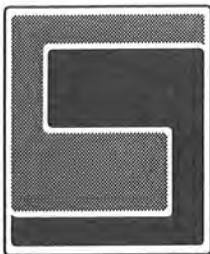


FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★★ *Association, Inc.*



VOLUME 49, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER — NOVEMBER — DECEMBER
1995

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

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

bulletin

Poor G.I. Joe, He Ain't No Mo!

Fear not, 69ers. He ain't real either!

This display was set up on the main street in Kassel, Germany in 1945 to keep us from speeding. This G.I. is sort of an old time crash dummy in a broken down jeep.



This photo was sent in by Bill Sheavly and was given to him by Lt. Col. Norman Essick, formerly of Company M, 271st Infantry. See inside front cover for more photos from Norman Essick.

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*Deceased

1996 69th Infantry Division Reunion
Schaumburg, Illinois
August 18th thru August 25th, 1996



All General Officers in the ETO except Ike. Track meet in Frankfurt in the Summer of 1945.



Members of Company M, 271st Infantry. Essick, provider of photos and cover photo, is on the lower right with helmet liner on. The rest are unidentified. Maybe someone can help. Write to Norman Essick, P.O. Box 395, Lexington, North Carolina 27293-0395. (EDITOR'S NOTE: Norman, your large roll photos will appear in the next issue of the bulletin).

News From The Editor's Desk



By Clarence Marshall
Membership Chairman

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

Robert N. Wallworth, 2448 Raleigh Drive, San Jose, California — C-272nd: As a member of the 69th Infantry Division Association, I thought that some of your members might be interested in hearing about two of the original members of the 69th Division.

My friend, **Charles Hosking**, and I, both from Ramsey, New Jersey, joined the 69th Division at Camp Shelby in May 1943. I was assigned to C Company, 272nd Weapons Platoon and **Charlie** to the 272nd Cannon Company. We were there only a short time when **Charlie** volunteered for the Paratroopers and left for Fort Benning, Georgia.

I completed Basic with the 69th but left with a large group that was sent to Oran, Algeria. I ended up with A Company, 168th Infantry, 34th Division. I fought with the 34th in Italy for 10 months. After being wounded twice I was reclassified and sent to 12th Air Force Headquarters in Florence, Italy. I remained with this outfit until December 1945 when I returned home.

Charlie went overseas with, I believe, the 101st Airborne and was wounded on the Normandy jump. He was sent home but recovered and stayed in the Army. Over the years he served in many locations. At some time he joined the Green Berets and volunteered for duty in Vietnam. He was serving his third tour of duty when he was killed in hand to hand combat. He took the full power of a grenade explosion thus saving several other men. He was 42 years old. For this act he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

I have been privileged to know two Medal of Honor winners. **Charlie** and my A Company, 168th Infantry Commanding Officer, Captain Galt, who received the medal posthumously for an action where he killed 40 German Paratroopers during the battle for Rome.

Just thought someone would like to know what happened to some of us who were not able to stay with the 69th.

I also was very fortunate to have General Bolte as the C.O. of the 34th Division as well as for the 69th. I met him during the war and was fortunate enough to meet and talk with him and his wife at a 34th Division Association reunion in Minneapolis in 1983.

John J. O'Connor, 9321 Jefferson Avenue, Brookfield, Illinois 60513 — Hq., 880th F.A.: Hope this letter finds you doing okay and getting along as well as can be. I have meant to write to you for the past few weeks but it seems I never got around to it.

I am sorry to report the death of **Joseph DiFilippi** from Service Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion. **Joe** passed away July 3, 1995 after a long illness of a couple of years. I had a letter from his wife Iona regarding **Joe's** death. **Joe** was the Ammo Sergeant of the Battalion.

Another death to report is that of **John P. Masters**, who was our first Sergeant of Headquarters Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion. I had done a lot of searching for **John** for the past few years but never could locate him. Finally I wrote a letter to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and received a letter back informing me that **John** had passed away February 22, 1964. He was only 45 years of age. Still a young man. His records are in the retired veterans records in the Federal Records center in Washington D.C., under File No. 9 824301. I was very sorry to hear this as I know many of our battery members had wondered about **John** and what was his status. Now the members will know.

Can't think of much else to say Clarence so I will sign off with best regards to you and hope that all is well with you.

Henry R. Madoff, M.D., Shadyside Medical Center, 5200 Centre Avenue, Suite 213, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15232 — C-271st: I am enclosing a photograph from a reunion I recently had with a fellow member of our Association. **Sylvan Cutler** was a squad leader in the 1st Platoon of C Company, 271st Infantry Regiment and I was an Aide Man for that Platoon from the Regimental Medical Detachment.

Sylvan is now retired. He earned a Ph.D. from New York University in Applied Mathematics and was involved in research as a consultant to the Pentagon. He is currently involved in music, painting and travel.

I am still practicing thoracic and cardiovascular surgery in Pittsburgh. I have attended reunions of our Regimental Medical Detachment Association whenever possible. My interests are music, theater and tennis.

You've been doing a great job with the bulletin, which I read thoroughly.



Harvard Club, New York City - Madoff and Cutler

(Continued on Page 4)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 3)

Phillip Ikins, 2636 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, New York 13224 — B-271st: I served and trained with the 69th Infantry Division over 50 years ago. I received a Battlefield Commission from sergeant to second lieutenant on March 15th or March 25th, 1945 while in B Company. Once commissioned, I was transferred to A Company, 271st Regiment. I have never had any proof or documentation of this and I have in the past, tried to get it without result. Could you please help me find this proof or documentation? Any expenses involved I would be glad to remit. Thank you so much for your time.

Earnest and Betty Rowe, 726 Loveville Road, Cot 74, Hockessin, Delaware 19707-1523 — Co. I, 273rd: Yesterday my husband and I attended the funeral of a 69th Division Member. He is: **George H. Straley**, 4830 Kennett Pike, Greenville, Delaware. He was with the Tank Destroyer unit. I'm not sure of the number. He had lived in the Wilmington area and moved to a retirement home about 5 years ago, just outside of Wilmington. He died on September 29th, 1995.

My husband, **Earnest W. Rowe**, Company I, 273rd Infantry, knew him from church work and had met him and his wife Dorothy at a reunion several years ago. She survived him.

We are looking forward to attending the Reunion in Myrtle Beach.

C. Lamar Wallis, 365 Kenilworth Place, Memphis, Tennessee 38112 — I started getting calls and letters a week before my copy of the bulletin arrived and I was surprised and pleased to hear that the entire paper had been printed. (Carlton submitted an article entitled "50 Years Ago at the Elbe" in honor of **Lieutenant Colonel Fred Craig**, which appeared in the last issue of the bulletin, Page 51, Vol. 48, No. 3). I had hoped for, at best, some of the incidents about **Fred Craig's** exploits would make it to print.

I am enclosing a check for \$25.00 for the bulletin's expense fund and am asking a favor. Please mail a bulletin (Vol. 48, No. 3) to Craig's sister, Miss Robbie Craig, 617 East Main Street, Alamo, Tennessee 38001. His death was rather sad and she needs all the encouragement she can get about his army days. Also, if you have a spare copy, please send me one for my son.

To support my appraisal of Fred Craig's character and behavior in World War II, I am enclosing a typed copy of a letter from a Sergeant who was actually with him in the field. He agrees that Fred was "the best soldier I ever met." I am sending the original letter to Fred's sister.

It's O.K. with Alex Greensher if you want to run any of his letter.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Alex Greensher's letter on Fred Craig appears elsewhere in this issue of the bulletin.)

James Curran, 1717 Anna Street, New Cumberland, Pennsylvania 17070-1204 — Co. K, 271st: I made the 50th Anniversary trip to the Elbe and upon arriving at the monument in Torgau, I got in a conversation with a lot of the Russians and they gave me a beautiful card which had flowers and two Soviet medals on the outside. The attached writing was inside the card and I found their translation into English both beautiful and poignant.

Bill Beswick did a great job and made the journey meaningful and enjoyable for all of us.

The writing of which Jim speaks follows:

To the Elbe Veteran
of the U.S. 69th Infantry Division

Dear Comrade-In-Arms!

The Veterans of the 58th Guards Rifle Division, presently living in Ukraine, are sending warm congratulations on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Victory Day and our meeting on the Elbe.

Our victory in World War II which had saved mankind from the Nazi threat will live in the memory of our nations forever! We wish you to celebrate this day among your war friends.

Let always live the memory of those who haven't happened to see this bright day!

We wish a long and happy life and health to you and your relations. Let our friendship get stronger and stronger!

Veterans of the 58th Guards
Rifle Division, Ukraine

Betty L. Rhoades, 1422 Moravia Avenue, Holly Hill, Florida 32117-2318: In your last issue of the bulletin, Vol. 48, No. 3, you have listed **Robert J. Rhoades** as a New Man Relocated on Page 11. Unfortunately, I have a change for Bob.

He was discharged with the 656th Engineer Battalion and was in Germany as the war ended in August of 1945. He would have enjoyed this last issue with stories of places he had been as they were revisited by others. Unfortunately, Bob died on September 14th of this year and did not get to read the stories. He did enjoy other issues of the Bulletin.

Bob contracted polio a year after his military discharge in 1946. He was on crutches from the time he left the hospital in 1948 until 1980 when he started using a wheelchair because of the post-polio syndrome. He went to college and became an accountant and was still working the morning of his death.

He was very proud of being a part of the military and kept in touch with friends made while serving there. He was a great role model for our son and daughter.

Wilfred Q. Cole, M.D., 4036 Boxwood Circle, Jackson, Mississippi 39211 — Co. K, 272nd: I wrote to **Dean Daniels** who inquired in the last bulletin in this column, about members of Company K, 272nd. I was also a member of Company K in the Weapons Platoon. I was promoted to sergeant as light machine gun squad leader on the ship going over. We landed in England on the 28th of November and were stationed between Winchester and Salisbury. When the Battle of the Bulge hit 16 Dec 44 we had to send replacements from our units. I sent two from my five man squad and one of them, **Bill Ballintine**, was killed. We were moved to France in late December and went on line about the 11th of February.

Bill Harbert (Headquarters Co.) lives in Birmingham, Alabama and is CEO of Bill L. Harbert Construction Co. International Builder with offices in London and Geneva. I see him often. **Billy Hairston** is a very successful lawyer in Birmingham. I couldn't help with any others. I would like to know what happened to **Lilly** and **Brewster** who

(Continued on Page 5)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 4)

were in my platoon. Any members of the 69th who might have some information on them, I would appreciate it if you would write to me and let me know.

I am a retired physician and I travel a lot, especially to Europe.

Clarence, did the 69th participate in the Battle of the Bulge? I say no but my other 69th buddy says yes. Can you settle this?

(EDITOR'S NOTE: What I know about the 69th during the Battle of the Bulge is limited. I was told that a couple of thousand men were sent at the beginning of the battle but they returned quickly, many of them wounded. I do not know where they were hit. The 69th, however, did relieve the 99th Division at the tail end of the battle.

Anyone with this information is asked to write and let us know and also write to Mr. Cole.)

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

Robert J. Kurtzman
P.O. Box 105
Wilmot, Ohio 44689
Telephone: 216/359-5487

MOVING

Please print your new address below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please send this form and your old address label to:

Robert Kurtzman
P.O. Box 105, Wilmot, Ohio 44689

Please allow six weeks advance notice.

NOTE: Earl Witzleb and Clarence Marshall are still our Editors, and therefore you should send letters of interest, articles and photos to them at the addresses below.

Earl Witzleb, Jr.
P.O. Box 69
Champion, PA 15622-0069
Telephone: 412/445-2901

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

Who Was First

To the Editor of the 69th Magazine:

I am writing you because I am concerned about a paragraph in an article submitted by **Mr. Chet Yastrzemski** on page 22, Volume 48, No. 3. In his second paragraph he states that **Lieutenant Robertson** was patrol leader of a patrol that made the first contact with Russian troops.

This is not so. The first contact was made by **Lieutenant Kotzebue** of the second platoon, Company G, 273rd Infantry. I know because I was platoon leader of the first platoon of Company G. I took a patrol across the Mulde the day before. We met no opposition but did capture several prisoners who were fleeing to avoid capture by the Russians. The next morning I helped **Lt. Kotzebue** assemble his patrol and get them across the river.

I am sending you a copy of an article that appeared in Time Magazine on April 29th, 1985. (Excerpt below: The Final Days).

I feel that the Robertson team has gotten more publicity than they should have and that the first patrol should have had an opportunity to participate more in the 50th Year Memorial Celebration.

I am enclosing my membership dues and a little extra for mailing expenses. I wish to thank all the people who have served in the official capacity to make our magazine possible. Thank You,

Gerald F. Davalt

P.O. Box 206, Bucklin, Missouri 64631-0206

Excerpt from THE FINAL DAYS, Time Magazine

After capturing Leipzig, the U.S. First Army drew to a halt along the Mulde River, a tributary of the Elbe. Lt. Albert Kotzebue of the 273rd Infantry Regiment was told to take 35 men and explore the narrow strip of land between the two rivers to see if he could establish contact with the Soviets. But he was ordered not to go more than two miles to the east.

Kotzebue went much farther, all the way to the Elbe. On the far side of the river, just after noon on April 25th, he spotted soldiers. Through his field glasses, they looked like Russians "Amerikansky!" he shouted, but they did not answer. He fired two green flares, the agreed upon sign of recognition between the two sides. The strangers made no response.

Kotzebue saw some boats chained together on his side of the river. He detonated a grenade to break apart the chains. Then he and five of his men set forth, paddling with boards and rifle butts. Three Russians slid down the bank to meet them. They all shook hands and slapped one another's backs. This was a historic moment, they said. But when Kotzebue reported to headquarters, his commander was furious at his disobedience and ordered that the whole encounter be kept secret.

We continuously receive letters from a lot of you fellows arguing the point of who met the Russians at the Elbe first, with three names popping up, those being **Kotzebue, Robertson** and **Craig**. We are aware that **Kotzebue** was first, but that **Robertson** got credit because he brought Russians back to headquarters. All of these men deserve recognition for their place in this historic event. Gerald, we have published many articles giving **Kotzebue** credit for what he did on that day in 1945. Perhaps Mr. Yastrzemski's article should have read first "recognized" meeting. We do our best to cover all and be fair in the Bulletin. Also Gerald, read page 26, second paragraph of the last bulletin, written by **Bill Robertson**, where he credits **Kotzebue** himself. Remember, **Kotzebue** is no longer with us. **Bill Robertson** is.

Myrtle Beach Reunion One of the Biggest Yet!

Submitted by: **George J. Wolff**
Company A, 271st Infantry
1132 Forest Drive
North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29582

The 69th Infantry Division's 48th Annual Reunion at Myrtle Beach, October 22nd through October 29th, 1995, is now history. By all accounts the reunion was a success. The final attendance figures will not be known until our Treasurer, **Bill Matlach**, summarizes a lot of paperwork that included last minute "walk-ins" and cancellations. I know there were 750 veterans and family that attended the dinner dance and I feel that the total registration for the reunion would exceed 800.

What made our reunion a success was the dedicated work of my wife **Rita**, Co-Chairpersons **Frank** and **Joan Alfiero**, who went 24 hours a day for eight days, and my Early Bird and Banquet Chairpersons **Charles** and **Mary Wentz**. The latter had the most difficult job (the seating arrangements) and yet found time to help with registration in their "in-between time."

In early October I found out that several key volunteers, 3 couples who volunteered to run the tours, collect tickets for the tours and evening affairs, work in the Hospitality Room and work the Registration Desk, would be unable to attend the reunion because of serious health problems. Something that can and will happen to old soldiers and their wives. It was panic time, but once the reunion started, I had no more fear. I had veterans and their wives and daughters step forward and volunteer to work in the above mentioned areas. Thank you all. I would not dare to mention the names for fear of forgetting some. You know who you are and along with **Rita, Frank, Joan, Charles** and **Mary**, I extend my deepest appreciation.

There were a few glitches - there always are, and there always will be when you deal with such large gatherings. But all in all, I was very pleased. Thank you all for coming to the reunion and thanks for your help.

To All Reunion Attendees:

Anyone with pictures from the Myrtle Beach Reunion, please send them along to us. Also, if anyone would like to do a write-up at any time on any reunion, please feel free to do so. Don't worry about wording it. Just do your best and send along the information. We will edit it and reword it for you if necessary.

As of late, we have been having problems with getting a write-up on what happened at our National Reunions. Either people think someone else will write it or you think that there has been someone assigned to cover the reunion. We rely on our members to send information to us and cover events that they have attended, so feel free to write!

Also, don't forget to send those pictures. What you see in this bulletin on this page and a few scattered throughout the Meetings Across the United States section, are all that we received. So get busy. We want to hear from you!



Bennie and Marcela Srubar, Company A, 273rd of Houston Texas; Doris and Tony Bummara, Company E, 273rd of Turnersville, New Jersey.



Company E, 273rd Infantry MYRTLE BEACH REUNION

*Left to right:
Earl and Dottie Witzleb,
Tony and Doris Bummara,
Virginia and Joe Aiello
at the Saturday night banquet.*

Sent by: **Tony Bummara**

Message from the President



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

I want to thank the members of the Association for their vote of confidence in electing me President of one of the finest Army Division Associations in the country. This is surely the highest honor anyone could ever hope to achieve.

This honor humbles me when I think of the great men who preceded me: Our first Honorary President, **Major General Charles L. Bolte**; first elected President, **Major General Emil F. Reinhardt**; and 24 other Past Presidents who also held this prestigious position. As I walk in the shadow of such greatness, I can only hope to fulfill the highest expectations as your President.

Myrtle Beach! What a great Reunion in an outstanding setting, even the weather cooperated with plenty of sunshine and ideal temperatures. The Reunion Committee is to be commended for conducting this outstanding Reunion, considering there were only three couples who did all the planning, preparation, and execution: **George and Rita Wolff, Frank and Joan Alfiero, and Charles and Mary Wentz.**

The shortage of members in South Carolina to assist with the Reunion was offset by attendees who offered to help. Most appreciated were the six or seven ladies who volunteered to work at the Registration Desk. It should be noted that four of the ladies were Officers' wives and the Ladies Auxiliary President, **Alice Wolthoff**. Thanks ladies, we needed that!

The magic that holds the Association together is the success of our Reunions. Success comes from dedication and hard work. The Officers of the Association are dedicated to making each Reunion a success. The hard work will come from future Reunion Committee Chairmen and their Committees. We need members who are willing to sponsor future Reunions. If anyone is interested, please contact either myself or **Jim Boris**, your newly elected Vice President and Reunion Activities/Site Committee Chairman.

**"SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS IN 1996
DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS IN 1997"**

The following letter was written while Robert Pierce was still our Vice President. We are including it as it contains a lot of information about Reunion sites and leg work done on behalf of the Association.

Since this is my last official message as Vice President, I want to thank the members for their support and encouragement. I did receive one letter that said: "The Veep does the least work for the Association." This may have been true in the past, but as Reunion Activities/Site Selection Committee Chairman, this "Veep" has had a full-time job.

Over the past two years I have written to over 30 hotels and six (6) Convention Bureaus in 12 major metropolitan areas of the United States. I have written or received over a hundred letters and made as many telephone calls negotiating prices for hotel rooms; menus and best inclusive prices; liquor prices, concessions for the Hospitality Room; and, complimentary considerations to save the Association money. Another big task was working and communicating with the 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997 Reunions Committee Chairmen and their sub-committees.

In my spare time I prepared a draft procedure to assist present and future Site Selection Committees and Reunion Committee Chairmen. The procedure contains criteria for selecting a city and hotel to include cost, minimum number of hotel rooms to block, and ability to adequately host a 650-700 person banquet. It contains a contract agreement used to solicit cost proposals from potential hotels, and guidelines for cost negotiation. The procedure also contains a step-by-step guide on how to conduct a Reunion and copies of forms and spread sheets to assist the Reunion Chairman. The procedure includes a draft Reunion plan, baseline budget figures compiled from past Reunion costs, and committee tasks and responsibilities.

I have not formalized the procedure because of the difficult task of coordinating, staffing, and obtaining a consensus for approval from year to year. There was very little information available in 1991 that I could use to organize and conduct the 1992 California Reunion. Concerned with the lack of data, I documented everything we did and developed the procedure package. This procedure has become a living document updated every year from experience gained, and was furnished to the Reunion Committee Chairmen for 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997. A refined addition of this package will be given to our new Vice President and Reunion Activities/Site Selection Chairman, **Jim Boris**.

The Vice President's responsibilities as the Ladies Auxiliary Liaison Representative can generally be summed up as: say "Hello" and tell them where the next Reunion will be held! I tried to offer more in terms of encouragement, broadening the involvement of the Ladies in the Reunion activities and increasing the Auxiliary membership with dues paying members. It's my belief the Ladies Auxiliary should be a more active rather than passive partner in the Association.

I owe a debt of gratitude to my wife, Theresa, who has played a very key role in helping me put this job together. Recognizing the responsibilities of the Reunion Committee Chairman's wife in preparing for and conducting a Reunion, Theresa developed and maintained a separate section for the Reunion procedure that defines the wife's tasks and procedures. Theresa has not only been my partner but my secretary, typist, and grammarian.

Pray for greater longevity of our members, our Association, and many more successful and enjoyable Reunions.

69th Infantry Division 49th Annual Reunion

461st AAA BN. - 661st TD BN. -

777th TANK BN.

AUGUST 18TH TO 25TH, 1996

**HYATT REGENCY
WOODFIELD HOTEL**

SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS

Ernest H. and Mary Krause, Chairpersons
444 Pioneer Drive
Addison, Illinois 60101

SCHAUMBURG (CHICAGO) welcomes the 69th Infantry Division to their 49th Reunion. The Hyatt Regency Hotel is located at the crossroads of Route 53 (I290) and the Northwest tollway (I90), 15 minutes west of O'Hare International Airport, 35 minutes from Chicago's loop and the great magnificent Mile (Michigan Avenue). The hotel has a tempting array of dining and gourmet food. It is located across from the Woodfield Shopping Center, the world's largest, with a free shuttle bus to the shopping center.

You can visit the John Hancock Building, Chicago Water Tower (only remaining building from the Chicago Fire), and the world's tallest building, The Sears Tower. Chicago also has the Art Institute, Planetarium, the Museum of Science and Industry, Buckingham Fountain and our newest renovated attraction, Navy Pier.

Leaving from Navy Pier you can enjoy lunch, entertainment, and a beautiful view of the entire skyline of Chicago from the deck of the Spirit of Chicago.

For those who enjoy quieter surroundings, we have a visit to the restored Antique Village of Long Grove. It provides visitors with the feeling of stepping back in time with its unique shops and surroundings. Included is a tour of the Cuneo Estate and gardens. The mansion was designed in 1914 and is representative of the opulence of the time.

One evening we will be treated to a spectacular live show, "Gangster Town" with dinner included. It has been the talk of the town with "Da Mayer" and of course, Capone with his Gangsters.

There is also a tour of Cantigny which houses the 1st Division Museum. A walk through with real battle sounds and narrated positions. The ladies will enjoy a guided tour through the mansion. Cantigny was the home of Colonel Robert McCormick, the former editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. You can walk through the beautiful gardens which should be in full bloom. Several battle tanks are located by the museum.

Golf will be at Poplar Creek Golf Course. Chicago abounds in many attractions including: The Chicago White Sox and the Chicago Cubs, The beautiful Arlington Race Track, Grand Victoria Gambling Boat and many restaurants.

Our tour committee has selected an excellent tour agenda for our reunion. It would be impossible to cover all the exciting sights in a short week. So you don't miss out, come early, bring your smiles, and we will have a "HOT TIME IN THE OLD TOWN."

REUNION COMMITTEE

Ernest Krause, *Chairman*

Ralph Plugge	Gene Mischke
Marsh Mussay	William Fannucchi
George Thomas	Harold Pederson
Robert Bassindale	Stanley Bratt
John O'Connor	Henry Parker
Al Koziol	George Rico
Glenn Felner	Robert Klein

Wayne Weygandt

Important Notice from Your Membership Chairman PLEASE READ!

Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.

P.O. Box 105

Wilmot, Ohio 44689-0105

Telephone: 216/359-5487

(Note: Effective March 1, 1995, my area code will be **330**.)

To those of you who have moved or consider moving or taking your annual "Snowbird" trip, please contact the Membership Chairman and include your new address.

We have accumulated a list of those who have moved and we get a notice from your Post Office informing us, "Moved, No Forwarding Address, Forwarding Address Expired, Attempted Not Known, Temporarily Away, No Such Number or No Such Address."

A word to the wise should be sufficient. If we receive one of the above twice in one year, you will be dropped from the mailing roster until you start griping that you are not receiving your Bulletin and finally send us your correct address.

We have to pay 32¢ for each dues notice that is returned and \$1.24 for each bulletin, so if your address is not right for a year, it can cost us over \$7.00 for printing these items, mailing them and then paying for their return.

Our roster in 1991 was at an all time high of 5,713. It has dropped to 5,287, mostly from the "Taps" list, and it will drop faster if we have to drop those with an incorrect address.

We receive dues from less than half of our mailing list and feel that a lot of those who do not pay could be deceased. Please do us the courtesy of letting us know if a member is deceased, but still on our membership roster.

We also wish to inform all Associate and Honorary members who have not paid dues at least once in the last two years, will be dropped from the roster.

Please help us do our job by doing your job. Pay your dues and keep us up to date on where you are.

69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 1996
49th ANNUAL REUNION
461st AAA BN. - 661st T.D. BN. - 777th TANK BN.
Hyatt Regency Woodfield
SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 18th thru AUGUST 25th, 1996
SEND THIS RESERVATION FORM TO THE HYATT REGENCY WOODFIELD

Reservations:

HYATT REGENCY WOODFIELD
1800 EAST GOLF ROAD
SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS 60173

Reservations: 1/800-233-1234
Hotel: 708/605-1234

HOUSING: Please reserve one of the following:

Single: \$71.00 _____ Double: \$71.00 _____ Triple: \$71.00 _____ Quad: \$71.00 _____
(Add 10% tax to room rate)

Print full names of ALL persons sharing room: _____

NOTE: Special accommodations required: (if available)

HANDICAPPED _____ NON-SMOKING _____ OTHER REQUEST _____

I / We plan to arrive (day) _____, August _____, 1996. (Check in after 3:00 P.M.)

I / We plan to depart (day) _____, August _____, 1996. (Check out time - 12:00 noon)

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

If possible, I/We wish to be quartered near other guests: _____
(Specify guest(s) name)

Send Confirmation to: (Please Type or Print)

Name: _____

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

City / State / Zip: _____

Telephone / Area Code: _____

IN ORDER TO CONFIRM RESERVATIONS, One of the following MUST accompany this form:

Check or Money Order (One Night's Lodging) Payable to the HYATT REGENCY WOODFIELD OR Major Credit Card and Date of Expiration:

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

Credit Card Name _____ Number _____ Expires _____

I authorize the HYATT REGENCY WOODFIELD to make charges to my Credit Card.

Your Signature: _____

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

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hyatt Regency Woodfield until **July 18th, 1996**. Your reservation must be made prior to this date and before the group block is filled to assure room accommodations and the preferred rate. Reservations accepted after July 18th, 1996 are subject to availability. Rooms may still be available after this date but not necessarily at the preferred rate. All reservations are subject to state sales tax and are held until 6:00 p.m. unless held by credit card, check or money order for one night's room and tax. Reservations not canceled by 6:00 p.m. the day of arrival are subject to a one night room and tax charge. Early check-ins subject to room availability. Bed type provided based on availability at time of arrival. We will make every effort to honor your request, but cannot guarantee bed type.



Norman Barratt, Cooper Eastman and Dick Johnson at Camp Shelby. I & R Platoon, Headquarters Company, 273rd Infantry - 1944.



*Cooper Eastman and Hank Tietzen
Tresben, Germany
I & R Platoon, Headquarters Company, 273rd Infantry*



Staff Sergeant Bill Gray, T-4 Charles Hughes and Pfc. Norman Barratt, Motor Section, Headquarters, 273rd Infantry. Marburg, Germany - 1945.



*Cooper Eastman and Norman Barratt
Etretat, France on way to Shrivenham American
University in Shrivenham, England. September 1945.*

Headquarters Company, 273rd Infantry

Sent by: **Norman Barratt** - 666 Barneson Avenue, San Mateo, California 94402

Some photos that other fellows in the company have sent me. Charlie Hughes, in the middle of the three of the Motor Section was a First Timer at the Myrtle Beach Reunion. In the "Isn't it a small world" category, in June the Motorland magazine published by the local AAA had an article about a cruise down the Elbe River from Prague to the sea. In the article they tell about passing Torgau on April 25th, but they could not land and observe the ceremonies honoring the Link-Up because of the high water level. After reading the article I telephoned the editor who asked that I write a letter To The Editor, which I did and they subsequently published it. This elicited a couple of phone calls locally from 69ers.

New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

Catherine D. Hall — ASC
302 West Barnes Street, Demopolis, Alabama 36732

Robert L. Burns — Company M, 271st Infantry
19 Highland Terrace, Prescott, Arizona 86301

Nicholas Hentosh — Company K, 272nd Infantry
5216 Dorchester Road
Charleston, South Carolina 29418-5609

Louis P. Bobo — Company G, 272nd Infantry
1292 Oak Park Blvd., Calvert City, Kentucky 42029

William J. Davis — Cannon Company, 272nd Infantry
211 East Main, Junction, Texas 76849

Jodell E. Kruse — ASC
16601 Kangaroo Circle, NW, Anoka, Minnesota 55303

Casmir W. Owczarski — Company A, 271st Infantry
11 Mill Valley Road, Box 646
Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007-0646

Bernard Kirschenbaum — Headquarters, 273rd Infantry
180 Park Row, New York, New York 10038

William J. Kormos — Service Co., 273rd Infantry
P.O. Box 426, Newry, Pennsylvania 16665-0426

Burt K. Mason, Jr. — Honorary
215 Ashleigh Terrace, Marietta, Georgia 30062-5191

Julius A. Haberman — Company L, 272nd Infantry
3977 Chantilly Place, Marietta, Georgia 30068

Donald Stibitz — Company A, 273rd Infantry
48 Seminary Avenue, Reading, Pennsylvania 19605

Stewart Van Tassel — Company C, 272nd Infantry
120 Manor Ridge Drive
Clarkton, North Carolina 28433

Robert J. Smith — Company A, 272nd Infantry
184 Meadow Drive, Elyria, Ohio 44035

Charles E. Hughes — Headquarters, 273rd Infantry
R.D. #1, Box 1358, Mohnton, Pennsylvania 19540

Robert F. Ammon — Company D, 273rd Infantry
908 Meadow Drive, Battle Creek, Michigan 49015

Alvin Moore — Company A, 273rd Infantry
20 Teresa Place, Buffalo, New York 14210

John P. Noone — Company I, 271st Infantry
110-40 72nd Avenue, #2J
Forest Hills, New York 11375

Stephen F. Komes — Headquarters 3, 273rd Infantry
2008 13th Street, Bedford, Indiana 47421

Travis E. Wells — Company K 271st Infantry
7515 Belle Ridge Court, Hughesville, Maryland 20637

Wilfred Ferda — Honorary
66 Woodward Avenue
Thornhill, Ontario, Canada L3T1E7

William P. Craddock — Division Artillery
1501 Charlotte Street, Ft. Worth, Texas 76112

Elmer S. Basner — Headquarters, 724th Field Artillery
1621 Webster Street, Bay City, Michigan 48708-8361

Letter from President Clinton

Sent by: **Bill Beswick**

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 6, 1995

Greetings to the veterans of the 69th Infantry Division as you gather to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of meeting the Soviet forces at the Elbe River, Torgau, Germany.

Your unit served the United States with honor and distinction during a crucial period in our history. We owe our liberties to the sacrifices of people who, like you, were willing to risk their lives for freedom. I know you join me in honoring your fallen comrades.

Each of you embodies the pride, professionalism, and accomplishment that make the United States Army one of the finest fighting forces the world has ever known. I salute you for your distinguished record of service, and I hope that you will enjoy your time together as you reflect on the bonds you share.

Best wishes for a memorable reunion.

Bill Clinton

Letter of thanks from Department of the Army

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
101 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0101

Dear Mr. Beswick:

Thank you for your recent letter and for the handsome commemorative book marker. It was very kind of you to send such a wonderful gift. It will remind me of the enjoyable times I had working with our outstanding World War II veterans throughout this commemorative period.

I also would like to thank you and the members of the 69th Infantry Division Association for your cooperative spirit in working with the 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Committee. The "Fighting 69th" has led the way in honoring our veterans and family members throughout this commemorative period. You and your Association are commended for your hard work in this endeavor. It has been our pleasure to work with such a fine organization as yours. Please pass my regards to the members of the Division.

Let us always continue to honor and thank our World War II veterans. The sacrifices that they made fifty years ago has blessed us with the freedom and peace that we enjoy today.

Very respectfully,
Claude M. Kicklighter
Lieutenant General (Retired)
U.S. Army Executive Director

Note from Bill Beswick: I obtained some very attractive bookmarks and sent one to each of the Military Officers that assisted us in our celebrations.

Bill Beswick
Post Office Box 576, West Point, Virginia 23181

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. #3, Box 477
Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606
Telephone: 412/455-2901
(Evenings after 7:00 p.m. and Weekends)
Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike

Well, another great reunion is now history. I understand this was one of the biggest we have had. We feel that **Rita and George Wolff** and his committee did a good job.

After leaving Myrtle Beach, Dottie and I visited the Tennessee Aquarium in Chatanooga on our way to Nashville, site of last year's reunion. The aquarium is four stories high and you ride an escalator to the top. You descend to the bottom via ramps. The tanks are just huge. It was a very good stop. We also visited Chatanooga Choo Choo. While in Nashville, we went to the Opryland Hotel for their Christmas display. It was quite nice although it was not yet finished. The park does not light up until November 15th. We missed that by 2 weeks.

The week after we returned home, we were hit with a 24 inch snow fall. We were snowbound for 2 days, but then they were able to plow us out. I hope this is the last one of the season, but I doubt it.



Opryland Hotel Christmas Display

Anyone having any information on how to get copies of old records of one's stay in the sixty-ninth, please let us know. We have had several inquiries concerning this and do not have a good answer. Please let us know if possible. Thank you.

We hope that all of you had a blessed Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah and a very prosperous New Year.

Following is some of the correspondence we have received.

* * * * *

We received a note from **Mona M. Miller**, Route 1, Box 145L, Spicewood, Texas 78669. She would like to know if anyone remembers her husband, **Leroy W. Miller**, Company B, 271st Infantry. If so, please write to her.

* * * * *

Dear Dottie,

Thank you so much for sending the bulletins. I sincerely wish that we had known about the 69th Association years ago, when we were physically able to make some of the reunions.

James' eyesight is failing due to diabetic retnapathy, but he started reading the bulletins just as soon as the postman delivered them.

We have three grandson's that find the war stories, especially regarding the 69th Pappa Mc's Division, the greatest. Thank you again.

James and Dolores McDougal
Company I, 271st Infantry
114 Mimosa
Clute, Texas 77531

* * * * *

I was a member of Company K, 273rd Infantry. I am enrolled in the Senior Coalition magazine and that is where I made contact with **Mr. Wolff** who put me in touch with the 69th.

After I left the 69th in 1945, I wound up in the 444th Ordnance Depot Company in Wetzlar, Germany as a crane operator, one of those 30 ton mobile cranes. I left Wetzlar in April 1946, and hit Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, got discharged and went home to Pennsylvania. I left Pennsylvania and went to Orlando, Florida and went to school and took up auto body repair under the G.I. Bill. I got married in 1948 and worked till 1956, then I joined the Air Force. I stayed in until I retired in 1974, putting in a total of 22 years active duty. I retired as a Master Sergeant and now I am totally retired and on Social Security. My wife's name is Theresa. I hope to meet you at Myrtle Beach. Take care and God bless you.

Nicholas Hentosh
Company K, 273rd Infantry
5216 Dorchester Road
Charleston, South Carolina 29418-5609

* * * * *

I joined the 69th on May 15th, 1943 and General Bolte was at the railroad station to greet a very long train full of us from Camp Upton, New York.

I spent about 12 months with the 69th "B.B.B.'s" until I was shipped overseas in June as a replacement. I joined the 9th Infantry Division in early July and fought through France and Germany until I was wounded in the Hertzgen Forest, a terrible costly battle.

(Continued on Page 13)

DOTTIE AND ME
(Continued from Page 12)

I am now retired and in Florida and would like to hear from anyone in Company G, 273rd Infantry who may remember me. Thanks and continued good luck to all of the 69th who are still around.

Ralph Winston
Company G, 273rd Infantry
4475 Sherwood Forest Drive
Delray Beach, Florida 33445

* * * * *

Today I received the May-June-July-August 1995 issue of the Bulletin, which I have yet to read. The previous Bulletin was excellent and the most interesting issuance of the Bulletin to date. I am sure the current one will be very interesting also. Thank you.

Jack H. Hartzog
Company L, 273rd Infantry
520 West Lindenwood Avenue
Sikeston, Missouri 63801

* * * * *



Arthur Ayres, then and now. The photo on the left was taken in 1946 in Berlin Germany and the one on the right in 1992.

Arthur would also like to thank everyone for their support on the loss of his wife. A special thank you to the Boys of Company D, 273rd and the Ladies Auxiliary. God bless you and all of the Division.

Arthur L. Ayres, Sr.
Company D, 273rd Infantry
P.O. Box 437
Reeders, Pennsylvania 18352-0437

49TH ANNUAL REUNION
August 18 to 25, 1996
Hyatt Regency Woodfield
Schaumburg, Illinois
Try to Make It!
A Good Time Guaranteed!

Alex Greensher writes on Fred Craig Story written by Lamar Wallis

The story entitled "Fifty Years Ago at the Elbe" appeared in the last bulletin, Volume 48, No. 3. Following is the letter that Alex Greensher wrote to Lamar Wallis.

You are the first person I've written to that I served with (not directly) during World War II. I enjoyed your article in the 69th publication so very much. Thanks for writing it.

Your introduction caught my attention. I was a T/4 in the 273rd Regiment, Headquarters, a radio operator. I admired (then **Captain Craig**) so very much. There was no finer officer I ever came across in the service.

I was sitting in a jeep with my radio and **Captain Craig** (soon to be Major) stopped to ask if I could get anybody on my radio. I said, "Sir, I'm the best damned operator in the best damned outfit in the army." After that he always acknowledged me. He was the type of man I would follow to hell.

We were (the Major, myself and driver) on the autobahn in Germany and we hit a road block. **Craig** piled out of the jeep with a 45 caliber in hand and climbed a bank. I grabbed my M-1 and followed so close I almost stepped on his heels. A leader and a great soldier.

In Leipzig the radio went out on me. (I was with the spearhead). The jeep battery had a bullet hole in it. Frustration for me - no battery - no more contact. I sought help from a lieutenant and got a shrug. I spotted **Craig** in a vehicle and got his attention. He stopped a jeep and ordered the driver to swap batteries! A little thing you say? No way - this was my man.

Later on in the day I was able to reciprocate. My driver and I had liberated a case of Walther pistols from City Hall and I spotted **Craig** again. It was my pleasure to hand him a brand new Walther.

Anyway, I was so happy to see your article honoring the best soldier I ever met in the army. When I tried to get in touch with him through the organization and was told he was deceased, I was very upset. I wanted to tell him about an incident that occurred on the firing range in Mississippi. He flopped down in the mud with a rifle to shoot (in his sunbans yet) and I was on the target phone. I called the target end and told the GI, "Drucker is on target #__ (Drucker was the company "8" ball. Give him all Maggie's drawers." **Craig** fired the clip and thought he had missed the target. By that time, I couldn't possibly tell him what I'd done. It was in fun but I didn't want to be a private again!!!

Some information - I was on the radio in Regimental Headquarters when the message came in from **Kotzebue's** operator - in code the first time. And in code the second time. When the runner came to me for the third time, I chased him away with some choice words. After reading your story, I now realize why Regiment didn't want the message.

If you ever have the occasion to speak to Colonel **Craig's** sister again, tell her this former sergeant admired her brother tremendously. Respectfully,

Alex Greensher
3219 Joy Street
Selma, California 93662

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

At the General Membership Meeting of our October reunion in Myrtle Beach, the members decided to re-elect me as Treasurer of the Association, unfortunately for both you and me. It appears that you will again have **Jane** and me staring at you from the above picture for the next two years whenever you turn to this page.

Every time we think we have reached peak attendance at a reunion, the following year does even better. By my count, last year at Nashville we had 694 at the Banquet and this year, at Myrtle Beach, we had 726 after all cancellations were taken into account. The number of cancellations and refunds are becoming quite appreciable - our age bracket has become very susceptible to many minor and major disasters. In spite of this, our attendance keeps improving. This year, I believe we had more than 60 First Timers attend! And on Tuesday of the week, we had 304 people taking part in the Charleston Tour! Attendees are arriving earlier than ever before! **George Wolff** and his Reunion Committee had a tough job covering all the tasks that needed to be done because about half of his committee could not come to the reunion and he was very short-handed. Perhaps you can bear that in mind for coming reunions: if you have time to help out, the Reunion Committee can always use a few volunteers. Filling in for a few hours at the Registration Desk could be a great help.

I have just finished processing and recording all the financial transactions which took place at the Registration Desk and have found that the crew at the desk did a great job recording all fees collected, cancellations requiring refunds, etc., making my job a lot easier. My heartfelt thanks go to **Rita Wolff**, **Joan** and **Frank Alfiero** and others who spent a great deal of time at that desk. And, of course, foremost thanks to **George Wolff** who was in continuous motion coordinating all requirements for reunion events, and inventing some new ones along the way. A harpist at the Saturday Auxiliary Meeting! The ladies all said she was great!

Last year in the first bulletin, I mentioned that we had to cancel 13 reservations for the Banquet for **Thomas Brannan** (Hq. Divarty) and his whole family because **Tom** was in the Hospital. Unfortunately, **Tom** never

made it out of the hospital. However, **Tom's** wife, **Jean**, does not give up easily and she showed up at this reunion with her son **Matthew**. Good going, **Jean**!

In our last previous News Bulletin (Vol. 48, No. 3), **Bruce Young** (Service-879th Field Artillery), presented an article discussing the award of the first 69th Infantry Division Scholarship to his daughter **Margaret**. The article is basically true. However, the reason **Bruce** does not remember the prior awards in 1958 is that in 1958 the Association was quite poor and the two awards (boy and girl) were gold medals, with no cash award. **Margaret Young** received the first cash award.

Collection of dues during the past year has been in line with last year's collection: dues received from 2583 members, 49% of our current mailing list, perhaps a fraction of a percent lower than last year. Our mailing list decreased from 5396 to 5312 during that period, which is not too bad considering the number of "Taps" we have had listed. We managed to pick up quite a few new members to make up for some of the losses. Unlike Medicare, the Association's financial situation appears to be secure so I do not anticipate any need to increase dues in the near future. Of course, that is assuming all of you fine members will continue to send in your dues faithfully as you have been doing. Due to the late reunion we had this year, the dues notices will also be a little late coming out, but most likely you will receive them before you receive this Bulletin. In case you forgot, Regular Dues \$10.00, Auxiliary \$5.00, and any donations to our Postage/Bulletin Fund will be appreciated.

NEW DUES YEAR

1995-1996

August 1, 1995 to July 31, 1996

Keep the Bulletin Coming!



Hey Lloyd - Nice Car!

Lloyd Roth, Company A & H&S Co., 269th Engineers
108 Muskingum Drive, Marietta, Ohio 45750

This 1946 Dodge and sign belonging to Lloyd Roth were at the Charlotte Motor Speedway on May 28th, 1995 and in the parade preceding the Coca-Cola 600 Nascar, Winston Cup Race. Lloyd says it was "something he always wanted to do to memorialize the greatest bunch of men ever assembled."

We would like **EVERY MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION** to read this report, first for its content on the proposal that we donate some of our Surplus Funds to Charitable Organizations, and then to re-read it for its comments on our Financial condition.

Eugene D. Butterfield
Suite No. 210, 22449 Lake Road
Rocky River, Ohio 44116
Telephone: 216/333-5723

Report on the Committee Appointed to Plan Distribution of the Association's Surplus Funds Prior to Dissolution

This committee was originally appointed six years ago with me as its Chairman. After over one year's work we came to realize that our largest problem was that we had no idea of how much money we would have available when it came time to fund any Trusts for distribution to various organizations that we might select or to make single, direct, one time, gifts to any organization.

A second major problem was a need to be able to determine the amount of money that would be required in a Trust in order to make the required periodic payments necessary to accomplish our purpose.

It appeared then, and still appears now, that we will require assistance from someone in the actuarial field to assist in computing the amount of money needed to provide a fixed annual income over a period of years. At this time your Committee does not believe that we are in a position to require such computations, and may never be in such a position. The change in our accounting period from a Fiscal Period to an Annual Period has given us a much more accurate picture of our present Surplus, which for the Annual Period of 1994 was approximately \$48,000. With this Organization still going strong it does not appear that we are ready to give our money away, and we may well never be in a position to do so.

One thing we all see is that we will require a surplus until our membership starts to diminish to a point where

our Reunions become so small that part of the Surplus will be required to subsidize the Reunion, or to pay a portion of our Annual operating costs. When our Surplus Funds are being used to cover the costs of our Operations over and above our Annual Income then we should be able to determine how much money we will be able to donate to Charitable Organizations.

This Committee has had the advantage of a Preliminary Financial Statement for the Year of 1994. This shows that we had taken in Receipts of \$125,167, and expended a total of \$124,324, increasing our Surplus by \$842.

The Nashville Reunion had Receipts of \$85,529, and expenditures, including the \$81,677, for the Nashville Reunion, \$1,334 for Reunion Rooms, \$148 for Awards, and \$83 for a charge from the Rochester Reunion brought the total Reunion cost to \$83,241 and a net Surplus of Receipts over total costs of \$2,288. But note that our TOTAL ANNUAL SURPLUS is only \$842. Less than 1% of the Gross Receipts from that very successful Reunion was added to our Surplus Cash. Our other expenses ate up \$1,446 of the Surplus from the Nashville Reunion. This is a concrete example of why we are not ready to give money away to other Organizations, no matter how worthy they may be.

This Committee has unanimously arrived at the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. The establishment of any Trusts at this time would be premature.
2. Dissolution of this Association is many years in the future, and probably at least a decade away, and disbursement of any Surplus Funds would be the responsibility of a future Board of Directors.
3. That this Committee should be abolished.

Respectfully submitted to the Board of Directors at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, October, 1995.

Eugene D. Butterfield, Chairman
Dillard M. Powell, Member
Bernard H. Zaffern, Member

Note: The money figures shown in this article have all been rounded to the next higher or lower dollar amount. Therefore when added together they may not total exactly the totals of the actual figures of money received or expended.



Company F, 272nd Infantry AT THE MYRTLE BEACH REUNION

Front: Louise Wardin, Jeanne Theobald, Dave Theobald.

Rear: Neil Shields, Ray Clements, Ruth Clements, Melvin Wardin, Anne Nunes, Joe Nunes

Wreath and carnations in memory of our deceased Captain, Herbert Callaway.

Sent by: Neil Shields

"Into the Belly of the Spider"

"SEQUELA TO EILENBURG"

Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association, Inc.
Bulletin Vol. 48 - No. 1, Sept. through Dec. 1994, Page 56

SIDE INCIDENT

Related by: **Norman J. Ehlinger, D.O.**

271st Anti-Tank Company
10410 South Ocean Drive, Apt. 1009
Jensen Beach, Florida 34957-2509

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

For two days, (April 22nd and 23rd), 1945, Infantry Companies of the 69th Infantry Division, 271st Regiment, had been trying to take Eilenburg on the Mulde River. Entry infantry company assaults and artillery battered the city. Our infantry were repeatedly pinned down and forced to retreat with many casualties when snipers would suddenly appear at their rear. As quickly as the snipers at their rear appeared and laid down heavy fire on our troops, they would disappear.

We in Anti-Tank Company sat waiting on the outskirts of Eilenburg, billeted in a farmhouse and attached bakery, watching the artillery bursts and smoke over the city, our 57mm guns set up facing Eilenburg. We observed infantrymen advancing, being pinned down, and retreating while we raided the German bakery for German brown bread and a chicken coop for fresh eggs, proceeding to enjoy our good fortune while hoping our friends in the attacking infantry companies made it through this battle safely.

At noon, April 24th, as usual, a heavy and concentrated artillery barrage enveloped Eilenburg, lasting for over two hours. The Germans had refused an order to surrender. Black smoke spread over the city like a blanket as the artillery bursts laid much of it to ruins.

Then came an order from our A.T. Company Commander: "Leave our 57mm anti-tank guns dug in, in place. Mount-up our trucks; we're moving in as Infantry back-up." This had happened quite often! We mounted trucks with 30 and 50 caliber machine guns, bazookas, and the small arms we each carried. The trucks took us past a burned out Tiger tank laying on its side as we rode down the road for about a mile to the southwest edge of the city, where we dismounted, spreading out in the ditches and fields on the side of the road. The trucks turned around and left.

"Spread out in squads along the ditches; follow me; rifles with bayonets at the ready; rear squads watch our ass," came orders from platoon lieutenants. "Let's go!" We'd heard these orders before!!

About 300 yards down the road were courtyards in which houses and barns arose, the walls to the courtyards being made of cemented stones about six feet high, and streets branched off in various directions around the courtyards. Artillery had not touched this area of the city. Houses and barns were intact. We advanced cautiously into Eilenburg's courtyarded streets with squads separating down different streets. Artillery bursts receded in the main part of the city.

Soon sniper bullets begin to whine and kick up dirt or chip off stone from the stone walls. We were pinned down.



A.T. Company mounts up as a tank column moves up to Eilenburg. Farmhouse and bakery.

Looking to our rear, we saw nothing. Ahead was a house with at least one sniper. We dashed forward, rolling right or left as we hit the dirt intermittently with buddies covering us. Someone hit the sniper in the house. **Sergeant Eddie Beers**, my squad leader, split our squad into pairs of two to enter and search houses, barns and courtyards as we advanced. Myself and **Ken Fowler** burst into a red brick building that looked like an old hospital, which it had been, but now was filled with elderly patients. Searching room to room, we saw people with gangrenous stumps, eaten-away extremities and the left side of the face of one old man was eaten away by cancer. The stench was terrible. A few older nurses cooperated in opening doors ahead of us as we searched without success for any German military. We returned to the street and took another street heading in a southeastern direction towards what looked like a big hill at the end of some streets. The streets now seemed to have front and back yards without the courtyards we had passed earlier, and reminded me of our streets back home, fleetingly making me homesick.

(Continued on Page 17)



Gunnery Corporal 2nd Squad, Joe Ferrell and Gunnery Corporal 1st squad, and Author, Norman Ehlinger. Best buddies that night after Eilenburg.

"INTO THE BELLY OF THE SPIDER"

(Continued from Page 16)



Eilenburg. City center still burned after surrender.

Then a thought struck me!!! Where were the civilians in this undestroyed neighborhood? I asked **Fowler** if he had some thoughts on this. He too was perplexed. Usually they came out with white flags through doors or windows and surrendered, but we were seeing none of this throughout our searches! The yards and houses were well kept in this area and the street we were on was paved. It felt good breathing clean unstenched air after the nursing home. Artillery smoke and smell still filled the air, however, but it was now quiet, sniper fire had stopped, and there was no further firing from our G.I.'s. Streets were deserted and the houses we searched were empty as we approached the hill ahead of us.

The street now curved at an angle to our right in a more southerly direction. Then, ahead of us appeared a gaping opening in the north side of the hill, the interior looking dark and foreboding, with a concrete wall running north and south into the darkness of the opening on the east side of the gaping doors.

We sporadically advanced, covering each other, up to the entrance about 100 yards ahead. I reached the entrance first. **Fowler** came up behind me. All was quiet. I poked my head around the edge of the big doors to peer inside. My eyes were not adjusted to the dark what with the bright sunshine outside. Everything beyond twenty feet inside appeared dark.

Breathing heavily, both **Fowler** and myself paused with trepidation, and I know I felt a twinge deep in the pit of my stomach. I wished some of our buddies were here with us or could be available to back us up! But, we were alone! A decision had to be made!

Turning back to **Fowler**, I ordered him to "follow me!" I entered the opening, stepping into the dark on my right once inside. I felt **Fowler** nudge me on my left arm as he came up behind me. Slowly my vision adjusted to the darkness and I began to see outlines of people against the concrete bulkhead; then more figures to my right, and further into the cavernous domed bunker supported by concrete pillars in the center. More and more people materialized in the dark as my vision adjusted. There appeared to be hundreds of people in this Taj Mahal!

What to do? We're dead! Or, at least we will become German prisoners. God help us!

As my vision adjusted I could make out women with their German bonnets on their heads; children of various sizes and even babies in their mother's arms; men, both in civilian and military clothes, some with guns, some without. Some German Officers and what appeared to me to be older authoritative civilians stood near the bulkhead.

Fowler had an M-1 rifle and a few hand grenades hanging from the pockets of his combat jacket. I had similar grenades hanging on my jacket, a 45 caliber revolver G.I. issue, which has plexiglass handles I had made from the windows of a downed B-29 near the Seigfried Line, under which on one side was a picture of my parents and on the other side a picture of my girl in a bathing suit, worn on my right hip. In my hands I carried a carbine with a grenade launcher which I had liberated from a dead German soldier in Buschem three months earlier. (This carbine might have been the one used by a German soldier to kill 2nd Lieutenant **Bill Ricker** of Waterbury, Vermont on February 19th, 1945 in Buschem as he returned from a patrol. (*Fighting 69th Infantry Division Bulletin*, Vol. 48 - No. 2, Jan. through April, 1995, page 16 - "MIA Status Solved 50 Years After Disappearance.")

Realizing we were in a badly compromised position and at the mercy of the enemy, I told **Fowler**, "follow me," and I struck out boldly toward the German Officers by the bulkhead, scared to death and sweating, but trying hard not to show it. All bluff, **Fowler** and I stopped in front of a German Colonel. Speaking less than fair German learned in a freshman German class in St. Norbert's College, W. DePere, Wisconsin, and locally since arriving in Germany, I asked the German officer, "Wie ist Commandant hier?" He answered, "Ich bin Commandant!" Me - "Sprechen Sie English?" Officer - "Yeah!" Me - "Can you turn on any lights in here?" Officer - "Yeah!" And he turned to someone behind him by the bulkhead and gave the order in German to turn on the lights.

(Continued on Page 18)



Woe to the German that faced Pfc. "Red" Barnum. Eilenburg.

"INTO THE BELLY OF THE SPIDER"

(Continued from Page 17)

Complied with immediately, the lights came on when a switch on the bulkhead was pulled, revealing hundreds of men, women, and children, civilian and military uniforms inside this huge cavernous concrete-lined bunker, with doors leading off in all directions around the inside perimeter like the legs of a giant spider, all built of concrete and supported by central pillars. Some doors, being open, showed tunnels lighted and curving down and away and out of sight, with some people in them. Other doors were closed. The perimeter was at least 180 degrees and showed about ten or twelve doors or tunnels, many leading back toward the courtyard area as well as the clearer street we had come up when we found the entry. We were in the belly of a huge spider, which was the source of the sniper fire that came up behind our troops, causing so many casualties! Many were youths in their teens. I assumed some SS Troopers were hiding somewhere behind the crowd.

Again, speaking to the Colonel, I asked if the Burgermeister was here. A civilian in his sixties stepped forward. "Yeah, Ich bin der Burgermeister!"

I told the Colonel and the Burgermeister in my best authoritative tone of voice, "Nichts mir Gewheren!" Forshtayen Sie?"

Both replied, "Yeah! Yeah!"

I told the Colonel to have the soldiers stack their guns along the bulkhead, which those visible in the front proceeded to do after the Colonel gave the order. I told the Colonel to order everyone to stay where they were for safety's sake until other American soldiers came to direct them otherwise, which the Colonel did. I then directed the Colonel and the Burgermeister to stand one on each side of **Fowler** and myself as we turned around to exit the bunker, by walking out.

My knees were shaking and **Fowler** told me later he could hardly keep his teeth from chattering with fright, and he wondered where I ever got the b----- to begin to do what we had done.

We walked toward the exit accompanied by the Colonel on one side and the Burgermeister on the other. I thought surely we would be shot in the back as we left. But no shots rang out. Then the thought stuck me. Maybe the grenades we each carried on the pockets of our combat jackets kept the Germans from shooting, as if a bullet struck a grenade and exploded it, it would not only kill **Fowler** and myself, but also the Colonel and the Burgermeister as well as other Germans in the vicinity. Thus we were afforded protection we hadn't counted on. This may have saved us on our initial entry as well.

Walking outside into the bright sunlight with the Germans on each side, **Fowler** and I stopped about 40 yards from the entrance, glanced back and saw no one had followed. I told the Germans to return to the bunker and wait for the other soldiers to come, which they did, as **Fowler** and I then rapidly covered the last 50 or so yards down the street and around the curve, which quickly took us out of sight of "the Spider."

On the run, **Fowler** and I passed several streets and along came a jeep from Anti-Tank Company driven by **Corporal Clark** and 1st Lieutenant **Braun**, our Company reconnaissance team.



Courtyard area of sniper fire pinning down PFC Bill Saunders.

We excitedly told them of our experience and where to find the "Spider." **Lieutenant Braun** directed us to return in a certain route back to our platoon area. **Lieutenant Braun** got on the radio as **Fowler** and I left. A short time later **Lieutenant Braun** had back-up and drove toward the bunker. All ended peacefully with complete surrender of this part of Eilenburg. What had occurred seemed unbelievable.

Needless to say we now knew why there had been no white flags, no civilians, and few soldiers asking to surrender in these last few days of the war. **Fowler** and I had the adrenaline running for a while but our buddies soon helped us settle down. They were glad we were safe and sound.

The main parts of Eilenburg lay in ruins from the artillery fire and still smoked as we left. With the city secured, the "Battle of Eilenburg" ended, except in our memories and the history books. But two G.I.'s would never forget Eilenburg in their lifetime.

That evening, we remounted our trucks, returned for our 57mm anti-tank guns, and headed East in convoy again, this time reaching Strahla on the Elbe River on April 26th, 1945. We met the Russian Army a few hours later than the initial meeting at Torgau, just north of us.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sorry Norman, but we could not use all of the photos. They were just too dark to be printable.



Burned out German tank on the road to Eilenburg.



Dottie Witzleb

THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE

by - **Dottie Witzleb**
Ladies Auxiliary Editor
 P.O. Box 69
 Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
 or
 R.D. #3, Box 477
 Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606
 Home Telephone: 412/455-2901

NOTE: All new officers please send your photo and phone number to Dottie Witzleb. Thank You.

If anyone knows how and when the Ladies' Auxiliary was started, please let me know. I would like to put it into a future bulletin as I receive this question often. I joined in 1973 and I know it was formed before then.

Rosemarie Mazza, Vice President
 3502 Russell Thomas Lane
 Davidsonville, Maryland 21035
 Telephone: (Please send to Dottie)

Gloria Czyzyk, Secretary
 30 Duke Drive
 New Hyde Park, New York 11040
 Telephone: (Please send to Dottie)

Jane Matlach, Chaplain
 P.O. Box 474
 West Islip, New York 11795-0474
 Telephone: 516/669-8077



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



Edith Zaffern, Sunshine Lady
 22555 Hallcroft Trail
 Southfield, Michigan 48034-2011
 Telephone: 810/357-4611

A Message from your Auxiliary Past President, Alice R. Wolthoff

Dear Ladies of the Auxiliary:

I have enjoyed the privilege of serving as your President these past two years. I certainly thank all of my officers and everyone else who worked with me.

May I, at this time, thank the Auxiliary for my lovely gift and I'm sure I will enjoy and appreciate it.

I wish to thank George and Rita Wolff for all the work that was involved with the reunion and whoever else that worked on the various committees, which certainly helped to make this a beautiful reunion, with plenty of things to do. Memories are made at such reunions.

Attendance: 170 Old Timers - 26 First Timers.

Lap robes 88, 19 pairs of slippers, 2 pairs of bed shoes, 48 ditty bags, 1 ladies bed jacket was received for the Charleston, South Carolina Veteran's Hospital and a \$500 check from the Ladies Auxiliary was given for the Veterans' incidentals, plus 6 small and 6 large wheelchair bags.

May the New Year be a happy and healthy year for all of you.

Looking forward to Schaumburg, Illinois in 1996. Hope to see all of you there.

Sincerely,
Alice R. Wolthoff, Past President
Ladies Auxiliary



PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 1995

Left to right: Alice Wolthoff, Maria Keller, Ellen Snidow, unknown, Vivian Kurtzman, Margie McCombs, Anne Walters and Virginia Weston.

(Continued on Page 20)



First Timers at the Ladies Auxiliary Meeting in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, 1995.



Lap robes made for the Veterans Hospital



New Officers: Chaplain Jane Matlach, Secretary Gloria Czyzyk, Sunshine Lady Edith Zaffern, Vice President Rosemarie Mazza, President Edith Chapman.



Some of the Ladies showing off the goods.

- In Memoriam -

"LADIES' TAPS"

KATIE AYRES

wife of **Arthur Ayres**, Company D, 273rd Infantry

JOSEPHINE MOLINARI

wife of **Paul Molinari**, 881st Field Artillery

Annual Meeting of The Women's Auxiliary 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. OCTOBER 29TH, 1995 MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

The president, **Alice Wolthoff**, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Our meeting was put on hold to accommodate the agenda of the men's meeting and **Mr. Jim Boris** greeted the ladies as a representative of the men's association. **Mr. Boris** reported on the Golf Tournament and presented the lady players with the prizes. This year 20 ladies participated. Normally, we have about 8 ladies playing. The prestigious awards for golf were awarded as follows:

Low Gross	Pat Nagy
2nd Low Gross	Barbara Johnson
Low Net	Tina Tongar
2nd Low Net	Ursula Goebel
Straightest Drive	Elizabeth Enlaw

Gift certificates were presented to Closest to the Pin: **Tina Theabalt and Tillie Boris**.

After **Mr. Boris'** presentation, we resumed our agenda.

The Salute to the Flag and Opening Prayer was led by our Chaplain, **Jean Brannan**. **Alice** introduced the head table: **Alice Wolthoff** - President, **Edith Chapman** - Vice President, **Ellen McCann** - Secretary, **Jean Brannan** - Chaplain and **Edith Zaffern** - Sunshine Lady.

Alice requested a tally of those in attendance: 24 First Timers and 179 Regular members. **Alice** commented that she always receives a letter from **Marian Lilien** who sends us all her regards.

The minutes of the Nashville, Tennessee meeting were read by **Teddy Nemeth** and were accepted, except for a correction on the amount saved on stamps by using post-cards, was \$400, not \$4,000.

The letters of thanks from the Veterans Administration were read by **Teddy** along with an explanation about the difficulty of getting credit where credit was due, as the original letters went to the men.

Alice reminded all the members to be sure they have filled out a blue information card so they will receive birthday cards, etc.

The new president of the Men's Association, **Bob Pierce**, greeted the ladies and filled us in on the information on the 1996 and 1997 Reunions - Schaumburg, Illinois in 1996 and Danvers, Massachusetts in 1997. Suggestions to change the purpose and responsibilities of the Women's Auxiliary were not received too well. We feel

we do very well with our lap robes, etc. and help we give when needed in registration rooms and other times.

A memorial service was held for our members who passed away during the past year: **Mary Alice Howell**, **Ruth Auk**, **Genevieve Golias**, **Pat Ruebsamen**, **Lucille O'Donnell**, **Edan Frauenhofer**, **Mary Kurles**, **Katie Ayres** and **Alice M. Haag**.

The slate for our election of Officers for 2 years is:

President	Edith Chapman
Vice President	Rosemarie Mazza
Secretary	Gloria Czyzyk
Chaplain	Jane Matlach
Sunshine Lady	Edith Zaffern

The slate was accepted as read by all members.

Report was given by the Sunshine Ladies: 3,034 cards sent since August of 1994. A job well done, **Edith**.

There were 84 lap robes and 20 pairs of slippers made by the ladies along with bibs and ditty bags, etc.

Gifts were distributed while we were awaiting our entertainment. **Rebecca Nissen** played a beautiful selection on her harp. She was well worth the wait.

A sincere "Thank You" was extended to **George and Rita Wolff** for the lovely reunion. The Closing Prayer was offered by **Jean Brannan**, "The Blessing of Love," by St. Francis of Assisi, at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen McCann, Secretary

WW II In Germany IN SEARCH OF EYEWITNESSES

Who has witnessed the end of the war on the European western front in Germany in the region of the River Rhine, the Moselle and the capture of Bad Ems (Lahn River).

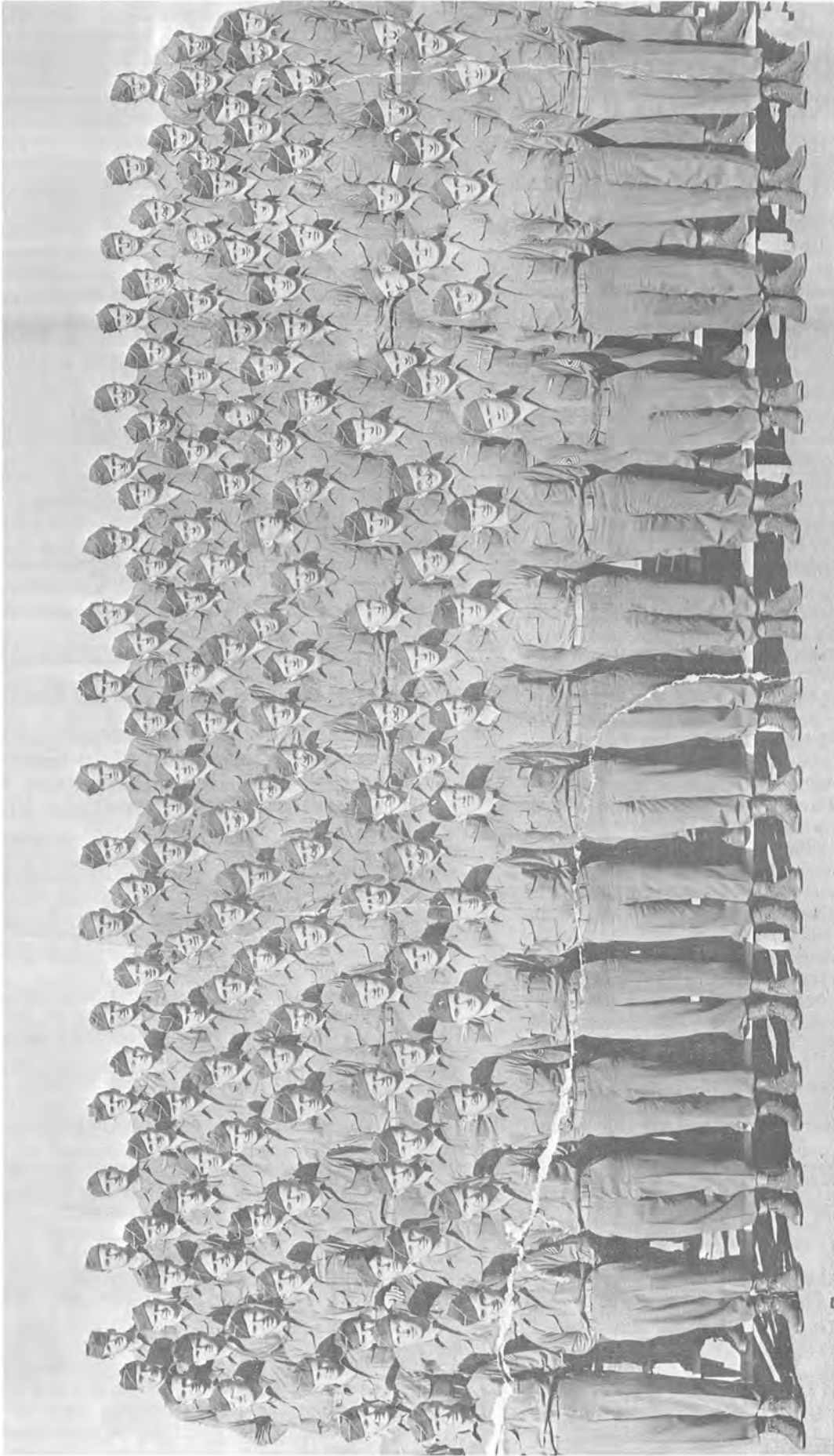
I am working on a book project in Germany, specifically pertaining to the region of the Rhine and Lahn River, capture of Bad Ems, etc., during World War II. I am hoping that eyewitness veterans of the 69th Division will come forward and help me piece together the past.

Any and all information is important including related documents, photos, memoirs, etc.

If you are willing to share your memories, diaries, letters, photos, etc., please contact me at the address below. I am waiting anxiously to hear from anyone who is interested. Thank You.

Wilfried Dieterichs
Heinrich Heine Weg 27
D-30880 LAATZEN, Germany





Company H, 271st Infantry

Sent By: Seymour Kuvin, M.D.
1735 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, New Jersey 08753

About two years ago, at the urging of a friend from college days, I sent off for information and their questionnaire from The U.S.A. Army Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. My objective is to acquaint you, the staff of the Bulletin and members of the Institute's existence. Although I acknowledge that you probably know of it already, I would like to encourage all who are interested in preserving the history of World War II do what they can to contribute to this store of knowledge. It is important that stories come from those who were there.

To the Bulletin's staff, I make a suggestion that, if possible, back copies of the Bulletin be made available to the Institute. That would really be something worthwhile to those coming after us, and want to know the nitty-gritty of it all.

Mr. Sam Lewis
Company B, 273rd Infantry
1403 West San Antonio Street
Lockhart, Texas 78644

World War II Veteran's Survey Project



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. MILITARY HISTORY INSTITUTE
CARLISLE BARRACKS
CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA 17013-5008

The U.S. Army Military History Institute (USAMHI) is conducting a major survey project to acquire source material on World War II. We invite all veterans of that war to join in our effort.

The USAMHI collects, preserves, and provides to researchers and scholars source materials on American military history. As the Army's central repository for historical source material, the Institute strives to perpetuate the history and traditions of the Army, its role in the development of the United States, and the lives of the men and women involved in its development. Located at historic Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, the Institute celebrated its 25th Anniversary in July, 1992.

The USAMHI holds more than seven million items relating to military history: over 251,000 volumes; 9,000 bound periodicals; 780,000 photographs; 150,000 audio-visual items; 5,600,000 manuscripts (diaries, memoirs, letters, and other papers); 367,000 military publications; and 800,000 classified military documents. No other agency has such an extensive collection of materials relating exclusively to the role of the military in the development of the United States, making the USAMHI the finest military research library in the United States and one of the best in the world.

Civilian and uniformed historians from all over this country and abroad come to the USAMHI to study the history of the American Armed Forces. In 1992 alone, more than 25,000 researchers will have used our resources. Veterans and their families also make extensive use of our holdings. We anticipate increased visits during the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of World War II and thereafter.

Among our material, World War II is one of the strongest and most frequently studied fields. We hope to further strengthen our holdings on that war; therefore,

we are asking veterans to record their recollections - an important source of information for historians and researchers. We urge you to take the time to complete a questionnaire.

A follow-on to earlier surveys of the Spanish-American War and World War I vets, this World War II project consists of an 18-page questionnaire, with a postage-paid mailing label for return to the USAMHI. Completed surveys are made available to researchers and scholars who visit the Institute.

In addition to battle accounts, the survey is designed to elicit firsthand responses to a wide range of subject areas. There are no true/false or multiple choice questions. Instead, the veteran is encouraged to provide his or her own thoughts and reflections on many different aspects of military service such as general background and overseas combat, occupation and demobilization, and postwar experiences. Although focused toward the Army veteran, questionnaires are being completed by Navy, Marine and Army Air Corps vets also. In fact, there is one from a veteran who served in the German Army! We also have had widows complete the questionnaire as a tribute to their deceased husbands.

Many surveys are distributed directly to veteran associations and given to their members at their reunion. Initial distribution targeted selected associations to ensure representation from all branches, each theater of operations, and units with unique experiences. We are now working with all veteran groups interested in participating, including division, regimental, and battalion level associations. Surveys will be mailed to individuals upon request.

The USAMHI's goal is to acquire 100,000 completed questionnaires in 1995. This project is ongoing, however, so please don't hesitate to write to us. Hopefully, the increased activities and public awareness which are part of the 50th Anniversary Commemoration will help us reach many veterans. Please contact us if you know of veterans groups meeting in your area. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

In addition to the vast experiences revealed in the questionnaires, many veterans are donating personal items related to their service experience. Many veterans tell us they have been getting instructions from their wife to clean out the attic for years. The 50th Anniversary Commemoration is an excellent opportunity for them to do this. Thus, our motto has become: "From your attic to the Army's attic." Your donated items will be preserved, given proper care, and shared with future generations of researchers and scholars.

As a World War II veteran, your donation is helping to preserve the history of that war - a history which you helped write. We seek letters, V-Mail, diaries, memoirs, correspondence and official reports, photographs, illustrations, books, unit histories, camp and unit newspapers, film, audio tapes, insignia, and unit insignia and patches. While the USAMHI does not collect uniforms, flags, equipment, weapons, munitions, or plaques, we would be happy to assist you in donating your three-dimensional artifacts to the Army Museum System, which is managed by the U.S. Army Center of Military History. Postage-paid mailing labels will be provided, and arrangements can be made for shipping large holdings of such materials.

(Continued on Page 24)

WORLD WAR II VETERAN'S SURVEY PROJECT (Continued from Page 23)

Thousands of veterans and their families already have made unconditional gifts of their material. At the USAMHI your personal papers and other items will have a permanent home and will be made available to students of our country's military history. Your donation(s) will be established in your name and will stand as a record of your service - an honored part of our nation's military heritage. We would value the privilege of becoming the custodian of your papers.

All veterans who return their questionnaire or make a donation to the USAMHI receive a thank you letter for helping to preserve the heritage of our Army. The veteran's name, address, and military unit are entered into an electronic database to facilitate management of the information and donation. The questionnaires and any donated materials are processed by our Archives Branch which inventories, catalogs, cross-references, and stores them in acid-free containers. Photographs are organized and cross-referenced with the archival material by the Special Collections Branch. All collections are maintained in a humidity-controlled environment.

Please remember that completed questionnaires and donated materials are available for research and study. If

you are researching World War II unit histories, battles, specific operations, or individual soldiers' experiences, you will find the USAMHI's collections an invaluable source of information. Our holdings include the personal papers of hundreds of prominent generals and thousands of junior officers and enlisted men and women whose services contributed to American military history from the colonial period to the present. The public is always welcome at the Institute, which is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except federal holidays.

To obtain a World War II Survey questionnaire or further information, please write to:

THE U.S. ARMY MILITARY HISTORY INSTITUTE
Attn.: Coordinator, World War II Commemoration
ANGELA LEHR

Carlisle Barracks
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013-5008

Angela Lehr will be happy to help anyone interested in completing the questionnaire or with questions pertaining to The U.S. Army Military History Institute and their gathering of information. You may call her direct at:

(717) 245-3225

World War II Memorial to be built in Washington

On October 8th, 1995, I was invited to the Joint Session of Congress and did attend, Commemorating the "50th Anniversary of World War II," held on October 11th, 1995, in Washington, D.C.

I visited with Lt. Gen. Claude M. Kicklighter, Colonel John K. Sullivan, Lt. Col. Alan Green and Lt. Col. Jim Fischer. Each of them told me that our activities during the 50th Anniversary were the best. Our participation in the activities at Arlington Cemetery and our celebration in Torgau and Strehla, Germany were "TOPS" and they certainly were HONORED to have worked with us.

Also on November 11th, 1995, **Dillard Powell, Bud Parsons, Bill Snidow** and I received an invitation from President Clinton to attend the ceremonies placing a plaque and dedicating the sight of the "World War II" Memorial that is to be built, Honoring all Veterans of World War II.

It will be erected on 17th Street, between Constitution and Independence Avenues, N.W., at the end of the Rainbow Pool, within sight of the Nation's Capitol and Washington's Monument.

This was the final phase of events HONORING all World War II Veterans.

Contributions may be sent to:
World War II Memorial Campaign
P.O. Box 75071, Washington, D.C., 20013

Memorial Fund

As chairman of the "First Link-Up Memorial Park Plaza" fund, I want to thank those people that saw it in their hearts to contribute to the fund, to help build it.

It will honor all of our friends that lost their lives or were crippled for the balance of their life.

It has been quite disappointing in the amount of donations and the number of 69'ers that have donated to the Memorial Plaza. Less than 3 percent of the membership has donated, to be exact it was 2.96% and some of those people gave two or three times. That would make it an even less percentage.

One man said that he did not have much money, but he would do what he could. He sent \$5.00 each month for several months, you could not do better than that.

I can't imagine anyone making a point that they had to go to the dedication of the Memorial Plaza and did not donate and support it monetarily. But, quite a number of them were in Torgau and Strehla.

Didn't they lose a friend or Buddy that they wanted to HONOR? I did, several.

We still need a little more in donations, due to the increase in costs of various items and labor.

Come on fellows, what better way to HONOR your friends that lost their life than to contribute to a "Memorial Park" erected in the country that they lost their life for ???

I think that the "First Link-Up Memorial Park" is a great piece of work and is worthy of HONORING our people. Ask some of the people that were there.

We still need about one thousand dollars. None of these funds are used for expenses. The committee assumes all costs.

How about it ???

Bill Beswick
Post Office Box 576
West Point, Virginia 23181

Make checks payable to "First Link-Up Memorial Park" and mail to Bill Beswick.

Thank You

Sam Lewis' Elbe River Report

Sam Lewis, Company B, 273rd Infantry
1403 West San Antonio Street
Lockhart, Texas 78644-2443
Telephone: 512/376-9412

The following is a report I sent to the AGGIE MAGAZINE, which is published monthly at Texas A & M. I wanted to thank all former students who contributed to the flagpole fund and to tell all of the success of our efforts. I thought you members would also be interested.

My wife, Lorraine, and I spent five days on the Elbe River, in Germany where we attended ceremonies connected with the 50th anniversary of the Link-up of American and Soviet armies on April 25, 1945.

I am happy and proud to report success in our efforts to get a memorial built at Strehla, where the first link-up occurred. It was the result of close cooperation between Americans, Germans, and Russians.

We Aggies can now boast of a special success in knowing the "THREE PEOPLES FLAGPOLES" are in place with flags flying. And, I am also proud to be able to say that I personally raised the first American flag on the flagpoles, which I had the privilege of designing. I give a sincere heart felt thanks to all who contributed in response to my appeal for funds, especially since it coincided with the school's multi-million dollar fund drive.

I want all to know the symbolism in the shape of the flagpoles; why they are bent. Next to the metal plaque we took over in 1990 is a small one I made of plastic. A copy of the wording is included here.

THE THREE PEOPLES FLAGPOLES

The flagpoles symbolize the peoples of the three lands: The United States, the former Soviet Union, and Germany. As they rise from a firm anchor in Mother Earth, they lean towards one another as for mutual support and are bound by a strong ring of friendship. From that base, they rise upward and outward: upward to the heavens for guidance, and outward to all peoples in peace and friendship. All in keeping with:

"The Spirit of the Elbe"



Sam, General Olshansky and Igor Belousovitch on the bridge at Torgau. An army major had just asked me if I knew Igor, and I am pointing to the major for Igor.



Bud Parsons with his own flag which he had just raised and lowered. Next is Sam, Polowsky's daughter and her husband, General Olshansky and an unidentified 69th vet.

And just as important, is the fact that bluebonnets are growing on the Elbe River at the memorial plaza. As recommended by A&M's experts, the seeds were planted in a greenhouse last fall, and although only about twenty percent of them flowered, it was enough to fill the planned planting area. They were just beautiful. It is my hope that a way will be found to send bluebonnet seeds over there each year. Since 1991, the town of Torgau - where a second link-up occurred some four hours after the Aggie, Lt. Kotzebue made the first - has held a four day celebration, called, "Down By The Riverside." The event is timed to include the anniversary date of April 25th. It is mostly a joyous occasion with music of the "Big Band" era, and Jazz. (You really should hear Denmark's "THE WASHBOARD FIVE".) My hope is that in the future the town of Strehla (just 20 miles up the Elbe) can have a "Down By The Riverside Bluebonnet Festival". Maybe the plant nursery will make available to all citizens, flowers to place around the town, and at the "FIRST LINK-UP MEMORIAL PLAZA." Since Kotzebue and I are both Texans, it is fitting that a little bit of Texas be left there on the Elbe River.

The "RING OF FRIENDSHIP" (on the flagpoles) applies most definitely to a Mr. Heinz Richter, a fine gentleman living near the Elbe. He had befriended members of our 69th Division Association, and helped when they visited on the Elbe. It was he who put me in contact with the metal company that built the flagpoles, and who found a plant nursery who grew the bluebonnets, and who served as FAX sender and receiver, and acted as interpreter in my dealings with the mayors of Torgau and Strehla. In mid-April, he was in the hospital for tests relating to a light stroke. But five days before the 50th anniversary ceremony, he checked himself out so he

(Continued on Page 26)

SAM LEWIS' ELBE RIVER REPORT

(Continued from Page 25)

could be "by my side" for the final efforts. He was indispensable. I am quite certain our efforts would not have succeeded nearly as easily, if at all, without his friendship and willing help. And the important aspect of it is that the metal company gave me a firm price to build the flagpoles which was about one sixth of a bid from a Texas company. That proved to be crucial.

The original design for the plaza (done mostly by a Russian architect, and a picture of which was sent with my fund raising letters) was not built. The town of Strehla, which had committed to build the memorial, was not able to get enough money from the Saxony or the German Federal government. The town had to build it with mostly their own money. The 69th Division Association members donated generously to Strehla's general memorial fund, but a new and simplified plan had to be built. However, in my professional opinion, it works better than the original design.

The Russian sculptor, Surovtsev - who did the "Spirit Of The Elbe" statue which was presented to President Bush for his library and is now on display in the Sam Sanders Cadet Center - did a large bas-relief in bronze. It is approximately 36 ft. long and 6 ft. high and is sort of an abstract which is intended to represent the "Tragedy and Horror of War." He trucked it to Germany from Moscow in the Russian equivalent of an 18 wheeler, and arrived just in time to get it welded into place before the Tuesday ceremony. The bluebonnets were transplanted on Tuesday morning. The flagpoles had been erected the Saturday before. It was a close call, but all fell into place in time.

I have been involved in this project since the idea of a memorial came to me in mid 1989. And on many occasions things just seemed to fall into place when they could just as easily not have. So, I was convinced early on that this effort was destined to succeed.

On three occasions during the trip, I was handsomely repaid for all of my physical and mental effort. Before leaving for Germany, we had not known if the nursery was successful with the bluebonnets. We arrived at the Richter's house about 7:00 p.m. Friday, and just as we walked up to the door, we saw two small pots sitting on the steps. In them were two of the most beautiful bluebonnets we had ever seen; really. The second repayment came on Tuesday at the Strehla ceremony. There were the usual speeches, including a short one by me, and then came the raising of the flags. It was decided that a veteran of each country should raise his own flag. A German veteran named Pierce (I think) and retired Russian Major General Olshansky - the one who actually helped Kotzebue out of the boat - and me, were picked for the honor. The flags on each pole were raised by turning a small crank. By hand sign, I indicated to the other two that we should synchronize the cranking so the flags would reach the top together. We would each then step back and salute our flag. Well, on signal, we walked, in file, up the ten steps and took our places. A military band stuck up a slow tune (which I later realized was intended to accompany the raising of the flags) and General Olshansky, who was facing the band, saluted. He had not understood me. Well, I didn't think I should correct him, so I turned, faced the band, and saluted. The German



The German veteran looks on while Sam and General Olshansky "salute the band."

didn't. However, after a minute, I turned back and indicated we should start cranking. We did (and we were almost together) and we finished just as the band did. We then stepped back and all three saluted. So maybe it looked like we knew what we were doing. We then walked back down the ten steps and turned and faced the flags. It was then that I received the second payment. As I looked up, I was overwhelmed with a sense of pride. I do not particularly like the word, but it was FANTASTIC. The third payment came in the evening as my wife, Lorraine, and I sat at a table with **Bud Parsons** and his family. The first thing **Bud** said was, "Well, **Sam**, if it hadn't been for you and Surovtsev, we wouldn't have had anything here today." For me, that was the icing on the cake; particularly coming from **Bud**. He is a prince of a gentleman, and a true friend.

End of Aggie report.

* * * * *

Another interesting event happened at Torgau. We had our Bed and Breakfast accommodations about five miles across the Elbe from Torgau at the villa of Mr. Henke. His son is the principal of Torgau's high school. So, we had the good fortune to be invited to attend a ceremony at the school in which the school was formally renamed, "THE JOE POLOWSKY HIGH SCHOOL." It was a joyful and impressive ceremony. I had the pleasure of meeting Joe's daughter who was there. **Bud Parsons** and I later had our picture taken with her and her husband at the flagpoles. Also, **Kotzebue's** daughter, Deborah Kelly, was in attendance at the ceremony.

All things considered, it was a most impressive and satisfying five days.

(Continued on Page 27)

SAM LEWIS' ELBE RIVER REPORT

(Continued from Page 26)



Sam giving his speech at the Strehla ceremony. At left is Surovtsev and Mayor Haberland.

WORDS SPOKEN IN STREHLA, GERMANY

APRIL 25, 1995 at the Ceremony

By Sam Lewis

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST LINK-UP OF AMERICAN AND RUSSIAN ARMIES IN WORLD WAR TWO.

It is common knowledge, now, that when the two allied armies met here in April 1945, the first physical contact, the handshake, occurred when a young Russian sergeant helped a young American Lieutenant out of a boat. The young Russian sergeant was Alexander Olshansky from the Ukrainian village of Olshany. The American Lieutenant was **Albert Kotzebue**, from Houston, Texas.

But there is a little known aspect of the link-up that we celebrate today. It is this. In response to a survey by a major western news service, soon after the end of the fighting in World War Two, reporters, journalists, and news people of all kinds voted, that from their viewpoint, the Link-up was the second biggest news story of the entire global conflict. It was second only to the landings of the Western Allies on the shores of Normandy, on D-Day.

An elaborate and beautifully designed memorial, built many years ago, stands on that spot in Normandy and attests to the events of that time in June, 1944. So, it is appropriate that there is now a fine physical testament to the event we commemorate here today. It was a long time coming.

In fact, until April 25, 1990, nothing of a physical nature had been done here near the site of that first historic handshake. On that day, Mrs. Lewis and I were in Torgau attending the 45th anniversary celebration of the link-up where we presented and dedicated a cast metal plaque attesting to the facts of that first meeting. That plaque was furnished by The Association of Former Students of Texas A & M University where Kotzebue and I were students. Also, that day, we presented a model of a suggested design for a permanent memorial on which

to display the plaque and two others in Russian and German. The central element of that design is **THE THREE PEOPLES FLAGPOLES**, which you see here today.

The dedication of this memorial, as I see it, should not be just to the meeting of armies, or to particular individuals, but rather to an ideal; the ideal of lasting peace between all peoples.

On that day in 1990, I was certain that in five years, a most important and historic event would take place here on the Elbe. A celebration of fifty years of peace in this land. And then I said to myself, "But what about the future? Dare we dream of a seventy-fifth anniversary of peace? Dare we dream of a one hundredth anniversary of peace? For a few years now, a fresh wind has been blowing through this land; blowing away the fears and suspicions of yesterday. That wind brings to me the assurance that, yes, we can dream such dreams.

Let the rest of the world take note of what we do here today. We, the three peoples symbolized here, have proven to the world that lasting peace is possible. Thank you.

* * * * *

THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST LINK-UP MEMORIAL

It is appropriate, for the sake of history, that the facts concerning the beginning of the "FIRST LINK-UP MEMORIAL" be set down.

The ideas for the main elements of the memorial had their start in the minds of two men, one was Vladimir Surovtsev, a Russian sculptor, and the other one was me, Sam B. Lewis, an architect from Texas.

About mid 1988, Surovtsev began a personal project to honor his father who had served in the Soviet army, in World War Two, including time on the Elbe River. In this effort, he met Generals Orlov, and Olshansky who headed the Elbe section of Russian War Veterans. This meeting resulted in Surovtsev being commissioned to design a memorial at Strehla.

For me, it was mid 1989 that I came to the conclusion that a memorial should be built at Strehla where the first link-up had occurred. The Russians had constructed a monument at Torgau attesting only to the meeting of armies. But nothing had been done saying that soldier met soldier, that man met man. This is what I wanted to emphasize. **Kotzebue** and I were both in the 273rd regiment, and since we were from Texas, and had been students at Texas A & M, I felt a close kinship to the event and thought I might as well be the one to get something done. I went to Texas A & M to ask for help, and I got it. The Association of Former Students agreed to pay for a cast metal plaque and some blue bonnets seeds. But I would have to arrange for getting it all over there. I wrote the text for the plaque with the help of Dr. Mark Scott, American editor of "YANKS MEET REDS." I wanted the bluebonnet seeds because they are the official flower of the state of Texas, and I thought it was fitting that a little bit of Texas be left there on the Elbe. Also, I wanted a way of displaying the plaque and one in Russian and in German. I designed a unique flagpole assembly of three poles that would do the trick. With some help, I built a model of the design, and in April 1990, we got it all over to Torgau on the Elbe.

My wife and I attended the 45th anniversary celebration of the link-up in Torgau where we presented the plaque and the model. It was there that the sculptor

(Continued on Page 28)

SAM LEWIS' ELBE RIVER REPORT

(Continued from Page 27)

Surovtsev introduced himself to us and happily announced that he too was working on a memorial at the same place. He then said the critical words; He said, "We must work together on this." And we did.

With financial contributions from several Russian organizations; from members of the 69th Division Association; from various German government divisions; and from former students and friends of Texas A & M, it all came together. And in time for the 50th anniversary celebration.

It was a project which was meant to succeed, and make history.

* * * * *

I AM THE RIVER ELBE

By Sam Lewis

'I am the River Elbe, and I want to tell you a story, a story of things that happened to me.' Those words I clearly heard, deep in my soul, as I lay absorbed in thought in my little town in Texas. And I wondered why the river wanted to tell the story to me. Maybe it knows I care. For what ever reason, here is what it said to me.

"I am the River Elbe, and I have flowed my course for countless ages. I have seen and experienced many things. But there were events of a special time that stand alone and above all others. It was in the spring of a year 50 years ago when another war raged through this land.

Through the years, I had watched a certain town grow to be a large beautiful city. Then one night fires started burning in the city. It quickly became a roaring inferno as the flames engulfed the whole city. I wanted to leave my banks and cover the town and put out the flames, but I could not. I kept to my course. And I cried.

Some time later, and a little closer to my destination, the sea, I saw a small boat with some people in it. They were going towards my right bank where some others were waiting. But I was too strong for them and was pushing the small boat away. I thought; why are they doing this? I could easily tip them over and carry them with me to the sea. But I saw they were working hard to

paddle the boat so I thought it must be important for them to reach the other people. And I said to myself, 'I will ease up as they near the bank and let them get back. And as they did, one of the people waiting reached out a hand and the one in the boat also reached out. Their hands clasped and I knew something good and important had happened. Then all of them hugged, and shook hands and they laughed and some even cried what I knew to be tears of happiness. Yes, something special and good had happened to those people, and to me.

Now, just a short distance further towards my sea, there was a maze of steel and stone laying in my path. As I neared it, I saw two people on the top of the steel. Again I thought, why are they doing this, why are they up there? I knew that the wind which can sometimes go with me could easily push them off into my waters, and I could not help them. But the wind was not there that day, and as I came closer, I saw they too had reached out their hands and held to each other. This must be part of the other meeting, and they must have wanted very much to be together. There were others on each bank and they were waving and shouting with joy. And I smiled as I went on my way.

"For several days there were many other people crossing my waters and they were laughing, hugging, dancing and drinking; and they were very happy.

Now, 50 years later, it is spring again, and I am remembering those happy days. It must have been an important thing those people did, for since that time, I have been at peace."

There was a pause, and I thought the river was finished, but then it said, "So, now you know the story. But there is something I want to ask of you."

And I answered, "Yes, River Elbe, what do you want to ask?"

And the river said, "Starting this spring and forever, I want to be called, 'The Elbe, River of Peace.' Can you help me, Sir?"

And I smiled and answered, saying, "I will try, river Elbe, I will try."

And the river smiled back at me; I know it did.



Company D 272nd Infantry

I just came across this photo in an old "Stars and Stripes." It's a picture of my squad.

Right hand column:

S/Sgt. Stoffeur

Sgt. John McKeil

James Allen

(Cannot identify last 3)

Left hand column:

Rex Golobec

Hancock

"Chief" Bender

(Last unidentifiable)

Sent by: John McKeil
9001 N.W. First Avenue
El Portal, Florida 33150

Carl Miller sent in these photos of his trip to Europe During the 50th Anniversary Commemoration

Carl Miller, 69th MP, 1016 Marion Road, Bucyrus, Ohio 44830-3103



Glenn Hunnicutt, Scott Gresham (both of G-271st) and Carl Miller on the steps at the edge of Weisenfels where a dead German soldier lay in April of 1945.



Scott Gresham, Glenn Hunnicutt, former German Luftwaffe pilot and Carl Miller in Dickersheid holding World War II souvenirs saved by local resident. House shown was used by G Company, 271st in the attack on Dickersheid.



Glenn Hunnicutt, Carl Miller, Scott Gresham and Lyall Steger enjoying wine samples in a local winery owned by the brother of our hotel owner in Moselle Valley.

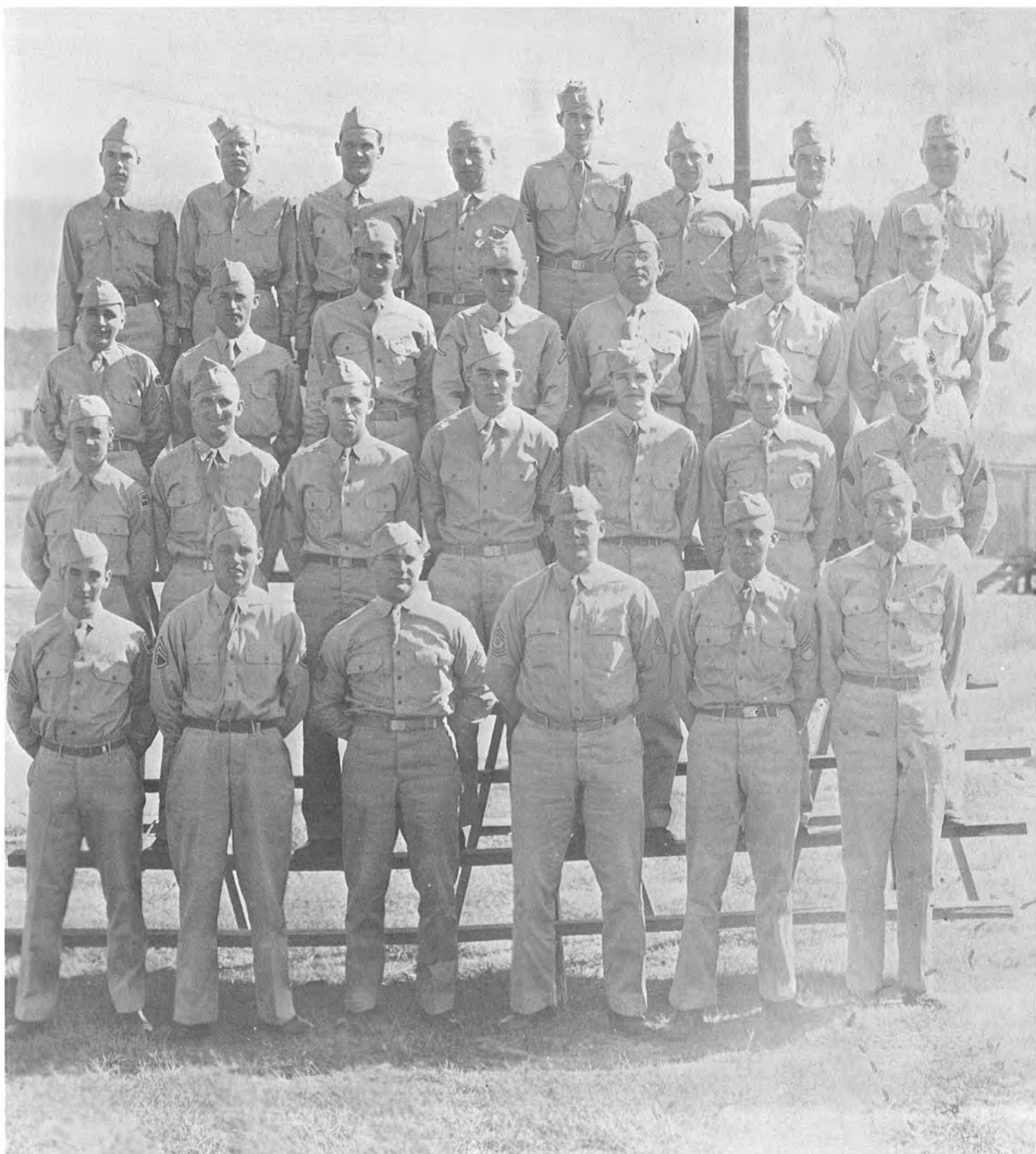


Carl Miller enjoying a pleasant chat with Col. Lawrence J. Kimmel, Defense and Army Attache to U.S. Ambassador at Bonn. (taken in Torgau)



**Company M, 273rd Infantry Division
Camp Shelby, Mississippi
October 1943**

Submitted By: Clarence J. Huffer - 44 Trudy Circle, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055
(See following page for extension of the same photo - photo taken in 2 parts)



**Company M, 273rd Infantry Division
Camp Shelby, Mississippi - October 1943**

Submitted By: Clarence J. Huffer - 44 Trudy Circle, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055
(Extension of center picture previous page)

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 minis for this column. Mail your date(s), location, banquet cost, activities and room rates, plus a good write-up to Earl Witzleb, Jr., Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069 or R.D. #3, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606, as early as possible. Then follow through with a write-up immediately after the event(s).

69th Cavalry Recon Troop

Lewis "Boyd" and Stella Ellsworth, Coordinators

Route #1 - Knoxville Road
Steubenville, Ohio 43952-9801
Telephone: 614/282-2327

Harold and Jeanne Gardner, Reporters

2929 Mason Avenue
Independence, Missouri 64052-2962
Telephone: 816/254-4816

Someone once said that the older we get the faster time passes. That must be correct. The former members of the 69th Recon Troop held their 44th annual reunion. It was held September 6th to 9th in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. We were billeted at the Lexington Hotel Suites with the exception of two of our troopers and their ladies who were put up at the motel next door. After some adjustments and moves were made, things smoothed out real well. We had a very nice hospitality room which was well stocked with food and beverages. Some of our ladies brought some goodies from home and some were purchased locally. **Charles and Pat Rice** and **Lloyd and Jean Abbott** were our hosts and hostesses.

Six couples arrived on Tuesday and were treated to a very scrumptious dinner and enjoyable evening at **Charles and Pat Rice's** home. It was a very nice evening and we got in a lot of visiting in addition to the food. Thanks **Charles, Pat** and daughter for a wonderful meal and evening.

On Wednesday, 18 more of our family arrived and 14 on Thursday. A total of 44 members of our "family" made their appearance.

Charlie and **Pat** had a nice agenda laid out for us. After spending Wednesday on our own visiting, taking it easy and taking advantage of the hospitality room, on Thursday the majority of us motored to Guthrie, Oklahoma to visit what was the original capital of Oklahoma. Before we left the hotel **Pat** gave us a very informative and interesting history of Guthrie. We took a trolley ride through the town which was very interesting. After having a very nice lunch we visited some of the historic buildings including the former local "bordello."

On Friday we motored to the 45th Infantry Division Museum at which we spent approximately two hours. Exhibits included armament and vehicular items of a military nature. We viewed weapons, vehicles, tanks, airplanes and uniforms. They also have displayed some of the original sketches of "Willie & Joe" by Mauldin. We then motored to Tinker Air Force Base where we enjoyed a buffet lunch at the Officer's Club. After lunch we boarded Navy buses and were taken for a tour of the Navy training facility for the operation of the Navy E6

Mercury aircraft operation. We were permitted to go through one of the E6 aircraft which was in the hanger for maintenance. It made one feel very confident in our surveillance capabilities. The personnel who escorted us and explained the operations to us were very capable, learned, clean cut and someone we can all be proud of. It was very interesting and informative. The Navy E6 Mercury operation is similar to the Air Force Awacs operation. After the tour the Navy buses returned us to the Officer's Club and we returned to our hotel.

On Saturday **Charlie** arranged for us to take a tour of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame representing 17 western states, and was established in 1965 to preserve accurately and authentically the rich history of the American West.

It was a series of galleries; The West of Yesterday, Rodeo Hall of Fame, Western Performers Hall of Fame, Historic Western Art, and Contemporary Art collection. It would have been very easy to spend more than the two hours we spent there. A separate John Wayne gallery included his priceless Hopi kachina collection as well as guns, saddles and other memorabilia from his illustrious film career. Wayne was a member of the first board of trustees of the Hall of Fame.

After a delicious barbeque lunch at the Oklahoma County Line Barbeque nearby, we returned to our hotel.

Our Saturday night dinner was held in a private dining room at Applewood's restaurant. It was served to us by very courteous and accomodating personnel and was delicious. After **Lloyd Abbott** asked the blessing, we rapidly got to the business of eating.

After dinner and a few comments by **Charlie Rice** and **Hank Weiman**, the troopers proceeded to relate happenings of their families during the last year. This has become an established custom and usually brings out some interesting comments.

We then spent some time taking some platoon pictures and also some pictures of our grand ladies. **Charlie** had also arranged for a formal picture of the troopers. We should receive these pictures in the mail within the next several weeks.

It is always interesting to note how many of the troopers attend the reunion representing each of the platoons. This reunion they were pretty even. Headquarters and First each had 6 attending and Second and Third each had 5. Also it is interesting to see who of our troopers have traveled the most miles in getting to the reunion. This year the trooper getting the plaudits for the furthest was **Al Gold** coming in from Fall River, Massachusetts. Those traveling almost 1500 miles were **Hank Weiman** and **Floyd Opdyke**. Then we had an additional group

(Continued on Page 34)

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

(Continued from Page 33)

traveling well over 1000 miles from Florida, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and California. Needless to say some of our troopers travel long distances to attend our reunions regularly.

We were very sorry that our CO **Boyd Ellsworth** was unable to attend this year's reunion. Due to some very serious surgery in **Stella's** family they were unable to be with us. This is probably the only reunion that **Boyd** and **Stella** have missed. After missing last years reunion in Alexandria we were pleased to see our First Sergeant **Hank Weiman** and his lady **Lillian** this year. They both looked great and we are glad they are on the mend. When these folks are unable to be with us, it creates a definite void. You folks stay healthy so you can be with us next year.

Listed in alphabetical order are those who answered roll call in Oklahoma City:

Lloyd and Jean Abbott Oklahoma
Joe and Jean Elliget Arizona
Gordon and Fern Ewing Florida
Charles and Bobbie Fox Maryland
Wayne and Dottie Frazier Mississippi
Hugh Bob Fuller Texas
Harold and Jeanne Gardner Missouri
Al and Esther Gold Massachusetts
Lewis and Janie Hill Texas
Morris and Gertrude Kaiserman Illinois
Jerry Leib California
Mike and Mary Moscaritolo Florida
Herb and Eileen Norman Colorado
Floyd and Evelyn Opdyke New Jersey
Wally and Carolyn Pepper Florida
Charles and Pat Rice Oklahoma
Bones and Mable Schueler Ohio
Hap and Maxine Stambaugh Pennsylvania
Cowboy and Janet Vaughan Virginia
Hank and Lillian Weiman New Jersey
Bob and Jean West Ohio
Fred Wohlers Florida

We were glad to have **Lenke Treible**, widow of **Art** with us again this year. It was great to see you **Lenke**. We'll see you next year.

We also had other guests. With us for the most of our reunion were **Russ** and **Helen Griffith**, guests of **Gordon** and **Fern Ewing**. **Russ** is a former Navy man and served aboard a battleship in the Pacific. Also attending our dinner on Saturday night were **Joe** and **Jean Elliget's** granddaughter and her husband. (Sorry folks, I didn't get their names. **Russ**, sorry that we didn't have a body of water around for you. Try us again next year. - HG)

Now, all you troopers, make some contacts with some of your buddies. We have quite a few of our troopers that we haven't heard from in a long time. Write to them or better yet call them. Let them know we are thinking of them and would like to have them join us in a reunion. Start working on getting your buddies out for next year. It appears that we will have our 1996 reunion somewhere on the East coast.

Again, **Charles**, **Pat**, **Lloyd** and **Jean**, thanks for a swell reunion. The tours were great, the dinner delicious and it was good just to have our "family" together again.

You troopers and ladies, take care, be good to each other and please keep in touch. May God Bless all of us and keep us in good health!!

Tri-State Group

Bob and Vivian Kurtzman, News Reporters
Post Office Box 105
Wilmot, Ohio 44689

Mini-Reunion

Belden Village Holiday Inn, Canton, Ohio
June 7th thru 11th, 1995

Although we had hoped for the Tri-State to be a huge success we settled for a small success. After all, they're supposed to be mini reunions. We would have had seven more, but the **Woomer's**, **Stetler's**, **Ellsworth's** and **Clarence Marshall** had to cancel out due to health reasons. We hope you all are getting along fine and hope that things have improved. We missed you all very much.

Wednesday we opened the hospitality room with 26 in attendance and a good time was had by all and the War stories still continue after a drink or two.

Thursday 18 more arrived and most spent time at the Football Hall of Fame, President McKinleys Museum and Golfing.

Friday noon we left for a tour through the Amish Capitol of the World. The first stop was a visit at Warthers Museum where 44 were in awe of the many trains that Mr. Warther had carved before his death. Many stops were made throughout the Amish Country and the next to last one should not have been made as it was at Heini's Cheese House and too many made the mistake of trying to sample every kind of cheese available and spoiled their appetites for the Family Style dinner we had planned at the Amish Door Restaurant in our home town. No one left hungry and most added a few pounds before heading back to the Holiday Inn.

Saturday again was spent touring the Hall of Fame and Museum and a few went golfing or shooting the bull in the hospitality room, 71 attended the Banquet and later the hospitality room before retiring for the night and their trips back home on Sunday.

We thank all for coming and hope you had a enjoyable time as we did being your hosts.

Those in attendance were:

Warren and Donna Boli Co. L, 271st Infantry
Canton, Ohio

Jim and Tillie Boris Battery B, 881st Field Artillery
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Eugene and Norma Gene Butterfield Division Hq.
Rocky River, Ohio

Bill and Freda Clayton ... Headquarters, 269th Engineers
North Bend, Ohio

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

Tom and Thelma Deering Co. F, 271st Infantry
Akron, Ohio

(Continued on Page 35)

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

(Continued from Page 34)

Rico and Anne D'Angelo Battery C, 880th F.A.
Saltsburg, Pennsylvania

Bill and Mary Eakins Co. L, 271st Infantry
Canton, Ohio

Fred and Helen Fisher Battery B, 461st AAA
Canton, Ohio

Wendell and Sally Freeman Co. I, 272nd Infantry
Lawrenceville, Georgia

Ash and Arlene Fuller Co. I, 272nd Infantry
Reinholds, Pennsylvania

Bob and Wanda Grimm Co. L, 271st Infantry
Lancaster, Ohio

Lester E. Hart Battery C, 8801st F.A.
Williamsfield, Ohio

Dutch and Jeanne Hawn Division Hq.
Lakewood, Colorado

Ray and Leona Hull Co. A, 269th Engineers
Mechanicstown, Ohio

Jim Jones and Guest, Bill Lamont Co. C, 879th F.A.
Aurora, Ohio

Paul D. Kitner Co. A, 724th F.A.
Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania

Al and Margaret Kormas Headquarters, 879th F.A.
Lakewood, Ohio

Bob and Vivian Kurtzman, Sr. Co. I, 272nd Infantry
Lakewood, Ohio

Pat and Janice Lushbaugh Co. I, 272nd Infantry
Funkstown, Maryland

Jane Lynch Widow, Cannon, 271st Infantry
North Warren, Pennsylvania

Carl and Bernice Macknair Co. I, 273rd Infantry
McClure, Pennsylvania

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

Frank and Teddy Nemeth Co. B, 269th Engineers
Levittown, Pennsylvania

Brownie and AnnaBelle Parsons Co. A, 724th F.A.
Charleston, West Virginia

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

Gil and Susan Rocco Battery B, 881st F.A.
Erie, Pennsylvania

Bob and Jean Shaffer Co. C, 272nd Infantry
Canton, Ohio
Guests: Chris and Mary Krieling, Diane Shaffer, Mike
and Laurie Shaffer, David and Susan Shaffer

Bill and Reba Sheavly Co. M, 271st Infantry
Reistertown, Maryland

Ray Skudlarek Co. H, 273rd Infantry
Toledo, Ohio

Dale and Marietta VanFossen H2, 272nd Infantry
Mt. Vernon, Ohio

Harold Wepler Co. C, 724th F.A.
Guest: Edna Butzin
Genoa, Ohio

Charles Weaver Co. C, 272nd Infantry
Columbus, Ohio

Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr. Co. E, 273rd Infantry
Acme, Pennsylvania

Tom Yelich Co. I, 272nd Infantry
Livonia, Michigan

Lew and Fern Pugh Battery C, 880th F.A.
Cadiz, Ohio

Mid-West Group

Fran and Zita Enright, News Reporters
7304 West Georgia Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53220

1995 SPRING MEETING

The Midwest Group met at the Mead Inn in Wisconsin Rapids on May 18th, 19th, and 20th, 1995.

As usual, people drifted into the Hospitality Room on Thursday until the noise level got rather high. Dinner was at the Mead Inn that night.

We had eleven people who golf, and they set out with good weather on Friday morning. **John Barrette** took the rest of us to Consolidated Papers (from which **John** retired), to see their automated paper machine. A 19 foot wide web of paper moves at 34 mph, through numerous rolls and dryers, a distance of 520 feet from the head box to the paper reel. Robotic carts and computers are used to store paper in the warehouse and send it to the shipping area.

After lunch we visited the Alexander house in Port Edwards to learn some of the paper-making history of the area. We also had an interesting lecture on the history of cranberry growing in Wisconsin.

Dinner on Friday was at The Vintage, followed by another session in the Hospitality Room.

Watch the bulletin for news on the next Spring Meeting at Starved Rock State Park in Illinois. This one will be different.

New attendees were:

Marshall and June Mussay Co. H, 272nd Infantry
Glenview, Illinois

Ernest and Mary Krause Co. B, 269th Engineers
Addison, Illinois

Raymond and Arlene Bobber ... Service Btry., 881st F.A.
Appleton, Wisconsin.

The regulars present were:

John Barrette Headquarters, 271st Infantry
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin

Fred and Mavis Butenhoff Co. E, 272nd Infantry
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Fran and Zita Enright Battery A, 881st F.A.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Eugene and Marilyn Mischke ... Co. B, 273rd Infantry
Spring Valley, Illinois

Curt and Evelyn Peterson 569th Signal Company
Madison, Wisconsin

Ralph and Jo Plugge Co. G, 271st Infantry
Calumet City, Illinois

Gene and Ethel Pierron 661st Tank Destroyers
Belgium, Wisconsin

(Continued on Page 36)

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

(Continued from Page 35)

Phil and Harriet Sparacino Battery B, 881st F.A.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Gaylord and Ruth Thomas 777th Tank Battalion
Waupun, Wisconsin

Chuck and Pat Walsh 777th Tank Battalion
Glendale, Wisconsin

Wayen Weygandt and Thora Miller Co. B, 271st



Mary Krause, Phil Sparacino and Ray Bobber



**Raymond Bobber of Wisconsin Rapids,
Service Battery, 881st Field Artillery**



Ralph Pogge (back to camera), Marshall Mussay, Gene Pierron, Curt Peterson and Ernest Krause



Mavis Butenhoff, Evelyn Peterson, Jo Plugge, and Harriet Sparacino

Company D, 272nd Infantry

Richard W. Bell, News Reporter
16152 442nd Avenue
Florence, South Dakota 57235-5617
Telephone: 605/758-2166

Company D, 272nd Infantry held its 52nd Anniversary reunion on June 16th, 17th and 18th, 1995 in McHenry, Illinois. First Sergeant **Art Burkman** and his wife and children and families hosted the reunion.

The banquet and meeting were held at the Tamara Royal Inn, McHenry. Members from as far away as Louisiana were present. A guest of **Jack Burrus** was Gunnar Sacson of Wonder Lake, Illinois. **Jack Burrus'** brother, Charles, was captured by the Japanese on Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines and was part of the infamous Death March, and died in Camp O'Donnell. Gunnar was with him during this time.

Some time was spent at the residence of **Sergeant Burkman's** daughters on the beautiful Fox River and a sumptuous meal was enjoyed by all. Another sumptuous

(Continued on Page 37)

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

(Continued from Page 36)

meal was served at the **Burkman** residence in McHenry. This was most appreciated by all present.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we are hoping for the same next year. We plan on holding our next year reunion in Massachusetts. Further details will follow in future bulletins.

Battery C, 880th Field Artillery

Lowell McFarlin, News Reporter
89 North High Street, Box 236
Jeromesville, Ohio 44840

Our 16th Annual Reunion was held September 10th through the 14th at the beautiful Carlisle Village Inn in the small village of Walnut Creek, Ohio, in the heart of Amish Country. There were 40 members and guests present.

Those attending were:

Bill and Inez Sells Sebring, Florida
Marvin and Mary Reber Reading, Pennsylvania
Betty and Lee Meyer St. Marys, Pennsylvania
Bob and Irene Williams Lorain, Ohio
Henry and Lucille Abby Rome, New York
Lou and Jeanne Hoehing Lakeland, Florida
Bud and Millie Henson Sumnerdale, New Jersey

Don and Noi Henson Collinswood, New Jersey
Ralph and Dorothy Cowin Indianapolis, Indiana
Lloyd B. Cowin Indianapolis, Indiana
Cliff and Katherine Eley Columbus, Ohio
Enrico and Anne D'Angelo Saltsburg, Pennsylvania
Al and Marge Kormas Lakewood, Ohio
John and Helen Wallace Wellfleet, Massachusetts
Ray Mills Vincennes, Indiana
Lew and Fern Pugh Cadiz, Ohio
Leroy Goetz Slinger, Wisconsin
Bernice Vanler Heiden Menomone Falls, Wisconsin
Joe and Dottie Damato West Orange, New Jersey
Frank and Marie Habay Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Bob and Vivian Kurtzman Wilmot, Ohio
Lowell and Marjorie McFarlin Jeromesville, Ohio

Upon our arrival and after an evening meal at the next door Der Dutchman Restaurant, we had a program presented by a local lady who is a tour guide of the area. She spoke to us about the area and the friendly Amish people. Tuesday morning we visited the very interesting Wendell August Forge where they design and stamp out beautiful plates, plaques and medallions of copper and aluminum with various pictures and designs. We then journeyed to the Amish home of Andy and Maudle Rober for a delicious lunch and friendly visit. Tuesday evening we were entertained by a slide and talk presentation of a fascinating trip by a young lady who when in her early twenties, traveled alone with only her horse Mick, from Ohio to Virginia, then west across the U.S. to the Pacific Ocean. The trip was completed just short of a year's time. Fantastic! Following the slide presentation, we had our annual White Elephant gift take-away game.

Wednesday morning after a buffet brunch at the Dutch Valley Restaurant, we visited the David Warther Museum. David led us on a tour describing his carvings of ships made from ivory and telling of his famous grandfather's influence on his career of carving. The afternoon was spent visiting and touring the countryside. Our banquet Wednesday evening was a delicious meal served by the Der Dutchman Restaurant in the banquet room of the Inn. Following the meal **Marvin Reber** showed his video pictures taken during the trip that the **Rebers** and **Meyers** took with the 69th to Europe for the 50th Anniversary of World War II. back to the Elbe. After **Marvin's** pictures, **Bill Sells** again entertained us with his annual Care Package. **Cliff Eley** was the recipient of **Bill's** diligent search this year.

Thursday morning we once again had our goodbyes as we parted and went our separate ways hoping we will be able to all join together in 1996 in Lexington, Virginia - our site for 1996.

(Continued on Page 38)



Front row: Ray Mills, Joe Damato, Lew Pugh, Marvin Reber, Henry Abbe, John Wallace. 2nd Row: Lou Hoehing, Lowell McFarlin, Leroy Goetz, Bud Henson, Don Henson, Lee Meyer, Enrico D'Angelo, Cliff Eley. 3rd Row: Ralph Cowin, Bill Sells, Al Kormas, Bob Williams, Frank Habay, Bud Cowin. Absent from Photo: Bob Kurtzman.



The Ladies of the 880th: Front Row: Helen Wallace, Lucille Abbe, Noi Henson, Betty Meyer, Mary Reber, Dottie Damato. 2nd Row: Jeanne Hoehing, Irene Williams, Dorothy Cowin, Marjorie McFarlin, Katherine Eley, Millie Henson, Anne D'Angelo. 3rd Row: Bernice Vanler Heiden, Margaret Kormas, Marie Habay, Fern Pugh, Inez Sells. Absent from Photo: Vivian Kurtzman



Carlisle Village Inn: Lou Hoehing, Leroy Goetz, Al Kormas, Enrico D'Angelo and Jeanne Hoehing.

Battery A, 880th Field Artillery

John G. Barnett, News Reporter
6374 Brandywine Trail
Norcross, Georgia 30092
Telephone: 770/448-6513

Battery A, 880th Field Artillery Battalion, celebrated its 10th annual reunion October 25th-28th, 1995 with the 69th Division in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The

following attended: Frank and Joan Alfiero, John and Pat Barnett, James and Geneva Bilbrey, George and Edna Blume, Izzy and Ruth Bombardier, (Izzy is Mayor of Concordia, Kansas), Bill and Shirley Dunn, Joe and Doris Ellis, (first-timers), Tom and Betty Ellis, Lloyd and Janice Gerth, Margie Harreld, Hugh and Anita Hawkins (newly-weds), Joy Northern, Frank and Bertha Olson, Duffy and Rose Redmond, and Rex and Ruby Sausaman. Visitors were: Tim and Peggy Pangle, Keith and Jean Bilbrey, and "Jeep" and Margrit Frasier (879th F.A.) A special guest who stopped by was Lt. Col. (USA-Ret.) Louie N. Rodgers, whom we all remember as General Reinhart's aide.

We were quartered in the Palace Resort Condos, next door to Division and much visiting back and forth took place. Frank and Joan Alfiero, B Battery, 880th F.A., co-hosted the 69th Division Reunion with George and Rita Wolff, and Frank kept us posted on what was happening.

Several of our members were unable to attend because of health

reasons. We missed them and wish them well and hope to see them next year.

At our business meeting on Friday night, we decided to hold our 1996 reunion in Florence, Kentucky, site of our first reunion in 1986. Dates are September 25-28 and details will be provided as they become known.

Company I, 271st Infantry

Robert Jorgenson, News Reporter
619 8th Avenue North
Onalaska, Wisconsin
Telephone: 608/783-5006

The 14th annual reunion of members of I-Company, 271st, was held in Seattle, Washington on June 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th, 1995. Hy Kurfirst was our host and members and their wives stayed at the Mayflower Park Hotel.

Members in attendance were:

Richard Haines	Joe McMurry
Jack Harrison	Eugene "Doc" O'Leary
Marty Miller	"Gus" Swanberg
Harold L. Jones	Dale Thompson
Robert Jorgenson	Frank Warther
Hy Kurfirst	A. Leigh Tenney
Robert McMillan	Harris Timmer

The 1996 reunion will be held in LaCrosse, Wisconsin on June 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th and will be hosted by Bob Jorgenson. More news on this in the next bulletin. Thank you.

(Continued on Page 39)

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

(Continued from Page 38)

California Western Chapter

Delbert E. Philpott, *President and News Reporter*
P.O. Box 2014

Sunnydale, California 94087-0014

Telephone: 408/739-0308



Delbert and Donna Philpott

Our third Annual Spring Round-Up was held in Sacramento, California at the Vaga-bond Inn May 31-June 5, 1995. The location was ideally located one block from "Old Sacramento" on the Sacramento River. The program was planned by our Northern Area Site Selection Committee Representative, **Al Gwynne**, who was assisted by his wife, **Bobbi**.

Scheduled events started with a guided tour of the

California State Capitol Building Thursday morning. A sightseeing "Hop Around" shuttle service provided our members the opportunity to visit all the historic sites around Sacramento, such as, Sutters Fort and the Indian Museum. The weather refused to cooperate with our Friday Evening Pool Party so it reverted to a PX Party in the Hospitality Room.

Saturday was a busy day starting with a two-hour Champagne Brunch Riverboat Cruise on the "Spirit of Sacramento", a tripledeck sternwheel paddleboat. The boat was once owned by John Wayne and used in the movie "Blood Alley" starring John Wayne and Lauren Bacall. The cruise was outstanding and cold champagne flowed like the Sacramento River. The Saturday Evening Dinner Dance was held at the Jazzman's Art of Pasta Restaurant in Old Sacramento. The Memorial Service was ably conducted by our Chaplain, **John Pereira**, music for dancing was provided by **Al Gwynne**.

The Hospitality Room this year was especially nice, situated adjacent to the pool. In addition to a fully stocked bar, snacks, and hors d'oeuvres, a complimentary breakfast of coffee, tea, orange juice, and Danish was served each morning.

We received a notice from **Bill Ruebsamen** that cast a shadow over the gathering. **Bill's** wife, **Pat**, passed away unexpectedly March 30, 1995. A sympathy card was signed by all present and sent to **Bill**. **Pat** will be missed by all her friends.

Round-Up attendance of 32 members represented Arizona, California, and first-timers, **Wade and Marcia**

(Continued on Page 40)



California Western Chapter Members ready to Board the "Spirit of Sacramento" for the Champagne Brunch River Cruise June 3rd, 1995.

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

(Continued from Page 39)

Drysdale from Sunnyside, Washington. Letters of regret were received from many members because of scheduled conflicts. However, the level of interest is very encouraging. As a note of interest, many of the "regrets" included generous contributions to the Treasury. We wish to thank all who contributed.

Attendees were:

Bill Robertson.....Culver City, California
Eldon and Marjie Atwood.....San Diego, California
Harold and Nancy Faulkner...Walnut Creek, California
John and Mary Pereira.....Napa, California
Al and Bobbi Gwynne.....Novato, California
John and Dena Tounger.....Oakland, California
Orville and Beulah Schultz...Arroyo Grande, California
Bob and Theresa Pierce.....San Jose, California
Sam and Ethel Johnson..Huntington Beach, California
Stan and Lois Hawks.....Lemoore, California
Earl and Matilde Ramsey..Lake View Terrace, California
Delbert and Donna Philpott.....Sunnyvale, California
Walter and Shirley Harpain.....Fresno, California
Bob Shaw and Guest.....San Jose, California
Lee Wilson and Jan Krementz.....Stockton, California
Wade and Marcia Drysdale.....Sunnyside, Washington
Grant Brown.....Prescott, Arizona

The business meeting held Saturday afternoon generally addressed minutes of the 1994 meeting, Treasurer's report, future round-up sites and election of Officers. **Harold Faulkner** volunteered to accept the one year remaining on **Bill Ruebsamen's** term as Director due to **Bill's** resignation. Election results:

President: Delbert Philpott
Vice President: John Tounger
Treasurer: Lee Wilson
Secretary: Sam Johnson

The majority of attendees also were on **Bill Beswick's** 1995 European Tour of Europe to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Division's meeting with the Russians at the Elbe River. **Bill Beswick** is to be commended for his dedication and success of the tour. Needless to say, our Hospitality Room was filled with pictures, scrapbooks, antidotes, such as, the "Saga of the elusive PJs." **John Tounger** had a story for each of the massive collection of Russian pins he displayed.

The Chapter had a special treat furnished by (Lt.) **William D. Robertson**. **Bill** gave a presentation regarding his personal experiences during the ceremony and festivities at Torgau and Strehla. **Bill** was paid the ultimate tribute by the City of Torgau when the Mayor and City Council proclaimed **William D. Robertson** an Honorary Citizen of Torgau. **Bill Robertson** was requested by the Presidential Whitehouse Staff to accompany President Clinton on Air Force One to Moscow, Russia for the May 8th WWII VE-Day celebration. I will leave the story for **Bill** to tell, but he did display pictures, souvenirs, and memorabilia that covered two 6-foot long tables. "Way to go, **Bill**."

Plans for a 1996 Chapter meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, are slowly sinking into the sunset. Cheap advertised prices are fill-in's for vacancies on an individual basis. Tour agencies will not accept long-range reservations for groups at these reasonable prices. Group reservations range from 30% to 100% higher than the attractive advertised rates.

The Site Committee is now considering our alternate location in the Palm Springs area for 1996. Registered members will receive the location and details via mail. Other 69'ers interested in attending our Chapter Round-Up in the Palm Springs area tentatively planned for April 18th to 21st, 1996 should contact **Delbert Philpott** at the address at the beginning of this article. Thank You.

661st Tank Destroyers

Fred and Nancy Baumgartner, Reporters
 1465 Fergason Avenue
 Spring Hill, Florida, 34609

The T.D.s held their reunion in Weeki Wachi, Florida on October 19 to 21, 1996, hosted by **Fred and Nancy Baumgartner** of Spring Hill, Florida.

During the day, everyone was on their own visiting the local attractions, such as: Weeki Wachi Springs with live mermaids; the Rogers Christmas House where it is Christmas all year. Some even went to the local flea markets where many treasures were found. On Thursday evening, a group of 41 gathered at Brewmasters Restaurant and on Friday, the Sorrentos Restaurant served 57 dinners to our group.

Sixty-three people attended the buffet banquet at the Holiday Inn on Saturday night. U.S. Flag pins were given out to **Paul Cole**, **Ed Golden**, and **Anthony Polito** for returning to the reunion after many years absence. T.D. pins were given to two members traveling the greatest distance: **Warren and Dorothy Mitchell** from San Francisco and **Verle and Emma McNealy** from Orange, California.

After dinner each evening, everyone gathered in the Hospitality Room at the Holiday Inn where they shared memories and brought each other up-to-date on their present lives. A training film on one of the tank destroyers was shown by **Bill Beswick**.

Those members (with wives & guests) were: **Ray Anderson**, **Fred Baumgartner**, **Bill Beswick**, **Ralph Bragg**, **Vito Capobianco**, **Paul Cole**, **Bill Dawson**, **Stanley Flak**, **Sam Goldberg**, **Ed Golden**, **Stanley Green**, **Walter Jamerson**, **Michael Kotnik**, **Leo Levie**, **Mack Marbury**, **Richard McKinnon**, **Verle McNealy**, **Warren Mitchell**, **Edwin Patterson**, **Eugene Pierron**, **Anthony Polito**, **Marcel Pugsley**, **George Ringer**, **John Sherlock**, **Jules Slopek**, **Bill Snidow**, **Bill Wahl**, **Chuck Yannul**.

The 1996 Tank Destroyer Reunion will be held in Salem, Virginia in October (date unknown at present). Hosts will be **Ellen and Bill Snidow**, Route 1, Box 303, Pembroke, Virginia 24136.

Company G, 271st Infantry

Carl A. Miller, 69th M.P., News Reporter
 1016 Marion Road
 Bucyrus, Ohio 44820

The Elbe festivities for 1995 are over and it was a great experience for all 69ers who were fortunate enough to be there. I and a couple of friends from G Company, namely **Glenn Hunnicut** and his lovely wife **Nadine**,

(Continued on Page 41)

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

(Continued from Page 40)

Scott Gresham and his friend **Lvall Steger**, a World War II Marine, decided to arrange our own tour at the same time as the 69ers tour with the expectation of joining them in Leipzig and the festivities in Torgau and Strehla, which we eventually did.

We wanted to follow the path the 69th Division took in 1945 from the Seigfried Line to the Elbe. We took the time to find the places that were significant to each of us, the houses we stayed in, the areas where we experienced combat, a little country church we remembered and spent time visiting with local German people who remembered the American soldiers who were there 50 years ago.

The German people were very interested in our return to their towns and small villages and were very cooperative and helpful in our search for places that were meaningful to us. When we stopped to inquire about certain places, our audience would grow as local people would come up to find out what was going on in their little village.

In **Dickerschied**, a small village where G Company engaged the enemy, suffering casualties and ending up capturing 75 or 80 German soldiers, we spent considerable time visiting with people who remembered; they were so enthused one of them gave us souvenirs from the war that he had saved for 50 years.

We had no hotel reservations in our travels but always were able to find interesting and enjoyable accommodations.

Our tour started in **Frankfurt** and places visited were **Heildeberg**, **Remagen**, **Meschied**, **Schmidtheim**, **Dickerschied**, **Malmedy**, **Bastogne**, **Rotenberg**, **Kassel** and on to **Weisenfels** and **Leipzig** where we joined up with the 69th tour and then to **Torgau** and **Strehla**.

A trip such as this puts a lot more responsibility on you, doing the driving, finding the way, finding a restaurant and overnight accommodations. We missed a few turns and got lost occasionally, but always found our destination. **Scott Gresham** did most of the driving, doing a great job. We suffered no mishaps. Our tour was a great experience for each of us.

Battery B, 881st Field Artillery

Gene Tabacchi, News Reporter
200 Rex Avenue
Wintersville, Ohio 43952

Baker Battery, 881st Field Artillery, held its annual roll call on the Thursday night of the Division Reunion at Myrtle Beach.

The tone during and after dinner was markedly subdued compared to our gatherings of the past. Maybe it's because we see the "Taps" pages becoming fuller with each passing year. More probably, it was because we were all disappointed because some of our favorite friends from **Camp Shelby** and points

east could not join us. For health reasons, we know **Phil Sparacino** of Milwaukee, **Barney DeStefano** of Fort Lauderdale, **Dick Stoddard** of Steamboat Springs, Colorado and **Jean Kohl** of Hastings, Nebraska, could not make it. We hope they mend and can be with us once again, while realizing that the sands of our times flow to their inevitable end. We missed them but remembered them, all good soldiers and all good friends.

We who were there enjoyed the camaraderie sparked a half century ago. The food was good and made better by the troubadour from Elko, Nevada, **Emil Matys**. **Emil** was prohibited from being his usual happy man with his horn, but entertained us with his unlimited flow of jokes and impressions. Thanks, **Emil**. Maybe next year we can dine where your horn will be welcome and you can entertain us and the other guests. If a piano is handy, **Gil Rocco** can give you a break as he gives us "Spanish Eyes" and more of his favorites and ours.

In addition to our two entertainers, also present were **Walt Haag**, the first soldier as always; **Jimmy Moen**, whose health seems a little better; **Ray Derr** and **Marion**; **Jim** and **Tillie Boris**; **Hazel Paul Mallard**; **Dan** and **Margie Sparks**, and **Gene** and **Jackie Tabacchi**.

Hank Sarnicki was registered but he left early, before most of us had a chance to see him. **Albert Bell** dropped by for a few words, as did **Hugh Milstead** and his gracious Tennessee belle.

Most of us enjoyed **Magic on Ice**, a skating show presented in a new theater; we were less enchanted by our tour of **Charleston**. The tour was fine but the long ride there and the inexcusable waiting without knowing what we were waiting for was not. There were other tours which yours truly passed up, but **Jim Boris** had his best golf extravaganza ever - the **Boris Open**. **Jim** has become an accomplished impresario, the **Barnum** of **Baker Battery**.

The most voiced complaint was the limited availability of the hospitality room. We were spread around among

(Continued on Page 42)



Front: **Jim** and **Tillie Boris**, **Marian Derr**, **Sue Rocco**, **Jackie** and **Gene Tabacchi**. Back: **Hazel Paul Mallard**, **Walter Haag**, **Ray Derr**, **Gil Rocco**, **Jim Moen** and **Emil Matys**.

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

(Continued from Page 41)

three or four hotels, with the most common meeting place the lobby of the Best Western, center of most reunion activities. Now why couldn't the hospitality room be made available for most of the time. Booze wouldn't have to be available around the clock, but surely some chips, natchos, pretzels and popcorn could be. More importantly, an open hospitality room would give us a comfortable place to talk with old friends of the past and to update each other with our most recent successes, sorrows or hopes.

Commendations are in order for **Matys**; he not only entertained us at our Battery dinner, he brought light and gaiety to our round table communions in the hospitality room. The night of the PX Beer Party he was in his element. He and his horn entertained all evening, even sitting in with the band. He, **Sarge** and **Rocco** kept our party going long "after the ball was over." In fact, the Baker Battery contingent was one of the last to leave the room. The same goes for **Rocco**, who not only entertained us but also looked tenderly after his **Sue**, and our **Sue**, who was not feeling well. She deserves a medal just for making the long trek from Erie and home.

And remember those who left us forever during the past year - **Weldman**, **Murphy** and **Newman**.



Marion Spelock of Marmet, West Virginia, is obviously proud of his Mountain State. Since only one vanity license plate is allowed, **Marion** surely has to be the state's No. 1 booster. **Marion** was a gun sergeant in Charlie Battery, 879th Field Artillery Battalion and later served as acting First Sergeant of Baker Battery, 307th Field Artillery Battalion of the 78th Division while it was stationed in Bederkesa, Germany, just outside of Bremerhaven. Serving with him there was **Gene Tabacchi** of Baker Battery, 881st Field Artillery Battalion. Their paths were never to cross again until a chance encounter during the reunion at Myrtle Beach. **Tabacchi** was a newspaperman most of his civilian life, while **Spelock** was a teacher and coach.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *Gene, your health memo that you sent for the last bulletin arrived after the bulletin was in the mail. It is not in this time, as this article you sent covers that information.*)

Headquarters Battery and Medical Detachment 461st AAA AW Battalion

Francis (Frenchy) H. Breyette, News Reporter

1137 Orkla Drive

Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427-4441

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 13th, 14th and 15th, 1995, we held our 12th reunion at the Quality Motel in Salem, Virginia. Several arrived on Thursday and a number remained over until Monday noon for a last hurrah!

It was noted that a number were a step slower but with no less enthusiasm entered into the action. Supper time arrived and all piled into our cars and vans and proceeded to Morrison's Cafeteria in downtown Roanoke for a good and satisfying supper.

We had the Montgomery-Franklin Room for the weekend and spent Friday evening setting up a display of framed nature photographs by **Frenchy Breyette** who is an accomplished nature photographer, and artifacts along one of the walls which was as usual, impressive. Personal and wartime photo albums were on nearly every table. **Paul Kowalczyk** furnished a large magazine from Caen, France commemorating Normandy's Conquering Spirit and The 50th Anniversary of D-Day. **Paul** also brought along brochures on the World War II Liberty Ship, John W. Brown, the last operational ship of WW II.

Roy Currier presented **Frenchy** with a present and brochures of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and of Historic Michie Tavern, near Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia dating back to 1784. A number of special albums and other artifacts were on display. Thanks everyone, it was splendid.

Allen Whitley brought a box of delicious apples for all to enjoy. **Mac** and **Madge Morris**, in addition to being busy as reunion secretaries and keeping all records and monies, furnished each of us with beautiful white caps sporting in red, the 461st logo and our historical Coast Artillery bird, the Oozlefinch. Thanks to all these beautiful people!

Saturday we were in and out of the Montgomery Room, with **Ed Griffin** furnishing a delicious lunch. Thank you, **Ed**.

Sunday evening at six, we gathered in the same room for a delicious buffet. **Ed Moore** led us in prayer for the food and those in attendance. As usual, **Louis Jones** was superb as our Master of Ceremonies, and being a salesman he comes with a galaxy of great jokes.

Ed Griffin expressed appreciation to all but would like to be relieved of the job of scheduling the reunion, as he has been doing the past few years. We expressed our gratitude for **Ed's** work and **Allen Whitley** agreed to take over.

Mac Morris now led us in prayer for the families of our deceased, **Charles Goodwin** and **Carl Mosher**, also remembering **J.D. Blackwell**, to be given strength during his time of recovery. Our guests were then introduced.

Margaret Bryson and **Linda Truitt** gave gifts to the ladies and then we adjourned.

(Continued on Page 43)

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

(Continued from Page 42)

Again it was a grand reunion and a very warm and loving one. We had new additions to the family as new sons and daughters and grandchildren of our men appeared and like all, they will be back again and again. A hearty welcome to one and all. We can be extraordinarily proud of our group!

Following is a list of those attending the reunion of 1995:

James and Maxie Arnold Rural Retreat, Virginia
Francis and Eleanor Breyette... Golden Valley, Minnesota
Joseph and Margaret Bryson.....Elkton, Maryland

*Guests: Richard and Lynda Bryson,
Gregory and Matthew*

Filmore and Marie Cassell Ceres, Virginia
John and Elsie Chambliss Victoria, Virginia
Roy and Ethel Currier Charlottesville, Virginia
Charles Edward Griffin Canton, Ohio
Bill and Ellen Hopkins Stanley, Virginia
Louis and Ruth Jones Greenville, North Carolina
Paul and Bertha Kowalchek Baltimore, Maryland
John and Connie Lane Newport News, Virginia
Paul and Ethel Lovelace Abingdon, Virginia
Edwin and Wilda McClelland Fallbrook, California
Bruce, Susie, John Scott,

Travis and Hannah Marshall Scottsville, Virginia
Mrs. Jane Patterson Charlottesville, Virginia
Ed and Belle Moore Abingdon, Virginia
Mac and Madge Morris Arlington, Virginia
Guests: Ken, Fay and Barbara Morris

Tom Musselwhite Roanoke, Virginia
Howard and Maxine Sandefur.....Glade Spring, Virginia
Ben and Linda Truitt Elkton, Maryland
Cecil and Irma Twigg LaVale, Maryland
Wallace and Betty Ullery..... Cumberland, Maryland
Bill and Lois Vanderwerp Grand Rapids, Michigan
Paul, Karen and Sarah Wedl Middletown, Maryland
Allen and Dorothy Whitley..... Marion, Virginia
Guest: Carry Scott (Dorothy's aunt).. Roanoke, Virginia
Ralph and Isabel Yingling Frederick, Maryland

Headquarters Battery 880th Field Artillery

John J. O'Connor, News Reporter
9321 Jefferson
Brookfield, Illinois 60513-1209

Headquarters Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion, held their mini reunion in conjunction with the National. We had 18 for our breakfast meeting and we had 26 present for our own dinner banquet in the Coquina room of the Landmark Hotel. It was very nice to see all our members after a year gone by and all looked very well.

The members present for our events were: **Bill and Loretta Stump** (Service Battery), **George and Edna Blume**, **Art and Mary D'Antonio**, **Bill and Katherine Suckel**, **Gene and Carolyn McGreevy**, **John and Doris Cooper**, **Robert and Marilyn McKee**, **Emil and Peggy Paoletta**, **Howard and Barbara Carlton**, **Stan and Georgia Bratt**, **Mike and Lucille Pendrick** and **John and Peggy O'Connor**. Guests were: **Patricia and John**

Barnett. John was the former C.O. of A Battery. All enjoyed seeing **John** and **Pat** and meeting both and especially **John**, after more than 50 years. **John Cooper** and **John Barnett** were two of the best and well liked officers in our Battalion.

The national reunion went well and I think all enjoyed the visit to Myrtle Beach. The weather was great and the tours were good. The committee is to be complimented on their hard work.

Schaumburg, Illinois is our next reunion. Save your shekels and plan ahead for this one in 1996, Lord willing.



Gene McGreevy, lucky winner at our breakfast meeting.



Stan and Georgia Bratt



Bill and Katherine Suckel

(Continued on Page 44)

DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS, COMPANIES AND GROUP MINI-WEEKENDS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES (Continued from Page 43)

*Men of Headquarters,
880th Field Artillery Battalion.*

Back Row: Bill Stump (Service Btry.), George Blume, Art D'Antonio, John Barnett, Bill Suckel, Gene McGreevy, John Cooper, Bob McKee.

Front Row: Emil Paoletta, Howard Carlton, Stan Bratt, Mike Pendrick and John O'Connor.



The Ladies, Below

Back Row: Edna Blume, Barbara Carlton, Katherine Suckel, Peggy Paoletta, Carolyn McGreevy, Pat Barnett, Doris Cooper, Marilyn McKee. Front Row: Loretta Stump, Peggy O'Connor, Lucille Pendrick, Georgia Bratt and Mary D'Antonio.



John and Peggy O'Connor



Bill and Loretta Stump - Barbara and Howard Carlton



Mike and Lucille Pendrick

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

(Continued from Page 44)

Company D, 273rd Infantry

Kenneth A. Sawyer, News Reporter

2935 Turtle Mound Road
Melbourne, Florida 32934
Telephone: 407/254-7175

The Myrtle Beach Reunion brought a new high in attendance of our members and guests. We had previously only been able to tie the attendance mark of 25 which was first reached in Orlando back in 1984. Now we have the figure of 33 to aim for in future reunions. Of course, each passing year thins our ranks and increases our infirmities. Those of us who can still travel, but have yet to attend a reunion, might recognize that the option may end at any time.

We welcomed some First-Timers in Myrtle Beach: **John Phillips** and his wife **Bernice** and daughter **Patty** of North Canton, Ohio and **James Sprinkle** and his wife **Katherine** of Hiddenite, North Carolina were warmly greeted by the others. **John** served in Headquarters Company and **James** was in the 3rd platoon.

Alvin Bryant of Durham, North Carolina was another first-timer. **Al**, accompanied by his son **Johnnie**, signed in early and attended functions late in the week. We looked for him all week but to no avail. At the banquet, he and his son were seated with another unit; our 30 seat table was full. So we did not get to meet and greet them, but **Al** tells me that they were warmly welcomed by other 69ers. **Alvin** and his twin brother **Calvin** were members of the third platoon. **Calvin** passed away in January 1994.

The other attendees were: **Art Ayres** and his son **Kenneth** from Pennsylvania; **Allan** and **Mary Blackmar** and guests **Jim** and **Evelyn Stone**, all from New York; **Ed** and **Mary Case** from Pennsylvania; **Harry** and **Alberta Chandler** from Washington; **Paul** and **Elaine Gornbein** from New York; **Roland** and **Jan Hendrickson** from Oregon; **George** and **Barbara Johnson** from Virginia; **Bob** and **Betty Jo McCarty** from Louisiana; **Dan** and **Cathy McHugh** from Virginia; **Bud Mohr** from New York; **John** and **Helen Optl** and guests **Joe** and **Patty Benn**, all from Illinois; and **Ken Sawyer** and guest **Fran Collard** from Florida. **Patty Benn** is **John** and **Helen's** daughter.

There were more early arrivals at this reunion. Large gatherings of us could frequently be found in the hospitality room all week long. By Tuesday evening we had over a dozen at the Springhouse Family Restaurant for dinner. Most of us went to watch the Magic on Ice show on Wednesday evening. Twenty of us took in the Dixie Stampede on Thursday evening for a show and dinner. Over 25 members got together at the Anchor Inn Restaurant on Friday evening. These spirited gatherings brought back fond memories of past reunions and experiences during "the" war. First-Timers were soon on familiar terms with the rest of this close-knit group. Many units at our reunions are represented by only a couple members, but we are fortunate to be able to rely on finding 20 or more people waiting to shake our hands and welcome us each year.

Many of those who were at Myrtle Beach are planning to be at the reunion to be held in Schaumburg, Illinois next August. We hope that many of our buddies will join us. It is always a thrill to have some First-Timers show up. It's a chance to get acquainted or reacquainted with Chicago and northern Illinois and a chance to take a cruise on Lake Michigan. But, most of all, it is one more chance to get together with former comrades-in-arm. Chances are getting fewer every year. How about it?



Company D, 273rd Infantry at the Myrtle Beach Reunion

Rear: **Ken Ayres**, **Ken Sawyer**, **Roland Hendrickson**, **Evelyn Stone**, **George Johnson**, **Ed Case**, **Bob McCarty**, **Harry Chandler**, **Alberta Chandler**, **John Phillips**, and **Jim Stone**. Front: **Art Ayres**, **Fran Collard**, **Jan Hendrickson**, **Barbara Johnson**, **Mary Case**, **Betty Jo McCarty**, **Patty Phillips**, **Beatrice Phillips**, **Mary Blackmar**, and **Allan Blackmar**.

(Continued on Page 46)

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

(Continued from Page 45)

Battery D, 461st AAA Battalion

Guy Stamey, News Reporter

56 Youngs Drive

Candler, North Carolina 28715

Telephone: 704/667-9526

"D" Battery of the 461st AAA reunion was held June 15th and 16th at the First Baptist Church in Asheville. Those attending were **Robert Williams, Warren and Jeannie Seigmond, Alden and Mayben Augline, Ernest Brown, Rex Avery and family, John Gulash and family, Don and Ruth Tindell, Floyd and Margaret Locklear, Geary Locklear and wife, John and Jeane Wagner, Leon and Vivian Morris, Ron and Alene Janocha, Carl and Vivian Fitchlutt, James and Jessie Oxley, Dove Edwards, Margaret Freeman, Arthur and Billie McNeil, Johnny and Hazel Rhymer, Hugh and Margaret Stikeleather, Thomas Jacobs and family, Louis Bock, wife Ruth and granddaughter, Charles and Jean Smith, Allen and Jean Tyler, Edwin and Mary Whitaker, Lonnie Isreal, James and Pearl Jones, Diane, Deidra and Adam Belcher, William, Susan and Alex Deese, and Guy and Ruth Stamey.** There were others whom did not sign our register.

Thursday night all went to Gerald's Sea Food Restaurant and were entertained by Johnny Rhymer and his band, Friday all went to Lake Julian for a picnic and memorial service, Friday night the church prepared our dinner.

Warren and Jeannie took the scripts of the Battery history from the 69th bulletin and put it in a book form with a nice cover with the picture of our First Sergeant **John English** on the first page with a message to our Battery. (See following page). All want to thank **Warren and Jeannie** for the work they did.

LeRoy Neiman sent the Battery a photo of himself with his handle bar mustache that everyone enjoyed and tried to get a snapshot of. By the way, I saw on television where **LeRoy** had given six million dollars to Columbia University of New York.

The committee here in Asheville asks that someone else take the next reunion to some other place but all wanted it back in Asheville, so if our health permits, we will be back in Asheville in '97. Most all our members and families are experiencing health problems which is expected at our age.



From Omaha Beach to the breakthrough at St. Lo, then past Paris to the Siegfried Line, on to the Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge), and then ... continuing to Torgau on the Elbe River where we meet up with the Russians and end the war May 8, 1945. Rightly proud, our Battery "D" fought as a family and helped defeat the enemy on many fronts.

We traveled 1,700 miles together...and had been in actual combat in the field for a year. We cared for each other. We lived together, fought together and came home together... **ALIVE!**

For this we owe it to each other to keep this comradeship alive forever. Our reunions have been a revelation. A wonderful demonstration of togetherness and caring and friendship.

Regardless of station in life, regardless of religion, personal or political differences, we meet on a common ground to rekindle our honest feelings of genuine comradeship which helped us survive a war that was cruel and painful... and we did it in triumph.

God bless us, each and every one!

Sergeant John English (1983)

Notice to all 69ers

Come on fellows, send in your stories and memories from your infantry days. Send us a story about the closest call you had. Or perhaps the funniest thing that happened to you when you were in the service.

If you want to see more articles on your particular unit, then send them in. All of the material you see printed in the bulletin is sent to us by you, the members. We do not single out or show preference to any particular unit. It is just that some of the units send in material and others don't.

Also, if you have old newspaper articles from the 40's or even from the Stars and Stripes, send those in. They make excellent reading.

We are waiting to hear from you, so don't disappoint us.

**1997 69th Infantry
Division 50th Annual
Reunion
DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS
AUGUST 17 TO 24, 1997**

Annual Meeting of Officers and Board of Directors

69TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN.

OCTOBER 26TH, 1995

MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

President Peterson called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. with 25 Board Members present and quorum was declared. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Joe Wright** and the invocation was given by **Chaplain Snidow**.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the meeting held in Nashville, Tennessee on August 25, 1994 were not read since these minutes appeared in the Bulletin Volume 48, No. 1. The motion was made and seconded that these minutes be accepted. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The report was covered by **Treasurer Matlach** and the balances were reported. Two reports were given - #1 for the period of January 1, 1994 to December 31, 1994 and, #2 for the period of January 1, 1995 to September 30, 1995. In report #1 income was \$125,166.60 and expenses of \$124,324.12, for a net increase of \$842.48. The major expense was the cost of printing four Bulletins in the period, due to the billing period by the printer. In report #2, the income was \$88,768.62 and expenses were \$25,437.65, with net change of \$63,330.97, the cause of this surplus is due to the unpaid obligations for the reunion as of this meeting date. This report had been reviewed and approved by **Auditor Lucci**. The motion was made and seconded that the report be accepted. Motion was passed. The financial report as submitted becomes a part of the minutes of this meeting.

Membership Report: Report made by **Chairman Kurtzman**. He reported that on February 9, 1991 we had 5713 members and by present date we have dropped to 5317 members. There are a number on the listing that have no unit designation. Inasmuch as this represented a large amount of work to compile these figures, **Joe Wright** proposed that **Chairman Kurtzman** be given a round of applause for his dedication. It was brought to the attention of the members in attendance that **Clarence Marshall** is under 24 hour nursing care.

Bulletin Report: Editor **Witzleb** was not in attendance and no report was presented.

Resolutions and By-Laws: **Parliamentarian Wright** advised there was no report.

Scholarships: This program was terminated therefore no report was considered necessary.

Reunion Site Committee:

1996: **Vice President Pierce** advised that this reunion has been set for Schaumburg, Illinois, (about 20 miles west of Chicago). Reunion dates are August 18th to August 25th, 1996 at the Hyatt Regency Woodfield. **Ernie Krause** will be Chairman for this reunion and spoke to the members on the plans for this reunion. There are numerous tours planned and one specifically will be Gangstertown, based on the Al Capone theme. Other tours include Exploring Lake County, a Lake Michigan Cruise, Cantigny "A Trip back in Time," plus a Chicago Tour.

1997: **Reunion Chairman Putala** reported on Danvers, Massachusetts (approximately 25 miles north of Boston). Rate will be about \$72.00 per night, and there is the possibility of about a 3% increase in this figure. **Chairman Putala** advised there is a golf course on the premises but further negotiation by the Golf Committee Chairman is necessary for greens fees. Restaurants on premises, several fast food type. Tours include whale watch, trip to see historical sections of Boston, trips to Boston Commons, Plymouth Rock, Salem, Lexington and Concord. Dates of reunion August 17th to August 24th, 1997. Motion made and seconded we meet in Danvers, Massachusetts. Motion carried.

1998: **Vice President Pierce** noted that there was no one who stepped forward to handle a reunion for this year. **Vice President Pierce** indicates that reunion costs will escalate because locations with economical costs do not have the hotel capacity to block about 330 rooms or have a 10,000 sq. ft. ballroom to hold dinner dance. It was suggested that for this year the reunion be moved west to Salt Lake City, San Antonio or possibly Dallas. Further work and consideration is necessary to determine the recommendations next year.

Legal Advisor: **Advisor Butterfield** reported regarding the "Report of Committee appointed to Plan Distribution of the Association's surplus funds prior to Dissolution." After much deliberation by **Butterfield, Powell and Zaffern**, it was determined that nothing should be done at this time. Further, in light of the study, they recommend that the committee should be dissolved. Motion was made and seconded that committee be dissolved, and thanks given for their work. Motion passed.

Overseas Flower Fund: **Secretary Sheavly** reported the balance in the Flower Fund Escrow account at the U.S. Embassy in Paris to be \$230. Request was made to send U.S. Embassy a check for \$200 to cover upcoming decorations. Proposal was made to investigate if flags could be placed on the graves at Margraten and Henri-Chappelle cemeteries. Letter will be written requesting information and costs involved.

Nominating Committee: **Chairman Zubroski** was unprepared to present slate to the Board and that slate would be presented at the General Meeting.

Old Business: None

New Business: **Vice President Pierce** presented recommendations for paid rooms and suites to those Officers and various Chairman of committees. As follows: Paid 2 room suite to President, Reunion Committee Chairman, Treasurer, Membership Committee Chairman. Full Paid room to Editor Bulletin, Sunshine Lady. Half paid room to Vice President, Secretary, Souvenir Sales (2) (1/2 paid room each). There are some restrictions to obtain the above: (1) Must attend the Reunion to receive benefit. (2) Credit is not cumulative or transferrable. (3) Payment is for maximum of seven nights during reunion. (4) Hotel receipt is required for reimbursement. (5) Complimentary rooms and/or room credits are to be used as first order of precedence to satisfy these authorized paid room conditions. Further, that the foregoing recommendations be effective with the 1995 Reunion in Myrtle Beach. The Motion made and seconded that the recommendation be accepted. Motion approved.

There being no further business, motion was made that the meeting be adjourned, motion seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Sheavly, Secretary

Annual Meeting of the General Membership 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. OCTOBER 28TH, 1995 MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

President Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance was lead by **Joe Wright** and invocation was given by **Chaplain Snidow**.

Recognition of First Timers: The first-timers were recognized at the meeting and there were approximately 50 members in attendance. These were given a good round of applause by the membership.

Reunion Committee Chairman: Chairman Wolff made a short report regarding the reunion, he reported there were 825 registered. Thanks were given for all of the work by all members of the committees. The organization of the reunion could not be handled without these people's dedication. There were several who volunteered to assist but because of ill health were unable to perform. **George Wolff** was given a round of applause for the fine, hard work that he did for the membership.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary minutes of the Nashville Reunion were not read inasmuch as it appeared in the Bulletin, Volume 48, No. 1. Motion was made and seconded that this report as submitted be approved. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: **Treasurer Matlach** reported the balances in the Treasury. There were two reports, one covering period January 1, 1994 to December 31, 1994 and the second covering the period January 1, 1995 to September 30, 1995. The first period indicated income of \$125,166.60 and expenses of \$124,324.12, leaving a net increase of \$842.48. In the expense area four Bulletins were published at a cost of \$27,728.61, rather than the three normally billed. This was due to the billing period of the printer. The income in the period January 1, 1995 to September 30, 1995 was \$88,768.62 and expenses were \$25,437.65. The difference was caused by the fact that there were monies in escrow for the Myrtle Beach Reunion. The second period showed Bulletin printing expense of \$13,336.49, this was for only two Bulletins published. It is not known whether we will be billed for the third Bulletin in 1995. Motion made and seconded that the Treasurer's Report be approved. Motion passed.

Auditors Report: **Auditor Lucci** reviewed and examined the Treasurer's Report and advised that all funds were accounted for and properly reported. Motion made and seconded that the Auditor's report be approved. Motion passed. A round of applause was given for **Treasurer Matlach's** work.

Bulletin Report: No report was given.

Membership Report: **Chairman Kurtzman** reported that in September 1994, **Clarence Marshall** advised he could use some help, then in October 1995 he advised he was unable to do the job further because of his poor eyesight. **Kurtzman** picked up all membership records. On February 9th, 1991 we had 5713 on roster, in September 1991 down to 5699 and today it is 5317. There are 345 members that have no unit designation. There are 306 Auxiliary members. If you are not receiving mail, then please check to make sure your address is correct with **Membership Chairman Kurtzman**.

Resolutions and By-Laws: **Parliamentarian Wright** advised no amendments offered therefore no report was necessary.

Legal Advisor: **Advisor Butterfield** spoke regarding the "Report of Committee appointed to Plan Distribution of the Association's surplus funds prior to Dissolution." The committee consisted of **Butterfield, Powell and Zaffern**, and after much discussion it was determined that nothing should be done at this time. Further that there was no reason to give money away to any charitable organization. With this in mind they recommended that the committee be dissolved. **Advisor Butterfield** indicated that five copies of their report were made and given to President, Secretary, **Butterfield, Powell and Zaffern**. Motion was made and seconded that committee be dissolved and thanks given for the work rendered. Motion was passed.

Souvenir Chairman: **Chairman Nemeth** thanked all those who had purchased souvenirs this year and in previous years. He advised that this was his last reunion that he would be handling the souvenirs. The Association is looking for someone to handle this important job and it is hoped that someone will step forward to take over this assignment.

Golf Tournament: **Chairman Jim Boris** reported that this was the best year ever as we had 88 golfers, 20 of them were ladies. **Boris** advised that this program is self sustaining and receives no funds from the Association. Awards were given to those that won prizes. Some were awarded for low gross, low net, closest to hole, etc.

Overseas Flower Fund: **Secretary Sheavly** explained the handling of the Overseas Flower Fund for the benefit of the first timers. There is \$230 in escrow at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, and motion was made and seconded that \$200 be sent in addition for future. Motion passed.

Good of the Order: **Joe Wright** asked for volunteers to place roses at the Memorial Service on Saturday night. **Bill Beswick** covered selected comments on the Trip to the Elbe. All Past Presidents were recognized at this time.

Reunion Site Committee:

1996: **Vice President Pierce** advised that everything was in place for Schaumburg, Illinois, which is located about 20 miles west of Chicago. The dates are August 18th to 25th, 1996 at the Hyatt Regency Woodfield. The reunion will be chaired by **Ernie Krause**. He spoke on the plans that were in place for this reunion, and there are numerous tours planned.

1997: **Reunion Chairman Putala** reported that the reunion will be held in Danvers, Massachusetts, which is about 25 miles north of Boston. Rate is about \$72.00 per night with a possible 3% increase per year. There are tours planned, and some of these include a whale watch, Plymouth Rock, Boston Commons, Salem, Lexington and Concord. Dates for the reunion are August 17th to 24th, 1997. Motion made and seconded that reunion be held in Danvers, Massachusetts. Motion passed.

1998: **Vice President Pierce** indicated that we need someone to handle the reunion this year, further it was his suggestion that we go west and consideration is being made for Salt Lake City, San Antonio or Dallas. Further work will be done to make recommendation at next reunion.

(Continued on Page 49)

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
(Continued from Page 48)

Nominating Committee.

Slate was presented as follows:

President **Bob Pierce**
Vice President **Jim Boris**
Treasurer **Bill Matlach**
Secretary **Bill Sheavly**

Board of Directors:

Division Headquarters **Archie Brook**
271st Infantry **Cliff Barbieri**
272nd Infantry **Bernie Zaffern**
273rd Infantry **Don Crowe**
Divarty **Tom Heath**
269th Engineers **Frank Packard**
777th Tank Battalion **Charles White**
661st Tank Destroyers **Eugene Pierron**

There were no nominations or volunteers from the 369th Medical Battalion, or the 461st AAA. There being no further nominations from the floor it was moved and seconded that one ballot be cast for the entire slate. Motion carried and all above were elected for the next term.

New Business: Vice President Pierce presented recommendations for paid rooms and suites to those Officers and various Chairman of committees. As follows: Paid 2

room suite to President, Reunion Committee Chairman, Treasurer, Membership Committee Chairman. Full paid room to Bulletin Editor, Sunshine Lady, half paid room to Vice President, Secretary, Souvenir Sales (2) (1/2 paid room each). There are some restrictions to obtain the above. (1) Must attend Reunion to receive benefit. (2) Credit is not cumulative or transferable. (3) Payment is for maximum of seven nights during reunion. (4) Hotel receipt is required for reimbursement. (5) Complimentary rooms and/or room credits are to be used as first order of precedence to satisfy these authorized paid room conditions. Further, that the foregoing recommendations be effective with the 1995 Reunion in Myrtle Beach. The motion made and seconded that the recommendation be accepted. Motion received unanimous approval.

29th Division: A guest, John H. Hagstrom, from the 29th Division Association advised that all members of the 69th who were assigned to the 29th Division during and after WWII are eligible to join their Association. If you are interested please write him at: 4952 Regina Drive, Annandale, Virginia 22003.

There being no further business to be conducted, motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Sheavly, Secretary



T & T Section of the 569th Signal Company
June 1944 - Camp Shelby, Mississippi

Sent By: William Capozzoli, 19 West View Road, Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475

Sam Lewis writes . . .

Mr. Sam Lewis

Company B, 273rd Infantry
1403 West San Antonio Street
Lockhart, Texas 78644

Hope all is well with you Clarence. I have included here some photos from war time. Some you may recognize; those taken in the woods near Miescheid. I would like to tell a couple of stories about those pictures. The First Battalion 273rd had just taken Kamberg and a hill near Schorrenberg. I wrote of that action in my memoirs in 1982. This is the latter part of that story. "We were replaced by another regiment and allowed a few days rest back in the woods near Miescheid; right where we were unloaded a few weeks earlier. I had a dugout, a hole in the ground covered with logs and dirt. Four of us used it; me, my platoon Sergeant, a runner, and my medic. There is a picture in a magazine of Pvt. Sokoloff, my medic, standing by the dugout. The picture is labeled, "Aid Station," but it was my C.P. Soon after we got settled, we enjoyed our first cooked meal in three weeks. We had turkey and dressing - like Thanksgiving. I sat out in the woods, after dark, with a misty rain falling in my food, and it still tasted great. After a couple of days off, including a trip back to the rear area to have our first shower in a month, we were alerted to move out. We company officers were sent ahead to look over the new positions in the town of Hellenthal. While we were there, an army photographer came to our company area in the woods to take pictures of G.I.'s who had just seen their first action. (See following pages.) Those pictures were published in papers across the country and won an award of some kind for the photographer. Six of those pictures were of men in my platoon. I have a book published by the Readers Digest for the Army Special Services and given out in Europe. It was written by Colonel Karl Detzer of the Army General Staff. These pictures are published in that book. It turned out that those pictures were taken by Maurice Levy, a camera man for N.B.C. who I had known in college. After I came home, Lorraine and I went to see Maurice and his wife. We were surprised to see large blow-ups of these same pictures hanging on the walls of their apartment. Maurice had no idea they were of my men."

The other story concerns **Raymond Roth**, one of the men pictured. On the night of the tragedy in Miescheid, B Company got several replacements. Two were sent to Hutto's third platoon, and one to my second platoon. Two of the three were good buddies but were being separated by this assignment. **Roth** was going to **Hutto's** platoon, so the man coming to me asked **Roth** to change places with him. **Roth** did. This simple act of consideration saved his life. Within two hours the two buddies were dead along with 49 other men in that tragedy. **Roth** was assigned as ammo bearer for **Private Munza**, my bazooka man. In Leipzig, **Munza** got off one shot in the action at the school house, and a minute later, was hit in the forehead by a piece of shrapnel and killed instantly. **Roth** was right behind him with his rifle at an angle in front of him. His rifle took hits from three pieces of shrapnel. He was untouched. Of such tales is the story of war compiled.

With sincere best wishes to all connected with the Bulletin.



Sam Lewis, taken on link-up day with his newly liberated Leica camera. He got it in Holghausen just before going into Leipzig.



*Captain Bill O'Donovan
Troy, New York
C.O. of Company B*



*Lt. Ralph Hutto
Denmark, South Carolina
3rd Platoon, Company B*



Germans being taken prisoner near Wurtzen, Germany. April 25th, 1945. Prisoners taken by Lewis and 4 of his men.

(Continued on Page 51)



*Private Sokoloff
2nd Platoon Aid Man, Company B, 273rd*



Lieutenant Sam Lewis and Private Lloyd Smith of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 273rd. Sam and Lloyd are cousins. Taken in Altenhain, Germany, east of Leipzig, June 1945.



Man from B Company, 273rd, taken at Quonset Hut camp near Andover, England. Maybe some members know him. He sure looks ready to go. January 1945.

Lloyd was in the same outfit as Alan Murphy. They became good friends and it was through Lloyd that Alan and I got together in letters and one short visit in 1992. With information from my memoirs and notes from my three visits back to Miescheid and Kamberg, he was able to finally pinpoint the location of the infamous Pillbox 17. Info from Chris Van Kerckhoven helped confirm it.



Lieutenant Sam Lewis, far left and Lieutenant Emil Guardino, far right of the 1st Platoon, B Company, 273rd Infantry. This photo was taken in a studio in June of 1944 on 4 day pass to Brussels. Other two men in the middle unknown. If anyone knows who they are, please write and let me know.

(Continued on Page 52)



BACK FROM THE FRONT

ARTICLE THAT APPEARED IN DALLAS, TEXAS NEWSPAPER DATED THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 15, 1945. These six men of the 69th Division had just returned from fighting with the First Army on the western front when these pictures were made. It was their first combat action and their facial expressions tell what they went through and how they feel. Some smile with relief. They're glad to have returned alive from the hell they saw. On the faces of others is stamped indelibly the horror of what they saw and went through. Look closer and you can also see the fatigue that comes only with what these men have been through - the fatigue of being cold to the bone, of going hungry, of dodging death, of being wet to the skin, of slogging miles on foot carrying heavy packs and rifles. In the picture, top, left to right, are: Pfc. Earl W. Higgins, of Virginia; Pvt. Charles D. Doricourt of Houston, Texas; Sergeant Aloysius Ruthoviski, Michigan. Below are: Pvt. Fred I. Green, Ohio; Pfc. Willey E. Thompson, Mississippi; and Pvt. Raymond Roth, Ohio.

W. Allan Jackson, Famous Correspondent, Photographer Passes Away

by Delbert E. Philpott



Photo of Allan Jackson with Leica camera and 45 in shoulder holster. The negative went through the sinking of the USS Helena with him.

On August 25th, 1995, the world lost Allan Jackson, age 80, whose career was exceptionally colorful and exciting.

Allan received the first photo journalism degree from San Jose State College in California. His journalistic career started with the Oakland Post Enquirer in 1937. He served as a photojournalist for International News and News Photos in World War II from 1942-1945.

He began in the South Pacific covering the fighting from Guadalcanal to Bougainville. In July 1943, he survived the sinking of the light cruiser USS Helena during the Kula Gulf battle in the northern Solomon Islands. When transferred to Europe, he slowly circled the Mediterranean counter-clockwise.

He covered the liberation of Paris and received correspondent number 1502. He was proud of this as it was the first official one to be issued. He joined the First Army in Spa, Belgium.

He shared a "scoop" with Ann Stringer, a reporter with United Press, in covering the link-up of US-USSR forces in Germany in the spring of 1945. She filed stories and he took pictures for the photo pool. He added to the history of the 69th with his famous photo of the Americans and Russians reaching out to shake hands at the Elbe River. He was in Paris for VE Day.

Returning to the Post Enquirer until it folded in 1950, he then served as a State Department press officer by joining the U.S. Dept. of State and later the U.S. Information Agency (USIA). These assignments took him to Tehran, Iran 1951-54; Brussels 1954-55; London 1955-57; Saigon 1957-58; Djakarta 1958-59; Washington and then Bordeaux, France 1962-63; Cotonou, Dahomey, now Benin 1963-65 and lastly to Lubumbashi in the Congo 1968-70.

He semi-retired in Pensacola Beach, Florida, in 1970, serving as both editor and editorial writer for the Pensacola News Journal from 1971-74. USIA hired him again from 1974-76.

His awards include the Hearst Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Award for Vietnam service with the USIA. He also received commendations from the Secretary of the War and the Secretary of the Navy.

He had suffered from a debilitating and painful illness since last October. He is survived by his wife Betty and two children, Kathleen Beckett and Robert Jackson. Private memorial services were held at sea.

Company F, 272nd Infantry

*Top Row: Unknown, Sergeant Gilmore,
Frank Castaldo, John Stasko*

Others unknown.

Sent by: **John Stasko**
56 Dollard Drive
North Babylon, New York 11703-1514



In the last issue of the Bulletin on page 40, we ran a newspaper article about Bill Capozzoli meeting a Russian woman whom he had had a brief encounter with 50 years ago. Here is a continuation of that story with a little more detail about the other men involved and more photos.

Lidia Meets Bill after a Half Century

ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

July 20, 1995

By Valdimir Sablin

In May of 1945, private first class of the 69th infantry division of the American Army, **Bill Capozzoli**, together with two comrades, met three Russian girls in the newly liberated territory of Saxony. This took place in the village of Noikirich. The American lads were riding in their Jeep and stopped when they saw the young girls in the middle of the road. The meeting was not a long one. The language used was that of the enemy, German. "What's your name?" "Where are you from?" Bill had with him a camera. They decided to take pictures to capture the moment. Lidia picked some lilacs from a bush along the road and held a bouquet. Several photos were taken and the half hour meeting came to an end. Duty cannot wait.

Bill remembered that the girl who was photographed with him was called Lidia and that she came from Leningrad. At the start of the war, Lidia happened to be in Opoche and remained in that occupied territory. In 1944 she was taken by the Germans to Germany to work. The American Army liberated these Russian women and also some Polish workers.

Bill Capozzoli and Lidia Pavlovna Kliavina met again in May of 1995. And would no doubt, never have found each other had it not been for those amateur photographs.

In 1984 a volunteer for the USSR-USA Friendship Society, the scientist-gerontologist Mikhail Kulis met Bill who had arrived as a tourist with an American school group. Bill showed Mikhail the wartime photographs. Later these were published in Leningrad Pravda and the following day Lidia phoned them up.

Mikhail Kulis helped arrange a correspondence between the two long lost friends. On receiving her first letter from Bill, Lidia burst into tears and cried an entire day. Remembering those awful wartime sufferings, she could not believe that a young American boy could remember that small episode of May 1945.

Bill Capozzoli dreamed of attending the 50th Year Anniversary Victory Celebrations together with his wartime Russian comrades. "On Victory Day there is no better place to be on the earth than with the Russians," Bill said.

At the celebration, Bill rushed right up to Lidia Pavlovna with flowers. He had hoped to bring lilacs, like in 1945, but in Piter spring is pretty cold and lilacs are not very often sold.

On the 9th of May Bill walked along the Nevsky in a column of wartime allies. Lenigraders greeted him. He once again heard the words of thanks to the participants in the Great Patriotic War. "Thank you! Live a long life!"

Live a long and happy life, Bill Capozzoli and Lidia Kliavina.



Thompson, Capozzoli and Morris (with helmet) with the Russian girls May - 1945.



Morris, Capozzoli and Thompson. Notice Lidia with her bunch of lilacs.



With Russian veteran Victor Grumov, defender of Leningrad. We marched in the Victory Day Parade together. Here we are in Palace Square after parades.

Photos sent by: **William Capozzoli**
T & T, 569th Signal Company

19 West View Road, Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475

FROM THE CAMP SHELBY ARCHIVES



*Anybody remember this little guy?
Band Mascot of the 271st Infantry*



*How would you have liked this job? Mountains of dirty
clothes ready for Quartermaster laundry,*



Target Practice on 1000-inch range.



SODA FOUNTAIN AT CAMP SHELBY SERVICE CLUB

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. #3, Box 477, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606, as soon 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.

1996

JANUARY 31st, 1996

Deadline for news material and pictures for this bulletin
Bulletin Volume 49, Number 2
January, February, March, April
Bulletin expected mailing date in April or May.

* * * * *

APRIL 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st, 1996
CALIFORNIA WESTERN CHAPTER
Palm Springs, California (Te ntative)
All 69ers are welcome to join us!

Committee:

Delbert E. Philpott
P.O. Box 2014
Sunnydale, California 94087-0014
Telephone: 408/739-0308

* * * * *

APRIL 30th, 1996

Deadline for news material and pictures for this bulletin
Bulletin Volume 49, Number 3
May, June, July, August 1996
Bulletin expected mailing date in July or August.

* * * * *

MAY 16, 17 and 18, 1996

MIDWEST GROUP SPRING MEETING

Starved Rock State Park, Illinois
Starved Rock Lodge & Conference Center
P.O. Box 471
Utica, Illinois 61373
Reservations: 815/667-4211

Rates: \$52.00 plus tax (approx. 11%)

Starved Rock State Park is located on the Illinois River, south of interstate 80 and east of interstate 39. Go one mile south of Utica on Route 178.

We shall be staying at the lodge, which was built in the 1930's and has recently undergone extensive restoration. There are many hiking trails, beautiful scenery (including unusual rock formations), and boat rides on the Illinois River. The lodge has an indoor pool.

A block of rooms will be held for us until 30 days before the event. The place is busy, so don't delay. Deposit of the first night's tariff is required to guarantee your reservation.

Program:

Thursday, May 16th: Check-in time, 3:00 p.m.
Hiking
Hospitality Room
Dinner at the Lodge

Friday, May 17th: Golf at a course to be selected.
Tours for non-golfers.
Hospitality Room
Dinner at selected restaurant.

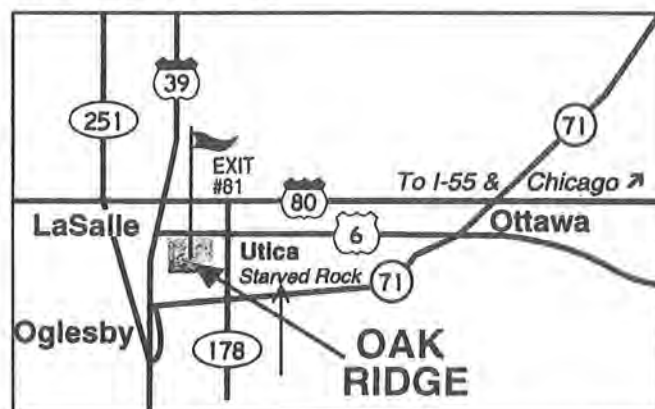
Saturday, May 18th: On Your Own.
Check-out time, 11:00 a.m.

Committee:

Gene Mischke
1021 West 3rd Street
Spring Valley, Illinois 61362
Telephone: 815/664-2437

or

Wayne Weygandt
1913 Columbus Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350
Telephone: 815/433-4193



* * * * *

MAY 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th, 1996 TRI-STATE GROUP

Holiday Inn
Monroe, Michigan
Greenfield Village (Ford Museum)
Bus trip to historical sites
Saturday Banquet
Sunday Breakfast Buffet

Committee:

Raymond Skudlarek
3525 Muirfield
Toledo, Ohio 43614

* * * * *

JUNE 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th, 1996 COMPANY I, 272nd INFANTRY

Radisson Hotel
LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Visit the Coulee Region overlooking the beautiful Mississippi River.

Committee:

Bob and Phyllis Jorgenson
619 8th Avenue North
Onalaska, Wisconsin 54650
Telephone: 608/783-5006

(Continued on Page 58)

August 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 1996
69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
49th ANNUAL REUNION
Schaumburg, Illinois
(CHICAGO)

HYATT REGENCY WOODFIELD

1800 East Golf Road

Schaumburg, Illinois 60173

Reservations: 800/233-1234 • Hotel: 708/605-1234

RATES

\$71.00 - Single, Double, Triple, Quad

Hospitality Room- Tours - Early Bird Dinner - PX Party - Shows
Memorial Service - Banquet Dinner Dance - Golf - Shopping and More

COMMITTEE:

Ernest H. and Mary Krause, Co-Chairpersons
269th Engineers

444 Pioneer Drive, Addison, Illinois 60101

Telephone: (Please send to Earl)

Committee Members: Ralph S. Plugge, Max Phillips, Robert Klein, Glenn L. Felner,
Harold A. Pederson, George Rico, William J. Fannucchi, Marsh Mussay, Al Koziol

OCTOBER 11th, 12th, and 13th, 1996

**HEADQUARTERS BATTERY AND
MEDICAL DETACHMENT, 461st AAA AW Battalion**

Quality Inn

Salem, Virginia 24153

Telephone: 1-800/459-4949

Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Leave Sunday or stay over
for Monday morning.

Leave I-81 at Exit 141 (old 41) and go south on SR-419 to
motel. We will have a block of rooms reserved. Best rates.
Meeting and banquet room will be the Montgomery/Frank-
lin Room.

Committee:

Allen Whitley, Chairman

944 Cumberland Heights

Marion, Virginia 24354

Telephone: (H) 703/783-6615 (W) 703/783-5566

or

Francis H. Breyette, News Reporter

1137 Orkla Drive

Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427-4441

Telephone 612/545-2281

* * * * *

1997

AUGUST 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 1997
69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
50th ANNUAL REUNION

DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS

(approximately 25 miles north of Boston)

Chairpersons:

Henry and Jean Putala

Battery C, 777th Tank Battalion

1139 River Boulevard

Suffield, Connecticut 06078

Rates: \$72.00 per night (may go up 3%)

Tours include whale watch, trip to see historic sections
of Boston, trips to Boston Commons, Plymouth Rock,
Salem, Lexington, and Concord.

Golf course on the premises, plenty of restaurants and
fast food places.

Anyone interested in assisting with this reunion, please
contact **Henry and Jean** at the address above. If you live
in the area, it would be especially helpful if you would vol-
unteer even a little of your time. They need to know who
you are, so get in touch.



"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 Brigadier General 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.

Leon Leoni
R.R. #1, Box 242A
Wellsburg, West Virginia
B - 724th

Herman L. Burkett
210 Big Spring Road
Newville, Pennsylvania
B - 269th

Eugene E. Shaefer
545 Sweezy Avenue
Riverhead, New York
I - 272nd

Rudy C. Weidmann
2106 Danville Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio
Cannon - 272nd

C.D. Cunningham
644 S.W. 64th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Cannon - 271st

Larry Kolarik
4665 Finchwood Terrace
Boynton, Florida
F - 273rd

Tony Morelli
Berwyn, Pennsylvania
Hq. - 271st

Robert W. White
12157 Lake Wildwood Drive
Penn Valley, California
569th Signal Co.

Joseph DiFillippi
4002 Camellia Drive South
Salem, Oregon
Service - 880th

Richard Valentine
5328 South Redwing Avenue
Lecantos, Florida
B - 271st

Paul E. Peterson
4725 Cornell Drive
Bartlesville, Oklahoma
E - 273rd

Leo Gallagher
6315 Hegerman Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
B - 461st AAA

Mike Dillon
Unit Unknown

A.B. McCarthy
105 S. Grandview Avenue
Elmira, New York
G - 273rd

Ralph Rogaczewski
3774 South 27th Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
E - 272nd

Adrian F. Adams
26 Old Grande Way
Port St. Lucie, Florida
D - 777th

Herbert Callaway
610 West Houston
Crockett, Texas
F - 272nd

Harold E. Dooley
Route 1, Box 60
Woonsocket, South Dakota
69th Recon

R.S. Wilcox
11582 Southington Lane
Herdon, Virginia
M - 273rd

John P. Masters
Hq. - 880th

George H. Straley
4830 Kennett Pike
Greenville, Delaware
Hq. - 661st

Harold Real
Route 1, Box 221A
Converse, Texas
A - 879th

George Endrai
1620 School Street
Lorain, Ohio
A - 269th

Harold J. Crowley
5448 82nd Street
Flushing, New York
A - 273rd

Merton S. Brandes
10 Millbrook Road
Lexington, Massachusetts
E - 271st

W. C. Kunkelman
1801 Cambridge Avenue
Wyomissing, Pennsylvania
Cannon - 272nd

Charles V. Willoughby
609 Diamond Street
Easton, Maryland
C - 880th F.A.

Thomas J. Reardon
929 Providence Road
Springfield, Pennsylvania
I - 272nd

Charles R. Goodwin
4601 Joyner Place
Raleigh, North Carolina
Hq. - 461st AAA

Gene E. Abernathy
Route 1, Box 32
Farmland, Indiana
Service - 271st

Bernard Kahn
Woodbourne, New York
H1 - 272nd

Earl Gates
Alta, Louisiana
H - 271st

Conrad Smith
Sayers, Alabama
H2 - 271st

Benny Foy
Stoney Point, North Carolina
Hq. 273rd



the 69th
INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.
p.o. box 69, champion, pa. 15622-0069

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This is a solicitation for the order of goods and/or services and not a bill, invoice or statement of account due. You are under no obligation to make any payments on account of this offer unless you accept this offer.

FIGHTING 69th BOX SCORE

- Distance Covered in Combat . . . 400 miles
- Towns captured . . . more than 1000, including the great city of Leipzig
- German prisoners taken 35,000
- Allied Prisoners Freed . . . over 26,500
- Foreign Slaves Liberated . . . many thousands
- In addition, the 69th overran one-third of the Nazi's toxic gas supply.



East Meets West

NOTE: For those of you who are unaware, the membership voted some time ago to limit the bulletin to 60 pages. If you submitted material for this bulletin, and did not see it published in this issue, it will be published in the next issue. We cannot always find room for everything that we receive. Please be patient and your number will come up soon. Thank You, **Clarence and Earl.**