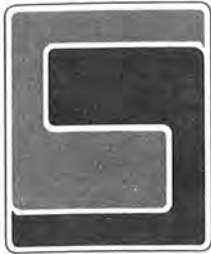


FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★★ *Association, Inc.*



VOLUME 47, NO. 2

JANUARY — FEBRUARY — MARCH — APRIL
1994

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

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

bulletin

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SHERATON MUSIC CITY HOTEL, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Welcome 69ers August 21st-28th, 1994 to the 47th NATIONAL REUNION IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

We're looking forward to seeing you August 21st through 28th, 1994 at the National Reunion in Nashville, Tennessee. We invite you to hold your Mini-Reunions during the National Reunion. The OAKLANDS is our Registration Room. The BELLE MEADE is our Hospitality-Social Room. This room will always be open so you can meet your friends here. The host-hospitality hours will be posted. At other hours you can have BYOB gatherings.

Come early and stay late. There will be plenty to see and do. We'll see you there!

Joe and Virginia McMurry
James and Geneva Bilbrey
Co-Chairpersons

Our Coordinating Manager Earl Witzleb Needs Your Support

Earl Witzleb, Jr., our Coordinating Manager and Co-Editor of the bulletin, has been very ill lately off and on. Earl has been Co-Editing the bulletin with Clarence Marshall since 1977 and has done a terrific job. No one can imagine what a difficult task this is. They receive a great deal of mail, a lot of it is illegible and unorganized. Their job is to take all of these scraps of paper, old notes from the 40's, pictures, old documents, etc., edit them and come up with a bulletin that makes sense and appeals to all 69ers across the country.

Although they do their absolute best, still they receive a lot of complaints. Some didn't want to see this in but they did want to see that in. Some complain they didn't like a particular cover or that a certain unit is getting more coverage than another, etc., etc., and it goes on and on.

This job, my fellow 69ers, is a thankless job to say the least.

All in all, no matter how much we gripe and complain, we do know that Earl has been there for us and tried his very best to satisfy all 69ers. It is time for us to get behind him and give him the moral support that he needs to get well and stay well. After all, he has been there for us all of these years. Where would we be without Earl and Clarence? Probably, my friends, without our Bulletin.

Send your cards and letters of support to:

Earl Witzleb, Jr.

Post Office Box 69

Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069

An Important Note From Your Bulletin Printer

PLEASE do not send xerox copies of your pictures to be submitted for print in the Bulletin. We must have either the original picture or, if you are afraid to submit your originals, you may take your pictures to a printer in your area and ask him to make you a velox or some form of a copy of the photo that will be printable.

A lot of you lately have been sending in xerox copies. This creates extra work as we have to write to you and ask you to please send the originals if you want to see your pictures in print. If you send your originals, we will make sure that you get them back.

Another Note: Do not put tape, not even scotch tape, on your pictures. And please, leave the stapler in the drawer.

Thank You

New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

Dr. John A. Pino — Company C, 273rd Infantry
11 Orchard Hill Road, Westport Connecticut 06880-2956

Forest L. Crawford — Battery A, 880th Field Artillery
214 South Harvard Street, Perryton, Texas 79070

Edward W. Ochs — Battery A, 880th Field Artillery
908 West Marshall Street, Norristown, Pennsylvania 19401

C. Franklin Olson — Battery A, 880th Field Artillery
P.O. Box 65, Clermont, Iowa 52135

Ronald Muhlenhaupt — Headquarters Co., 273rd Infantry
5 Acre View Drive, Northport, New York 11768-3521

Edwin E. Peckler — 724th Field Artillery
7525-B Lexington Club, Delray Beach, Florida 33446

Carl A. Hansen — Company H, 273rd Infantry
391 Country Club Drive, #8, Simi Valley, California 93065

Charles Csuri — Battery A, 879th Field Artillery
110 Amazon Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214

John Finstad — Company G, 272nd Infantry
6254 Crane Lake Road, Orr, Minnesota 55771-8401

Gene Pasma — 271st Infantry
2804 Beechridge Drive, Hudsonville, Michigan 49426

Howard Cordova — Company K, 273rd Infantry
10718 Triola Lane, Houston, Texas 77072

E.J. Hoch
P.O. Box 365, Pottsville, Texas 75076

Wayne B. Tedrow — Company L, 272nd Infantry
715 Shirley Drive, Aberdeen, Maryland 21001-1729

Cedric C. Abel — A.T. Company, 272nd Infantry
W. 924 County Trunk L.S., Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53083

Richard A. Geer — Company L, 271st Infantry
Route 1, Box 233, Foreman, Arkansas 71836

Frank W. Novak — A.T. Company, 272nd Infantry
395 Taconic Road, Greenwich, Connecticut 06831-2828

Paul E. Cavasini — Company G, 271st Infantry
8589 Camelot Drive, Chesterland, Ohio 44026

Ben Wasserman — 69th M.P.
3934 Chaffey Road, Randallstown, Maryland 21133

NOTE: Some time ago the Membership voted to limit the bulletin to 60 pages. If you submitted material for this bulletin and you do not see it in print, it will appear in a future issue of the bulletin. Large pictures are especially difficult. They have to be put into the center spread in order for them to be worth printing at all. We have been putting them in on a first-come-first-serve basis. Be patient, and we are sure that your number will come up soon. Thank You.

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.

News From The Editor's Desk



by — Clarence Marshall
Membership Chairman

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

Harris B. Timmer, 1815 Sherwood Drive S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506 — I-271st: I was a member of Company I, 271st Infantry Regiment from January 1944 until the Division returned to the States in 1945. I and a number of other "low pointers" went to the 703rd Ordnance Company of the 3rd Infantry Division.

I finally returned to the States in April of 1946 and was placed on inactive duty in the Enlisted Reserves. I went to college on the G.I. Bill and graduated in 1950. I was still in the ERC and recalled to duty with the onset of the Korean conflict. To make a long story short I became a Medical Laboratory Technologist at Army-Navy General Hospital in Hot Springs, Arkansas. That was a much better MOS to have than the one I had in the 69th.

While with I Company, I was in the Weapons Platoon as Section Leader of the 60mm Mortars.

Bob Pierce sent me the information about the 69th Association. Someone also sent me a copy of the last Bulletin. I'm looking forward to hearing more about the "Fighting 69th."

John A. Pino, 11 Orchard Hill Road, Westport, Connecticut 06880-2950 — C-273rd: I have been in contact with **Crandon Clark** recently in connection with the 50th Class Reunion of our College - Rutgers University. He told me much about their 69th Infantry Division Association and recently sent some material which I found interesting. During World War II, I was an Officer in Company C of the 273rd Infantry. As a result, I thought I should become a member of the Association. I'm not sure what the membership dues are, but if you let me know, I'll send you a check for that amount.

Galen Carney, R.R. #1, Box 166, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15906 — Hq.-271st: In the latest bulletin, I read that we must give you our 9 digit zip code in order to get the bulletin at bulk rate. Boy, I sure wouldn't want to miss it. The information in the bulletin sure is good reading and brings back a lot of memories, even though I wasn't with the 69th in combat. I was sent to the 66th Panther Division in combat.

I've often thought about two fellows that I remember from basic training at Shelby. If anyone can tell me what happened to **Charles Shoop** and **Sergeant Wislower**, please contact me. Keep the bulletin coming.

A. Earl Clegg, 3183 South 8620 West, Magna, Utah 84044 — F-273rd: Thanks again for your continual interest in the perpetuation of the 69th Division Association over these many years. I was a member of Company F, 273rd Infantry Regiment until I was taken out of active service by several bullets and some shrapnel on the 18th of April 1945 while we were helping take Leipzig, Germany.

I not only am thankful for the hours of service you put in as the Membership Chairman of the 69th Division, but also to those who have also given of their talents and time for all the plans for the Reunions and those who are responsible for putting together and getting the bulletin out over these many years, besides yourself.

I am always anxious to read about activities of the 69th after the 18th of April, 1945, until the 69th left for home, because I have learned of some happenings and names of persons involved that were buddies while I served as the Executive Officer (1st lieutenant) of Company F.

May the Lord bless you with the health and strength you need to perform the service you have given in the past. All the best to you and others during the coming year of 1994.

Carl Mosher, 823 Robertson Street, Marine City, Michigan 48039 — D-461st: Just a short note to let you know how proud I feel to be a part of the Fighting 69th. On October 25th and 27th, I am presenting a program to the history classes at our Middle School. Be assured that the 69th will be included at great length.

I am now a widower and have made two reunions so far for the first time ever, both D, 461st AAA and Headquarters and Medical 461st AAA. I was with both batteries during the war.

Jesus Christ said, greater love hath no man than this - that a man lay down his life for a friend. I think that the bond of love experienced by all of our members must be the second greatest!

Irvin M. Hunsberger, P.O. Box 369, Tafton, Pennsylvania 18464 — A&D, 271st: I was assigned to Company A, 271st in May of 1943, before the 69th was activated. Just before we shipped out to Camp Kilmer, I transferred to Company D, 271st. I correspond with two former D Company men and the original top-kick of D Company. They are **Merrill Embick**, Company Commander and **Charles Marcum**, and the original top-kick, **Al Haag**. I'm not sure of the Company A1 was transferred to, possibly L Company.

I don't know your policy but I will convey the bad news, as I have received some. **Charles Marcum** had a heart attack in March of 1993 and lost the use of his right arm and has some memory loss, according to his wife Dorothy. **Al Haag** suffered a heart attack and stroke on May 8th and underwent unsuccessful surgery for a brain tumor on May 19th. He is totally bedridden and is limited in his ability to communicate, according to his daughter Fran. Both families have stressed the fact that both men look forward to all types of communications from friends and former 69ers.

Howard Cordova, 10718 Triola Lane, Houston, Texas 77072-2716 — K-273rd: I joined the 69th Division as a replacement in January of 1945 in Sissone, France then on to the Siegfried Line in Germany for combat. I was with the 273rd Infantry, Company K, 3rd Battalion, until after the war ended, then we were all scattered.

I hear there will be an annual reunion in Nashville, Tennessee. Anyway, I would like to get on the mailing list and get to know more about what is going on with some of my old army buddies.

(Continued on Page 4)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 3)

Major Michael Korolevich, 64 Lindbergh Parkway, Waldwick, New Jersey 07463-1329: I am planning on writing articles for Militaria Collection publication on World War II German medal manufacturers. I hope the members of the 69th Infantry Division Association can help me.

My first article I hope to do will be on the German Infantry Assault Badge (this badge is equivalent to the U.S. Combat Infantryman's badge). I am enclosing a sketch of the badge. The badge comes in silver (for infantry) and bronze (for motorized/mechanized infantry).



I would appreciate hearing from anyone who may have this badge. I am interested in discovering what maker's name, logo or number is on the back of the badge in order to develop a list of all manufacturers of this badge. I will reimburse anyone who writes for postage.

I would appreciate it if you could inform your members about my interest in your 69th Division Association Bulletin. I would appreciate any assistance you and your members can provide.

P.S. My father was a member of the 69th Infantry Division during World War II.

Elmer C. Miller, 16 South Whisper Court, Columbus, Georgia 31909 — B-271st: Yesterday, I received a telephone call from Ms. Mary Kuchmuk, 6725 Pierce, Kingsley, Michigan 49649, who is the daughter of M/Sgt. Robert J. Younglas of Traverse City, Michigan. I wrote to Ms. Kuchmuk to ask if a copy of the 271st Infantry Regiment history was still available. She advised me that she still had several copies but, in addition, had copies of her dad's mailing lists of members, photos and other items that might be of interest to the Association. She also stated that, to date, she has not located his copies of the Bulletin and since she has become more accustomed to dealing with his death, she wanted to contact the Association again to determine if anyone was interested in these papers, but did not know anyone to contact. I advised her that you were extremely accommodating to me and took the liberty of providing her with your name and address. She also expressed an interest in joining the Association so that she can stay current with its activities.

I feel that as a new member, I shouldn't give her any advice about this situation but it is obvious from the work he had done in locating former members, that this offer should not be shunted aside. I also hope that I have not caused you any inconvenience providing her with your name and address.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Elmer, all inquiries and information are always welcome from all members and their families.)

Elmer Miller sent a second letter of interest. It reads: In October 1993, my wife and I were fortunate enough to have visited the museum at Camp Shelby, Mississippi and saw, for the first time, the 271st Infantry Regimental insignia together with those of the 272nd and 273rd. I subsequently ordered a pair from Mr. H. Ray Fahrner. We also paid our respects to the 69th Division Memorial, which is quite beautiful.

In December, Mr. Henry Milner, who was my BAR man and who I had not seen since I left the unit 22 May 1945,

visited my wife and I in Columbus, Georgia. We spent about 4 hours talking about our experiences in 1945.

Early January 1944 brought a telephone call from Mr. Glenn L. Markham, another member of Company B, 271st, and we also talked about our experiences at the Rhine, etc. He sent me a copy of a roster of those members located by M/Sgt. Bob Younglas.

In reference to the articles in the September-December 1993 Bulletin, there are several corrections I wish to make. The mortar and machine gun ammunition referred to on Page 31 was the Company basic load, not my ammunition. Also, my letter on Page 3 might give the impression that I retired after 45 years service. I retired from the Army after 24 years service, 12 years of which was overseas, Germany, Okinawa, Korea and Italy.

Both Mr. Milner and Mr. Markham said they hope to attend the Nashville Reunion and I hope we can spend more time together there. Again, congratulations on a fine informative publication.

Norman Barratt, 666 Barneson Avenue, San Mateo, California 94402 — Hq.-273rd: The latest bulletin arrived in my mailbox on Christmas Eve. Other activities of the day took a temporary "back seat" while I skimmed through the Bulletin. One item that I noticed was the need for the 9 digit zip code for receiving future Bulletins. Here is what my local post office gave to me, so please add it to your records.

Kay and I had an enjoyable time during our brief stay at the 1993 Rochester Reunion and we are looking forward to 1994 and the 1995 50th Anniversary "Link-Up" tour back to Germany.

We hope that all of you are as well and healthy as we are and that you all have a happy and prosperous New Year.

Merrill Werts, 1228 Miller Drive, Junction City, Kansas 66441 — I-271st: Coincidentally, the September-December issue of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association Bulletin arrived today, so it's timely that I report the loss of one of our own.

Lieutenant Colonel (R) Richard D. Inge died last Sunday. I'm enclosing a copy of his obituary. Up until the past few months when Dick's health began to fail, I saw him regularly but, somehow, his 69th unit didn't find its way into my memory bank, so I can't help to identify that.

I continue to be impressed with the 69th Bulletin. Clearly, a lot of effort goes into it. It's a rare issue that, I suspect, doesn't trigger a poignant memory for all who read it. Thank you for your devotion to our Association.

Jerome Holub, 178 Overwood Road, Akron, Ohio 44313 — A-879th: Recently, I was in Columbus, Ohio for a Bankruptcy Meeting, of which I am a Chapter 13 Trustee and have been for over 25 years. In the evening, after the sessions, I contacted two of my old artillery buddies from Battery A, 879th Field Artillery Battalion. William Kientz, 2670 Edington Road, Columbus, Ohio 43221, came over to see me at the hotel and we had a great visit, recalling earlier days on far distant shores. I sent him an article that I had written in the Combateers, which was a paper put out by the 879th Division Artillery back in 1945. We are getting together next spring for a golf game in Columbus.

I also called Chuck Csuri and talked to him. Chuck also was in the Battery A, 879th Field Artillery Battalion. Both Bill and Chuck are retired. Chuck is a former professor of art at the Ohio State University and was recently inducted into the Ohio State Sports Hall of Fame. He resides at 110 Amazon Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214. Any other field artillery men from Battery A, living in the Ohio area should contact me at my office, (216) 762-8638, so that we can possibly get together again.

(Continued on Page 5)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 4)

Ambris E. Oliver, R.R. #3, Box 367, Mt. Carmel, Illinois 62863-9563 — B-271st: I just received the Volume 47, No. 1 Bulletin and in the process of reading it from cover to cover noticed **Earl Witzleb's** column that you must have the 9-digit zip code for future mailings, so I thought I'd better get on it. I've included my 9-digit number in my address above.

I sure appreciate all the hard work you fellows do on the Bulletin and in the Association. Without it news of the old outfit would have been pretty scarce for me.

Although I haven't yet made a reunion, I still have a deep interest in the Association. I have been in contact with **Tom Hancock** for years and was in contact with **Bob Younglas** for 3 or 4 years before his death. I furnished each of them with a Company roster I had had since Schmidtheim. I was the Company B, 271st Infantry mail clerk. **Bob** tried to track down all of them that he could.

I came to Shelby from Keesler Field when we all got kicked out of the Air Force and stayed with the Company until transferred to the 29th Division as a low point man. After a few weeks with the 29th, I went to Military Government in Bremen on T/D. I remained there from July 1945 until January 1946. I re-upped, got 90 days furlough, and was reassigned back to Bremen. This time I stayed until March of 1947. I had applied to bring my wife over and they lost my application. When I reapplied they said only the top 3 grades of enlisted men could bring over dependents, so I applied for discharge and got out.

In Military Government I worked as a driver, dispatcher, motorcycle courier between units, ran a combination P-X mailroom for 200 officers and 200 EM and became unit Supply Sergeant. In the process of changing over to civilian control, I became surrounded by a Civil Service supply officer, a 14-man German repair crew, 7 German clerks, 1 special clerk, also German, who did the paperwork to replace ration stamps to German manufacturers and suppliers for rationed materials which we requisitioned off the German economy, so they wouldn't lose business by serving us.

I had seventeen dwelling houses and five office buildings on inventory. The only Army help I had was a truck driver to pick up supplies from Quartermaster. I served under Colonel James R. Case and Colonel Gordon Browning, who was a governor of Tennessee.

The best new year to you and all other 69ers.

Alden Angline, 34 Forest View Drive, Asheville, North Carolina 28804 — D-461st: (December 21, 1993) With but the slightest effort I could change the 93 on the above date to 41, and what a difference that would be. How well we of the 461st Battalion remember those dark days of a Christmas spent during the days of the Battle of the Bulge. I'm writing this from the perspective of the 5th Gun Section, Battery D, of the 461st. We had just come off of a seven day firing mission at Lammersdorf, Belgium where we had been employing one of the diversified operations of our anti-aircraft artillery. At this

location we had assembled eight of our guns wheel to wheel, and were firing automatic fire point blank at the Germans located just down the hill below us. Our rate of fire was 120 rounds each a minute, so you can appreciate the vast number of 40mm rounds falling from this mission. One of our problems was getting rid of the enormous number of empty brass cases piling up around us. They had to bring in a special detail to remove them.

On the 21st we were assigned to give protection to the great 941st Field Artillery Battalion of the 5th Corps. My gun was assigned to Battery C of the 941st, and there I saw one of the most unique arrangements of weaponry of the entire war. The great 78th Infantry Division was the redeeming factor in holding the Germans from breaking through on us there. The attacking three German armies who made up the assault forces of the "Bulge" had failed to penetrate the 78th, but just beyond its right flank were streaming down our side toward the town of Spa, which they reached twenty-five miles to our rear. As Battery C threw everything they had from their unusual 4.5 inch field pieces, two of their four guns were firing forward to hold off the attackers, the other two were firing across those two as the Germans were pouring down our flanks. Everything was pure confusion, to say the least!

Clarence, I write this just to say what we were doing just before you guys arrived. Thank goodness you came, fresh and determined, and began that final great push that brought an end to the three hundred and twenty-six we were in front line combat. And thank you and the 69th for having been so gracious to take us into your splendid organization just as if we had been with you all the way. We rejoice to be found in a very prominent spot on your beautiful monument at Camp Shelby, for having allowed me to be the first 461st member on your Board of Directors, and all of the other privileges extended us. Your guys may even be surprised to know that actually we belonged to the Fifth Corps, designed as a Special Battalion, at the mercy of 5th Corps. And that we were. Each time a major unit, such as the 1st Division during the Invasion, was retired for rest and regrouping, what they did with us was to simply attach us to the next upcoming unit. We were stepchildren until you people took us over for the remainder of time. Thanks again. We are proud of our adoption, just like my wife and I are proud of our beautiful adopted daughter. Every good wish to all during this beautiful season.



Alden Angline. "No extra weight now, the war had worn me down." 40mm anti-aircraft.

(Continued on Page 6)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 5)

Robert F. Wilson, 230 Greenbriar Drive, Cheshire, Connecticut 06410 — Hq., 3rd Bn., 272nd: We last saw Earl and Dottie in Orlando. Sorry we have missed the most recent reunions but we have had minor health problems. Hopefully we will greet you personally in Nashville.

I enjoy the Bulletin very much. Congratulations and a big 'thank you' to you and all who work so hard in making it possible.

Our warmest regards for an enjoyable holiday season and a new year that will be good to you and the Witzlebs.



"Poggy" and Robert Wilson — Cape Cod, May 1993

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.

Proud Son Writes About Father of the 273rd A.T.

Let me introduce myself. My name is Robin Lee Compton. I'm with the United States Army. One reason that I'm writing is to tell you how proud I am of your organization. You see, my father was assigned to the 69th during World War II. And has always been very proud of this to say the least. Another reason I'm writing is to explain a little on how I came across your organization and to give you some background on my father, **Harold L. Compton**.

I read about the reunion you were having back a couple of years ago in the Army Times. I figured I would call and find out more about the organization. I talked to Mr. Kurtzman and he explained to me what this was all about and even told me how to get my father to become a member.

After receiving the information from Mr. Kurtzman, I immediately sent the membership dues in. I had the publication sent to my father's house in Indiana. After receiving this, he was very excited and so very happy to be a member. I must say he really looks forward to the publications, and has even corresponded with fellow members of his unit. One in particular is his old Company Commander, **Leonard Desmul**, from the 273rd Anti-Tank Unit. Again, this is truly wonderful, and very exciting for my father.

My father entered Boot Camp at Camp Shelby, Mississippi in May 1943. After completing Boot Camp he was sent overseas to Germany. Sometime thereafter, he was involved in his first operation in the Denz Forest in France. From there he moved on to Leipzig, Germany. When this operation was completed, he was reassigned to Warten, England and attended heavy equipment school and was appointed Motor Sergeant in Brenthaven, Germany with the 780th Base Depot.

After being discharged from the Army in 1946, he returned back to Vincennes, Indiana. Shortly afterwards, he found employment in Birmingham, Alabama and stayed there for just a few years before returning back to Vincennes, Indiana. There he started with Prestolite Battery Factory and retired from there after 36 years. During this time he managed to raise his seven kids and is still married to **Betty Compton**. They will be celebrating their 50th year wedding anniversary this February. He also volunteered his time with the Knox County Sheriff's Department for a number of years, making it to the rank of Captain. Now my father is fully retired from his work and today he enjoys working on his 1937 Farmall tractor, and after spending many man hours, he has it looking like new and it runs like a champ.



Message from the President

I want to bring you up-to-date on the problems we are having with the Bulletin. The members voted, at the last meeting, to cut down the number of pages in the bulletin to 60, in order to save on cost. However, this is difficult for our two Co-Editors to do because some members are submitting items and personal articles directly to the printers and not to either Clarence or Earl. By doing this, we have no control as to what or how much will be printed.

I have advised both Clarence and Earl to accept only articles that would be of interest to all members. Also, when people get together for a group trip, the group should decide on one member to do the write up and send the photos. This way, we don't have to decide who to give preference to and it saves space in the bulletin.

Chapter or Unit get-togethers are of interest to all as anyone can attend if they desire. However, there are a few Units that request their meeting schedule be printed, but never attend the National Reunions or support them. Is this correct and proper?

The next few years are going to be difficult, so let's all work together both financially and socially to keep a strong Association.

I hope that everyone enjoyed a good and happy holiday season.



Curtis E. Peterson, President
4900 Wallace Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53716
Telephone: 608/222-7957

The Vice-President's Corner



Robert L. Pierce
144 Nashua Court
San Jose, California 95139-1236
Telephone: 408/226-8040

This is my very first opportunity to thank the Membership for accepting me as their Vice President. This is not an honor I take lightly; therefore, I plan to be more than a passive member of the Executive Committee.

There are two specific responsibilities assigned to this position: Reunion Activities and Site Screening Committee Chairman; and, Ladies Auxiliary Liaison Representative.

Reunion Activities and Site Screening has escalated into almost a full-time job. Each year it becomes more difficult to find a Reunion Committee Chairman who will accept

the responsibility to conduct a Reunion in his area. Site selection has become dependent on "who will" rather than "what's best." There have been past experiences of excessive cost overruns, questionable accommodations, mediocre service, and inadequate facilities.

Since the 1994 and 1995 Reunion sites have already been selected and contracted, my "tour of duty" will be responsible for the 1996, 1997 and (hopefully) 1998-2000 Reunion sites. Tentative plans are in process to pursue proposals from three interested major hotels in the Northwest Chicago area for the 1996 Reunion. Both Charleston, West Virginia and the Boston area have also been suggested for 1996 or 1997.

It is my desire to change the method of determining where future annual Reunions will be held. Instead of asking for

sponsors to host a Reunion in their city/location, I plan to poll the membership to identify those cities that are the most interesting places they would like to go to attend a Reunion. After the city/location has been determined, the Reunion Activities/Site Committees will be responsible to form a Reunion Committee to conduct the Reunion. There will be a Site Recommendation Sheet in the Registration Room to record attendees' preferences. Members not attending can send me their recommendations.

Another idea I am proposing is a systematic rotation system where five (5) annual Reunions will be held East of the Mississippi River; every sixth Reunion would be held in the West. Following this concept, candidate locations for the 1998 Reunion in the West are: Las Vegas, Nevada; Albuquerque, New Mexico; San Antonio, Texas and Salt Lake City, Utah. This year I will have a sign-up sheet in the Registration Room for each of the suggested cities so members can identify their preferences for the western city they would most likely go to for an annual Reunion.

In my assessment, the Ladies Auxiliary has been functioning as a separate entity rather than an integral part of the Association. As dues paying members of the 69th Infantry Division Association, their dues also support our Division Treasury. For past Reunions, the Ladies Auxiliary President has attempted to work through the local Reunion Committee Chairman to acquire the support she needed to conduct the Ladies Auxiliary activities. This left much to be desired.

Starting this year at Nashville, the Ladies Auxiliary Program will be defined in detail and coordinated with the local Reunion Committee Chairman. Curt Peterson has already assured this as part of his past Vice President's responsibilities. I plan to meet with the officers of the Ladies Auxiliary in Nashville to coordinate their specific requirements for 1995. Further, I encourage the Ladies Auxiliary President to develop a program for the Ladies Auxiliary General Membership Meetings and publish the program each year in the Bulletin for the upcoming Reunion.

Congratulations to my Committee Members: **Henry Putala**, of Suffield, Connecticut, the East Coast Representative and **Paul Eagon**, of Waukegan, Illinois the Mid-West Representative.



To the 69ers:

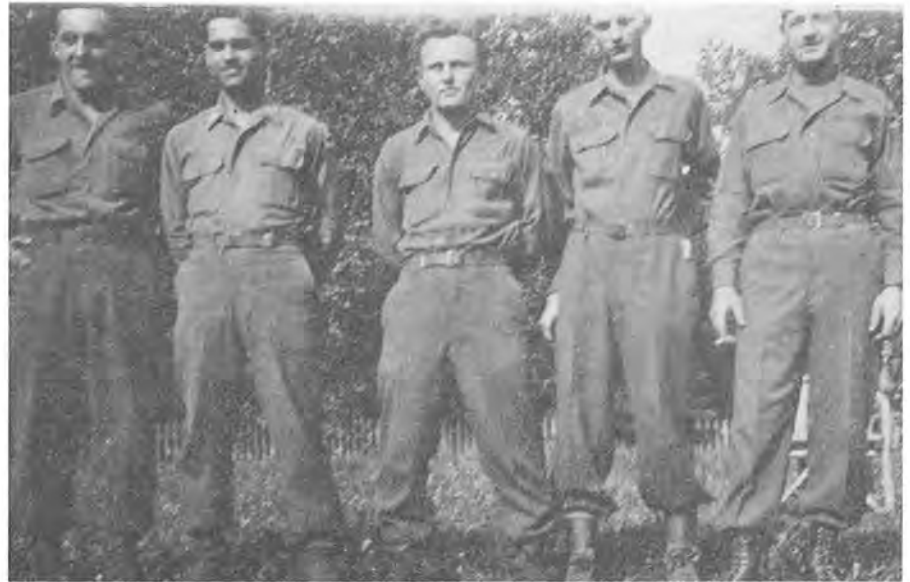
I have been meaning to go to the 69th Reunions for the past 40 years and to my regret, I never made one of them. I read in your last bulletin that you were looking for material about our great Division. I am enclosing some pictures and do have some recollection of Torgau.

First, the Russians insisted on building a wooden bridge across the Elbe, even though we had our corps of engineers there ready to put up a steel one. Before we knew it, there were about 100 Germans dropping logs and beams to the river and sure enough, they built the bridge. When we finally saw their army, they had every type of vehicle you could imagine that they picked up wherever they could liberate them. When it came to the news reels, they shoved and pushed to the front. I had to chug-a-lug a whole glass of liquor with a Russian Lieutenant while he kept an eye on me to see if I would finish, which I did. One of my sergeants came back to me looking very stunned. It seemed that one of the Russian soldiers disobeyed his officer. Over a simple command, he was shot dead on the spot. And lastly, I remember the screams of the townspeople when we finally pulled out of Torgau. Regardless of all this, I still admired the Russians for their courage and resourcefulness.

Maybe I'll make the next reunion. I hope you members enjoy the photos.

Company C, 272nd Infantry Regiment

Submitted by: Lieutenant Morris Assael
8410 Mooring Circle, Boynton Beach, Florida 33437



PLATOON HEADQUARTERS

Platoon Sergeant Paranka, Platoon Leader Lieutenant Morris Assael, Guide Sergeant Afanesko, Runner Pfc. Bailey and Medic T/5 Perraulk.



1st SQUAD

Back Row: 1st Scout Surash, B.A.R. Man Heyman, Assistant B.A.R. Man Wegler, Assistant Squad Leader Agustin

Front Row: Rifleman Brown, Ammo Bearer Stuckey, B.A.R. Man Hendrix

(Continued on Page 9)



Russian Lady Sergeant in front of Poster.



Morris Assael in front of wooden bridge



Morris Assael at Camp Shelby



2nd SQUAD

*Back Row: B.A.R. Man Keyes, Rifleman Ottignon, Squad Leader Sergeant Wall, Assistant Squad Leader Transfaglia, Ammo Bearer Bill Beary.
Front Row: Assistant B.A.R. Man Purot, Ammo Bearer Weiner, Assistant Squad Leader Pruett*



3rd SQUAD

Back Row: Assistant Squad Leader Emmons, Rifleman Raphael, Squad Leader Sergeant Bernard, 2nd Scout Mistler, Sniper Beck. Front Row: Rifleman Acierno, B.A.R. Man Bates, 1st Scout Waltman, Assistant B.A.R. Man Hall

Treasurer's Message



William R. and Jane Matlach

William R. Matlach, Treasurer
Post Office Box 474
West Islip, New York 11795-0474
Telephone: 516/669-8077

I wish to thank the membership for its fine response to the first dues notice sent out this year. The mailing of the dues envelopes brought a surge of checks during the election day period which was very encouraging. Perhaps everyone sent in their money thinking they would have little left after the increase in taxes expected from the new president!

A few of you have written in asking why it is taking so long for you to receive your new membership card. The reason is probably because your check has been buried in that initial surge and it takes time for the Treasurer to do the proper bookkeeping and process the checks. The responses have now slowed down to a trickle, by comparison, so I am catching up.

But do not get the idea that we are loaded with more money than we need. The cash arrives in the form of small checks and leaves rapidly in the form of large checks. For instance, printing the first bulletin this year cost \$8056.00 and postage for mailing it was \$1343.14. It was a great bulletin with lots of news, pictures, and interesting articles, but if we want to continue to produce fine interesting bulletins, it requires funding, and that is where you come in. Continue to send in your dues as you have and we shall be able to produce the services you like.

If you have somehow mislaid your dues envelope and failed to mail your dues, there is no problem. Current dues are \$10.00 per year. Just write a check and send it to the address shown at the beginning of this article. Checks should be made out to the 69th Infantry Division Association, Inc.

William R. Matlach
Treasurer

1993-1994 Dues Year
August 1, 1993 to July 31, 1994
Dues: \$10.00

If you did not receive a dues envelope, send your dues to **WILLIAM MATLACH** at the above address.

Past President's Briefing



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

Hello to all Former 69ers,

Just a short message from your Immediate Past President. First, my thanks to all of you who gave me such great support over the past two years. I won't attempt to list all of you by name - it would be far too lengthy. To all of the elected officers and to all the committee people, I can only say that your support and professional competence was directly responsible for a successful term including two very fine reunions. For those able to attend, I can say that San Francisco and Rochester proved to be highlights of 1992 and 1993.

I wish also to express my appreciation for the support, understanding, and consideration of the General Membership. I will always cherish the opportunity you gave me to be your President. Be assured that I feel very honored to have held the office.

I leave office with a sense of real affection for all of you 69ers and your families and I am certain that our Association will provide the same support to all who follow as long as we are able to continue the wonderful 69th Infantry Division Association.

Attention Rochester Reunion Attendees!!

At the Reunion in Rochester time was taken during the Saturday A.M. meeting and the program that the United States Army Commemoration of WWII was explained and forms were given out to assist in this record of history. I have just received correspondence from their Headquarters in Carlisle, Pennsylvania that as of October 7, 1993, Major Netting advises he has not received any of these surveys from those members who took the forms at the meeting.

GENTLEMEN: If you were one of those that took the survey form will you **PLEASE** take the time to complete it and forward in the postage free envelope given to you. Let us participate in this program and show that the 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION MEMBERS fully cooperated in the program. In the event that there are questions please direct them to the attention of the Association Secretary. Thanks again.

William C. Sheavly, Secretary
Telephone: 410/833-2771

69th Infantry Division's 47th Annual Reunion NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE August 21 thru 28, 1994 Sheraton Music City Hotel SIGHTSEEING TOURS DESCRIPTION

TOUR #1

PLAYER'S RIVERBOAT CASINO

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23rd AND 24th

8:30 a.m. — Board our awaiting motorcoaches to be whisked off to the hottest casino around, The Merv Griffin's Player Riverboat Casino in Metropolis, Illinois. You will have a buffet lunch included upon arrival and then board the Sidewheeler Riverboat for some gambling fun. Try your luck at one of the 630 slot and video poker machines or at the 38 tables of blackjack, craps, and roulette. Return to the hotel at 6:00 p.m.

TOUR #2(A)

JACK DANIEL'S DISTILLERY TOUR and MS. MARY BOBO'S LUNCH

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23rd and 24th

9:00 a.m. — Board our waiting motorcoaches for Lynchburg, Tennessee. You will enjoy a personally guided walking tour of the Jack Daniel's Distillery (the oldest registered distillery in the United States). You will see the Jack's famous whiskey making process but don't expect to buy or drink any of Jack's whiskey because Lynchburg is in a dry county. You will enjoy a family style lunch at Ms. Mary Bobo's Boarding House featuring all the southern favorites. After lunch, enjoy a leisurely ride by some of Tennessee's most beautiful walking horse farms. Return to the hotel at 4:00 p.m.

NOTE: Please keep in mind that the Jack Daniel's Tour involves over 250 steps during a one hour period (approximately 175 are down and 75 are up).

TOUR #2(B)

JACK DANIEL'S DISTILLERY TOUR WITH LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23rd and 24th

9:00 a.m. — Board our waiting motorcoaches for Lynchburg, Tennessee. You will enjoy a personally guided walking tour of the Jack Daniel's Distillery (the oldest registered distillery in the United States). You will see the Jack's famous whiskey making process but don't expect to buy or drink any of Jack's whiskey because Lynchburg is in a dry county. Next, you will have time to walk around the town square for lunch on your own. Afterwards, enjoy a leisurely ride by some of Tennessee's most beautiful walking horse farms. Return to the hotel at 4:00 p.m.

NOTE: Please keep in mind that the Jack Daniel's Tour involves over 250 steps during a one hour period (approximately 175 are down and 75 are up).

TOUR #3

HALF DAY SIGHTSEEING TOUR

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23rd and 24th

10:00 a.m. — Board our waiting motorcoaches for a sightseeing tour of Nashville. You will drive by the homes of the stars, through historic downtown Nashville, by Music Row and much more. Return to the hotel at 1:00 p.m.



TOUR #4

HISTORIC NASHVILLE TOUR

WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY, AUGUST 24th and 26th
(ADMISSION INCLUDED)

9:00 a.m. — Board our waiting motorcoaches for a look at Nashville and the surrounding area's history. Our first stop will be in Franklin, Tennessee for a tour of the Carnton Mansion. This mansion, built in 1826 by Randall McGavock, was used during the Battle of Franklin as a hospital and a two acre Confederate Cemetery is on the property. Our next stop is the Carter House located on the site of the Battle of Franklin and at one time during the war was used as a Union command post. The house was built in 1830 and features a museum and video on the history of the Battle of Franklin and its effect on southern lifestyles. A stop will be made at Cool Springs Galleria for lunch on your own and time to shop in some unique stores in the Galleria. Board your coach for the Hermitage. You will step back in time and history with a visit to the 625 acre plantation home of Andrew Jackson. The mansion features beautiful white pillars, wide verandas, spacious front hall and graceful southern architecture. Return to the hotel at 4:00 p.m.

TOUR #5

COUNTRY MUSIC SPECTACULAR TOUR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25th

9:00 a.m. — Board our waiting motorcoaches for a full day of sightseeing. You will drive by the homes of the stars such as Minnie Pearl, Ronnie Milsap, Tammy Wynette, The Governor's Mansion and more. You will also see historic downtown Nashville including admission to the Ryman Auditorium (former home of the Grand Ole Opry). Continue touring with a drive by the State Capitol, Parthenon and then to Music Row. You will drive by the recording studios used to make some of the greatest country hits. A stop will be made and admission included to the Country Music Hall of Fame. Built in 1967 to memorialize the industry's outstanding performers and leaders. The museum features exhibits covering over sixty years of country music history. A stop will be made to have lunch on your own and to shop at some of the gift shops on Music Row. After lunch, board your coach for a tour of the Opryland Hotel. You will explore the winding walkways and view the waterfalls and foliage in the conservatory and Cascades area of the hotel which contain more than 4 acres of gardens under glass. Return to the hotel at 3:00 p.m.

(Continued on Page 12)

**1994 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE REUNION
SIGHTSEEING TOURS DESCRIPTION**

(Continued from Page 11)

**TOUR #6
OPRYLAND THEME PARK**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 26th — 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(ADMISSION INCLUDED)**

Board our awaiting motorcoaches for Opryland U.S.A. Musical Theme Park. This park features a wide variety of shows (Country, Bluegrass, 50's Style Rock 'n Roll and more), dozens of rides, gift shops, restaurants and more. No other place in the world has so much fun to entertain everyone.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Motor Vehicles

DIRECTIONS TO THE SHERATON MUSIC CITY HOTEL

The Sheraton is on the east side of Nashville near the airport. Coming from I-24 or I-65 take I-40 East from Nashville to Exit 215 North (Briley Parkway). From Briley Parkway North exit onto Elm Hill East (right). The McGavock Pike intersection will be about three-fourths of a mile distance. Stay in the right lane for a right turn onto McGavock Pike. After you pass through a signal light on McGavock Pike look for the red brick pillar entrance to the Sheraton Music City Hotel which will be on your left as you come to the top of the hill.

Coming from the East on I-40: Take Exit 216 North (Donelson Pike). Continue on Donelson Pike to Elm Hill

**TOUR #7
GRAND OLE OPRY
FRIDAY, AUGUST 26th**

5:45 p.m. — Board our awaiting motorcoaches for the world famous Grand Ole Opry. Watch the greatest stars in country music as they perform on stage. Radio's longest running show is broadcast live on AM 650 WSM from the Grand Ole Opry House. We will be returning to the hotel at 9:30 p.m.

NOTE:

**SEE ACTIVITIES REGISTRATION FORM
FOR PRICES AND DAYS TO REGISTER FOR TOURS.**

Airline Service

Nashville is served by the following airlines: American, Delta, Northwest, Southwest, United and US Air.

American Airlines says the cheapest rates will be for a 14 day advanced reservations with a Saturday stay over.

The Sheraton Music City Hotel has complimentary transportation to and from the Nashville International Airport. A courtesy phone center is located in the baggage claim area for your use.



*Is this that war-torn building you saw in Germany?
No, this is the 101st AIRBORNE RESTAURANT in Nashville. A good place for units to meet.*

Joe Lipsius takes us back to Our 20th Anniversary

Joe Lipsius
272nd Infantry Regiment
1354 Bramble Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30329
Telephone: 404/634-7118

I would like to share these photographs with members of the 272nd Infantry Regiment and those who attended the 69th Infantry Division reunion in Princeton, New Jersey, held in August 1963. This reunion celebrated the 20th anniversary of the activation of the 69th Infantry Division which formally took place, May 15, 1943, at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

Colonel Charles T. "Buck" Lanham is in the center. He was the cadre Regiment C.O. of the 272nd Infantry Regiment. Lieutenant Colonel Cecil J. "Cy" Kennedy is on his right. He was the cadre 3rd Battalion C.O., 272nd Infantry Regiment and became Regiment Ex. O. shortly before the Division left Camp Shelby to go overseas. I am on the left.



Joe Lipsius, Charles T. "Buck" Lanham and Cecil J. "Cy" Kennedy in front of the Nassau Inn, Princeton, New Jersey, 20th Annual Reunion held August 16, 1963.

Early after D-Day, June 6, 1944, Colonel Lanham became a replacement Regiment C.O. of the 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, fighting in Normandy. He performed heroically, winning numerous decorations and a battlefield commission to Brigadier General. Retiring from the service in 1954 as a Major General, he joined the Long Gray Line, July 20th, 1978.

My relation with Colonel Lanham (I always think of him at Camp Shelby), began as his cadre Regiment S-2, and then his S-3. I was by his side in garrison and in the field almost every day. Lieutenant Colonel Kennedy and I were together in the cadre of the 383rd Infantry, 96th Infantry Division, at Camp Adair, Oregon, and in basic training there. In the 272nd Infantry Regiment our assignments brought us in frequent contact and we socialized together.

It was my good fortune to attend the Princeton reunion and have this picture taken with two men I loved and respected. It is proudly displayed with other cherished photos.

At the Princeton reunion, Colonel Lanham was honored at the Saturday night banquet by presentation of the original artwork used to produce the front cover of the 20th anniversary Bulletin. Later, it was passed on to me with the following

inscription: "To Joe Lipsius With Admiration And Respect From His Old C.O. Buck Lanham." The framed art work has hung on my den wall for many years. I wanted to let 69ers who were at Princeton in 1963 know of the whereabouts of this reminder of that occasion given to Colonel Lanham.

Hope you are doing well and my thanks to you for the great job you do on the Bulletin. I hope to see you in Nashville.



Original artwork for the cover of the Bulletin for the 20th Anniversary of the 69th Infantry Division Activation.

* * * * *

Gift of Metal Detector Sparks Hobby Interest for Joe

(The following article appeared in a magazine, but Joe did not specify what that magazine was. Therefore, we cannot give credit to the magazine, although Joe is listed as the writer.)

As I write this story, I am a few weeks short of ten years of successful metal detecting. My wife and three daughters gave me my first detector several years earlier, and I detected infrequently with negligible results. Time for the hobby was spent reading various hobby magazines, buying all of the advertised "how to" books, talking to my friends in an attempt to learn sites to hunt, and polishing my detectors. Later, I purchased a top-of-the-line unit to go with my first machine.

From the beginning, my goal was to be a "coinshooter." I never dreamed or thought of finding buckles or belt plates. A by-product of my over 31,000 coin finds are hundreds of artifacts of various description, including several ladies' dress or coat buckles, and a few men's pants buckles. Two are sterling silver. I also have a "GI" buckle, as well as a large "show-off" buckle featuring a cow in black and white enamel.

(Continued on Page 18)

GIFT OF METAL DETECTOR SPARKS HOBBY INTEREST (Continued from Page 17)

The buckles or belt plates that didn't occur to me to find are those used by the military during the Civil War, and up to the turn of the century. Recently, I found my fourth buckle in this category, all with a Tesoro Golden Sabre II.

I recovered these buckles while searching for coins at turn-of-the-century, or earlier, occupied home places in west Georgia. Two date to the Civil War, from both sides of the conflict. They were found in areas not known to have been the scene of Civil War activity.

The first of my buckles was extremely old, perhaps Civil War or earlier. An eagle is in the center of a square plate measuring 2 1/4." A 13-star flag is in each corner. The combination belt loop and catch came off when I made an attempt to straighten a bend. John Sexton of Stone Mountain Relics, Stone Mountain, Georgia, a dealer in metal detectors and Civil War collectibles, identified it as a 1900s militia plate.

Next came the most spectacular find in all of my metal detecting. It is a Tennessee style Confederate States buckle, of sand-cast brass with a background of gloss black enamel, some of it still visible. At the time of the find, my partner, Ed Ruff, and I speculated that it might be a Confederate States buckle, or replica, or the "CS" might be someone's initials. Expectations were not high.

Stone Mountain Relics identified the CS buckle the same day. It is on display in a collection in its Civil War Museum, valued at around \$2,000. *Western and Eastern Treasures* carried a story on this find in the January 1993 issue, and gave it Honorable Mention in their "10 Best Finds Of 1992" contest.

My third buckle appeared to be a Civil War item at the time of excavation. Whether Confederate or Union, I had no idea. The design and condition made me come to this conclusion.

I had earlier told the homeowner of my poor luck finding coins. When he came out again, I showed him the buckle and told him what I thought. He said, "I'm glad you found something," and returned it to me. The belt loop and catch had broken or rusted off. I didn't think to search the hole for them at the time. Later, despite repeated searches of the area, they did not turn up.

Again I went to Stone Mountain Relics. John Sexton identified it as a die-stamped brass US sword belt plate from the Civil War, general motif of the 1851 pattern. The buckle was put on display in the Civil War Museum after I showed it at the next Stone Mountain Treasure Hunters club meeting.

When my fourth buckle was dug, it appeared to be a rectangular piece of metal with dirt heavily embedded on one side. I began to rub the dirt and could soon feel some ridges or lines. I decided to do a little investigating before any further metal detecting. Without checking the hole, I covered it up.

I picked up a brush from my car and went to a faucet in the back yard.

When I asked the 80-year-old lady for permission to look over her yard for old coins, I named several nearby residents where I had detected. I also described several finds, including the US sword belt plate which had been found about two blocks away. She was in the yard and came over to the faucet when I started the water running. After a little scrubbing, the outline of an eagle began to appear. Agitation produced more of the eagle and the border. She remarked, "It looks like you've found another buckle."

By this time I was so excited it was hard to keep from shouting with joy. The eagle seemed to be the same as my other belt plate, except the eagle was much bolder. This plate

was cast or molded, and the other was die-stamped and thin. As before, the belt loop and catch were missing.

I began to speculate that this buckle must be a rare and unusual type because of the way it was made. It might be the best find yet! I was experiencing the most excitement, at the time of a find, in all my years metal detecting.

Steve Mullinax, author of *Confederate Belt Buckles and Plates*, lives a few miles away. I had been referred to him after making my other US sword belt plate find, and had shown it to him. I decided that the suspense would be unbearable to continue to hunt and not know what I had. I had been detecting for about an hour and a half. The lady and I had talked about the heat more than once. There was no problem making an excuse to leave because of the heat. She invited me back.

My heart rate must have doubled as I drove to Steve's house. I frequently glanced at the eagle on the buckle and brushed my fingers over its bold relief. During the few minutes drive I fantasized that Steve would tell me I had a once in a lifetime find and the crown jewel of all my finds!

Steve took the buckle. He looked at the eagle carefully, then examined the markings where the belt loop and catch should have been. After a few moments he said it was a US sword belt plate, same pattern (1851) as my other, except this one was cast brass and not Civil War. He dated it around 1870-80.

He commented that it was a good find and that I had luck in the area I was hunting. He knew where I was making these finds. He asked if I'd checked the hole for the belt loop and catch. Embarrassed, I explained what happened but that I would go back.

I was a lot less excited leaving than when arriving. However, I was still happy for my incredible luck in making another old buckle find. I drove home, about 45 minutes, to tell my wife, and then went to Stone Mountain Relics.

John Sexton confirmed Steve's identification. He asked to display it along with my other US sword belt plates because not many find both the die-stamped and cast brass pattern 1851. I agreed to return it after my next club meeting.

A coinshooter finds four old buckles! "I'm Buckled Up with Luck."



Joe holds his fourth buckle, recovered July 14, 1993.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: There were several photo copies of the buckles Joe found, but they were too dark to reproduce.)

Dottie and Me



Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.

Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr., *Bulletin Coordinating Manager*
Post Office Box 69
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
or
R.D. #1, Box 477
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606
Telephone: 412/455-2901
(Evenings after 7:00 p.m. and Weekends)
Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike

We hope you had a very nice holiday season. We have had our share of snow and cold weather. Hopefully when you receive this Bulletin, spring will be well on its way. This will be a short Dottie & Me. Earl has been on the sick list again. He has been strongly advised by his doctors to give up his work on the Bulletin. In October he had a virus that hit his heart and they feel it will be a long and slow recovery. Earl had a few more setbacks since then, but hopefully things will start to turn around for the better now.

We hope to be able to attend the Tri-State in Charleston, West Virginia and then the National Reunion in Nashville at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in August. We hope to see you there. We received the letter and photo below.

* * * * *

Please publish the enclosed photo in the bulletin. This couple ran out of table space with their Unit, I believe the 271st, and shared a table with us, the 881st, at one of the evening events at the reunion in Rochester. I snapped this picture of them and they gave me their name and address. After coming home to Connecticut I had the address but the photos were not ready. When the photos were ready, I had lost the address. If they will contact me upon seeing this picture in the bulletin, I will send them a colored snapshot.

Arthur S. Moore

91 Campfield Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06114



69th Members Alert for June 1995

Ralph Utermoehlen

2221 Stone Post Road, Manhattan, Kansas 66502

The 69th Infantry Division Members have another opportunity to be honored 50 years later for their link-up efforts in a mini-reunion to be held in Central Kansas during June 1995.

This reunion will be a part of the 50-year Reenactment of General Eisenhower's "Victory in Europe Parade" held upon his return to his hometown of Abilene, Kansas in June 1945.

The Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum would like the 69th to be a part of the festivities and join Ralph Utermoehlen, Merrill Werts, Company I, 271st and other 69th mid-west members in hosting the reunion.

The mini-reunion can have tours of Fort Riley - the home of the 1st Infantry Division, the Combat Air Museum (WWII Planes), Fort Leavenworth's Command and General Staff College and President Truman's Library and Museum, as well as many other activities in the Mid-West. Details will be worked out later. However, in the meantime, I would like to get members thoughts and some preliminary indication of interest in this once in a lifetime event.

Please write to me at the above address. Thank You.

William T. Gleason writes ...

William T. Gleason

Company E, 273rd Infantry

10508 Blaisdell Circle, Bloomington, Minnesota 55420-5512

I hope you had a nice holiday season. I haven't seen you for quite some time. My last reunion was San Francisco where you weren't able to make it.

I'm writing to inform you of the death of my very good friend Gene Orlowski. He died of a heart attack on December 6th while playing golf in Florida. His wife Jean wrote to me and asked me to inform the 69th Association. I wrote also to Clarence Marshall so he will have the information for the Bulletin.

Gene was a gunner. I was 2nd Gunner in a mortar squad under Sergeant Fred Dicke. Fred and I were both wounded on February 27th in the attack on Giescheid. I often think that Gene may have been responsible for my survival since he gave me the prescribed package of sulphur and a canteen of water before the medics arrived. He did this at great risk to his own life since the artillery shell fragments were whistling around us at the time.

I spent nearly four months in the hospital, a total of 10 or 11 in Belgium, France, England and the U.S. I recovered well and have had a good life.

Gene and I attended our first reunion in Milwaukee and since then two or three others. He and I hadn't seen each other since the war although Fred Dicke was a pretty regular attendee as you know.

I still keep in touch with Fred and also with Art Hume and Bill Matlach.

Two years ago I went to Europe and visited Ramscheid where I started out. I was amazed at the changes. I would not have recognized it except for the church, the only thing that seemed to be unchanged. Gene and I had our mortar set up just a few yards from the church.

I don't know yet if I can make it to Nashville. I would like to if possible.

2nd Battalion, 271st Infantry Combat and Recon

Submitted By: Herb Erhart
P.O. Box 579, Eagar, Arizona 85925

Herb sent in this little note along with a great group of photos for all to enjoy. His note is as follows:

The two unidentified soldiers on page 6 of Volume 47, No. 1 under Company F, 271st Infantry are Bob Cascart on the left and Jimmy Lewis on the right. Jimmy is from Company E as he and I volunteered for the 2nd Battalion Combat and Recon Patrol at the same time. (The picture he is speaking of is reprinted below from the last issue of the bulletin.)

I am enclosing additional pictures of the 2nd Battalion, 271st Infantry Combat and Recon Patrol. We had 3 men wounded and none killed.

The only members of the Patrol that I know of who are members of the 69th Association besides myself are Bob Hosea and Ray Norris.



*Bob Cascart and Jimmy Lewis
(Reprinted from last bulletin, page 6)*



*Wheeler, Bob Cascart, Ray Norris and Asbell
Leipzig, Germany - 1945*



*Leipzig — Back row: Bob Hosea, Jimmy Lewis and Asbell
Front row: John Ingraham, Bob Cascart, Wheeler, McGuire*



Ingersol and McDade - Leipzig, Germany — 1945



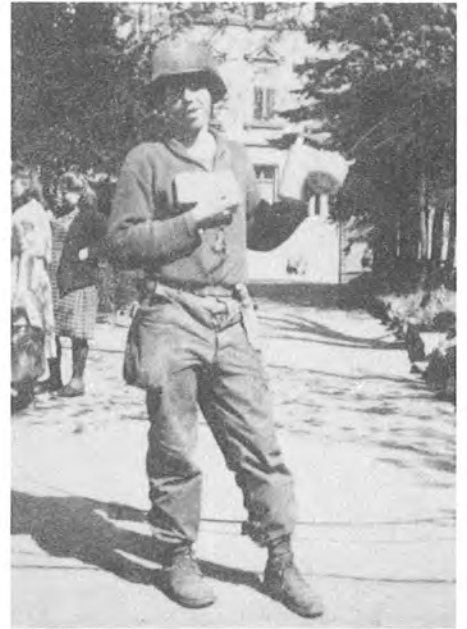
Bob Hosea, Herb Erhart and Lafave — Leipzig, 1945



Hannaway



Perrico



Lafave



John Ingraham



Bob Hosea and Pop McGuire



Sergeant Ray Norris



White, ??, Tex, Russian, Bob Cascart - Torgau, Germany



Bob Cascart and Jimmy Lewis

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

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



Alice Wolthoff, President
5609 14th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33707-3418
Telephone: 813/347-6975

Edith Zaffern, *Sunshine Lady*
22555 Hallcroft
Southfield, Missouri 48034
Telephone: (Please send to Dottie)

Edith (Jean) Brannan, *Chaplain*
720 Grand Bay Wilmer Road
North Mobile, Alabama 36608
Telephone: 205/649-1611

Margaret Kormas, *Asst. Chaplain*
12500 Edgewater Drive
Apartment #503
Lakewood, Ohio 44107
Telephone: 216-228-6024

Edith Chapman, *Vice President*
7412 Exmore
Springfield, Virginia 22150
Telephone: 703/451-1904

Ellen McCann, *Secretary*
39 Mayflower Road
Woburn Massachusetts 01801
Telephone: 617/933-2312

A Message from your Auxiliary President, Alice R. Wolthoff

Dear Ladies of the Auxiliary:

The holidays are behind now and all the decorations are packed away for another year. I certainly wish all of you and your families good health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year.

I missed the meeting in Nashville with the committee in January because of the weather that had been predicted. I have a fear of snow and ice, let alone dealing with it in the mountains. However, I will go in April to Nashville to meet them. I did call and speak with Joe McMurry, Co-Chairperson for the Nashville reunion.

Before we realize it, we'll be packing our suitcases and be off to enjoy Nashville. I'm looking forward to it. Ladies, don't forget to knit, crochet, or quilt lap robes for the veterans size 26 x 45. Socks and bibs are also welcome. Anyone needing instructions for the bibs or slippers can drop me a note and I'll forward them to you.

The next time I write, I'll remind everyone of the \$3.00 gift exchange that we have at our Ladies Auxiliary Meeting at the reunion. Don't spend more than \$5.00.

May I please ask my officers if they would be kind enough to send a picture of themselves to Dottie Witzleb for the bulletin. The picture will be returned after they make a copy. Dottie's address is on the top of this page. This will help all the ladies to recognize us. See you all in Nashville.

Sincerely,
Alice R. Wolthoff, *President*
Ladies Auxiliary

Maria Keller receives letter from Armed Forces Museum

ARMED FORCES MUSEUM FOUNDATION, INC.
Post Office Box 5027, Attn.: NGMS-CSP
Jackson, Mississippi 39296-5027

Dear Mrs. Keller,

There is a conservative estimate that more than three million men and women have spent at least a part of their lives at Camp Shelby, Mississippi and countless others in the military service of their country. There were many among this large group who kept journals or recorded a description of "the way things were" for the benefit of those who would come later, but there are a very few such writings available to the public.

Thanks to your interest and concern, the public will now have access to the excellent description by one such person that gives tremendous insight, a "grass roots view from the foxhole" if you will, about Camp Shelby and the 69th Infantry Division Special Troops.

"Reminiscences of My World War II Service," in three parts, written by Joe Wright is accepted as a cherished and interesting attraction for the museum. It will further highlight the history of the 69th Division as we know it and will be a useful resource in learning activities of the younger generations.

Thank you so very much. We also thank and commend Sergeant Wright for taking the time to make a record of this part of his life and doing it in such a grand and useful way.

Sincerely,
Emmett H. Walker, Jr.
General MSARNG Retired
President

(Continued on Page 23)

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE ARMED FORCES MUSEUM FOUNDATION, INC.

You are cordially invited to become a member of the Armed Forces Museum Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving our military heritage. This Foundation will maintain a facility to collect and display items of equipment, artifacts and memorabilia from all of the services. The purpose is to recognize the efforts of all veterans and honor them by providing this permanent museum; to inform, educate and perpetuate the heritage of contributions made in the defense of the United States.

The museum is located south of Hattiesburg, Mississippi at Camp Shelby, exit US 49 at the South Gate. In addition to the museum, a Memorial Drive has been built and is dedicated to all units that have trained in Mississippi. This Memorial Drive is located adjacent to the Post Chapel and across the parade field from the "White House."

Help us preserve our military heritage; become a member, show your patriotism and love for freedom. Anyone who is interested in joining may write The Armed Forces Museum Foundation, Inc. and request an application for membership at the address indicated below.

The Armed Forces Museum Foundation, Inc.
Post Office Box 5027, Attn.: NGMS-CSP
Jackson, Mississippi 39296-5027

* * * * *

Ladies Auxiliary Meeting August 14th, 1993 Rochester, New York

President Maria G. Keller called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. We were all welcomed to Rochester by our Vice-President, Alice Wolthoff.

The ladies were informed that this was our 42nd Annual Meeting and that the Association was organized in Cleveland, Ohio in 1951.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Edith Chapman followed by an opening prayer. Edith offered our prayers for the suffering people in Somalia, Bosnia and for those in our country who have been devastated by the floods in the Mid-West. We all thanked God for all our blessings.

President Maria Keller introduced the current officers:
Vice-President Alice Wolthoff
Secretary Ted Nemeth
Assistant Secretary Ellen McCann
Chaplain Edith Chapman
Assistant Chaplain Jeanne Hawn
Sunshine Lady Margie McCombs

The secretary read the minutes of the San Francisco meeting that had graciously been recorded by Marianne Kurtzman in the absence of both the secretary and assistant secretary. The minutes were approved as read.

Two letters of appreciation were received from Theresa Pierce of the Veterans Administration for the donations, comfort items and monetary donations given to the San Francisco V.A. Medical Center and the Palo Alto Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

A Memorial Service was conducted by Edith Chapman for our deceased members.

Maria Keller made the motion to give \$500.00 to the Veterans Hospital for incidentals. The motion was approved by the floor and seconded by Stefania Nemeth.

The Executive Board recommended that the Auxiliary dues be increased from \$2.00 to \$5.00. The motion was accepted by a show of hands from the floor.

The slate of officers for the next two years was presented to the ladies:

President Alice Wolthoff
Vice-President Edith Chapman
Secretary Ellen McCann
Chaplain Jean Brannan
Assistant Chaplain Margaret Kormas

There were no nominations from the floor and the slate was accepted as presented.

We had 151 members attending this meeting including 11 First Timers.

Our Sunshine Lady, Margie McCombs, reported that she sent 2,509 cards and spent \$602.00 for stamps. She also received 150 Christmas cards from members of the Association. Marge spoke of her plans to retire from her 'job' when all of her cards were used up. We will be looking for a few great ladies to fill her shoes! Vivian Kurtzman presented Margie with a gift from the Association.

Maria introduced the President of the Men's Association, Curt Peterson. He greeted us all and also announced that the 1995 reunion will be at Myrtle Beach, North Carolina.

Jim Boris, Chairman of the Golf Tournament, awarded prizes to the lady golfers and informed us that the lady golfers have increased to 12.

Maria thanked the ladies who were covering the registration table and Jack and Mary Duffy who co-chaired the reunion.

Vivian Kurtzman told us of her visit with Mrs. Adelaide Bolte in the nursing home. She is still a jolly 95 year old lady and she asked her to say 'hello' to us all.

Dottie Witzleb, Lady of the Bulletin, was introduced and was presented with a gift as a thank you for all of her work.

We were reminded of the upcoming reunion in Nashville, Tennessee, August 21st through 28th, 1994. Hope to see you there.

Maria introduced Mr. Mark Francis, representative from the Batavia V.A. Hospital. He was presented with the lap robes and a check. There were 47 lab robes, 13 pairs of slippers and other gifts. He told of his hospital and thanked us for these gifts.

Maria was presented with a gift by our new President, Alice Wolthoff, who in turn was presented the gavel for her tenure as President by Maria Keller.

The meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. and our closing prayer was led by our Chaplain.

Our special program was a gourmet food presentation by Michael Matteo. We were shown how to impress our friends with tomato roses, cantaloupe baskets, pineapple slices in quarter shells and honeydew swans.

The program ended at 11:15 a.m. and we then had our gift exchange.

Our pleasant meeting came to an end at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen McCann
Secretary

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. 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.

880th Field Artillery, A Battery

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

James Bilbrey, President
R.D. #3, Box 289-B
Celina, Tennessee 38551
Telephone: 615/243-2250

"A" Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion held its eighth annual reunion September 22nd thru 25th at Shoney's Inn in Lexington, Kentucky. The following were present: **Hugh Hawkins** (a first-timer), **James and Geneva Bilbrey**, **John and Pat Barnett**, **Izzy and Ruth Bombardier**, **Frank and Dorothy Cavlovic**, **Bill and Shirley Dunn**, **Tom and Betty Ellis**, **Lloyd and Janice Gerth**, **Margie Harreld**, **Vince Ignatosky**, **"Jeff" and Betty Jeffries**, **Joy Northern**, **Duffy and Rose Redmond**, **Rex and Ruby Sausaman**, **"Tippy" and Irene Tipperreiter** and **Carl Schumaker** (881st Field Artillery). Visitors attending were **"Jeep" and Margrit Frasier** (879th Field Artillery), **Joe and Virginia McMurry** (271st Infantry), **Tim and Peggy Pangle** and **Dock Little**.

We enjoyed a great tour of Fort Knox, Kentucky, especially the Patton Museum, which is a real bonanza for World War II history buffs. A sharp-eyed gunner reported to the museum director that the 69th Division patch was displayed upside down, but the director said we weren't the first to bring this up.

On Saturday evening our annual banquet was held at the French Quarters Suites Hotel. Afterward, we assembled in our motel conference room for our business meeting. Tribute was paid to **James and Geneva Bilbrey** for their efforts in making this one of our best gatherings.

We noted with sadness the absence of **Joseph Zidian**, who recently passed away. A moment of silence was observed in tribute to our deceased comrades. We have now accounted for 89 former redlegs, of whom 38 are deceased.

We then moved on to new business. It was decided to retain our present officers: **James Bilbrey** as President and **John Barnett** as Secretary/Treasurer.

The locale for our 1994 reunion was then discussed. **Izzy and Ruth Bombardier** then graciously (and bravely) volunteered to host Reunion '94 in their hometown, Concordia, Kansas. We will furnish details in our later battery newsletters as plans are finalized. The **Bombardiers'** proposal was enthusiastically adopted and the meeting was adjourned. We are all very excited and looking forward to our next gathering.

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 in Salem, Virginia on October 14th thru 16th, 1993. We had good weather for this year but the fall foliage wasn't up to par. Everyone seemed to enjoy the fellowship. We had seventy-six for the banquet on Saturday night. We had five others who missed the meal, including **Ralph Bragg** and **Cris** who got up from their sick bed to put in an appearance. We hope he's doing fine by now.

We were invited to Texas by **Mac Marbury** for next year's reunion. We will have more information later as dates are confirmed. We hope all who are physically able will try to make the Fiftieth Anniversary sentimental journey back to Fort Hood.

Those attending the Salem, Virginia mini-reunion were:

Bill and Ellen Snidow	Virginia
Al Blaine	Massachusetts
Mac Marbury and Pat	Texas
John Sherlock and Leona	Rhode Island
Bill and Mary Wahl	Ohio
Mike and Dot Kotnick	Ohio
Dan and Ester Russo	New Jersey
Pete and Carol Besket	Pennsylvania
Ralph and Cris Bragg	Virginia
Bill and Jo Beswick	Virginia
Jules and Pat Slopek	Ohio
Romain Repair and Guest	California
Fred and Nancy Baumgardner	Florida
Chuck and Frances Yannul	New Jersey
James Ringer and Helen	Ohio
Marcel and Carol Pugsley	Florida
Leo and Ellen Levie	Maryland
Elwin Patterson and Chris	Florida
Sam and Gertrude Golberg	Florida
Stanley and Gertrude Green	Michigan
Mr. and Mrs. James Binder	Pennsylvania
Mel and Ruth Mellinger	Pennsylvania
Nelson and Betty Leaman	Pennsylvania
Jacob and Betty Inch	Pennsylvania
Harry and Edna Murrey	Virginia
Bill and Margaret Dawson	Virginia

(Continued on Page 25)

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

(Continued from Page 24)

Ralph and Vera Chase	Pennsylvania
Jack and Jane Sutor	Virginia
Verle and Emily McNeely	California
Murrel Tinch and Three Guests	Virginia
Joe and Mariam Jenie	Ohio
Frank and Shirley Furman	Ohio
Charley and Alma Stewart	Virginia
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wolford	Virginia
Adolphe Mena	Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Knick	Virginia
Walter Jamerson	Virginia
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Eanes	Virginia
Sam Weaver	Virginia
Earnest Sensabaugh	Virginia
Mr. and Mrs. Tim McNeely (Verle's son)	Virginia
Warren and Dottie Mitchell	California

269th Engineers

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

Let's Go 269ers:

Well, it was nice to hear everyone had a nice holiday and I hope you'all are making plans to go to the Nashville Reunion. There is so much to do and see in that area. It will be a pleasure just riding to and from Nashville with all the beautiful scenery. Hope we have some first timers show up in this, a new area, for our Reunion.

I've enclosed a photo of Jim Riley (Company B), who has been active in the American Legion for years and is the 8th District Commander of Chester and Delaware Counties with a membership of 9,200. He also finds time to spend time as a volunteer at the V.A. Hospital in Coatsville, Pennsylvania. I've also enclosed a photo of Ed Reeber from Company B, who lives in Lake Placid, Florida where he works for Winn Dixie. His nickname is "Steady Eddie" because he never misses a day and in his spare time he drives senior citizens to the store, those who can't get around too good. I thought it might be different to show a 69th photo of them then and one of them now. (See Page 27 for the photos they are speaking of on the Engineer picture page.)

We heard from Lloyd Roth from Company A and he reminded me of the song that Sergeant Jim Whitaker used to sing about the Engineers. We don't have an address on Jim Whitaker but if anyone has any information on him, please let me know. He shipped out as cadre as far as I know after basic. Here are the words to the Engineer's Song:

Oh brave men without fears, they join the Engineers
Where they feed you till your belly drags the ground.
Oh they feed you beans and meat, as much as you can eat
No better place on earth could be found.
Oh they give you shots and vaccinations
and a stiff examination,
Now you've got a number not a name.
On our clothes they are too large, they fit just like a barge
But after all we love it just the same.
Oh if you go on sick call, you end up in the mess hall
Scrubbin' down the tables and the floor
and that's all I can remember.

I found out from Dave Highfield that William Porter was in Company B, and came into us after basic. He lives in California. So we are still hearing from first timers of the 269th, which is a good sign after 50 years or so.

Take care, ya hear,
Frank Nemeth

Headquarters Battery and Medical Detachment 461st AAA Battalion

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

How do we do it? Every year our reunions seem to get warmer and better. Our 1993 reunion is going to be a hard one to better. The early arrivals were off to Shoney's for a quick lunch and when we returned there was steady procession of new arrivals. We wound up with 25 men and a total of 64 people counting family and guests attending.

A new first timer, Carl Mosher from Marine City, Michigan arrived with a friend, Jack Wollen. We also greeted Bill and Lois Vanderwerp and Steve and Lottie Muzyk, all four who have been missed the past couple of years due to illness and family matters. It was great having all of you with us.

We were fortunate in having the use of the conference room from Friday at noon on. It made greeting new arrivals much easier. Cecil (Sherman) Twigg passed out packets of photographs that had been taken in 1992 to each arriving member and several of us had our albums along including the pictures taken at the mini-reunion at the Twiggs in Maryland this past July. Allen Whitley brought homemade apple butter for all and Mac and Madge Morris had compiled a cookbook from recipes gathered from our ladies with a magnificent cover sporting the 461st insignia in color on the cover. This is absolutely the finest example of organizational cookbooks I have ever seen and the recipes, do they look good! Steve and Cyndy Lucas and I believe Ed Griffin had a hand in this. He brought coffee mugs for each person beautifully made with the 461st insignia on them. Thank you all, from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity and for the ingenious way you carried it out!

We were overjoyed at seeing the Marshall family. Bruce and Susie with their three children, John Scott, Travis and little Hannah, enter. Bruce is the son of our Gaines Marshall who passed away some years ago. They will be here in 1994.

Friday evening we retired to the motel dining room for supper then returned to our meeting room for good conversation, album checking, glorious stories and a sing-a-long.

Saturday morning we gathered for breakfast, then opened our meeting room. We spent the rest of the morning greeting new arrivals and enjoying the company of each other.

Ed Griffin had arranged a delicious buffet lunch so we could eat and keep talking. Later in the afternoon we gathered for a video tape. Wallace Ullery, through a friend, had obtained a video copy of the buzz-bombing of the city of Antwerp, Belgium with special note on the use and deployment of mobile heavy gun battalions for protection. Most of the bombs would eventually be destroyed in the air after reaching the city. It was very interesting, informative, and brought special

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

(Continued from Page 25)

memories back to us as we had 52 casualties when one fell on our CP in Weywertz, Belgium, November 3rd, 1944.

We had dinner at 6:00 p.m. which was a delicious buffet. We had 57 people attending dinner which was preceded by a prayer offering by Ed Moore. With dinner over we sat back for our business meeting conducted by our superb master of ceremonies, Louis Jones. Others got up and said their piece. Ed Griffin agreed to take the helm for the 1994 reunion. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Eddie for his all he has done.

Sunday was church for some and leaving with goodbyes for others with 16 of us left. We had our usual Sunday late dinner at the Cracker Barrel out of town and spent the rest of the evening together in fellowship. Monday morning was spent in trying to say goodbye to all and we finished up around noon. What a wonderful time we all had.

The following is a complete list of all who attended the 1993 reunion:

Joe and Margaret Bryson Elkton, Maryland
Mac and Madge Morris Arlington, Virginia
Sherman and Irma Twigg LaVale, Maryland
Ed (Bill) McClelland Fallbrook, California
John and Connie Lane Newport News, Virginia
Francis and Eleanor Breyette Minneapolis, Minnesota
Roy and Ethel Currier..... Charlottesville, Virginia
Conley and Viola Gamble Marion, Virginia
Paul and Ethel Lovelace Saltville, Virginia
Bill and Lois Vanderwerp Grand Rapids, Michigan
Carl Mosher Marine City, Michigan
Jack Wollen Port Huron, Michigan
Cindy and Steve Lucas Canton, Ohio
Charles (Ed) Griffin Canton, Ohio
Steve and Lottie Muzyk Shelby Township, Michigan
Allen and Dorothy Whitley Marion, Virginia
Louis and Ruth Jones Greenville, North Carolina
John and Elsie Chambliss Victoria, Virginia
Tom Musselwhite Roanoke, Virginia
Ralph and Isabel Yingling Frederick, Maryland
Daughter Karen Wedle and granddaughter, Sarah Ellen
Bruce and Susie Marshall and family ... Scottsville, Virginia
Pat Musselwhite Richmond, Virginia
Howard and Maxine Sandefur Glade Spring, Virginia
Edward and Belle Moore Abingdon, Virginia
J.D. and Phyllis Blackwell Dolphin, Virginia
Bill and Ellen Hopkins and Family Stanley, Virginia
Daughter of J.D.
Ben and Linda Truitt Elkton, Maryland
Wallace and Betty Ullery Cumberland, Maryland
Cecil D. Moore Roanoke, Virginia
Paul and Bertha Kowalchek Baltimore, Maryland
C. Russell (Charlie) Goodwin Raleigh, North Carolina

May you all in the Fighting 69th be as blessed as we have been.

Company I, 271st Infantry

Leigh Tenney, News Reporter

3508 Sevier Drive

North Little Rock, Arkansas 72116

Telephone: 501/753-3513

Company I, 271st Infantry held its second mini-reunion at the Arkansas Excelsior Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas, April 30th thru May 2, 1993. Leigh and Mae Tenney hosted the event. In addition to Mae and Leigh Tenney the mini-reunion was attended by Jack and Geneva Harrison of

Kennard, Texas, Lynn and Lou Jones of Milan, Tennessee, Bob and Phyllis Jorgenson of Onalaska, Wisconsin, Ed and Pat Kosmal of St. Louis, Missouri, Hy and MaeRita Kurfirst of New York, New York, Bob and Carol McMillan of Stow, Ohio, Martin "Marty" Miller of Littleton, Colorado and Dale and Peg Thompson of Gainesville, Florida.

We all had a great time renewing friendships and telling war stories. Especially interesting to all of us was a narrative history of Company I from Shelby to the Elbe by our Combat Platoon Leader of the First Platoon and subsequently Company Executive Officer, Dale Thompson. It was the first time the rest of us had heard how those of us who remained with the division after Christmas Day 1944 were selected. In his words, Lieutenant Thompson recalled that Christmas was, "the worst Christmas of my life."

Events included a seafood buffet at the Little Rock Club from where we had a beautiful view of downtown Little Rock and North Little Rock divided by the Arkansas River, a tour of the Arkansas Territorial Capitol, antiquing, a barbecue dinner and tour of Little Rock. All had a great time.



Jack Harrison, Hy Kurfirst, Lynn Jones, Bob McMillan, Dale Thompson, Leigh Tenney, Bob Jorgenson, Ed Kosmal and Marty Miller



Phyllis Jorgenson, Geneva Harrison, Carol McMillan, Mae Tenney, Pat Kosmal (standing), Peg Thompson, Lou Jones and MaeRita Kurfirst.

269th Engineers - First Platoon, Company B

Submitted by: Frank Nemeth
66 Gaping Rock Road, Levittown, Pennsylvania 19057



First Row: Lieutenant Burciaga, George Hutton, ??, John Lee, Fred Young, ??, Ben Thornburg, Ed Davis, ??, Sergeant Wheeler.

Second Row: ??, Harold Thomas, Percy Hood, Madison Jones, Robert Cornell, ??, Leo Nigra, John Marrone, ??, ??

Third Row: Don Reynolds, Chuck Williams, Lum Critchfield, ??, Walt Pickens, ??

Fourth Row: Oakie Eagle, ??, ??

Ed Reeber, Then and Now



Jim Riley, Then and Now



**69th Infantry Division 47th Annual Reunion
August 21st through 28th, 1994
Sheraton Music City Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee**

Reflections of the Post War Era II

Headquarters Company, 273rd Infantry Regiment

Submitted: Victor Ostrow

1612 Lemontree Lane, Silver Springs, Maryland 20904

I received my basic training from the Army Air Force, and spent over two years at Mitchell Field, Long Island, N.Y. The dreaded news came that I was being transferred into the infantry for basic training Camp Gordon in Augusta, Georgia for an intensive six weeks, which supposedly qualified me as an infantryman. The forced hikes of twenty-five miles with full military field packs interspersed with running and keeping in step. Every hour we got a ten or fifteen minute rest period. Those who failed to keep pace were left behind and were later picked up in ambulances. When we reached our destination and designated area, tents were pitched - straw became our beds and kerosene lanterns our heat. Curfew in the evening with lights out - total blackout. When you had to go to the bathroom in the pitch black and freezing evening, it was quite an experience to find an outhouse. After several days it was time to tear down our tents, get our gear together for another twenty-five mile hike to our base. Needless to say there were many sore and swollen feet, but with a new change of socks and underwear, the ordeal was soon forgotten. I don't know how many times we stripped down the M-1 rifles, fifty caliber machine guns and BARs - firing and familiarizing ourselves with these weapons.

After six weeks it was time to be shipped out to Fort Meade, Maryland for overseas shipment. Luckily I received a one week furlough and reunion with my wife and parents. Time went by quickly and I reported to Fort Meade, Maryland. I received my shipping orders and was sent to a P.O.E. in Rhode Island. No incoming or outgoing calls were permitted. We embarked at Boston Harbor with the usual military band and the Red Cross serving us coffee and doughnuts. We went aboard the West Point - a former luxury liner - the U.S.S. America. It was a hazardous journey on the Atlantic dodging German U-Boats. We landed in the Clydes of Scotland for a brief view of the countryside. We then traveled by rail to Southampton, England where it was foggy and damp with very poor visibility. We laid overnight on our duffle bags awaiting transportation to a British freighter, and when we boarded we stayed in the English Channel due to heavy fog with our fully loaded duffle bags. We finally got underway within sight of LeHavre - a grizzly sight of sunken ships and enormous damage inflicted. LSTS pulled up along side of our ship and duffle bags were thrown overboard and we climbed down swinging ladders onto the landing boats, and arrived at a "Repple Depple" in LeHavre.

Random names were called and I was assigned to the 69th Headquarters Company, 273rd. We zeroed in on our M-1 rifles that were issued and spent the rest of the war with the 69th.



Olga and Victor Ostrow

My first night with the outfit, I was put on guard duty to protect against any intruders. My first evening of watch during the blackout, I encountered a rustling noise. My first response - "Halt. Who goes there?" No answer or password, so I fired the weapon and heard the same rustling sound. The next morning I got chewed out for firing my weapon and disturbing their sleep, but it was soon forgotten and normalcy prevailed.

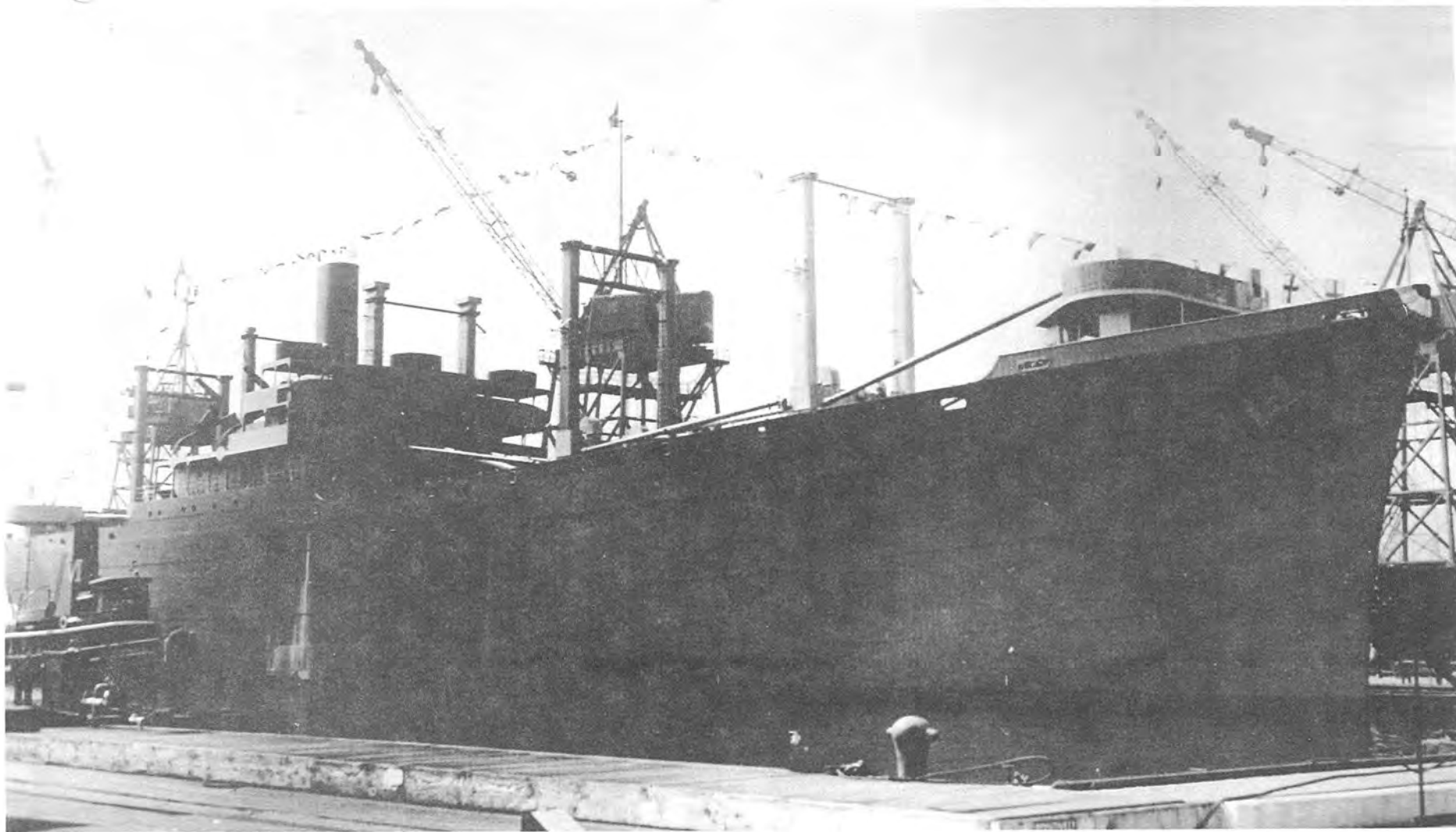
Shortly thereafter we were loaded on 40x8's box cars crammed like sardines during the evening and shipped to forward positions in Viviers, Belgium. Now I was close to the action - artillery, incoming 88's, and screaming meemies. I had an unpleasant experience when I was eating chow. Leaning against a carryall, a GI's foot was hanging out and when I inquired about him sleeping, the answer was that he was blown up by a land mine. I was so upset that I could not eat. This was my baptism of fire.

I fought in the forests of the Hurtgen and Ardennes. There was desolation, snow, cold and misery, death and destruction everywhere. We were clearing mine fields and trying to keep in close touch with each other. The GIs were rampant and paregoric was administered. As we continued to push forward, resistance was fierce at times and very light at others. The Jerries were surrendering - non-coms refused orders from their commanders. I can also recall being trapped in my sleeping bag during an air raid unable to find the zipper opening, but finally I was able to extricate myself and find my way to safety.

I was assigned temporarily to a shower detail which lasted for about a month. We set up a portable machine with a long hose along a creek and a large tent hooked up to showerheads. Men who were on the front line for several weeks were given showers - fresh towels, socks and underwear. It was sad to see many wounded men patched up after showers and returned to the battlefield. Indeed, the 69th was very fortunate in proceeding so rapidly - taking villages, towns, and major cities like Kassel and Leipzig. As the war was drawing to a close, we made house searches for weapons, liberating fine wines, beer, etc. I can recall Weisbaden - a beautiful resort area along the Rhine River, sloping hills and acre upon acre of grapes, indulging in the fine white spirits. Upon our inspection of weapons, we moved on to the town of Borna which had a beautiful lake and ducks. Signs were posted - no fraternizing with the German frauleins, but GI's quickly ignored the orders. No one was court martialed. The town sits along the Elbe River. Emotions were very high, expecting the link up with the Russian soldiers. Finally the meeting of the Russians and American armies. Entertainment, dancing, vodka, toasting and camaraderie.

As we moved rapidly through many towns and cities, we liberated many Poles, Russians, English, Americans and French from slave labor camps. German labor camp commandants were dealt with harshly for their cruel treatment of prisoners. Freed Poles were wheeling and dealing in the black market for cigarettes, clothing, shoes, etc. They had wads of American scrip money, and if you have never witnessed a Polish wedding, it was a sight to behold. Entertainment - inviting everyone to participate and enjoy the frivolity - cows were butchered and food was plentiful.

At the conclusion of hostilities, I was shipped out and assigned to an ordnance company, then on to a tent city in Antwerp, Belgium. Nothing to do - lounging around for about a month, because of lower points. I finally shipped out on a liberty ship, the U.S.S. Webster, landing in New York Harbor with whistles blaring and small ships welcoming the troops home. The Statue of Liberty brought tears to my eyes, knowing full well that after three and one half years tenure in the military, it was coming to an end.



U.S.S. SANTA MARIA

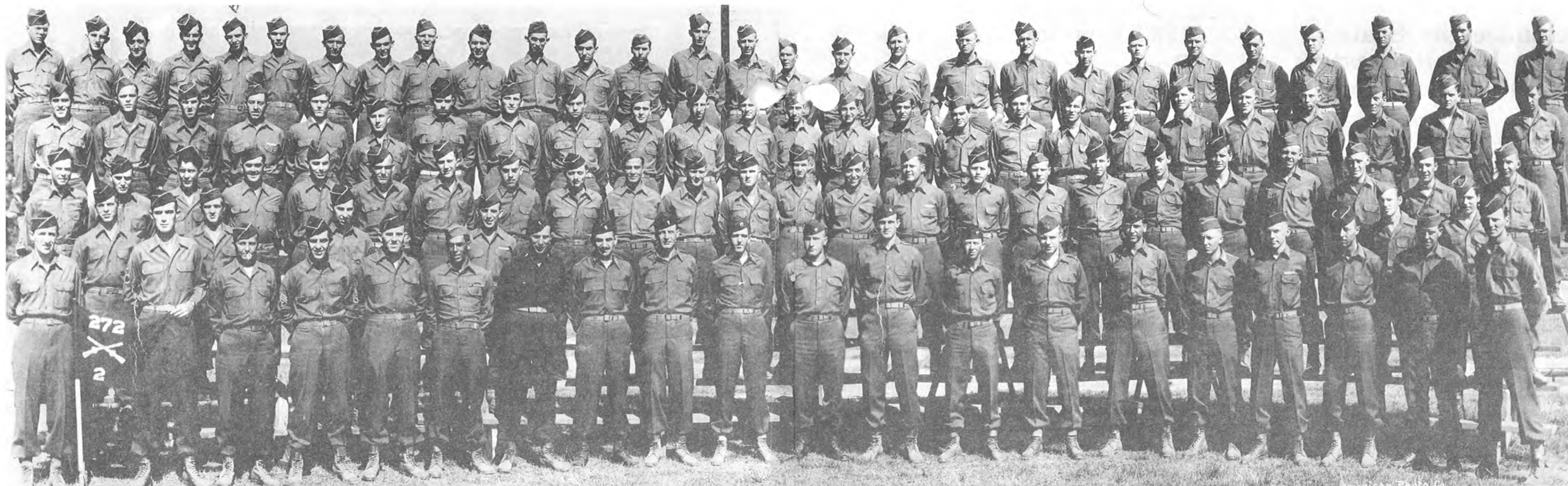
Submitted by: Brett Everson
12046 Hanover Road, Silver Creek, New York 14136-9706

I am sending you a copy of the 2nd Battalion, 272nd Infantry picture taken in October of 1944 (see next page) at Camp Shelby just before leaving for Camp Kilmer and overseas in November 1944 on the U.S.S. SANTA MARIA. I hope that you can publish the pictures, because I would like to find out if any members of 2nd Battalion, 272nd Infantry are still around. If they are, I would be glad to hear from them. Perhaps other units will remember the trip over and the unusual events that happened aboard, like issuing emergency K-rations on board and then asking for them back when we arrived in South Hampton, England. It caused quite a stir.

I was sad to see **Bob Myers** name in the "Taps" column. We sent him a letter and a Christmas card before receiving the bulletin. What happened? Sudden or lingering illness? He certainly was a top notch Company Commander and a true friend.

Here's wishing you a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year and if my health improves enough to make the trip, I will see you all in Nashville.

Photo Courtesy of the Steamship Historical Society Collection, University of Baltimore Library



Top Photo - Headquarters Co., 2nd Battalion, 272nd Infantry

Submitted by: Bret Everson, 12046 Hanover Road, Silver Creek, New York 14136-9706

Fifth man in on top row

Bottom Photo - Company B, 273rd Infantry

Submitted by: P.E. Bois, 35 Derryfield Ct., Manchester, New Hampshire 03104-4547

Attendees by State at the 1993 Rochester, New York Reunion

STATE	MEMBERS	ATTENDANCE
Pennsylvania	58	115
New York	55	102
New Jersey	29	54
Ohio	29	54
Florida	25	48
California	15	25
Massachusetts	13	22
Virginia	13	21
Wisconsin	9	16
Illinois	9	14
Tennessee	8	18
Maryland	8	16
Connecticut	8	14
Michigan	7	14
Georgia	5	12
Indiana	5	10
North Carolina	5	10
Minnesota	5	8
Iowa	4	8
New Hampshire	4	6
Texas	4	5
Louisiana	3	6
Nebraska	3	6
Colorado	3	5
Arizona	3	4
Missouri	2	4
Oregon	2	4
Rhode Island	2	4
West Virginia	2	4
Arkansas	2	3
Kentucky	2	3
Mississippi	2	2
Oklahoma	2	3
Alabama	1	4
Delaware	1	2
Idaho	1	2
Kansas	1	2
Vermont	1	2
Washington	1	4
District of Columbia	1	1
TOTAL	355	656
East of Mississippi	303	568
West of Mississippi	52	88

ATTENDANCE AT TOURS AND ACTIVITIES

Hiccups Komedy Kabaret	184
Sam Patch Boat Ride	129
Wine Country	120
Race Track	49
Museum Tour	136
Rochester Tour	283
Early Bird Buffet	409
Banquet-Dinner Dance	612
Breakfast	230

1993 Reunion Attendees Rochester, New York

The following is the list of attendees at the 1993 Reunion in Rochester including Members, Wives and Guests. If your name does not appear it is because you failed to fill out a registration form during your visit.

An asterisk () in front of a name indicates a First Timer.*

69th DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Fred Avery	Virginia
Eugene and Norma Butterfield	Ohio
Keith and Colleen Curtis	Iowa
Jack and Mary Duffy	New York
Dutch and Jeanne Hawn	Colorado
Karol and Margaret Kreutzman	Washington
George Loikow	Virginia
Clarence Marshall	Pennsylvania
Bob Myers	Arizona
Sumner Russman	Oklahoma
Sigmund and Joanne Salacinski	New York
Arthur and Mathilde Seski	Michigan
Willard and Nyna Tubb	New York
*Charles and Mary Wallace	New York
Joe and Eleanor Wright	Missouri

69th MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

Carl and Ruth Miller	Ohio
John Moriarty	Massachusetts
Frank and Helen Williams	Pennsylvania

269th ENGINEERS

James and Dotty Eibling	Ohio
Bill Foster and Bonnie Wachs	Pennsylvania
Walter Holmlin	New Jersey
Ray Lottie	Minnesota
Frank and Stefania Nemeth	Pennsylvania
Ward and Marian Peterson	Pennsylvania
Albert and Helen Winchester	Pennsylvania
Robert and Jonnie Winslow	Florida

369th MEDICAL BATTALION

Marvin and June Slichter	Pennsylvania
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569th SIGNAL COMPANY

*Robert and Margaret Ambrose	New Jersey
Al and Madelyn Eichhammer	Florida
George and Dorothy Hepp	New York
Edmus Hoskins	Texas
Bill and Eileen Jones	Florida
Joseph and Marlen Kotsko	Ohio
Ken and Hester Manning	West Virginia
Seymour and Doris Nash	New Jersey
Curt and Evelyn Peterson	Wisconsin
Don and Lois Pierce	Pennsylvania
*Owen Smith	Maine
Carl and Mildred Stetler	Pennsylvania

769th ORDNANCE COMPANY

Rodney and Martha Bodfish	Florida
Irv and Shirley Sarafan	New York

(Continued on Page 33)

1993 REUNION ATTENDEES
 ROCHESTER, NEW YORK
 (Continued from Page 32)

271st INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

John Barrette Wisconsin
 John and Barbara Davis Pennsylvania
 Bill Duncan California
 Ray and Bertha Jones Pennsylvania
 Walt and Julia Mueller Indiana
 Don and Olive Schoessler New York

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1st BATTALION

Albert and Edith Carbonari Florida

COMPANY A

*John Cupina New York
 Guest: Bernice Terry
 Robert and Jean Ross Massachusetts

COMPANY B

Lumir and Patsy Bocek Nebraska
 Martin and Rogene Boul Florida
 Ken and Dorothy Curran Florida
 Phil and Ruth Delphey Pennsylvania
 Joe and Mary Lantz Maryland
 Harold and Cynthia Moore Tennessee
 Guest: Marietta Ledbetter
 Charles and Bobbie Nicely Pennsylvania
 Orrie Pullen Michigan
 Bill and Jo Sheehan New Jersey
 Ken and Lillian Upton Louisiana
 Charles and Patricia Walsh Wisconsin
 James and Barbara Walsh Connecticut
 Wayne Weygandt Illinois
 Guest: Thora Miller
 James and Dorothy White Tennessee

COMPANY C

Neal Crowley New Mexico
 Don and Mildred Kimmel New York

COMPANY D

*Francis and Jane Carrig New York
 Paul and Margie McCombs Pennsylvania

COMPANY E

Bob and Betty Dimmick Georgia
 Guest: Nancy Dimmick
 Grace and Doris Glaum Illinois
 Joe and Janet Kurt Iowa
 Tom Maupin Virginia
 Bill and Rita McCall New Jersey
 Bing Poon Washington, D.C.
 Paul and Marian Shadle Pennsylvania
 Carl and Jane Wummer Pennsylvania

COMPANY F

Cecil and Alene Cottle Ohio
 Ash and Arlene Fuller Pennsylvania
 Everett and Elaine Sharp New York

COMPANY G

Clif and Pauline Barbieri Virginia
 Ed and *Jackie Chando New Jersey
 Clarence and Lena Goon Ohio
 Nate and Rhoda Green New York
 Scott and Ann Gresham Virginia
 Glenn and Nadine Hunnicutt Nebraska
 Clarence and Shirley Jensen New York
 Guests: Erik Jensen and Trudy Hallett

Emery and Pat Nagy Tennessee
 Ralph and Josephine Plugge Illinois
 Dave and Mary Scatena Pennsylvania

COMPANY H

Walter Hart Connecticut
 John and Helen Hayes Florida
 Charles and Doris Locke New Jersey
 Al and Eleanor Panara New Jersey
 James and Margaret Zawitoski Maryland

COMPANY I

Joe and Virginia McMurry Tennessee
 Guests: Andy and Evelyn Anderson
 George and Ursula Vlad New York

COMPANY K

Bob and Irene Bishop Massachusetts
 Worley and Mae Smith Wisconsin
 Guest: Connie Brough

COMPANY M

John and Mary Boyle Ohio
 Ivo and Eleanor Petrucci Pennsylvania
 Bill and Reba Sheavly Maryland
 Jim and Mary Shoemaker Florida
 Jim and Dottie Stacy California

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

Edgar Biles Arkansas
 Art and Nancy Holgate New Jersey
 George and Lina West Pennsylvania

CANNON COMPANY

Bruce Berninger New Jersey
 Harold and Nancy Faulkner California

SERVICE COMPANY

Leroy and Maria Keller Virginia
 3 Guests

272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1st BATTALION

*Bill and Mary Farrell New York

COMPANY A

*Sanford and Nancy Firsichbaum New Jersey
 Ray and Eileen Olson New Jersey
 John Palermo New York
 Edgar and Frances Parsons North Carolina

COMPANY B

Crandon and Jane Clark New Jersey
 Bernard and Marie LaDue New York
 Leo and Margaret Moore Ohio

COMPANY C

Bob and Jean Shaffer Ohio
 Charlie Weaver Ohio

COMPANY E

Fred and Mavis Butenhoff Wisconsin
 *U. Cholavis and Mary Florida
 Edward Gallagher New Hampshire
 Joseph Greco New York
 Ken Shayne New Jersey
 Roger and Ruth West Michigan
 Chet and Barbara Yastrzemski New York

(Continued on Page 34)

1993 REUNION ATTENDEES

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

(Continued from Page 33)

272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

COMPANY F

Norm and Dorothy Allen Wisconsin
Charles and Virginia Boyer Pennsylvania
Herb Callaway Texas
*Ray and Ruth Clement Rhode Island
Joe and Anne Nunes Rhode Island
Neil Shields Pennsylvania
Alex Sheina New York
Dave and Jeanne Theobald California
Mel and Louise Wardin Michigan

COMPANY G

Anees and Barbara Barakat Pennsylvania
Will and Barbara Frazee Ohio
Art and Teresa Held New York
Steve and Cecelia Hudzina New York
Mike and Mary Kertis Delaware
Greg Lampasona New York
Ray Lehman Iowa
Guest: Eva Bensor

Bill Matthews New York
Bill and Joyce Phillips Florida

COMPANY H

*Hollis and Audrey Durant New Hampshire

COMPANY I

Frank and Claire Aplan Pennsylvania
Leon Ebert New York
Adrian and Marian Eckhardt New Jersey
Bill and June Devitt Massachusetts
John Duespohl Pennsylvania
Wendell and Sally Freeman Georgia
James and Marie Herbison Massachusetts
Bob and Vivian Kurtzman Ohio
Pat and Janice Lushbaugh Maryland
Ed McDonnell New York
Tom and Jeanne Reardon Pennsylvania
Harold and Ethel Ruck Tennessee

COMPANY K

*David and Margery Kench New York

COMPANY L

Russ and Rosanna Meinecke Missouri
John and Elizabeth Nelson New Jersey
Bernie and Edith Zaffern Michigan
Ken and Marcella Ziems Virginia

COMPANY M

Lido and Louise DalPorto West Virginia
*Norville and Myrtle Kendrick Florida
Pete and Ruby Labinsky New Jersey
Joe and Kathryn Makosky Pennsylvania
Tom and Wilma Moore Tennessee
Floyd McCalip Mississippi
Carl and Dorothy Rapp Florida
Dick and Claire Sodorff Idaho
Ray and Alice Walthoff Florida

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

*Ray and Janet Sansoucy Massachusetts

CANNON COMPANY

Ralph and Ursula Goebel Minnesota

272nd MEDICS

*Mike and Helga Petropoulos New York
John and Barbara Theisen Minnesota

273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Norm and Kay Barratt California
Bennie Foy North Carolina
Guest: Ralph Mash
Norm and Juanita Pickford Illinois

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1st BATTALION

Rocco and Rosalie Campagna Pennsylvania
Roy and Sara Gilstrap Georgia
Ralph and Cecelia Scholtz New York
Art and Barbara Seidenstricker Pennsylvania

COMPANY A

Ray Fahrner Pennsylvania
*Bill and Wanda Leet New York
Ed Lucci New York
George O'Bryan California
Art and Dorothy Pfeifer Massachusetts
Pierce Rice Virginia
Bob and Jean Rosane Vermont
Bennie and Marcell Srubar Texas

COMPANY B

Paul Bois New Hampshire
Art and Billie Hall Oregon
*Glen and Jean Knepp Pennsylvania
John O'Neill Massachusetts
Bob and Lynn Peason New Jersey
Leo Wriighthouse Kentucky

COMPANY C

Stan and Gloria Czyzyk New York
*Dal and Joan Dalrymple Indiana
Kent O'Kelly Mississippi

COMPANY D

Art and Kathe Ayres New Jersey
Allan and Mary Blackmar New York
Ed and Mary Case Pennsylvania
Paul and Elaine Gornbein New York
Roland and Janice Hendrickson Oregon
Charles and Bertha Hoefer New York
George and Barbara Johnson Virginia
Henry and Julia Kaminski Pennsylvania
Kenneth Sawyer Florida
Guest: Frances Collard

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2nd BATTALION

Vic and Olga Ostrow Maryland

COMPANY E

Joe and Virginia Aiello New York
*Robert Crowe Massachusetts
Gerritt and Jeanette Maas New Jersey
Bill and Jane Matlach New York
Earl and Dorothy Witzleb Pennsylvania

COMPANY F

Gil and Marion Clark Pennsylvania
Jack and Marjorie Fain Florida
Tom and Jean Graves Florida
Walt and Shirley Harpain California
Richard Hopkins California
Richard Israel Virginia
*Bill and Mary Powell Connecticut
Fred and Mary Scherer New Jersey

(Continued on Page 35)

1993 REUNION ATTENDEES**ROCHESTER, NEW YORK***(Continued from Page 34)***273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)****COMPANY G**

Bob and June Ainley Indiana
Al and Betty Aronson New Jersey
Will and Dorris Beecher Florida
Ruth Johnston Pennsylvania
Joe and Diane Panganiban California
Orville and Beulah Schultz California
Ed and Tory Stagg Pennsylvania

COMPANY H

Bob and Roberta Andrew Pennsylvania
Bert and Rhoda Eckert New York
*Ed and Eardie Dragositz New Jersey
Bob and Maxine Haag Indiana
Tom Hoffman Florida
Lee and Lola Jones Kansas
Russ and Jane Keyser Pennsylvania
Art and Christie Knudsen Florida
Charles and Agnes Leskus Pennsylvania
Tony and Elizabeth Mruk New York
Guest: Christine Page

Murry and Helene Schulman New York
Jake and Vi Stark Pennsylvania
Ray Szkudlarek Ohio

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION

Marv and Miriam Freeman Connecticut
Joe and Caroline Gawek North Carolina
Charles and Patricia Hoffman Florida
Dave and *Miriam Malchick New York
John and Marjorie Mihm Pennsylvania
Tod and Pauline Morgan Ohio
John and Judy Sneary Ohio

COMPANY I

Bill and Beverly Armstrong Iowa
Jim and Audrey Castrale Nebraska
Paul and Elaine Eagon Illinois
George and Janet Houseal Pennsylvania
Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Edward Toolis
Carl and Bernice Macknair Pennsylvania
Bob and Theresa Pierce California
Erwin and Carmen Sanborn New Hampshire

COMPANY K

Walt and Stella Hajdamacha New Jersey
Earl Richardson New York
Tutt and Edna Snodgrass Kentucky
*Jim and Dora Telenko Pennsylvania

COMPANY M

Fred and Annette Johnson Arizona
John and Ruth Mass New Jersey
Rual Nava California
Ed and Rosemary Radlowski New York

CANNON COMPANY

Arlie and Parlie Boswell Illinois
Guest: Elizabeth Boswell

SERVICE COMPANY

Stan and Wanda Olszewski Massachusetts

DIVARTY

Bob and son *Bob Bement, Jr. Colorado
Tom and Jean Brannan Alabama
Guests: Joshua Brannan and Clark Bolton

Charles and Edith Chapman Virginia
Al Faison Florida
Edward Gibson Texas
Doug Hall Louisiana
Guest: Jodie Hall

724th FIELD ARTILERY BATTALION**BATTERY A**

Paul and Mayreta Kitner Pennsylvania

BATTERY B

*Al and Gladys Bukovec Ohio
Sid and Carola Apfelbaum Pennsylvania
Albert and Mildred Cagno Florida
Ricardo and Jo Cagno Florida
Vic and Norma Ferrone Ohio
Tom and Helen Heath New York
*Victor Losco New York
Ralph and Marian Nuckolls California
John and Sophie Pierce Pennsylvania

BATTERY C

Al and Polly DiLoreto Ohio
Gladys Heliseva New York
Bob Hollister New York
Coy and Erline Horton North Carolina
Bob and Elizabeth Inyart Illinois
*Gene and Myrna Parker Maryland
John and Neta Turner Georgia
Guest: Charlotte Turner
Tony and Grace Visconti New York
Harold Wepler Ohio
Guest: Edna Butzin

724th MEDICS

Danny O'Shea Connecticut

879th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**HEADQUARTERS BATTERY**

Philip Colombo New York
Alex and Margaret Kormas Ohio
Earl and Matolde Ramsey California

BATTERY C

James Jones Ohio
Frank and Kathleen Kruger New York
*Don and Ruth Masterana Ohio
*John Melanson Arizona
*John and Charity Runden New Jersey
Bob and Alice Stern Ohio
*Charles Sydnor Thompson North Carolina

880th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION**BATTERY HEADQUARTERS**

Stan and Georgia Bratt Illinois
Gene and Carolyn McGeevy Maryland
Bob and Marilyn McKee Maryland
John and Peggy O'Connor Illinois
Emil and Peggy Paoletta Ohio
Mike and Lucille Pendrick Arkansas

BATTERY C

Rico and Anne D'Angelo Pennsylvania

SERVICE BATTERY

Bill and Loretta Stump Indiana

(Continued on Page 36)

1993 REUNION ATTENDEES
 ROCHESTER, NEW YORK
 (Continued from Page 35)

881st FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

BATTERY HEADQUARTERS

Jim and Tillie Boris Pennsylvania

BATTERY A

Francis and Zita Enright Wisconsin

BATTERY B

Joe and Jeanette Brady New Jersey

Ray and Marian Derr Ohio

Walt Haag California

*Louis and Norma Lineburgh Ohio

Bruno and Rose Maj New York

James Moen Minnesota

Gil and Susan Rocco Pennsylvania

Carl Schumaker Wisconsin

Dick Stoddard Colorado

Gene and Jackie Tabacchi Pennsylvania

BATTERY C

Joe and Sybil Conner Georgia

Pleas and Mildred Copas Tennessee

Harold and Mildred Early Ohio

*Bill Fox New York

Lester Hart Ohio

Dan and Joan Jones Pennsylvania

Hugh and Dorothy Milstrap Tennessee

Paul and Josephine Molinari Connecticut

*Art and Fondina Moore Connecticut

*Bill Pendall New York

Gene and Arlene Shollenberger Pennsylvania

Guests: Joan Kollar and Don Stortz

Don and Elaine Taylor Pennsylvania

George and Jennie Vasil Massachusetts

SERVICE BATTERY

Steve Rojewicz Massachusetts

661st TANK DESTROYERS

Pete and Carolyn Besket Pennsylvania

Bill and Jo Beswick Virginia

Joe and Marian Jenei Ohio

Gene and Ethel Pierron Wisconsin

Bill and Ellen Snidow Virginia

Charles and Francis Yannul New Jersey

777th TANK BATTALION

Jim and Thurlo Bristol Pennsylvania

Henry and Doris Jurkiewicz Florida

Andy and Laura LaPatka Pennsylvania

Alex and Florence Lasseigne Louisiana

John and Ellen McCann Massachusetts

Henry and Jean Putala Connecticut

Victor Tedesco Minnesota

Guest: Ed Eberhardt

Gaylord and Ruth Thomas Wisconsin

Bob Weise New York

Guest: Craig Weise

Charley and Edna White Oklahoma

Alex Zubrowski New York

UNIT UNKNOWN

Charles Quagliana New York

Proposed European Tour

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

SHORT TOUR PROSAL

APRIL

16th and 17th LONDON — 2 Nights

18th, 19th and 20th PARIS — 3 Nights

21st BRUSSELS — 1 Night

22nd and 23rd FRANKFURT — 2 Nights

24th, 25th and 26th LEIPZIG — 3 Nights

27th DRESDEN — 1 Night

28th and 29th MUNICH — 2 Nights

HOME

LONG TOUR PROPOSAL

APRIL

16th and 17th LONDON — 2 Nights

18th, 19th and 20th PARIS — 3 Nights

21st BRUSSELS — 1 Night

22nd and 23rd FRANKFURT — 2 Nights

24th, 25th and 26th LEIPZIG — 3 Nights

27th and 28th BERLIN — 2 Nights

29th and 30th MOSCOW — 2 Nights

MAY

1st and 2nd VOLVOGRAD — 2 Nights

(Formerly Stalingrad)

3rd and 4th ODESSA OR KIEV — 2 Nights

HOME

There are two tours being arranged as you can see, a short tour of FOURTEEN (14) days to terminate in Munich, and a long tour of NINETEEN (19) days to terminate in Kiev or Odessa. Many people wanted to travel to Russia, so that has been arranged. Some did not want to be away from home too long, therefore the short tour.

It must be understood that all of the activities and side trips have not been listed, because the Tour agent has not completed the work. This is the basic tour route as requested. There is lots of work to be completed. Some of the requests may not be honored. So, I will not list them. Even at that, there could be some changes. If so, it will be for the better.

I've had numerous requests for the itinerary. This is to give you an idea only. This tour has been thoroughly studied by me and the tour agent. We are sure that you will be happy with it. You can count on going to Normandy and the cemeteries.

They could not give me a price at this time, because of the advanced date. It will be published, along with the complete list of activities in the next Bulletin. I sure hope so, anyhow.

To be able to go to Russia, we must have at least twenty people.

If you are interested, be sure to drop me a line at the address above. Many people have shown interest in the tour.

Donations for Link-Up Memorial Park Still Needed

CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:

69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc.

P.O. Box 576, West Point, Virginia 23181

Checks should be made payable to the 69th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, Inc. or a suitable abbreviation thereof. Help us to ensure that our Flag will fly forever on that little plot of ground on the banks of the Elbe.

Military reunion highlights Rochester, New York visit or My Best Vacation

SUNDAY TELEGRAM

OCTOBER 10, 1993

Submitted By: Stephen Rojewicz
881st Field Artillery

135 Endicott Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01610

This year's 69th Division Association reunion was in Rochester, New York.

As in the past, a very varied program was offered the attendees. For the sports-minded, a day at the Finger Lakes Race Track was a highlight. On another day, a golf tournament was theirs, planned for two years in advance.

For the majority, each day's trips and pleasant veterans' activities in the evening were the rule.

INTERESTING ATTRACTIONS

One day, the buses, with local guides, went to the Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion in the nearest city of Canandaigua. You can see Lake Canandaigua (one of the 11 Finger Lakes) from the mansion, which, by the way, is on the National Register of Historic Places. Sonnenberg, the word means "Sunny Hill," is a beautiful 50-acre, turn-of-the-century estate with formal gardens, an arboretum, greenhouses and rock gardens. The quiet beauty of the estate reflects its former glory.

After we left, the guide said that lunch would be in a grocery store. Our faces fell. We arrived at the grocery store, a huge super store with a lovely restaurant. Then we went to Casa Larga Vineyards in Fairport, part of the Finger Lakes Viticulture Region. A tour of the facility, wine-tasting, and judging, followed, from graft to glass.

Two museums were the next day's attractions: The Strong Museum and the George Eastman House, home of the International Museum of Photography. The former has dolls — thousands of them — from all over the world, as well as miniatures, doll houses, toys and household furnishings. Like our own New England Science Center, it's a hands-on exhibition area.

The lunch break here featured half-sandwiches, soups and salads. My choice was a half-seafood sandwich (still quite big) and clam chowder, New England style although we were in New York.

The George Eastman House is unforgettable. Can you imagine 1,100 cameras, equipment, and accessories in one place, all different? The story of photography and its development are vividly portrayed. There are rotating exhibits of rare, original photographs, fine art and historic prints — the greatest works of more than 8,000 international photographers from 1889 to today.

Inventive George Eastman closely supervised the building of his estate from 1902-1905. Some features are periodic furnishings, elaborate moldings, handpainted window glass and intricate landscaping.

GRAND ROCHESTER TOUR

The next day was billed as the Grand Rochester Tour. The guide explained how two Yankee traders purchased the area from the Seneca Indians in 1788 and the first settlement the following year was a grist (flour) mill.

When the Erie Canal was built early the next century, connecting the Hudson River with Lake Erie, it became feasible to ship grain and flour from the region to the cities of the East. Hence the name, The Flour City.

When the guide said that Rochester was the third-largest city in the state, I already knew, since I was born in Glenn Falls, New York, and went to school there. I never forgot that little mnemonic device (like HOMES for the Great Lakes): "Nothing But Rush Suits A Young United States Trooper Boy." This meant: New York, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany, Yonkers, Utica, Schenectady, Troy and Binghamton.

The tour buses went to Highland Park. Oh, that it were spring! There are more than 500 different varieties of lilacs in the park, as well as other shrubs and flowers. People from all over the world come to the lilac festivals, held almost always in May.

We toured the University of Rochester, also landscaped with flowers. Thus Rochester is also the Flower City. East Avenue, the avenue for beautiful estates, including the George Eastman House, The Susan B. Anthony House (she was an advocate of women's rights), Nazareth College, Sam Patch tour boats, the tall Xerox buildings and the north-flowing Genesee River are stops I recall. You can call this river the Rochester Flower (flower). The High Falls are a tourist mecca here.

Night time activities were typical: an evening of comedy; an early-bird buffet, with music for dancing; a PX night, also with music; an ever-open hospitality room; and an excellent dinner dance and memorial service.

The ride to Rochester over the New York State Thruway is a delight. Trees are not near the road, so that countryside along the Mohawk River and Erie Canal is open to view.

What of this visit impressed me the most? I would say the genius of George Eastman, whose skill gave to the Eastman Kodak Co. the status of employer to 30,000 in Rochester alone.

AL KORMAS IS AT IT AGAIN!

Last Chance to Replace Worn Out Merchandise

HOWITZER AL'S SUPPLY ROOM

LET' GO! MAIL YOUR ORDERS NOW
AND AT THE NASHVILLE 1994 REUNION.

No more, buddies. I mean it this time. The Supply Sergeant is again using his old worn out olive drab hanky. I got many a letter asking me to hold out one more year, so let's get going with your orders.

ITEM	PRICE
CAPS — red or blue	\$ 5.00
SHIRTS — White Only, with pocket Medium, Large, X-Large and XX Large	\$15.00
JACKETS — Blue Only Medium, Large, X-Large and XX-Large	\$20.00

All orders shipping cost is \$3.00. Make checks payable to 69th Division Association and mail to:

Howitzer Al Kormas, Ex-Supply Sergeant
12500 Edgewater - 503
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

The Army Latrine — Home of Countless Rumors

By: Al Kormas

Battery C, 880th Field Artillery
12500 Edgewater - 503, Lakewood, OHio 44107

Veterans, no matter where, know positively that nowhere do rumors become founded, fostered and magnified like they do in the military, and the center of such usually originated or grew in the Army latrine.

Upon arrival at the induction centers, we quickly learned that forms of military life did not coincide with the ones we left behind in civilian life. One privilege at home was the bathroom — warm, private and comfortable. Once in the Army, you had to cope with a drastic change. Bathrooms had to be shared with roughly 150 others and many times you were told when you could use its facilities and also how much time you could spend therein.

Ours was a separate building with two or three long rows of toilets with no backs, a shower area, and a long continuous sink for shaving, etc. One soon became accustomed to the fact that we all looked alike and we became comfortable with, when time permitted, having long conversations during evenings and weekends and thus, the rumors ran rampant.

We soon found out that Latrine Orderly was a gravy detail. A lot of time was spent hiding in the boiler room in back and listening to military life going on around you. No one was allowed in until it was cleaned and then inspected by the officers and the first sergeant, but your buddies could get in as long as they did it quietly.

Out in the field, enlisted men had to dig officers' latrines protected by a canvas screen. The enlisted men's were more primitive. They usually consisted of a long, shallow trench with the toilet tissue in an inverted can hanging from a tree branch. Upon moving away it was filled and a sign was put on it stating that it was an old latrine, the date and unit. Camp Shelby was our largest military camp. Can you imagine even today how fertile the DeSoto National Forest is?

When we went overseas on troop ships - no doubt most ships were like ours - there were not enough latrines. They consisted of a long, roof gutter like facility with water flowing from one end to a drain on the other end. Many times some GI clown would wad up a piece of paper and light it, and then let it float downstream, resulting in many bodies moving quickly and many choice GI blessings ensued. Even without the paper blaze, just the normal pitching or rolling brought many a wet posterior and more blessings from the men on our war department.

Now for a few examples of latrine humor to which we can all relate. A new late arrival at Camp Shelby was a character by the name of "Streaky" Wilcox and he soon found himself on the latrine detail. After cleaning it, he assembled twine and nails and went to work rigging up all the toilet seats so he could yank these strings and all the seats would come to attention. At inspection, he said, "Latrine ready for inspection,

sir," and pulled and all the seats came to attention. The officer said not a word nor did he change his expression, and both he and the first sergeant, E.J. Stark, quickly left. Nevertheless, "Streaky" was shipped out on the first opportunity.

While in France the author broke a tooth on army rations and went to the army hospital in Rheims in the usual "hurry and wait," fashion of the Army. I soon found a very warm and tiled latrine. There were many GIs lounging on the floor and all of them were acting as though they were in heaven. This seems like such a small thing, but it was like heaven compared to what we were used to. In combat, latrines were anywhere a GI was with sub-zero temperatures at times and the wind and snow howling between your thighs. Oh how miserable that was, so it is no wonder these GIs were so appreciative of this nice latrine.

While in the Siegfried Line our CP was in a large pillbox. The Germans had an outside privy which was "loaded" and all of the contents were frozen. Sergeant Ed Stark got Bob "Mail Call" Hoch to help him move it and to blow it out. They took C-4, the putty explosive, then lit the fuse and took cover behind a large boulder. It blew, scattering hard contents all over and one hit Bob Hoch on the back of the neck. He was hit hard and it formed a large bruise. He went over to see our favorite medic, T/3 Glenn Ellefson, who said although he was sorry, there was no broken flesh so he would not be receiving a Purple Heart, but maybe a special decoration could be arranged, the Brown Heart.

After V-E day Major "Squirrely" Johnson joined us just before going overseas was a very likeable and easy going officer, but he was a little flaky. Most of his time was spent taking pictures of many aspects of the war and being a horseman. He liberated many saddles in his ¾ ton truck not to mention quantities of wine and cognac. David Oberst (deceased) a Pfc. who worked with Squirrely, could always be counted on to liberate the beverages for us. Getting to the point, one hot and humid day in May, A GI who had just visited our two holer latrine in the back yard and who did not appreciate the aroma, poured a small quantity of gas into it and left. Major Johnson came along and sat down and produced a smoke. He lit the smoke and threw the match into the other hole. A quick "poof" and he had a singed posterior. Although he had no serious injuries he did go to the hospital. He never returned to the outfit. The question here is, what kind of a decoration should he have been given? More bizarre humor. The GI could find humor in many a sad situation. We had to or the Army would have been full of nothing but real section eights.

Some may say, "Is this a good topic for our bulletin?" Upon taking an informal survey, all agreed to go for it. A closing and sobering thought - Ernie Pyle, the dogface buddy, wrote that the Grave Registration men always found olive drab toilet tissue on the body of every GI killed in combat. This makes us veterans wonder, when most of our younger people do know anything about WWII or are indifferent to it. What a scary thought comrades. Is this what we sacrificed life, limb and years for? Sad.

God Bless the 69th and our loving wives.



The 273rd Infantry Regiment in the Siegfried Line

By Alan H. Murphey

Photos furnished by
Chris Van Kerckhoven

NOTE

This part of the series includes a description of the tragic explosion at Miescheid on 22 February 1945. The 69th Division G-3 Journal, in particular, provides informative summaries of telephone conversations that mention the importance of the planned attack on pillbox 17 and the explosion at Miescheid. However, official records contain no eyewitness accounts. For this, I have used portions of Ed Lucci's vivid account in the January-April 1986 (Volume 41, No. 3) issue of the Bulletin, plus added details of Charles Altsman in the same issue. Additionally, a quote is included from an account written by Sam Lewis (B/273rd).

In previous parts, I referred to the commander of 1st Battalion as Lieutenant Colonel William Salladin. This was an error as Salladin was a Major until sometime after the battalion crossed the Rhine. In this part, I have referred to him as Major Salladin which was his correct rank at the time of the Miescheid explosion.

PART 5

Long before dawn on 22 February 1945, XXIX Tactical Air Command began to prepare for a busy day. Masses of A-20, A-25 and B-26 aircraft at airfields in Belgium were loaded with bombs. Their targets, the rail bridges marshalling yards and work shops west of the Rhine. Code named CLARION, this one-day aerial operation was to be just the prelude to a giant land offensive to follow. Between Duren and Hilfarth, two corps of U.S. Ninth Army and one from First Army were coiled like a spring ready to launch operation GRENADE the next day, February 23rd. The massed force consisted of eight infantry and three armored divisions. At 3:30 a.m., following a 45-minute artillery barrage by 2000 guns, a vanguard of six infantry divisions would cross the Roer River along a 17-mile front and attack eastward.

However, 21 miles to the south, on the morning of the 22nd, the cold, mud-covered GIs of the 273rd Infantry Regiment still clung to their static positions between Ramscheid and Udenbreth. Little did they dream that within five days they, too, would be attacking eastward.

The first activity that morning along the regimental front occurred in front of a K-Company outpost. At 4:00 a.m. two German soldiers emerged from the darkness east of Neuhof carrying a make-shift white flag. Ten minutes after being taken prisoner, the Germans entered the 3rd Battalion CP bunker under armed escort. While they were undergoing a preliminary interrogation, German artillery opened up. With a shrill scream, the first shell burst west of the CP. Half an hour later, at 5:10 a.m., the last shell hit the village. Staff Sergeant Rudolph Baum, the operations sergeant, duly entered the inclusive times of the barrage in the battalion journal. He referred to the German fire, in his words, as "the breakfast barrage."



View of rebuilt farmhouse at Miescheid where explosion occurred. Roof and second floor collapsed killing 51 men from 1st Battalion. Photo taken 29 June 1992.

By 7:30 a.m. the two German deserters had been interrogated by the 273rd IPW team. For the first time, the regiment learned that a new enemy division had taken over a portion of the front on 273rd's far right flank. Pillbox 82 and 83 on the Dahlem road east of Neuhof, formerly occupied by elements of the German 89th Infantry Division had been replaced by members of the 2nd Company, 77th Regiment, 26th Volksgrenadier Division. Both the men who surrendered to K Company were from pillbox 83. According to the prisoners, 15 men manned the pillbox equipped with two machine guns, two machine pistols and eleven K-98 rifles. The pillbox, they said, was protected by three machine-gun outposts and a semi-circle of Teller and S-Mines 250 to 300 yards in front.

Dawn broke cold and clear, a good day for intelligence observers. As early as 7:38 a.m., the regimental OP began reporting German foot traffic on the road between Rescheid and Schnorrenberg. However, after an hour all activity ceased.

The main topic at both the divisional and regimental command posts on the morning of the 22nd was the pending attack on pillbox 17. At 9:45 a.m. Colonel Conran, the division G-3, telephoned the regimental S-3, Major Craig, to review the operation scheduled for midnight. This time there would be no preparatory artillery barrage and the pillbox would be attacked in complete darkness. The combat patrol would carry explosive "Satchel" and "Beehive" charges. Company A, again, was selected to furnish a platoon-sized assault team. Colonel Conran stressed the importance of the mission. He told Major Craig that until pillbox 17 was taken, no other pillbox was to be attacked. To underline this, he said that every operation 273rd Infantry contemplated, "however minor in nature," would be cleared through Division G-3. Whether Colonel Conran's apparent obsession with knocking out pillbox 17 was motivated by pressure from V Corps is not known. However, V Corps was interested. Major Hoyer from the G-3 section at Corps headquarters in Eupen called Colonel Conran about the operation at 11:15 a.m. Colonel Conran assured him that "273rd Infantry is going after PB 17 tonight."

(Continued on Page 40)

**THE 273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT IN
THE SIEGFRIED LINE** (Continued from Page 39)

At the regimental command post, the morning passed quietly. The 369th Medical Battalion called to announce that a lecture was scheduled on March 1st for "trench foot NCO's." Soon after, division headquarters phoned to say that "plenty of cough drops and medicine" were available at Murringen, if needed.

At midday the Germans put an end to the morning's routine monotony. A thousand yards east of Rescheid the sky was streaked with crimson flashes - the first salvo of an 18-rocket barrage. All the rockets exploded at the south end of Udenbreth in the vicinity of M-Company's mortar positions. Forty-five minutes later, Lieutenant Colonel Shaughnessey at the 3rd Battalion CP reported a "barrage of 88s up and down the line." The German harassing fire ended at 1:05 p.m. after the 77th Volksgrenadier Regiment launched a brief 'screaming meemie' barrage from the Kronenburger Wald south of Schnorrenberg. The rockets burst harmlessly in the woods along the International Highway west of Miescheid.

That afternoon 2nd Lieutenant Ed Lucci of Company A who had been assigned the unenviable task of attacking pillbox 17, made last minute preparations. He had selected his assault team carefully from among the most experienced men in his platoon. To accompany him on the critical mission, he picked his platoon sergeant, T/Sergeant William V. Hoilman, the platoon medic, T/4 Therrell Draper, and two 12-man squads, one led by Sergeant Charles W. Altzman, and the other by Staff Sergeant Julius M. Black.

Colonel Conran called regiment at 5:40 p.m. asking for additional details on the plan to attack pillbox 17. The 273rd Journal says he was "complaining about procedure of handling PB attack reports" but the Journal does not list the specifics of his complaint.

About a half hour before sunset, 17 shells whistled over Ramscheid towards the German lines and landed around Giescheid. They did no damage. They all contained propaganda leaflets urging the Germans to surrender.

That evening an unidentified plane dropped a flare in front of Rescheid. The regimental OP reported that the flare lighted up, went out, dropped about 20 feet and then repeated the sequence two more times before it hit the ground. At 9:00 p.m. two white flares burst over Schnorrenberg. These were followed by twenty red flares. At the same time, soundless streaks of AA fire appeared on the eastern horizon, far behind the German lines.

About an hour later, Lt. Lucci and his 26-man patrol crossed the International Highway, passed through a row of 'dragons teeth' and moved east along the road to Miescheid only 700 yards away. They were well armed. For the assault, the team carried two BARs, two bazookas and four explosive charges. Because of the importance of the mission, Major Salladin wanted

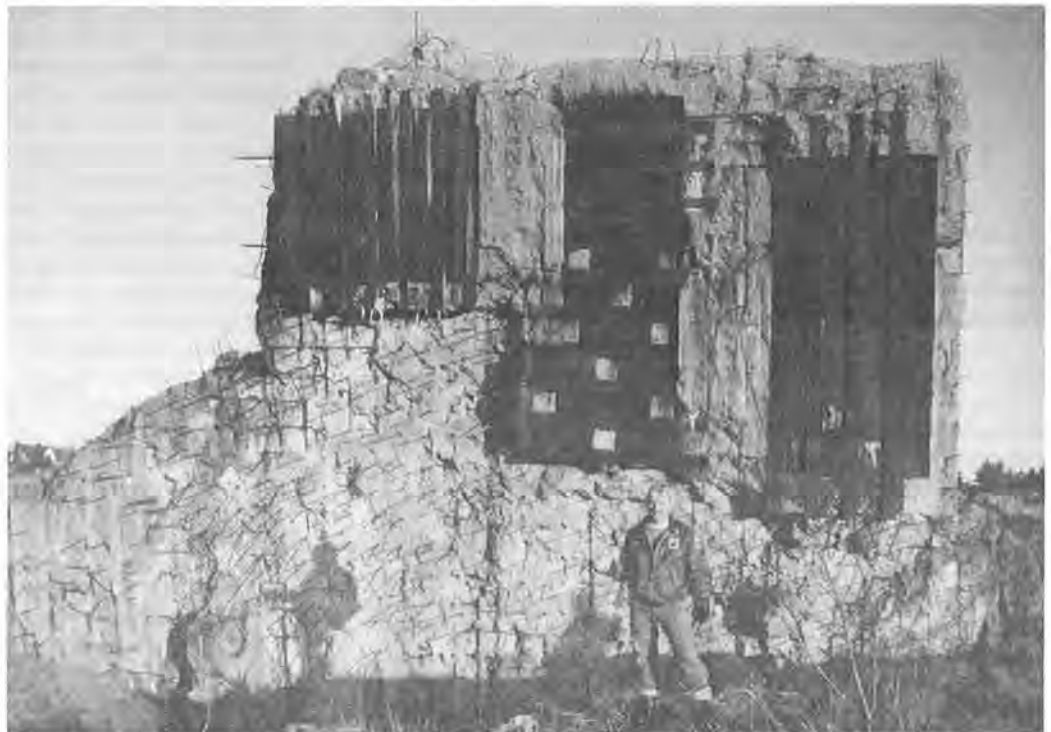
to review the plan of attack with Lieutenant Lucci at the B-Company CP at Miescheid. Already waiting there with the battalion commander were Captain James Notgrass, Company A commander, and Captain William O'Donovan, Company B commander. Lieutenant Lucci was told to leave his men in a nearby farmhouse occupied by B Company's 3rd Platoon and its platoon leader, 2nd Lieutenant Ralph Hutto. The building was a two-story stone structure with a high pitched roof. Like many farmhouses in the region, the living quarters and the barn were both under the same roof. However, the two parts were separated by a stone wall. The side used as a residence had a cellar.

The twenty-six men from A Company filed into the farmhouse. The building was already crowded and dimly lit. Candles and makeshift oil lamps provided the only light. The men carrying the flame throwers and explosives entered the building last. They stood with their backs to the wall that separated the living quarters from the barn. The two men carrying the heavy flame throwers were S/Sgt. Julius M. Black and Pfc. Robert C. Gardiner. The explosive "Satchel" and "Beehive" charges were entrusted to four hand-picked men — Sgt. David C. Troy, Sgt. William H. Douden, Pfc. J.W. Garrison and Pfc. Aloysius G. Madden.

While his men waited, Lieutenant Lucci walked to B Company CP about 50 yards away. After reviewing the plan of attack with Major Salladin and the other officers present, Lieutenant Lucci retraced his steps to his waiting assault team. Putting his head in the farmhouse doorway, he told T/Sgt. Hoilman to get the men ready to move out. What happened after that, Lieutenant Lucci will never forget.

"I stepped back from the building to the left near the barn to take a 'leak.' Came back to the doorway and said, 'O.K., let's go.' I was about 5 feet from the building with my back to the doorway when something hit me in the lower ribs and threw me 5 or 6 feet through the air towards the road.

(Continued on Page 41)



Chris Van Kerckhoven, the Belgian WWII researcher, stands in front of what remains of pillbox 17 — a huge, single piece of concrete. The pillbox, built as a battalion command post, had 12 rooms and housed 20 men. Photo taken December 1992.

THE 273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT IN THE SIEGFRIED LINE (Continued from Page 40)

My first instinct was to keep crawling the hell out of there but as I turned around and looked at the doorway, **Charlie Altzman**, the 1st Squad Leader said to me, "Lieutenant, the men!"

Sergeant Altzman had been lucky. He had been sitting at the doorway to the barn. When the explosion went off, he had just risen and taken a few steps to follow **Lieutenant Lucci**:

"The blast hit and the force lifted and slammed me away and face down. By the time my head cleared, the roof of the barn was already down and the fires from the flame throwers were going and the rounds cooking off from the heat. I could hear the men screaming from inside. I could see a hole in the wall under the edge of the roof and could see someone moving. I crawled in under the edge of the roof and helped two men through the hole. I do not know who they were. I started to go back but someone pulled me away from the hole."

There was no way to reach the trapped men who were still alive. According to **Lieutenant Lucci**:

"The ceiling of the ground floor and the roof of the building were sucked down onto the ground floor, crushing or suffocating the occupants. We climbed onto the collapsed roof, still trying to get inside, when we heard sounds of life. I shouted out for someone to get an axe. Within seconds someone produced one and we got to chopping away at the roof."

The explosion was the result of someone accidentally triggering one of the explosive charges. The blast apparently was directed out through the farmhouse doorway. The resulting vacuum in the enclosed area created an implosion causing the ceiling and roof to collapse. The precise time of the explosion is not known, but **Major Salladin** called regiment from the B Company CP at exactly 10:40 p.m. His message, logged in the S-3 Journal, reads:

"Satchel charge went off in Baker Company building. Building was demolished. Two platoons in building. Need aid men and ambulances."

In the tiny village of Miescheid, members of B Company were quick to arrive at the disaster scene. Although he did not hear the blast, B Company's second platoon leader, **2nd Lieutenant Sam B. Lewis** was alerted by an excited voice on the field phone: "The third platoon building has blown up! Leave your guards at their posts and get everybody up here on the double! **Lieutenant Lewis** raced up a slight hill and reached the wrecked farmhouse within minutes:

"I saw that the fire had already started, and only a quarter of the building was intact. As I got within 30 feet of it, I saw **Lieutenant Hutto** emerge from the rubble, clothed, but shoeless. He had a wild look in his eyes. He told me that he and two sergeants and a runner were bedded down in the attic when the blast came and the walls went out, the attic floor collapsed, and the roof fell in on them."

When **Major Salladin** reached the disaster scene, he immediately took charge of the rescue operation. **Lieutenant Lucci** was still on the roof:

"**Major Salladin** climbed up to the roof, took the axe from my hands and ordered me back."

The only source of water to fight the fire was a shell hole half filled with water from melted snow. Quickly, a bucket brigade was formed. Using a few buckets and steel helmets, the water was passed from the shell hole down a line of GIs to the farmhouse.

As the regimental CP, **Major Craig** worked through the night. As he received information from B Company, he passed it on to division. A little past midnight on February 23rd, **Major Craig** telephoned **Major Conley**, assistant G-3, to report: "Six men have been rescued so far. One is badly injured. The

rest of the men are still in the building." At 3:30 a.m. German machine-gun fire was reported in the vicinity of Miescheid but not in the area of the rescue operation. At 4:00 a.m. **Major Craig**, then exhausted from lack of sleep, called division to report that "the building was a complete wreck," adding that "it will be well into the morning before all the bodies can be recovered." **Major Craig** was relieved by **Captain Faye Long** about 6:00 a.m. At 9:00 a.m. **Captain Long** called division to report:

"10 bodies have been recovered. Work is being continued but the crew has been cut down to one squad due to daylight and enemy observation."

General Reinhardt, the division commander, arrived at the 273rd Infantry CP at exactly 9:34 a.m. where he met briefly with **Colonel Adams**. Fifteen minutes later the General left for the 1st Battalion command post. There, he talked with **Major Salladin** and then departed for the explosion site at Miescheid. **General Reinhardt** arrived back at regiment at 11:19 a.m. He requested that a complete report on the Miescheid explosion be forwarded to V Corps as soon as possible.

It was not until 4:00 p.m. that afternoon that the final casualty figures were released: a total of 51 men had perished in the explosion - 23 men from Company A, 26 men from Company B and 2 from 1st Battalion's Medical Detachment. It was a record that never would be broken - the highest number of 69th Infantry Division men killed in a single day during World War II.

The memory of the horror of Miescheid would return to haunt many men of 1st Battalion in later years. But for those who had to continue the battle in February 1945 there was no time to mourn the dead or console the living. At 5:40 p.m. on February 23rd, **Colonel Conran** called **Major Craig** to tell him that 273rd Infantry would attack pillbox 17 "tomorrow night." **Major Craig's** answer is recorded in the G-3 Journal - "Although it will be a difficult task, it will be done."

NOTE

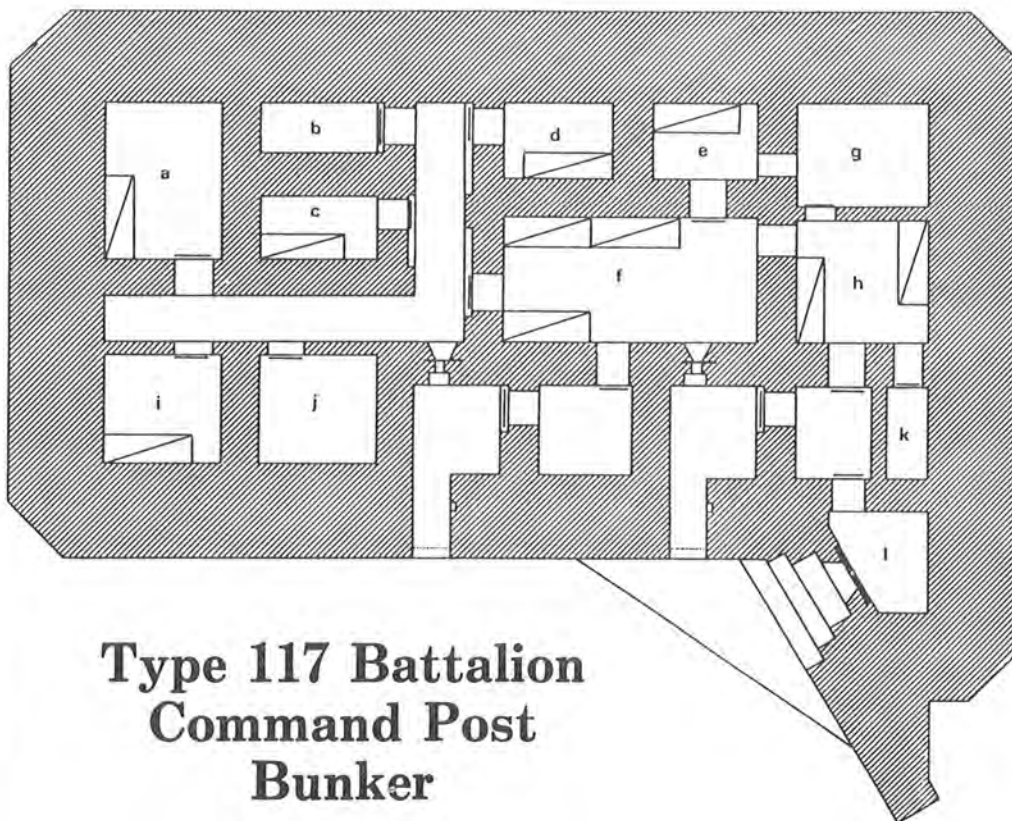
All comments and questions regarding historical information in this series should be addressed to the author, **Alan Murphey**, at 1339 Hemlock Drive, Fairborn, Ohio 45324. For those with questions about photographs, relics found in the 273rd area and wartime landmarks as they exist today, please write **Chris Van Kerckhoven**, at E.J. Van Gansenstraat 21, B-2260, Westerlo, Belgium.



The intended objective of Lt. Lucci's assault team as it looks today. The remains of pillbox 17 lean defiantly towards Miescheid across the valley where 51 men died on 22 Feb. 1945.

— TO BE CONTINUED —

(See next page for layout of a battalion command post bunker)



Type 117 Battalion Command Post Bunker

A 40' x 70' bunker with 2 entrances each with an individual gas proof chamber, 12 rooms, and L-shaped corridor and a steel turret built into the roof for observation. Room identification (number of bunkers in parenthesis):

a=commander & adjutant (2)
b=observation room with staircase leading up to turret
c=artillery officer (2)
d=orderly officers (2)
e=intelligence officer (2)
f=squad room (6)
g=telephone room
h=squad room (4)
i=radio room (2)
j=radio room
k=store room
l=room w/MG loophole for flanking fire.

Two entrance doors enabled troops to deploy rapidly to man positions nearby or launch a counter-attack.

Ray Delbango of Company M, 271st Regiment Writes

Ray Delbango
702 Drew Drive, Saint James, New York 11780
Telephone 516/862-1766

Enclosed is a check for current dues. Your records concerning my service with the 69th are wrong. I was in "M" Company, 271st Infantry Regiment from April to September 1944 when I left to go to parachute school at Fort Benning. I finally wound up with the 82nd Airborne Division and we

met up with the Russians at a town called Ludwigslat in northern Germany.

In your early 1993 Bulletin you published a picture in the Company M, 271st Regiment column of Jim Shoemaker and James Stacey at San Francisco. I am enclosing a picture of Jim Shoemaker and myself taken at Camp Shelby in 1944. I am also enclosing another picture taken on maneuvers at Camp Shelby.



The jeep driver is Private Jackson, Sergeant Bobby Haines is in front, Private Reid is behind Jackson and I am behind Haines sitting on the spare tire.



Ray Delbango, left & Jim Shoemaker, right

Tramp Script Article prompts response from the Former Editor

Submitted by: Len Braverman
724th Field Artillery Battalion
28104 Espinoza, Mission Viejo, California 92692

I was pleasantly surprised to read the well-written article by Mike Makuh, with regard to our interview with Bob Hope and the production of the "Tramp Script" and "Lilac Times." As he mentioned, I was Managing Editor of both papers, and how they came about was very interesting.

On Monday, May 22nd, 1943, I was called into the office of Captain Newcombe at Headquarters Battery and told that as my M.O. showed, I had been a printer in civilian life, he wanted me to help put out a newspaper for all DivArty Batteries, and that he wanted the paper ready by Sunday, May 27th, as Major Kessler, our new Battalion Commander, was being installed and he wanted to impress him — five days after Germany's surrender, in a strange country with a strange language and bombed practically out of existence.

Luckily I spoke a little German and was able to converse with the man on the street. I located a printing press in a private home and the owner agreed to print the newspaper if I supplied him with the type and especially paper, which was in short supply. I found a bombed out building that had a linotype machine, but no linotype operator. But as I had been a linotype operator at Doubleday book publishers in the states, and though the keyboard was arranged differently, I was able to set the type.

Next I heard of a paper warehouse at the end of town. I drove up with a ¾ ton truck and asked the manager for paper needed for the first printing. He told me that if I did not have an official authorization, he would not give me any paper. Pulling back the bolt of my carbine, I told him that this was my authorization, and I didn't intend to leave without the paper. He suddenly became very friendly and even helped me load the truck.

Meanwhile, the rest of the staff was lining up reporters from each of the batteries and writing up stories. We worked day and night, printing, hand folding, collating and bundling the papers and they were delivered on Sunday morning to all the batteries, though we had to stay up all Saturday night to finalize the "Tramp Script." I am enclosing a commendation from Major Kessler for our efforts.

We published "Tramp Script" till June 25th, 1945, when we were all shipped to Brake, Germany to the 29th Division as occupation troops. Again I received a call from Captain Newcombe. This time he told me that the 29th had taken over a complete newspaper plant in Nordenham, Germany, with close to 50 employees and he wanted me to run the plant with the help of the former German owner, whom he termed a "good German" whose duties were to oversee the printing of a weekly German newspaper. So here I was, managing editor of the "Lilac Times" and manager of a complete newspaper plant, printing all DivArty printing needs.

All went smoothly, even though being detached from A Battery, I slept in a small room next to my office, with my carbine in bed with me at all times. After all, the rest of the building was tenanted by German families who didn't appreciate my presence. In fact, one day Mike and I got into our jeep to pick up some printing supplies, when there was a ping - a bullet struck the jeep - we took off in a hurry and neither of us was injured. Then one day I received a rush printing order from DivArty Headquarters and took some of the printers off the German newspaper to rush this job through, when that so-called "Good German" came running into the office, clicked his heels, raised his right hand in the

Nazi salute, and called out "Heil ... Herr Braverman" and complained about the change. I explained the situation and he left. But now I was sure there was something wrong. So I got a crowbar and opened one of the locked drawers in his desk, and sure enough it was filled with Nazi armbands and a number of daggers. I called G-2 and two men came and took him away for interrogation. I never saw him again.

Eventually my number came up, and I was told that I could re-enlist and continue to manage the plant or accept my points and go home. With a wife and son waiting for me I decided to go home.

In 1960 I heard about our reunions and I went to as many as I could. But the most important one turned out to be the reunion at Biloxi. I was standing in the Hospitality Room with my favorite diet soda in hand when a husky 6-footer walked over to me and whispered "Tramp Script." I almost passed out. After 46 years I was finally reunited with Captain Newcombe. A shock, but a most pleasurable one!!!

Below is the Commendation received from Major Kessler.

Bad Durrenberg, Germany
28 May, 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO: The Staff of "TRAMP SCRIPT"

1. The first issue of your newspaper is an outstanding piece of professional journalism.

A project such as yours, organized by the men of the battalion for the battalion shows high spirit and regard for the well being of your fellow soldiers.

I commend your execution of a difficult mission in a short five days. I hope that we will continue to enjoy the fruits of your labors.

Charles W. Kessler
Major, F.A.



Len Braverman interviewing Bob Hope at Eisenhower Stadium. Picture taken by official photographer, Mike Makuh.

As promised . . . More of "Tramp Script"

The 724th Field Artillery Battalion Newspaper

Submitted by: Mike Makuh
2618 Hearthstone Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

69th DIVISION INVADES MERRY OLDE ENGLAND

The 69th Division took England by storm the 10th of December 1944 with the natives showing little resistance. It was a country of quaint customs and traditions the origins of which were lost in history and it was there we learned what the English people had gone through in this war.

After landing in Southampton the artillery was entrained to Reading and its neighboring Camp Ranikhet. Life in Ranikhet was resolved to final preparation of the unit in assembling equipment and material.

We took a break from there on. Dances held at the local gym every week brought the femmes from miles around. Pubs and dance halls in town were packed with GI tourists. "George and the Dragon," "Boar's Head," and "White Horse Inn" were some of the local bistros, where beer, ale, and bitters flowed warmly in the same manner as the English hospitality. You were cordially welcomed into the homes and treated with such consideration that the bonds of Anglo-American relations were cemented far more firmly than any diplomatic measures.

Christmas came and Boxing Day followed. No one was quite sure what Boxing Day was — it had begun back when Hector was a pup. Tea and crumpets were sampled, dart games played, expressions such as "cheerio," "ta," "queue," and "cinema" were adopted.

Riding the train 30 miles to London usually took from one to two hours. We found the historic structures still standing - Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, altho damaged,

and the House of Parliament, despite the repeated German broadcasts of its annihilation. The subway was a maze of corridors, but conceded to be the latest. World-renowned names such as Bond Street, Piccadilly Circus, Downing Street, Hyde Park, and Trafalgar Square became realities as the panorama unfolded itself before us.

Fog helped to blanket the city in its blackouts - a few air raids were experienced by some. Sirens wailed and search beams fingered the sky for marauding planes. This was England in action at wartime, dull thuds resounded in the distance that marked the arrival of bombs or jet-propelled packages of dynamite. All-clear sounded and London went back to the hustle of the city's bustle. Return trips to the comparative safety of camp were made with pleasant memories.

New Year's Day arrived and we wondered what the year of 1945 had in store for us. Surely victory over Germany would be ours but did our wildest dreams and expectations include the arrival of an atomic bomb unleashed against the unscrupulous Japs and brings them to surrender terms?

A two day firing problem in the Royal Artillery Firing Range put the finishing touches to our practicing. From here on it would be "fire for effect" to break enemy resistance, blow installations, and killing or maiming military-minded Germans.

* * * * *

69th LANDS IN FRANCE

By the 23rd of January the vacation we had in England was over and the 724th Field Artillery Battalion hit for the continent loaded in LCIs. At LeHavre, France, the results of concentrated artillery pounding stood out in bold relief - rubble as far as the eye could reach. We landed and viewed the desolate scenery, pitied the skinny, bedraggled children who searched the debris for food; the skeleton frames of bombed buildings offered little protection against the cold winter. We heard our first foreign language when the kids asked us for cigarettes and candy.

We traveled far and gaped at the vestiges of towns that had once been carefree centers of humanity. The strip map showed the route to include Le Havre, Rouen, and Forges Le Eaux. Destination was Le Heron, France where we bunked at a pretentious chateau: large rooms that had once seen pompous personalities and gay parties now housed the defenders of freedom. Here we learned about the quaint French customs and courtesies - the too-public latrine screens, the friendly way perfect strangers bid us "Bon Jour" and the precocious manner of little children shaking hands in the same effusive manner as their grown-ups. The picture of France with her narrow streets lined by crowded shops and houses was typical throughout her country. Long loaves of bread were lashed onto the back of bikes, ponies pulled little buggies over the snowdrift streets; La Belle France was certainly an impressive gal.

After a short stay of a week's duration we packed our musette bags and set out again. The passing landscape was very interesting showing Compiegne Forest where the last Armistice was signed, a great cemetery where crosses patterned a symbolic order, ammo dumps with miles and miles of 155 and 105 mm projectiles, and Rheims silhouetting its cathedrals on the skyline. More waste, more rubble. The end of the journey was reached at a pitched tent camp outside of Sissonne, France.

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"Where's your necktie at soldier?"

AS PROMISED . . . MORE OF "TRAMP SCRIPT"
724th F.A. BATTALION NEWSPAPER
(Continued from Page 44)

A week of recuperation there and we mounted up and moved out again headed for Ambleve, Belgium, otherwise known as Amel. We went by way of Rocroi, Fumay, crossed the Maas River at Givet entering Belgium at that point, then Dinant. This was the most scenic spot in the trip obviously the vacationing tourist section which had once beckoned to the world travelers. Malmedy revealed still-smoking ruins, the place where the infamous murder of GI prisoners took place. Continuing onward we reached the desolate Belgium towns where we had our first glimpse of recent war action, the Germans having been cleared out a week previously. An early thaw uncovered corpses, both man and beast, horses and cows lay in the ditches, still bodies of Germans with waxen complexions were grim signs of the gruesome horrors that had occurred here. GI equipment lay strewn along with Jerry clothes and guns indicative of the see-saw struggle in the Ardennes Bulge battle. Tanks were knocked out here and there, there was a sea of mud that taxed the skill of drivers and the vocabulary of the pedestrians.

Our last move was made into Krinkelt, Belgium on Lincoln's birthday. Relieving the 99th Division, we finally entered combat after the extensive training and maneuvering. Everybody wondered how he would fare in the trying times ahead.

* * * * *

724th's FIRST TASTE OF COUNTER-BATTERY FIRE

It was late afternoon of a hectic day in the last phase of the war when the 724th Field Artillery Battalion approached the town of Kitzen, in the outer ring of defenses for Leipzig, little realizing that the territory had not been taken. As the guns were being laid, a blast of enemy artillery fire greeted the GIs hampering their efforts in getting their pieces ready for business. Undaunted cannoneers in their baptism of fire continued getting into position while observers located the enemy positions. After Able Battery adjusted, they were ordered to throw all the ammo they had at the German emplacements. As dusk came on, activity ceased and a long base survey was set up to plot in any tell-tale burst in the dark, but silence blessed the night.

As soon as dawn broke, the survey crew withdrew and observation was set up in Headquarters Battery area located on the edge of town where the enemy battery could be seen from the garret. It wasn't long before the war started all over again. The blast of 88 ackack explosion quickly followed the sharp retort of its initial propellant charge as the high velocity shell peppered Able's position. A direct hit on a house occupied by cannoneers and an anti-aircraft half-track went to the credit of the dual-purpose German guns. Near misses on a gun caused a few casualties but didn't stop its firing. From the OP the battalion commander directed fire and ducked alternately in this dual of shrapnel and high explosive - 88's versus 155's. Rounds kept pouring back and forth.

It was thought by Jerry observers that there might be entrenchments along the creek line about 1,000 yards in front of the actual positions. It was there that a heavy barrage was spent but with no effect. Shortly after that, more counter-battery fire directed at Able position forced them to withdraw.

The new position was the target for more firing with uncanny timing. Suspecting some local stool-pigeon, a posse was formed to search the houses for any communication system. Several phones came to light and were promptly disconnected and destroyed. That night the battalion moved to a new position.

THE FALL OF THE NAZI EMPIRE

From Uichteritz to Kitzen, about 18 kilometers southwest of Leipzig, the battalion started to play doughboy and advanced into this town that hadn't been taken. Guns were being laid when 88 shells splattered in the area. From then on it was a contest between 88's and 155's. The batteries were laid and the answering fire in retaliation gave vent to our fighting spirit. Both sides batted them out as fast as they could load. Night passed uneventfully but the morning opened up another duel with A Battery suffering some casualties. Able withdrew to Eisdorf and were greeted by more volleys of enemy shell fire. A raid was made on the houses and several phones came to light and were promptly detached. Pegau was the next stop and the boys were digging deeper and better foxholes than ever before. Many of them were so far down that rumors went around that some of the ground hogs were AWOL.

The rapid changes in position were good for our morale, it yielded luscious larders that put our army 10-in-I's to shame. "Eat, drink, and be merry—" was the slogan, "For tomorrow —?" We assumed in those days that the national flag was plain white. People usually displayed this banner in the form of a white tablecloth or sheet from their flagstaff or window, every self-respecting home had a flagstaff. We couldn't find a Nazi too in all those people we came across.

They all professed allegiance to the Democratic Party. The objectives, Russen, Pulgar, Zwenkau, and Lobschutz, fell to our infantry aided and abetted by our 155 efforts. Returning from their OP the parties were greeted by an overwhelming sight of newly released prisoners of war. Some of them were Americans. The throng packed the road for a mile - free to go where they please now that the shackles were torn. Immense air fields were spread out through this part of Germany - sabotaged Nazi planes lay strewn over the area.

We fired into the city of Leipzig - reputed to be a fortress - from Kleinposna. The 69th Division was to take half of the 5th largest city in the country up to the railroad station and the 2nd Division would meet them there approaching it from the opposite side. The main stronghold was "The Battle of Nations Monument." A solid stone bulwark erected in commemoration of Napoleon's defeat, it presented a formidable fortress with its system of catacombs and thick walls. A group of SS and Wehrmacht had taken 29 of our boys holding them as hostages and were able to last out for two days. However threats of pouring burning gasoline forced them to give up and the city was ours.

At the battery positions, the cannoneers picked up the Jerries who had donned civilian clothes and tried to filter through the lines. Some of them had discharged themselves at the fall of the city. A rush CSMO sent us to Gostemitz supporting the infantry that was to take Eilenberg. This town was quite a poser with its Hitler fanatics stubbornly holding out, defying an order to surrender. So an example was to be made of the puny city that refused to be given a break. Our doughs backed out - each battery and each gun was apportioned a certain section of the town to be all his for demolition - so the gunners went to work, changing deflection by one mil and firing one round every minute throughout the night. The 724th Field Artillery Battalion fired 563 rounds and were joined by the thunderous group of 155 rifles, 105's, 4.5's, and anything else that was available. The city, reduced to bricks and fires, was taken up to the Mulde River by our intrepid infantry.

(Continued on Page 46)

Mission accomplished, on to Polenz. We weren't there long; at 2200 we moved out and returned to the old position of Gostemitz to fire 1000 rounds into Kultschau. Another stubborn town across the Mulde River had refused our charity so it was laid waste by our H.E. After expending our quota of rounds and devastating our assigned section, we returned to Polenz and awaited, with increasing expectancy, our link-up with the Russians. The liaison plane had reported that a number of released prisoners and displaced personnel had made it unsafe for us to fire into that zone.

The 26th day of April was the culmination of the 69th Division's active participation in the great World War II against Nazi tyranny. An infantry patrol had contacted elements of the 58th Guards Division of the Russian army at Torgau. On the 7th of May victory was final. The war was over!

We had made it. After the relentless drive from the Siegfried Line to the Elbe River - the 69th Division had deservedly fought for its title, "The Fighting 69th." Let us remember that it was actually the boys who fell on the way that made that division a success. A silent reminder of the grim cost of our victory. It is up to us, the living, to make sure that they have not died in vain, that such a dastardly deed is not imposed on humanity again. We can make the victory sure - through the peaceful years to come.

* * * * *

FIGHTING 69th DIVISION HITS HOME SHORES

For the fellows who are still interested in following the actions of the 69th Infantry Division, here is an excerpt from the New York Daily Mirror datelined 15 September 1945. Along with this article was an accompanying picture of the gold old 69th Division patch. Anyway, here is the article - and we'll bet you didn't know that you were so good:

The "Fighting 69th" Infantry Division - the boys who slashed their way across Germany and, waving a homemade American flag, met the Russians thundering from the East - comes home today, loaded with glory.

The honor of clasping the hands of the Russians went to the 69th because of its unparalleled fighting record in the war against Hitler.

You'll see their bright interlocking "69" shoulder patches today after the Santa Rosa docks with 3,248 passengers and tomorrow when the E.B. Alexander brings 7,463 into port.

Reschied, Jamberg, Dickerschied, Honnegen - cities that mean little to the average American, but to the soldier mean places where the enemy had concealed his most cunning concrete traps - were in the division's bag within two weeks and the first ring of the Westwall was ours.

Now came big stuff - Leipzig, queen city of the Rhineland, A-1 Nazi stronghold, conqueror's shrine city. The battle raged block by block, blood spattered the famed Napoleon monument, the fanatical enemy hung on and the fighting lasted 19 days.

By the end of April the division found itself on the Mulde River, west of the Elbe, and several small patrols were sent out in the general direction of the Russians. One such group got into Torgau, climbed the tower of an old castle, and looked across the Elbe.

There was just one more river to cross, for the Russians saw the patched-up American emblem, made signals, and in a few minutes everybody was clasping hands in the middle of a battered railroad bridge that spanned the stream.

And the noose was closed around the Supermen's necks. The men who brought the American ingredient to this mudcovered international session are on our streets today. They wear the red, white and blue interlocking "69" emblem. Step right up and shake the hand that shook Ivan's.

* * * * *

RE-EDUCATING A NATION

How are we doing as an Occupation Force? We have preserved law and order, we have thoroughly disarmed this once belligerent nation, and we have started to get the wheels of business (carefully supervised, of course) in motion once again - but is that enough? Now that these people turn to the normal routines of life and set about rebuilding the land which they invited to be destroyed, it is time for us to start projecting ideas. Ideas of fair play, of tolerance, of righteousness and of freedom. Yet to be weeded out of the German mind are the hates and prejudices which have been so deeply imbedded in German thought after the twelve year hate campaign of the Nazi regime. We have not yet approached the core of the German mind.

At first, we were told that our job here would be to merely preserve law and order, and that higher, specially trained echelons would take care of reeducating the civilian and demobilized population. But we too can be a part of this prodigious task. In our daily conversations let them know of the blessings a peaceful, freedom loving nation can enjoy. Project to them through your actions how a democracy can and does work. If you fail in this respect, you will be as guilty as if you were to allow them to carry firearms. To merely sit back and sweat out the shipment home is an outright neglect of duty. Know in your mind that when you finally do go home you have done your share towards reeducating a badly misled nation.

Already our command has seen fit to allow them to have their own newspapers under allied supervision. If properly handled this can be an important factor in the de-Nazification of Germany. Another step forward is the newly inaugurated German Youth Rehabilitation Program. This is an effort to acquaint the German youth with the activities and interests normal to the youth of their own age in America. These are but two of the steps being taken to make our occupation a success. But your staunch support is needed. Be an active part of the de-Nazification of Germany.

* * * * *

Trophy Certificates Are Needed

In a recent memorandum received from Headquarters USFET, we are told that any man who intends to take home any sort of "boodle" must obtain a War Trophy Certificate. For each item the man wishes to take with him, he must obtain from his orderly room a certificate signed by the Battery Commander. The type of article and the name of the owner will be clearly stated on each certificate. Any man failing to have one of these certificates when he arrives at the POE will have to surrender any "boodle" he cannot account for on paper. As soon as these certificates are received at Battalion Headquarters, they will be issued to the batteries. Keep in touch with your orderly room - if you have a trophy you wish to take home.

* * * * *

AIN'T IT THE TRUTH?

When showering, you are very clean;
You wear your clogs to the latrine.
You scrub the floors with septic lye;
You wash your toes with soap, GI.
You shield your feet, from dirt and soot
So what do you get? - Athlete's Foot!

More on Colditz and The Colditz Society

Submitted by: Michael Booker — Editor: 'Colditz Society'
50 Edgehill Road, Mitcham
Surrey CR4 2HU, England

For those who need their memory refreshed, when World War II started, beginning in October 1939, Colditz Castle was an Allied prisoner of war camp. Among the many places captured by the Allies in the spring of 1945 were Nazi prisoner of war camps. The Colditz Castle was one of them.

We have been happy to make the 69th honorary members of the Colditz Society, in recognition of the fact that they liberated the castle on April 16th, 1934, for which Colditz serves as one of your battle honors.

I have had a very good response from veterans of the 69th who were at Colditz. I would like to correspond with anyone who has any recollection of that period. I am also interested in anyone that may have some momentos that have survived that time for the Colditz collection that I have built over the past 25 years. This collection is on exhibit at the Imperial War Museum in London. I would of course be happy to repay any expenses involved. I have a particular interest in obtaining an envelope with the A.P.O. posted in Colditz around that time.

Should any of you like a copy of future issues of our newsletter, I would be please to hear from you.

Colditz Castle Visit June 3rd-6th, 1993

By David Ray

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This story is derived from the Colditz Society Newsletter which is written and printed in England by those who were once prisoners of war at the castle.)

THE CASTLE IS STUCK BETWEEN DELAPIDATION AND GARISH REFURBISHMENT

With a clutch of huge, ancient keys and the help of Anne-Kathrin Gordos from the museum, we roamed over the lion's share of the castle for three days. Every solitary confinement cell was well studied and the graffiti was noted and photographed. The plaster is flaking steadily and unless it is protected in the near future, a unique piece of Colditz history will be gone. High above us among the pigeons, rubble and rickety planks, lurked the radio hide, recently exposed by German workmen pulling down the plaster walls of the attic. This time warp was one of the most remarkable moments as far as I was concerned. Down in the cellars the French tunnel entrance had been exposed and illuminated. The course can be traced through the chapel with beams that have been laboriously sawn through and two shafts of 2.6m and 5.2m at each end. Up on the galleries hundreds of tins, used by Prisoners of War for nefarious purposes, lie rusting.

In 1974, I had climbed to the top of the moat on the south side and I photographed the air vent. This time I managed to get into the cellar beneath the Kommandantur and got right to the exit that Pat Reid and his three colleagues used in October 1942. One glance at the guardhouse attic windows looking west and my admiration for the two Poles, Surmanowicz and Chmice knew no bounds. This was by the route of Airey Neave from the hole under the stage in the theatre along the secret passage over the entrance gate and down the spiral stairs. Virtually nothing has changed in this part of the Castle. Yet another stone staircase and we were in the theatre. The complete floor of the Saalhouse has been refurbished in the garish, communist decor of the 1970's.

The roof leaks and a large damp spot covers Shakespeare's name on the literary and musical frieze. The park has gone to rack and ruin. The bridge over the Hainbach stream has all but collapsed and the area is totally overgrown. The path now needs a machete and the park wall has collapsed in two of three places. Ugly grey pipelines now disfigure the Terrace House. After a steep climb excellent views of the Castle can be obtained above the folly and long disused vineyard north of the schloss.

At the very top of the clocktower one is not disappointed by the panorama. Treading carefully to avoid crushing pigeon eggs we entered the barn-like interior of the attic on the south side, used to such good effect by Domenic Brude in September 1942, now dusty, dangerous and untouched since 1945. In the inner courtyard the south face has been substantially altered by some colored brick work; the willow tree is starting to get out of hand.

* * * * *

Outside Colditz Castle 1993

By Michael Booker

We had set ourselves several tasks for this visit. For our first task, we were trying to find the resting place of Michael Sinclair before his transfer to Berlin. We visited the small church adjacent to the Castle. We knew from previous visits that this was likely to be a pointless exercise, but we may have missed some clue in the past. We hadn't. Our guest house was situated opposite the "Shooting Gallery" and close to a further church. I had learned that three Jewish graves had been seen 'near a wall.' It was also possible that Mike and Pop Oliver had been buried there too. Eggers, during one of his visits, had given me a photograph of a burial he was involved in, of a prominent Nazi, that took place at Colditz. Armed with the photograph, we went to the church in high hopes. It wasn't the same one. However, we decided to look around the perimeter walls of the churchyard, just in case. This proved another fruitless task. I noticed however, beyond the boundary of the church wall a gap leading to a smaller area where obviously the gardener worked. There was a compost heap and tools laying around, also a shed. But it was enclosed by a wall and technically part of the church property.

David and I walked into this area, waiting to be challenged by some irate workman. We looked at the inner wall and there before us etched into the wall was a memorial plaque on either side, the Red upturned triangle of the Political Prisoner. It has been installed by the East German government. They obviously did not distinguish between Jew and Gentile in the fight against Facism. This must be where the Jews were buried 'against the wall' and also no doubt those that perished during the period of 1933 when the Castle had also been a Concentration Camp. Later I learned that there was also another church beyond Colditz, where prominent Nazis were buried, but that would wait until another visit. As mentioned, our guest house and rooms were directly opposite the "Shooting Gallery." During our last visit, the building had been empty and silent. Now, our ears were assaulted by the sound of loud music originating from the grounds of the former camp, where a fair now stood. David and I decided it was a good time to pay a visit, as no one would notice us casually walking around the building. We managed to look through the windows of the former "Indian Camp," "Prisoners Holiday Camp" and "Holding Camp while the Gestapo searched the Castle." We saw nothing of significance. The building is more or less as it was during the war.

Although I was disappointed at not finding Mike's burial place and the "Shooting Gallery" has lost its mystery, I was soon in for a bonus, for Wolfgang Ansonge arrived, having

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MORE ON COLDITZ AND THE COLDITZ SOCIETY (Continued from Page 47)

survived the B.A. strike; we now had someone who could speak the language and then he introduced us to Thomas Schadlich, the grandson of George Schadlich, the Colditz guard known as "Dixon Hawk."

Both Wolfgang and Thomas offered to take David and I outside the boundaries of the town to see the countryside. Our first stop was at the 'Heimatturm.' It is a tower built in 1901 that dominates the outer reaches of the town. From its parapet you can view the Castle and town snuggled in its ring of forests. Look away from the town and to your right is the Mulde, beyond which lies a hill, dominated by a forest. Thomas pointed out that this hill was used by the American spotters to direct the fire of their big guns, hidden in another forest beyond. It was from that forest, by the side of the Mulde, that four American G.I.s began a reconnaissance patrol early on the morning of April 16th, 1945. From the tower we were able to trace their progress along the banks of the Mulde past the large porcelain factory little knowing that the rear portion contained the dying survivors of the 5.5 Concentration Camp. Eventually the four reached the bridge which a machine gun crew held against any counter attack from the town. They were told not to cross the bridge which they disobeyed, then entered the town and after sheltering the doorway from the sudden shelling by Germans and Americans, entered the Castle for safety, to find to their amazement that they were the liberators of an Officers P.O.W. camp. One of two things could then happen to that team, either a Court Martial for disobeying orders or a bronze star for bravery. They got the latter.

THE LONE GI?

Kenneth Lockwood proofread this article and telephoned me stating "In fact a G.I. entered the Castle via the wicker gate at the main entrance. He saw the prisoners then turned and walked out. Much later the four G.I.s arrived." Who was this lone G.I.? Could it have been one of the team of four who later returned. Maybe the 69th can answer this mystery.

Small Gathering of C Battery, 880th in Amish Country



Walnut Creek, Ohio gathering. February 16th, 1994. Left to right: Lowell McFarlin, Robert Kurtzman, Robert Williams, Irene Williams, Vivian Kurtzman, Marjorie McFarlin, Lewis Pugh, Fern Pugh, Ann D'Angelo, Enrico D'Angelo.

269th Loses Dan Evers

Submitted by:
Frank Nemeth
66 Gaping Rock Road
Levittown, Pennsylvania
19057-3410

It is with deep sorrow that I have to report the passing on of Dan Evers on February 13th, 1994, a real close friend and a devoted 69er.

Dan Evers was always in attendance at the 69th Infantry Div. Reunions, Tri-State Reunions and the Central Pennsylvania Reunions.

Dan and I hosted the 69th Division Reunion when it was held at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. He was also the host, along with his wife, Helen, of the Central Pennsylvania Reunions in and around Lancaster for 3 years.

Dan shipped out as a replacement and went to the Pacific but his ties were strong to the 69th. He made most all of our Reunions. He played golf the past three years with the "East Meets West" tournament at Linden Hall Golf Club with Al Kormas, Ray Szkudlarek and myself.

I'm sure he'll be greatly missed by all who ever knew him. Our deepest sympathy goes to his beloved wife, Helen and his family.

With deep regrets,
Frank Nemeth



Enrico D'Angelo, Robert Williams, Robert Kurtzman, Lewis Pugh, Lowell McFarlin.

More on the 1993 Visit to The 1945 Link-Up Points

Submitted by: William Matlach
19 Barberry Road
West Islip, New York 11795

The first bulletin of this year (Volume 47, No. 1) was a giant bulletin running 80 pages, and chock full of news about 69th activities, especially about the group of 69ers visiting Torgau and Strehla in April for the ceremonies taking place there. Although the group was relatively small, its individuals generated a tremendous amount of material for the bulletin. There were articles submitted by **Bud Parsons**, **Ken Sawyer** and **Jim Carroll**, each describing a different aspect of the tour and his own personal points of interest. However, I must say that the articles by **Bud Parsons** were most complete in depth of detail, listing all participants and their background (in addition to 69ers), and the significance of ceremonies and events which took place. I also wrote an article but its inclusion would have meant a great deal of repetition in the bulletin, so it was put off for a later date, namely now. Actually, having had the benefit of reading the articles in the first bulletin, I can now limit myself to adding additional information which the previous reporters missed.

Bud Parsons gave a good description of festivities taking place in Torgau during Elbe Day and "Down By The Riverside." However, I want to point out that the Germans appear to have gone crazy about American music and Americans: the "Down By The Riverside" title only appears in English and is not a translation of a similar German expression. The jazz bands are not only American, German and Russian but from other countries as well, and bear American names such as "Copenhagen Washboard Five" (Denmark), "Breitling Stompers" (Germany), and "Jazzamatazz" (England). When the swing bands played American music in the Torgau music hall, the uproarious applause was reminiscent of the big-band era in the United States.



English language plaque laid in at groundbreaking ceremonies.



STREHLA — Groundbreaking ceremony. Left to right: Bill Snidow, Bob McCarty, Heinz Richter, and Burgermeister Andreas Habeland.

Parsons' article described the groundbreaking ceremony at Strehla and included a picture of Burgermeister Andreas Habeland kneeling to install the copper cylinder, with two of the bronze tablets or plaques nearby. The photo below left shows a close-up of the English language plaque. Although the language used is quite colorful, you will note that the 69th Division is specifically called out, which is not true of the text on the existing Torgau monument. We pointed out that **Kotzebue's** named had been misspelled and it was agreed that a correction would be made.

In the photo above, **Bill Snidow** is presenting the Burgermeister with a 69th Division jacket and a copy of the front page of "Stars and Stripes" with the headline "Yanks Meet Reds" while **Heinz Richter** translates.

After leaving Torgau/Strehla, we toured through various small towns selected by individuals in our party, as previously described by **Ken Sawyer**. With the help of **Heinz Richter**, some of our members found houses in which they had lived in 1945, and in at least one instance, the individual was invited into the house.

On the following page the photo top left shows a bridge which will be familiar to members of E-273rd and the 2nd Battalion of 273rd. On April 15, 1945, the 2nd Platoon of E-273rd (led by a very adventurous mortar squad of the Weapons Platoon) crossed this bridge across the Mulde River at Trebsen to find, when halfway across, that the bridge had German TNT taped to all the girders. For some reason, the TNT did not explode and we crossed safely, only to be strafed by our own P-47's who thought we were retreating Germans. Result: 4 men wounded, several German civilians killed and wounded. After waiting three days for a pontoon bridge for our tanks to cross the river (this bridge could barely hold a jeep), we moved back 20 miles to fight the battle of Leipzig, during which time the Germans blew a hole in the bridge. The bridge was eventually retaken, repaired by the 269th Engineers, and became the means by which the Kotzebue patrol and other patrols were able to cross the Mulde to perform their missions. I have often tried to imagine what kind of bridge the Germans later built to replace that rickety old patched bridge and was amazed to find that the rickety old bridge still exists today! Not so amazing when you realize that Trebsen was in East Germany where very few structures were even replaced.

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TREBSEN — Bridge across the Mulde River.

The photo below shows Charlie Chapman standing in front of a small "palace" or estate in Schmidtheim in which part of Division Headquarters and Divarty-Hq. were billeted after the division moved forward from the Siegfried Line. Charlie was in Divarty-Hq. and this was his home for a period of time. If you have a copy of the 1945 edition of the 69th Infantry Division History, you will find a photo very similar to this one on Page 60.

Those of you who participated in the 1990 Europe/Russia Tour will recall that the Siegfried Line appeared devoid of concrete pillboxes; apparently all of them had been blown up and the concrete carted away. On this trip, while our small group was in Ramscheid (a front line position occupied by E-273rd and G-273rd in 1945), we took a walk down the single lane dirt road (along which the front



SCHMIDTHEIM - 1945 billet for Division Hq./Divarty Hq. Charlie Chapman.

line foxholes had been aligned) about ¼ mile south into the forest and we found the remains of a pillbox which had been blown partially up but not carted away; the road was not good enough for large trucks and cranes required to move heavy concrete. Although the main portion of E-273rd had been located up on the hill defending the immediate area surrounding Ramscheid, the 2nd Platoon had been positioned in the deep forest some distance away, with three pillboxes for shelter, including this one. The photo below shows four of us examining the remaining structure of the emplacement; in the foreground are concrete sections heavily overgrown with grass and bush. Although we did not investigate, I am sure there are at least two more similar sets of ruins in the nearby forest.

Photo below: RAMSCHEID — 1945 billet for 2nd Platoon, E-273rd. Left to right: Bill Matlach, Charlie Chapman, Lee Jones and Bill Snidow.

All in all, a very interesting trip as evidenced by the enthused reports presented by the travelers. As we visit these places from another time, we find that sometimes they have changed so much they are not recognizable, and in other instances, appear almost exactly the same as before.

As you have read in Bulletin Volume 47, No. 1, Bill Beswick is starting to organize a 50th Anniversary Tour (similar to the 40th and 45th) for 1995, at which time the completed Link-Up Memorial Park at Strehla will be dedicated. Fellows, that is going to be the Tour of Tours, a memorable excursion. When the time comes, sign up. If you do not, you will regret it!

We would like to see as many of our 69ers as possible make this trip so that we can be well represented.

Interesting Short Story by Miller Harris

Miller Harris

Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company
Spinnerstown Shuttle
P.O. Box 164, Spinnerstown, Pennsylvania 18968

Miller Harris, 1st Sergeant, Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company, wrote this story which first appeared in Harper's Magazine in 1948 and more recently in a collection of short stories about war, *"A Short Wait Between Trains,"* and which includes entries by the likes of James Jones, Irwin Shaw and Ernest Hemingway.

Miller says, "Shortly after being discharged, I spent an evening with a marine lieutenant who was attending a school in Philadelphia, my home town, learning the ritual, which he recited for me, of returning to the family the body of another marine killed in action.

"The lieutenant did not exhibit any of the concerns shown in the piece I wrote; to him it was just a job. But I went home and thought about how I would react given that assignment.

"The story wrote itself in less than an hour."

Thanks for listening.

* * * * *

BRASSARD, MOURNING, OFFICIAL

by Miller Harris

He walked through the train until he found a girl he thought he'd like to sit next to, threw the manila envelope down and, smiling so she'd know he wasn't Monty Woolley, warned her not to let anyone sit on it. Then he went back to the baggage car to see if Sergeant McCormick was comfortable. He unfastened the flag from the Sergeant's casket and folded it in the prescribed fashion until it was the size and shape of a cocked hat. He placed it in its cover and returned to the coach.

The manila envelope still held his seat.

"You're a good girl," he said to the girl.

"Thank you," she said, and resumed looking out the window. The train began to move through West Philadelphia. He looked the girl over. Not bad, he thought. Maybe she'll have lunch with me. If she stops looking out the window.

"Where're you bound for?" he asked.

"Harrisburg. And you?" It looked like lunch.

"Lancaster."

"Oh, do you live in Lancaster?" she asked.

"Nope. Put all the 'do you knows' back in your file. I've never been to Lancaster and I've never been to Harrisburg. know anybody in Leyte?" he asked and immediately regretted it. "I guess that sounds like hell, doesn't it? Very bitter. Very warlike. I am twenty-seven years old. I have been everywhere, seen everything, done everything. Know anybody on Leyte?" He nodded towards the autumn fields of Pennsylvania Dutchland. "Nice out."

"Yes, it's lovely. And so is your uniform. What are you dressed as?" she asked.

"That's a rather personal question. I didn't comment on your clothes. I never said you looked lovely."

"How could I possibly look anything but faded sitting next to a peacock? Whatever are you dressed as?"

"A ghoul."

"What do you mean, a ghoul?"

"I mean I am dressed as a ghoul. What did it sound like I meant?" He smiled his no-malice smile.

"That's ridiculous — a ghoul!"

"This peacock regalia — you must be very young not to know it — is the uniform of the United States Marine Corps."

"I thought Marines wore those awful green uniforms."

"They also wear these awful blue ones. With the high neckline. Revealing almost no bosom. Definitely the Old Look."

"And the black armband?"

"Brassard, mourning, official."

"Oh," she said. She said it as if he had just announced that his twin brother had been bayoneted publicly in a Tokyo square.

"That 'oh' sounded sympathetic," he said.

"Was that wrong?"

"It was wrong. I'm in mourning for a guy I never knew. Sergeant Thomas Joseph McCormick, USMC, deceased. He's in the baggage car."

"I'd like to say I understand and then we could talk about something else," she said, "but I don't understand in the least."

"I'm a ghoul. I told you that. I'm a graverobber."

"Go on."

"If you were married - it's out of the question, of course - but if you were married, and your husband got blown into a million little pieces, or maybe just had his head torn off, five thousand miles from home, would you be satisfied to leave him where he was? Supposing that to bring him home cost nothing (it costs a great deal) - supposing that it bothered nobody (it bothers me) - would it mean anything to you to have him home?"

"I guess I'd want him to stay where he fell."

"You're a good girl, and 'fell' is a good girl's word. The Sergeant got his at Pearl Harbor. His mother wants him home. So they dug him up. After six years they woke him up and shipped him home. I'm escorting him from Philly to his new grave. A brand new grave. Look, Mac, clean sheets."

The train was stopping. "We're stopping," he said. "Do you know what I'm supposed to do when we stop? I'm supposed to run up to the baggage car and see that they don't throw Mac off at the wrong stop. And if anybody's looking I'm supposed to drape the flag over his casket. And in Lancaster I'm supposed to give the flag to his mother and say, 'This flag is offered by a grateful nation in memory of faithful service performed by your loved one.' It ought to be pretty effective, don't you think?"

"Is this your first trip?" she asked. He could tell she didn't know what to make of him.

"First trip."

"Will you only have to make this one?" She sounded worried about him.

"Just this one trip. Just this one trip once a week for two years."

"You're kidding!"

"Oh, I'll miss some weeks. Next boatload is coming in from Europe. Not many Marines got to Europe. Not many died there. Not many coming back." The train pulled away from the platform. He looked out. "I don't see Mac. I guess we can assume he's where I left him. Flat on his back."

"Actually you're not as callous as you'd have me believe." She was a nice girl.

(Continued on Page 52)

"Actually, I'm not," he admitted. "Do you want to know the truth? I have a recurring dream, awake. I take Mac to his mother. My God, that's this afternoon, isn't it? I take him to his mother, and she says who are you? And I tell her. And she says what are you doing here? And I tell her. And she says why did they kill my boy? And I say I don't know, but I'm sorry they did. And she says why did they kill my boy and not you? And I say I guess I was luckier. And she says what makes you better than my boy? And all I can say is I'm sorry they killed her boy. And she starts crying and beating her fists on my chest and when I make my little speech and give her the flag she throws it on the ground and screams that no rag is going to replace her boy."

"That's dramatic enough," the girl said, "but she'll probably be perfectly lovely. She'll ask you to say to supper and —"

"Then why didn't she leave him alone? Why didn't she leave him at Pearl, this perfectly lovely mother?"

HELP WANTED by Joseph H. Green

I would like to correspond with anyone who was with me in the Anti-Tank Gun Squad, Headquarters Company, 272nd Regiment. I had a hernia injury in Leipzig that was discovered at Zeitz. I left the group for an operation May 18th, 1945. The only one I remember is Thomas McCann. Please contact me at:

Joseph H. Green
4 Greens Lane, Georgetown, Delaware 19947



Pfc. Joseph H. Green in Strehla, Germany

Picture taken by a Russian soldier at Strehla, Germany, where a party of U.S. and U.S.S.R. Generals and other top brass took place. The room where the window is shown is the "Dark Room" where the pictures were developed and printed by an amateur G.I. (name unknown)

"Maybe it's part of her religion. Or maybe it's superstition or family custom. Maybe the empty space in the family plot is to her as depressing as his empty room at home. Maybe she's sentimental. Maybe she's —"

"Maybe she's nuts. Maybe she gets a bang out of weeping in cemeteries. Maybe she wants him where everybody can see him, where she can sport him like a badge on her lapel, where all her friends can be reminded what she gave."

You know," the girl spoke softly, "I think you don't like this duty."

"Why didn't she leave him alone?"

"That isn't what you mean. You mean why didn't she leave you alone." She stood up and slipped by him. "How about some lunch?" she said.

"Not hungry," he said. He slid over next to the window as she went down the aisle to the diner. Then suddenly he got up and followed her, the nice girl.

Rochester Reunion brings Meeting after 50 Years

Dr. Sumner Russman and Charles Wallace who served in the Division Surgeon's Section meet again for the first time since the end of World War II. Mr. Wallace was a first time attendee at the Association's 50th Anniversary Reunion in Rochester, New York.



Sumner Russman and Charles Wallace

Company F, 273rd Regiment

Our Role in the Fight

Against Hitler's Regime

Submitted by: Sam L. Warren
P.O. Box 286, Wickes, Arkansas 71973

There has been very little written to the bulletin from members of Company F, 273rd Infantry since I found and joined you in 1989. I can assure you we were there.

On April 18th, 1945, we were told we would be in the Regimental Reserve for the fight for Leipzig. Officers were given maps of the city and were informed that the city hall would be our objective today. Many were pleased to be in reserve, however, it was not to be a day of leisure.

We did not wait so very long before the tanks and tank destroyers pulled up and we were ordered to mount up. Sergeant Edwards, 3rd Platoon Sergeant, was stepping on the tank and was wounded in one foot before even starting.

We started our run into the city about the middle of the day and Lieutenant Archibald Farrar was on the lead tank. We came under heavy machine gun fire almost as soon as we started to roll and as we passed the monument, the fire became intense and each tank had killed and wounded men on them. Some held on and many fell into the street. I have a copy of the report turned into Battalion Headquarters after the battle.

The lead tank missed a turn but Lieutenant Farrar turned us around and we reached our destination prior to dark. The Second Division was nearby and helped with our wounded. We then turned to our primary task of taking the City Hall.

The tanks, along with additional artillery, bombarded the structure through the night and into the next day when the Germans surrendered. Company F occupied the massive City Hall throughout the night. We returned to our positions on the Mulde River April 19th, 1945.

We lost 67 of our officers and men either killed or wounded including our Company Commander, Lieutenant David Box and our Company Executive Officer, Lieutenant Earl Clegg who were severely wounded.

The officers and men of Company F proved the 69th was truly "THE FIGHTING 69th."

I want to state that Lieutenant Archibald Farrar was the real leader in this effort directing the lead tank. He and Lieutenant Kenneth Wilder, along with the remainder of the company, were in the hot heavy assault that finally brought on the surrender of the German units defending the building. All 3rd Battalion units were required to accomplish this mission.

I located Arch Farrar in Summerville, Georgia in 1989, thanks to the 69th Division Association President and the courtesy of their personnel. Arch and I visited in Texarkana, Arkansas, then in Lafayette, Louisiana and again in his hometown of Summerville, Georgia. These visits were experiences of great pleasure for myself and Arch along with Emily (Farrar) and Elizabeth (Warren).

Through the last few years we correspond via letter and phone and enjoyed each visit.

Christmas Day 1992 I received a call from Mrs. Emily Farrar telling me that Arch had enjoyed being with their grandchildren when they opened their presents, served their Christmas dinner plates and then was stricken with a massive heart attack from which he never recovered. This has left me with many great memories of one of the finest soldiers any



Left to right: Captain Ralph Baucum, Lieutenant Sam Warren - 3rd Platoon, Lieutenant Archibald Farrar - 2nd Platoon, Lieutenant David Box - 4th Platoon. We had captured this town. The fighting was heavy.

man was privileged to serve with. He was a true friend and a man I am proud to have served with. Our organization has lost one of our greatest members.

I have also located Captain Ralph Baucum of Company F, 273rd Infantry, who resides in Mississippi. I think he is a member of the Association. Captain Baucum was wounded and was not with us at Leipzig. He returned to us a short time later and I can't remember if we were still at Trebsen or in Borna, Germany.

Lieutenant A. Earl Clegg and I have corresponded and relived many of our experiences as well as sharing information of those we have located throughout the years. Earl was wounded in the battle for Leipzig and until we visited, had very little information as to what happened with Company F after Leipzig. Earl was our Executive Officer from Shelby to our last battle and a man you could always depend on.

I have also corresponded with Walter W. Harpain, a member of the Association. He was a member of my platoon and was wounded, I think, in Giescheid, our first attack. I have enjoyed visiting with Walt very much. We have many memories to share with each other. Walt was with the 3rd Platoon of Company F on two patrols when we went into Giescheid prior to our attack and occupation of this area.

When I was transferred to the 29th Division in June of 1945, Company F had received the Presidential Unit Citation and there were recommendations for 40 Bronze Stars, 27 Silver Stars and 2 Distinguished Service Crosses. I can't say how many of these were awarded. I can say they and many more were deserved. Company F took a trip through HELL and every man delivered much "ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY."

(Continued on Page 54)

**COMPANY F, 273rd REGIMENT
- OUR ROLE IN THE FIGHT
AGAINST HITLER'S REGIME**
(Continued from Page 53)

Lieutenant David Box our Company Commander, was severely wounded in this battle. He came through Dallas, Texas in 1946 and said he had been hit in the chest necessitating the removal of two of his ribs and respacing them in his chest cavity. He was another of the great officers of our company.

Lieutenant Wilder, Lieutenant Farrar and myself, Lieutenant Warren, were the rifle platoon officers. I have never heard from Wilder over the past years, but he was a good friend and a demon in a fire fight.

I have waited a long time to send information of F Company's part in the war, but I can assure you, we were there.

I have spent all these years forgetting the War and the information I send could have some incorrect dates, but the facts are close.



*Captain Baucum, Lieutenant David Box, Lieutenant Archibald Farrar.
Waiting to cross the Rhine River on the Remagen Rail Bridge. We did not cross there.*



Company F Headquarters Group: 1st Sergeant Sonksen, Sergeant Fitzgerald, Donald Harkan (Company C.O. after Leipzig), Lieutenant Sam Warren, Pfc. McGintey.



*Lieutenant Ken Wilder
First Platoon Leader*

**PAY YOUR DUES AND SUPPORT THE ASSOCIATION
WITH ANY EXTRA DONATIONS WHEN YOU CAN.
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO CONTINUE THE BULLETIN!**

Submitted by: Clarence F. Douglass
273rd Infantry Regiment

37 Coppola Terrace, Derby, Connecticut 06418

Clarence Douglass wrote to our editor concerning the Order of the Purple Heart. He lives in one of the sister communities from which the nucleus of the order was formed and was able to send us the newspaper article of the day, which appears below and also obtain a copy of the original charter seen on the following page.

Military Order of the Purple Heart

The Military Order of the Purple Heart, formerly known as the Purple Heart Association of the United States, an organization of veterans of wars of the United States, who were awarded the Order of the Purple Heart, the badge of merit established by General Washington on August 7, 1782 during the Revolutionary War and revived during his bicentennial in 1932, by the War Department, was founded at Ansonia, Connecticut, September 17, 1932.

Following the preliminary meeting on Constitution Day, the organization was launched on September 21, 1932, when the little group of World War veteran recipients of the decoration residing in the associated towns of Ansonia, Derby, Shelton and Seymour, met in the rooms of Company M, 102nd Infantry, C.N.G., at the state armory. Officers were chosen, who also became the first national officers of the organization. The local chapter, the parent of the association, was also named "George Washington Chapter, No. 1, Purple Heart Association of the United States."

This was followed by the incorporation of the organization on September 23, 1932, which was approved and signed by State Secretary William L. Higgins, at Hartford, Connecticut, on September 30, 1932. Those who signed the incorporation papers were: Frank J. Cushner, Stephen F. O'Shaughnessy, Harry Ogden, William Burke, Thomas W. Worley, Edward Duffy, Maurice Berger, Patrick Reidy, John Compy, John Muraski, George H. Hummel, Fred Hummel, Edward Kurthya, Michael Ahearn, August Miller, Stephen Honas, James Canganelly, William Goodman, William Pratt, George Matthew, Anthony Laurette, Martin Lombardo, and Agostino Jacobucci.

The newly organized veterans' association recognized the assistance given by four prominent citizens and in turn elected them to honorary membership and were further honored by having them affix their signatures to the articles of incorporation. They follow: Lieutenant Frank H. Gates, Judge Frederick M. McCarthy, Captain Harold A. Thompson, and Leo T. Molloy.

The first national officers were as follows: Frank J. Cushner, commander; Stephen Honas, first vice commander; Stephen F. O'Shaughnessy, second vice commander; Patrick F. Reidy, national treasurer; Edward Duffy, secretary; Harry Ogden, chaplain; William Goodman, historian; William Burke, sergeant-at-arms. The members of the executive committee were August Miller, William Pratt, and Thomas W. Worley.

The Purple Heart Association of the United States is the only ex-servicemen's national organization to date that was founded in Connecticut.

The first national convention of the association was held at the Hotel Clark, Derby, October 6th and 7th, 1933. Ten chapters from different parts of the country were represented

by delegates at the convention sessions held in the Sterling Theater. The conclave was featured by a large street parade in which all veterans, civic, fraternal, national guard units and firemen participated. Governor Wilbur L. Cross of Connecticut was presented with honorary membership at the convention banquet by National Commander Cushner. Senator Francis T. Maloney, of Meriden, then a congressman, was also in attendance at the banquet.

National Commander Cushner was reelected for another year. The second national convention was held at Trenton, New Jersey, October 12, 13 and 14, 1934. Twenty-one chapters in different parts of the country were represented in the convention. The conclave was featured by a mass award of Purple Heart medals by Governor A. Harry Moore, two United States senators, and 14 congressmen from the state of New Jersey. A large street parade followed. The principal speaker at the convention banquet was General Smedley Butler, retired U.S. Marines. The toastmaster was Harold G. Hoffman, motor vehicle commissioner for the state of New Jersey, and present governor of the state.

The third national convention was held at Detroit, Michigan, August 30th to September 2nd. Captain Howard J. Lepper of Newark, New Jersey, national commander, presided over the convention. The fourth annual national convention will be held at Minneapolis Minnesota, in 1936.



*The Military Order of the Purple Heart
Ladies Auxiliary Original Charter*

★ ★



THOMAS W. WORLEY	WILLIAM J. PRATT	FRANK J. CUSHNER
PATRICK J. REIDY	HARRY OGDEN	WILLIAM J. BURKE
JOHN B. COMPY	EDWARD J. DUFFY	STEPHEN F. O'SHAUGHNESSY
JOHN F. MURASKI	GEORGE E. MATTHIEW	MICHAEL J. AHEARN
WILLIAM H. GOODMAN	AUGUST F. MILLER	FRED HUMMEL
EDWARD (KURTHYA) CURTIS	ANTONIO LAURETTI	GEORGE H. HUMMEL
JAMES CANGANELLY	STEPHEN HONAS	MORRIS E. BERGER
REDEVERS BOWEN	MAURICE E. ROMM	ANDREW PUCELLA
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REV. D.E. STRICLAND	AGOSTINO JACOBUCCI	MARTIN LOMBARDO
JOSEPH STAFFY	BERNARD J. NICDARI	JAMES H. WATERS
ERNEST E. GRESSOTT	KENNETH F. CRAMER	FRANK DeMARTINO

THIS CHARTER

IS GRANTED AND THOSE APPLYING TOGETHER WITH SUCH OTHERS AS MAY UNITE WITH THEM ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A _____ CHAPTER _____ OF
THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INC.
 AT ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT TO BE KNOWN AS GEORGE WASHINGTON CHAPTER NO. 1
CONNECTICUT OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, AND THIS INSTRUMENT, UNLESS REVOKED
 OR SUSPENDED, SHALL BE CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF THE LAWFUL EXISTENCE THEREOF.
 IN WITNESS WHEREOF: THIS CHARTER IS GIVEN UNDER THE HAND AND
 SEAL OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER, DULY ATTESTED BY THE NATIONAL ADJUTANT, AT
 HEADQUARTERS IN DAYTONA BEACH, FLA. THIS 15th DAY OF DECEMBER 1959

Harry E. Kruse
 NATIONAL COMMANDER

Victor F. Hubby
 NATIONAL ADJUTANT



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.

1994

MAY 14, 1994

Deadline for news material and pictures for this bulletin.

Bulletin Volume 47, Number 3

May - June - July - August, 1994

Bulletin due out end of June 1994 before printing company goes on vacation July 4th week.

* * * * *

MAY 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 1994

TRI-STATE SPRING WEEKEND

Tri-State Blue is the FUN Group

Charleston Marriott Town Center

200 Lee Street East

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Telephone: 304/345-6500

Hospitality Suite complimentary May 19, 20, 21, 1994

Room Rates: \$62.00 plus tax for single, double, triple, quad.

Yeager Airport only three miles away.

Traveling on Interstates 79, 77 and 64 brings you to the front door via Washington Street and Civic Center.

Details to follow in Tri-State flyer due out March 26, 1994.

INVITATION: We extend our welcome to other minis wishing to unite with us once and other 69th members, wives, family and guests from any state.

Committee:

Brownie and Anna Belle Parsons

1143 Mulberry Circle

Charleston, West Virginia 25314

Telephone: 304/342-5573

* * * * *

MAY 19, 20, 21, 1994

MIDWEST GROUP SPRING WEEKEND

Oshkosh Hilton

One North Main Street

Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54091

Located downtown on the Fox River (see map above)

Use Ninth Avenue exit from Highway 41.

Rate: \$59.00 per night plus 10% tax, double or single.

There will be a fee of approximately \$7.00 per couple to cover the rental cost of the hospitality room for two nights.

Reservations: Call the Hilton at (414) 231-5000, or write to:

The Oshkosh Hilton and Convention Center

One North Main Street

Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54091

Use a credit card or pay a \$59.00 deposit to guarantee a reservation.

A block of rooms will be reserved for our group until May 5, 1994.

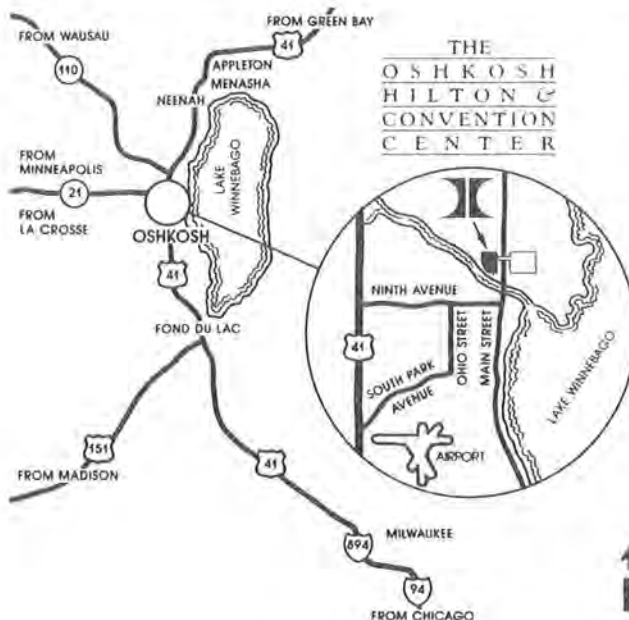
Committee:

Fran and Zita Enright

7304 West Georgia Avenue

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53220

Telephone: 414/541-9598



* * * * *

AUGUST 25-28, 1994

COMPANY I, 271st INFANTRY REGIMENT

Company I, 271st Infantry, will hold their Third Annual Mini-Reunion at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee, in conjunction with the 69th Infantry Division's 47th Annual Reunion.

If you have not received a notice of this mini-reunion for additional information, please contact:

A. Leigh Tenney

3508 Sevier Drive

N. Little Rock, Arkansas 72116

* * * * *

AUGUST 21-28, 1994

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

880th FIELD ARTILLERY

We will hold our mini-reunion in conjunction with the National Reunion at Nashville, August 21st through 28th, 1994. Please contact John O'Connor at the address below.

John O'Connor

9321 Jefferson Avenue

Brookfield, Illinois 60513

Telephone: 708/387-7809

* * * * *

69th CAVALRY RECON TROOP

"National Capital Weekend," Washington, D.C.

DATES UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME

Committee:

Charles and Bobbie Fox

8700 Georgia Avenue, Apartment #301

Silver Springs, Maryland 20910

(Continued on Page 58)



"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.
Thanks and praise for our days
'neath the sun, 'neath the stars,
'neath the sky.
As we go, this we know. God is nigh.

George Harper
7700 Constitution N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico
I-273rd

Theodore Bohlke
17805 Glenshire Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio
Service-272nd

James E. Hill
4671 State Street
Providence, Kentucky
B-661st

Stanley Anderson
201 South Owen Place
Prospect Heights, Illinois
C-661st

Joseph Purnell
897 Miller Street
Lebanon, Pennsylvania
B-661st

Elmer D. Bass
655 East 3rd Street
Silver Grove, Kentucky
H-272nd

Dan Fello
1016 Woodbine Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
777th

Clyde Sessoms
Route 1, Box 224
Laurel Hill, North Carolina
D-461st

Glen R. Ellefson
5061 London Road
Duluth, Minnesota
H&S-879th

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

J.M. Blatt
P.O. Box 53
East Butler, Pennsylvania
H-272nd

Frank R. Dorner, Sr.
4734 Champion Court
Greensboro, North Carolina
A-777th

Earl F. Hunt
40581 Gregg Road
Bethesda, Ohio
B-272nd

Harold G. Miller
224 Pleasant Street
Caledonia, Michigan
C-777th

Walter A. Kutz
8113 Imperial Golf Course
Boulevard E
Palmetto, Florida
B-777th

Frank S. Benson, Jr.
Delray Beach, Florida

B. M. Files, Jr.
2912 Marwood Drive
Jackson, Mississippi
Hq., 1st Bn.-272nd

Edward F. Heller
5 Old Wood Road
Storrs, Connecticut
Div. Hq.

Carl E. Holmes
P.O. Box 166
Creal Springs, Illinois
D-369th

Herbert H. Sisson
1735 Crestwood Drive
Alexandria, Virginia
Medic-272nd

Frank S. Stingle
2706 St. Marys Road
Ardmore, Pennsylvania

Eugene Orlowski
145 Canterbury Lane
Alpena, Michigan
E-273rd

Richard Inge
1009 Cedar Street
Junction City, Kansas
Hq.-272nd

William Tibbits
8240 Peninsular Drive
Fenton, Michigan
D-461st

Harold Dillingham
99 Loren Drive
Sarasota, Florida
A-777th

Juan A. Ramos
Box 364
Hebbroville, Texas
F-272nd

Martin J. Welch
16 Underwood Drive
Saratoga Springs, New York
Cannon-271st

James Meldrum
730 Smith Street
York, Pennsylvania
B-461st

Ray Rabuck
P.O. Box 425
La Valle, Wisconsin
I-271st

Abraham Temkin
3 Patrick Lane
Morrisville, Pennsylvania
Medic-273rd

William Dahoda
420 Oneida Street
Lewiston, New York
I-271st

Joseph F. Silvey
Route 1
Tunnel Hill, Georgia
B-272nd

Volney K. Day
7164 Quail Hollow Boulevard
Zephyrhills, Florida
G-273rd

Stanley A. Jarecki
5269 Ranchview Drive
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
AT-272nd

Milton Waltcher
84 Fairfax Court
Madison, New Jersey
769th Ordnance

Thomas Zerill
4924 23rd Street
Sacramento, California
69th QM

Clarence H. Sackett, Jr.
Danville, California

Nick Carr
415 Barnett Avenue
Kansas City, Kansas
B-724th

William C. Herron
P.O. Box 12068
Natchez, Mississippi
Service-272nd

Jerome T. Chute
R.R. #1, Box B82
Grafton, Iowa
E-272nd

John Santos
40 Brook Avenue
Riverside, Rhode Island
H&S-880th

Earl Wessel
8301 Nunley Drive
Baltimore, Maryland
B-461st

Robert O. Hickey
7351 East Long Avenue
Englewood, Colorado
Hq.-880th

William Granger
Route 96 7618
Interlaken, New York
Service-777th

William Degnam
622 West North Street
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Hq. Divarty

Franklin Reese
501 South Whitfield Street
Nazareth, Pennsylvania
B-461st

Daniel Evers
4950 Grant Drive
Brookhaven, Pennsylvania
B-269th

Arthur J. Tensel
Oak Hill
Calverton, New York
Hq. Divarty

Clarence Winton
508 Jones Street
Titusville, Pennsylvania
B-461st AAA

William Wetzel
W. 230 S. 8805
Clark Street
Big Bend, Wisconsin
I-271st

Albert C. Rice
100 Nanticoke Avenue
Nanticoke, Pennsylvania
Cannon-273rd



the 69th

INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

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**Get-Together
of the
A, B and C
Recon and
Headquarters
661st
TANK
DESTROYER
BATTALION
At the
Quality Inn
Roanoke,
Virginia
October 1993**



Submitted by:
Jacob D. Inch
R.R. #2, Box 389
Liverpool, Pennsylvania
17045-9720

Our next get-together is planned for '94 in Texas. One of our members wants to take us back to Camp Hood to see how much it has changed over time.