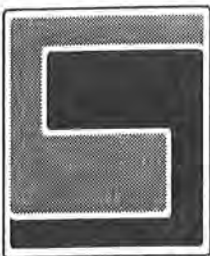


FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★★ Association, Inc.



VOLUME 51, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER — NOVEMBER — DECEMBER
1997

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

P.O. BOX 69
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412/455-2901

bulletin

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Submitted by: "Howitzer" Al Kormas

SGT GEORGE BARKER

THE MAIL BOX

By Earl Witzleb, Jr., Editor



Company E, 273rd Infantry Regiment
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* * * * *

PICTURES OF LAST COVER IDENTIFIED

Louie N. Rodgers, 99 North Main Street, #609, Memphis, Tennessee 38103-5004 — Div. Hq.: Thank you for the outstanding bulletins which you have played a significant part in publishing these past many years. They have been outstanding and I'm sure you miss **Clarence Marshall** more than most of us.

The front page of your latest Bulletin Vol. 50, No. 3, May-August 1997, brought back good memories, especially the upper left picture, the lower left picture and the lower right picture.

The upper left picture was taken near Schmidtheim, Germany and shows **Lt. Clark Y. Gunderson** shaving. He was our Division Judge Advocate. That is the same as Chief Legal Officer. I have that same picture.

The lower left picture shows **Lt. Edward J. Leary**, our Division G-1, conversing with **Lt. H. Pengelly**, our Division Adjutant General.

The picture in the lower right was taken April 26, 1945 on the east bank of the Elbe River at Torgau. Since I am in the picture, I am able to say that we are waiting for the Russian Division Commander, Major General Vladimir Russakov and his staff to come down to the river to meet **General Reinhardt**, our Division Commander, and his staff. The picture shows from left to right, only a small front portion of the face of **Brigadier General Robert V. Maraist**, our Division Artillery Commander; myself, then **Captain Louie N. Rodgers**, Aide-de-Camp to **General Reinhardt**; and Division Commander Major General **Emil F. Reinhardt**; **Lt. Gordon Ingraham**, our Division G-4; and our Division Chief of Staff, **Colonel Charles P. Lynch**.

We had all just reached the east bank after having been rowed across the Elbe River in racing sculls oared by Russian soldiers. I was carrying our U.S. Division Headquarters flag which **General Reinhardt** presented to General Russakov. In turn, General Russakov presented to **General Reinhardt** the Russian 58th Guard Division Headquarters flag which had been carried all the way from Stalingrad. The meeting was a most festive occasion.

I have followed our Association through the Bulletin for over 35 years and have learned much about the Division. In addition, it was a special treat to attend the conventions in Nashville, Myrtle Beach and Schaumburg. My warmest regards and best wishes always to you and Dottie.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks Louie, for identifying the cover photos of the last bulletin. Those photos came from the archives of Clarence Marshall. Many photos have been sent to Clarence and myself over the years with no identifiers on them, and occasionally, if they are especially interesting, we like to include them in the bulletin and see if anyone can come up with a who's who for us.)

Howard Wells, 2139 Marcia Drive, Bellbrook, Ohio 45305-1607 — Co. D, 273rd: A **Ken Maynard** found me after 50+ years and sent me a postcard asking if I was the **Howard Wells** that lived in Tomah, Wisconsin and was in the 69th Division. I was that person so I answered his inquiry and have been corresponding ever since.

Ken has urged me to get in touch with you and join the 69th, so I am enclosing a check for \$15.00 plus \$5.00 for postage for the bulletins.

It is a long story of how Ken found me. He had been in Tomah a number of times and had asked for me but no one knew of my whereabouts. I am glad that he did find me so that I can become a member of the Association.

I am going to try to reach my old captain, **Edward Taylor**. The address I have is Brandywine Boulevard and Duncan Road, Wilmington, Delaware. I hope it is correct. If anyone knows anything about him, please write to me. I was the company bugler.

Richard W. King, P.O. Box 2010, Sparks, Nevada 89432-2010 — Co. D, 273rd: My wife and I are exploring the South Pacific on our sailboat - the dream of my life come true. We are presently in Apia Harbor, Western Samoa on our way to Tonga and New Zealand. We sailed in from an isolated island in the Republic of Kiribati named Tabua-Eran. The people are living as they did in the 1850's - no electricity, running water, toilets or outhouses. A supply ship visits them 3 times a year. It is late as usual and people are out of rice, flour, kerosene, sugar. No radios, TVs, etc. This is an exciting adventure for us. Keep up the good work.

Thomas C. Damron, 9225 Ramblewood Drive, #1036, Coral Springs, FL 33071 — ASC: I look forward to the Bulletin and have read/shared several articles with my students. I am now a Senior Army Instructor at an Army Junior ROTC program and I try my best to give these youngsters some idea of what WWII and Vietnam were like. Vietnam I can speak on from experience and I have found the Bulletin to be very helpful for WWII. Keep up the good work. I am looking forward to many more bulletins in the future.

(Continued on Page 3)

THE MAIL BOX

(Continued from Page 2)

Matthew C. Masem, 2520 30th Street, Rock Island, South Carolina 61201 — Co. E, 273rd: **Mel Buschman's** Camp Shelby experience (Vol. 50, No. 2, pg. 13) pertaining to the colonel who said, "No. G.D. Air Force will get any of my men," sounds familiar. Although no one spoke those words to me, I was shipped overseas after only six months with Company E, 273rd Infantry. I, too, had applied for pilot training.

In October of 1940, I enlisted in the 165th Infantry Regiment (the old Fighting 69th of World War I fame) of the 27th Infantry Division. While overseas, I applied for pilot training as well as for infantry O.C.S. Due to my mother's death, I chose the first training spot, Inf. O.C.S.

After graduating in April of 1943 from Bennings School for Boys, I was pleased to be assigned to the newly activated 69th Infantry Division. However, my desire to fly prompted me once again, to apply for pilot training. Although I did receive my orders to report for pilot training, the orders were no longer applicable for anyone located at an overseas replacement depot.

I went overseas to the Pacific area, rejoined the 165th Infantry Regiment, and saw combat during the invasion of Saipan and Okinawa and later with the 1st Cavalry in Korea. I retired on 31 July 1961 as a Major.

During my Army career, I finally took flight training in light aircraft, only to discover that flying was not my cup of tea and the government agreed.

Nancy and I were married December 7th, 1941 in Oxford, Alabama while stationed at Fort (then camp) McClelland by a Justice of the Peace. Being of the Roman Catholic faith, we were remarried on 28 April 1943, Chapel 20, Camp Shelby, by Chaplain Frank Calkins. This year Nancy and I will celebrate our 56th anniversary.

One of these days I'd like to attend a 69th Division reunion but always feel a bit out of place with comrades with whom I never had the opportunity to share a combat experience, regardless of its outcome.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Matthew, please come to a 69th reunion. Many of our members served in the 69th under the same type of circumstances as you. You won't be out of place at all.)

William J. Kormos, P.O. Box 426, Newry, Pennsylvania 16665-0426 — H&R Co., 273rd: I was assigned to the 273rd Regiment, 2nd Battalion, Fox Company, from the Syracuse University ASTP program. At Camp Shelby, Mississippi, I was later assigned to H&R Company, 2nd Battalion, 273rd Regiment. In England, I was assigned to Service Company through WWII. Prior to returning home, I was assigned to the 29th Division.

I returned to Syracuse University to complete an Industrial Engineering degree. I entered the ROTC

program at Syracuse in the Air Force. I retired from the Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel after a total of 31 years of military service as both an enlisted and later as an officer.

George F. Hunter, 724 East Stroop Road, Kettering, Ohio 45429 — Co. K, 272nd: After a long, long time searching, I finally found my squad leader through our magazine: He is **Harold W. Stafford** of Four Oaks, North Carolina. I call him once in a while. He doesn't sound too well. But I am sure glad to hear from him. We were both in Company K, 272nd.

I am sorry to hear about **Clarence**. I know you will all miss him. I really enjoy my magazine.

Richard E. Carlton, 151 Beach Pond Road, Wolfeboro, New Hampshire 03894 - son of **Howard R. Carlton** — Hq. Btry., 880th F.A.: August 23rd 1997, was a night I won't soon forget. My wife and I had the privilege of being my parents' guests at your 50th annual reunion. I must confess, not knowing any one other than my parents, I thought I would feel a little out of place. I couldn't have been more wrong! The people of the 69th were warm, friendly and fun loving. A great time was had by all. With all the stories I heard being told back and forth, and the band playing some music from the "good old days," it was like being transported back in time.

All my life I've heard stories from my Dad about WWII, I've seen all his pictures of his buddies and the places he's been as well as many of the battlefields. I studied about WWII in school, I've seen many of the TV documentaries on the subject, and of course, scores of movies like Patton, The Longest Day, etc., etc. I thought I knew what it was all about. But this night I saw it from a different perspective.

The most memorable part of the evening for me was the memorial service. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then looking into the eyes of you who were there, is worth a million! The people you were honoring, was not just a group of numbers on a national list of statistics - these were your friends and family. And their greatest memorial is that you, their friends, have never forgotten them.

What you all have done for America, for the world, has not only affected our generation but will affect many generations to come. I've always been proud of my Dad, for his part in making this world a better place to live. After meeting all of you, his friends, that pride has never been stronger. I'll close this letter with the words to a favorite song:

*I'm proud to be an American
where at least I know I'm free,
And I won't forget the men who died,
who gave that right to me.
And I'd gladly stand up next to you,
and defend her still today,
Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land,
God bless the USA.*

And God bless the Men and Women of the Fighting 69th!!!!

New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

Harold L. Burton — Company I, 272nd Infantry
P.O. Box 19070, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73144

Harold L. Stafford — Company K, 272nd Infantry
P.O. Box 104
Four Oaks, North Carolina 27524-0104

Otha M. Phillips — Company H, 273rd Infantry
105 Bamburg Street, Jonesboro, Louisiana 71258

William E. Dougherty — Company K, 271st Infantry
P.O. Box 12, Cumberland City, Tennessee 37050

Michael J. Baltier — Service Co., 272nd Infantry
48 Charles Street, Reading, Massachusetts 01867

Dave Blue — Company K, 273rd Infantry
Box 30, Brundage, Alabama 36010

Diego F. Coscarelli — Medic, 273rd Infantry
4 Lesley Drive, Marlboro, New Jersey 07746

Ralph G. Angeli — Company K, 272nd Infantry
343 Roosevelt Avenue
Springfield, Massachusetts 01118

Arne F. Rajala — Company B, 272nd Infantry
R.R. #1, Box 28, Watton, Michigan 49970

Arthur V. Anderson — Hq., 880th Field Artillery
46-8 Gibson Lane
New Hartford, Connecticut 06057

Otis D. Young — Company B, 272nd Infantry
3 Mauritania Court, Seaside, California 93955

Albert Bonotto — Company I, 271st Infantry
1849 Van Ness Street, Klamath, Oregon 97601

William J. Munday — 880th Field Artillery
R.R. #5, Box 5147
Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania 18360-5147

The Reunion

Submitted by: **"Howitzer" Al Kormas**, Hq., 879th F.A.
12500 Edgewater Drive, Apt. 503
Lakewood, Ohio 44107-1673

What is it that binds combat veterans together? It isn't friendship. We all have friends. You can go to a company picnic or a convention and you will feel the same emotion in the air as when you attend a veteran's reunion.

It is something beyond regular friendship. It is the knowing that **"YOU AND THEY HAVE BEEN TO HELL AND BACK."** It is the deep-rooted emotion that brings you together. It is the knowledge that when things were tough, you and your buddies stuck it out and lived through it all.

You can attend high school reunions and college reunions, company conventions, and the whole civilian works, but there isn't the **BAND OF BROTHERS** feeling that is felt when combat buddies get together.

You and your buddies may have less hair on top and a lot more inches around the belt line, but deep within all of you, is the same comradeship that you had during those horrible days of war. When combat buddies meet, whether it is ten or forty years, it seems like yesterday. All of the memories begin to assemble in your mind, memories that you thought had been pushed back into the recesses of your memory bank. **"Whatever happened to . . ."** and **"Remember when . . ."** You try not to let on that these old veterans mean a lot to you, but by the time the flag is furled, the bills paid and the car packed, there is a lump in your throat and a tear in your eye as you part company with the men who once lived and fought beside you.

You tell your wife: **"Damn, it was good to see them again."** And it was. Yes, memories flood your mind as you head for home. No one knows the feelings except those of us who were there. You wonder if you will see any of them again. Combat was hell and you may have many terrible memories of death and destruction, but the memory of total camaraderie with men who shared that hell will forever be embedded in your heart. There is no friendship like that of combat buddies. It is something that lasts forever.

May God bless you and the United States of America.

MOVING

Please print your new address below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please send this form and your old address label to:

Robert Kurtzman
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Please allow six weeks advance notice.

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

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Wilmot, Ohio 44689

Telephone: 330/359-5487

**DO NOT SEND PICTURES AND
ARTICLES TO BOB KURTZMAN.**

**See bottom of page 3 for
Editor Earl Witzleb's address.**

50th Annual Reunion A Huge Success



By: **Henry and Jean Putala, Co-Chairpersons**
C Battery, 777th Tank Battalion
1139 River Boulevard, Suffield,
Connecticut 06078-1416

Photos by: **Chet Yastrzemski**

The 50th Annual Reunion has come and passed. But it was a Great 50th Reunion. We hope that everyone got home safe and sound. We want to thank everyone who attended and hope that you and yours had a great time.

Tuesday was the Lexington Concord Tour. A lot of history including where the first shot was fired.

Wednesday was the Boston Tour. We went to the top of the Sears Tower to see the whole city, the Mapporium and on to Quincy Market for lunch. After lunch, we traveled to Paul Revere's Homestead, to the Old North Church and then the Grannery (cemetery), the famous U.S.S. Constitution and the Museum.

Wednesday night we attended the theater to see the hilarious play "Shear Madness." In the second act the audience participated. It was hilarious.

Thursday we were sorry that the golfers could not play. We had a heavy rain the night before. Sorry we did not have a big umbrella to shelter the Golf Course. Also on Thursday was the Plymouth Plantation Tour. That had to be changed because of rain. We went into Plan B. Instead of going into the Plantation we saw the Wax Museum and the Artifacts Museum of the Mayflower and then to the Mayflower itself and Plymouth Rock and the Ocean Spray Building.

Thursday night was the Early Bird Dinner. After the dinner we had a presentation of the Danvers Alarm List Company. The presentation of the Minute Men and the two young ladies showed the dress of the period. It was very interesting.

Saturday was the Banquet. We had the Salem Second Corps Cadets as our Color Guard. They are another Minute Men Group and they were great. The new Officers of the Association were sworn in. We congratulate them on their election. Then we all had a good time dancing and reminiscing of old times. We had a great band.

We had 588 people registered and 552 at the banquet. We had 20 first-timers. We really had a great bunch of workers helping to make the reunion so successful. During the reunion and the banquet, hundreds of people came up to us and told us what a great time they had had.

I want to THANK my devoted Committee and helpers. My wife **Jean Putala**, **John and Ellen McCann**, **Erwin and Carmen Sanborn**, **Robert Crowe** (and his Laurel and Hardy team), **Frank Novak**, **Bruno Stefononi**, **Robert and Irene Bishop**, **Robert and Jean Ross**, **Stuart and Ava Mandell**, **Jim and Barbara Walsh**, **Arch Astolfi**, **Alex and Mary Milne**, **George and Alice McDermott**, **George Vasil**, **Paul Molinari**, **Ray and Ruth Clement**, **Theresa Pierce**, **Jane Matlach** and **Charlie White**. Everyone was loyal and did a terrific job, to make this a GREAT 50th Reunion.

Also a THANK YOU to **Carmen Sanborn** for the painting he made and donated, and my wife **Jean Putala** for making and donating the Afghan for the Raffle.

A THANK YOU to our **Past President Bob Pierce** and our **Treasurer Bill Matlach** for their assistance. It was wonderful.

THANK YOU again everyone. The Good Lord willing we hope to see you all in Houston, Texas next year. GOD BLESS.





The Mayflower Ship



Plymouth Rock



The USS Constitution



Pilgrim Boy



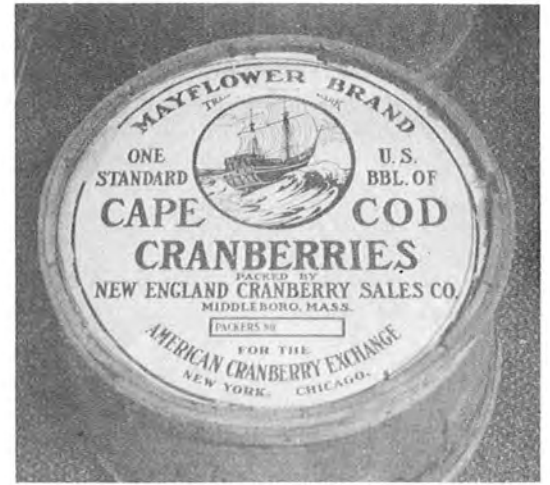
The USS Constitution Museum



Boston Boat Taxi



Boston Harbor



Cape Cod Cranberries



Old North Church



Lexington



Restaurant at Pier



*Our own pilgrims,
Reba Sheavly, Barbara Yastrzemski*

Reunion Smiles from Danvers, Massachusetts

Photos by: Chet Yastrzemski



Barbara and Chet Yastrzemski



Joe and Ann Nunes



Richard and Diane Yastrzemski



Stan and Wanda Olszewski with Bill Matlach



Ethel and Gene Pierron



Mildred and Carl Stetler

Reunion Committee Hard at Work

Photos by: **Erwin Sanborn, Company I, 273rd Infantry - 333 Mechanic Street, Laconia, New Hampshire 03246**



*Alex Milne, First-Timer
Tending Bar, Hospitality Room*



*Jean Ross
Selling Raffle Tickets*



*Bob Ross - Co-Chairman
Tending Bar, Hospitality Room*



Unknown, Bob Crowe, Ellen McCann, Henry Putala



Bob Bishop - Souvenir Chairman at his table



*Erwin Sanborn, Heidi Sweetland (daughter)
and Kaela Sweetland (granddaughter)*



*Picture painted by Carmen Sanborn, Afghan knitted
by Jean Putala - raffled off on Saturday night*

Message from the President



James E. Boris
6800 Henry Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19128
Telephone: 215/483-2064

I wish to thank everyone who made my elevation to this illustrious position possible. I will endeavor to continue the work of my predecessors and help our organization grow.

First, I think we owe a great vote of thanks to **Henry and Jean Putala** for the outstanding success of our 50th Reunion in Danvers, Massachusetts. They, with their committee, did what most of us believe was a tremendous undertaking. Thank you from all of us.

Things are moving forward for the 1999 Reunion in the Orlando area. The material has been turned over to our new Vice President, **Harold Ruck**. He will be working with the Committee that is set up in that area.

The following appointments have been made by me: **Gene Butterfield**, Chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. I have also created a new position, with the approval of the membership at our Saturday meeting in Danvers. That position is a Reunion Coordinator. **Bob Pierce** has been appointed to that position. Due to his past experience, I can't think of a better man for the job. He will visit the suggested reunion area and negotiate with the hotels involved and get us the best prices for accommodations.

Anyone having a suggestion for 2000, contact **Harold Ruck** and it will be given consideration.

Let's all dedicate ourselves to keeping our Fighting 69th growing and look ahead to seeing our comrades in Houston in 1998.

51st Annual Reunion
Houston, Texas
August 23rd thru 30th, 1998

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Unit: Headquarters, 880th Field Artillery

Parliamentarian*(Office needs appointment by President)*

*Happy Holidays
To All 69ers
and their Families.
Wishing you
good health in
the new year.*



69TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 1998 51ST ANNUAL REUNION Doubletree Hotel at Post Oak Houston, Texas August 23rd-30th, 1998

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Domenic Dezio
Sanford Firsichbaum

Come to Houston, Texas! It's like visiting another country; a world-class multi-culture cosmopolitan city; and a down-home Wild West Cowtown all rolled into the fourth largest city in the United States. The metropolitan area has over four million people. Texans are proud of their heritage, where a small group of determined people led by Sam Houston defeated the Mexican Army to establish their own country. History records that Texas was the only country to join the United States of America to become a state.

Houston is the hub of the Gulf Coast located just 50 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. Don't be discouraged by thoughts of Houston in late August, the weather is considered tropical with a constant breeze off the Gulf. Tropical does mean humidity but no more than the southeastern states including Florida. Besides, most activities are inside and Houston has more air conditioning than any city in the world.

The Doubletree Hotel is a luxury hotel overlooking prestigious Post Oak Boulevard in one of Houston's most exclusive areas. The year-round room rate is \$140-\$180 per night. Our Association Group Reunion rate is \$69. The Doubletree is adjacent to the Galleria, a glass-enclosed shopping/entertainment center with over 350 retail stores in the heart of Uptown Houston. The center also includes an olympic sized ice skating rink. For the faint of heart, the Doubletree furnishes free shuttle service for their guests to any location within a three-mile radius of the hotel.



PLANNED TOURS AND EVENTS

Grab your boots and hat, brush up on your Texas two-step, and ya-all come down for a rootin', tootin', boot skootin' good time.

HOUSTON CITY TOUR

Enjoy the old and new in Houston: "The Real Texas." The city is over 150 years old yet still maintains its old Western traditions within an ultra modern metropolis surrounded by numerous working cattle ranches where real cowboys ride the range. Visit the old Downtown section; Texas Medical Center (world's largest); Bayou Place, the state's largest shopping and entertainment facility; River Oaks; Sam Houston Park with a visit to historical homes dating back to 1823; Astrodome (once considered the eighth wonder of the modern world) and Astroworld Park; stop at Transco Fountain, Houston's largest and tallest waterfall; and visit Houston's Rose Garden with over 300 varieties of flora.

SAN JACINTO BATTLEFIELD AND BATTLESHIP TEXAS TOUR

Visit the site where in 1836, Sam Houston and a small army from Texas defeated the mighty Mexican Army with the Battle Cry "Remember the Alamo." San Jacinto is a 1000-acre State Historical Park with a 570-foot monument and a museum. The tower has an elevator to the 489-foot level where the battlefield can be observed. The museum presents a computer generated rapid-fire depiction of "Texas Forever," the Battle of San Jacinto from 42 projectors containing 3000 images and sounds of the Saga of Early Texas.

The Battleship Texas is the only surviving U.S. Naval vessel to serve in both World Wars. Enjoy a guided tour through the ship, its main deck and compartments of the lower levels.

(Continued on Page 13)

GLORY OF GALVESTON TOUR

Visit Galveston Island, once the stronghold of the pirate, Jean Laffite and his band of Buccaneers. Laffite fought for General Andrew Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans January 8th, 1815 before proclaiming himself "Governor" of Galveston Island.

Enjoy the 32 miles of sandy beaches and treasure trove of 19th Century Victorian architecture. Visit the Strand District filled with quaint shops; the Seaport Museum to see the 1877 tall ship Elissa; the Lone Star Flight Museum that houses the finest and largest collection of "Restored to Flying Condition" vintage military aircraft in the Southern United States; or, the Mardi Gras Museum in old Galveston Square. Tour includes the Rain Forest Pyramid of Moody Gardens and the Moody Mansion and Museum. Or, just bring your beach bag and suntan oil for a day on the beach with a six-pack of Texas Lone Star beer.

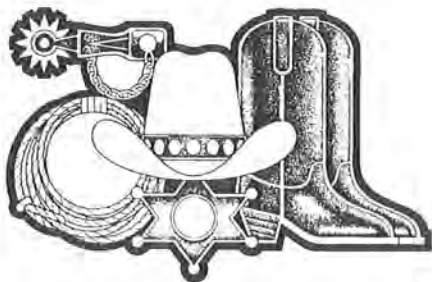
SPACE CENTER HOUSTON TOUR

This is NASA's Johnson Space Center, a world-class facility. Attractions include: The Center Plaza that describes the complex and has a flight deck of the space shuttle in full mock-up; NASA Tram Tour to see Mission Control, Weightless Environment Training Facility and Space Simulation Lab; and, close-up look at a real Saturn V, Mercury, Redstone, and other launch vehicles.

Enjoy a 20-minute Living in Space Presentation and test your skills at landing an 85-ton Orbitor via simulation. Hold on to your seat and blast off in Houston's largest IMAX Theater. Relive the great moments of the Space Program in the Destiny Theater with a 15-minute film "On Human Destiny" created from the historic NASA footage. See the world's largest display of moon rocks, there's even one you can touch. The Astronaut Gallery contains actual space suits and other items used by the astronauts, get a taste of the "right stuff."

HONKY-TONK NIGHT ON THE TOWN

No Texas Reunion would be complete without an evening at a Cowboy Style Western Saloon/Dance Hall with Tex-Mex good food, and fun music with plenty of room for "Boot Scootin'," "Texas Two-Steppin'," "Line Dancin'," and "Longneckin'." Get a taste of the West with a Texas Barbecue, and maybe even some Cajun as well.



Dottie and Me



Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.

Earl and Dottie Witzleb, Jr.

Bulletin Coordinating Manager

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Telephone: 412/455-2901

(Evenings after 7:00 p.m. and Weekends)

Exit 9 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike

As we sit doing this short note, we just heard that we are to expect our first snow flurries of this winter season. Boy, did the summer go by fast.

We were unable to attend the reunion this year in Danvers, but from all reports we have heard, it was another successful one. We have received many notes and pictures that we have tried to include into this bulletin. We are sorry if your note or pictures did not make it, but we are allowed only so many pages. They will appear in the next issue of the bulletin.

We want to congratulate all the new officers and hope they have a very good term in office. All officers, please remember to get your columns in to us so we can include them in the next bulletin.

Earl and Dottie wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

We Need Your Help!!!

Is Your Husband Deceased?

Is Your Father Deceased?

If either of these statements are true OR you do not want to receive the bulletin, please notify:

Robert J. Kurtzman

P.O. Box 105

Wilmot, Ohio 44689

Remembering the Freed Allied POWs

Submitted by: **Stephen Rojcewicz**
881st Field Artillery Battalion
135 Endicott Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01610-1944

Recently looking over the great program booklet given us at the Myrtle Beach 50th Anniversary reunion in 1995, my attention closed in on the box score, specifically Allied Prisoners Freed - over 26,000. Fellow 69ers, let us pause on this item.

Our artillery battalion was given a "goose egg" - an area circled on a map - to help in taking care of our freed allies. Because my limited talents do include a knowledge of Polish and French, Captain Suddath and Colonel Brooks put me in charge. My rank - PFC - all the resources of the USA were put at my disposal.

With a sergeant driver and three others, we found all there was to feed the allies with were dehydrated rations. We had the rations delivered to a shed. There were no bags; the rice, carrots and other delectables were in rectangular boxes. We were given the locations of the just freed men.

There were old German magazines and newspapers in the shed. My schooling had taught me some things to do with paper airplanes, boats, noise-makers, and cups. Soon all four GIs were making cups. Into each we poured what we figured was about the right amount for each group, put the filled cups into the now empty boxes, and set out to deliver them.

The first group were Russian soldiers - 110 of them. Picture me on the back of the truck surrounded by them. "My orders are to give you food, and to get your names and serial numbers," was what I said in Polish. Those who understood Polish (there were quite a few), translated what I had said into Russian and a big roar of laughter went up. "What happened," my voice may have trembled a little. One Polish-speaking fellow said, "In Russia no numbers - you just go." I wrote their names to the best of my ability and we left.

The next group were Italians, about 90 of them, housed in a big public building. Happily the leader spoke French. Once again we distributed the food. Here my vanity went way up. Whenever we came to our Italian allies they all jumped up and saluted me.

There was a group from Poland. They did not want to go home. We did the same with them. Somewhat later our military government gave them our uniforms dyed blue and they were put in charge of guarding no longer in use U.S. equipment. The Poles were most cordial and could curse beautifully. No difficulty in recognizing a true Pole. He could call another in lovely animal anatomy construction language.

Then, too, we had Belgians and French. No problem. Our vehicles were always going west and in short time we no longer had to feed them.

All fine! Oh, no! After a few days the Russians said they wanted bread and meat. A word to my captain, and voila! Bread and meat came.

Meanwhile negotiations were going on to send our allies home by train. The link-up Russians went home first. In about two weeks or so, so did the rest.

The rest of our division must have had similar experiences with the prisoners of war that we released. Let's hope they remembered to say, "God bless America." We took care of about 500 allies.

Looking Back

In England you would buy fish and chips in one store where they were wrapped in newspaper. You took the package, icky and inky, to a pub where you got your beverage right off the shelf.

The boat across the English Channel took us, believe it or not, 24 hours. A very indirect route to avoid the mines. It was O.K. by me. For the first time in England it was warm - on the boat.

In France we were housed in a very cold chateau. The caretaker was worried that we soldiers (heaven forbid!) might damage a valuable painting. With a small group, and me, we put the painting in a closet and gave the caretaker the keys.

After the war, did any fellow GI make this observation? On Saturday afternoons, the young women of the village, armed with branches they used as brooms, swept the roads. You remember, cows were used to haul wagons along the roads. Our bovine friends were not exactly housebroken and there were no men around. It made the walk to church on Sunday much more pleasant.

BBB! How did the word bivouacking get misspelled? PICNICKING? Our days at Camp Shelby were no picnic. Chiggers, snakes, rain. Well, we made it.

Past Bulletin Issue Supply Exhausted

Paul Shadle

Company E, 271st Infantry

1504 Greensburg Road

New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068

In the last issue of the bulletin we published a list of past bulletins that were available from **Clarence Marshall's** files.

We want to let everyone know that the response was tremendous and the supply is now exhausted. I want to thank everyone for the overwhelming response and hope you are enjoying your bulletins.

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

The Danvers reunion has passed and has assumed its position as another great reunion in the history of the Association. Although the final list of attendees is still being tallied at the time I am writing this message, my records indicate that we had about 550 attendees at the Saturday night banquet, which is a pretty good gauge of the relative attendance at a reunion. That is perhaps 10% higher than we had last year at Schaumburg but considerably less than the 740 achieved at Myrtle Beach. This is another indication that the farther you go from the center of the Association population (Pennsylvania), the lower the attendance. Of course, for the long term benefit of the Association, it is necessary to visit all areas of the country, not just the places where we get the best attendance.

The various events of the reunion went well and everyone appeared to have a great time - I only heard compliments, no complaints. One of the favorite tours was the Spirit of Boston boat ride, complete with lobster dinner and entertainment on board. The boat was sold out completely by advance reservations (362 persons) and I had to send refund checks to the late subscribers. There was one event at which **Henry Putala**, our Reunion Chairman, failed us: he allowed it to rain on the day of the Plymouth Plantation tour, and **Jane** and I had to make a quick dash through the rebuilt Plymouth colony wearing \$3.00 ponchos we had just purchased. It was an interesting place to visit. We could have spent hours there, conversing with the "colonists" who showed no knowledge of the world beyond the time of their existence.

Of course, the success of the reunion was a result of the efforts of **Henry** and **Jean Putala** (Chairpersons), **John** and **Ellen McCann** (Co-Chairpersons), and the large committee that had volunteered to perform all the tasks required to keep things going smoothly. I will not try to review the individual accomplishments of all the members of the committee, of which I have little direct knowledge. I am sure **Henry** will do that elsewhere in this bulletin. They all merit a great deal of thanks from the rest of us for a job well done.

I previously mentioned issuing refund checks for reunion events. Reunion refunds have become quite excessive this year. In addition to those for oversubscription of the boat ride, there has been an increase in the number of cancellations due to sudden medical or health problems, besides "Taps." Father Time is not being very good to us in the health area. So far I have issued about 50 refund checks, and I still have quite a few more to go. On the same day that **Jane** and I were dashing through the Plymouth Plantation in our ponchos, another group of 69ers was rained-out of the golf tournament. I still have about 30 more refunds to send out just for that!

Dues notices for the new year should be going out before you receive this bulletin. In case you forgot to respond to the notice, you may send in your dues now: Regular Dues \$10.00, Auxiliary \$5.00, and any donations to our Postage/Bulletin Fund will be appreciated.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES!

NEW DUES YEAR FOR 1997-1998

August 1, 1997 to July 31, 1998

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Regular Membership | \$10.00 |
| Ladies' Auxiliary | \$ 5.00 |
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***Keep the Bulletin Coming.
Send Your Dues in Today!***

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WILLIAM R. MATLACH, TREASURER
Post Office Box 474

West Islip, New York 11795-0474
Telephone: 516/669-8077

Do not send dues to Earl Witzleb.

Past President's Remarks



Robert L. Pierce

144 Nashua Court

San Jose, California 95139-1236

Telephone: 408/226-8040

Being President of the 69th Infantry Division Association was surely one of the highlights of my life. To be accepted and respected by my peers is an honor I will always remember and cherish. It's hard to express my feelings to the members for their support and cooperation during my term of office, but I will always be grateful for the opportunity to have served in this most prestigious position as President.

It's hard to step outside the inner circle of the Association after so many years directly related to the business decisions and successes of the Association. I was a Director for three years; San Francisco Reunion Chairman; Vice President; and, President. Now out of necessity for the good of the Association, I am the Houston, Texas Reunion Chairman for 1998. Further, I will continue in whatever capacity I can to continue supporting this great fraternity of men, "Combat Veterans of World War II."

DANVERS REUNION

Henry and Jean Putala are to be commended for the outstanding job they did in organizing and managing a most successful Reunion. Their Committee members were also equal to the task and must be congratulated for their outstanding contribution to the recognized success of the Danvers Reunion. Every aspect of the program was skillfully planned and executed, except the washout of the Golf Tournament which only an Act of God could have prevented. I received several compliments that I must pass on: the great bar assortment and service; the outstanding band for the PX Party and Banquet; and the beautifully presented Color Guard Ceremony. Thanks again to all who participated.

50th ANNUAL REUNION COMMEMORATIVE WINE GLASS

Please accept my apology to those members who did not receive a commemorative glass because they left

early or did not attend the Banquet. Glasses were available in the Registration Room from Friday morning to Saturday afternoon to accommodate early departees. A red bordered notice was posted on the Bulletin Board all week to advise members leaving early how they could receive their glass. Apparently a few members missed the notice.

Extra glasses were available but sold out after the Banquet. I contacted the supplier about making additional glasses for direct order and shipment to members still desiring a commemorative wine glass. The supplier will produce a guaranteed minimum order quantity of 72 glasses with direct shipment to members in quantities of one or more. Price will be \$4 each plus a packaging, handling, shipping and insurance charge based on the quantity ordered: 1 glass \$4, plus \$6 shipping; 2-6 glasses \$4 each, plus \$7 shipping; 7-12 glasses \$4 each, plus \$8 shipping.

For members who want glasses, send a letter to the undersigned requesting the quantity of glasses, and a check for the total cost made out to the 69th Infantry Division Association. Requests must be received before January 17, 1998. If the total requested is for 72 or more glasses, the names and addresses will be sent to the glass company for direct shipment to members. If orders for less than 72 are received, all uncashed checks will be returned.

For those who did not attend the Banquet, the commemorative glass is a wine goblet imprinted in 22 carat gold. One side is a gold wreath with "50th Annual Reunion 1948-1997," the other side is the 69th Division logo in brushed gold with bright gold outline with "Fighting 69th Danvers, MA August 17-24, 1997." I would encourage anyone who did not have the opportunity to receive one, to order this commemorative memento.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Following are two articles that should be of interest to our members. First, is the notice by Turner Publishing Company to reprint the Fighting 69th Infantry Division History Book. There have been many inquiries over the past years, especially by newly found members requesting information about how to acquire a copy of the book. This will probably be the last opportunity for members who are interested.

Second, is an article outlining the World War II Monument approved by Congress; and, signed into law by President Clinton May 25, 1997. The address for registration forms for "The World War II Registry of Remembrance" is included in the article. Donations needed to construct the memorial should be sent to:

WWII Memorial Fund

American Battle Monuments Commission
P.O. Box 96766, Washington, DC 20090-6766

REPRINT

THE 69th INFANTRY DIVISION HISTORY BOOK IS BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

*Prepared especially for the veterans of
Bolte's Bivouacing Bastards - the Fighting 69th!*

CONTENTS

- History of (15) 69th Infantry Division units, the link-up with the Russians, and the Association
- Edited by 69th veterans Crandon F. Clark
- Full color endsheets featuring division insignia, awards and decorations
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Congress OKs WWII monument to list names of participants

Finally — a monument to the Americans who won World War II will be erected in Washington, D.C.

A law signed by President Clinton on May 25th authorized the American Battlefield Monument Commission to establish the memorial. But the primary funding of \$1000 million must be raised from private contributions. (Many critics complain, insisting that the funding should be a federal obligation. They point to the many so-called "pork barrel" appropriations that aid small segments of the population and claim that a monument to an effort that all Americans contributed to should be a national government project.

(There are many precedents of national monuments that have been built with popular contributions. Notable is the Statue of Liberty whose sponsors sought and obtained gifts from American school children.)

The memorial will be on 7.4 acres on the Mall directly between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. It is one of the last grand open public spaces on the Mall.

One of the features will be "The World War II Registry of Remembrance." It will be a state-of-the-art interactive display that will list the names of individual Americans who participated in the war effort. It will be kept on permanent public display.

Eligible for the Registry are:

a. Anyone who served in the armed forces during WWII;

b. Any civilian who helped on the home front. Their activities include - but are not limited to - working in defense-related industries, serving in Red Cross activities, such as first aid courses for civilians and nurse aides; growing a Victory Garden, rationing or recycling materials needed for the war effort, and participating in Civilian Defense activities. (That includes just about every American alive from 1939 to 1945.)

A person may register his or her name or that of family members or of friends, living or dead.

Registration forms may be obtained from: American Battlefield Commission, 29 Massachusetts, N.W., Washington, DC 20314-0001.

All Americans are invited to contribute to the memorial by becoming charter members of the World War II Memorial Society, by donating \$20, \$35, \$100 or more. These tax deductible contributions will raise the required capital. Donations needed to construct the memorial should be sent to:

WWII Memorial Fund
American Battle Monuments Commission
P.O. Box 96766, Washington, DC 20090-6766

The 27th Day of February, 1945

Submitted by: **Lawrence Verheye**

Company F, 271st Infantry

12351 Pierce Road, Wakarusa, Indiana 46573-9616

**HEADQUARTERS 69th INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 417 U.S. ARMY**

28 February 1945.

TO: The Officers and Men of the 69th Infantry Division and Attached Units.

Upon completion of our first day of offensive action, I wish to express my heartiest commendation and appreciation to all members of this division and attached units for your superb fighting spirit in bringing complete success in this initial operation.

All objectives were taken in accordance with the plan and your success has won the praise of our Corps Commander. Regardless of duty, everyone of you may feel justly proud of your individual part.

This operation marked the initiation of offensive action by the division and is a red letter day in our division history. It is but a forerunner of greater success to come. With the courage and fighting spirit which you have shown in your initial action, I am confident that no enemy can long block your road to final victory.

I am proud to be your commander.

E. F. REINHARDT

Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

* * * * *

HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT "RED LETTER DAY"

In a drizzling rain and heavy fog, the 271st and 273rd Regiments launched our first Division offensive at 0600 yesterday.

Going some 2000 yds., on an approximately 5 mile front, the Division took 3 German villages on the ridge across the valley from our jumping-off place. Incomplete reports revealed that our 271st and 273rd Regiments had taken 138 prisoners.

The 2000 yards advance carried the Division through the first belt of pillboxes in this sector of the Siegfried Line.

Two of the villages were taken by the 271st Regiment after sharp house-to-house fighting. The other locality was taken by the 273rd Regiment less than 4 hours after the Division launched its offensive.

Several weak counter-attacks by the Nazis later in the day were quickly smothered by our men.

The jump-off came at 0600. Massed artillery support by our forces opened up on the enemy a half hour later. In the opening phase of the Division's offensive the Nazis countered the attack chiefly with small arms sporadic artillery fire.

Emanuel Rind Writes...

Company I, 272nd Infantry Regiment
320 Central Parkway
Newport News, Virginia 23606-3726
Telephone: 757/596-7934

The following is an article I wrote on my experiences in the ASTP. For those of you who don't know, ASTP stands for Army Specialized Training Program. I've heard of two versions why it was started. One: The colleges which were predominantly attended by males were now in dire straits because of WW2. The ASTP would supply them with students which would keep the colleges operating financially. Two: Joyce Kilmer, the poet who wrote "Trees," was killed in action in WWI. To prevent the loss of this sort of talent, ASTP was created.

I may be wrong; but, in order to qualify for ASTP, an AGCT score of 120-125 or higher was needed. The norm for this intelligence test was 100. To qualify for OCS (Officer Candidate School), a score of 110 or higher was needed. Thus, it may be added that the ASTP could supply an officer and non-com cadre as well as specialists that the military deemed necessary to the war effort and the subsequent peace.

Some ASTP'ers thought that this gave them entitlements to be perpetual students and were surprised and angered when the program was terminated. However, the termination was a reminder that we were not students but soldiers and in a democracy we were entitled only to the same rights as other soldiers.

* * * * *

The ASTP or the Flaming Pisspot

I was an engineering student finishing my sophomore year, when the Japs attacked Pearl Harbor. Secretary of War Stimson had indicated that he would defer pre-med, engineering, and other students who were at the top of their class. Since that applied to me, I decided to enlist, so as not to miss this war (WWII). I enlisted in the infantry in September of 1942 and was placed on inactive status. I was called to active duty in July of 1943 and spent a week in an induction center. From there, I was shipped to Camp Hood, Texas on a military train.

Camp Hood was a tank destroyer center at that time; but, our trainload was assigned to a provisional infantry regiment. We were assigned to one of four barracks and began our basic infantry training. Each of these barracks must have held about a platoon of men.

A couple of weeks into basic, the powers that be started giving us exams which included calculus problems. We began to wonder what was going on. Checking, rumor had it that we were slated for ASTP.

What the heck was ASTP? One of the fellows said that his brother was in it and that they wore a patch that they called the flaming pisspot. He also said that his brother, although still in the army, was sent back to college.

A few days later, after a grueling days training, we marched back to camp. While we were formally assembled in front of our barracks, Captain Dobson, our company commander, addressed the assemblage. "You men," he said, "are being tested to see where you will fit in the ASTP program." He added, "After chow tonight, fall out in two groups — the pre-med students on my right side and the engineering students on the left." He said, "Corporal Bray will talk to the engineering students," and some sergeant whose name I didn't catch, "will talk to the pre-med students as to their future in the ASTP."

I listened to this and didn't hear anything that said that it was mandatory. So, I went to chow and finished eating as quickly as I could. I returned to barracks, washed up as best I could without taking a shower because I was in a hurry, and began getting into my suntans. The guys started returning from mess, still in their dirty fatigues. They asked me, "Where the hell are you going?" I answered, "To the Service Club." They looked amazed. "Aren't you going to listen to your future in the ASTP?" "No." I answered, "You'll be sorry," they said, "You might end up not going." I said that I didn't hear anybody say that it was an order and that I had to attend; and that the Army would send me anywhere it wanted to, whether I listened to the ASTP talk or not.

I took off for the Service Club and stayed there until just before 2200 hours when I left for the barracks. 2200 hours was our lights out time. When I neared our company area, I noticed the barracks area was dark and very quiet. The warehouse buildings, at one end of the area, were brightly lighted. Everything was pretty quiet. Not wanting to take a chance, I entered through the back of our barracks and found it empty. Since my bunk was at the other end, I headed that way, got undressed, and slipped into bed. I dozed off immediately.

At about 2330 hours, I was awakened by the guys shaking my bunk, stripping my blankets, and the noise of a helluva lot of bitching and griping. "What happened?" I asked. No answer. "Did you find out about your future in ASTP?" I asked. Again no answer. It took a little time before I found out what had happened. Corporal Bray and the sergeant had marched them to the warehouse buildings and told the engineering students to fall out in front of one of the buildings and the pre-meds in front of another. When they had done so, they were told, "The engineering students will march in and pick up picks and shovels and start digging ditches that were needed around the

(Continued on Page 20)

THE ASTP OR THE FLAMING PISSPOT

(Continued from Page 19)

camp. The pre-meds will march into the other building and pick up sickles and scythes and operate on the grass." They were pissed off; but, I had to admit that I learned a lot about Army ways from that experience. However, this isn't the end of my story.

After thirteen weeks of basic training, we were shipping out. Latrine rumors started circulating again and concluded that those who were classified as lower class men would go to Texas A&M College. The others would go to the Newark College of Engineering in Newark, N.J. and that's what happened. At Newark we all got a PFC stripe and a flaming pisspot patch. The patch was diamond shaped with the long axis horizontal. It had a blue border and a yellow or gold background with a large blue lamp of learning on it. This was the flaming pisspot.

We were stationed in a warehouse building on Broad Street which used to be the Casey Jones School of Aeronautics. We marched to the YMCA, after morning mess, for our hour of calisthenics. Then we marched to the college, in formation, through the streets of Newark, for about 3/4 of a mile.

Our unit was comprised of two companies. A Company were lower class men who had come from the armored infantry or paratroops. B Company were upper class men who came from the armored infantry or infantry. For the most part, we were treated well, with two exceptions. They were Professor Menardi of the Physics Dept. and an instructor or assistant professor in the Metallurgy Dept. named Roseburg. (I may not have his name right.) Both of these individuals acted as if we were draft dodgers and had schemed to get into this program. Roseburg would threaten, "If your work is not up to snuff I'll flunk you without mercy, then, it will be back to the troops for you." I have to mention that he was the only one who had a textbook. He said the texts weren't available. This made the course a little tough.

One day Roseburg came into class with a long face. We asked him what the trouble was. He told us that he had just been classified 1-A in the draft. He had no idea what a morale booster that was for us. He made our day. What we actually said to him was, "It's back to the troops for you. T.S."

With Professor Menardi, the class ended up taking a different tack. It was entirely unplanned and unrehearsed. Once it started, however, everyone fell into line with it. We came to class and sat down in our assigned seats. The G.I. in the first seat on the right side facing the blackboard in the front row, had brought in a box of dog biscuits, unbeknownst to us. Professor Menardi came into the room a little late and clumped his brief bag on his desk. He noisily pulled his chair out but did not sit down on it. Instead, he glared

at us. There was a very quiet silence in the room. The G.I. with the dog biscuits tried to open the box quietly; but, he made some noise. Menardi stared at him and then at us and shouted, "What the hell is going on here!" Nobody said anything. The dog biscuit box was opened. The G.I. took one out and held it up so the class could see it. He then bent down and said, "Here Fido, nice dog, have a biscuit. That's a good dog." Menardi looked over his desk to see the dog. The G.I. passed the box to the next guy. He went through the same procedure and passed the box to the next guy. In this way, the box of dog biscuits and the nonexistent dog were passed all around the room. Everybody patted the dog and fed him a biscuit. Menardi, stretched over his desk and looking, was apoplectic. "What the hell is going on here!" he finally shouted. The class answered in unison, "Quit f----g the dog." He must have gotten the point because things began improving from that point on.

A semester in ASTP was three months. After that, we received our grades and started the second semester. One month into the second semester, we were told that the Army needed replacements and we were going back to the troops. Well, I didn't join the Army to wear an ASTP patch and was tired of living in the city, so that was good news to me.

I arrived at Camp Shelby, Mississippi late at night and was assigned to the 2nd platoon, Co.I, 272nd Infantry Regt., 69th Division, as a second scout. We were told to read the bulletin board on the company street. My name was on it to report to the trucks at 0530 hours. We were to go out to the high explosive hand grenade range to get familiarization and throwing experience. When I got back, I was told that I had arrived at the "hell hole" of the Army. "Hell hole," I said, "this is Paradise. If you want a hell hole you go to Camp Hood, Texas."

Being in ASTP was the nearest thing you could get to being a civilian while in the Army. I knew that was over and that I was permanently in the Army now.

At this point, I would like to tell about our leadership in the ASTP, since we didn't seem to follow a standard table of organization. We had two officers in charge and one senior non-com. One officer was a major, who wore coast artillery insignia on his collar and seemed only to show up for Saturday morning inspections. We would be lined up on the city street at attention. He'd stand in front of us with his billed cap askew, teetering a little, with his scarf flapping in the wind. It was winter. We figured him for a society boy. He seemed to have a shoe fetish because, one time, he restricted all of us to the barracks for the weekend for having our shoes unshined. We started spending most of our evenings shining our shoes. He then found fault with the fact that the seams of our shoes weren't shined. He gigged one new arrival who was wearing

(Continued on Page 21)

THE ASTP OR THE FLAMING PISSPOT

(Continued from Page 20)

the unshined, suede finished, combat boots and restricted him for unshined shoes.

Occasionally, this major would show up for bed check which he did in company with the first lieutenant. We had Class A passes but we had to be in bed by 2200 hours. He would do his checking at about 2400 hours. One night, my friend slipped in late when bed check had already begun at the other end of the barracks. He undressed very quickly and slid all the way under the covers. The major carried a swagger stick; and, since he didn't see a head, he poked around with it. He muttered, "There doesn't seem to be anyone in there." At this point, my friend stuck his head out and, rubbing his eyes, asked, "What the hell is going on around here?" This gave everyone in the vicinity a good laugh.

Another time there was an empty bunk. Someone filled a condom with water to the size of a very large watermelon and put it in the bed. When the major came poking around with his swagger stick, he burst

it and water started dripping through the mattress onto the floor. The major began investigating. He flipped the covers back and found the remains of a rather forlorn, broken, condom. Nobody caught the comments he made.

In another incident, a group of the guys stacked six beds, one on top of the other. I don't know how they did it and I don't remember what the consequences were; but, I relate it to you to let you know how we amused ourselves in ASTP.

I've told you about the major. The other side of the coin was the first lieutenant. I don't remember his name, but, he tried to be a good officer and he did a pretty good job of running his command.

EPILOGUE: We had a ditty amongst ourselves which ran, "Take down your service flags mothers your sons are in the ASTP;" and although we were called "college f--ks" and other names; and, some felt we got off easy, most of the ASTP'ers I knew served in the infantry and gave a good account of themselves. I hold the Combat Infantry Badge, the Expert Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Belgian Fourragere, the POW Medal and other decorations.

Funny Antecedotes from My Army Days

By: **George Mentzer**
AT Company, 271st Infantry
616 Renova Avenue
Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17042

I have a few funny stories to relate that happened while I was in the service. I had just gotten back to camp after a 15-day furlough home. I was told that the division was holding maneuvers in the Desoto National Park located north of our camp.

First I had to get my bunk in order as it was in disarray hanging from the barracks rafters. Some of the johns were having fun while I was gone. It was no fun trying to untie my bunk. Now after 50 years, I can laugh over the incident.

I was trucked out to my outfit in the darkness of the night. I wished the moon would have been out in all its glory. Perhaps it would have saved me from falling into a deep pit while carrying my duffel bag. To my utter amazement, it was a garbage pit and it stunk something terrible. I was amazed that I did not break an arm or a leg. If there would have been a fence around it, I would not have had a problem, and I was embarrassed to tell anyone. I should have sued the Army. Ha! Ha!

Another time I was a replacement attached to Company H, 329th Infantry, 83rd Division. My ammo

bearer for my machine gun would go wacky now and then and attack me. I would always suppress him, but I didn't want to hurt him because I needed him. One time he tangled with me next to some large pipes 6' in diameter out in the open area. I yelled at him to stop fighting or we'd both be killed as a kraut tank started to shell us with his 88. He listened to me for a change as we both heard the shrapnel bouncing off the metal pipes. He just grinned.

Another time we were crossing the river and another machine gunner dropped into a deep hole. He and the machine gun went under, but he was determined to hold onto the gun. As he surfaced blubbering for air, I thought he might drown. It didn't seem funny at the time.

One time we set the machine gun on a high escarpment overlooking a deep valley in Deutschland and were watching some krauts on the opposite hill as they pulled up an ambulance to move wounded men. All of a sudden, my ammo bearer attacked me again. I suppressed him as usual when suddenly, I spotted an enemy jet flying directly over our position. I couldn't fire on him because the Black Beauty was flying too fast. That stopped the fighting instantly. Fear of being killed can change a person's attitude quickly.

I never squealed to the sergeant about his condition because I felt sorry for him. He even had lost a pin from his carbine that held it together and never told me that he put a match stick in the hole as a replacement. What a character he was!

**Annual Meeting of Officers
and Board of Directors
69TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN.
AUGUST 22ND, 1997
TARA FERNCROFT
DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS**

President Pierce called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. with 20 members present plus four officers and quorum was declared. The invocation was given by **Chaplain Snidow** and Pledge of Allegiance was made by the entire group in attendance.

Secretary's Report: A brief summation of the minutes was given by **Secretary Sheavly** of the meeting in Schaumburg. The minutes had already been printed and submitted to the membership in a Bulletin. It was felt there was no reason to present them again. Motion made and seconded that the minutes be accepted. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Matlach submitted two reports, the first covering period of January 1st, 1996 to December 31st, 1996 which showed income of \$111,766.48 and expenses of \$95,496.81 for a net increase of \$16,269.67. The largest expense was for the printing and distribution of the Bulletin, amounting to \$25,812.74. The second report covered the period of January 1st, 1997 to July 31st, 1997, income for period was \$110,580.22 and expenses were \$25,796.89. The income was received for the Danvers reunion, however, at the time of the meeting the bills for the Tara Ferncroft had not been paid. The Treasurer suggested that in the future, consideration be given to running some of the events at the expense of the Treasury since we have sufficient operating funds. The entire financial statement becomes part of the minutes of this meeting. Motion was made and seconded to accept the report as submitted. Motion carried.

Auditor's Report: Auditor Lucci reported that he had examined the financial records and all funds were properly recorded. Motion made and seconded to accept Auditor's report. Motion carried.

Membership: Chairman Kurtzman reported we had 4,611 members as of July 24, 1997, (after deductions for widow, honorary, sustaining, etc.). Through Taps, we have lost 22 members and located 9 new members.

Bulletin Report: Bulletin Editor Witzleb, due to health reasons, was unable to attend the Reunion. However, he advised that he will continue as Editor as long as he is physically able. The members expressed their gratitude for the dedicated work that he has put into the Bulletin.

Resolutions and By-Laws: Chairman Butterfield, as Legal Advisor, was unable to attend reunion. In his absence **President Pierce** reviewed the amendments in the Constitution changes as presented in the Bulletin with the express purpose of reducing the number of members on the Board of Directors to reduce to a total of no more than 25. Discussion on the changes as submitted. Motion was made and seconded that the changes as printed in the Bulletin be presented to the membership. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee: Chairman Lucci presented the following for Officers for the period August 22nd, 1997 to August 1999.

President James Boris
Vice President Harold Ruck
 William Taylor (from the floor)

Treasurer **W.R. Matlach**
Secretary **Ralph Goebel**

Nominations for Board of Directors for Class of 2000 as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Special Troops</i> | Carl Miller |
| <i>271st Regiment</i> | George Wolff |
| <i>272nd Regiment</i> | Edgar Parsons |
| <i>273rd Regiment</i> | Eugene Mischke |
| <i>Divarty</i> | John O'Connor |
| <i>269th Engineers</i> | Ernest Krause |
| <i>777th Tank Battalion</i> | Henry Putala |

In the event that the General Membership approves the recommended Constitution and By-Laws, then the Nominations for the Board of Directors will be as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| <i>Special Troops</i> | Henry Putala |
| <i>271st Regiment</i> | George Wolff |
| <i>272nd Regiment</i> | Edgar Parsons |
| <i>273rd Regiment</i> | Eugene Mischke |
| <i>Divarty</i> | John O'Connor |

The motion was made to accept the recommendations by the Nominating Committee. Motion was carried.

Future Nominating: The Chairman for the 1998 Nominating Committee will be **Tom Heath**, presently a member concluding his service as member of the Board in 1998.

First Link-Up Report: Chairman Beswick was not in attendance, therefore, the report was given by **Bud Parsons** who emphasized that no money from the Association was used for the monument at Strehla. A duplicate of the plaque placed at Strehla was made and it is now at Camp Shelby. None of the present plaques at Torgau specifically refer to the 69th Infantry Division and through contacts with the various German Government authorities a plaque (in English, German and Russian) will be mounted, after full approval, along with a flagpole flying the American Flag and indicating the 69th Division's participation in the link-up.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Continued from Page 22)

Danvers Reunion: Chairman Putala was not available for a report, therefore a complete report will be made at the General Membership meeting.

Future Reunion Sites: Chairman Boris referred report on Houston to President Pierce. He reported that most items are in place for the reunion to be held August 23rd, 1998 to August 30th, 1998. Room rates will be \$69. As additional information becomes available on the 1998 reunion in Houston, it will be printed in the Bulletin. In regard to the proposed location of the reunion in 1999, Jim Boris advised he is still working on the possibility of Orlando, to be held in September or October or possibly even early November. Since there is nothing definite to report on this, further information will reach the membership through the Bulletin or at the next Reunion in Houston.

The time being rather late (6:20 p.m.) and there being no further business to be transacted at this meeting, the motion was made and unanimously seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion enthusiastically approved.

Respectively submitted,
W.C. "Bill" Sheavly
Secretary

Annual Meeting of the General Membership 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. AUGUST 23RD, 1997 TARA FERNCROFT DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS

President Pierce called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. The Invocation was rendered by Chaplain Bill Snidow. Pledge of Allegiance was handled by the membership.

Comments by the President: Advised that Cliff Barberi would be the Parliamentarian for the meeting. He further made some comments on the handling of the gift glasses as well as table assignments. The rose bearers for the Memorial Service is to be handled by the graduating class of the Board of Directors. Recognition of the 20 first-timers and the Past Presidents.

Secretary Report: Secretary Sheavly advised the report would be brief and to the point, since the minutes had appeared in a recent Bulletin there was little reason to reread them. Motion made and seconded that the minutes be accepted as printed in the Bulletin. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Matlach submitted two reports, the first covering the period January 1, 1996 to December 31, 1996, and the second January 1, 1997 to July 31, 1997. He pointed out that we now have three CDs and there is a possibility that a fourth might be purchased. There are approximately 5,000 members listed on the rolls, however only about 50% of those are dues paying. Donation was made by the Auxiliary for \$500 to a Veterans Hospital as donation to support Veterans. To avoid duplication and for additional financial comments please refer to the details listed in the Board of Directors minutes. Motion made and seconded to accept the Treasurers Report. Motion carried.

Auditor's Report: Auditor Lucci reported that he verified the checking account and that all funds are accounted for properly. Motion made and seconded that the report be accepted as submitted. Motion carried.

Membership Report: Membership Chairman Kurtzman advised 4,611 members as of July 24, 1997. In 1996 there were 139 listed on Taps and 22 new members. Since the last Bulletin was issued 20 members are to be listed in Taps and 9 new members. Bob Kurtzman advised that he had attended 31 consecutive reunions, and was given a round of applause by the membership. The report was accepted as submitted.

Editor's Report: Editor Witzleb was not in attendance, however he has advised that he will continue as Editor as long as he is physically able. It was pointed out that the Association is still in need of an Assistant Editor. If interested please contact the President at once.

Legal Advisor's Report: Inasmuch as Gene Butterfield was not in attendance, no report was submitted other than the changes recommended by the committee for changes in the Constitution and the By-Laws. The major concern, we need to reduce the number on the Board of Directors, to comply with the Constitution and By-Laws as well as the fact that due to declining membership and participation, it is becoming more difficult to have members serve on the Board. The committee recommendation was to reduce the new elected members Class of 2000 to five members, as follows: Special Troops, 271st Regiment, 272nd Regiment, 273rd Regiment and Divarty. Then next year the Class of 2001 would be five members, etc. and through attrition we would be in line with the Constitution and By-Laws. The motion was made and seconded that the amendment to the Constitution be approved as printed in the Bulletin. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee: Chairman Ed Lucci presented the following in nomination for period of August 24th, 1997 to 1999 reunion:

President James Boris
Vice President Harold Ruck
William Taylor (from the floor)
Treasurer W.R. Matlach
Secretary Ralph Goebel

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

(Continued from Page 23)

At this time a vote was taken on the Vice President between **Harold Ruck** and **William Taylor**, both left the room and vote taken and **Harold Ruck** was the winning nominee. The vote was taken on the other officers - President, Treasurer and Secretary, and the persons as nominated were elected.

The committee then recommended the following for the Class of 2000 on the Board of Directors:

Special Troops **Henry Putala**
271st Regiment **George Wolff**
272nd Regiment **Edgar Parsons**
273rd Regiment **Eugene Mischke**
Divarty **John O'Connor**

A motion was made and seconded that the above named members be elected to the Board of Directors, Class of 2000 in accordance with the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

Link-up Report: **Bill Beswick** was not in attendance and the report was presented by **Bud Parsons**. He pointed out that a separate fund was created to finance the memorials at Strehla, and further that no Association funds would be used, only funds through donations. The funds raised thus far were approximately \$18,000 and \$8,000 was spent for the first link-up park. He further explained in detail the park, monuments, plaques, funding for this memorial. Since no mention is made of the 69th Division, a new plaque is being prepared stating the 69th Division's participation in the link-up and this will be in English, German and Russian. At this memorial an American flag will fly from April 25th to September of each year. A financial statement was submitted, funds contributed \$17,700, with 305 contributors, the funds should be fully disbursed within the next year.

Danvers Reunion: **Reunion Chairman Putala** gave a brief report on the reunion. He advised that 598 were registered, with 550 attending the banquet, and we have 20 first-timers. Souvenir sales were estimated to be \$1,250.

Reunion Site Activity: **Chairman Boris** referred the matter of the 1998 Houston Reunion to **President Pierce**. The reunion will be held from August 23rd to August 30th, 1998. There are 21 members in the Houston area. Be advised that the cost of the rooms is set at \$69. The hotel is located in the heart of the newer section of Houston. Tours are being arranged. Details will follow. The golf greens fees will be \$32-\$35. Inasmuch as **President Pierce** had spent from his own funds, the motion was made and seconded that reimbursement be made not to exceed \$1,000 for expenses incurred, motion carried. The override for 1998 will be kept at a minimum, but members are urged to continue to contribute to the hospitality room.

1999 Reunion Site: **Chairman Boris** covered problems he has had in getting committee members for this year. He requested that **Pierce** be made the official reunion site negotiator for 1998, motion was made and seconded. Motion carried. The need is urgent to obtain members to handle the reunion, i.e. banquet seating, registration, souvenirs. It cannot be done unless there are 7-10 persons to assist. Motion made and seconded that the reasonable negotiator expenses will be reimbursed on approval by the President. Motion carried. There are two sites - Orlando and Catskills. Consideration will be made in the next year or so.

New Business: Dues paying active members versus non-paying dues members and the receipt of the Bulletin was a subject for discussion. At the present time only 50% of the listed members pay dues which is unfair to those that pay their dues and places an undue burden on the costs of publishing the Bulletin. The cost of publication of the Bulletin exceeds the dues collected. **President Pierce** proposed that the membership be broken into two groups, the first being the active dues paying members and the second, inactive, non-dues paying. Also that notice be given in the next three issues of the Bulletin that unless the dues are paid they will be deleted from the Bulletin distribution list. However, they will remain on the membership listing. **Treasurer Matlach** spoke at great length against the aforementioned proposal. During this speech he outlined past procedures that, in his opinion, were self-destructive to the Association. Motion was made and seconded on **Pierce's** proposal and defeated. **Treasurer Matlach** made the following proposal. The motion was then made as follows: It is moved that the General Membership reaffirm that this Association shall continue the dues policy which has been followed successfully during its past history, namely that: 1. No World War II veteran of the 69th Infantry Division or its supporting units shall be removed from the Membership Roster for non-payment of dues. 2. No veteran applying for new membership in the Association shall be required to pay dues in order to be added to the Membership Roster.

There being no further business to transact, the motion was made and seconded that we adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectively submitted,
W.C. "Bill" Sheavly
Secretary

PLEASE NOTE: It is my intention to have our minutes as complete as possible. The meetings were lengthy, and often in confusion — there were several occasions where there appeared to be two motions on the floor. I have hopefully placed everything on paper of importance. However, in the event of an error or omission, please make note of same and offer it as a correction at the reunion in Houston.

Bill Sheavly, Secretary

Attendees by State at the 1997 Danvers, Massachusetts Reunion

| STATE | ATTENDANCE |
|----------------------|------------|
| Pennsylvania | 76 |
| Massachusetts | 53 |
| New York | 48 |
| Florida | 43 |
| New Jersey | 40 |
| California | 36 |
| Illinois | 25 |
| Virginia | 21 |
| Ohio | 20 |
| Tennessee | 20 |
| Wisconsin | 18 |
| Connecticut | 17 |
| New Hampshire | 17 |
| Michigan | 15 |
| Maryland | 14 |
| Arizona | 12 |
| North Carolina | 12 |
| Washington | 12 |
| Arkansas | 9 |
| Nebraska | 9 |
| Iowa | 8 |
| Alabama | 6 |
| Colorado | 6 |
| Indiana | 6 |
| Louisiana | 6 |
| Missouri | 6 |
| Minnesota | 5 |
| Vermont | 5 |
| Maine | 4 |
| Montana | 4 |
| Rhode Island | 4 |
| Delaware | 3 |
| Oklahoma | 3 |
| Georgia | 3 |
| Texas | 3 |
| Alaska | 2 |
| Kansas | 2 |
| Mississippi | 2 |
| Oregon | 2 |
| South Carolina | 2 |
| Utah | 2 |
| West Virginia | 2 |
| Nevada | 1 |
| Washington, DC | 1 |
| Canada | 2 |

609

| SUMMARY | MEMBERS | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|---------|-------|
| Total Attendees | 341 | 609 |
| First Time Attendees | 27 | |

TOURS & ACTIVITIES:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Lexington and Concord Tour | 166 |
| Boston Tour | 252 |
| Theatre Show | 163 |
| Plymouth Plantation | 197 |
| Early Bird Dinner | 263 |
| Spirit of Boston Luncheon Cruise | 363 |
| Golf Tournament — Rained Out | |
| PX Beer Party | 421 |
| Banquet - Dinner Dance | 546 |
| Farewell Breakfast | 185 |

1997 50th Annual Reunion Attendees Danvers, Massachusetts

The following is a list of the attendees at the 1997 Reunion in Danvers, Massachusetts, including members, wives, widows and guests. If your name does not appear, it is because you failed to fill out a Registration Form during your visit.

An asterisk (*) indicates a First Timer.

69th DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Fred Avery | Virginia |
| Guest: Patricia Avery | |
| Archie Brooke | Virginia |
| Guest: Vivian Brooke Bailey | |
| Gordon Kjos | Minnesota |
| Dr. Sumner Russman | Oklahoma |

69th DIVISION BAND

*Ernest and Anna Castonguay Massachusetts

69th MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

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

69th QUARTERMASTER

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Keith and Mary Loo Mower | California |
|--------------------------------|------------|

269th ENGINEERS

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Ernest and Mary Krause | Illinois |
| Frank and Stefania Nemeth | Pennsylvania |
| Frank and Grace Packard | Massachusetts |
| Ward and Marian Peterson | Pennsylvania |
| William Riggle, Sr. | Indiana |
| Guest: William Riggle, Jr. | |
| Francis Sullivan | Massachusetts |

369th MEDICAL BATTALION

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| William Bowman | Virginia |
| Marvin and June Slichter | Pennsylvania |

569th SIGNAL COMPANY

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Robert and Margaret Ambrose | New Jersey |
| George C. Hepp | New York |
| Guests: James P. and Ruth Hepp | |
| Edmus Hoskins | Texas |
| William and Eileen Jones | Florida |
| Joseph Kotsko | Ohio |
| Curt and Evelyn Peterson | Wisconsin |
| Donald and Lois Pierce | Pennsylvania |
| Carl and Mildred Stetler | Pennsylvania |

(Continued on Page 26)

**1997 REUNION ATTENDEES
DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS**

(Continued from Page 25)

**271st INFANTRY REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS COMPANY**

John Barrette Wisconsin
William and Dottie Duncan California
Ray and Bertha Jones Pennsylvania
*Richard and Agnes Sorenson Massachusetts
Lee Wah Indiana

COMPANY A

*James Farquhar Massachusetts
Allan and Bobbi Gwynne California
Robert and Jean Ross Massachusetts
George and Rita Wolff South Carolina

COMPANY B

Lumir and Patsy Bocek Nebraska
Martin and Rogene Buol Florida
Kenneth and Dorothy Curran Florida
Philander and Ruth Delphey Pennsylvania
Earl and Millie Hansen Tennessee
*Ted Heilman Florida
Adam and Margaret Lee Pennsylvania
Charles and Peggy Mabe Pennsylvania
Elmer and Dorothea Miller Georgia
Thora Miller Illinois
Harold and Cynthia Moore Tennessee
Charles and Roseann Nicely Pennsylvania
Orrie Pullen Michigan
William and Jo Sheehan New Jersey
Kenneth and Lillian Upton Louisiana
Charles and Patricia Walsh Wisconsin
James and Barbara Walsh Connecticut
James and Dorothy White Tennessee

COMPANY C

*J. Thomas Cannon Vermont
Robert and Florence Klein Illinois
*Alexander and Mary Milne Massachusetts

COMPANY D

John and Jean Butkovich Washington
*Frank and Lauraette Clark New Hampshire
John and Shirley Fleming Pennsylvania
Ted and Cynthia Snyder New York
John and Dena Tounger California

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2nd BATTALION

Earl and Judy Fox Tennessee

COMPANY E

Elmer and Erma Broneske Colorado
Grace Glaum Illinois
Guest: Doris Glaum
Irvin and Etta Gotkin Florida
Joseph and Jane Kurt Iowa
William and Catherine McCall New Jersey
Bing Poon District of Columbia

Jim and Sally Sharpe Wisconsin
Guests: Mary Weinand, Susie Garrison
William and Marjorie Taylor, Sr. Florida

COMPANY G

Clifton and Pauline Barbieri Virginia
Edward and Jacquelyn Chando New Jersey
*Norman Dibelius New York
*Harry Goldstein Massachusetts
Zane and Zelma Gray Arkansas
Nathan Green New York
Guest: Roxanne Kushner
G. Scott and Ann Gresham Virginia
N. C. Harrison Tennessee

Guests: Elizabeth Knight,
Emily and Alan Cochran

Glenn and Nadine Hunnicutt Nebraska
Clarence and Shirley Jensen New York
Emery and Patricia Nagy Tennessee
*John Ordahl Colorado
George and Doris Phillips New Jersey
Ralph and Josephine Plugge Illinois
David and Mary Kay Scatena Pennsylvania

COMPANY H

Robert and Norma Austin Maine
Walter Hart Connecticut
Albert and Eleanor Panara New Jersey

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION

James and Betty Yakle Florida

COMPANY I

Douglas and Nathalie Buckstad .. North Carolina
William and Jane Haines Massachusetts
John Noone New York
Ralph and Doris Untermoehlen Kansas

COMPANY K

Robert and Irene Bishop Massachusetts
Lawrence and Frances Gillen Arizona
Herb and Pauline Pickett Arizona
Guest: James Pickett

Charles and Helen Norman
Worley and Mae Smith Michigan
Guest: Connie Brough

COMPANY L

*John and Catherine Marshall Massachusetts

COMPANY M

Phillip Jefferson, Jr. Massachusetts
Bill and Rheba Sheavly Maryland
James and Mary Nelle Shoemaker Florida

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

Edgar Biles Arkansas
Anthony and Nancy Holgate New Jersey
Francis Tomeczuk New Jersey
Guest: Henry Melchin
George and Lina West Pennsylvania
George and Virginia Weston New Jersey

(Continued on Page 27)

1997 REUNION ATTENDEES
DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS
(Continued from Page 26)

CANNON COMPANY

Harold C. and Nancy Faulkner, Jr. California
Guest: Harold C. Faulkner III

SERVICE COMPANY

Robert Brunsell Wisconsin
Leroy and Maria Keller Virginia

272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

***Stuart and Ada Mandell** Massachusetts
 ***George and Alice McDermott** Massachusetts

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1st BATTALION

Herbert and Jeanne Mason Florida

COMPANY A

Edgar and Frances Parsons North Carolina
Robert and Esther Smith Ohio

COMPANY B

Crandon and Jane Clark New Jersey
Nicholas and Kathryn Giannone New York
William and Jeanne Higgins Nebraska
Bernard LaDue New York
Guests: Linda Brown, Kathie LaDue Carl
Vincent and Rosemarie Mazza Maryland
Leo and Margaret Moore Ohio
Guests: Dale and Marilyn Moore

COMPANY C

***Joseph Bavico** Ohio
Frances Fournier Massachusetts
Guests: Fran and Toni Fournier
 ***Anthony Klancher** Minnesota
Charles Weaver Ohio

COMPANY D

Louis and Judy Pohopek Maine

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2nd BATTALION

David and June Wittman Montana

COMPANY E

Fred and Mavis Butenhoff Wisconsin
Edward and Constance Gallagher ... New Hampshire
James and Phyllis Howard Arizona
Charles and Glenna Pierson, Jr. Florida
William Russell Michigan
Guest: C. Tom Amie
Roger and Ruth West Michigan
Chet and Barbara Yastrzemski New York
Guests: Diana and Richard Yastrzemski

COMPANY F

Ray and Ruth Clement Rhode Island
James Henry Pennsylvania
Joseph and Anne Nunes Rhode Island
Neil Shields Pennsylvania
David and Jeanne Theobald California

COMPANY G

Barbara Barakat Pennsylvania
Clarence Burke Pennsylvania
Hudacek Clement Missouri
Val Frauenhofer New York
Will and Barbara Frazee Ohio
Michael Kertis Delaware
Ed and Bette Kiley Florida
Ray Lehman Iowa
Guest: Eva Benson

COMPANY H

Hollis and Audrey Durant New Hampshire
Marshall and June Mussay Illinois
Frank Olah Florida
 ***Walter and Nicole Wilson** New York

COMPANY I

Edward Ambrose Pennsylvania
Frank and Clare Aplan Pennsylvania
June Devitt Massachusetts
John Duespohl Pennsylvania
Adrian and Marion Eckhardt New Jersey
William and Dolly Edge Maryland
Forrest and Marilyn Frentress Colorado
James and Marie Herbison Massachusetts
 ***Alfred and Laura Kerzner** Massachusetts
Robert and Vivian Kurtzman Ohio
Edward McDonnell New York
Emanuel and Edythe Rind Virginia
Harold and Ethel Ruck Tennessee
Robert Tarr Florida
Thomas Yelcich, Jr. Michigan

COMPANY K

Daniel and Virginia Hobart Massachusetts
Stanley and Laurene Knedlik Alaska
Harold and Laverne Zeiger Michigan

COMPANY L

Russell and Rosanna Meinecke Missouri
Bernard and Edith Zaffern Michigan
Kenneth and Marcella Ziems Virginia

COMPANY M

Norville and Myrtle Kendrick Florida
Joseph and Kathryn Makosky Pennsylvania
Floyd McCalip, Jr. Mississippi
Thomas and Wilma Moore Tennessee
Richard and Claire Sodorff Idaho
Ray and Alice Wolthoff Florida

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

Roy Bush Missouri
Donald and Libby Calhoun Florida
Urno and Evelyn Gustafson Pennsylvania
Joseph Huber Wisconsin
Russell and Betty Koch Missouri
Frank Novak Connecticut
Raymond and Janet Sansoucy Massachusetts

(Continued on Page 28)

**1997 REUNION ATTENDEES
DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS**

(Continued from Page 27)

ANTI-TANK COMPANY (cont.)

Mel Schulz Ohio
*Bruno Stefanoni New York
Robert and Annette Walter Iowa

CANNON COMPANY

Ralph and Ursula Goebel Minnesota

SERVICE COMPANY

*Michael Baltier Massachusetts

273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Norman and Kathryn Barratt California
*Cooper Eastman Massachusetts
Norman and Juanita Pickford Illinois

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1st BATTALION

John and Janet Havey Arizona
Guest: Anna Havey
William Robertson California
Ralph and Cecilia Scholtz Florida
Arthur and Bobbie Seidenstricker .. Pennsylvania
*Henry and Dorothy Welby New York

COMPANY A

James Brooks Georgia
James and Mary Carroll Texas
James and Allamae Ezell Arkansas
Carolyn Houghton Colorado
Edward Lucci New York
William Nettles Mississippi
*Julian Roberts New Hampshire
Robert and Jean Rosane Vermont
Donald and Veronica Stibitz Pennsylvania

COMPANY B

Paul Bois New Hampshire
Guest: J.T. O'Neill
Glen and Jean Knepp Pennsylvania
Eugene and Marilyn Mischke Illinois
Robert and Peggy Shaw California

COMPANY C

Stanley and Gloria Czyzyk New York

COMPANY D

Arthur L. Ayres, Sr. Pennsylvania
Guests: Arthur L. Jr. and Debbie Ayres,
Arthur L. III
Allan Blackmar New York
Ed and Mary Case Pennsylvania
Harry and Alberta Chandler Washington
Guests: Bill, Jack and Laura Chandler,
Jennifer Jones,
Anne and George Patterson
Paul and Elaine Gornbein New York
Roland and Janice Hendrickson Oregon

George and Barbara Johnson Virginia
Robert and Betty Jo McCarty, Jr. Louisiana
Dan and Cathy McHugh Florida
Kenneth Sawyer Florida
Guest: Fran Collard

COMPANY E

Joseph Aiello New York
Guest: James Doyle
Carl and Charlyne Bugg North Carolina
Martin and Mildred Connor Massachusetts
Robert Crowe Massachusetts
Francis and Lucille Dionne Connecticut
Arthur and Marian Hume Michigan
William and Jane Matlach New York
Harold and Peggy Sprang Ohio

COMPANY F

Gilbert and Marion Clark Pennsylvania
John and Marjorie Fain Florida
Walter and Shirley Harpain California
Bill and Mary Powell Connecticut
Frederic and Mary Ellen Scherer New Jersey
*Lou and Dorothy Souder New Jersey

COMPANY G

Alfred and Elizabeth Aronson New Jersey
Doris Beecher Florida
*Homer and Patricia Lind California
Joe and Diane Panganiban California
Orville and Beulah Schultz California
Edson and Tory Stagg New Jersey

COMPANY H

Robert and Roberta Andrew Pennsylvania
Bertram and Rhoda Eckert New York
Robert and Maxine Haag Indiana
Thomas Hoffman Florida
Arthur and Christie Knudsen, Jr. Florida
Charles Locke New Jersey
Guests: Donna Locke, Michael McCool
*Charles Price Vermont
Guest: B. Foley
Murry and Helene Schulman New York

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 3rd BATTALION

Marvin and Miriam Freeman Connecticut
Joseph and Caroline Gawek North Carolina
Charles and Patricia Hoffman Alabama
David and Miriam Malchick New York
John and Marjorie Mihm Pennsylvania
Robert and Judy Miller Maryland
Donald and Doris Penny North Carolina
Earl and Anna Walters Pennsylvania

COMPANY I

William and Beverly Armstrong Iowa
*Archie Astolfi Massachusetts
Justin and Robbie Bloom Maryland
James and Audrey Castrale Nebraska

(Continued on Page 29)

**1997 REUNION ATTENDEES
DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS**
(Continued from Page 28)

COMPANY I (cont.)

Paul and Elaine Eagon Illinois
George and Janet Houseal Pennsylvania
Carl and Bernice Macknair Pennsylvania
Robert and Theresa Pierce California
Earnest and Elizabeth Rowe Delaware
Erwin and Carmen Sanborn New Hampshire
Guests: Stephan and Heidi Sweetland
John Sullivan, Jr. Virginia
Nicholas Villacci New York

COMPANY K

Oliver and Vera Coker Arkansas
Lloyd Lippman Montana
Guest: Jeannie Pfeffer
Jim and Margaret Mynes Alabama
Guests: Skip and Dorothy Meadows

COMPANY L

Eldon and Marjie Atwood California
Guest: Lucille Buchanan

COMPANY M

Raul Nava California

CANNON COMPANY

Arlie and Parley Boswell Illinois
Mary Ross New Jersey

SERVICE COMPANY

Stan and Wanda Olszewski Connecticut

DIVISION ARTILLERY

Charles and Edith Chapman Virginia

MEDICAL DETACHMENT, DIVISION ARTILLERY

Raymond and Joan Essick Massachusetts
Guest: Paula Essick

724th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

BATTERY A

Paul Kitner Pennsylvania
Brownie and Anna Belle Parsons .. West Virginia
William Ruebsamen California

BATTERY B

Thomas Heath New York

BATTERY C

Robert Hollister New York
Coy and Erline Horton North Carolina
Eugene and Myrna Parker Maryland
John Rosenbrock California

879th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Thomas and Ruth-Ellen Elliott Washington
George Smith Nebraska

880th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

George and Edna Blume Utah
Stanley and Georgia Bratt Illinois
Howard and Barbara Carlton New Hampshire
Guests: Rick and Connie Carlton
Robert and Marilyn McKee Maryland
John and Margaret O'Connor Illinois
Guests: Timothy and Bridget O'Malley
Mike and Lucille Pendrick Arkansas

SERVICE BATTERY

William and Loretta Stump Indiana

881st FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

BATTERY B

James and Tillie Boris Pennsylvania
Barney DeStefano Florida
Guest: Joseph DeStefano
Walter Haag California
Guest: Dorothy Vasiloudis
Emil Matys Nevada
James Moen Minnesota
Gilbert and Susan Rocco Pennsylvania
Phillip and Harriet Sparacino Wisconsin
Eugene Tabacchi Ohio

BATTERY C

Lester Hart Ohio
Daniel and Joan Jones Pennsylvania
Hugh and Dorothy Milstead Tennessee
Paul Molinari Connecticut
Arthur and Fondina Moore Connecticut
Bill Pendell New York
Eugene and Arlene Shollenberger ... Pennsylvania
Guest: Donald Startz
George Vasil Massachusetts

SERVICE BATTERY

Stephen Rojcewicz Massachusetts

661st TANK DESTROYERS

*Walter Boyd Massachusetts
Eugene and Ethel Pierron Wisconsin
Daniel and Esther Russo New Jersey
Guest: Kelly Quinn
William and Ellen Snidow Virginia
Guest: Patricia Woody
Charles and Frances Yannul New Jersey

777th TANK BATTALION

Andrew and Laura LaPatka Pennsylvania
Alex and Florence Lasseigne Louisiana
John and Ellen McCann Massachusetts
Guests: David and Edith Danforth
Henry and Jean Putala Connecticut
Gaylord and Ruth Thomas Wisconsin
Robert Weise New York
Charles and Edna White Oklahoma

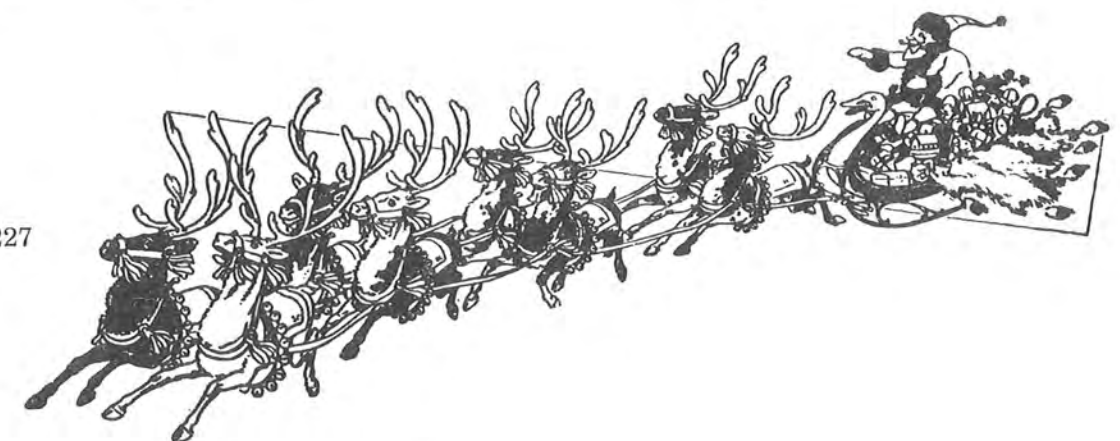
HONORARY MEMBERS

Wilfred and Ollie Ferda Ontario, Canada



Company F, 272nd Infantry Camp Shelby, Mississippi October 1944

Submitted by: Neil Shields, 222 Sunnyland Avnue, #1, Pittsburgh, PA 15227



G.I's Ring Found on Dead Nazi

From THE PHILADELPHIA Friday, Oct. 19, 1945

The American soldier leaned over the dead German whom he had just bayoneted on the battlefield near Leipzig.

From a finger on his fallen foe he removed a ring engraved with the initials "G.F.D." and date '43. It was a class ring of Upper Darby High School, which evidently had come in the German's possession as war booty.

Private Martin J. Farrell, who took the ring from the finger of the dead German, wrote to his sister in New York:

"Find the parents of the boy who wore this ring and tell them that his death is avenged. I killed the German who killed him."

And so it was that the ring, the most precious possession of **Sergeant Gaetano R. DeFrancesco** (*Company I, 271st Infantry*), has been returned to his parents in Upper Darby.

Sergeant DeFrancesco was killed in action in Belgium near the Siegfried Line on February 28th, 1945. It was during some heavy fighting on April 17th that **Farrell** shot three Germans and bayoneted the fourth, the holder of the ring.

The search began when Private Farrell's sister, Kay Farrell, communicated with Dr. James E. Nancarrow, principal of Upper Darby High School, and told him the story. The ring bore the initials G.D.F., and the graduating class date 1943. The parents were quickly traced by school records.

Dr. Nancarrow, assisted by R. Wayne Body, adviser to the class of 1943, searched the records and found that the ring had belonged to **DeFrancesco**, who entered the Army immediately after his graduation in 1943.

This week Miss Farrell brought the ring to Upper Darby and met **Sergeant DeFrancesco's** 25-year-old sister, Lydia, at the high school where she is a sophomore. She identified the ring as her brother's.

NOTE: This story was submitted by Raymond DiPrimo. He is the cousin of **Sergeant DeFrancesco**. He has recently corresponded with **Bill Matlach**, our Treasurer and Bill has sent him a roster of Company I, in hopes of him getting further information on his cousin.

If anyone knows anything about the circumstances surrounding his death or remembers **Sergeant DeFrancesco**, please write to Ray at:

Dr. Raymond R. DiPrimo
1 Richard Drive
Sewell, New Jersey 08080

Boston Reunion Unites Members of Co. D, 271st after 53 Years

John Tounger

#1 Pine Hills Court, Oakland, California 94611-1530



John Tounger and Frank Clark

John was 1st Machine Gunner and Frank was 2nd Gunner who both joined the 69th in Camp Shelby and ended up in Torgau with the Russians.

Stories and memories exchanged such as Frank remembers how we rubbed each others feet on the Siegfried Line to prevent frost bite. Yes, John remembers that bottle I thought was wine that turned out to be soap and I had the GIs for 2 days - on and on, one story after another.

Company D had a total of five members present: **Ted Snyder** - Machine Gunner, **John Butkovitch** - Mortars, and **John Fleming** - Motor Pool.

What a combination. Sounds like a fighting unit ready for combat. My last words - see you in Houston.



John Tounger and Frank Clark - outskirts of Leipzig

THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE

by - **Dottie Witzleb**
Ladies Auxiliary Editor
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 Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069

or
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 Telephone: 516/669-8077

Ursula Goebel, Chaplain
 5417 Halifax Lane
 Minneapolis, MN 55424
 Telephone: (Send to Dottie)

A Message from your Past President, Edith Chapman

Dear Ladies of the Auxiliary:

Thank you very much for the beautiful black purse you gave me at our business meeting on August 24th. I enjoyed serving as your president.

We had a great reunion. The tours were very interesting, and I thought the whole reunion was well run. Many thanks go to the **Putalas** and the **McCanns** and their committee members from all of us for all their hard work.

There were 129 Old Timers and 6 First Timers.

A check for \$500 was given to the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital in Bedford, Massachusetts. There were 46 lap robes, 4 bibs, 22 booties, 1 bed jacket and 6 other gifts. I know the veterans will appreciate all of your hard work. Super!!!

Our program by the Cape Ann Seniorettes was enjoyed by all. Our husbands heard the music and wished that they could have been present.

Congratulations to the new officers. Come out and support them at our Houston reunion.

I had a very big surprise at the banquet. I was given a beautiful plaque by the whole 69th Infantry Division. I have already placed it on our wall in our family room. I shall cherish this always.



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*Cape Ann Senioresses
Ladies' Auxiliary Program Entertainment*

- In Memoriam -

"LADIES' TAPS"

MARCIA DRYSDALE

wife of **Wade Drysdale**, H3, 273rd Infantry

KATHRYN HENKE

wife of **Victor Henke**, Co. A & B, 271st Infantry

GLADYS HUGHES

wife of **Charles Hughes**, Hq., 273rd Infantry

FLORENCE KELLER

wife of **Anthony Keller**, Co. E, 272nd Infantry

MRS. OLAH

wife of **Frank Olah**, Co. H, 272nd Infantry

RUTH WESTERMAN

widow of **Walter Westerman**

NANCY WILDER

widow of **Kenneth Wilder**, Co. F, 273rd Infantry

Attention Ladies WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER FROM THE WAR??

Following are 3 stories from our ladies. If you are interested in writing a story and sending it in, please do so. Mail it to: **Dottie Witzleb**, P.O. Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069. We'd love to hear from you!

"I DO" - August 7, 1943 Camp Shelby, Mississippi

By: **Dorothy Simonton**

Wife of **Dale Simonton**, Company L, 271st Infantry
3662 Sugar Bush Road
Mosinee, Wisconsin 54455



Dale and Dorothy Simonton - married 54 years

I grasped my rosary tightly, as the train started slowly out of the Rockford, Illinois station. It was 7:30 p.m., Friday, August 6th, 1943. A young 21 year old lady was on her way to Hattiesburg, Mississippi to marry the man she truly loved, **Sergeant Dale Simonton**. It would be a hectic Saturday. First to the courthouse for our marriage license, then to meet for the first time **Alice Welch**, the girl who was to be my maid of honor. A few months prior, I called my parents at Rice Lake, Wisconsin, telling them I was getting married August 7th. They had a large farm during war time (without any sons). The young men, neighbors, were all in different branches of the service for their country. Without anyone to look after the farm, they were unable to come. My only sister, Ardyce, worked in a gun powder plant in Baraboo, Wisconsin, and she couldn't come either.

I smiled piously as I saw my reflection in the train's window. I closed my eyes, as in my nearest suitcase was a lovely white satin wedding gown with a filmy white veil. As the conductor came through the cars, the tension grew more intense, "What if Dale was not there, what would I do?," I thought. Here I just left an office position at 4:00 p.m. in the Cost Department at Barness Drill Co. and the office manager and staff were so kind. This was a moment in my life!

The train slowly moved into the station area. As I anxiously scanned the people waiting, the train hissed and spurted white steam. THERE HE WAS - I quickly gathered up my three suitcases and purse, then slowly

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walked down the steps. He was running toward me. His strong arms locked around me and I silently thanked ALMIGHTY GOD! After a cherished kiss and meeting **Alice Welch**, I realized, I was so lucky. She was a very supportive lady and took charge of all the arrangements required in wartime. **Daniel Welch**, of Company M, was Dale's best man.

We made the courthouse before 11:00 a.m. for the marriage license, then on to Camp Shelby. Chaplain Nathaniel Davis performed the ceremony. Since Dale was in Company L, and his company commander surprised us with a squad of soldiers holding armed rifles with fixed bayonets. As we descended down the steps, they snapped to attention, forming the usual arc formation and we proceeded underneath it.

There were no pictures allowed on the base, since it was wartime. After 4 months, Dale was transferred to the Air Force. I went home to my parents at Rice Lake, Wisconsin. When our son, Dwight, was six months old, Dale first saw him. He brought us to Hanford, California, as he was at the Lemoore Air Base. Then the Winds of War turned the pages of life again and the war was really over! We came back to Rice Lake, Wisconsin, Dale got a job at the Gamble Store on Main Street, and we were grateful and happy.

Wartime Thoughts

By: **Lillian R. Gagle**

widow of **Ray Gagle**, Company G, 273rd Infantry
1201 Miller Avenue, Portland, Indiana 47371

I have many memories of events which happened at Camp Shelby. Ray was inducted into the Army on May 13th, 1943 at Columbus, Ohio and was sent to Camp Shelby on May 23rd and assigned to Company G, 273rd Infantry. He was there until the 69th left for Europe in November of 1944. I lived primitively about 3 miles from camp but I didn't mind as I could see my hubby, Ray, from time to time. I went back to Portland in September of 1944.

Before they were to leave, I went from Portland, Indiana to Hattiesburg to bid Ray goodbye. I will never forget that - tears galore, both his and mine. I didn't know if I'd ever see him again. He, of course, didn't know what was ahead of him. It was night time when I left him at the Camp and I boarded a bus to Hattiesburg. When I arrived back at the university where I had a room, it was pitch black as everything was blacked out then. I had recognized a familiar face on the bus, a soldier, and asked him to walk with me across the campus to my room. I left on the train the next morning for Portland.

One other outstanding event - I listened every morning to the radio as I was getting ready for work,

hoping to hear good news. In April, I did! I heard them mention the 69th was on their way to Berlin. A little after noon, the telephone operator at the desk next to mine told me to pick up my phone. Her sister had the radio on and they were telling about the hook-up with the Russians. I heard the name of **Lieutenant Albert Kotzebue**, so I knew Ray was close by. I remembered he had censored some of Ray's letters. The next day the daily newspaper had a detailed description, confirming **Lieutenant Kotzebue** and his group as the first, though not official, to meet the Russians.

This was a proud moment for me and I know Ray was proud to be in the 69th.

Anyone Remember James A. Dimitriades? Service Company, 272nd Infantry

Submitted by: **Amber Keene**

Widow of **Nestor Keene**

Service Company, 272nd Infantry

P.O. Box 52, Boalsburg, Pennsylvania 16827-0052

An acquaintance of my late husband, **Mr. Ray Johnson**, suggested that I write to you as you may be able to assist me in my search for a former 69er. I am searching for 2nd Lieutenant **James A. Dimitriades** who served with my husband, **Pvt. Nestor Keene**, in the Service Company of the 272nd Regiment. They were in the quartering party that went from Weisenfelds to Ronshausen, Germany to prepare for the arrival of their Company on 1 July 1945.

My husband was stationed in Butzbach, Germany when the 69th returned to the states. At that time, he lost track of **Lieutenant Dimitriades**. Recently I searched for and located two German boys - then 16 years of age, who became friends of the fellows in R.S.O. and often assisted them in doing chores. They especially remember the hunting parties that they guided at that time. In my attempt to locate them, I wrote to the Post Master in Ronshausen, Germany and had a very enlightening reply from the Village Administration Office giving me addresses and information on both men who remember my husband and others of the R.S.O.

Ironically, the secretary knew of my husband and **James Dimitriades** from the quartering party. She was then a little girl of 5 years. She wrote of Uncle Jimmy as all of the village children called him. He was very popular because he saw to it that the children got chocolate and gum. In the 1950s, he returned to Ronshausen for a visit. They have not heard from him again.

I had written to Mr. Kurtzman and was informed by him that **James Dimitriades** is not listed on the

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membership roll of the Association. My interest in searching is to compile into books for our 5 great-grandchildren the 300 letters that **Nestor** wrote to his parents, our son Bob (who was 7 years of age in 1944), and to me.

As I began to do the copying of the browned and brittle letters with other memorabilia including pictures, the children asked, "What happened to the soldiers that our great-grandfather wrote about, when peace came to their lives again?" Their question inspired me to try to locate the men he served with in Basic Training at Camp Wheeler, Georgia, and with the 69th in Europe, that were mentioned in his letters.

To date, I have located 8 men and 3 widows whose husbands died after returning home. They are scattered all over the U.S.A.

I am still searching for 3 that he associated closely with. They are **James Dimitriadis** of St. Louis, Missouri. **Paul E. Patterson** of Virginia or West Virginia and **Rolland E. Duncan**, place unknown.

Any suggestions that you may have or assistance that you can give me would be greatly appreciated.

I learned in 1994 of the Association Bulletin. Upon receiving it first from Mr. Kurtzman where my husband's name appeared in "Taps," and later when a former buddy subscribed to it for me. Upon receiving them, I have greatly enjoyed their contents which are both enlightening and most interesting.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Anyone with any information for Amber, please write to her. Even if you don't remember her husband, but have some connection with Service Company, 272nd Infantry.)

Food for Thought

So many of us 69ers are reaching those "Golden Years" that perhaps the following might give us something to think about.

Back in the seventies, a man named Myles who worked for me was having some health problems that had him quite worried; he was about 50 at that time. He went to a specialist in Louisville who checked him out thoroughly.

The doctor told him, "Now, Myles, you should not worry too much about your condition. Just remember, the human body was designed to last about 35 years."

With that thought, we all should give thanks that we have reached twice 35 and more.

Submitted by,
Jim Kidd

Anyone out there got any answers for Jim Kidd?

Hey Jim, we doubt it!!

Jim Kidd, Company F, 271st Infantry
222 Al-Fan Court
Winchester, Kentucky 40391
Telephone: 606/744-0463

We are real sorry to learn of **Clarence Marshall's** passing. I am sure you will carry on with the Bulletin. You have done a great job over the years.

Clarence's death serves as a reminder to all of us 69ers that we are in the years when men march on. I expect all 69th veterans are in their seventies or more. My 77th birthday a few days ago was another of those reminders.

There are two things that happened in the 69th while we were in Europe that have not been described to my satisfaction.

The first is the pulling of Infantrymen out of our units on Christmas Day 1944; they were sent over hurriedly to fill gaps in units in the Battle of the Bulge. I have wondered who gave the order to pull men from the 69th (Eisenhower?). I was platoon leader of 1st Platoon of my company, and I was ordered to have six (6) men from each of the three squads ready by noon with all their equipment. There went half of my riflemen. We received a few dribbles of replacements before we went on the line near Hellenenthal, Germany, but the platoon was never up to full strength again, right up to the end of the war. Perhaps somebody, perhaps someone in Division Headquarters remembers and can give an explanation.

The second thing that I believe needs further clarification was the distribution of the black soldiers who were assigned to the 69th. As you know, they were formed into separate "J" platoons and each platoon was assigned to a battalion. If my battalion (2nd of the 271st regiment) received a "J" platoon, I never knew of it nor did I ever see a black soldier in the 69th. Incidentally, I have wondered if the "J" was a slap at blacks. I have read since the war that the black soldiers were to be integrated into military units. I do not consider forming black platoons headed by white officers as integrating them into our units. I and the men in 1st Platoon, Co. F, 271st would have greatly appreciated receiving any number of those men; we would have really integrated them into every squad where we were so short of men. I do not believe that, even then, there would have been any racial animosity among the soldiers in my platoon; color of the skin makes no difference when it comes to facing enemy fire.

Perhaps someone who was at division level at the time could offer some clarification.

Keep up the good work.

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

Report on Branson, Missouri Reunion

August 13, 14, 15, 16, 1997

By Mike Moscaritolo and Harold Gardner

The Troopers who were unable to attend our reunion missed a good one. **Harold Gardner** did a fantastic job putting this one together. Many notices were sent out and many phone calls were made.

The reunion was held at the Lawrence Welk Resort. the hotel is only a few years old. The accommodations were great. We had our hospitality room where we met every afternoon and evening after viewing terrific shows. Many troopers went to see 2 shows a day. Several troopers saw six and seven shows while they were here.

Jeanne Gardner did a great job of keeping the hospitality room supplied with goodies. **Harold** and **Jeanne's** daughter **Helen** and son-in-law **Dave Zimmerman** did a great job of running around purchasing show tickets and driving to Springfield, forty miles away, to pick up Troopers at the airport. The seating for the shows were all first, second and third row center. Great seats!!

One morning was set aside to take the "Ride the Ducks." This Army amphibious vehicle took us for a one hour land ride and then we went directly into Table Rock Lake. Our driver issued each of us a "quacker." Needless to say, there were quacks all over the place from then on. Three of the wives, **Jeanne Gardner, Esther Gold** and **Nancy Makris Riccio** got to drive the vehicle on the lake. The ducks are actually WWII original GMC vehicles, 1941 models.

At the business meeting it was decided that our 1998 Reunion would be held at the West Point Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Our Saturday night banquet was a prime rib dinner. **Mike Moscaritolo** was asked to give the benediction. We also had a moment of silence for our deceased Troopers, especially **Jim Logue** and **Frank Morris**, who recently passed away and also for **Morris Kaiserman's** wife **Gertrude**. May they rest in peace.

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69th RECON TROOP BRANSON, MISSOURI REUNION ATTENDEES:

Front Row:

**Lewis Hill, Marshall Ney,
Harold Gardner, Floyd Opdyke,
Robert Schueler, Albert Gold,
Joe Elliget, Lewis Vaughn**

Back Row:

**Herb Norman, Fred Wohlers,
Getty Glotfelty,
Mike Moscaritolo,
Charlie Rice, Lloyd Abbott**



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

(Continued from Page 37)

After dinner **Harold Gardner** asked each Trooper to say a few words of what had transpired since they last attended a reunion. This feature was inaugurated by our C.O. Boyd Ellsworth many years ago. It is still enjoyed by all.

Several of the Troopers took off early Sunday morning for their long drive home. Many of us met for breakfast where we said our goodbyes. It is really sad for me when we have to depart.

The Troopers attending the reunion were:

Lloyd and Jean Abbott Oklahoma

Joe and Jean Elliget Arizona

Harold and Jeanne Gardner Missouri

Guest: Tom Gardner

Lou and Dave Zimmerman

Getty and Lucy Glotfelty Washington

Guests: Don and Loren Schibel

Al and Esther Gold Massachusetts

Lewis and Janie Hill Texas

Mike and Mary Moscaritolo Florida

Marshall and Delphine Ney Indiana

Herb and Eileene Norman Colorado

Floyd and Evelyn Opdyke New Jersey

Charlie and Pat Rice Oklahoma

Robert and Mabel Schueler Ohio

Lewis "Cowboy" Vaughan Virginia

Guest: Daughter Bonnie Minter

Fred and Fran Wohlers Florida

Guest: Bob and Billie Jo Boyer

Ted and Nancy Riccio Connecticut

In every communication that **Harold Gardner** mailed us, he emphasized that we dress "casual." **Freddie Wohler** and I were the only two who wore ties to our dinner. **Getty Glotfelty** came all the way from Spokane, Washington to cut them off our necks. With a friend like Getty, who needs enemies? Of course snapshots were taken of the surgery and it did feel much better with an open shirt collar.

Company D, 273rd Infantry

Kenneth A. Sawyer

2311 Skywind Circle

Melbourne, Florida 32935

Telephone: 407/254-7175

Company D held their reunion in conjunction with the 69th Division Annual Reunion in Danvers, Massachusetts. Company D had another good reunion turnout. The attendance was boosted by the presence of two large family groups. The **Chandlers** of Redmond, Washington had nine people in their group while **Art Ayres** of Readers, Pennsylvania had four in his.

Our company group has taken on the feeling of a family and the new acquaintances were wholeheartedly welcomed into the clan.

Altogether there were 28 D-Company attendees, **Harry and Alberta Chandler** were accompanied by their four children: **Bill, Jack and Laura Chandler** and **Jennifer Jones**. Rounding out their group was **Harry's** sister and husband, **Anne and George Patterson**, and **Laura's** fiancé, **Talmage Ball**. **Art Ayres** brought his son, **Arthur Jr.** and son's wife, **Debbie**, and their son, **Arthur III**. The rest of our group consisted of **Allan Blackmar** of Pine Plains, New York, **Ed and Mary Case** of Fort Washington, Pennsylvania, **Paul and Elaine Gornbein** of Niagara Falls, New York, **Roland and Jan Hendrickson** of Salem, Oregon, **George and Barbara Johnson** of Petersburg, Virginia, **Bob and Betty Jo McCarty** of Terrytown, Louisiana, **Dan and Cathy McHugh** of Williamsburg, Virginia, and **Ken Sawyer** and **Fran Collard** of Melbourne, Florida.



Clockwise: Bob and Betty Jo McCarty, Roland and Jan Hendrickson, George and Barbara Johnson, and Paul and Elaine Gornbein.



Clockwise: Allan Blackmar, Debbie Ayres, Arthur Ayres III, Arthur Ayres, Jr., Arthur Ayres, Sr., Mary and Ed Case and Fran Collard.

(Continued on Page 39)

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

(Continued from Page 38)



Clockwise: Jennifer Jones, Jack Chandler, Laura Chandler, Talmage Ball, Alberta and Harry Chandler, and George and Anne Patterson.

Many of our members got together Saturday afternoon to discuss items of mutual interest; primarily the need to replenish our flower fund. Interest was expressed in having another Company D reunion. Turnout for our last reunion in Florida was small. It was felt that a more convenient location might attract more members. Our biggest turnout to date was at the 69th reunion in Myrtle Beach. Recollections of that gathering were all very positive. Entertainment is readily available: Myrtle Beach now has many Branson type shows. Off season hotel rates are very modest. Most members can easily reach Myrtle Beach by car. Recalling how beautiful the weather was at the division reunion, it was decided to have ours in late October also. I will start looking into dates and rates. I hope to have definite information soon. If I don't make this bulletin, look for it in the next one.

The next division reunion will be held in Houston, Texas in August. That is a bit remote for those members who don't fly. But we had good turnouts in Denver and San Francisco. Let me know if you plan to attend, and I will get the word out to others who might be considering the trip.

Headquarters Battalion 880th Field Artillery

John J. O'Connor, News Reporter

President/Treasurer

9321 Jefferson Avenue

Brookfield, Illinois 60513

Telephone: 708/387-7809

Headquarters Battery, 880th Field Artillery held their reunion in conjunction with the National Reunion.

The reunion was well attended but of course at the ages of our group there were some who could not attend. However I think everyone enjoyed the event. The Committee Chairman **Henry Putala** and his group did a great job with the various tours and the dinner banquet. Our Headquarters Battery, 880th Field Artillery Battalion had its own Breakfast meeting and unit dinner which was enjoyed by all.

Those in attendance at our unit events were the following: **Mike and Lucille Pendrick, Stan and Georgia Bratt, John and Peggy O'Connor, Edna and George Blume, Bill and Loretta Stump, Bob and Marilyn McKee, Howard and Barbara Carlton and Arthur Andersen.**

This same group attended the 69th Dinner Banquet, with the exceptions of the **Blumes** and **Arthur Andersen**. Also attending the 69th dinner banquet were the guests, **Rick and Connie Carlton** and **Tim and Brigitte O'Malley**, guests of the **Carltons** and **O'Connors**. **Arthur Andersen** was a liason Pilot of 880th who we hadn't seen since May 1944, when he shipped out and joined General Patton's Headquarters. It was a pleasure to have **Arthur** present.

A note of sadness for us. We lost one of our faithful members, **Eugene McGreevy**, on August 8th, 1997. **Gene** will surely be missed.



Edna and George Blume



Bill and Loretta Stump

(Continued on Page 40)

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

(Continued from Page 39)



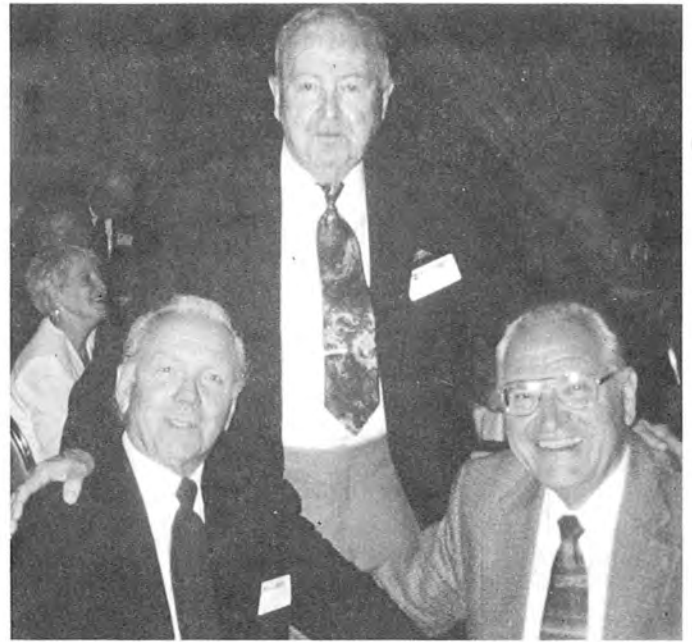
Connie and Rick Carlton (guests) and Barbara and Howard Carlton.



Georgia and Stan Bratt



Marilyn McKee, Lucille Pendrick, Peggy O'Connor



Mike Pendrick, John O'Connor, Robert McKee



Tim and Bridgitte O'Malley (guests), Peg and Jack O'Connor



Arthur Andersen

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

(Continued from Page 40)

661st Tank Destroyers

Jules Slopek, Reporter

140 Fox Run Drive
Munroe Falls, Ohio 44262

The mini reunion of the 661 Tank Destroyers was held in Akron, Ohio on September 18th, 19th and 20th. Our members are dwindling but the bright spot is that we had four first-timers attending. There were no planned activities as there were many points of interest near the hotel. The Pro Football Hall of Fame located in Canton provided a good day's entertainment for many. However, The Quaker Square in downtown Akron seemed to be the most popular. The Quaker Square is in the old Quaker Oats factory that houses many specialty shops and restaurants. Outside, there is an old train depot, and even the Hilton Hotel uses the old grain silos as part of the hotel. Where else can you go shopping in a factory, have lunch in a dining car and go to sleep in a grain silo?

The attendees were:

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Warren and Dorothy Mitchell
Bill and Mary Wahl
Ruth Mellinger and daughter Dawn
Robert and Ann Shull

RECON COMPANY

Fred and Nancy Baumgartner
*Leslie and Marie Kindel
*William and Rose Dubendorf

COMPANY A

Mike and Dorothy Kotnik
John and Leora Sherlock
Elwin Patterson and Chris
Bill and Margaret Dawson
*Leonard and Valarie Jopek and son and daughter
Guy Nowels and guest Ginnie

COMPANY B

Nelson and Betty Leaman
*John and Eva Golden
Bill and Ellen Snidow
Dick and Thelma McKinnon
Ralph and Vera Chase
Ray and Rosemarie Anderson
Bill and Jo Beswick

COMPANY C

Charles and Frances Yannul
Stanley and Gertrude Green
Marcel and Carol Pugsley
George and Helen Ringer
Frank Furman

Jules and Ellen Slopek and family, son and daughter-in-law Jack and Michele Dowler and grandson Seth, daughter and son-in-law Patricia and Mike Smith and granddaughter Ashley and son Tom Slopek and Tammy Watson

**Indicates First Timers*

We have not decided where the next reunion will be but we should have some information by the first of the year.

Battery C, 724th Field Artillery

Coy J. Horton

1705A Highview Street
Burlington, North Carolina 27215-5652
Telephone: 910/227-7785

The Battery C, 724th Field Artillery Battalion held its reunion in Danvers, Massachusetts in conjunction with the 69th Division reunion. A dinner meeting was held on Friday night in a restaurant in the hotel.

The following attended: Eugene and Myrna Parker, Bob Hollister, John Rosenbrock, Walter and Nicole Wilson (first-timer) and Coy and Erline Horton and guest from the 273rd, Charlie Weaver.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and promised to try and come next year.



Coy and Erline Horton



Charlie Weaver and John Rosenbrock

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

(Continued from Page 41)



Eugene and Myrna Parker



Walter and Nicole Wilson



Bob Hollister



Nicole Wilson, Erline Horton, Myrna Parker

California Western Chapter

John Tounger, President

One Pine Hills Court
Oakland, California 94611-1530
Telephone: 510/531-8011



John and Dena Tounger

Just letting everyone know who the new president is of the California Western Chapter.

Please see Coming Events starting on Page 57 for information on our upcoming spring reunion in Long Beach, California in April of 1998.

Attention: Former Members of the 29th Division

We continue to receive letters from members of the 69th Division who were also members of the 29th Division and who would love to join the 29th Division Association as well as the 69th.

Your Editor is requesting that any former member of the 29th Division that was also a member of the 69th Division and who is currently a member of the 29th Division Association, to please write to me so that this information can be published in the bulletin.

We would like the name, address and phone number of the editor of the 29th Division newsletter, along with any other information you may have. Please send it to:

Earl Witzleb, Jr., Editor

P.O. Box 69

Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069

My thoughts about Life at Camp Shelby

By: **Stanley Eskin**, *Company A, 269th Engineers*
855 Ronda Mendoza
Laguna Hills, California 92653
Telephone: 714/458-9109

I remember arriving in Camp Shelby after a long train ride sometime during the month of May 1943.

I was assigned to the 269th Engineers, C Battalion, H&S Company.

The cadre who was to train us consisted of a mixed crew of non-coms, men who came from different camps throughout the states. Our S/Sgt. had come to us after recuperating from being wounded in North Africa and to us at the time he was someone to look up to because he had seen "action."

After being assigned huts and cots we were issued blankets, pillows and sheets and then we took some different tests to see what we were qualified to do within the company.

We were introduced to our Company Commander named **Captain Bellows** (?) and his red-headed First Sergeant (name forgotten). The Captain had a scar on his cheek and looked as though he belonged in the Foreign Legion and not the U.S. Army.

I was told to go down to the Motor Pool and pick up my truck which I would be assigned to. I went down there and what did they assign me but a 2-1/2 ton truck. I didn't know the first thing about doubleshifting and so I drove the thing up to the company area in second gear. When I arrived there I met someone I knew to be a truck driver from New York City and I asked him to please take the truck back to the Motor Pool for me and to tell them to forget about me driving a vehicle. I never drove another vehicle after that for the outfit.

I was then assigned to S-3 as a Sign Painter (I had an art background) making different signs to be used both within the companies and also during our bivouacing out in the pine forests.

Having just turned 18 a few months before my immediate induction I was still "wet behind the ears" and slight and wiry of build. In fact, I went out and bought shaving stuff even though I had nothing to shave on my face. But, in spite of this I did apply for OCS just for the heck of it.

They needed a Student Cook so I volunteered for that and I was doing fine for the first couple of days until I tried a short cut and tried slicing onions with the bread slicing machine. I instead, sliced part of my thumbs fingernail and some meat underneath off and that finished my Student Cook days. In the interim I attended a new type of food school which was called "dehydrated foodstuffs." Needless to say the dried

pellets of this and that even after having water added to them to bring back their natural look and taste was a disaster since they all tasted like "yuk."

After having some easy duty for about a week to let my finger heal, I was called into the Captain's office and asked if I'd like to become Col. **Everett's** orderly? I told him, "sure, I'll give it a try" and so I became close to **Col. Everett** since he was a very nice gentleman and treated me like a son. My duties consisted of cleaning the floor in his small two-room house, some dusting and making sure that his uniforms were kept in good shape. This job was a real "snap."

In the meantime, I had applied for OCS since my brother was a "90 day wonder," assigned to the 82nd Airborne and I felt that I would like to be like him since I loved him "like a brother."

Being an Engineer outfit, we had quite a few "old timers" who probably were all of 25-30 years of age but to me they were "old." There were tunnel diggers, bridge builders, etc. and one guy was married to an "exotic dancer" who kept a photo of her in the nude inside his helmet liner. Well, needless to say, we took every opportunity to look inside that helmet liner.

We also had a nice young kid who was married to a girl by the name of "Lillian" and so he was called "Lilly" by most of us. It wasn't until much later on that I found out why I was hearing moaning and the such after lights out. It seems that there was one guy who was "making it" with Lilly and this even went on when we were out on bivouacs since they shared the same pup tent. Even though I was from New York and we were supposed to know it all I had a great deal of growing up to do.

We also had one guy (on the fat side) who was the king of all the "gold-brickers" and our Captain and the 1st Sergeant rode him unmercifully to the point where quite a few of us felt sorry for the guy who actually was just trying to get discharged.

I got news from home that my brother was being shipped overseas and as it happened, a few days later I was called before the board to see if I was qualified to go to OCS. I went in, gave them a salute and withdrew my application.

At that time a soldier could request assignment overseas and so I did just that, requested overseas duty. When **Col. Everett** heard about that, he called me in and asked me to instead be assigned to a "line" company to build me up and then if I still wanted to go overseas he would okay it. And so, I was assigned to "A" Company.

In "A" Company my Company Commander was **Captain Wolske**, who I found to be almost like **Colonel Everett** insofar as he too liked me and treated me "like a son."

(Continued on Page 44)

MY THOUGHTS ABOUT LIFE IN CAMP SHELBY (Continued from Page 43)

In "A" Co. I met a new group of guys who were entirely different from those in H&S Co. since those in H&S felt themselves to be superior in intelligence to those men in the line companies, which I found to be ludicrous since the men in the line companies had much more on the ball in the way of everyday knowledge and common sense although the line company men were more of the "rough and tough" type. I didn't know what to expect but looked forward to whatever came along.

I got along with everyone and formed a friendship with one guy from Kentucky and the two of us had fun, got into trouble overseas, and I got to meet his wife and family many years later after the war.

I did have a skirmish of sorts when I didn't care for their mouthing off about Jewish people and since I'm Jewish I told them to keep their mouths shut and we all got along fine after that.

For fun we would "short sheet" someone's bed or if we really wanted to do a job on someone we would take the entire bed apart and put cot and everything else with it up on top of the rafters and then move the other beds closer so there wouldn't be an empty space. When the guy would get back after the lights were out he went crazy trying to figure out where his bed was. We would give him about fifteen minutes of bitching and then we would help get things back to normal.

Then of course the "building up" period for me consisted of the "forced marches," the building of pontoon bridges over the Red River, with the water moccasins swimming about, the salt tablets we had to take at the mess hall entrance when we were all sweaty and hot, the grenade courts where we would throw a hand grenade and hope it wouldn't hit the embankment and come back into our trench and of course the firing ranges where we started out with the 22's and got up to the M-1's firing the 30 calibers and the combat range where we would walk along and fire at the targets which would jump up at us. And of course, KP duty with all those spuds and the dirty pots and pans. We also became very knowledgeable when we were taught how to tie the different knots, the various mines we would encounter as well as how to deactivate the enemies mines and booby-traps.

On one particular "outing" in the beautiful pine forests down by Brooklyn, Mississippi while unloading equipment from the 2 ton trucks, one guy who had picked up a "dud" mortar shell on one of his outings, found out that when it hit the ground and exploded, killing a couple of guys and wounding some others, that it wasn't a "dud" but I suppose this was a learning period for all of us.

And, who will forget the chiggers that we all had to put up with?

One night, while on maneuvers down there, my buddy Frank and myself went over to the next outfit to shoot some "craps" with them. We wondered why they were all of Oriental origin but we didn't care just so long as we would make a killing. However, they killed us by wiping out our bankrolls. We asked them and they told us they were the 442nd Combat Team, later to be the most decorated outfit in the U.S. Army for their work in Italy, while their families were treated like prisoners in camps back on the west coast.

I was called into **Captain Wolske's** office one day and he asked me if I'd like to attend a school course at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He knew I lived in New York and that I would be able to get to see my folks and friends on some weekends, and so I was so happy about it that I naturally said, yes. I attended a 12 week course in aerial phototopography but after the tenth week I was called back to Camp Shelby because our 69th Infantry Division was alerted to go overseas.

In closing my fond thoughts about our stay there, let me say that we shouldn't forget the mornings when with bursting bladders because of all the 3.2 beer we consumed the night before, we would be stopped at the latrine doorway by the Medics and told to "milk it down."

Buddies from Hq. Btry., Divarty at our 50th Reunion

Charlie Chapman

7412 Exmore Street, Springdale, Virginia 22150-4026



Ray Essick and Charlie Chapman met at the Danvers, Massachusetts reunion. Ray attended the first and the 50th reunions.

Danvers Reunion Company Get-Togethers



Battle Patrol 272nd Regiment

Nick and Kathryn Giannone,
Vince and Rosemarie Mazza
Bob Tarr,

Jeanne and Bill Higgins

Submitted by Nick Giannone



Company I, 272nd Regiment

Left to Right: Harold Ruck, Edward Ambrose, Robert Kurtzman, Alfred Kerzner, James Herbison, Edward McDonnell, Adrian Eckhardt, Frank Aplan, John Duespohl, Forrest Frentress, Tom Yelcich, Bill Edge and Manny Rind. There was a total of 24 including wives from Company I, 272nd.

Submitted by Bill Edge



Company K, 271st Regiment

Herb Pickett, Worley Smith,
Larry Gillem, Bob Bishop

Submitted by Bob Bishop



Company E, 271st Regiment

The Gentlemen

Bing Poon, Bill McCall,
Elmer Bronske, Irv Gotkin,
John Butkovich, Joe Kurt,
Bill Taylor

Submitted by Bill McCall

Company E, 271st Regiment

The Ladies

Jean Butkovich,
Catherine McCall,
Erma Bronske, Jean Kurt,
Marjorie Taylor,
Grace Glaum, Doris Glaum,
Etta Gotkin

Submitted by Bill McCall



Company F, 272nd Regiment

Neil Shields,

Ann Nunes, Mrs. Fournier,
Ruth and Ray Clements,
Joe Nunes, Jim Henry,
Dave and Jean Theobald

Submitted by Neil Shields



Company G, 271st Regiment

*Submitted by
Chet Yastrzemski*



Company E, 272nd Regiment

Roger West,
Charles Pierson,
James Howard,
Fred Butenhoff
and Chet Yastrzemski

*Submitted by
Chet Yastrzemski*

Company K, 273rd Regiment

The only members of Company K, 273rd
who attended the reunion were:

Jim Mynes - Decatur, Alabama
Oliver Coker - Russellville, Arkansas
Lloyd Lippman - Helena, Montana

Submitted by Jim Mynes



Weep No More . . .

. . . My Lady, the GI Heart Belongs to the U.S. Girls

From the Stars and Stripes

June 17, 1945

By Jack Caldwell

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

An innocent Washington official last week added the final straw to the burdens of the thousands of American girls who wait patiently by the hearth for a sweetheart to return from the wars. Their backs, while not broken, were certainly not without aches and pains.

The announcement, buried in most newspapers between the crossword puzzle and Dorothy Dix, simply outlined plans being made to enable foreign fiancées of Yank fighting men to go to the States and marry there. That did it.

Not since the early days following the liberation of Paris, when American wives and sweethearts wailed loud and long on seeing photos of GIs kissing and hugging lovely French girls, had there been such a flurry of feminine ire. Many a faithful lass on the home front immediately imagined horrible things to come - the life of the spinster seemed but a stone's throw.

Sensing the sad plight of the soldiers' sweethearts back home, the WACs in the ETO decided to play Mr. Anthony and give the home girls the lowdown on their men overseas. The average GI, the Wacs maintain, is a curly wolf whose howl is most frightening. However, when it comes to going home and marrying, say the women of the Army, Joe will forget his whispering promises to the foreign femmes and make tracks for the girl back home.

One Wac T/5, who operates a switchboard in Paris, described French girlfriends as just "live pinup girls who'll be stood up when their Yank boyfriends are ready to catch the boat back to the States."

A Wac T/3 suggested that history is merely repeating itself. She said she happened to hear her Dad tell one of his World War I cronies of a love affair he had in France in 1918. He fell hook, line and sinker, she said, but apparently didn't have any trouble forgetting because he was married to his childhood sweetheart within six months after unloading his bags at New York.

Several Wacs admitted that American women in uniform have a definite disadvantage attempting to compete with French women in tantalizing, knee-length dresses, spike heels, fabulous hairdos - and no bed check. A lot of GIs, one pretty blonde pfc. remarked, have been overseas so long they've forgotten what an American girl looks like in civilian clothes. "But wait till they get home," she mused. "They'll

raise their eyes and whistle as of old when an American woman in nylons and billowing skirt strolls by."

An 89-pound Wac-pfc. jeep driver remarked that she had observed romantic Joes in London and now Paris, and she said she isn't the least bit disturbed over international love entanglements. As war moves on, she summed up the situation, so move the soldiers. Back in England, there was some furor back home about possible mass marriages of overseas American troops. Cupid had a heyday, no doubt, but in the vast majority of cases it didn't go further than sugarcoated promises, and when they shipped off for France they quickly forgot the girls they left half-way behind. When they leave France, the petite pfc. surmised, they'll take off without any misgivings for promises they've made here.

Several Wacs treated the question with a practical eye. Many American soldiers won't marry overseas or consider taking fiancées back home for financial reasons. They'll be more concerned with getting a job and doing some planning for the future before thinking of wedding bells.

One pfc. from Oakmont, California, said flatly she wasn't worried about competition from European girls and couldn't understand why any other American woman should be.

"I've got my own troubles," she declared. "Just now I'm more concerned with the prospect of being transferred to Germany. There have been stories in the newspapers to the effect that we girls are needed there for social activities because of the non-fraternization ban. I'm a stenographer and if I'm going to perform that kind of work in Germany, I won't mind going, but I'll be darned if I'll go to become a social butterfly."

Submitted by: **John Wolonick**
Anti-Tank Company, 273rd Infantry
621 West Indiana Avenue, Apt. 1
Deland, Florida 32720-4089



Hey 69ers, don't pass this article up. It is really funny.

Indoctrination for Return to U.S.

Submitted by: "Howitzer" Al Kormas
Headquarters, 879th Field Artillery
12500 Edgewater Drive, Apt. 503
Lakewood, Ohio 44107-1673

19 November 1944

SUBJECT: Indoctrination for Return to U.S.

TO: All Units

1. In compliance with current policies for rotation of Armed Forces overseas, it is directed that, in order to maintain the high standard of character of the American Soldier and to prevent dishonor to reflect on the uniform, all individuals eligible for return to the U.S. under current directives will undergo an indoctrination course of demilitarization prior to approval of his application for return.

2. The following points will be emphasized in the subject indoctrination course:

A. In America there is a remarkable number of beautiful girls. These young girls have not been liberated and many are gainfully employed as stenographers, sales girls and beauty operators or welders. Contrary to current practices, they should not be approached with "How much." A proper greeting is, "Isn't it a lovely day," or "Have you ever been in Chicago?" Then say, "How much."

B. A guest in a private home is usually awakened in the morning by light tapping on his door and an invitation to join the host at breakfast. It is proper to say, "I'll be there shortly." Do not say, "Blow it out your ____!"

C. A typical American breakfast consists of such strange foods as cantaloupes, fresh eggs, milk, ham, etc. These are highly palatable and though strange in appearance, are extremely tasty. Butter, made from cream, is often served. If you wish some butter, you turn to the person nearest it and say quietly, "Please pass the butter." You do not say, "Throw me the god-damn grease."

D. Very natural urges are apt to occur when in a crowd. If it is found necessary to defecate, one does not grab a shovel in one hand and paper in the other and run for the garden. At least 90% of American homes have one room called the "bathroom," i.e., a room that, in most cases, contains a bathtub, wash basin, medicine cabinet, and a toilet. It is the latter that you will use in this case. Instructors should make sure that all personnel understand the operation of a toilet, particularly the lever or button arrangement that serves to prepare the device for re-use.

E. In the event the helmet is retained by the individual, he will refrain from using it as a chair,

wash bowl, foot bath or bathtub. All these devices are furnished in the average American home. It is not considered good practice to squat Indian fashion in a corner. In the event all chairs are occupied, the host will usually provide suitable seats.

F. Belching or passing wind in company is strictly frowned upon. If you should forget about it, however, and belch in the presence of others, a proper remark is, "Excuse me." Do not say, "It must be that lousy chow we've been getting."

G. American dinners, in most cases, consist of several items, each served in a separate dish. The common practice of mixing various items, such as corned beef and pudding, or lima beans and peaches to make it more palatable, will be refrained from. In time the "separate dish" system will become enjoyable.

H. Americans have a strange taste for stimulants. The drinks in common usage on the European continent, such as underripe wine, alcohol and grapefruit juice, or gasoline bitters and water (commonly known by the French term "cognac") are not ordinarily acceptable in civilian circles. These drinks should be served only to those who are definitely not within the inner circle of friends. A suitable use for such drinks is for serving to one's landlord in order to break an undesirable lease.

I. The returning soldier is apt to often find his opinion different from those of his civilian associates. One should call upon his reserve of etiquette and correct his acquaintances with such remarks as, "I believe you have made a mistake," or "I am afraid you are in error on that." Do not say, "Brother, you're really f ____ up." This is considered impolite.

J. Upon leaving a friend's home, after a visit, one may find that his hat is misplaced. Frequently it has been placed in a closet. One should turn to one's host and say, "I don't believe I have my hat. Could you help me find it?" Do not say, "Don't anybody leave this room. Some S.O.B. has stolen my hat."

K. In traveling in the U.S., particularly in a strange city, it is often necessary to spend the night. Hotels are provided for this purpose and one can register and be shown to a room where he can sleep for the night. The present practice of entering the nearest house, throwing the occupants into the yard, and taking over the premises will cease.

L. Whiskey, a common American drink, may be offered to the soldier on social occasions. It is considered a reflection on the uniform to snatch the bottle from the hostess and drain the bottle, cork and all. All individuals are cautioned to exercise extreme control in these circumstances.

M. It is not proper to go around hitting everyone of draft age in civilian clothes. He might have been released from the service for medical reasons. Ask for his credentials, and if he can't show them, then go ahead and slug him.

(Continued on Page 50)

INDOCTRINATION FOR RETURN TO U.S.

(Continued from Page 49)

N. In motion picture theatres, seats are provided. Helmets are not required. It is not considered good form to whistle every time a female over 8 and under 80 crosses the screen. If vision is impaired by the person in the seat in front, there are plenty of other seats which can be occupied. Don't hit him across the back of the head and say, "Move your head jerk, I can't see a damned thing."

O. Upon retiring, one will often find a pair of pajamas laid out on the bed. (Pajamas, it should be explained, are two piece garments which are donned after all clothing has been removed.) The soldier, confronted by these garments, should assume an air of familiarity and act as though he were used to them. A casual remark such as, "My, what a delicate shade of blue," will usually suffice. Under no circumstances say, "How in the hell do you expect me to sleep in a get-up like this!"

P. Natural functions will continue. It may be necessary frequently to urinate. Do not walk behind the nearest tree or automobile you find to accomplish this. Toilets are provided in all public buildings for this

purpose. Signs on some doors will read "Ladies," which is literally interpreted to mean "Off limits to all troops."

Q. Beer is sometimes served in bottles. A cap remover is usually available and it is not good form to open the bottle by the use of one's teeth.

R. Air raids and enemy patrols are not encountered in America. Therefore, it is not necessary to wear the helmet in church or at social gatherings or to hold the weapon at ready, loaded and cocked, when talking to civilians in the street.

S. Every American home and all hotels are equipped with bathing facilities. When desired to take a bath, it is not considered good form to find the nearest pool or stream, strip down and indulge in a bath. This particularly is true in heavily populated areas.

T. All individuals returning to the U.S. will make every effort to conform to the customs and habits of the regions visited and to make themselves as inconspicuous as possible. Any actions which reflect upon the honor of the uniform will be properly dealt with.

For the commanding officer:

/S/ J.E. Blank

/T/ J.E. Blank

Lt. Col. A.G.D.

Anti-Tank Company, 272nd Regiment

Submitted by: **Phyllis Carnes**, widow of **John Carnes**

3214 Brookfield Road, Wedgewood Hills, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109-1905



Staff Sergeant John Carnes, first person on left and Jack Billotto, first person on right.

Phyllis relates that a young man named John Grindahl had seen one of our bulletins and wrote to her. It seems he has a great interest in World War II and collects memorabilia and creates displays which he sets up at veteran's reunions, air shows, VFW and Legion clubs, etc. Phyllis gathered a few of her husband's things and sent them to John Grindahl, who was very interested in the 69th. He was so happy to get them and wrote and said the items were fantastic and would be the nicest and most complete grouping to date of one World War II soldier. (Sorry Phyllis, the picture of the display that you sent was too dark to print.)

Phyllis relates that after 25 years of trying to get the White POW-MIA flag flying on top of the State Capitol, this year they said that the group could fly the flag for one day. It was September 19th, National POW-MIA Recognition Day.

The following is part 1 of a book we will be printing over the course of several bulletins.

Company K - Our Story

By the Men of Trespass Blue King

Submitted by: **Robert J. Albert**

Company K, 271st Regiment

4550 NY 43, Rensselaer, New York 12144

FROM THE CO

An Infantry Rifle Company is the most important unit in the Army. To stay and fight with one, takes extra courage and stamina, of which every man in Company K had plenty to spare.

We, the ones who fought and lived, respectfully dedicate this History to those of this Company who fought and died.

I am grateful to have been accepted as the Commander of the finest Company I have ever been associated with, Company K, 271st Infantry.

Herbert R. Pickett

Capt., 271st Infantry, Commanding

* * * * *

INTRODUCTION

This is the story of the men who are and were K Company. Their life as members of a line outfit was far from pleasant. Most of us have been around long enough to know that the infantry doesn't have the softest bed in the army. To picture it otherwise is to veer from the truth. Therefore, in this book we have attempted to record our lives in K Company and the attitudes we had toward events as they were happening.

To do this, we have attempted to include all the bitches as well as all the highlights we could recall. However, in spite of our bitching, we ask you to remember as we do, the genuine sorrow felt by the men who have had to leave the Company and the fact that they felt this way despite all the chicken they went through.

* * * * *

WE'LL REMEMBER CAMP SHELBY

K Company was born in Camp Shelby, Mississippi on May 15th, 1943. In the past two years it has changed completely several times. It has had at least 10 CO's and 4 complete turnovers in men. A few men have stayed with the Company throughout its existence. Their memory of Shelby may be blunted by recent events, but it will surely never be destroyed. For the rest of us who joined the Company but lately, the days at Shelby are surprisingly like the days in basic or in the States in other camps. If phrases like B-4 and Hattiesburg mean nothing to you, then close your eyes and pretend we're talking about Camp Wheeler, area G-North, and Macon, or Gordon, Maxey or whatever one you were exposed to.

In those days we sang a song "We'll Remember Camp Shelby" to the tune of "We'll Remember Pearl Harbor." When we sang it we thought of eggs at the back door and the mad dash to the mess hall, throwing our helmet liners into the huts. We thought of the Service Clubs where we could get ice cream and doughnuts and where there were dances on Friday nights; of PX 24 where we could buy cigarettes and candy by the box, and flirt with the PX girls or cuss if someone else held up the line by beating our time; of the theatres where we saw shows every night and where we learned how easy it was to buck a long line if you knew a lot of the "boys." We thought of all the clip joints in Hattiesburg and how bad it was that we couldn't buy a decent drink in town, or do anything but see a movie, have a couple of beers, and go back to camp; of the more pleasant time we could have in New Orleans with its restaurants and French quarter, or Biloxi, Gulfport, or even in Laurel. We'll even remember that ridiculously small town called Brooklyn (Mississippi --- of course).

But most of all, we'll remember that Shelby stood for chicken. We did plenty of bitching about standing retreat every night and police call even on Sundays - about the green looys we got fresh from Benning - about the parades and inspections we were forever standing - about the training program because we heard the same old thing day after day and were tired of it - about the ways they had of varying the schedule with night problems and hikes - about KP and the "informal" guard mount - about hand to hand combat and bayonet drill - about the orders that were always coming down from the brass.

We will also remember K Company as "Killer K" or "Flanking K." We called ourselves that because we usually got the most rugged assignments. It was K Company that policed the service club. It was K Company that ploughed through the swamps and rivers to flank whole battalions when we were on maneuvers. It was K Company that walked if anybody walked. It was K Company that missed chow if anybody went hungry, and it was K that was the last to get a bivouac area. Even on the trip to France, it was K Company that drew the task of unloading all the duffel bags from the ship at Le Havre.

There were many times when we got pissed off and said we'd just as soon go overseas and quit living the Shelby life. But it didn't look as if we ever would unless we went individually. The army seemed to be using the 69th as a replacement pool or advanced IRTC. Although plenty of men left for overseas, it seemed as if K Company would still be there to close the camp after the war.

At least that was the situation until the summer of '44. There were rumors — at first wild and varied but as time went on they became narrowed down. A few dared guess the time we would leave. To most of us the

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COMPANY K - OUR STORY

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ETO was an odds on favorite. We heard talk of new equipment and clothes, white helmets (for occupation) and of the various POE's. Finally actions appeared to confirm the rumors. We went on thirty day maneuvers into the Mississippi swamps to alternate freeze and sweat till middle October. We got classes on censorship and on the German soldier. We turned in our weapons for endless ordnance inspections. We policed up the area. We didn't get white helmets. We were issued new weapons soaked in cosmoline. We crated our equipment and tried to get our personal affairs in order. Some of us even made wills.

Then the great day came. After a lot of rumors had petered out, there came a rumor that actually was true. The order was given to leave. After policing up the Company area at least six times and B-4 at least once, we put on our packs and marched to the fire-break for the last time. It was the night of October 31st when we loaded onto trucks that for once were not too crowded. Then we went to the railroad station where we found the first of a series of bands that were to bid us goodbye and welcome us during our travels.

The train wasn't bad. It was an army sleeper with three-decker bunks that were pretty comfortable. During the day the compartments were big enough for a good sized blackjack game. Chow was surprisingly good and what with all the paper plates, KP meant just serving chow, so it was a good deal. A lot of us were sure that we were headed for Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, and that sounded good because New York and Philadelphia were so close. Our big worry was over passes. We knew that there was a good chance we would not stay long enough to get out of camp.

As we entered New Jersey the card games broke up and it became difficult to sit long enough to read a book. The months at Shelby accentuated our curiosity over the new camp. Well, for once we were more than satisfied. Kilmer was like the movie conception of an army camp. Its big barracks (two housed the whole Company), its consolidated mess halls, its huge and well stocked PX's all added up to a very pleasant camp. But what we enjoyed most were the big cities that were so near. Time Square was one hour away and it was the same to Philly. We had ten days there and most of us had three or four passes. And what passes - some of the boys are still talking about them.

But like all good things, our stay there had to come to an end. The boat drills, lectures on lifeboats, talks on security, and practice in boarding trains, all led to the moment when we would leave for our ship. Finally, on November 14th, the moment came. As usual the trip was by night. None of us were ashamed to admit a nostalgic thought or two as we passed familiar places on the way to the harbor. Arriving at New York, we once more put on our packs, picked up our duffel bags, and boarded the ferry. The ferry took us to the dock area. We climbed a series of spiral stairs to the docks themselves where coffee and doughnuts awaited us.

THE ATLANTIC

The Red Cross girls finished passing out coffee and doughnuts and we, the men of K Company, marched up to the gangplank, proved to the Transportation Corps Officers that we knew our first names and middle initials, and then, with a final "the 69th will never go overseas," we staggered across the gangplank onto the boat.

It's hard to remember what we thought at that moment. Most of us were still dazed by New York and Philly. We didn't know where we were going - we didn't know how. We didn't know the size of the ship or it's name. Some of us were optimistic about the Army of Occupation - some weren't. Everyone was news-hungry and rumor-fed. There were a few enterprising individuals who tried to find the answers to our questions from the ship's crew. Thus less than an hour after we got our bunks, we knew that our new home was the "Erickson," a sister ship of the "Gripsholm," that she made trips to both England and France, that Cherbourg and Le Havre were cleared and that Antwerp might already be in use.

For most of us the trip was a novelty but the army was careful to maintain many of the traditional aspects of army life a la Shelby. We still had to sweat out lines - for chow, for movies (when and if), to shave, even to get in and out of our sardine can. The duty roster was not packed away in a box. Some of us pulled KP, dumped garbage, and as usual, we all policed up the area.

We even had a training schedule, complete with talks on field sanitation, military courtesy and discipline, and language classes. Another important event each day was the inspection of the ship. A considerable portion of each day was dedicated to preparation for this inspection. For the hour before it, we were herded from one deck to another. Everywhere GI's were asking guards, "Where do we go from here?" And the guards were answering, "Beats the Hell out of me, but you can't stay here. We're cleaning up."

The prohibition extended to all decks, our quarters and even the ship sanitary facilities (latrines to you mugs). Finally, the inspectors began to look over the ship. There were so many officers in the "daisy chain" that the captains in the rear hardly knew what was going on in front. The whole process was pretty difficult at the time, but we will all remember it with a chuckle. Anyway, we usually got "excellent" on our quarters.

All in all, we soon discovered that army life on board ship was no different from army life anywhere else. Although many of us believed that we were getting away from chicken when we shipped overseas, we soon learned that was wrong; and in a way, our boat trip served to introduce us to life in the ETO. We learned the hard way that court martial could be used for

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COMPANY K - OUR STORY

(Continued from Page 52)

something other than punishing AWOL, desertion, etc. The court martial room, which by accident or choice was also the enlisted men's lounge, was in considerable use, but not as a lounge.

While the problems of army life remained with us, we also discovered new problems which came from living on a ship. The first thing we noticed was that there were too many people on board the ship. We didn't go aboard, we were packed aboard. Bunks were four high; alleyways were impassible for more than one man at a time. Even when the decks were open, it was difficult to find a place to play a few hands of seven card stud. And incidentally, remember that no gambling rule. I suppose that order is given more and followed less than anything the army has ever tried. We soon discovered that matches served well as chips, and there was even a big Acey Deucey game below the bridge. Those big huddles we saw on deck didn't cover someone dressing but a cold cash crap game. Till all hours of the night there were blackjack games and nickel ante poker. Most of us had spent our money that last night in the States, but what little we still had began to circulate madly.

When we first boarded the ship, we were told to shave daily. The next morning we made a big discovery - salt water won't lather. Things were pretty rough till we found that clear hot water ran for a couple of hours each day. This meant, of course, that we had to stand in a line to shave. As for showers, we were limited entirely to salt water and even those who indulged regularly were pretty dirty when we hit port.

Then there was the chow. The ship was so crowded that we had to be satisfied with two meals a day. It was a good thing we got coffee or soup to relieve that empty feeling around noon. Sometimes the meals were good, sometimes not so good.

Considering everything, the chow situation was O.K. On Thanksgiving we were still on the high seas, so we ate Thanksgiving dinner out of our mess buckets. Anyway, they say the food gets mixed up inside, so what the hell.

We also managed to get all the PX rations we wanted. We could buy plenty of cigarettes, and Hershey almonds and Mars bars came by the box. We were to remember this experience many times in the following months as cigarettes, candy and toilet articles became scarce. What we worried about then was finding a place to smoke. Blackout was declared early because of the danger of submarines; we never could smoke in our quarters; even the head was forbidden. Somehow we weathered it, by means which we made up as we went along. If we talk about them too much, perhaps, they won't work again.

Another major inconvenience we suffered was seasickness. Most of us were rookies and when we hit rougher waters we had to use the GI cans and the boat rails. The few who had made other trips kept saying,

"This ain't nothin'" and seemed to have quite a time out of our discomfort; but until we got our sea legs it was bad enough. As it was we missed plenty of meals, plenty of classes and details, and a few periods of PT. It was especially hard to stand on the deck during the daily boat drill which came promptly at 2:30. All the drill amounted to was everybody falling out onto the deck and standing there. That's all we did. While we stood there, the boat swayed and moved till everyone was afraid that some green-faced Joe near him would puke. Most of all we were afraid that green-faced Joe would be ourselves.

Finally it was announced that we were going to Southampton, England. That was O.K. with us. At least we figured that if we were going to England first, the chances of the war's being over before we would be committed, were that much better. The news from the fronts was pretty good. The Russians were getting ready for the Warsaw offensive. The American First, Third, and Ninth Armies were battering into the Siegfried line. Everyone at home talked of peace by Christmas. Even the more pessimistic of us thought hopefully of the possibility. That was before the Bulge.

But we thought more about what awaited us in England. We had heard about the tough training that once went on in the little Island. We listened to classes on Southampton, London, and the funny English money system. We were issued three K rations, and from this fact we immediately tried to guess where we were going. A few poor NCO's were trying to recover all the red safety lights, and we were being threatened with all sorts of punishment if they were not all collected. Some of us were eating K rations in hidden corners of the boat. Others were afraid we might actually need them. Amidst all the confusion, the coast of England came into view. Some of the sailors pointed out the Isle of Wight. But we didn't get to see the famous White Cliffs of Dover, just as we hadn't said goodbye to the Statue of Liberty.

When we sailed into Southampton Harbor, there were no bands playing, no crowds waving. Everyone on the docks acted as if the whole thing was commonplace and happened everyday. True, every now and then an Englishman would ride by the docks on a bicycle and give us a curious glance. Even the army didn't seem to make any fuss. We were there - so what. Finally, the port commander gave us a welcoming speech just like a million others we had heard. The noticeable thing about it was his British accent and we wondered if everybody here talked that bad.

We finally had cleaned up the boat for the last time; no more would we swing those big hoses across the deck or throw garbage over the side. Then the order came to wait. We waited. Then the order came to disembark; so we picked up our packs and duffel bags and started off the ship. We moved down the gangplank onto the dock and into a big warehouse where a Red Cross Clubmobile was set up. It was the night of November 26th, 1944; the Red Cross girls began to serve doughnuts and coffee and the men of K Company were in England.

Short stories from a former "Stars and Stripes" writer

Gus Weimann

Company L, 271st Regiment
7126 Canella Court
Tamarac, Florida 33321

I have sent in two stories for consideration for the bulletin. "The Pass" is based on an experience that I had as an interpreter. I spent a little time in Berlin and "Operation Little Vittles" grew from that with information from "The Stars and Stripes."

In the spring of 1944, I joined Company L, Third Battalion, 271st Regiment in Camp Shelby. A few thousand GIs and myself were transferred from the Army Specialized Training Program where I had been studying German. Just before leaving Camp Shelby in the fall of 1944, I was sent to Intelligence and Reconnaissance at Battalion level. Just before we crossed the Rhine River, I was taken from I & R and made an interpreter in Military Government at Division Headquarters.

When the war ended, I was transferred to the 29th Division where I did some writing for the Division newspaper. One day my company commander suggested that I take a three-day pass to Paris and apply for a job with "The Stars and Stripes."

Later, after working on the paper as a GI, I civilianized and continued with the "Stripes" for about a year. Following that, I joined the editorial department at the Nuremberg Trial in Nuremberg and our group produced about 42 volumes of testimony and documents. It was a long road from Camp Shelby.

Following are stories written by Gus.

* * * * *

THE PASS

The little old man was hiding in the woods. All around him he could hear soldiers shooting and yelling. Once a bullet hit the ground and scattered dirt into his gray beard and long black coat. He wore a large black hat with a wide brim.

His name was Eli Cohen and he had escaped from a nearby camp where people of his faith were prisoners.

Suddenly the firing stopped. As he squinted through the bushes he could see his camp guards in their gray uniforms. "Hands up! Hands up!" shouted a group of men dressed in light brown. He watched as his former captors raised their arms.

"These are Americans," he whispered to himself. He hadn't eaten for a day and his strength was nearly gone. He stumbled toward the Americans who were now guarding his former captors.

"Stop or I'll shoot," ordered one young American as the old man approached. He could speak only in

Yiddish, but tried to explain that he had escaped from a nearby camp.

"Put your gun down," a voice called out. It was an American interpreter who just happened to overhear the man and understood him.

"Thank you," said the man, his voice trembling. "I'm trying to get to the next village where I have friends, but the soldiers may not let me through."

As the interpreter listened, he thought of his grandfather whose speech and style of dress were similar. Pulling out a crumpled piece of paper, the interpreter wrote: "Let this man through. He's O.K." Then he added his name, rank and serial number.

"Show this to the soldiers who stop you," he said softly as he handed over the pass.

"Thank you, sir," murmured the old man. "I will keep this paper forever."

"Okay, men, let's go," yelled a sergeant. As a jeep was started up, the interpreter jumped into the back seat. When the jeep lurched forward, he turned to see the old man.

Standing silently in the road, the figure in the long black coat and wide-brimmed hat watched the jeep disappear. Just before it turned into a bend, the old man raised his arm slowly and waved.

* * * * *

OPERATION LITTLE VITTLES

Our story goes back almost half a century to a summer and a cold winter in Europe. Not only was the winter cold, but so were the relations between Americans and Russians. It was the beginning of the era that we call the Cold War, and the winter months in question ran from 1948 into 1949.

Berlin, Germany was a kind of Fort Apache. Instead of Indians surrounding the city, there were hostile Russian soldiers who wanted the occupying American army with their English and French allies to leave the city.

One way to get them out, thought the Russians, would be to cut off all trains and vehicles carrying food and other supplies into Berlin. Within 24 hours of the Russians' closing the entry into the city, our American air force, along with British aircraft, began ferrying food and coal to the trapped American, British and French soldiers and their families. Also being kept alive were two and one-half million Berliners.

In a 24-hour period a large transport plane landed every three minutes at one of Berlin's airports. One of the American fliers was a young lieutenant named Gale Halvorsen. As he guided his plane one day into Tempelhof, a large Berlin airport, he noticed a crowd of children standing on a high mound of wartime rubble and looking up at him. Even though he could see that their faces looked pale and haggard, they were smiling and waving to him. Suddenly he had an idea.

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OPERATION LITTLE VITTLES

(Continued from Page 54)

Just before taking off for his flight to Berlin the following day, Lieutenant Halvorsen took a clean handkerchief, made it into a little parachute, and fastened a candy bar to it. As he reached Berlin and made his glide to the runway, he tossed out the parachute from a small-flare opening behind the pilot's seat. On his approach the next day he dropped six more. Operation Little Vittles was born.

Word spread quickly and soon members of Lieutenant Halvorsen's squadron began donating new handkerchiefs and candy bars. News of Operation Little Vittles even crossed the ocean to the United States where people began to send supplies of candy and clothes. One large shipment arrived just before Christmas from Mobile, Alabama, Lieutenant Halvorsen's former base. More and more miniature parachutes with candy bars began floating down to the eager youngsters who scrambled after them.

When the airlift was over Lieutenant Halvorsen was reassigned to the United States, but the avalanche he had started continued growing. Captain Casky took over for him, and after him Captain Williams continued Operation Little Vittles. Even before Lieutenant Halvorsen left Europe he estimated that he and other pilots dropped over 60,000 tons of candy for an average of 250 pounds daily.

Although the Berlin atmosphere, especially for the children, was bleak, other air force squadrons brightened the Christmas season. Operation Santa Claus delivered gifts for 10,000 children. Another unit supplied 1,500 presents in Operation Sleigh Bells.

Finally, instead of conquering the people of Berlin, the Russians lifted their barriers on May 11, 1949. But liberty can have a high cost. There were 18 crashes, resulting in the deaths of 79 persons, 31 of them Americans. But one positive picture will always remain: a group of children standing on hill, waving to an American pilot they will never forget.

273rd Regiment, Co. I, 3rd Rifle Platoon, 1st Squad

Submitted by: John G. Howell, P.O. Box 269, Pikeville, North Carolina 27863



Pvt. Johnnie Howell, Pfc. Roy Trexler, Cpl. Earl Riley, Lloyd W. Wright, Pfc. Rawlings, Pfc. James W. Snow. Standing: Pfc. William C. Talmage, S. Sgt. Fuller
Altenhain, Germany 1945



Cpl. Earl Riley, Pfc. Roy Trexler, Pfc. James Snow, Pvt. Lloyd Wright, Pvt. Johnnie Howell, Pvt. Robert Muckel, Pfc. William Talmage
Altenhain, Germany 1945

Wallace Moulis writes ...

Wallace B. Moulis, Col., USA, Ret.
Headquarters, I&R Platoon, 272nd Regiment
6565 Snowbell Lane
Falls Church, Virginia 22042

I read with considerable interest the exploits of **Lord**, a member of my platoon, the I&R Platoon, 272nd Infantry, in your last bulletin (May, June, July, August). I remember quite well how proud and happy we were of him because of his actions under fire.

I am sending along a copy of an article, "World War II, As I Knew It," that I wrote.

You may want to correct my "After Action" report with Lord's article.

If I had known that **Lord** was such a prolific writer, I would have given him the task of writing the "After Action Report," which incidentally, can be found in the National Archives, Suitland, Maryland.

Congratulations, **Lord**!

World War II, As I Knew It

By: **Wallace J. "Mo" Moulis**
Platoon Leader, I&R Platoon

The month of April 1945 was a month of both triumph and disaster, and in every case, hard work for the Regimental Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon. Throughout the period, the platoon preceded the regiment in its great strides across the Reich, reconnoitering and marking the route to be taken by the succeeding elements almost daily. Sometimes it ran into heavy enemy fire; twice it was ambushed by snipers, each time losing a jeep, and having one man captured and one wounded. At all times they were in the forefront of the action, exposed to any enemy that might be waiting along the route. By their activity, they obtained for the regiment much valuable information about roads, bridges, mine fields, abatis, road blocks, and enemy positions and paved the way for the regiment to move from the Lahn to the Mulde Rivers without loss of unit or vehicle.

On the occasion of its first ambush, the platoon was reconnoitering the route East of the town of Bad Kosen, when hit by machine gun and Panzerfaust fire from dug-in Germans. The jeep and its equipment were completely destroyed, but all but one of its occupants managed to escape. The Germans took their prisoner to Naumberg, interrogated him to no avail, and then, as the Americans were approaching, released him to welcome members of the 272nd Regiment as they entered the town.

The second ambush took place between Pomssen and Kohra on 16 April while the platoon was heading the 1st Battalion in their drive to Zweenfurth.

Machine gun fire set one jeep on fire and wounded one man slightly, but all managed to crawl back to safety.

During the fight for Leipzig, the platoon accompanied the 1st and 2nd Battalions into the city, using their 300 radio to report the progress of the battle back to the CP. In order to get and maintain contact with the rear, it was necessary for them to move the radio set to the highest point to be found in a building, and from the fourth and fifth stories of buildings, they watched and reported on the raging battle below, in spite of intense sniper and machine gun fire. On several occasions, when other means of communication failed, the platoon was the only means of contact for battalion commanders with the regimental command post.

Attention: Members of the 271st Regiment - Do you remember Kassel?

Albert Dean

39 Starmead Drive
Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 2JA

I have the 69th address from the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning. I am doing a little private family history research. I hasten to say it is for a friend who comes from Kassel. Her parents brought her to England in 1939 when she was quite young. She wants to know what happened in the old part of Kassel after they all left, and what it was like to be there throughout the war. I got volunteered to find out as I've been chasing up my own family history for years and have a lot of practice in trying every possibility. Neither of us is connected in any way with personnel who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

We have some information from the war years and copies of all the relevant official unit logs from your National Archives in Maryland. They show the 271st Regiment of the 69th Infantry Division received Kassel from the Third Army's 318th on the 5th of April, 1945 and were in the town on guard duty from then until the April 8th, 1945.

We would appreciate any 271st veteran who was involved that would send a copy of any notes about the town they may have, any pictures, or any history at all from that time period. The main area of interest is around Konigs Platz. There would have been a large and battered church in the area and it would have been basically a barren area.

Any information that any member of the 271st could provide would be much appreciated. We would be glad to pay for any postage or copying expenses incurred.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. I look forward to hearing from members of the 271st.

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.

1998

JANUARY 31st, 1998

Deadline for news material and pictures for:
Bulletin Volume 51, Number 2
January, February, March, April 1998
Bulletin expected mailing date is late April or early May
GET YOUR INFO IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!

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MARCH 19th to 23rd, 1998
COMPANY I, 271st INFANTRY
Radisson Inn
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

For further information contact:
Dale Thompson
 P.O. Box 7237
 Gainesville, Florida 32605
 Telephone: 352/377-3132

* * * * *

APRIL 19th to 23rd, 1998
CALIFORNIA WESTERN CHAPTER
1998 SPRING ROUND-UP
The Queen Mary
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Enjoy the opportunity to stay aboard The Queen Mary, the biggest and most luxurious historic ocean liner afloat. The staterooms are the largest ever built for a luxury liner. Each is unique. The Queen Mary's Self Guided Shipwalk is complimentary for registered hotel guests. "Behind the Scenes" guided tours are also offered. The Queen Mary Seaport includes the Queen's Marketplace, a quaint Old English shopping village. Long Beach Transit has a free Runabout Shuttle with 3 different routes.

Planned activities include a barbecue at the beach and a day cruise to the Catalina Island. Other attractions in the area include Disneyland, Knotts Berry Farm, Universal City Studio, etc.

Rates for members start at \$59.00.

For further information write to:
John Tounger, Chairman
 One Pine Hills Court
 Oakland, California 94611-1530
 Telephone: 510/531-8011

APRIL 30th, 1998

Deadline for news material and pictures for:
Bulletin Volume 51, Number 3
May, June, July, August 1998
Bulletin expected mailing date is late August or early September

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MAY 14th, 15th, and 16th, 1998
MIDWEST GROUP SPRING MEETING
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
Best Western Midway Hotel
 251 North Maynard Room
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226

Reservations: Write to the hotel or call 414/774-3600.
 A block of rooms will be held for us until April, 15th, 1998, so don't delay. Mention the 69th Infantry Division when making the reservation.

Rates: \$84.00 plus tax

Note: The east-bound lanes of I-94 will be partially closed for repairs in 1998, and some of the on and off ramps may also be closed. If you have trouble finding the Midway, refer to the small map of the area. Access is easy from Bluemound Road or Mayfair Road (also designated Hwy. 100.)



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Continued from Page 57)

MIDWEST GROUP SPRING MEETING (cont.)

Program:

Thursday, May 14th

- Check in time is 3:00 p.m.
- Hospitality Room
- Dinner at Oscar's

Friday, May 15th

- Golf at a course to be selected.
- Tour for Non-Golfers: Miller Brewery, followed by lunch at Mader's German Restaurant, then a trip to The Domes, a horticultural conservatory.
- Hospitality Room
- Dinner at a restaurant to be selected.

Saturday, May 16th

- On your own. Check out time is 11:00 a.m.

For Questions about the meeting, contact:

Fran and Zita Enright

7304 West Georgia Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53220
Telephone: 414/541-9598

* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 9th to 13th, 1998
69th CAVALRY RECON TROOP

WEST POINT, NEW YORK

Hotel Thayer

On the grounds of the U.S. Military Academy

Mike has already been in contact with personnel at the Thayer Hotel and they have agreed to block 30 rooms for our use. Mike is arranging for a tour of the grounds, a boat tour on the Hudson and we will witness the Saturday morning parade by the cadets.

Since we are giving you so much advance notice, you shouldn't have any conflict of dates except in dire circumstances. So Get your 1998 calendars out and mark the dates NOW!

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* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 30th, 1998

Deadline for news material and pictures for:

Bulletin Volume 52, Number 1

September, October, November, December 1998

Bulletin expected mailing date is late November or early December

August 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 1998 69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 51st ANNUAL REUNION Houston, Texas

DOUBLETREE HOTEL AT POST OAK

HOSPITALITY ROOM - TOURS - EARLY BIRD DINNER - PX BEER PARTY -
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AND AUXILIARY MEETING

MEMORIAL SERVICE - BANQUET DINNER DANCE - GOLF - SHOWS -
SHOPPING AND MORE - SUNDAY GOING HOME BREAKFAST

COMMITTEE:

Bob and Theresa Pierce, Co-Chairpersons - Company I, 273rd Regiment
144 Nashua Court, San Jose California 95139-1236
Telephone: 408/226-8040

Committee Members: Howard and Elnora Cordova, Charlie and Edna White, Jim and Mary Carroll, Charles and Stephanie Ray, Victor and Virginia Coletti, Keith and Delores Mann, Bennie and Marcella Srubar. Assisted by: "Wimpy" L. Smith, Herman and Anita Muescha, Domenic Dezio, Sanford Firsichbaum



"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.

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(Continued on Back Cover)



the 69th

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"Taps"

(Continued from Page 59)

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NOTE: For those of you who are unaware, the bulletin is limited 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.

We really had a lot of reunion pictures sent in also. Some of them were duplicates of the same group so we chose the best one for publication.

Thank You, Earl

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