirmation to: (Please Type or Print)

Name: _____

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

City / State / Zip: _____

Telephone / Area Code: _____

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

Check or Money Order (One Night's Lodging) Payable to the HOLIDAY INN, Genesee Plaza, OR Major Credit Card Number and Date of Expiration.

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

Credit Card Name _____ Number _____ Expires _____

I authorize the HOLIDAY INN - Genesee Plaza to make charges on my Credit Card.

Your Signature _____

***NOTE: As of September 1st, 1992, the following taxes will apply: Hotel/Motel Room Tax 4%, State/County Sales Tax 7½%.
In March of 1993 an additional ½% may be added to the State/County Sales Tax.

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

Reservations must be received not later than July 15, 1993. If a particular type of room is unavailable, the next most suitable room will be assigned. No particular room, room type, or location can be guaranteed. Deposit returnable on 72 hours cancellation notice prior to August 5, 1993.

69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 1993 REUNION

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

HOLIDAY INN — Genesee Plaza, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

AUGUST 8th thru 15th, 1993

Registration form to be mailed to: **Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.**

P.O. Box 178, Wilmot, Ohio 44689 • Phone: 216/359-5487

I/we will attend the 69th Infantry Division Association Reunion at Rochester, New York during the week of August 8th-15th, and will attend the following activities.

Name: _____

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

City / State / Zip: _____

Telephone / Area Code: _____ First Timer ☐ Second Timer ☐ Old Timer ☐

Unit: _____ Wife's Name: _____

Guests: _____

* * * * *

Daily Events

Registrations: Tuesday, August 10th thru Friday, August 13th 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Check Bulletin Board for Saturday, August 14th.

NO CHARGE

Sunday, August 8th and Monday, August 9th — Early arrivals on your own.

Check with Chairman for any Special Activities

Tuesday, August 10th — Sam Patch River Boat Cruise — Departs from City Docks at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. for a 1½ hour cruise. Circle preferred time.

\$ 10.00

\$

Wednesday, August 11th — Wine Country Excursion — Departs from the hotel at 10:30 a.m. and returns at 4:30 p.m.

\$ 32.00

\$

Finger Lakes Race Track — Includes everything but lunch and wagers. Departs from the hotel at 11:45 a.m. and returns at 6:00 p.m.

\$ 20.00

\$

Hiccup's Comedy Kabaret — Private "stand-up" comedy show at 8:00 p.m.

\$ 12.00

\$

Thursday, August 12th — Executive Board Meeting - Promptly at 9:00 a.m.

Historical Museum Tour — Departs from the hotel at 10:00 a.m., returns 2:45 p.m. ...

\$ 28.00

\$

Grand Rochester Tour — Leaves hotel at 10:00 a.m. and returns at 2:45 p.m.

\$ 23.00

\$

Early Bird Dinner — 7:00 p.m. with Cash Bar at 6:30 p.m. Music and entertainment ..

\$ 25.00

\$

Friday, August 13th — Charles Herring Golf Tournament. Tee-off at 9:30 a.m.

Check for details at Registration Room.

Grand Rochester Tour — Leaves the hotel at 10:00 a.m. and returns at 2:45 p.m.

\$ 23.00

\$

PX Beer Party - Commences at 8:30 a.m. Tickets Required

\$ 5.00

\$

Saturday, August 14th — Men's and Ladies General Meetings. 9:00 a.m. Coffee and Danish

Memorial Service and Dinner Dance — Cash bar at 6:30 until 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. until ??? Memorial Service promptly at 7:00 p.m. Banquet Dinner Dance - 7:30 p.m.

\$ 30.00

\$

Sunday, August 15th — Farewell Breakfast Buffet - 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

\$ 12.00

\$

Replacement Cost for Lost or Broken Permanent Badges

\$ 4.00

\$

Farewells and Departures - See you all next year.

SUPPORT YOUR HOSPITALITY ROOM: DONATIONS PLEASE!

\$

DUES

Reunion Sub-Total \$

New Dues Year - August 1, 1993 to July 31, 1994

Regular Membership

\$10.00

\$

Ladies Auxiliary

\$ 2.00

\$

Postage and Bulletin Donation (up to you)

\$

Dues Sub-Total \$

Total Amount Paid \$

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

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENT IN FULL — IF NOT — YOUR RESERVATION WILL BE LAID ASIDE UNTIL PAYMENT IS MADE AND THIS COULD RESULT IN YOUR REQUEST FOR SEATING AND FUNCTIONS BEING DENIED.

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

Permanent badges will only be made if your request is accompanied by an advance prepaid Reservation. Failure to attend Reunion will result in a \$4.00 charge for each badge ordered, and will be deducted from your refund. Please fill out this form and mail it with your payment in full, no later than thirty (30) days prior to the Reunion. By doing this, it will make our job much easier, and save you time at the Registration Desk.

Bill Sheavly of Company M, 271st, sent the following article which was sent to him by Jim McLaughlin, Company M, 271st, which was written August 19, 1945 by Catherine Coyne. We think this article is well worth the space of reproduction, as in its early stages of the article, she was not one of the 69th's favorite reporters. However, as she became "enlightened" she then became a strong supporter of the 69th Division.

Fighting 69th Peeved Because Called Upstarts by Miss Coyne

THE BOSTON HERALD

Sunday, August 19, 1945

Here's Tribute to Fightingest Outfit

BY CATHERINE COYNE

The 69th Infantry Division, the Fighting 69th which made the exciting juncture with the Russians at the Elbe River in the move that virtually ended the war in Europe, is one scrappy outfit I want on my side. Right now, though it's one of my favorite divisions, it's definitely not on my side.

My falling out with the Fighting 69th, which used kid-lingly to call itself the Frightened 69th before it became famous, came about when, falling in line with the boys themselves, I teasingly labeled them an "upstart" division.

I should have known better, because I was acutely aware of the fanatical, magnificent pride of the soldier in his "outfit," a pride that led many a wounded man to pass up opportunity to go home just because he feared separation would mean assignment to a different division.

I don't know the entire division, but I got to know many of the boys in Able and Charley companies of the first battalion of the 271st Infantry Regiment, the outfit that pushed aggressively forward to hasten the finish of the squeeze play of the Russians and Yanks against the Nazis.

DICTIONARY DEFINITION

In my dictionary, an upstart is one who has risen, suddenly from humble position. The 69th shot up suddenly to prominence. Up to the time of the juncture, nobody had given the slugging, hard-hitting division credit for its accomplishments - not even Stars and Stripes, the GI newspaper which gave the erroneous impression, in its account of the fall of Leipzig, that an armored division, rather than the 69th, had taken the third largest city in Hitler's Reich.

Frightened Germans gave them credit. They knew a good outfit when they saw it. And, anyway, they were certain the 69th's red, white and blue division insignia, with the figures 6 and 9 forming a modernistic block, indicated an American SS or elite corps.

They were elite soldiers. Make no mistake about that. They were extraordinary in many ways: They were top-notch soldiers. They were aggressive. They had magnificent curiosity. They were impatient. They were impudent in their gaiety - and they had lots of gaiety! Those were the characteristics that led that reconnaissance jeep to the Elbe for the historic meeting of the allies of the east and west.

TOO HAPPY FOR HISTORY

In those exciting days of April it was impossible to get a 69th Division man to be straightforward in his report of divisional activities. Everyone probably was too happy to be historical, so when a soldier talked about the capture of Leipzig, for example, he told more about visiting the zoo than about the bitter fighting for that key city. It was a strange modesty those boys had, a modesty hidden beneath boisterous, contagious humor.

I know, because I was with them. Never was a correspondent welcomed with such warmth and friendly enthusiasm



HIGHLIGHT IN MEMORY OF 69th DIVISION — Major General E.F. Reinhardt, commanding officer of 69th (second from left) shakes hands with Major General Roussako of First Ukrainian army at meeting at Torgau April 26.

as I was when I jeeped to the Mulde River to watch the frantic exodus of suddenly freed allied nationals from imprisonment and the obscene scramble of German soldiers to surrender in a sunlit meadow between a pleasant canal and the river that marked the foremost American forward line.

First battalion was handling these swarms of almost hysterical peoples. It was a gigantic task, but every soldier found time to talk, to explain what was going on. Again and again gifts were pressed on me - a tiny camera from one boy, a magnificent storm trooper dagger, a compass, and a silver cigarette case on which the date was scratched with a hairpin.

NO STUFFINESS

There was no ceremony, no dignity, no stuffiness. Everyone was bubbling with hard-to-suppress excitement and laughter, because each of us was sure this mass surrender of undignified Germans meant the end of the war. That was what we wanted more than anything else on earth and that was the best thing we could have gotten. The next best thing we wanted, of course, was that long-awaited link-up with the Russians - and we got that that night.

Lt. Joseph K. Kovarik of New York, lanky battalion supply officer, urged a friend and me not to leave the battalion lest we miss that link-up. We teased him about his confidence, for we knew two other divisions were sure they were fated to make that historic juncture.

(Continued on Page 17)

**FIGHTING 69th PEEVED BECAUSE
CALLED UPSTARTS BY MISS COYNE**
(Continued from Page 16)

"We'll do it," Kovarik said. "Stay and have supper with Charley company and I'll find a bed for your girls."

We had dinner with Charley company which included "liberated" champagne in our honor, then crossed the river just in time to witness the arrival of that first jeep load of Russians, an arrival in the pleasant little town of Wurzen that sent frightened Germans into panic and one suspected Gestapo man to suicide.

The chaplain gave up his room and featherbed for us that night. And in the morning the 69th boys took us to Torgau to see the Russians encamped on the other side of the Elbe.

RUSSIANS EXUBERANT

The Russians were wonderful in their exuberance, but they couldn't match those boys of the Fighting 69th. The boys forgot that day the hardships, the horrors, the suffering and the death of the long, hard fighting of February and March and April.

Their good spirits were irrepressible. In their generosity, some of the 69th boys were inquiring if I would like to have the honor of "capturing" a German community, which would be a cinch because the Germans were so terrified of the might of the 69th down there by the Mulde River!

I don't know how many Germans the 69th captured during those late April days. I remember when I returned to the Mulde from Torgau, we entered the courtyard of a big paper mill that was filled to overflowing with German prisoners. They huddled on the cobbles in little groups, some of them around fires on which they were heating their own rations.

We were in Kovarik's jeep and the lieutenant was driving because his driver had become lost in the maze of Russians at Torgau. Our jeep driver had disappeared, too - on a "liberating" expedition from which he returned with a case of German chocolate and a fiddle.

We had with us, too, three Britons and a Yank we had picked up on the road. The British men had been prisoners of war since El Alamein and the Yank was one of those captured when von Rundstedt's men broke through the 106th Infantry Division in December.

BRITON TAUNTS CAPTORS

One of the British boys stood up in the jeep and calmly surveyed that vast assemblage of gray-green figures. These were the men who had imprisoned him for so long and from whom he had escaped only a week before. "How do you like it now, you ...?" he screamed.

Most of the Germans didn't understand him. One who did came and stood beside our jeep and said in calm English, "It's all right, my boy. The shoe is on the other foot. I don't like it, but - it's all right."

The 69th Division never was on the defensive. It entered the line in February and pushed forward until it joined the Russians. Its record is excellent. The excellence with which those fighting men were able to handle the great parade of refugees from Nazi barbarism as well as the frightened German soldiers is one of the major achievements of those last days of war.

Perhaps they were able to do what they did because, basically, the men of the 69th Division are real men - men with hearts and understanding, men of innate kindness and generosity, men who could laugh.

That is, they could laugh until someone - this writer - dared to tease them labeling their division as "upstart." Many of them have "told me off" and I'm ready to yell "uncle," because I love those aggressive, high-spirited soldiers who played a stellar role in bringing to a close the European half of the most horrible war in history.

880th Field Artillery Headquarters Company



June 13th, 1992 Banquet Night at the Sheraton in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Robert and Marilyn McKee and Stuart and Elinor McGowan.



June 13th, 1992 - Stanley Bratt, Al Kormas, John O'Connor



Lee Meyers, Joe Damato, Lewis Pugh, Enrico D'Angelo, Lowell McFarlin and Robert Williams at St. Mary's 150th Celebration at Lee Meyers home town.

Dottie and Me



Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.

Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.
Bulletin Coordinating Manager
Post Office Box 69
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
Telephone: 412/455-2901

Dear Dottie and Earl,

From what I hear about all your travels attending Chapter meetings, visiting friends and Nashville Reunion involvement, it's no wonder your doctor told you to stay home a while and rest up.

I love your idea suggesting the "mini's" sponsor an occasional Annual 69th Division Reunion. You should press that idea with **Curt Peterson** and let him bring it up as a topic at the Rochester Executive Board Meeting.

As you can guess, we are not having a great deal of success getting off the ground forming the California Chapter.

Dottie, my wife, **Theresa** feels strongly that a column similar to "Taps" be added to the Ladies' Auxiliary section of the Bulletin. I totally agreed with her. The ladies pay their dues and should get equal respect. What would the 69th Division Association do without the Ladies! A suggested title might be "Ladies' Auxiliary Loving Memorial" in honor of our departed friends. In any case, please add the notice of our loss to the Ladies' Auxiliary.

Annette Sullivan

Wife of Colonel John Sullivan, (Ret.) Company I, 273rd

Loretta Arnold

Wife of Clifford Arnold, Company I, 273rd

Thanks for all your help in the past.

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

* * * * *

Earl's Note to Bob and Theresa: Dottie and I were very disappointed and upset that we could not attend the San Francisco reunion. You had a very good one and well organized. Your committee of First Timers did their duties perfectly,

which reminds me of the Milwaukee group. They were First Timers and now have the Mid-West Group.

You Californians can do the same only include the "West Coast Group," even though you will meet in California. I am sure some folks from Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Utah, Nevada and other states will attend.

I too like the idea of mini's running 69th reunions, for if they don't start getting involved with the 69th, that will be the reason the 69th folds and no more Bulletins.

Please all members, do pay your dues which are now \$10.00. We do have a lot of sickness and ill health in our association.

* * * * *

As I finish this Number Two Bulletin to get it over to Buhl Brothers Printing, I only can think that on Monday, January 25th Dottie will enter McKeesport Hospital for neck surgery. We are hopeful that this will be the finding of her problems. Dottie has been a very sick girl most of December 1992 and January 1993. I am sure and prayerfully, that by the time you members and families get this bulletin, Dottie will be on the road to recovery.

Doctors and specialists that I trust through the grace of God have found her problem. She has had kidney stones since 1988, having had five in that time up until now when she had been getting one almost at will or I should say about every two weeks. They tell us four glands in her neck are the problem. The one that makes calcium is producing too much calcium which puts it in the blood stream and it ends up in her kidneys causing the kidney stones. That one gland must be removed and the other three checked, which means one or more can be removed also with the exception that one third of one of the glands must not be removed, but must remain in her body. Hopefully, it's not that bad. The one specialist said that this should have been done years ago, like in 1988 or 1989. After this is over, she could still have problems. The kidney stones should go, but she still had six to eight in her kidneys. How they will handle this, I can't say. It is known that her kidneys are not functioning correctly, but the specialist believes after the problem is corrected, she should start having better results with her kidneys. I am hopeful that he knows what he is talking about. I will not go any further, since I should not tell you our problems, but I thought most of you would like to know.

We do have a lot of sickness in our Division Association along with other problems, as we get older not knowing how many years each of us has left on this earth. I hope Dottie and I will be able to attend many more reunions as well as many mini weekends. We also, in our prayers, wish the best to all 69ers and families and hope that they too will be able to attend many, many more reunions as the years go by.

It's nice to see each other once each year and in some cases, a few times a year. So 69ers, if you can, go to a reunion or a closeby mini if that's all the funds you have. Joy and happiness lights both the faces when one sees a buddy he hasn't seen in 40 plus years and even to see those who you see each year could spell one thing, it could be the last time.

69th Infantry Division 46th Annual Reunion
Holiday Inn - Genesee Plaza, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK
AUGUST 8th to 15th, 1993

Please come to this reunion. It's later than you think!!

Small World

By Lynn C. Johnson
Company F, 272nd Regiment
Route 1, Box 573, Tazewell, Virginia 24651

Dear Comrade-in-Arms:

At this time of every year an agonizing memory of one of the finest young men I have ever known visits me. I was the Platoon Leader of the Second Platoon, Company F, 272nd Regiment. While we were in England, at Danebury Downs, **John Puckett**, whose home was in the state of Iowa, a clean cut young man and good soldier, was a member of my platoon. Most of us recall the opportunities we had for passes to Winchester and Saulsbury, not too far from our billeting.

When we left the U.S. our TO & E was not complete and, while in England, I had recommended promotion of **John Puckett** (assistant squad leader) to the rank of Sergeant, shortly before Christmas. Some of our men will recall the evening passes to go to those cities - most of us walked then. We also had to police our men there. **John Puckett** was assigned his turn in that duty. When my platoon had its turn, I usually went with them. It was on these occasions I became aware of what a fine young man **John** was, as well as his ability to handle responsibility.

The opportunity to fill the TO & E came a week or so before Christmas and I was able to have **John** promoted to Sergeant. Then the German Breakthrough at the front came. A number of men from our Division were, because of the emergency, taken from the 69th and because of **John's** recent promotion to Sergeant, he was one of those taken. It was not long thereafter that we got word that **John Puckett** had been killed in combat, much to our sorrow.

After the war ended and the luxurious return on the Queen Elizabeth and 30 day leave, I was assigned to Camp Croft, South Carolina, which was closed shortly thereafter. I believe I was the last officer to leave, having accounted for the original issue of all its facilities down to the mess hall silverware. We took barracks foot lockers out into a field and destroyed them with bulldozers.

Having closed Camp Croft, I was sent to Camp Robinson, Arkansas. Recruits were still being trained there. Weekends were usually spent in Little Rock. It was while I was there I experienced a most unusual event. I had made an acquaintance with a young Lieutenant (can't even remember his name) and his wife was coming to visit him and he invited me to dine with them in Little Rock.

While we were dining, I related to them the experience with **John Puckett**. After having heard me out, my friend's wife told me that **John Puckett** was her brother.

This experience has ever since been a part of my Christmas and I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas.

HELP WANTED Does Anyone Remember FRED L. ALDRED

ATTENTION: Any member of our Association who may have served with **Fred L. Aldred**. His brother would appreciate it if you would contact him at:

William Aldred
3807 Courtney Circle, Bryan, Texas 77802

Company B, 271st Infantry 1992 San Francisco Reunion



First Row: Wayne Weygandt, Chuck Walsh, Helmuth Boehm. Second Row: Bo Bocek, Chuck Nicely, Kenny Upton, Orrie Pullen



Pearl Boehm, Patsy Bocek, Bobbie Nicely, Joanne Randall, Pat Walsh, Thora Miller, Lillian Upton



Newly weds: Chuck and Bobbie Nicely were married on the Reno trip and Patsy and Bo Bocek were married prior to the reunion.

Photos furnished by Chuck Nicely

New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

Charles Wentz — Cannon Company, 272nd Infantry
407 Bundy Lane, Laurinburg, North Carolina 28352

Kenneth Y. Buckless — Company B, 271st Infantry
14 Walden Pond Avenue, Saugus, Massachusetts 01906

Elwood S. Niess — Company I, 273rd Infantry
348 East Fulton Street, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17602

Norbert J. McGettigan — Company I, 273rd Infantry
338 Roxborough, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19128

George O. Kinney — Company I, 273rd Infantry
4242 Cascade Court, Flint, Michigan 48504

Wilbert I. Jolkka — Company I, 273rd Infantry
2621 West 5th Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55806

Lester Flock — Hq., 1st Battalion, 272nd Infantry
248 Roan Drive, Eugene, Oregon 97401

Joseph H. Marion — Battery A, 724th Field Artillery
11381 East 37th Street, Yuma, Arizona 85365

Osburn Riels — Company I, 273rd Infantry
Route 3, Box 157, Seminary, Mississippi 39479

Richard P. Dalton — Battery B, 881st Field Artillery
662 Courtwright Boulevard, Mansfield, Ohio 44907

Larry Smith — Headquarters, 724th Field Artillery
2821 Homestead Drive, Erie, Pennsylvania 16506

Alvin Rabold — Company K, 272nd Infantry
609 Hastings Drive, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109

Matthew C. Masem — 273rd Infantry
1901 40th Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33713

Clifford K. Koutnik — Cannon Company, 271st Infantry
205 East 4th Street, P. O. Box 203, Neligh, Nebraska 68756

Harry M. Falconer — Company B, 271st Infantry
2406 New Berne Road, Richmond, Virginia 23228

Russell J. Haberman — Company A, 273rd Infantry
27 Wagon Trail Road, Highland Farms
Black Mountain, North Carolina 28711

John G. Link — Company A, 273rd Infantry
723 South 5th Street, Quincy, Illinois 62301

Wilbur E. Shaw — Company A, 273rd Infantry
215 North Geary Street, Albany, Oregon 97321

Jake Waldrup — Company A, 273rd Infantry
Route 6, Box 205, Fairview, North Carolina 28730

Thomas Wilhite — Company A, 273rd Infantry
518 Eastover Drive, Baldwin, Mississippi 38824

James Cucci — Battery A, 881st Field Artillery
Box 79, Riverdale, New Jersey 07457

Kermit Nordeen — AT & Cannon, 273rd Infantry
3436 Karen Drive, Joliet, Illinois 60436

Daniel B. Jett, Jr. — Company F, 271st Infantry
935 North Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001

Lieutenant General Vladimir Orlov dies

Word has been received that **Lieutenant General (Ret.) Vladimir Orlov**, of Moscow, Russia died on December 3rd, 1992, of an aneurysm of the aorta. He was the host of the dinner held in Leipzig, Germany when the tour group traveled through Europe and Russia in 1985 and 1990. Many of you may remember him.



Jo Beswick, Lt. Gen. Vladimir Orlov, Bill Beswick, Alexander Olshanski, Anita Powell, Dillard Powell

Submitted by: William Beswick
P.O. Box 576, West Point, Virginia 23181

San Francisco Reunion



George Loikow, Sergeant Major - U.S. Army, Retired



Richard Hadley

The 273rd Infantry Regiment in the Siegfried Line PART 2

By Alan H. Murphey

Photos furnished by
Chris Van Kerckhoven

During the early hours of February 14th (Valentine's Day), patrols from both 1st and 2nd Battalion returned safely to American lines after probing enemy defenses. They brought back two pieces of information: 1) there were wide gaps between German strong points (consisting mainly of MG emplacements) and 2) the approaches to enemy-held pill boxes were mined. The 989th

Volksgrenadier Regiment, which manned these positions, was known to have a shortage of manpower. The regiment had lost much of its original strength during the Battle of the Bulge, first advancing into Belgium, then falling back to the Siegfried Line. Now, the 989th had to spread its defenses frugally while awaiting replacements.

The first American recon patrol to return on February 14th was from 1st Battalion. Its mission had been to reconnoiter for pillboxes east of Miescheid. Second Lieutenant William Robertson, the battalion S-2 officer, provided regiment with a preliminary report. It was entered in the 273rd Infantry Journal at 1:30 a.m.:

"Mines all over forward slopes. No casualties.
Safe route along stream bed near Miescheid.
Patrols near pillboxes must have mine detectors."

The patrol which made the deepest penetration and found unoccupied gaps in the German line was from 2nd Battalion. Despite its achievement the patrol did not reach its intended objective, the outskirts of Giescheid. This was because they had underestimated the time needed to traverse unfamiliar and difficult terrain. After making slow progress on the steep slope of the Artelsberg, the patrol turned back. Exhausted by both the physical and mental strain, the men struggled back to the west bank of the Prether. Two GIs fell behind in the darkness and became lost. To add insult to injury, the patrol was fired on several times as it approached American outposts. The patrol reached the battalion command post at Ramscheid at about 3:00 a.m., the two missing men showed up a half hour later.

As the night wore on and the temperature dropped, activity on both sides of the dark, snow-covered line came to a standstill. The Germans, however, were the first to break the silence. At 6:00 a.m. four enemy flares 'popped' in rapid succession illuminating the landscape to the east of Miescheid. American infantrymen and German grenadiers stirred and came to life. A new day had begun.

At exactly 7:14 a.m., two infantrymen standing guard at the 3rd Battalion command post at Udenbreth were startled



Site of the 273rd Infantry Cannon Company command post in the Rocherath Forest in Belgium. Forty-seven years ago the forest echoed with the fire of 105mm howitzers shelling German positions. Today only silence reigns.

by the sound of a heavy shell passing over them. It sounded like a locomotive that had been hurled through the air. Instinctively, both men braced for the explosion, but there was none. The shell was obviously a 'dud.' A few minutes later, 600 yards away, two German soldiers approached a Company I outpost near the Dahlem road. Both soldiers had discarded their helmets and wore forage caps. Both had their hands above their heads. A GI was delegated to escort the two prisoners. A call from the outpost over their field phone alerted Captain Howard Hitchcock, 3rd Battalion operations officer, that the prisoners were on their way. Captain Hitchcock quickly notified the 273rd command post:

"Two prisoners captured by outpost. No details yet."

The news was received with excitement at the regimental CP. These were the first German prisoners to be taken by the 273rd Infantry. Captain Hitchcock's message was immediately relayed to the 69th Division command post at Murringen.

As the two POWs and their escort approached 3rd Battalion's CP bunker, another shell passed overhead. This time the ground trembled when the shell exploded. During the ensuing half hour, four more shells fell on Udenbreth - 3 'duds' and 1 more 'live,' for a total of 6. Inside the bunker everyone heard the noise and felt the vibration of the two 'live' shells. What size were they? Initially, Captain Hitchcock reported the battalion was receiving fire from a "railroad gun." However, this estimate was later changed to somewhere between a "105mm and 170mm" gun, based on a report from a "Tank Destroyer observer." The big German gun fired a final shot at about 8:20 a.m. This time the shell fell in the woods 500 yards to the west of the International Highway - only "50 yards to the left" of 1st Battalion's forest command post!

That morning staff officers from 273rd Infantry noticed an emerging pattern to German fire - it was erratic and came when least expected. This did not seem to fit the reputation that the Germans had for being orderly and precise. For the remainder of the morning, the regimental Journal recorded the scattered targets and times of German fire:

(Continued on Page 22)

**THE 273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT IN
THE SIEGFRIED LINE** (Continued from Page 21)

- 0945 — German MGs opened up on both Company F and G positions.
- 1007 — A large-caliber shell exploded west of Company A and C foxholes.
- 1014 — The 2nd Battalion CP at Ramscheid shelled by enemy artillery.
- 1115 — A second shell from large-caliber gun fell in reserve area of 1st Battalion.

Colonel Lloyd H. Gibbons, the assistant division commander, arrived at the 273rd command post at 10:30 a.m. He visited with Colonel Adams for over an hour. There is no record of their conversation. While Colonel Gibbons was at the CP, the 273rd IPW team released information they obtained from the two German POWs. The prisoner told the interrogation team that one German observation post was located at Pillbox 83 on the Dahlem road and another on top of the hill known as Rauher Berg. When questioned about mines, the prisoners asserted that the road near Pillbox 83, which branched off from the Dahlem road in the direction of the northern end of Udenbreth, was heavily mined.

By midday the GIs in the pillboxes, farmhouses and foxholes along the 4750-yard regimental front began to open their small, individual K-ration boxes. The cold canned meat or cheese with 'dog biscuits,' washed down with cold lemonade, reminded many a hungry GI never to complain again about Army "B" rations.

The low, dirty-gray clouds hanging over the front began to break up soon after noon. Clear sky could be seen to the northwest indicating a high-pressure weather system was approaching. At about 3:15 p.m. infantrymen who happened to glance skyward saw a spectacular sight - hundreds of four-engined bombers. The planes were flying west, undoubtedly returning to England. At an estimated altitude of 30,000 feet or more, the bombers made no sound. The only indication that the aircraft were actually moving were hundreds of long, white vapor contrails. About 15 minutes later the 273rd Infantry CP received a message that a smoking bomber had dropped out of the formation and that six parachutes were visible. The report came from the regimental I&R platoon observation



Site of 3rd Battalion's command post bunker at Udenbreth. Today the foundation of this large house sits on what was the roof of the command post. This is where the first German prisoners were brought about 7:25 a.m. on 14 April 1945.

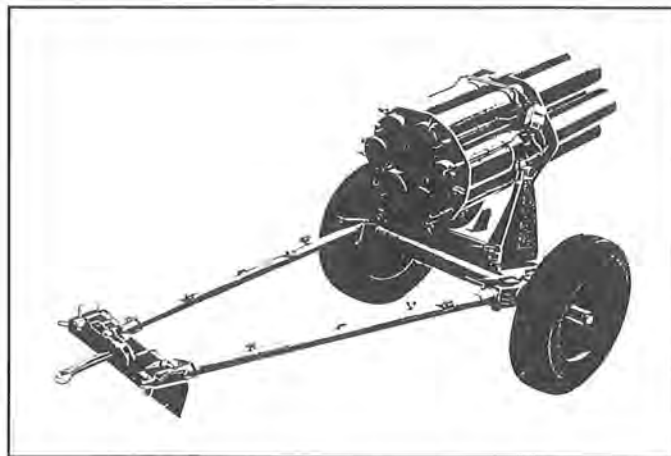
post. With typical military brevity, the message ended:

"Six men landed in enemy territory.
One man could be seen walking in a field."

What went unsaid was that, if the six airmen had waited another minute or two, they would have landed in safety behind American lines.

The following three hours passed without any further reported incidents. It had been seven hours since the last enemy shell had fallen in the regimental sector. Perhaps the Germans were low in ammunition? From their positions along the front, the 273rd Infantrymen watched the pale winter sun disappear behind the Rocherath forest in Belgium with anticipation. Darkness meant that the slow process of feeding the troops could begin. But the Germans had other ideas. At 6:30 p.m. the first of twenty 88mm shells broke at tree-top level over 3rd Battalion outposts near the Neuhof crossroad. The same infantrymen who had experienced their baptism of fire at the crossroads the previous day, dived for cover again.

While 3rd Battalion was preoccupied at Udenbreth, the Germans were preparing a different surprise for 2nd Battalion. Hidden from observation in a gully southeast of Rescheid, a six-barreled nebelwerfer was being prepared for launch. At about 6:40 p.m. the 4-man crew was ready. Within ten seconds after the first rocket roared out of its launch tube, the remaining five were on their way towards the American lines. Two thousand yards to the west the men of 2nd Battalion heard the eerie wail. This, their first encounter with 'screaming meemies' was a terrifying experience. The unearthly, banshee-like scream seemed to last forever. When they hit Ramscheid, the rockets exploded in a series of rapid ground-shaking thumps. When the barrage ended, Lieutenant Colonel John Lynch, commander of 2nd Battalion, reported that 25 rockets had fallen on Ramscheid.



The German Nebelwerfer rocket-launcher. Members of 2nd Battalion were the first to be hit when 25 'screaming meemies' slammed into Ramscheid on 14 February 1945. The maximum range of the Nebelwerfer was about 7,300 yards (4 miles).

Following the nebelwerfer attack, no more enemy artillery or rocket fire fell for the remainder of the day. German flare activity, however, was evident until midnight: 9 white flares, 1 orange and 2 blue star clusters. An hour after midnight, two German soldiers surrendered to a Company L outpost at Udenbreth. One of the Germans was too sick to proceed farther. He was carried back to the battalion CP on a litter. The second German remained at the command post for questioning. Lieutenant Colonel Shaughnessey gave the order to evacuate the sick prisoner to the medical collecting company in Belgium.

(Continued on Page 23)

THE 273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT IN THE SIEGFRIED LINE (Continued from Page 22)

Dawn on February 15th broke cold and clear. The morning passed without any enemy barrages. The Germans, however, found another way to harass 273rd Infantry - jamming the regiment's radio net for two hours, between 10:00 a.m. and noon. During the afternoon an increase in enemy movement was observed. Six sightings of foot traffic and one of a horse-drawn cart traveling between Schnorrenberg and Rescheid were reported. Cannon Company pounded the lateral supply road connecting the two villages with a heavy barrage of 105mm shells.

The German response to Cannon Company's barrage came later in the afternoon. During the two hour period between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m., 75 'screaming meemies' fell between Ramscheid and Udenbreth. The first barrage began with a salvo which screamed over Ramscheid and exploded on both sides of the International Highway north of Company A and C. Just before dark 3rd Battalion received its nebelwerfer baptism of fire when 18 rockets slammed into Udenbreth. Soon after, Ramscheid was hit. Regiment asked all battalions for casualty figures. First and 3rd Battalion reported they had none. Second Battalion was not so fortunate. At 6:49 p.m. Lieutenant Colonel Lynch reported, "One man killed, one man injured from rocket barrage."

Although darkness brought an end to the shellings, it ushered in another source of anxiety, night patrolling. Aside from the obvious risks of reconnoitering behind enemy lines, contact patrols could also be dangerous. Second Lieutenant Sam Lewis of Company B, described his reactions when he led a contact patrol to F Company, about 900 yards to the northeast of Miescheid:

"I was scared not knowing really what to expect. The Germans had a practice of burying explosive charges near or in a path they expected us to use. They stretched a thin wire across the path a few inches off the ground and this was attached to the explosive igniter."

On the morning of Friday, February 16th, a low carpet of ground fog covered the regimental front. The high hills to the east looked like mountains protruding through floating clouds of mist. The Germans seemed eager to commence hostilities. At 6:45 a.m. they launched 27 rockets against Udenbreth from a wooded area between Kamberg and Giescheid. This time the 'screaming meemies' were fired in 9 volleys of 3 rockets each.

Beginning about 10:00 a.m., apparently in retaliation for the morning rocket barrage, the 881st Artillery Battalion shelled Giescheid. Later a number of targets of opportunity were shelled. Forward observers reported an enemy mortar position near Pillbox 83 was "neutralized" at 11:20 a.m. Twenty-five minutes later an MG position on Rauher Berg was hit. The Germans came back at 1:30 p.m. with another nebelwerfer barrage dropping 30 rockets on 1st Battalion positions in Belgium, including the battalion command post. The rockets were observed coming from south of Rescheid and American artillery batteries fired on them with unknown results.

At Ramscheid, Lieutenant Colonel John Lynch was becoming increasingly frustrated. The daily German nebelwerfer barrages only made his problem more pressing. When his 2nd Battalion relieved 1st Battalion, 393rd Infantry four days earlier, he inherited 35 German civilians at Ramscheid. Not all were from Ramscheid but had been brought there from other villages in the area so that they could be evacuated as a group. With the increase in German fire, Lieutenant Colonel Lynch knew that sooner or later some of the civilians would become casualties. He began pressing regiment to remove the non-combatants as early as the morning of February 13th.



Chart showing location of 273rd Infantry unit command posts used by Belgian World War II researcher Chris Van Kerckhoven. American hand grenade was excavated by Van Kerckhoven at site of 273rd CP on 12 April 1992.

Instead, that evening members of a CIC team arrived at Ramscheid to question the civilians. They obtained no military information of any value. All the Germans could (or would) tell them was that there was another row of pillboxes "10 kilometers" to the east (the 2nd line of the Siegfried). Lieutenant Colonel Lynch's growing impatience was reflected in a message he sent Regiment at 1:00 p.m. on February 15th:

"Tell CIC to evacuate civilians from Ramscheid."

Soon after a reply came back: "Your message relayed to AMG." The following afternoon, February 16th, Major James R. Sykes, the 273rd S-2 officer notified the weary commander of 2nd Battalion that an evacuation had been arranged with AMG. Shortly after 8:00 p.m. that evening the 35 civilians were marched out of Ramscheid under guard to awaiting trucks. The guards who accompanied the detainees carried their bedrolls and enough rations for three days. According to 273rd records, five trucks were used to carry the civilians and their escorts to a detainee center at Berg in the Netherlands, just outside Maastricht. At Ramscheid that evening, Lieutenant Colonel Lynch breathed easier. He could now devote all his time to do what he was trained to do — fight the enemy.

— TO BE CONTINUED —

NOTE: A full page map was sent with this article showing positions of the different Infantry, etc. Due to limited space in the bulletin, the map will appear in the next bulletin.

Vet lost his heart to San Francisco at reunion or My Best Vacation

Stephen J. Rojcewicz

881st Field Artillery

135 Endicott Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01610

SUNDAY TELEGRAM

JANUARY 17, 1993

With apologies to Caesar, I came, I saw, and was conquered by the San Francisco area. Once again, the 69th Division Association had arranged a fine program for its 45th reunion. Here are a few recollections:

Our first daylong tour took us over the Bay Bridge and on to the Napa Valley wine district. This narrow valley has 70 wineries and we visited two: One for still wine and one for a sparkling wine.

Guides explained the processes, as we watched a forklift truck pick up a huge crate of grapes and empty it onto a moving conveyor. At this spot, eight young workers spread out the grapes, tossed out the leaves and other imperfections, and then the grapes went up to a crusher. You could see the juice going through hoses (similar to fire department hoses), and the grape refuse going into bins and recycled into mulch.

The grape juice is turned into wine by a process called fermentation, with an assist from "yeasty-beasties."

Although our four buses each went to two different wineries, we all gathered for lunch at a dining and shopping area called Vintage 1870. My choice was fish at the Red Rock Vintage Cafe. Very good.

TRIP HIGHLIGHT

The tour of San Francisco by motor coach was the highlight. Some great sights: Twin Peaks, with a panoramic view of the city; Golden Gate Park, where there are all kinds of flowers, plants, trees, museums; the Presidio, an old military installation being converted to civilian use; and the Golden Gate Bridge, the area's outstanding landmark. The bridge is painted in international orange (the guide said "primed"), and is the pride and joy of all. I went to it, over it and under it.

Picture stops were frequent. We enjoyed Nob Hill, cable cars (the only moving national monument), St. Mary's Cathedral, and Chinatown.

At Fisherman's Wharf there was free time to enjoy. It was here at Pier 39 that I took a boat cruise under the two bridges and past Alcatraz Island — all finely narrated. Here, too, is the sea lion colony.

Back on land, it was a thrill to stroll Fisherman's Wharf. Besides eating, I toured a submarine anchored at a pier. It was a pleasure to inspect the 311-foot sub — longer than a football field. The tour buses were on hand to take us back to the hotel from late afternoon.

THE REDWOODS

One of my friends from Arkansas (no, not the President-elect) had driven there, so he took some of us to Muir Woods, a land of coast redwoods declared a national monument by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908. Most of the mature trees here are 500 to 800 years old, about 12 to 14 feet around, and very tall. Redwoods are conifers and evergreens. As you walk along the trails, you see trees that are rooted together, trees charred by fire, trees with bark nearly a foot thick. A fascinating experience.

We had lunch in Sausalito, a community loaded with yachts.

REUNION ACTIVITIES

Every night there were reunion activities at the hotel — an early bird buffet, a PX night, dinners by units or groups, and endless chattering in the hospitality room.

The final night, the banquet dinner dance was preceded by an impressive memorial service in honor of our comrades who had made the supreme sacrifice. The banquet was sumptuous.

Here are two points discovered during the reunion:

The first is that the life stories of the veterans, almost all of whom were married in the 1940s, contain nearly no divorces. How different from today.

And the second is that, when on vacation and relaxed, you observe the people around you, of all types of backgrounds and races, enjoying what nature and man have to offer, and you realize we are all the same.



Far right - Charles Weaver of Columbus, Ohio and next to him in front is Ed Stiles of Little Rock, Arkansas.

World War II Canteen Remembered

Back in 1942 the small town of Dennison, Ohio was an important hub for troop trains heading east and going west. In a show of patriotism and in an effort to cheer the men going to war, the local Salvation Army established a canteen at the Pennsylvania Railroad's Depot. It offered free coffee, doughnuts, fruit and sandwiches to an estimated 1.5 million armed forces personnel, nearly 13% of the total American military personnel involved in the war. Volunteers manned the refreshment counters from March 1942 to April 1946 on a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week basis.

Because of these efforts Dennison became known as "Dreamville, Ohio" and left many G.I.s with special memories. Perhaps you remember that 1873 Depot building in that "big" little town halfway between Pittsburgh and Columbus. Last August the townsfolk wanted to remember and held a gala celebration inviting veterans to also come back and remember. Perhaps you were one of them and relived a special time in our nation's history.

461st AAA Battalion

Submitted by Francis Breyette and Vincent Consiglio



Vincent A. Consiglio somewhere in a blasted part of Germany.



Men of Battery C on duty somewhere in Germany. Top, Lloyd B. Caulk. Bottom, Robert D. Bissell



Lloyd B. Caulk somewhere in Germany.



Training session in the Mojave Desert where Fort Irwin is now located. 461st Battalion Headquarters CP. December 1942. Left to right: Captain MacMillan, Major Derby, W/O Neilson, Sergeant Joe Guertin, Lieutenant Edwards, Lieutenant Wadle



Beer and K-Rations near the Rhine. C Battery, 461st AAA. Left to right: Lieutenant Francis Breyette, Lieutenant Jack Morrison, Captain Pierre Bouis. We three were on recon when we passed a beer garden and the darn thing was open. As long as it was free we stopped and partook of some.



C Battery Officers, Lieutenants Haden, Breyette, Stoutenborough, Captain Bouis, Lieutenants Morrison and Goodwin.



There is a lull and time for play. On left Vincent Consiglio, Yank in German uniform unknown, Robert Billell on right.

More photos from this group will appear in the next issue of the bulletin.

A little background on Seymour C. Abrams, 269th Engineer

Submitted by: Frank Nemeth



Seymour C. Abrams was born in Russia in a town now called Kirovgrad near Odessa on February 12, 1914. He came to this country at the age of nine with three other siblings. He and his siblings were saved from starvation in Russia by his aunt and uncle who lived in America. After the Czar was overthrown in Russia in 1917, there was no government, no jobs and no food. Every group of outlaws wanted to gain power and people were starving by the thousands. When Seymour's aunt and uncle learned that his mother, father, sister and two brothers had perished from starvation, they immediately made arrangements to have what remained of the family, namely Seymour, one brother and two sisters, brought to America to be adopted as their own.

Seymour was brought up in Bayonne, New Jersey. He has lived in New York, Cleveland, Ohio, and since 1946, in Los Angeles, California. He met his wife in 1939 in Miami Beach, Florida, where he owned a small restaurant. Six months later, they were married in Jersey City, New Jersey. Seymour has one daughter, 38 years old, and two grandchildren, a boy eleven and a girl thirteen. He has been divorced since 1981 after a 41-year marriage.

Seymour volunteered into the Army on August 4th, 1943 and separated on February 23rd, 1946 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. He got his basic training in Camp Upton, New York and was sent to Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and then transferred to Lathrop Engineering Depot in California for special assignments. While there he became a Mess Sergeant. After several months, he was again sent out on special assignments to Brea, California, Santa

Anita, California (Prisoners of War), and Fort McArthur. From there he was sent to New York to be shipped overseas with the 69th Division, 269th Engineers Combat Battalion, Company C.

Seymour's unit departed on December 1, 1944 on the Liberty Ship LeJeune for Southampton, England. They arrived on December 13, 1944. After a short stay in Northwood Park, Winchester, Plymouth and Portland, they left Portland on January 19, 1945 and arrived in La Havre, France on January 21, 1945. They went as far as Leipzig, Germany, but some infantry units went to the Elbe River to meet the Russian Army. By strange coincidence, the first Ukrainian Army of Russia that the 69th Division met was from the same area where Seymour was born. The Russian Army was supposed to take over the area that Seymour's unit had captured, so Seymour was able to meet and talk with the Russian soldiers and enjoyed exchanging material things and greetings with them.

The highest rating Seymour received in the Army was Technical Sergeant (3 stripes up and 2 down), but his ratings went up and down like a yo-yo. His battles and campaigns were the American Theatre - Rhineland - Central Europe. The decorations and citations he received are: American Theatre Ribbon and Medal, EAME Theatre Ribbon with two bronze stars Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal World War II, Army of Occupation Medal, and Meritorious Unit Emblem.

At present and for the past eight years, Seymour has been retired. He owned a real estate office for over 30 years in the San Fernando Valley, California. He still keeps his real estate license active just in case he decides to re-enter the real estate field. He is busy caring and loving a lady friend whom he has been seeing on weekends for the past 12 years. She happens to be 42 years of age and is pretty and smart, so Seymour tries to keep in shape both mentally and physically by writing books and attending his gym on a regular basis. Seymour is also an active participant in community and civic activities and an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



Cy can still fit into his uniform after all these years.

Udenbreth to Colditz A Vacation to Remember

By C. R. Hoffman, Jr.
613 Golf Course Drive
Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32547

Armed with directions from Alan Murphey and a local map, Pat and I set out on 19 September from Gemund, Germany, to find Udenbreth, where our anti-tank platoon had its baptism of fire in February of 1945. (See Murphey's story in the May-August 1992 bulletin)



First house we bedded down in.

Locating the town church, we drove up to the town square and parked in front of the building where our anti-tank squad first bedded down. Some men across the street were putting an addition to the building where the squad had relocated later. Leaving Pat in the car, and with fingers crossed, I went over and asked if anyone spoke English. Reinhard Bolz said that he did. He is from Bavaria, is also a mechanical engineer and works for an American company, traveling to the USA a couple of times each year.

I identified myself and explained why I was there and described the interior layout of the building to establish my bonafide. I also showed them a copy of the bulletin with Murphey's story. Work stopped and to my astonishment I was introduced all around as if I were a celebrity. Reinhard introduced me to his wife Brigitte who, on learning my wife was in the car, insisted we return in an hour for coffee and cake, apologizing that they hadn't expected guests as they were just down from Cologne for the weekend.

Meanwhile, permission was obtained for us to visit the cellar of the building to see the stone-arched room which sheltered us from those barrages from points east. The building was originally a school and is now owned by Reinhard. He also owns the one next door and uses it as his weekend/vacation home. It was behind the latter that we had positioned our gun that first night 'up front.'

While Brigitte and her daughter rode out to the woods to look for mushrooms, we drove east down the hill and followed a stream north, discovering quite a few 'dragon teeth.' They didn't look as formidable as they did in 1945, weathering away and gathering moss. We later saw where several rows of trees had been planted across fields to cover other dragon teeth. Much easier than digging them up.

When we returned to Udenbreth, Brigitte ushered us into a large kitchen where we were served a choice of cakes and coffee or tea. She teaches English in a school in Cologne and



Dragons Teeth

was a most gracious hostess, treating us like old friends. She told us of growing up near an American base and how kind the soldiers were. Reinhard was equally friendly but was busy working on the addition next door, looking in on us every now and then. Seems that no outside work is tolerated on Sunday, so he was anxious to use what daylight was left. When we left we felt we had made new friends. Personally, I was somewhat overwhelmed. I hadn't known what to expect, so it was indeed a most pleasant experience.

A couple of days later I returned alone and visited the building across the street which our squad first took over. Other than an inn it was the only commercial establishment that I saw in town. Here too I was well received and the owner was amused when I described the night that Atillio V. Arbia and I peppered one of his walls with many carbine rounds, triggered by a refusal of 'something' to give the password when challenged. Never did find out what it was.

The pavement in the 'square' had been torn up for resurfacing so it looked the same as it did that first morning when Earl Walters and I went out looking for coal for the stove in the room and were greeted by incoming artillery.

Anxious to see the bridge, Pat and I drove over to Remagen to discover that only the abutments on each side of the Rhine remain. The ones on the West side are part of a museum, a German flag flying from one tower, an American flag from the other.

We visited Kassel, but what a difference! The only thing I recognized was the Bahn Hott and the Hercules statue on top of the mountain.

Driving towards Dresden, it wasn't hard to know when we were in what was East Germany. The rest stops suddenly consisted of small shacks serving sandwiches to walk-up patrons, with a couple of porta-potties located off to the side. Much roadwork is in progress. One thing that didn't change was the countryside with its beautiful rolling hills and vast fields almost devoid of any type of fencing. The roads were

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West Bank remains of Remagen Bridge.

in poorer shape than the ones further west but a great deal of work was being done to improve them.

We saw few new private homes, but there were many massive multi-story apartment buildings. When we did get off the main road and drive through some villages, we discovered a new color - DRAB. It seemed that nothing had been painted since we pulled out to let the Russians take over back in 1945, flowers were almost non-existent and we saw none of the roadside shrines so prevalent in 'West' Germany.

Grimma was indeed. Grim, that is. It suddenly dawned on me that those were not police, but Russian soldiers strolling about. A big Russian tank in a square, red stars on the gates of compounds, along with a big brass plate with Russian writing on it.

Daunting though it was, here we found an oasis, so to speak. A full-fledged modern ARAL gas station, complete with all those additional things our US service stations offer, such as rest rooms, food, drinks, gadgets, publications, etc. An inquiry about a place to find a room for the night and somewhere to eat got only 'I don't understand you' headshakes, or so it seemed. Just as we were going to drive off, a gentleman hurried up and got across to us that he was going to call to find us a place to stay. He then had one of his men lead us to a place about two miles out of town which had excellent facilities, both rooms and a restaurant. Again we were most impressed with the friendliness of the people.

On Monday we drove to Colditz, a town with seemingly independent streets, each wandering off on its own. We parked in the main square and walked up many, many steps to the museum. Closed on Monday. A young girl was in charge, spoke English, and let us in to look around, admission 1-DM each.

The room devoted to the period when Allied officers were imprisoned contained many of the items they made to help in their escape attempts. The glider that had been built was, of course, their most ambitious project and had indeed impressed us when we saw it in 1945. All that remains of it is one photograph. On the wall there was a set of plans for it, but they were no doubt made long after we had departed. On a smaller scale, one which required at least as much if not more innovation was a sewing machine made entirely of wood, with the exception of the 'teeth' on two meshing gears. One set was of metal pins, the matching set of sheet metal.

We couldn't tour the castle itself, but I did walk around the courtyards. It is some sort of hospital, a role it had just before AH took it over to house dissidents in the late 1930s.

The next stop was Altenhain, where our outfit was on VE day. A very small village, it was the most drab of any we had seen. We tried to find someone to get directions to the camp where our battalion had been, but only saw a couple of elderly women working in their small garden. Finally spotted two

Russian enlisted men walking out of town, carrying a sack. Figured they had been 'shopping' and were returning to camp, so I took the road they were on. It quickly deteriorated to a mud road, then a path that ended at the brick wall around the camp for which I was looking.

Two women and a man were standing a few yards from the gate, so I parked and approached them to see if they spoke English. They appeared to be waiting for others to arrive, for they mistook me for one of these and one of the women started to add my name and other into a list they had. Realizing I was not one of those expected, the atmosphere suddenly seemed less friendly. Two other men drove up and joined the group. One was in a uniform I haven't seen before and when I inquired if the encampment had been used for soldiers during the war, I was informed with coolness that it had been.

It was at this time I saw a Russian officer exit the camp and approach the group. Pat had stayed in the car to see how I made out. Prospects did not appear promising, so I decided a little discretion was in order. I bid them good day, withdrew and we made a casual departure. While I had visions for years of touring the camp, I was happy to leave, just having seen from the outside that after 47 years of use by the Russians, it was drastically different. I did have Pat take my picture next to an Altenhain road sign at the edge of town. Without the backup available in 1945, I was ready to return to Frankfurt, content with what I had accomplished. Of course, had I stood my ground, we might have been invited in, feted and given the grand tour. And then again, maybe not.

With the possible exception of the group at Altenhain, everyone we met in both West and East Germany were friendly and helpful. We did discover that the further east we went the fewer people there were who spoke English, so to Pat's amusement I was reduced to relying on what little German I had picked up back when and had never used since. Still, we did get help in finding our way, places to eat and sleep, as well as fuel, so I must have said something right.



Old Schoolhouse, Udenbreth



Udenbreth

Company D, 272nd Infantry Regiment

Submitted by: Richard Bell, R.R. #1, Box 130, Florence, South Dakota 57235



World War II 1st Army V Corps Bridge across the Rhine looking east. Bad Honningen on East Bank. 69th Division vehicles crossed on this, and troops crossed in landing craft from Kaltenbergers on the West Bank to Bendorf on the East Bank.



128mm German gun in railroad yards at Weisenfels, Germany May or June 1945 after VE day - Richard Bell



Drivers in the Eifel Forest on the German-Belgian Border in rain ponchos. Jim Steel, Jim Waugh, Wilbur Shields, Lacombe (mechanic), Dean Nelson, Ted Junkins (transportation corporal), man under Junkins is Dillon, Dick Bell, Ray Evans



Siegfried Line tank stoppers on German-Belgian border.

A few more photos from this group will appear in the next issue of the bulletin.



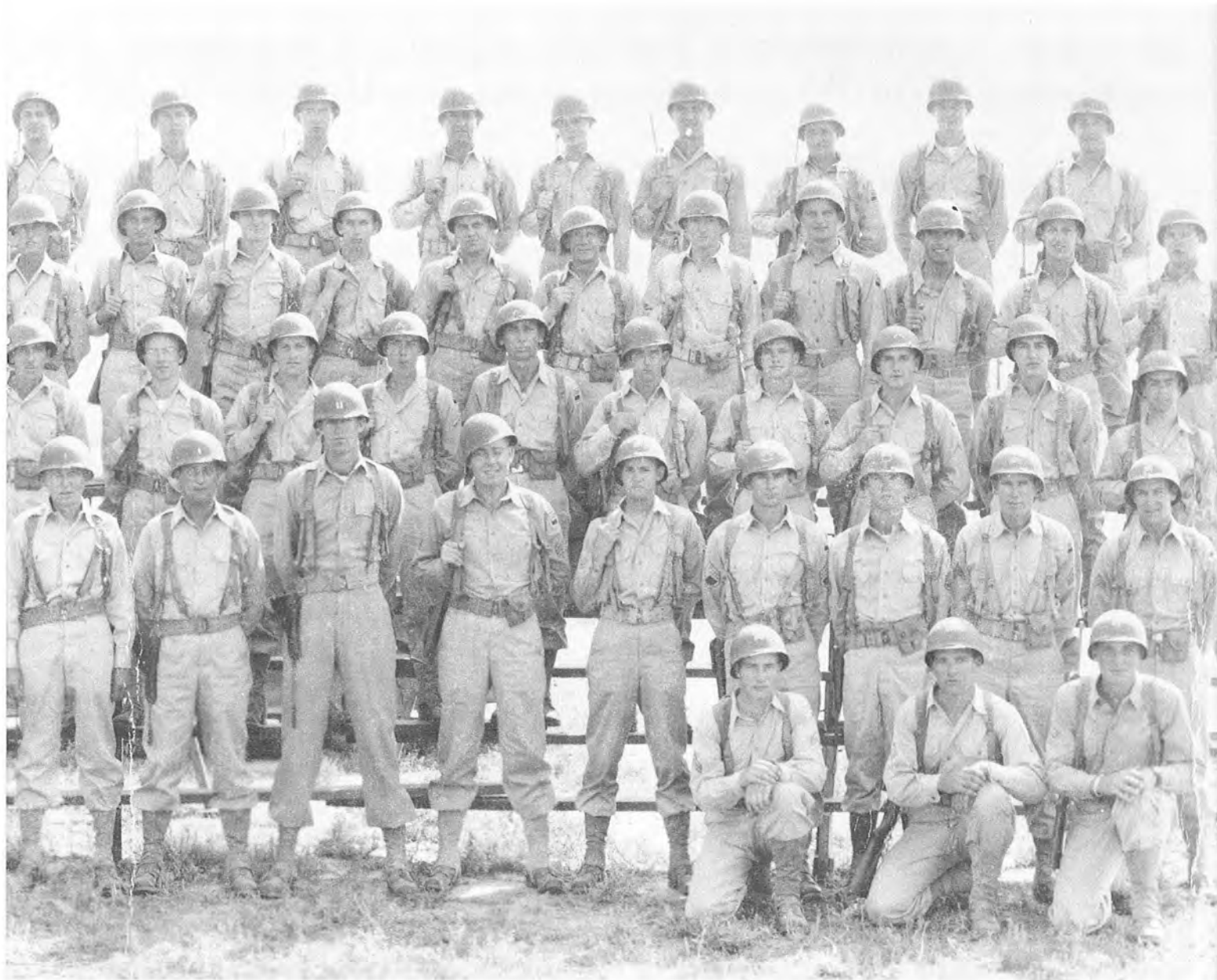
**DUES ARE NOW
PAYABLE FOR
1992-1993**

Starting with the Rochester
Reunion, 1993-1994 Dues will be
changed to \$10.00.

If you can give a little more, please
do so. We need your support NOW.
Costs for printing and mailing are
rising. Thank you.

**Battery A, 879th
Camp Shelby, Miss**

Photo furnished by: Irvin B. Berman, 8606



**h Field Artillery
Mississippi — May 1944**

Pilsen Road, Randallstown, Maryland 21133

**69th Infantry Division
1993**

**46th Annual Reunion
Rochester, New York
August 8th-15th, 1993**

**We will also be
celebrating our
50th Anniversary.
*BE THERE!!!***

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

We are interested in all news from Chapters, Groups, Branches, Companies, Battalions, Regiments, Recon, Artillery, AAA, Units, T.D.'s and any mini for this column, as it may help build up your events. Mail your date(s), location, banquet cost, activities 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 new material, articles and pictures should be mailed. Your Coordinating Manager and Editor will do a superb job of handling it for you, our members.

661st Tank Destroyer Battalion

Bill and Ellen Snidow, *Reporters*
Route 1, Box 303
Pembroke, Virginia 24136
Telephone: 703/626-3557



The 661st Tank Destroyers mini-reunion was held at the Roanoke-Salem Quality Inn on June 5th-7th. The first two days it rained steadily, but in spite of it, many were able to visit the Visitors Center and the City Market with its center-in-the square. We visited the transportation museum (basically railroad), the Dixie Caverns, the Mill Mt. Star and overlook plus other points of interest and some enjoyed shopping. Everyone seemed to enjoy the fun and fellowship. All said the food was good and reasonable and we had no steps to climb.

We had 68 people at the Saturday night banquet, including six First Timers. This must be a record due partly to the urging of Chuck Yannul. We missed Steve Forgas and Dan Russo who cancelled due to minor health problems and the other regulars who had other commitments. The group was impressed with the setup and want to return to the same place next year (1993) on October 14th, 15th and 16th. We are hoping the weather and fall foliage will cooperate.

Below is a list of the attendees with an asterisk denoting First Timers.

Bill and Jo Beswick West Point, Virginia
*John and Peggy O'Haire Spring Lake, Michigan
Bill and Mary Wahl Chagrin Falls, Ohio

Adolph Mena Fairmont City, Illinois
Charles and Frances Yannul Bellmawr, New Jersey
Jules and Pat Slopek Munroe Falls, Ohio
Mike and Dot Kotnik Elyria, Ohio
Bill and Ellen Snidow Pembroke, Virginia
Joe and Marion Jenei Greentown, Ohio
Charles Rodgers and Louise ... James Creek, Pennsylvania
Nelson and Betty Leaman Rheems, Pennsylvania
Stanley and Gertrude Green Battle Creek, Michigan
*Ed and Carol Joyce Zephyrhills, Florida
Ted and Evelyn Mace Mt. Clemens, Michigan
George Ringer and Guest Hope Dale, Ohio
Bob and Olga Nichels Manchester, Michigan
*Fred and Nancy Baumgardner Spring Hill, Florida
Warren and Dot Mitchell Redwood City, California
Harry and Edna Murray Bedford, Virginia
Walter Jamerson and Guests Lynchburg, Virginia
Jack and Jane Sutor Lynchburg, Virginia
Sally Wooley (Mrs. Doc) Pebble Beach, California
Leo and Ellen Levie Baltimore, Maryland
John and Leona Sherlock Pawtucket, Rhode Island
*Murrell Tinch and Guests Suffolk, Virginia
Mel and Ruth Mellinger Wrightville, Pennsylvania
Marcel and Carol Pugsley Nokomis, Florida
Ray and Rosemarie Anderson ... Great Valley, New York
Vito and Theresa Capobianco Brooklyn, New York
Ralph Bragg Chase City, Virginia
Bill and Margaret Dawson Nathalie, Virginia
Vincent and Mrs. Eanes Salem, Virginia
*Earnest Sensabaugh Roanoke, Virginia
*Sam Weaver Radford, Virginia

Central Pennsylvania Branch

Central Pennsylvania, Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Eastern Maryland, Eastern New York plus Long Island and Washington, D.C.

Carl and Mildred Stetler, *Chairpersons*
1704 North Third Street
Reading, Pennsylvania 19601
Telephone: 215/373-7908

Paul and Mayreta Kitner
2814 Hillvale Avenue
West Lawn, Pennsylvania 19609
Telephone: 215/678-4869

Our fall weekend held in York, Pennsylvania was a great success. As far as I know, everyone had a good time. Those who took tours found them very enjoyable and informative.

The Harley Davidson Motorcycle Plant and Museum tour on Friday morning, was well worth the time spent seeing the oldest down to the newest cycle. It was really a treat to just

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

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see the frame start on the assembly line and end up with a complete cycle to be shipped to a distributor. Road testing the bikes was also something to see and yes, they do reject some for modifications.

The afternoon York Haven Hydro Electric Plant was time well spent on Friday. Most of the electric was sold locally as it was a very small operation but expenses were not all that great. More than we can say about some electric power companies.

Saturday was spent in the hospitality room and shopping. Many went to the shops of Lancaster.

Meeting old friends and making new friends is always a pleasure. The Saturday night dinner was very good followed by very enjoyable entertainment. A special thanks to Marty Strausbaugh for the roses she made for the ladies. Bill Foster has agreed to chair the affair next year. Hope to see you there.

Those in attendance were:

271st Infantry Regiment

Irwin Fox	Headquarter Company
Lee Wah	Headquarter Company
Phil and Ruth Delphey	Company B
Charles and Bobbie Nicely	Company B
Richard and Isabelle Yeagley	Company C
Paul and Margie McCombs	Company D
John and Shirley Fleming	Company D
C. Ashmead and Arlene Fuller	Company F
L. Vaughn and Betty Woomeer	Company F
Cecil and Alene Cottle	Company F
John and Pauline Zimmer	Company F
William and Reba Sheavly	Company M
Clarence and Martha Hain	Cannon Company
Jane Lynch	Cannon Company
Regina Potter - Sister	

272nd Infantry Regiment

Raymond and Marty Strausbaugh	Company C
Anees and Barbara Baracat	Company G
Clarence Burke	Company G
Michael and Mary Kertis	Company G
Robert and Vivian Kurtzman	Company I
Pat and Janice Lushbaugh	Company I

273rd Infantry Regiment

Earl and Ann Walters	Headquarter Company
Jacob and Violet Stark	Headquarter Company
Rocco and Rosalie Campana	Headquarter Company
Charles and Lorraine Goodhart	Headquarter Company
Ray Fahrner	Company A
George Wright, Guest	
Glen and Jean Knepp	Company B
Francis and Anna Blais	Company B
Earl and Dorothy Witzleb	Company E
Carl and Berniece McKnair	Company I

269th Engineers

Dan and Helen Evers
Ward and Marian Peterson
Frank and Ted Nemeth
Bill and Betty Foster

661st Tank Destroyer Battalion

Jacob and Betty Inch

777th Tank Battalion

Earl and Dottie Weaver
Ginger Breon - Daughter

Field Artillery Battalions

Paul and Mayreta Kitner	724th
Del and Mary Balzano	879th
Al and Margaret Kormas	879th
Enrico and Anne D'Angelo	880th
Mack and Betty Pusey	881st
Bob and Kathleen Murphy	881st
Jim and Tillie Boris	881st

69th MPs

Frank and Helen Williams

569th Signal Company

Joseph Longo and Guest

Carl and Mildred Stetler

Carl Jr. and Susan Stetler, Son and Daughter-in-Law

California Chapter/ West Coast Group



Bob and Theresa Pierce, News Reporters and Co-Chairmen
144 Nashua Court
San Jose, California 95139
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P.O. Box 2014
Sunnyvale, California 94087-0014
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Response to our Notice of Intent has been anything but earthshaking (no pun intended). We knew the holidays would have some impact upon members sitting down and writing another letter or card. At the San Francisco Reunion, we passed out a questionnaire to the 67 California members who attended; 25 returned the questionnaire with a positive response to forming a chapter.

We are now at the threshold of making the decision of whether or not to continue our organization, based upon having enough members willing to attend our May 14-16, 1993 meeting. Conference/group rates at hotels are variable based upon projected rooms occupied, also a minimum number of rooms must be used. Conference rooms are only complimentary when a special number of rooms are occupied; otherwise, conference rooms vary from \$150 to \$500 per day.

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

(Continued from Page 33)

It's important to let us know as soon as you receive this Bulletin (hopefully about 1 April 1993) if you plan to attend our Charter Meeting of the California Chapter in May. Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope. Information regarding the hotel, meeting place, agenda, etc., will be sent to you. "Don't put this one off any longer."

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.

Also South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi (Until the Southeastern Chapter reorganizes.)

All of the other 50 states invited too, including New England, Eastern States, Mid-West, Mountain States, Far West, Alaska, Hawaii, Texas and ALL OF THE SOUTH.

SO 'YA ALL COME - HEAR

This means you and you and yours (The lovely wife)
Join us in Canaan Valley, Davis, West Virginia
June 9 or 10 thru 13, 1993



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.

*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."*

It may be here and gone before you get this bulletin, but word has been out for a year now so no excuses as far as I'm concerned. We have many who stated they will be in Canaan but only time tells on this.

If you feel you are not on the Tri-State roster, just drop a postcard to Dottie and me asking to be put on the list. We'll get a flyer off to you in early April but remember it might be best to request a room now since we only have 65 at the

lodge area. Some cabins could be available at Canaan should you want a mini weekend with the Tri-State. They have one, two and three room cabins. Also, a camping area is at Canaan so you can pitch a tent and have a bear be your guest or you can bring your camper and be much safer.

We would like a trend started at Tri-State weekends where minis would join us, especially if your group is small and with Taps going like it is, we invite you minis to join us. We'll listen to you, so let us know just what you would like. We might even suggest, as the Division Association tells minis and groups to go out on Friday night before the PX beer party for your banquet, that we would like you to have a Friday night banquet or a Saturday morning breakfast together. We'll even help you plan it. We would like to see the golfers of Tri-State get together on Saturday morning for breakfast before golfing.

We know someday Tri-State, Central Pennsylvania, Mid-West Group and now the California/West Coast Group will be the Division. We hope you other minis, when you get smaller, will join one of the mentioned groups. We also feel the Division Association will remain strong for many years to come if all minis and groups will support the 69th. What's your problem. Remember the 69th should have first consideration and then the minis. Tri-State supports the 69th reunions all the time.

Hope to see many of you at Canaan Valley June 9th or 10th through the 13th, 1993, so we can talk about Rochester on August 8th through 16th, 1993 at the Holiday Inn, Genesee Plaza, 120 East Main Street.

Company E, 273rd Infantry

"THE 273rd STEADILY ADVANCES"

Address is the same as the Tri-State Group

Many E Company members live in the east as well as the Mid-West so let's say Tri-State is where you belong if you can't attend the 69th Infantry Division Association reunions. Time, days, weeks, months, and years are getting shorter, so don't you think it's time for all of us to see one another again. Some E Company members come to Tri-State as you well know if you read the Bulletin, and we do have seven to eleven couples that attend 69th Division reunions almost yearly.

Why not come to both Tri-State at Canaan Valley in June and the Rochester Reunion in August of 1993. Many of you have missed so many that now is the year to start attending, for I know you'll like it and will return. Who said that, "I'll Return." Now you say "I'll be there." GREAT, hope to see you.

Company I, 273rd Infantry

Robert L. Pierce

144 Nashua Court

San Jose, California 95139

Telephone: 408/226-8040

Thanks again for the large Company I, 273rd turnout at the San Francisco Reunion. I am aware that some of you made the long, expensive trip from the East Coast as much in support of Theresa and me as your interest in attending a 69th Division Reunion, and again, we really appreciated the support and assistance you offered.

There is a sad message I must deliver. Jo Ann Rende called to inform us that her husband, Tony, passed away at

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**DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS,
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ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**

(Continued from Page 34)

home on November 20, 1992 after a lingering bout with leukemia. He had the disease about a year and spent the last eight months in a hospital. When he passed away, Tony was only a shadow of the handsome young man we knew and will always remember. The prayers and condolences of all the members of Company I go to **Jo Ann** and her family. **Jo Ann**, please keep in touch, you are always welcome in the Company I Family Circle.

John Sullivan notified us that his dear wife, **Annette**, passed away this summer. **John** did not specify the cause of death; however, it is of the opinion she also was a victim of cancer. Our belated prayers and condolences are with **John** in this time of grief.

Now that the reunion is back in the East, let's mount a drive for a full-scale attendance of Company I, 273rd. Especially some of you guys in the East who have never attended. Warning to **John Gerwin**: "If you don't come to the Rochester Reunion, **Bill Armstrong** and I are going to come up there and drag you out of the woods!"

"Send in your dues!" Company I regular attendees have always been so proud of both the Association and Company I's participation. I was very disappointed to see the list of non-paid Company I members. Come on you guys, pay up, your dues just about cover the cost of preparing, printing, and mailing the Bulletin.

69th Cavalry Recon Troop

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Harold L. and Jeanne Gardner, News Reporters
2929 Mason Avenue
Independence, Missouri 64052
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Lewis "Boyd" and Stella Ellsworth



Harold and Jeanne Gardner

The 41st annual reunion of former members of the 69th Division Recon Troop, held September 25-27, 1992 in Waco, Texas is now history. The Troop was billeted at the Quality Inn of Waco. It was a nice establishment, and after some adjustments were made the majority of us had rooms opening onto the Atrium. A swimming pool, hot tub, exercise room, lounge and dining area were available for those desiring to make use of them. Our reunion host was **Hugh Bob Fuller**.

Two of our couples (**Gardner and Pepper**) arrived on Wednesday and **Fuller** put us to work Thursday morning shopping for supplies and goodies for the Hospitality Room. It was nice to be there early and be able to greet the Troopers and their ladies as they arrived on Thursday and Friday.

On Thursday evening a large group of us went to the LaFiesta restaurant where most of us had some delicious Mexican food and Friday evening we went to a waterfront restaurant on the Brazos River for good ole' American food.

On Friday a large group walked and a smaller group motored to the Texas Ranger Museum. **Fuller** said it was only a "couple" of blocks from the motel but it was more like 6 to 8 blocks. Everything is big in Texas so a "couple" of blocks is equivalent to about a half-mile. Everyone eventually arrived at the museum and the visit was enjoyed by all. The history of the Texas Rangers was reviewed in a movie and all the exhibits of firearms and other Ranger equipment was very interesting. Various other areas of Waco were visited by some of our folks and some were even given a guided tour of the **Fuller** business establishment.

On Saturday morning at approximately 1000 hours, the Troopers assembled in the Hospitality Room for our usual short business meeting. Of course the main topic of discussion was the selection of a location for the 1993 reunion.

Jerry Leib presented a plan that we meet in Oshkosh, Wisconsin in the last weekend of August at the Oshkosh Hilton. The reunion will be co-hosted by **Jerry** and **Ed Sivas**. **Jerry's** recommendation was agreed on by those present. You will be receiving information at a later date as more definite arrangements are made. Put a note on your 1993 calendars now of the dates of August 27-29, 1993 and reserve those dates to be with your Recon buddies.

It was also the consensus of those present that our 1994 reunion should be held somewhere in the Eastern part of the U.S.; Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, or Washington, D.C. Any of you fellows who would be receptive to hosting the 1994 reunion in the Eastern area should present your recommendations at Oshkosh.

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On Saturday some of our ladies and fellows visited some of the local business establishments and returned with Western duds, shoes and even some watches. Leave it to our ladies to find the bargains.

Our dinner on Saturday evening was a buffet of BBQ meats and all the trimmings and side dishes. It was held in a large private dining room at the Quality Inn. Plenty of good food was available and we did our part in reducing the quantity of it on hand. Lloyd Abbott did the honors with the blessing.

After dinner Boyd Ellsworth asked for a moment of silence in honor of those departed members of our Recon family. The Troopers rose as Hugh Fuller, our Texas Trumpeteer blew Taps. It stirred the emotions of us all and many a Trooper was misty eyed as we remembered those who are no longer with us.

Boyd Ellsworth then presented a plaque to Harold Gardner on behalf of the Troop in appreciation of his dedication and loyalty. (I thought that was carrying things a little too far. HG) Gardner maintains a current roster of the outfit and issues a periodic newsletter to keep all our family pretty well up to date with what's going on with our folks. Boyd made the plaque and the walnut wood came for his own land. (Thanks very much Boyd. It is a beautiful plaque and very much appreciated. It now hangs in my little corner of the Gardner family room along with other Recon reunion photographs, etc. As we have said in the past: You Troopers send us the data and we will get it out to the rest of the fellows. HG)

Then as has been the custom established a number of years ago, each of the Troopers rose and related events effecting himself and/or his family since the last reunion. Lewis Hill read some excerpts from a letter he wrote to his family when censorship was lifted after World War II. He related some of his experiences after leaving Camp Shelby to the end of the fighting in Europe. It was very interesting. Hap Stambaugh also related some of his experiences at the time he was part of the group assigned to guard General Reinhardt. He had some very exciting experiences and we enjoyed him relating them to us. Thank you Hill and Stambaugh.

After we snapped some pictures with the fellows grouped together by Platoons, we adjourned to the Hospitality Room to continue our discussion (?) of just how Recon won the war. You don't believe that? Just ask any Trooper. As the Cavalry Motto indicates: HALF AS BIG, TWICE AS TOUGH!!

Again this year, we missed our beloved "Ole Sarge." Hank and Lillian Weiman were unable to be with us. You were both missed greatly. We were very sorry to receive the information that Lillian has a serious medical condition which did not enable them to travel at this time. Also we were saddened to hear that Loretta Veazy, wife of Frank, has some problems which also made it impossible for them to be with us. All of you were missed and our prayers include the hope for your improvement so you can all be with us next year.

Also missed were our other regular and semi-regular reunion attendees who were unable to be with us. We hope to see all of you next year in Wisconsin.

We were very pleased to have Lenke Treible, widow of Art with us. She felt that Art would have wanted her to be there. We loved having you Lenke, and please come again. We also missed Mary Paradine, wife of Rodney. Mary had been with

us the last couple of years. Another surprise was the attendance of Jean Abbott, wife of Lloyd. Jean has recovered sufficiently to make the trip to Oklahoma. It was great seeing you Jean.

All our ladies are a very important part of our reunions and we are always glad to have them with us. It would be great if some of our other Troopers' widows could attend.

Including our Host and his lady friend, the following answered roll call:

table>
Hugh Fuller and Joan	Texas
Lloyd and Jean Abbott	Oklahoma
Boyd and Stella Ellsworth	Ohio
Gordon and Fern Ewing	Florida
Wayne and Dorothy Frazier	Mississippi
Harold and Jeanne Gardner	Missouri
Getty and Lucy Glatfelly	Washington State
Lewis and Janie Hill	Texas
Jerry Leib and Judie Leonard	California
Elmer and Ernestine McClain	Texas
Mike and Mary Moscaritolo	New Jersey
Herb and Eileen Norman	Colorado
Floyd Opdyke and Evelyn	New Jersey
Wally and Carolyn Pepper	Florida
Charlie Rice	Oklahoma
Bones and Mable Schueler	Ohio
Hap and Maxine Stambaugh	Pennsylvania
Cowboy and Janet Vaughan	Virginia
Freddy and Ginny Vaughn	Maryland
Bob and Jean West	Ohio
Fred and Fran Wohlers	Florida
Lenke Treible	Ohio

We also had several guests with us. Attending with the McClains, were their son David, daughter Cindy, and granddaughters Amanda and Dana. Jerry Leib's nephew and wife were also with us a short while. Come again folks. You're always welcome.

Now to you Troopers who have never made a reunion, or haven't made one in a number of years. Time continues to pass and we only grow older. Note your calendars now of the dates of August 27-29, 1993, and be with us in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. We would sure love to see you there.

The newsletter we have started is getting a good reception. How about you fellows we never hear from dropping us a line and let us know you're getting the newsletter. Let us know what you're doing and we'll pass it along.

Actually most of our time at the reunions is spent in the vicinity of the Hospitality Room and the adjacent area where we share good conversation and tasty food. We rehash our war stories, recall memories of our experiences during our time at Camp Shelby, England and Europe, and look at numerous photographs brought in by some of the fellows.

The camaraderie and warmth of our group continues to increase with each of our reunions. Our ladies also share a closeness that has developed over the years. We have truly become a family.

All you fellows, Write, Call or Visit some of your buddies. We know that some of them are physically unable to make our reunions. They would love to hear from you.

Again Fuller, thanks for a very nice reunion. For being the first reunion held west of the Mississippi, we feel it was very successful. It was great to see our regulars from back East show up.

TAKE CARE, BE GOOD TO EACH OTHER AND MAY GOD'S PRESENCE WATCH OVER ALL OF US.

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269th Engineers

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



Hello again:

Hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and may 1993 be good to you all.

Well, it seems like all the 69ers I heard from over the holidays are doing well. Glad to hear that Bill Clayton of Company C is doing just fine. After being down for a while, he is looking forward to the next reunion. Herm Burkett of Company B is going along strong after passing his 85th birthday. I don't know who the oldest member is since Gene "Hug" Huggins of Company B should be in that contest somewhere.

Enclosed are a couple of photos that I just received. One from "Mac" McConhay, H&S Company, of Major Holmlin and Captain Davis (*see following page*) which was taken back in 1943 at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. The photo below was probably taken in England at the Christmas party for the kids. In the photo, I recognized two jeep drivers from Company B. They are Al Winchester near the top and between the jeeps wearing a tie, and Johnnie Jones trying to light a cigarette. This photo was furnished by Kim Packard of Company A. Kim Packard also let me have a few other photos that I'll put in the future bulletins, so if any of you guys have any photos, old or new, send them in to the bulletin or send them to me and I'll see that they get in and also returned.

One other thing, if you guys get the 69th Division Bulletin and enjoy it, please send your dues in to help pay for it. I was

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informed that the 269th Engineers was one of those members who don't pay their dues. So, if you can spare the \$10.00, it would be appreciated.

Take care and try to make one of the next reunions, either a local one or really try and make the next 69th Division Reunion in Rochester, New York. It should be a real good one - good tours, good hotel and good friendship.

Your "Ole" Pal,
Frank Nemeth



Major Holmlin and Captain Davis

Company I, 271st Infantry

Leigh Tenney, News Reporter

3508 Sevier

North Little Rock, Arkansas 72116

Telephone:

Company I, 271st Infantry held its first mini-reunion at the Pittsburgh Vista May 1st-3rd, 1992. Gene and Mary Lou O'Leary hosted the event which was the first time since 1945 that many of us had been together.

In addition to Gene and Mary Lou O'Leary the event was attended by Bill Dahoda, Dick Haines, Jack and Geneva Harrison, Bob and Phyllis Jorgenson, Hy and MaeRita Kurfirst, Bob McMillan, Leigh Tenney and Murray "Woody" Woodside.

We all had a great time renewing friendships, and telling war stories as well as being treated to a tour of Pittsburgh, and Lindenhall Mansion by Gene and Mary Lou and Woody Woodside. After the tour we were entertained at the home of Gene and Mary Lou O'Leary.

We all enjoyed the occasion so much that we plan to meet again in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 30th to May 2nd, 1993. I am enclosing an announcement of that meeting and ask that you publish it in the next bulletin.

All of us want to express our appreciation for all the work you and others do on behalf of the association and particularly for the excellent bulletin. We agreed unanimously that of all the organizations and associations to which we belong, the bulletin of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association, Inc. is, by far, the best.

Earl's Note: Sorry you didn't let me know you were at the Pittsburgh Vista or Lindenhall Mansion. I don't live that far from Pittsburgh, you know.



The Boys of Company I, 271st Infantry. Back Row: Leigh Tenney, Hy Kurfirst, Jack Harrison, Gene O'Leary, Murray "Woody" Woodside. Front Row: Bob McMillan, Bill Dahoda, Dick Haines, Bob Jorgenson

Company M, 271st Infantry

William "Bill" and Reba Sheavly, News Reporters

218 Sacred Heart Lane

Reistertown, Maryland 21136

Telephone: 301/833-2771

The first item is that I wish to acknowledge the work that Bob and Theresa Pierce and their committee did to make the San Francisco Reunion an overwhelming success.

This reunion was particularly meaningful to me (and of course Reba) inasmuch as I saw for the first time in 47 years members of M Company, 271st. James Stacy who was Company Commander, Foster Hibbard, Jim Shoemaker and Larry Heath. To be able to see these men again after all this time makes these reunions all worthwhile and I am appreciative of them for coming to the reunion. All have indicated that they will make every effort to attend the reunion in Rochester, New York in 1993.

I have been in further contact with Paul Wright and Sam Talley, who in turn contacted Jack Boyle. If all turns out as I am hoping we could have a larger attendance from Company M, 271st than we have ever had in the 22 years that I have been attending. We sincerely hope that everyone listed above and others, unknown at this time, will take the time to attend. As time continues to grow shorter for each of us.



Jim Shoemaker and James Stacy

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Company M, 271st Members: Jim Shoemaker, Larry Heath, Foster Hibbard and Bill Sheavly.

Company G, 272nd Infantry

Irwin Saltzman, News Reporter
7 140th N.W. 45th Court
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33319-4066

I wish to let you know that I will try to make the 1994 reunion in Nashville, Tennessee. This will be my first reunion with the 69th Division. My name is **Irwin Saltzman**, Company G, 272nd Infantry. I was with the 69th Division all the way through the war.

I am just recuperating from a quintuple by-pass surgery. I had 5 blockages in my heart. Thank God I am doing well. I am also a grandfather of a new born boy called Brandon Frank. That's my third grandchild. The other two are Peter, 6 years old and Elizabeth, 5 years of age. I also have two boys and a daughter, David, Ian and Michele.

I am retired as a pharmacist. My wife, **Marilyn**, is still working at Burdine's Inc. department store in Florida affiliated with Federated Department Stores.

That's about all I have to say. See you in Nashville, Tennessee. Give my regards to **Clarence Burke** and **Anees Barakat** and family.

Headquarters Battery 880th Field Artillery

John O'Connor, President and News Reporter
9321 Jefferson Avenue
Brookfield, Illinois 60513
Telephone: 708/387-7809

Emil A. Paoletta, Vice-President
54 Skyview Drive
Brunswick, Ohio 44212

Stuart W. McGowan, Secretary-Treasurer
Route 1
Eagle Bridge, New York 12057
Telephone: 518/686-5906

Our Headquarters Battery had a very nice reunion at Greensburg, Pennsylvania this past June of 1992 and we all enjoyed getting together once again. This reunion was our fifth in a row and we hope we can keep this record going. Those in attendance were: **Stan and Georgia Bratt**, **Al Brier**, **Stuart and Elinor McGowan**, **Gene and Carolyn McGreevy**, **John and Peggy O'Connor**, **Emil and Peggy Paoletta**, **Michael and Lucille Pendrick**, **Rico and Anne D'Angelo**, **Al and Marge Kormas**, **Bob and Marilyn McKee**, and **Peter Schumacher**.

Pete was a surprise attendee and it was great to see him. I hadn't seen Pete in 47 years. He came all the way from Iowa.

We would have had better attendance, but there were a few on the sick list. **Larry Adler** had by-pass surgery and is on the road to recovery according to his recent letter. **Neno Sassone** is also through with his treatments and is getting along well per his last recent word. That news was good to hear and we wish them well in 1993. **Stu McGowan** had a hospital stay also but is okay. Soon after **Stu** came home, his wife **Elinor** underwent surgery and is recuperating at home. I had a nice phone call from **John Cooper** and he is doing well after a little surgery in October. His wife **Doris** is also doing well after some eye surgery in 1992.

Sorry I have to report an addition to the Taps list as **Harold "Bill" Hoarn** passed away in September of 1992. He had attended some of our reunions and will be missed by our members. He was a wire section corporal in our Battery and always did a good job, especially when we were in combat.

This is to advise you that our mini-reunion will be held in conjunction with the National Reunion at Rochester, New York in 1993. I have written two letters to the Holiday Inn but have had no reply from them. Maybe they do not want the extra business. The first letter was written one month ago.

Following are some photographs from our reunion.



Lucille and Mike Pendrick



Emil and Peggy Paoletta

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Al and Marge Kormas



Front Row: Emil Paoletta, Mike Pendrick, Stan Bratt, Gene McGreevy. Back Row: John O'Connor, Enrico D'Angelo, Peter Schumacher, Al Brier, Al Kormas, Bob McKee, Stuart McGowan.



Bob and Marilyn McKee, Stuart and Elinor McGowan



Al Brier, Peter Schumacher and Emil Paoletta



Anne and Rico D'Angelo



Peggy and John O'Connor and others

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Carolyn and Gene McGreevy

880th Field Artillery, A Battery

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

May I please have a picture of you and your wife with your next article, plus her name.

A Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion, held its 7th Annual Reunion at Shoney's Inn in Lexington, Kentucky, September 24-26, 1992. It was a resounding success and was attended by a record-breaking total of 52 people, with representation from two other battalions in the 69th Division Artillery.

Thirty-nine of those attending were from A Battery. They were James and Geneva Bilbrey, John and Patricia Barnett, Mayor (Concordia, Kansas) Isadore and Ruth Bombardier, Frank and Dorothy Cavlovic, Bill Dunn, Tom and Betty Ellis, Lloyd and Janice Gerth, Vincent Ignatosky, Delmar and Betty Jeffries, Bill and Anne Johnson, Rex and Ruby Sausaman, Henry and Irene Tipperreiter, Frank and Carol Zavodsky, Joe and Shirley Zidian (with son and daughter and their spouses), Dan and Zora May Eidson (with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Eidson and Mr. and Mrs. Troy Gullede), Bob and Irene McCarthy, and Margie Harreld.

B Battery, 880th attendees were Joy Northern and Louis Calderone, with wife Catherine and son David.

C Battery 880th visitors were Dr. Lewis and Fern Pugh and Enrico and Anne D'Angelo.

Visitors from other battalions were G.P. and Margrit Frasier and Al and Marge Kormas of the 879th Field Artillery, and Carl Schumaker of the 881st Field Artillery. Carl is now a dues-paying member of A Battery.

On Friday morning our group toured several horse farms and the local race track. In the afternoon we visited the Wild Turkey Distillery (no samples).

Saturday night our annual banquet was held in adjacent Shoney's Restaurant. We then adjourned to our spacious meeting room in the motel where our business meeting was

presided over by our President, James Bilbrey, who did an outstanding job in making arrangements for the reunion. A moment of silence was observed for B.B. Baker, who recently passed away. General discussion followed and it was agreed that we would meet in Lexington again in 1993. We were pleased to receive a phone call from Glenn Blake, former Battalion Executive Officer of the 880th, who wished us well.

Final goodbyes were said on Sunday morning and all departed with a good impression of Lexington and a desire to see more of it next year. It is hoped that those who took photos will send me a few good ones to be submitted for later publication.

880th Field Artillery, C Battery

Lowell McFarlin, News Reporter
89 North High Street
Box 236
Jeromesville, Ohio 44840
Telephone: 419/368-7363

REUNION REPORT

For those of us that were able to attend the Eureka Springs reunion, this report will surely bring back memories of a great time in a lovely area of the country, and for those who were unable to attend, I hope this accounting will bring you some measure of satisfaction by knowing what took place.

The trip to Arkansas was long for most of us, but an interesting journey. The sights along the way were entertaining, if that can be said for interstate freeway travel. But the changes in the terrain along the way made one realize the differences in this great country of ours.

Upon arriving at Eureka Springs at about 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, the 27th of September, we found many of our C Battery friends were already there, and the rest arrived shortly after. Following our dinner at Sheridan's Buffet, we car pooled out to see the Great Passion Play. Everyone seemed to feel that the two hours of the play was time well spent.

On Monday, the 28th, we went for a trolley ride (rides) touring the historic and shopping loops of the town, and spent most of the day sightseeing and shopping at the many small shops in the main part of town. The evening meal was at Martha's Restaurant after which we returned to our rooms and hospitality room for our white elephant exchange. Helen Wallace now has the honor of "keeper of THE TIE." You should see LeRoy's slippers! Ray Mills was the recipient of Bill Sells' care package. Bill really had it loaded with many, many goodies. You missed it by not seeing the mug he had in it. Oh my, Bill, where do you find all these things!

Tuesday morning we again car pooled a few miles out into the hills to view the beautiful Thornhill Chapel. The setting of this unique glass architectural design on the side of a hill in the woods was quite inspiring - a "must see site" - if you are ever in the vicinity.

The men's business meeting was held upon returning to the motel and the rest of the day was spent shopping, sightseeing, snacking, resting and visiting. Following the evening meal at the Pine Mountain Village, we all attended the Pine Mountain Jamboree - a very fine country music show with a comedian who kept the show moving at a very fast pace. We all enjoyed the show very much.

Wednesday, the 30th, was another day for each of us to use as we pleased - some visiting, shopping, and some taking

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a train ride up the valley and back. The evening meal was at "Cuz'n Derfs," a family owned restaurant. There we were entertained by four lovely sisters who sang for us. They later served as our waitresses. Then on to the theater to see "Ozark Mountain Hoedown" - another delightful country music show.

Upon returning to our motel, we spent some time saying our farewells for another year as many wanted to get an early start for home in the morning. Once again on Thursday morning our final farewells and we brought to an end another very successful and enjoyable C Battery reunion.

I might add that this is a reunion that Don Henson is very likely to remember because he had the misfortune of suffering a broken arm resulting from a fall on the hillside by the motel. We hope all is well by now Don.

Again, we all wish to thank Bill and Correne for a wonderful time spent in their part of the country and for providing us with another unforgettable experience at the Eureka Springs 1992 reunion.

Those attending this year were: Lew and Fern Pugh, Lowell and Marjorie McFarlin, Lee and Betty Meyers, Vera

881st Field Artillery C Battery

Harold J. Early, News Reporters
6530 Hamden Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44130-4045

With all the enthusiasm by C Battery, 881st Field Artillery Battalion of the 69th Division, a mini army reunion was held in Canton, Ohio on October 1st through 4th. The group was welcomed by the Holiday Inn with splendid hospitality, where they were headquartered.

C Battery, members that attended were: Joseph Conner, Pleas Copas, Harold Early, George Ehll, Lester Hart, Albert Jones, Daniel Jones, Hugh Milstead, Paul Molinari, Carl Schumaker, Eugene Schollenberger, George Vasil and Zigfrid Walczak. Wives and guests of the members also attended.

The group enjoyed Canton and Akron and the surrounding areas, as Canton and Akron are cities where there is much to discover and enjoy. Whether it is history, sports, music, art, theatre, a trip to the zoo, shopping, dining, or just plain relaxing, they have it all.

Some of the highlights were: The Football Hall of Fame, 356th Fighter Bomber Group Restaurant, McKinley National Museum, Classic Car Museum, Overture Restaurant and Supper Club in Canton, Ohio and Stan Hywet Manor and Gardens in Akron, Ohio. Also toured WBNX TV55 and Life of Christ

and Howard Whitfield, LeRoy and Lela Robinson (guests - Vera's brother and wife), Joe and Dottie Damato, John and Helen Wallace, Bud and Millie Henson, Don and Noi Henson, (guests - Henson's son and wife), Bill and Inez Sells, Don and Florence Johnson, LeRoy Goetz, Jack and Marion Schuld, (guests - LeRoy's brother-in-law and wife), Enrico and Anne D'Angelo, Al and Margaret Kormas (guests of Rico and Anne), Ray Mills, Ralph and Dorothy Cowin, Cliff and Katherine Ely, and our gracious hosts, Bill and Correne Leslie.

* * *

DO YOU REMEMBER

How CCC made men out of many young enrollees
Making all kinds of clothes from feed sacks - patches
Stuffing straw under rugs to save on heating bills

Box suppers

Orphan Annie's decoder pin

Dust Bowl

Hobos

Model T's

Trolley Cars

If any of these things bring back memories, you ought to read a book that we recently purchased. It is titled "We Had Everything But Money." It is a book filled with priceless memories of the great depression. I guess it is really good to read and remember some of the stories that most of us remember so well. The stories are written by people in their own words - what it was like when banks closed and hearts opened.

Exhibit and the Cathedral Buffet in Cuyahoga Falls. This group also enjoyed the beautiful scenery and sights in Norton, Ohio.

The reunion was finalized with the buffet breakfast at the Holiday Inn on Sunday Morning. Everyone had a great time being together. Saying goodbye was not an easy thing to do. This reunion will live in the memories of all, as the friendships and hospitality given wherever we traveled will never be forgotten in Beautiful Ohio.

The reunion was planned and organized by Albert P. Jones and Mary Ann Early, wife of Harold J. Early.

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First Row: Mildred Copas. Second Row: Mary Ann Early, Jennie Vasil, Ruth Ehll, Josephine Molinari, Sybil Conner, Dorothy Milstead. Third Row: Al Jones, Joan Jones. Fourth Row: Zigfrid Walczak, Harold Early, Eugene Schollenberger, George Vasil, George Ehll, Paul Molinari, Carl Schumaker, Hugh Milstead, Daniel Jones, Lester Hart, Joe Conner, Pleas Copas

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C Battery, 881st Field Artillery

First Row: Albert Jones, Carl Schumaker, Hugh Milstead, George Vasil. Second Row: Zigfrid Walczak, Eugene Shollenberger, Joseph Conner, Daniel Jones, Pleas Copas. Third Row: George Ehll, Lester Hart, Paul Molinari, Harold Early and Donald Stortz (Eugene Shollenberger's brother-in-law)



First Row: Ruth Ehll, Dorothy Milstead, Josephine Molinari, Mary Ann Early, Jennie Vasil, Mildred Copas. Second Row: Veta Hix, daughter of the Pleas, Sybil Conner and Joan Jones



Football Hall of Fame, Canton, Ohio



Photo taken at the 356th Fighter Group Bomber Squadron Restaurant - Replica of base in Suffolk, England.

First Row: Albert Jones, Carl Schumaker, George Vasil, Harold Early, Lester Hart. Second Row: Joe Conner, Hugh Milstead. Third Row: Eugene Shollenberger, Daniel Jones, Paul Molinari, Zigfrid Wolczak, Pleas Copas, George Ehll



McKinley National Museum, Canton, Ohio

First Row: Josephine Molinari, Mary Ann Early. Second Row: Mildred Milstead, Ruth Ehll, Jennie Vasil, Dorothy Milstead. Third Row: Sybil Conner, Veta Hix, George Vasil

All Photos Sent By: Harold J. Early

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461st AAA, Battery D

Guy and Ruth Stamey, News Reporters

Route 5, Box 73

Candler, North Carolina 28715

Telephone: 704/667-9526

DEAR 461st MEMBERS AND FAMILIES:

It's been a long time - too long since we have heard from most of you. We hope this finds you well and ready for a big Christmas.

Alden, Edd and I are getting along fairly well. Just our aches and pains. Ruth, Mary and Mahyn are O.K. also. John English is recovering very well from a stroke. Verna has been in the hospital but is home now. We want to ask everyone to write them a letter and tell them how glad we are of John's recovery and wish Verna well. Their address is: 444 Rigley Road, #119, Mesa, Arizona 85206. This would be a good Christmas for them.

Edd and Guy are at my house (Alden's) at this moment. They look pretty good considering the many years they have passed. We are grateful we can put one foot before the other.

We mourn the passing of Steve Mattox, Conly Wilde, Haywood Lassiter, Boon Moody and Jim Revis since our last reunion. Also, the wives of Jim Revis, Lonnie Israel, Boon Moody and Carl Mosher. Our numbers are getting smaller so let's make a great effort to be present at our June 17th, 18th and 19th Reunion. We should do just as well as the 69th. They have just had a great one in San Francisco. Remember, this could be the last one for many of us.

Harold Furry, Joe Kelley and Carl Mosher are planning to attend for the first time.

George Duke has had a heart attack but reports he is doing well. Many we have heard from are having health problems.

We are including a beautiful tribute to every veteran. Jackie Collins, pastor of Guy's church, gave this to all veterans of Ridgeway Baptist Church. We hope you will enjoy this. *(EDITOR'S NOTE: "A Veteran" is found elsewhere in this Bulletin.)*

About the middle of April, we will send you the program of activities and the prices and names of some of the motels. Let us hear from you and give us your idea about what you would like to include. Hope you had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,
Guy, Edwin and Alden

Headquarters Battery and Medical Detachment 461st AAA AW Battalion

Francis H. Breyette

1137 Orkla Drive

Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427-4441

This past October 9th, 10th and 11th were indeed memorable days as we celebrated the 50th ANNIVERSARY of the activation of the 461st AAA AW Battalion at Camp Haan, California, September 1st, 1942.

This year as last, our CP was the Quality Motel in Salem, Virginia. Over the weekend we reveled in the company of our wartime comrades, their wives and members of their families, 56 in all. It was another weekend well worth waiting a year for and we made the most of it.

We learned of the passing of three of our men since our last gathering. Fred Dawson who had been confined to a nursing home for several years. John Shartzter from Ohio who had been at our 1983 weekend, and a shocker, Edward Hales from Zebulon, North Carolina of Mudcat baseball fame, who was buried on Friday, October 9th at 11:00 a.m., just as we were beginning to gather for our weekend. In my Christmas letter of 1991 I believe I had advised you of the passing of Harve Clear which occurred on December 4th, 1991. Our deepest sympathies go out to their wives and families. It all brings to mind with a clarion call, try not to miss a reunion. As with any age, and particularly at ours, one never knows which will be the last. Believe me, we desire to savor every moment possible in your company.

Katherine Trail was missed this year. Seems she fell and fractured a couple of ribs. Have a quick recovery, Katherine and know that you were missed. Marie Cassell was ill also and unable to attend with Filmore. Another young lady who had become a regular and was missed was Brooke Blattner, granddaughter of Milford and Letha Moore. Brook was needed at home as special company was due. We do thank Chris Blattner for being with us and for bringing Milford and Letha Moore all the way from Missouri to be with us. Along with them and first time visitors were Howard and Millie Thompson, Milford's sister and her husband. This is a yearly trip for Chris and we are truly grateful to him.

We also were delighted to greet and enjoy two first timers to our weekend. Bill (Mac) McClelland, battery mailman, who found us this past summer through our advertising and flew in from San Diego and swears he will never miss another. James and Maxie Arnold came in Saturday afternoon for a few hours and were properly greeted. They also had heard of our gatherings this past summer and we hope to have them back with us in future years.

Friday was spent in getting settled, going through albums that some had brought. Frenchy had his covering all the weekends and one of interest was that brought by Cecil Twigg covering pictures of their new home in Maryland where a mini reunion was held this past summer.

Steve and Cindy Lucas had brought in three inch pins on buttons, reddish in color, with the coast artillery logo and the coast artillery bird, the Oozlefinch in yellow, with white lettering for the Battalion, with larger white letters across the bottom reading 50 YEARS. Mac and Madge Morris who jointly hold the duties of Secretary furnished 2 1/4 inch yellow buttons with black lettering showing 461st Battalion, Headquarters Battery and the Medical Detachment plus the years 1942-1992 and the person's name. Made a nifty little name badge and we thank all concerned for their thoughtfulness and ingenuity.

We spent Saturday without being apart, were surprised by Steve and Cindy Lucas and Ed Griffin serving snacks that took the place of lunch. Our sit-down supper was a delicious buffet served in the Montgomery Room following a prayer of thanksgiving offered by Ed Moore and a moment of silence to honor our fallen brothers and sisters.

Louis Jones, our super Master of Ceremonies now took over. Linda Truitt and Margaret Bryson passed out favors to all, and the women drew numbers for door prizes. Steve Lucas presented a package to Frenchy Breyette guaranteed to keep one's ego humble. At last year's reunion he was

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

(Continued from Page 44)

photographed while giving a talk and it was the most gosh-awful shot of the century. Steve had this photo reproduced on a coffee mug and presented it to me. It is now exposed in a prominent spot in the house for all to see. Thanks Steve, I really like it, and it does keep me humble.

Louis Jones now directed the business meeting. Eddie Griffin agreed to take over the reins again in making the arrangements for 1993. Mac and Madge Morris will continue as Secretary and Frenchy will continue as News Reporter. Tom Musselwhite's son Patrick volunteered to arrange transportation for a shopping trip by the women in 1993. It was voted to stay at Quality Inn in 1993 and a number of our people made reservations for our 1993 Reunion before leaving for home on Sunday. How is that for enthusiasm? A letter in response to an invitation from Colonel John Bonner was read expressing regret in not being able to be with us. What an evening that would have been! Frenchy gave a background talk on the battalion cadre. The meeting was then adjourned and we closed out the evening with our regular photo session.

Most of our people left on Sunday morning but there was still one important family to come. The Bruce Marshall family from Scottsville, Virginia arrived near noon. Bruce had to work a football game for the University of Virginia the day before and they were unable to come. Susie had written me asking if we would still be there on Sunday and her boys were threatening to walk in order to see us. We had planned on leaving on Monday but would have stayed in any event in order to see them. In just a few short years they have become closer than family. It was a joyous meeting with those of us who were left. It was surprising how the children had grown just since last year, and they are becoming such remarkable young people. All who were left had lunch together followed by a few very close hours together before the Marshall family had to leave for home.

That left the Breyettes, Brysons, Truitts, Ullerys, Twiggs, McClelland, Steve and Cyndy Lucas and Ed Griffin to fend for ourselves, so supper was held at a favorite Cracker Barrel restaurant followed by an evening of nearness. Breakfast

together Monday in the motel and then a period of time spent trying to tear ourselves away from each other and start for home. Thus ended what was considered our best and warmest reunion. We had a number of people who did not or were unable to attend. To those, we all most sincerely hope to see them next year.

Following is a list of all who were in attendance. No addresses are given as they appear on our roster. You will receive the addresses of our first timers.

James and Maxie Arnold, J.D. and Phyllis with her sister Francis, Chris Blattner, Francis and Eleanor Breyette, Joe and Margaret Bryson, Filmore Cassell, John and Elsie Chambliss, Roy and Ethel Currier, Betty Gamble, Conley and Viola Gamble, Eddie Griffin, Louis and Ruth Jones, Paul and Bertha Kowalczyk, John and Connie Lane, Steve and Cyndy Lucas, Bruce and Susie Marshall with sons John Scott, Travis and daughter Hanna, Mac and Madge Morris, Ed and Belle Moore, Milford and Letha Moore, William E. McClelland, Tom and son Patrick Musselwhite, Howard and Maxine Sandefur, Howard and Millie Thompson, Ben and Linda Truitt, Sherman and Irma Twigg, Wally and Betty Ullery, Allen and Dorothy Whitley and her aunt Carrie Scott, and last but certainly not least, Ralph and Isabel Yingling.

Earl's Note: To Headquarters Battery and Medical Detachment 461st AAA AW Battalion and other Battalions of the 461st AAA. You will note in the bulletin that the 69th dues go to \$10.00 for 1993-1994. No more five dollar bills since this cost really covers nothing anymore. Our expenses continue to climb as all things have been climbing in recent years. We have been fortunate to have some members mailing more than \$10.00 not only for dues but to help defray the cost of bulletins and postage. We are beginning to hurt with many of the names being put on Taps. Some of them were our best dues payers, which means we need replacements to take over in their loss to us. I hate to see the bulletins be shortened any more than the 60 pages, since the last bulletin was 70 pages and 10 pages had to be cut off. I hope they can be included in this number 2 Bulletin.

We too would like to see some of the many wonderful couples the 461st has and hope that many will make their way to Rochester, New York in August. I feel the itinerary of the week is the type Headquarters Battery and Medical members go for. You can read about it elsewhere in this bulletin.

Company H 273rd Infantry

This picture was taken at a mini-reunion held in Princeton, New Jersey on November 1, 1992.

Outer Circle:

Bernie Shamanowitz,
Dick Henderson, Tom Hoffman,
Bob Andrew, Charlie Locke,
Bert Eckert.

Foreground:

Ed Dragasitz, Steve Wythe

Picture furnished by:
Bert Eckert

130 Exeter Street
Brooklyn, New York 11235



Ross Medical/Veterinary Scholarships for 69ers' Children or Grandchildren are worth \$40,000 to \$48,000

In our No. 2 Bulletin last year, we announced that Dr. Robert Ross (I-272), a member of our Association, had offered the 69th Division a scholarship to attend either the School of Medicine or the School of Veterinary Medicine of Ross University. One scholarship was offered and there was no requirement for any financial input by the Association. In response to our announcement, a number of inquiries were received and Dr. Ross sent out college catalogs and application packages to the inquirers. However, no completed applications were received thereafter.

Dr. Ross has kindly agreed to repeat his offer for another year, so we are describing it again as follows:

ESTIMATED VALUE OF SCHOLARSHIP

School of Medicine (Dominica, West Indies)

ITEM	PAID BY SCHOLARSHIP	PAID BY STUDENT
Tuition, 4 semesters	\$4,990/semester	
Room and Board		\$1500-\$2000/semester
Miscellaneous Fees		\$1600
Tuition, 6 semesters of clinical rotation	\$4,570/semester	\$2,500
Room and Board		Student Responsibility
Fees & Insurance		\$1700
Total free tuition	\$47,380	

School of Veterinary Medicine (St. Kitts, West Indies)

Tuition, 6 semesters	\$6,450/semester	
Room and Board		Student Responsibility
Miscellaneous Fees		\$850
Tuition, 2 semesters at Oklahoma State	\$450/semester	\$6,000/semester
Room and Board		Student Responsibility
Fees		\$500
Total free tuition	\$39,600	

The above dollar values are approximate and subject to correction or revision by Ross University.

Eligible candidates are children and grandchildren of former members of the 69th Infantry Division or members of attached units currently comprising part of the 69th Infantry Division Association. The term "children" is defined to include stepchildren or adopted children. Applicants must have completed (or should be about to complete) 90 hours of college pre-medicine or 60 hours of pre-veterinary medicine to be eligible.

Selection of winning applicants shall be performed exclusively by Ross University. Ross University shall establish all requirements and conditions and shall be the sole judge for selection of successful applicants. Ross University shall also be completely responsible for all decisions regarding continuation of a scholarship once it has been awarded. The 69th Infantry Division Association shall only confirm that applicants are legitimate candidates.

The 69th Infantry Division Association solicits applicants for the scholarship awards through this news bulletin, but assumes no responsibility for details and conditions of scholarship awards or for recipient/university interaction subsequent to acceptance of the award. However, the Association shall maintain correspondence with the university and award winners to follow their progress through the university curriculum.

Eligible candidates who wish to apply should:

1. Fill out the Ross University Scholarship application below and send it to: **Dr. Robert Ross**
Ross University
460 West 34th Street
New York, New York 10001
2. Also send a copy of the application to the Ross Scholarship Chairman of the 69th Infantry Division Association in order to establish confirmation of eligibility:

William R. Matlach
19 Barberry Road
West Islip, New York 11795

ROSS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Dr. Robert Ross
Ross University
460 West 34th Street
New York, New York 10001

DATE _____

I wish to apply as a candidate for the 69th Infantry Division Scholarship described in the Association news bulletin. Please send me a university catalog and application package for this purpose. I wish to attend the Ross University

☐ School of Medicine ☐ School of Veterinary Medicine

Last Name _____ First _____ M.I. _____

Address _____

RELATED 69th DIVISION MEMBER:

Name _____

Address _____

Unit _____ Relationship to Applicant _____

Signature _____ (if deceased, spouse)

Report of the 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc.

(San Francisco Convention, August 29, 1992)

Edgar A. "Bud" Parsons
Company A, 272nd Infantry
1913 South Lakeshore Drive
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514
Telephone: 919/942-5472

This is a financial and progress report concerning the Soviet Union (Russian)-German-American park memorializing the first link-up of United States and Soviet forces at Strehla, Germany, on the Elbe River, April 25, 1945. It is presented as a part of the proceedings of the 69th Infantry Division Association meeting in San Francisco, August, 1992.

At the Biloxi Reunion, September, 1991, the General Membership meeting of the 69th Infantry Division Association voted overwhelmingly to establish a committee for the purpose of "commemorating the service of the 69th Infantry Division in Europe." The motion specified that Mr. William Beswick was to serve as Chairman of that Committee for a period of three years. Mr. Beswick was also charged with the responsibility of appointing up to six additional members from the 69th Division to assist him.

The motion stated that, "The committee shall have authority to form a tax exempt corporation separate from the 69th Infantry Division Association, Inc., obtain IRS Tax Exempt status, and issue reports annually to its contributors, and periodically through Bulletin announcements, but the funds shall be separate from and not a part of the 69th Infantry Division funds." The funds separation provision was notably in deference to the wishes of the 69th Infantry Division Association Treasurer, who did not wish his responsibilities for 69th Division Association funds to be a part of this endeavor.

Mr. Beswick is unable to be present at this convention to make this report to you. He has had several knee operations that have temporarily restricted his mobility. I am reporting to you on behalf of Bill Beswick. This is the first 69th Division Association Convention that Beswick has missed in many years. Bill wishes you to know that he regrets not being able to attend. Many "69th'ers" here will recall that Bill Beswick has been a member of our Board for many years, and is a Past President of our Association.

Under Bill Beswick's Chairmanship, there has been incorporated, under the laws of the State of North Carolina, an organization identified as the "69TH INFANTRY DIVISION MEMORIAL FUND, INC." North Carolina was chosen as the State for Incorporation for the practical administrative reason that one of the Committee Members chosen by Beswick is Mr. Dillard Powell, from the Anti-Tank Company, 271st Regiment, and not coincidentally an attorney, who happens to live in North Carolina.

Mr. Dillard Powell has handled all legal aspects of incorporating the Fund, without charges of any kind. In addition to paying the \$150 filing fee, and I believe an additional \$100 incorporation fee, Mr. Powell has contributed administrative services of many kinds, all without charge or cost to the fund. None of the amounts of money to be reported on later herein, include any of those contributions. I regret to inform the membership that the restricted mobility of Mrs. Anita Powell and associated health complications have made it inadvisable for Dillard Powell to be present. He sends greetings to the membership, and his best wishes for a successful convention.

Through Mr. Powell's good offices, the Fund has also obtained the appropriate Internal Revenue Service Tax Exempt status. Contributions are tax deductible on your Income Tax forms.

As previously reported in the Bulletin, the memorial is to be a park, or a plaza, of about an acre, on the bend of the river at Strehla where Lieutenant Albert Kotzebue of the 69th Division first met his counterpart, Lieutenant Gregory Goloborodko of the 58th Russian Guards Division. Features include a large metal mosaic, and a unique flagpole design with the flags of the United States, Germany, and the Soviet Union, we hope, arranged triangularly in such manner as to eliminate any national precedence. The verb "hope" is used because there has been some indication that the Russians involved may prefer their Republic of Russia flag, as distinct from the World War II "hammer and sickle" red flag. This complexity is one of many important details.

The German Government, or the town of Strehla, has contributed, zoned, and dedicated the necessary land as a "Memorial Zone." There are no known problems on that aspect.

The "link-up" lieutenants, Kotzebue and Goloborodko, are deceased. A prime mover in this project, on the parts of the Soviets, or Russians, is Major General Alexander Olshansky. In 1945, at the time of the link-up, Olshansky was a Staff Sergeant, and is reported to be the first Soviet soldier with whom Lieutenant Kotzebue shook hands as he exited the boat used to cross the Elbe River.

The Soviets have a special organization, with appropriate financing, for commemorating outstanding Soviet historical events called, as best it can be translated, as "Memorial Center for Soviet Soldiers and Citizens Who Died Abroad." In 1990 when these discussions originated, the USSR had an Army of Occupation, for all intents and purposes, in East Germany. Under the terms of the 1991 Peace Treaty between Germany and the USSR, that Soviet Army, consisting of some 300,000 soldiers, is to evacuate the former East Germany by the end of 1994. Many of those Soviet soldiers do not wish to return to the former Soviet Union, and are still in East Germany.

In 1991, the USSR was dissolved. So far as can be determined, however, all of the financial and other commitments associated with the "first link-up" memorial park have been assumed by the Government of Russia. Correspondence to and from Moscow continues to be with the Soviet War Veterans Committee, their old FAX, letterhead, and telephone number, but with the country being designated "Russia" instead of the old USSR.

Despite many complexities, actual construction and associated memorial work is reported to be on schedule. One complexity may be of interest. During the past winter, (and it is speculated that this occurrence may have been a result of the former German Democratic Republic being absorbed into the Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. Beswick's Committee was informed of certain redesign features necessary to meet stability requirements to withstand what was described as the "100 year flood" specifications associated with the Elbe River. Similar engineering specifications exist in the United States. This complication has been reported to have been overcome.

Additional complexities have been injected by the United States Military Attache office in Bonn, Germany. A further concern may become manifest by the American Battle Monuments Commission, who evidently wish to be consulted on every step, and their approval obtained, although it is extremely clear that they will not contribute one dime to the project. The 99th Infantry Division became involved with

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REPORT OF THE 69th INFANTRY DIVISION MEMORIAL FUND, INC.

(Continued from Page 47)

the American Battle Monuments Commission in the 99th's raising of \$30,000 for the emplacement of a memorial stone in Krinkelt, Germany. Some 69ers may recall Krinkelt, as it was briefly occupied by the 69th, before the Rhine crossing. Veterans of the 99th memorial fund recommended the 69th have minimum contact with the American Battle Monuments Commission. The 99th raised the \$30,000. Their European memorial is prominently positioned on the side of the Krinkelt town square. Two years ago, some 500 persons were present for the dedication.

Page 26 of the August 1992 Bulletin shows two photographs of portions of this project. One shows part of a massive bronze mural, depicting the two hands of a handshake. The second photograph shows a massive stone with the 69th insignia.

A translation from a Russian report indicates that a major part of the project, a bronze mosaic that will also serve as part of a retaining wall beneath the unique three flagpoles plaza, has essentially been completed. That mosaic measures about six feet high by 20 feet long.

Present plans, still not as definitive as one would wish, are to have some kind of dedication on the site, in Strehla in 1993. The date now in mind is April 25th, the date of the link-up.

Total project completion is 1994. At that time, it is hoped that the Presidents of the United States, Russia, and Germany will be present.

With regard to 1995, the 50th Anniversary of the link-up, please also be informed that the United States 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Committee is already planning extensive activities at Torgau, and at Strehla, on April 25th, 1995. This may include re-enactments of the link-up.

It is not too early for those interested to start to make travel plans to be present, either in 1993 or 1994. To the extent feasible, you will be kept informed through the Bulletin, or other means as appropriate. At present, dates are uncertain. No organized travel planning is known to have been initiated.

The total cost of this project cannot be determined by United States accounting standards. No other United States Infantry Division is known to have anything remotely comparable. Total cost has been crudely estimated, however, as about \$750,000. However, as has been reported to you, the Soviets, and now the Russians, are aware of United States Government funding constraints for such projects. The Soviets, and now Russians have requested 69th Infantry Division members to obtain and to make whatever contribution we can and believe appropriate. At a very early stage, the sum of \$2000 to \$8000 was mentioned. Many things have happened since then.

The 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund has made no commitments. We have been reassured that the Russians will see to it that the "first link-up" memorial project becomes reality.

At the 1991 Biloxi meeting, the authorization motion stated that, "The funding objective shall be \$7500, unless the committee determines otherwise."

What is the status of the Fund drive?

As of this date, we have received donations totaling \$8,468.76, an average of just about exactly \$50 per person. Our largest single contribution was \$500. We have received several \$5 contributions. We also received an unsolicited contribution from an American Legion Post. One 69ther,

employed by an international corporation, believes he can obtain a contribution from his company, with some level of a matching contribution.

All expenses of the Fund have been contributed — postage, telephone calls, travel, faxing, document reproduction, and so forth.

The odd cents are accumulated because all monies are in an interest-bearing savings and checking account. The Committee is not precisely clear as to the identity of the responsible organization to receive the funds. The Committee is in the process of ensuring safeguards to ensure the funds are properly used.

One of the key participants in this Fund drive is Mr. Sam B. Lewis. Some 69ers will remember Sam Lewis as another rifle platoon lieutenant in Company B, 273rd Infantry. Like Lieutenant Albert Kotzebue, Sam Lewis also attended Texas A&M University, and is very proud of being a Texas "Aggie." Sam Lewis is an architect. He drew the perspective of the "link-up memorial" that was first shown at the Biloxi 1991 Convention. That drawing has been reproduced in the Bulletin.

Sam Lewis is also the designer of the unique "three flagpoles" design. Further, he is singlehandedly undertaking the raising of funds from direct mail and other solicitations of Texas A&M alumni to pay for the "three flagpoles." Earlier this year, Lewis visited Germany, and met with the Mayor of Strehla. Lewis also located a German flagpole maker, and obtained the appropriate quotation from him. At present, I understand that Sam is within about \$1500 of the necessary amount for this related and cooperative effort. Sam lives in Texas, and visited with Bill Beswick, Dillard Powell, and Edgar "Bud" Parsons in early July, 1992.

Sam Lewis is unable to attend this convention. However, he wishes to be remembered to each of you. Sam is commended for the many initiatives he has undertaken, all without reimbursement of any kind from the 69th Infantry Division Association. None of Sam's contributions are included in the \$8468 reported above.

Comments from several contributors indicated a desire, as 69ers, to "plant" the United States Flag "permanently" on the River Elbe, in memory of our Division. In acknowledgement of such desires, the Memorial Fund Committee is considering the desirability of a supplementary trust fund to ensure that any United States flag that is flown directly or indirectly on behalf of 69th Infantry Division veterans be always in proud red, white, and blue condition. A trust fund of about \$3000 to \$4000 is estimated to be required for annual flag replacements and associated expenses.

To raise the sum, feasibility consideration is being given to first flying any "first link-up" United States flags over our nation's Capitol Building, in Washington. Thereafter, they would be taken, or shipped to Strehla. For preliminary planning, consideration is also being given to offering, in return for a contribution of \$100 or \$200, a United States Flag together with a certificate attesting to the fact that this particular flag has flown over our nation's Capitol, and also at the "first link-up" site in Germany. Such flags are typically flown for only a few minutes, and would be given to the contributor in essentially "new" condition.

For grandchildren, and other 69ers descendants, the Flag and accompanying certificate could become a treasured family heirloom. No other United States infantry division offers such a possibility for its members.

A \$500 contribution from an American Legion or Veterans of Foreign Wars Post would be acknowledged by also giving one of these unique flags to each such contributor.

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**REPORT OF THE 69th INFANTRY DIVISION
MEMORIAL FUND, INC.**

(Continued from Page 48)

So far, this fund drive has been extremely successful. The cooperation of the Bulletin Editors in including Memorial Fund requests for contributions has been essential. Except for brief announcements at the annual 69th conventions, no other appeal for funds has been made. The help of the Bulletin is most appreciated.

Please start to plan to be present in Strehla, with members of your families. This may be our last opportunity to once again place the FIGHTING 69th INFANTRY DIVISION in the forefront of the world's attention.

If you have not contributed to the 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, please do so. There is no better way to honor the memory of those of our comrades who made the supreme sacrifice, or shed their blood on behalf of our country and the ideals represented by the Flag of the United States of America, than to be a part of the 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund and to help ensure our Flag will fly forever on that little plot of ground on the faraway banks of the Elbe River.

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE NOW!

Contributions should be sent to:
69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc.
540 Euclid Heights Boulevard
Box 576
West Point, Virginia 23181
Telephone: 804/843-2696

The above is the mailing address of Mr. William R. Beswick, Chairman of the 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc. Checks should be made payable to the 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc. or a suitable abbreviation thereof.

All donations will be recognized with a receipt of the amount they have donated and the tax-exempt number will be sent at that time.

THANK YOU

**If you are interested in attending
the
DEDICATION CEREMONY
of the
MEMORIAL PARK
in Strehla, Germany
to be
held on April 25, 1993
contact Bill Beswick at
the above address or phone number.**

A Veteran ...

Sent in by: Guy Stamey

461st AAA, Battery D

Route 5, Box 73

Candler, North Carolina 28715

America's war veterans come in a wide variety of sizes, shapes and ages. Their collective experience spans two world wars and several foreign conflicts. They have followed war mules through Flanders Field, dropped from landing barges onto the beaches of Normandy, faced the icy cold of Porkchop Hill and trudged the rice paddies of the Mekong Delta. Today they guard the sun-baked sands of the Arabian Peninsula.

Regardless of differences in makeup and experience, all veterans share a common bond — a collective memory and hard-won wisdom that helps define their and our nation's character.

A veteran is the first to stand up when the flag passes by on the 4th of July, and the last one down, for he or she has shared in the struggles, blood and tears that make this parade and all parades of free men and women possible.

A veteran is quick to realize that those who talk most about the glory of war are those who know least about its horror. He never jokes about war; he's been there, and still sees on memory's vivid screen the wounded and the dying, the widows and orphans; he knows first-hand that no war is good and that the only thing worse than war is slavery.

The veteran is a friend to all races, begrudging none, always carrying the knowledge that it is not the man that is the enemy but enslavement and false ideologies. Those once faced across hostile battle lines are now esteemed brothers.

A veteran is at once proud and humble; proud of the fact that for over 200 years American soil has remained free and secure, and humble in the realization that many of his comrades who helped make this a reality, never came home.

More than anything else, a veteran loves freedom. He knows freedom's value because he's paid freedom's price. He takes a personal pride in the freedom of others — in men and women worshipping the God of their choice, in friends voting the way they choose, and in children sleeping quietly without fear.

A veteran is every one of us, grown a little taller — a person who understands the awesome pride of life's intangibles of freedom, justice and democracy. His motto is to live and let live. But if forced to decide between servitude and conflict, the veteran would once again answer the call to duty.

Because, above all — above all else — a veteran is an American.

Underage Veterans Sought

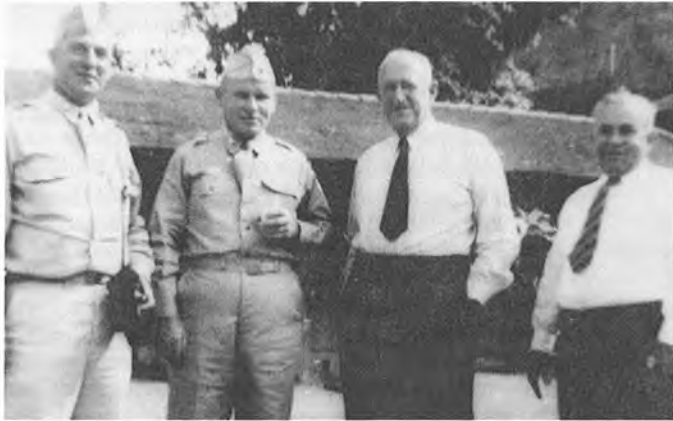
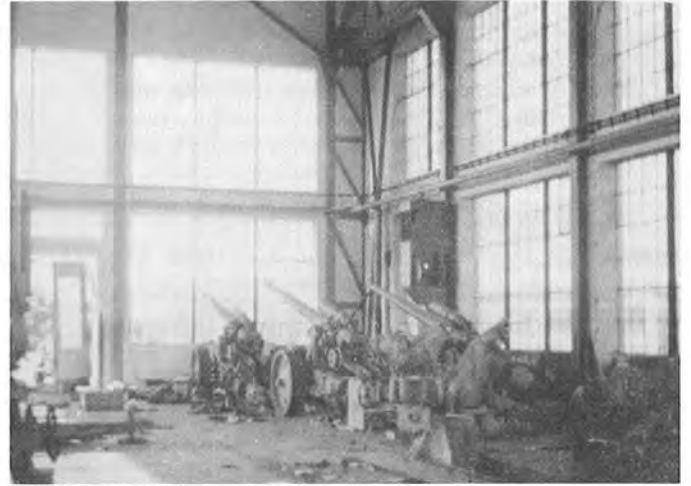
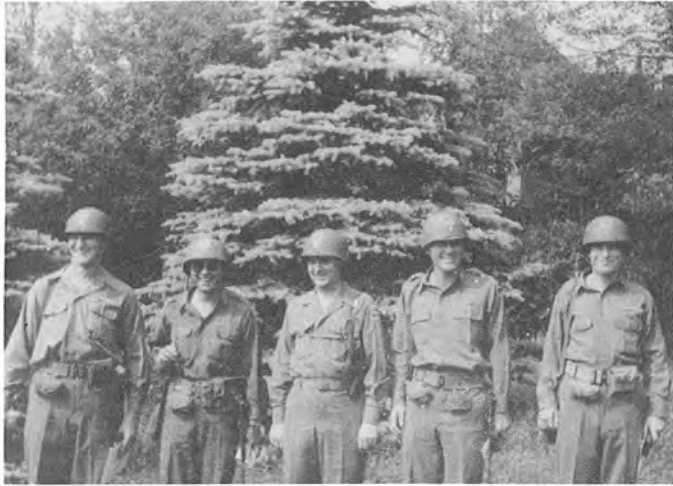
(ELLCOTT CITY, MD) A national veterans association is seeking veterans who falsified their age and served in the U.S. Military UNDER the age of 17. A national reunion will be held in October. A free handbook on government policy on underage veterans will be sent on request to any underage veteran. For more information write to:

ALLAN STOVER

Commander, Veterans of Underage Military Service
3444 Walker Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042
Telephone: 410/461-9779

Does Anyone Remember Edward J. Thompson?

These photos, furnished by Keith Reece, are from the estate of Brigadier General Edward J. Thompson who served a portion of his Army career with the 69th Division. There is no identification for any of these photos and we are seeking your help as to whether they pertain to our Division. General Thompson we feel was probably a Lieutenant Colonel or Colonel when with the 69th. Anyone who might remember him, please contact National Headquarters as to his unit and any other information.



**PAY YOUR DUES AND SUPPORT THE ASSOCIATION WITH
DONATIONS WHEN YOU CAN. WE NEED YOUR HELP!
DUES ARE NOW \$10.00 AS OF THE ROCHESTER REUNION.**

Reminiscences of My World War II Service

PART II

By JOE WRIGHT

Special Troops, Headquarters, 69th Infantry Division
Route 4, Box 1973, Forsyth, Missouri 65653

As a married man the thought of going overseas is a sobering one, especially if our eventual destination is a war zone. On November 22nd, 1944 I said goodbye to Eleanor in Hattiesburg because our orders were to be ready to go very early on the 23rd, and we boarded the train at dawn for Camp Kilmer in New Jersey. We were allowed a one day pass and I got to see Eleanor again in Perkasio, Pennsylvania, where a buddy had arranged for her to stay with relatives on the chance that we would get the pass. The hospitality of these relatives is another bright story to be told at another time.

Back at Kilmer we left and boarded our transport on November 30th/December 1st, 1944 and sailed out of New York during the night to rendezvous with our convoy, and learned that we were the lead ship. After a bit of sinus congestion on the first day the rest of the journey was ideal with no sign of seasickness. Even the weather was warm so we must have gone south. About the only matters of interest in those days at sea was our eating and sleeping arrangements and the church services. There were about fifteen compartments in the ship and each held fifty men in two-man bunk beds. Our ship was the USS LeJeune, a captured German supply ship for the "Graf Spee" which had been sunk earlier in South America. We had two meals a day, at 10:00 and 4:00, and we formed lines about a half hour earlier, going up and down stairs and finally to the eating area. We ate off of disposable dishes and thus were spared the use of our mess kits. The food was substantial both in quality and abundance. In fact, I can remember having an extra apple and piece of bread I took away for lunch. The events in our compartment make a story for another time. Two items of real interest were the announcement over the ship PA system that we were destined for Europe, which brought a cheer from the men, and one day out of England we had a submarine scare. The ships behind us, about twenty-five of them, were zigzagging and the Navy ships on our perimeter laid down several depth bomb patterns but we arrived in Southampton without further incident on December 12th (our anniversary). We disembarked and boarded a train which took us to Winchester where we were quartered at West Downs, a boys school where classes were discontinued for the duration.

From December 12th to our departure date we prepared for overseas action, but the Battle of the Bulge had just been terminated and we were required to send over all our Infantry riflemen to replace the casualties, thus when we arrived at Le Havre on January 24th, after crossing the Channel on an LST, we were reduced to a training group. Oddly enough, the English Channel which has such a reputation for being stormy, was "smooth as glass" or it must have been, for we all slept undisturbed and woke up looking squarely at an old hotel whose wall was sheared off and the bedroom on our side appeared undisturbed as though the bed had just been made. We heard later that the French blamed us for the damage which was caused when we were trying to dislodge the Germans who occupied that area until D-Day. This is another example of the thanks we got from some of the French for our efforts to free their country.

We went by convoy to our first Command Post - a resort named Forges Les Eaux, complete with a casino and mineral baths. While we were waiting for the convoy to form we parked outside a school just as it was breaking for lunch. We had

just passed a bakery with the glorious smell of baking bread and we hailed a little boy wearing the typical French smock. We asked him if he understood English and he said, "Oui." We gave him a handful of coins and sent him for a few loaves of bread. When he came back he tried to give us most of the coins and we said, "Keep it." The way he reacted, it must have been enough to keep his family in bread for more than a week.

Our Command Post was in the Continental Hotel. When the Germans retreated they ruined the heating system so all of the pipes were frozen, and until someone found a way to turn off the water, we could hear it running all night. We didn't need toilet facilities because we dug our own "straddle trenches" and we had portable stoves complete with stove pipes (out the windows) for warmth and of course we had blankets for bedding on the floor. Our very efficient "mess personnel" had hot food ready in good time so we didn't have to use our K-rations.

Our next move was to Notre Dame De Liesse. It must have been something of a holy city, but we never did find out why the church bells rang almost constantly. We won't burden this narrative by listing a total of twelve stops before the war ended because each stop had at least one incident, very few of which bore any of the tragedies of war. The official record (which will appear in another issue of the bulletin) from Camp Shelby contains all of the Organization and Combat data for the Division as a whole, and as indicated, when our Patrol met the Russians at Torgau, Germany, it was cut in half and that brought the war to an end on May 7th, 1945. At that time the General Staff was at Naunhof just a few miles from Torgau and our little headquarters was just across the road. We know now that the agreement made by Messrs. Stalin, Atlee, and Truman at Potsdam gave half of Germany to Russia and the balance to the other Allies. Due to a strange historic development, Truman was there because Roosevelt had passed away after the initial Potsdam Conference and Churchill went home to be defeated by Atlee. Only Stalin of the original three was there and as usual he got his way. We were ordered back to behind a prearranged restraining line and thus came the later-named Iron Curtain.

Our headquarters was at Rotenburg (not the famous one) where we awaited a decision about where we were going - either home or Japan. I was finally reunited with the rest of my men and we had our "office" in one of the public buildings in town. We occupied two residential buildings in town and required the families to move in with neighbors. These are the fortunes of war. No socializing was permitted but if the people had gardens they were allowed to attend them and to use the kitchens to do any canning or preserving required. Socializing was officially called "fraternizing" and it was my job to keep it to a minimum. Can you imagine my shock when one evening returning from the "office" I found the kitchen of our house filled with local people who were singing the German equivalent of "Happy Birthday." I later learned that "somehow" the people had discovered it was not only my birthday, but that of one of the fellows on the 16th of July and another the next day. The people had little in the way of food but somehow had managed to bake an apple cake and one of cherries. They also had an adequate supply of wine and liquor they had hidden away from the military. I was pleased with the generosity of the people but glad when they left. I was hoping all of the neighbors had been invited because the noise at one time could be heard a block away until I calmed them down. Luckily, my officers were busy elsewhere or I would have been in big trouble.

About a week later the fraternizing ban was lifted. And at about that time I learned of a War Department Circular permitting men over forty to apply for discharge. I had no desire to go to the South Pacific so I applied and was told I

(Continued on Page 52)

REMINISCENCES OF MY WORLD WAR II SERVICE (Continued from Page 51)

would get orders sending me home on the "Green Project." The fellow who brought me those orders said I would be flying home and probably would be home by the day after tomorrow. That was on July 20th and I arrived in the U.S. on August 17th - I didn't realize that I would go halfway around the world to get home but this is how it happened.

On or about July 21st, 1945, even the official Army records do not show the exact date, along with about fifteen other "Green Project" fellows from all over the Division, I boarded a 2½ ton Army truck for the first leg of my journey home. All of my belongings were packed in what was called a "Barracks Bag" and it could contain almost as much as one could carry. We went through Frankfurt, crossed the Rhine at Mainz, and entered France just below the Luxembourg border to a French Army Camp near the town of Thionville - an eleven-hour trip. We learned it was where they housed the troops that manned a nearby entrance to the "Maginot Line." It was here we were introduced to the French type of latrine which consisted of a hole in the floor for one purpose and a wall with drainage for the other. It was two days before someone told us there was a big tent nearby which housed about sixteen one holers. The food was adequate and not different because it was furnished by the U.S., and since we had no responsibilities the days were quite long. Each morning we went on a "training march" on which we went about a mile out of camp and sat just outside the "Maginot" entrance until lunch time. After lunch we saw an "Orientation Training" film. It turned out these were very new pictures, some of which were still showing when we got home. The evenings we had to ourselves. At least the Army tried to make it look like we were still active in the Service and kept out of mischief. One day we were allowed to go into Thionville. It was a pretty little town with a river flowing through and we got to eat some French food but there were no souvenirs to buy.

After several days of this, and it's easy to lose track of time in these circumstances, we heard that we were going to "move out." In combat this was usually bad news, but we welcomed it. There was a railroad track nearby, one that served the Maginot Line, and early one morning our orders were to board a train on those tracks. They were regular small railroad coaches, typical of the European equipment, but these must have dated from the turn of the century and appeared never to have been cleaned. It was a trip of about 450 miles to Marseilles and that meant an overnight trip. There were no places to sleep - in fact, hardly enough sitting room and one hated to put his blanket on the floor. Some of the guys tried to sleep on the baggage racks. The toilet facilities were almost forbidding but the train mercifully made frequent stops and one listened eagerly for the train whistle if off the train for exercise or other purposes. This type of coach had a kind of running board like in the old-fashioned automobiles so we could board without waiting for the door to come by. My memory about the food and water on the trip fails at the moment but we surely had enough of each and we finally arrived in Marseilles - Thus ended the second leg of my journey home.

The tent cities at Marseilles and other ports during the war were named after cigarettes like "Lucky Strike" and "Chesterfield." They basically were "replacement depots" and became the reverse in sending soldiers back home. It is estimated there were about five thousand men at Lucky Strike awaiting transportation home or maybe to the South Pacific because we were still at war with Japan. At this point we were reminded that we could not leave camp to visit nearby towns because if our flight or other transportation was called and we missed it, we might be a long time getting home. As this

narrative goes on it will be understood that our sight-seeing was very limited, however the food arrangements and sleeping quarters were well organized and at least we were comfortable. With that many men to look after we did wonder if they would be able to find us when our time came. But they did, and on August 10th about thirty-five of us were loaded onto a big freighter truck and taken to an airstrip. Incidentally, although we were to "fly" home, it was almost three weeks since we left Rotenburg and this is the first thing we had seen that was related to air transportation.

We were lined up beside a B17-4 motor Bomber and four of us volunteered to help load the baggage. As we were again lined up to board the plane, the Captain told the four of us that we were to ride in the nose of the plane with the navigator. The nose is a plastic bubble and it appeared we could see the whole world in front of us. As we crossed the Mediterranean Sea, the navigator handed us his map and pointed out the Belearic Islands, Gibraltar, and we finally landed at Casablanca for several days stay. Although the area had an exotic reputation, we remembered our warning not to stray too far from camp. It seemed the PX supplies improved and there was a lot to buy that we hadn't seen for several years including cigars, but I can't recall if there was liquor or beer because it was Moslem country and as we learned in Desert Storm history, that restriction would have been honored. There was a movie theatre on the base and one day some Snake Charmers put on a show complete with pipes and cobras coming out of baskets. It was the real thing and none of the audience ventured too close. After several days it again became our turn and we marched to the airstrip to see a beautiful new Douglas 4-motored passenger plane waiting for us. This was indeed a luxurious introduction to the civilian life and we said goodbye to Casablanca willingly leaving it to Bogart and Bergman as they sang "As Time Goes By" and telling Sam to "Play It Again."

Our flight took us over the Western Sahara Desert, about 1500 miles to Dakar in the State of Senegal, Northwest Africa, where we refueled and had a meal in the mess hall. It was interesting being served by black boys in long Biblical-type robes speaking French, and also being acquainted with malaria when we asked a Red Cross lady about her lovely tan and she told us it was from Atabrine, a malaria prevention medication. After a three-hour delay we were off across the Atlantic and the equator to Natal, Brazil. It's hard to imagine we went from above the equator in Africa to below it in South America, but that's what happened and we knew we would have to cross it again to get home. This installation was the most complete we had seen and the PX was well stocked even with name brand perfume, so I bought a 3 ounce bottle of Chanel #5 to take home to Eleanor. It was very expensive. We also had our first taste of bananas. The Air Command fellows put on a ball game for us and we learned it was a Holiday - Japan had just surrendered, thus it became VJ Day - about August 15th - we had been enroute already twenty-five days.

After a few days our "number" came up and we were loaded into a 4-motored military converted hospital plane for our journey north and home. A young soldier was our steward and when we noted that there were seats only along the sides of the plane, we asked him where we were to sleep since it appeared to be an overnight trip. He said we were to put our blankets on the floor and try to be comfortable. However, the floor of the plane was comparatively clean. The trip was made in four stages of about six hours each. The first stop was Belem, Brazil, just south of the Amazon River and the equator. In order to make it seem more like a "tour" we were given a booklet describing the beauty of Brazil (we were 30,000 feet high) and especially the PX at Belem where a variety of merchandise was available, even silk stockings for the ladies.

(Continued on Page 53)

REMINISCENCES OF MY WORLD WAR II SERVICE (Continued from Page 52)

We stopped there only long enough to eat and become comfortable. If there was a PX we never had a chance to see it and it was night time. Although the booklet attested in the name of "Mercurious" that we had crossed the equator by air and made us members of the "Trusty Order of Featherbacks," he was not available to sign it, but we still have the booklet. At each stop we were also given what they called a "physical examination" the extent of which we will not dignify by explanation.

The next two stops were at British Guiana and San Juan, Puerto Rico, and finally to Camp Blanding near Miami, Florida. It was August and we were still wearing woolen uniforms so mercifully they sent us to a warehouse where we were given "summer cotton" uniforms. The only drawback was that we did not have time enough to take our chevrons and other identifying insignia off, but they told us we wouldn't need them anymore which of course was true because all we needed was our orders and we guarded them most carefully because without them we could have been lost in transit. After a day in Florida we were put on a troop train for Camp Atterbury in Indiana. Some of the others went on but since I gave my address as South Bend, where my wife lived with her parents, that was my destination. On our way we stopped by a station in Florida where some very lovely and thoughtful ladies gave us candy bars, sandwiches and bananas. It was the first indication that at least our home folks appreciated our efforts. At Camp Atterbury I was processed and on August 22nd I was given my discharge and \$174.00 which included travel pay of \$11.75, part of my \$300.00 mustering out pay and my final service monthly salary.

After a short bus trip to Indianapolis, Eleanor met me at the Claypool Hotel and the next day, after thirty-two days enroute, we were home. At this point we learned why my barracks bag smelled so good. It appeared my perfume bottle did not have a screw top and the air pressure erupted most of it onto my clothes. Only about one-fifth of my homecoming gift remained.

In order to avoid making this any longer than it is, we have left out many items of more or less interest. However, here are just a few of them.

We have limited our narrative by leaving out the fifteen or more command posts of our little headquarters, but since each had an interesting incident, this is how it went. We have already told you about Forges les Eaux and Notre Dame De Liesse. Our next stop was at Sissone, France, where we awaited the recruits coming from replacement depots. The next was at Eupen, Belgium, where we were housed in an abandoned chocolate factory. There were no beds but at least it was inside, and we were content to sleep on the floor which was clean. Our next stop was at Krinkelt, and as we approached we saw a pretty little church, but when we came nearer it was gutted and the steeple almost shattered. The Germans had used it as an observation post for directing artillery fire and that is why we caused the damage. My colonel and I were housed in a concrete house with a date above the door reading 1776. It could have been that old but I doubt it. During the night I was awakened by some huge explosions. The next day I learned there was a battery of 105mm howitzers just behind us and the officer in charge told me it was harassing fire. It sure was, especially to me.

The next day we moved out to the town of Monteau where we occupied a Catholic rest home where the heating system had not been damaged. After cleaning it up we learned it was to be occupied by the brass - we were allowed to sleep in the attic and hoped there would be no air activity. Fortunately, there was none.

Our next move was over the border to Germany. The little town of Schmidtheim had just been cleared and we occupied the Schloss, a two-storied square type building with a garden area in the center. It was the home of the local baron. The young man with his sister were in residence, and the next day he dressed in his uniform and surrendered. He had not offered any resistance so he was allowed to stay. We should point out the Baron was important in his village.

We were nearing the Rhine River and it was a military challenge so we set up our C.P. in the town of Bad Neuenaur, a few miles back. It was a mineral bath town and we got to take one of the baths. It was very soothing. One of our units was housed in a nearby building and while using gasoline to clean a rifle, it became ignited and the building burnt to the ground. Fortunately it did not spread, but we were conscious of the fact that it could have made a splendid target for an air attack but the Luftwaffe was being kept busy elsewhere.

The famous Ludendorf Bridge across the Rhine had been destroyed but the "V" Corps engineers made a pontoon bridge on the site, and we crossed to set up in the town of Bad Ems, a famous Spa. It was at this point, while we were housed in one of the river front hotels, that hundreds of German soldiers including even staff officers, came back to surrender. Some of them were housed over night at a dance pavilion across the road and were given K-rations to eat, so we can be proud of the fact that within reason, they were not mistreated. We have pictures of some of the above events in our pictorial history.

Our next main objective was the town of Kassel but we stopped for a night at the small town of Kolleda. Before moving out the next morning, we stopped at the installation of our Signal Company Radio CP where we learned that on April 12, 1945, President Roosevelt died and that Harry Truman had been sworn in as president. One can imagine the forlorn feeling that can be felt so far away from home in the middle of a war when a leader is lost, but we survived.

The next town in our eventual assault on Leipzig was Kassel, which was a supply point for the German Army. It was not severely damaged and our boys found a lot of goodies. There were some large cans of Schwein and Kraut (pork and sauerkraut) and case upon case of 3 Star Hennessy. We didn't mind taking some because they had been stolen from the French. Unfortunately, our Jeep was already filled to capacity but we did manage to take five cases which was shared generously with others later.

As we approached the town of Witzenhausen an MP drove up and told Colonel Casper one of our MP units was pinned down on the edge of town. He dropped me and our equipment at our command post, which we shared with a German family, took off and organized an attack on what appeared to be a group of stragglers and routed them. When he came home he was wet to above the waist from having to wade through a little creek but our house was warm and he finally dried out his trousers. This action earned him a Bronze Star for bravery. Another sad item in this town that was being told by the people was that there were two dead soldiers at the railroad station. When we got there, we found an infantry rifleman and an aid man, both killed by machine gun fire. The aid man was clearly marked with the Red Cross insignia which generally was accepted as a non-armed soldier.

At our next stop, the town of Naumberg, we allowed the family to remain in the house, and the man proudly showed me a picture of the old Board of Trade building in Chicago to prove he had once traveled to the U.S. When I told him it was no longer there, he had a look I interpreted as him feeling it had been bombed, but I added it was torn down and replaced by a thirty-two story structure.

To be continued in the next issue of the Bulletin.

***** 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.

GET YOUR NEWS IN EARLY!

Let people know in plenty of time about your meeting so they can make their plans ahead of time. You will have a larger turnout and you will be much more organized. Don't forget our National 69th Reunion.

DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE FOR 1992-1993

Mail to:

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

Dues:

Regular Membership \$5.00
Ladies' Auxiliary Membership .. \$2.00

Dues Year:

August 1, 1992 to July 31, 1993
Postage and Bulletin Donations Accepted

Starting with the Rochester Reunion announcement in this bulletin for 1993-1994, dues have been changed to \$10.00 Regular Membership. Take note that the Ladies' Auxiliary dues will probably be increased next year at their meeting in Rochester. Read the minutes that were in the last bulletin for the General Membership and Ladies' Auxiliary meeting. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT NOW! ANYONE WHO CAN, PLEASE DONATE TO THE ASSOCIATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

1993

APRIL 29th, 30th and MAY 1st, 2nd, 1993

COMPANY I, 2721st INFANTRY SPRING MEETING

East Memphis Hilton
Memphis, Tennessee

Further notice will be furnished to all former members on the mailing list from last year's weekend. If you did not receive a notice last year, contact:

Committee:

A. Leigh Tenney, *Coordinator*
3508 Sevier Drive
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72116

* * * * *

MAY 14th, 15th, 16th, 1993

CALIFORNIA/WEST COAST WEEKEND

Contact Committee for this First One:

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

Delbert E. Philpott
Post Office Box 2014
Sunnyvale, California 94087-0014
Telephone: 408/739-0308

* * * * *

MAY 13, 14, 15, 1993

MID-WEST GROUP 1993 SPRING MEETING

Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

Wisconsin Dells is a large vacation area on the Wisconsin River, about 120 miles from Milwaukee and 55 miles from Madison.

MOTEL: Holiday Inn

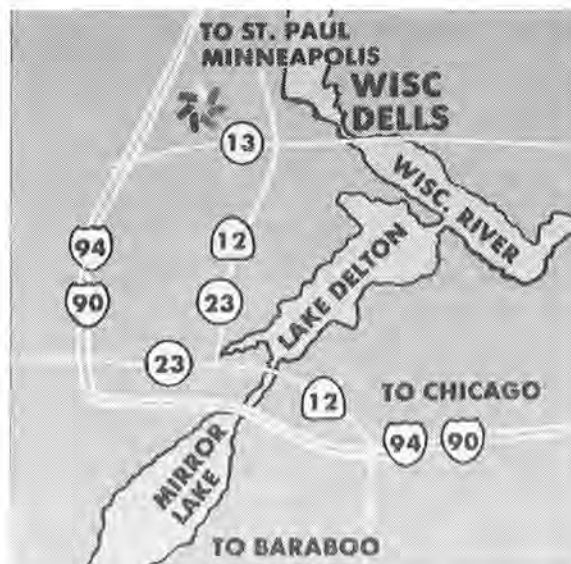
Located on State Highway 13, a short distance east of Exit 87 from Interstate 90/94.

Rate: \$47 per night plus 10½% tax, or \$51.94.

Reservations: Call the Holiday Inn at 608/254-8306 from within Milwaukee, or at 800/254-DELLS from out of state.

You can also write to:

Holiday Inn
P.O. Box 236, Highway 13 and I-90/94
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin 53965



A block of rooms will be held until April 28, 1993 for our group, and it may be difficult to get a room after that date, so call by the deadline.

(Continued on Page 55)

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE

(Continued from Page 54)

The room rate given above will hold for a few days before and after our meeting for those who wish to spend more time in the area.

A few of the attractions are:

- Boat tours of the picturesque river
- The Circus World Museum
- Mid-Continental Railway Museum
- Greyhound racing
- International Crane Foundation (rare birds)
- Museum of Norman Rockwell art

In addition, there are numerous amusement and theme parks, restaurants and tours of the area.

PROGRAM

Thursday, May 13th: Check-in time is 4:00 p.m., but there should be no problem getting in earlier.

Hospitality Room

Dinner, probably at Holiday Inn.

Friday, May 14th: Golf at course to be selected.

Sightseeing for non-golfers.

Hospitality Room.

Dinner at restaurant to be selected.

Saturday, May 15th: On your own.

Check-out time is 12:00 noon.

Committee:

For answers to questions, contact:

Gaylord and Ruth Thomas

432 Doty Street

Waupun, Wisconsin 53963

Telephone: 414/324-4065

* * * * *

MAY 15, 1993

Deadline for news material and pictures for this bulletin.

Bulletin Volume 46, Number 3

May - June - July - August, 1993

No extensions for this bulletin due to reunion in August.

Bulletin due out in early July 1993.

Members should have sent in reservation and activities form from last bulletin. This bulletin is really, really last call, if not too late for Rochester.

* * * * *

JUNE 1993 (Tentative)

COMPANY D, 272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

Location: Asheville, North Carolina

Other details to follow in future bulletins.

Committee:

Blake Morrison

2307 Chatham Drive

Greensboro, North Carolina 27408

Randy and Lisa Barnett (Guests of 272nd)

Greensboro, North Carolina

* * * * *

JUNE 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 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.

Also South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi. (Until the Southeastern Chapter reorganizes.)

(All other of the 50 states invited too including New England, Eastern States, Mid-West, Mountain States, Far West, Alaska, Hawaii, Texas and ALL THE SOUTH.)

By Popular Request — CANAAN VALLEY RESORT

Route 1, Box 330

Davis, West Virginia 26260

Telephone: Call West Virginia information and ask for Canaan Valley

Only 65 rooms — DEER LODGE

Sign up early, NOW - Cancel later if emergency arises

SWIM IN THE POOL (Indoor or Outdoor) - MINIATURE GOLF - RIDE THE CHAIR LIFT - WALK THE MANY TRAILS - FEED THE DEER - TOURS - HOSPITALITY ROOM - FINE FOOD - GOLF - FELLOWSHIP WITH FRIENDS OF THE 69th DIVISION ASSOCIATION - BANQUET - ENTERTAINMENT - RELAX IN THE COOL AIR — GOING HOME SUNDAY BREAKFAST

We certainly hope to see all the 69th members from West Virginia and surrounding states at Canaan Valley. Friends and Guests also invited.

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

* * * * *

JUNE 17, 18, 19, 1993

461st AAA, BATTERY B

Location: Days Inn

2200 Northwest Boulevard

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

Reservations: 1-800-325-2525

Room Rates:

\$60.00 - 1 person

\$65.00 - 2-4 people (2 standard double beds)

\$68.00 - King - 2 people

With complimentary continental breakfast.



Program:

Friday: Our lake cabin for a barbeque.

Bingo

Saturday: Indian Museum in Spokane

Business Meeting

Banquet that night

Committee:

Donald and Genny Castellaw, Chairpersons

804 East E. Street

Moscow, Idaho 83843

Telephone: 208/882-4092

(Continued on Page 56)

**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE**
(Continued from Page 55)

JUNE 17, 18, 19, 1993
461st AAA, BATTERY D

First Baptist Church
Asheville, North Carolina
Church dinner with social following.
Banquet at nearby restaurant.
Lodging at motel of your choice.
More details in next bulletin.

Committee:
Guy and Ruth Stamey
Route 5, Box 73
Candler, North Carolina 28715
Telephone: 704/667-9526
Edwin Whitaker
534 Rose Hill Road
Asheville, North Carolina 28803
Alden Angline
34 Forest View Drive
Asheville, North Carolina 28804

August 8th thru 15th, 1993
69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
46th ANNUAL REUNION & 50th ANNIVERSARY
Holiday Inn - Genessee Plaza
120 East Main Street, Rochester, New York 14604-1699
Telephone: 716/546-6400 Fax: 716/546-3908

Program and details are complete.

See pages in front of bulletin for maps, information and registration forms.

HOSPITALITY ROOM - TOURS - EARLY BIRD - PX BEER PARTY
MEMORIAL SERVICE - BANQUET DINNER DANCE
SUNDAY GOING HOME BREAKFAST

Committee:

John "Jack" and Mary Duffy, Chairpersons
69th Division Headquarters Company
28 Cypress Street, Rochester, New York 14620-2306
Telephone: 716/271-4194

The following attend the reunion and hold their mini-reunions in conjunction with the 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION. Other minis, why don't you join us, try it, you might just like it.

California/West Coast Group — Robert L. Pierce	408/226-8040
Central Pennsylvania Branch — Carl Stetler	215/373-7908
Tri-State Group — Earl E. Witzleb, Jr.	412/455-2901
Mid West Group — Fran Enright	414/541-9598
269th Engineers — Frank Nemeth	215/945-3809
661st Tank Destroyers — Bill Snidow	703/626-3557
569th Signal Company — Carl Stetler	215/373-7098
E Company, 271st Infantry — Paul Shadle	412/335-9980
M Company, 271st Infantry — William Sheavly	301/833-2771
E Company, 272nd Infantry — Chester Yastrzemski	516/283-3875
A Company, 273rd Infantry — H. Raymond Fahrner	215/855-9696
E Company, 273rd Infantry — Earl E. Witzleb, Jr.	412/455-2901
H Company, 273rd Infantry — Jacob Stark, Jr.	717/939-4802
I Company, 273rd Infantry — Robert Pierce	408/226-8040
724th Field Artillery — John W. Turner	404/378-3543
880th Field Artillery, Hq. Btry. — Stuart and Elinor McGowan ..., R.D. #2, Box 402, Eagle Bridge, New York 12057	

If you want your unit mini added to this list, contact Earl Witzleb at 412/455-2901

(Continued on Page 57)

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE
(Continued from Page 56)

AUGUST 27, 28, 29, 30 1993

OR

AUGUST 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 1993

69th CAVALRY RECON TROOP WEEKEND

Oshkosh Hilton and Convention Center

One North Main Street

Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901

Reservations: Call the Hilton Direct at

414/231-5000 or 800/365-4458

Rate: \$56.00 per night plus tax

Committee:

Jerome "Jerry" Leib

22335 South Vermont Avenue, #22

Torrance, California 90502

Telephone: 301/328-9877

Ed Sivas

26648 Indian Peak Road

Rancho Palos Verdes, California 90274

Telephone: 213/378-4979

or

1991 Orgen Drive

Cambria, California 93428

Telephone: 805/927-8466

More Details at a Later Date

* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 1993 (Tentative)

880th FIELD ARTILLERY, A BATTERY

Shoney's Inn

Lexington, Kentucky

Committee:

James Bilbrey, Chairman

R.D. #3, Box 289-B

Celina, Tennessee 38551

Telephone: 615/243-2250

John Barnett, Media Representative

6374 Brandywine Trail

Norcross, Georgia 30092

Telephone: 404/448-6513

* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 4, 1993

Deadline for news material and pictures for this bulletin.

Bulletin Volume 47, Number 1

September - October - November - December, 1993

Bulletin for news and pictures from Rochester Reunion

Bulletin due out in late November 1993

Members should start planning vacation reunion week.

Nashville Reunion, August 21 thru 28, 1994

* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 23, 24, 25, 26, 1993

880th FIELD ARTILLERY, BATTERY C MEETING

Sheraton Inn

Route 30 East

Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Program details will follow in later bulletins.

Committee:

Enrico and Anne D'Angelo

516 Chestnut Street

Saltsburg, Pennsylvania 15681

Telephone: 412/639-3037

* * * * *

OCTOBER 8, 9, and 10, 1993

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY AND MEDICAL
DETACHMENT, 461st AAA AW BN

Quality Inn

Salem, Virginia 24153

Telephone: 703/562-1912

Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Leave Sunday or stay over.

Leave I-81 at (Old) Exit 41 and go south on SR-419 to motel.

A block of rooms has been reserved. Good Rates.

Meeting Room will be the Montgomery/Franklin Room.

Committee:

Eddie C. Griffin, Chairman

3880 Croydon Drive, N.W.

Canton, Ohio 44718

Telephone: 216/492-5376

Francis H. Breyette, News Reporter

1137 Orkla Drive

Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427

Telephone: 612/545-2281

* * * * *

OCTOBER 14, 15, and 16, 1993

661st TANK DESTROYERS BATTALION MEETING

Quality Inn - Roanoke Salem, Virginia

179 Sheraton Drive

Salem, Virginia 24153

Telephone: 703/562-1912

Fax: 703/562-0507

Southside of I-81 at Exit 139 and Route 419

Committee:

Bill and Ellen Snidow

Route 1, Box 303

Pembroke, Virginia 24136

Telephone: 703/626-3557

* * * * *

1994

MIDDLE OF MAY TO MIDDLE OF JUNE 1994

TRI-STATE SPRING WEEKEND

Tri-State Blue is the FUN Group

Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Western

Maryland, Western New York, Michigan, Indiana,

Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

Also South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and

Mississippi (Until the Southeastern Chapter reorganizes.)

(All other 50 States invited too, including New England,

Eastern States, Mid-West, Mountain States, Far West,

Alaska, Hawaii, Texas and ALL OF THE SOUTH).

Site Location: Charleston, West Virginia

Program details to follow in future Bulletins

Projected Sites: A Swing Through the State of Ohio

Committee: Any Tri-State or 69th Member or Couples willing

to put a three or four day program together including golf

day, a tour, shopping for the ladies, a Saturday Banquet

Program, and a Sunday Bye-Bye Breakfast. Help is always

available. Weekend years for 1995, 1996, and so on.

Contact: Earl E. and Dorothy "Dottie" Witzleb, Jr.

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

Telephone: 412/455-2901

Committee for Charlestown:

Brownie and Anna Belle Parsons

1143 Mulberry Circle

Charlestown, West Virginia 25314

Telephone: 304/342-5573

or

Earl E. and Dorothy "Dottie" Witzleb, Jr.

at address and phone number directly above.

(Continued on Page 58)

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
AND COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE

(Continued from Page 57)

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August 21 thru 28, 1994

69th INFANTRY

DIVISION ASSOCIATION

47th ANNUAL REUNION

SHERATON MUSIC

CITY HOTEL

777 McGavock Pike

AT Century City

Nashville, Tennessee 37214

Telephone: 615/885-2200

Big Hospitality Room - Tours - Early Bird

- PX Beer Party - Memorial Service -

Banquet Dinner Dance

(Please note: Either our Beer Party or Banquet
could be changed to an earlier day).

Grand Old Opry Being Featured

Sunday Going Home Breakfast

MUCH MORE TO COME

IN LATER BULLETINS

Room Rates: Single, Double, Triple, Quads

\$72.00 plus 11¼% State and Local Taxes

Nashville International Airport nearby. Hub for
several airlines. Complimentary transportation to
and from the Airport. Free Parking at Hotel.
Many Interstates north and south, east and west,
pass by Nashville. Nashville is centrally located
in the States. Not too far from Chicago, New
Orleans, Kansas City, Norfolk, Florida, Eastern
Seaboard, Great Lakes, New England, Texas,
Plains States, Mountain States and the Pacific
West Coast.

SEE YOU ALL IN NASHVILLE in '94!

Committee:

Joseph and Virginia McMurry, Co-Chairpersons

Company I, 271st Infantry

110 Fountain Place

Jackson, Tennessee 38305

Telephone: 901/668-3606

James and Geneva Bilbrey, Co-Chairpersons

880th Field Artillery, Battery A

R.D. #3, Box 289-B

Celina, Tennessee 38551

Telephone: 615/243-2250

Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.

Advising Coordinators

+++++

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.

WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS.

San Francisco

1992 Reunion Memories



Emil and Helene Zerenga



John and Patsy Bocek



Ed and Torri Stagg



"Taps"

The melody of TAPS was composed by a non-musical (musician with no formal knowledge) nor the technical names of any of the notes. Union General Daniel Butterfield whistled it for Brigade Bugler Oliver Norton who wrote the notes on the back of an envelope July 2, 1862. The plaintive bugle notes that bring an involuntary lump to the throat typifies our loss and feelings of these two great buglers.

THE WORDS TO "TAPS" SAY IT ALL

**Day is done, gone the Sun
From the Lakes, From the Hills
From the Skies, All is Well
Safely Rest, God is Nigh**

Ralph Kent
3613 North High Ridge Dr.
Peoria, Illinois
Hq.-661st

Joseph W. Loudon
6041 Atwell Road
Toledo, Ohio
D-777th

Jack Vealey
4818 Lowcroft
Lansing, Michigan
Hq., 1st Bn.-273rd

William Lilien
43-01 46th Street
Sunnyside, New York
G-272nd

Thomas A. McGlone
Ashbourne City Club
Cheltenham, Pennsylvania
Hq., 3rd Bn.-272nd

Eugene A. Rajecki
7507 Newport Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio
Hq.-273rd

K. Earl Abel
71257 Dawn Drive
Union, Michigan
A-724th

Harrell C. Ashburn, Jr.
Route 6, Box 420
Azle, Texas
Hq., 1st Bn.-271st

Dale L. Mayeaux
26 Waterwood
Huntsville, Texas
A-880th

Frederick B. Hays
3759 Glenfeliz Boulevard
Los Angeles, California
Service-272nd

Walfred H. Hoglund
119 Ohio Avenue
Gilbert, Minnesota

Claude C. Swafford
6711 Grasshopper Road
Birchwood, Tennessee
C-881st

John E. Fairchild
63075 Ridgewood Drive
Cambridge, Ohio
C-273rd

Raymond Loux
96 Rossiter Avenue
Phoenixville, Pennsylvania
C-272nd

James L. Parks, Jr.
1382 Defense Highway
Gambrills, Maryland
B-661st

Raymond W. Wittenburg
1515 East Central Road
Arlington Heights, Illinois
C-461st

Marcel F. Cloutier
1646 Neff Avenue
Dayton, Ohio
M-271st

George Noah
511 Belleview Avenue
San Dimas, California
69th QM

Langdon H. Tannehill
307 South Orange Grove
Pasadena, California
C-272nd

Jack Shaw
5140 Parkwood
Boise, Idaho
F-272nd

Jack R. Boots
6758 N.W. Alderman Drive
Des Moines, Iowa
Hq., 3rd Bn.-271st

Floyd A. Green
K-271st

Harry J. Zanotti
3447 North Pontiac
Chicago, Illinois
A-271st

Herb Edwards
3 Homestead Lane
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania
A-661st

Anthony Rende
200 Laura Lee Drive
Coraopolis, Pennsylvania
I-273rd

John Konzelman
Lukens Avenue
Willow Grove, Pennsylvania
A-269th

Carl Umbarger
Route 1, Box 194
Kyles Ford, Tennessee
D-461st

Eugene J. Kissell
536 West 42nd Street
Shadyside, Ohio
C-724th

Gail E. Keever
2155-10 West Farndale Ave.
Mesa, Arizona
69th Recon

Harold W. Hoarn
23 Oakford Avenue
New Egypt, New Jersey
Hq.-880th

Bruce J. Srout
25741 East 2200th Street
Prophetstown, Illinois
I-272nd

William A. Lance
7818 Tances Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio
At-273rd

Acie W. Smith
220 Wake Drive
Stockbridge, Georgia
A-881st

Arthur Keplar, Jr.
Route 2, Box 56
Nelsonville, Ohio
I-272nd

Archie McGrew
53390 East Captina Highway
Powhatan Point, Ohio
271st

Thomas Embree
5214 North 78th Way
Scottsdale, Arizona
M-272nd

Henry Corrigan
410 W. Matson Run Pkwy.
Wilmington, Delaware
Hq. Divarty

John Fattrosso
77 Colling Avenue
Rochelle Park, New Jersey
C-879th

Brig. Gen. James M. Gibson
4900 Chowan Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia
Hq.-271st

Thomas Hales
P.O. Box 96
Zebulon, North Carolina
Hq.-461st

Earl Kinney
961 N.W. Lee Terrace
Port Charlotte, Florida
Service 271st

Frederick Kleinhenz
217 Beaumont Court
Ridge, New York
I-273rd

Stanley Krystyniak
177 Kennard Road
Manchester, New Hampshire
69th Band

Charles F. Miller
1812 Westmont Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
69th MP

Theodore Stachowicz
3502 Bimini Lane
Coconut Creek, Florida
H&S, 880th

Herschel White
Route 6
Paragould, Arkansas
C-273rd

Alfred Zelenty
122 New Market Road
Dunellen, New Jersey
AT-271st

Matt Zelinsky
332 Shaw Avenue
Springdale, Pennsylvania
M-272nd



the 69th

INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

p.o. box 69, champion, pa. 15622-0069

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A liaison plane flying over a battery of 105mm howitzers. Typical 69th Artillery Battery with L-4H Piper Cub Observation Plane.

Submitted by: Howitzer Al Kormas, 12500 Edgewater, #503, Lakewood, Ohio 44107

NOTE: For those of you who are unaware, the membership voted last year to limit the bulletin to 60 pages. If you submitted material for this bulletin, and did not see it published in this issue, it will be published in a future issue. We cannot always find space for everything that we receive. Please be patient. THANK YOU

THE USE OF COLOR ON THIS ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN IS SPECIFICALLY FOR THE 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND WAS SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT AND TREASURER.