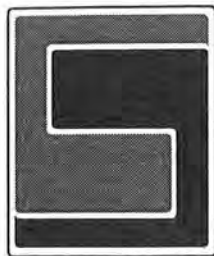


FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★★ Association, Inc.



VOLUME 53, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER — NOVEMBER — DECEMBER
1999

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

P.O. BOX 69
CHAMPION, PA 15622-0069
724/455-2901

bulletin

OFFICERS 1997-1998

Jim Boris, *President*
6800 Henry Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19128 881 FA
Harold Ruck, *Vice President*
622 Melville Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37412 272
Ralph Goebel, *Secretary*
5417 Halifax Lane
Minneapolis, MN 55424 272
William Matlach, *Treasurer*
P.O. Box 474
West Islip, NY 11795-0474 273
Robert Kurtzman, *Membership Chrm.*
P.O. Box 105
Wilmot, OH 44689 272
Edward Lucci, *Auditor* 273
William Snidow, *Chaplain* 661
Paul Shadle, *Co-Chaplain* 271

LADIES' AUXILIARY

Rosemarie Mazza, *President*
Gloria Czyzyk, *Vice President*
Jane Matlach, *Secretary*
Ursula Goebel, *Chaplain*
Edith Zaffern, *Sunshine Lady*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1997-1998

Archie Brooke Div. Hq.
Clifton Barbieri 271
Bernard Zaffern 272
Robert Crowe 273
Ernest Krause 269
Frank Packard 269
Eugene Pierron 661
Thomas Heath 724
Charles White 777

1998-1999

William Taylor 271
Leo Moore 272
James Brooks 273
Ward Peterson 269
George Hepp 569
William Snidow 661
John McCann 777
Walter Haag 881

1999-2000

George Wolff 271
Edgar Parsons 272
Eugene Mischke 273
Henry Putala 777
John O'Connor 880

PAST PRESIDENTS

*Maj. Gen. E. F. Reinhardt,
TX Div. Hq.
*Lester J. Milich, NJ 569 Sig.
*Hyman E. Goldstein, NY 272 Inf.
*Clifford E. Ewing, GA 769 Ord.
Sherman Lawrence, NY 272 Inf.
*Murry Galuten, FL 272 Inf.
*Henry Madison, NY 272 Inf.
*Sol Rosenblitt, FL 271 Inf.
*Cyril Baron, FL Div. Hq.
*Loar L. Quickle, NJ 271 Inf.
*Harold M. Starry, PA 272 Inf.
Wm. R. Matlach, NY 273 Inf.
Sam Woolf, NY 273 Inf.
Geo. E. Phillips, FL 271 Inf.
Albert Carbonari, CT 271 Inf.
Stanley Olszewski, CT 273 Inf.
Moriarty, MA 69 MP
ert Myers, AZ Div. Hq.
ter Doernbach, NJ Div. Hq.
*George Gallagher, FL MP & QM
William Beswick, VA 661
*William Foster, PA 269
*Earl E. Witzleb, Jr. PA 273 Inf.
Welkos O. Hawn, CO Div. Hq.
Curt E. Peterson, WI 569 Sig.
Robert Pierce, CA 273

*Deceased



Does Anyone Remember George Rome Woodworth?

Submitted By: **Lloyd W. Perkins**
1702 Ridgeway Drive • Sherman, Texas 75092
Telephone: (903) 892-8303
E-Mail: perkins2@airmail.net

Pfc. George Rome Woodworth

aka: "Woody" - B.A.R.
Killed in Action - 69th Division
February 1945 (I believe it was February 28th)
Belgium - Henri Chappelle Cemetery
I believe his sergeant was from Pennsylvania
Born in Port Arthur, Texas

I read of the 69th Reunion in our local paper. **Pfc. George Rome Woodworth** was my first cousin (our mothers were sisters). We were very close.

At the time of our notification of his death, I was in the Army Air Corps, stationed in the A.S.T.R.P. (Army Specialized Training Reserve Program) at Niagara University.

George was a first class person who had been placed in the ASTP program at Syracuse University. When the Battle of the Bulge commenced, the ASTP program was abandoned and all participants were assigned to various active units.

He spent his last night before embarkation from New York at my home. At that time I lived in Westfield, New Jersey.

I believe some of his buddies witnessed his death because his mother told me he cried out, "Sarge, I'm hit!"

If any of his buddies are still alive, I'd like to know where he was, what was their mission and precisely how he was killed. Also, who witnessed his death.

George's mother, my Aunt Dorothy Perkins, died shortly after George. We brought George back and buried him with his mother in Port Arthur, Texas.

I plan to attend my "Operation Crossroads" (atomic bomb test) reunion this fall in Connecticut. On discharge I came home to Texas, went to college, married, had children and became a judge. I retired 2 years ago. Now I have time to investigate what has been troubling me all these years.

If anyone can be of help to me, I would appreciate it very much. I remember him with great affection and admiration.

Notice to all 69ers

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

Cover Photos Identified from Last Bulletin

Submitted By: **Louie N. Rodgers**
Division Headquarters
99 North Main Street, Apt. 609
Memphis, Tennessee 38103-5004

I received the latest Bulletin, Volume 52, No. 3, May-August 1999 yesterday and congratulate you on an outstanding job well done. I am able to identify three of the six pictures on the front cover.

The top left picture shows **Brig. General Robert Maraist**, CG, 69th Infantry Division Artillery. General Maraist is second from the right and with the walking cane. He is with some French military officers and maybe an enlisted man.

The center left picture shows **General Reinhardt** and his driver, **Sergeant William B. O'Neal** of Sacramento, California in the general's jeep in front of the church at Murringen. I have a similar picture. The picture was taken in February 1945.

The bottom right picture shows **General Reinhardt** conferring with **Colonel Walter D. Buie**, Commander of our 272nd Infantry Regiment. The picture was taken 26 March 1945 and the occasion was elements of the 272nd were being ferried across the Rhine River and headed for Fort Ehrenbrietenstein. I have this same picture.

Also, it appears the upper right picture shows a German POW being interviewed for intelligence information. The center right picture appears to show a church service being conducted by **Colonel Peter Quinn**, Division Chaplain, for German POWs around Easter 1945 at Bad Ems, Germany on the Lahn River.

Many, many thanks for the wonderful contribution all of you are giving to our Association.

Louie N. Rodgers, LTC, USA Ret.
General Reinhardt's Aide-de-Camp

Cover Photos

We receive lots of nice photos with no real identification and with no owner attached to them.

The pictures on the cover represent some of those photos. We have listed below what the photos state on the back. Let's see if anyone can come up with a more detailed caption for them. There always seems to be someone out there that recognizes these photos and enjoys sending us in a better I.D.

Top Photo Left: Infantry of the 69th Division, 1st U.S. Army, in newly captured Leipzig.

Top Photo Right: Ronnie and Jack all dressed up with nowhere to go.

Photo Center: We had our Red Cross wagon along.

Bottom Photo Left: Hendric, Me, Dilly and Howard - Chow Call.

Bottom Photo Right: Leaving for the 29th.

THE MAIL BOX

By **Dottie Witzleb**, Editor



Company E, 273rd Infantry Regiment
P.O. Box 69
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
Telephone: **724/455-2901**

As you read this bulletin the reunion in Orlando is history. I am sure it was a huge success with no hurricanes present. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you the Best of the Holidays and a very Happy and Prosperous Y2K - in other words, the year 2000. Please keep your articles coming as this is your bulletin and it can only continue if you and I do our part. Thank you for helping me in the past and I look forward to doing the bulletin in the next two years.

* * * * *

Paul Staub, 20 Snowbird Lane, Levittown, New York 11756 — Hq. Co., 1st Bn., 273rd: Although we have never met, I feel I know you as well as I know my next door neighbor. I have been a member of the Association ever since it was formed and I can't remember ever seeing the Bulletin without the name **Witzleb** appearing somewhere in it. I just want you to know that I appreciate all the work that you and Earl have done all these years. You have made me anxiously await for the next issue. Thanks for all the hard work.

Lloyd M. Lippman, 1805 Joslyn, Trlr. 92, Helena, Montana 56901-0112 — Co. K, 273rd: I am forwarding an application for regular membership for **George R. (Bob) Sharkey**, 16 Haynes Road, Sunbury, Massachusetts 01776, (978) 443-8688. **Bob** was known to most members of Company K, 273rd as "**Sharkey**" or at least in the 3rd Squad, 1st Platoon. **Sergeant Dave Blue** (still living in Alabama) was our Squad Leader. **Bob** was a scout and I carried the BAR.

I met **Bob** when I went to the Boston reunion in 1997. Though he did not join or attend the reunion, we were able to visit and I spent the first Monday with him. He showed me many of the other areas of Boston that were not included in the reunion tours that were scheduled. Anyway, this is my thanks to him for his hospitality. I am just sorry that I didn't send in this application sooner.

Garnet B. Brooks, widow of **Col. William P. Brooks, Jr.**, 870 Morningside Drive, GS-303, Fullerton, California 92835 — Hq., 881st F.A.: Please accept this small donation to be used as you deem advisable. Thanks to all of you who are survivors of the 69th Division from World War II, for the time **Bill** had the interest of the 881st Battalion in his heart

and in his life. We all lost **Bill** last September 11th. He really was extra special! He still is in my remaining years.

Mr. Frank S. Phillips, 85 Jones Drive, Fulton, New York 13069 — Hq. Btry., 879th F.A.: I was a Message Center Chief during my stint with the 69th. I enjoy the bulletin and look forward to receiving it.

The work of the Bulletin Staff is appreciated by those of us who sit on the sidelines!

John M. Steinmetz, 107 Lakeside Circle, Jupiter, Florida 33458-5505 — Co. B, 369th Med. Btn.: I was a member of the 369th Medical Battalion. Our group was not large but we were attached to the 273rd Infantry.

I received your #2 Bulletin of this year from a friend who received it from the editor of the 87th Infantry. I enjoyed it very much and it brought back memories of many things and places I had done or gone through.

We were second in line going through the Battle of the Bulge, usually less than 1/2 mile from the front lines. One day the captain sent me to fill a 1,000 gallon water tank. I took a wrong turn looking for the Engineers water hole. Going fast with my weapons carrier and tank on a dirt road, one of the infantrymen stepped out of the woods and held up his hand. I stopped and he asked me where I was going. I said, "The water hole. Do you know where it is?" He said, "No, but it is not here. We haven't taken this road yet." I made a fast U-turn and found my water.

I am 85 years old and won't be able to go to Orlando for the reunion, but I wish you all the best. Thank you again for your most interesting bulletin.

Frazier Davidson, 3361 West 14th Street, Eugene, Oregon 97402-3194 — Co. M, 272nd: Well guys, if I was getting my army physical now for going overseas, as far as my eyes are concerned, I would pass with flying colors. A few years back I had two cornea transplants and my eyes are very good. I was kidded quite a bit about them before.

I am an amateur radio operator now and participate in the MARS Operation. This is the "Military Affiliate Radio System." We send messages to service people at no cost. I get on Monday through Friday or Saturday and our purpose is to address emergency situations and passing traffic to people in the service.

Park M. Fellers, 935 Jefferson, Box 396, Hillsboro, Illinois 62049 — Service, 272nd: Thanks so much for returning the picture of Lt. Graham Garren. I had plumb forgotten that I had sent it to you.

We will give some thought to coming to the Orlando reunion. It depends on whether or not my "landing gear" will be functioning by then . . . both of us will be 80 years old. Wow! When I was drafted June 27, 1941 I was a young 21. Time does fleet, doesn't it.

(Continued on Page 4)

THE MAIL BOX

(Continued from Page 3)

Murry Schulman, 21922 Cypress Drive, Boca Raton, Florida 33433 — Co. H, 273rd: I want to thank those responsible for the bulletin which I have been receiving for many, many years.

The whole concept is beyond words and needless to say, I enjoy it thoroughly. My wife and I will be at the Orlando reunion (plans are already made dear God) and I hope that you will be there.

LeVerne Loveland, 517 Rosewood Terrace, Apt. 2, Linden, New Jersey 07036-5832 — Co. G, 271st: This November 14th, I will be attending my first Division Reunion. I received my excellent basic training at Camp Shelby and was shipped out and joined the 90th Infantry Division in July 1944 in Normandy.

For years I have received the 69th Bulletin, probably because of the accurate records kept by our Company G, 271st Company Clerk, the late **Loar Quickle** and have kept updated on the 69th action in Europe. Then some years ago, I decided it was time that I should pay the Association for all those years that they sent me the Bulletin, as well as pay dues for membership. So I've always, after that, paid my \$10.00 annual dues and included extra to support the publications of the Bulletin.

There are only 2 men that I know who attend the reunion from the original cadre. They are **Ralph Plugge** and **Cecil Fernandez**. I have been in regular contact with **Plugge** and he plans to attend the reunion. I've also been in contact with **Clarence Jensen** who joined Company G after I left Shelby. I'm looking forward to seeing them in Orlando.

Amber R. Keene, Box 52, Boalsburg, Pennsylvania 16827 — widow of **Nestor Keene**, Service Co., 272nd: The Bulletin is a refreshing reminder of World War II days as my husband related in his letters to us from 15 August 1944 through 15 April 1946. He was assigned to the 69th in Belgium on 18 February 1945. Thanks to all who make the Bulletin possible.

MOVING

Please print your new address below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please send this form and your old address label to:

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

Please allow six weeks advance notice.

The Long Road: From Oren to Pilsen

A book has recently been published by the St. Vincent College of Latrobe Pennsylvania. It is a book consisting of 35 personal accounts of World War II veterans from Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, starting from childhood, through WWII and the return to civilian life.

Two members of the 69th, **Howitzer Al Kormas** of Headquarters Battery, 879th Field Artillery and **Rico D'Angelo** of C Battery, 880th Field Artillery, have their personal accounts in this book.

For history lovers of World War II who are particularly interested in the enlisted man's own story, this is it. They hold back nothing in their recalls.

The book is 400 pages in length, hardbound, with more than 150 original photographs and illustrations.

The knowledge and information contained in this book is something that no textbook could ever provide as we as veterans already know.

For further information on ordering one of these books please contact:

St. Vincent College
300 Fraser Purchase Road
Latrobe, Pennsylvania 15650

Or, you can ask your local library to purchase the book. All proceeds from this book will be used to produce similar books on veterans.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES!

NEW DUES YEAR FOR 1999-2000

August 1, 1999 to July 31, 2000

Regular Membership \$10.00
Ladies' Auxiliary \$ 5.00
Bulletin Donation Up To You

*Keep the Bulletin Coming.
Send Your Dues in Today!*

Send Your Dues To:
WILLIAM R. MATLACH, TREASURER
Post Office Box 474
West Islip, New York 11795-0474
Telephone: 516/669-8077

Do not send dues to Dottie Witzleb.

Year 2000
69th Infantry Division
53rd Annual Reunion
August 27 - September 3
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
SHERATON COLONY SQUARE
 Peachtree and 14th Streets • Atlanta, Georgia
 (404) 892-6000 • (800) 325-3535

Committee:

Harold and Ethel Ruck

622 Melville Avenue

Chattanooga, Tennessee 37412

Telephone: 423/698-3918

Joe and Anne Lipsius

John and Joyce Harvey

Wendell and Sally Freeman

Jim Brooks

Jim and Dottie White

Hugh and Dorothy Milstead

Ruth Combs

Joe and Sybil Conner

William Jackson

Harold and Cynthia Moore

Atlanta is the capital of Georgia. Southerners consider Atlanta the capital of the South. When you attend our Year 2000 reunion in Atlanta, you will be exposed to the real South.

You will experience the War Between the States and visit antebellum mansions.

You will be exposed to the entrepreneurship of magnet, Ted Turner, and those who created Coca-Cola.

You will hear about Sherman's March to the Sea and the Battle of Atlanta. You might hear the interchange between Rhett Butler and Scarlet O'Hara from "Gone with the Wind" Fame when Rhett tells Scarlet, "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn."

You will visit Stone Mountain - one of the natural wonders of the world and - you will see much, much more.

Did you know that Atlanta hosted the Summer Olympics in 1996? You will visit Centennial Park and roam the same grounds that Olympians roamed in 1996.

Georgia also gave us a President of the United States. You will visit the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and you will also visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District on "Sweet Auburn Avenue."

And then there is the Underground. You will be able to explore it, and discover the huge part it played in early Atlanta History.

You will find Atlanta to be a growing and exciting city, modern in every respect, and yet still, one that continues to remember its roots.

Yes, Atlanta is a must see-must visit place. You have the opportunity to see all these sites when you attend our year 2000 reunion. The dates are August 27th through September 3rd, 2000. Mark your calendar now and join us in Atlanta. What a way to celebrate a new century and a new millennium!

Hotel Registration forms and Tour Selection forms will be included in the next issue of our Bulletin. Be sure to watch for them.

We know everyone is getting older and it is harder to travel these days, but please try to come. We will be looking for you!



Tour Selection: John Harvey - Tour Chairman, Joe Lipsius, Hal Ruck



Atlanta Reunion Organizational Meeting: Left to right - Ruth Combs, Ethel Ruck, Dottie White, Jim White, Hal Ruck, Ken Sawyer, Bob Pierce, Joe Lipsius, Wendell Freeman, Sally Freeman, Jim Brooks, John Harvey, Joyce Harvey

Many members of the 69th Infantry Division were also a part of the 65th Infantry Division and belong to both Associations. Therefore, this story is of interest to all. We are sorry to see them come to an end. I would like to note that their association membership was always much smaller than the Fighting 69th.

65th Infantry Division reunites at Shelby for the last time

Submitted By: **Robert J. Kurtzman, Sr.**

*Company I, 272nd Infantry
69th Membership Chairman*

Post Office Box 105
Wilmot, Ohio 44689-0105

FROM THE HATTIESBURG AMERICAN NEWSPAPER
Thursday, September 30th, 1999

Wednesday was a historic day for Camp Shelby as 400 veterans attended the retiring of the colors of the 65th Armored Infantry Division.

It is important for the public to know the history of the 65th Division, said Anna Rosmus, 39, of Passau, Bavaria. "This division liberated my hometown, which was also Hitler's hometown," Rosmus said. "Nothing has been taught about my hometown. I traced this division and I'm writing its history."

The 65th, which called Camp Shelby home, retired its colors in its 46th and final reunion. Final reunions occur when a military unit has lost most of its members, and when those members reach a certain age or are unable to travel.

"I came here and trained in 1943, and I came here and got discharged in 1946," said Lynn M. LaBarr, 74, a New Orleans native who now lives in Diamond Head, Mississippi. "We served in the European Campaign in France, Germany and Austria, but we were activated right here in Camp Shelby."

Colonel Ike Pylant welcomed the 65th back home in the 10:30 a.m. opening ceremony in the Camp Shelby theater.

"For the freedoms and rights we enjoy today, and for the sacrifices you made, today we salute you," he said.

Retired Brig. Gen. Stanley Rhinehart, Jr., son of the 65th former commander, Gen. Stanley Rhinehart, Sr., presented the unit with its aged, delicate silk flag.

Rhinehart told of how his father feared the retirement of the division's colors would mean the 65th would be forgotten. Somehow, the general acquired the colors and put them in his personal baggage and kept them with him during his remaining years in a retirement home.

Rhinehart took over the flags upon his dad's death and "as I should . . . today I return these flags to the division," he said. "I am thankful that my father's wish is being fulfilled."

The flags will be kept in the new Camp Shelby military museum to preserve the division heritage. The museum is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2000.

"The museum is really why we are here," LaBarr said. "This division has helped raise funds for it."

"Camp Shelby is so different now," said Harry Van Zandt, 79, a veteran of World War II and Korea who lives in upstate New York. "You don't find anything you recognize. This is the third time I've been back to visit. The first time was 30 years ago."

Like many people the world over, Rosmus believes the lessons of World War II must be remembered so that history doesn't repeat itself. She has seen first hand how those mistakes can easily be remade.

"I want them to be acknowledged," Rosmus said. "It's unbelievable what they did. The more I learn about them the more they fascinate me."

Many in Passau, including her own family, "wouldn't have survived the concentration camps and death marches if they hadn't done what they did," she said.

Passau, a little town on the Austrian border, has for 28 years been a hot bed for Neo-Nazi activity with the group's largest meetings being held there annually, she said.

Writing the town's and division's history required obtaining access to Nazi files, which many German leaders and citizens don't want, she said.

"I had to sue my town to get access to the Nazi files," she said. "They were forced to hand me the files, but the town fathers claimed they lost them."

She had to remind them "it was their job to keep the files and they could lose their jobs," she said. "Very fast, they found the record."

Then, however, other government officials found new arguments to block her from getting the files.

"There is a wall of silence that binds two or three generations," she said. "Death threats were made and there were threats to abduct my little children."

The story of her struggle to tell the story of her town's Nazi years was so dramatic it was made into an Oscar nominated movie called, "Nasty Girl." It's the story of what happens to a young German girl if she asks the wrong questions. When the questions are about the Middle Ages, they are the right questions, but questions about World War II are the wrong ones.

Rosmus now lives in Washington, D.C. where she is continuing her research on the 65th, 26th and 71st divisions. Visiting Hattiesburg is a dream come true for her.

"I'm here to do research and give them credit (for their service)," she said. "I get to hear their personal stories, their dreams, their expectations and their disappointments. It's perfect."

After the welcoming ceremony, Rosmus planned to visit the museum the 65th helped build.

On the Lighter Side

Stephen Rojcewicz

881st Field Artillery Battalion

135 Endicott Street

Worcester, Massachusetts 01610-1944

We all must have many memories that are pleasant of our military service. Did any 69ers experience any of the following?

In a little Dutch city where we were on pass the good people of the area had posted in the building in which we were housed invitations for our diversion such as bridge, 3D pictures, music, conversation in English, and games of all kinds. The beach was off limits, due to huge coils of barbed wire and biting insects.

A three-day stay in Brussels, Belgium, offered day-long tours with an English-speaking guide. Who can forget the famous manikin, the 14th century church, and the pictures of us taken at various points of interest - all with the little guide and his megaphone?

Here, too, with **S/Sgt. Knott** of Pennsylvania, a special treat was an outdoor cafe, something hardly known in America at the time. All the tables were filled. An organist would play Flemish, French, English, and American songs and it was fascinating to see what groups would join in the song. We met some fine Brits as a result.

In Bonn, one of our own, **Pvt. Stauffer**, put on a tuxedo he had found and strutted along the battery area. He was very individualistic and it would have been useless to tell him he could have been shot as a spy since he was not in uniform. He lived through it all.

Some freed Italian prisoners-of-war were helping themselves to strawberries in German gardens. The German owners complained to our Military Government. Guess what? The Italians were ordered to cease and desist.

As we advanced in late winter and spring we noticed that houses in the little towns were grouped in a central area and the natives' little parcels of land might be a half-mile away. Cows were kept in stalls in barns all winter and the bovines' calls to nature were piled high in the barnyard. With the thaw this natural fertilizer was loaded in wagons and pulled by the cows into the fields. One wonders if anyone ever slipped in the process.

One of our lieutenants was from West Virginia. He was surprised to learn that most of us were not served peanut butter with every meal. May the Lord bless **Lt. Cottrill** and all the good people of that Mountain State.

An amazing sight in Reading, England, where we spent several weeks. In the late afternoon after work, workers on bicycles, five abreast, rode home. One chap was seen holding a ladder in one hand as he steered with the other perfectly at ease, proving the old saying, "The world steps aside for the man who knows where he's going."

Robert Ammon Writes . . .

Robert F. Ammon

Company D and Hq. 1, 273rd Infantry

908 Meadow Drive • Battle Creek, Michigan 49015

E-Mail: BAmmun7433@aol.com

I became aware of the activities of the 69th Inf. Div. Assoc. in 1995 and was able to attend the 1998 reunion of D-273 in Myrtle Beach, SC, where I met several of the men with whom I had served. With a little luck, by the time this is printed, I will have expanded on this experience during the November Division reunion in Orlando, Florida.

I endured basic infantry heavy weapons training at Camp Croft, Spartanburg, SC, and reported to the 65th Division in June of 1944. I was transferred from the 65th Division to Co. D, 273rd Regiment of the 69th in July of 1944. Among my memories of the next four months are the following: "creeping" artillery fire across a barren range and drinking swamp water flavored (disinfected) with iodine, several of us doing seven days of hard labor for dusty boots and wrinkled beds so the Company area could be policed, volunteering for ten days of KP in the field for a promise that didn't materialize, and, of course, the thirty-day bivouac prior to our move to Camp Kilmer.

Crossing the Atlantic aboard the SS Marine Panther was a memorable event, as well as witnessing the military version of "downsizing" the 69th on Christmas Day to replenish the First Army GIs struggling in the Battle of the Bulge - luckily I remained with the 69th and crossed the Channel with the regimental transport in January. After slugging through "Tent City," I went with D Company to relieve the 393rd of the 99th Division. A few days later, I was transferred to Headquarters, 1st Battalion, as a wire lineman to support the two CP systems. Following the Division's penetration of the Siegfried Line, about March 7 or 8, I was evacuated to the 200th General Hospital in Soisson, France with trench foot. I returned to duty in Grimma two or three days after V-E Day and spent the summer assigned to the switchboard of Battalion Headquarters.

In August I was transferred to the 54th Ord. Grp. Headquarters in Kassel, and in the fall of 1945 went to 60th Ord. Grp. Headquarters in Oberramstadt. Both HQs were staffed mainly by former 69ers who remained as close as during the more stressful days. In particular, I remember **Johnny VanAmburg** of Dallas and **Joe Purtell** of Philadelphia. Sadly, both were listed in the same edition of "Taps" some time ago. The army rotated me home in April of 1946 and honored me with the Ruptured Duck award.

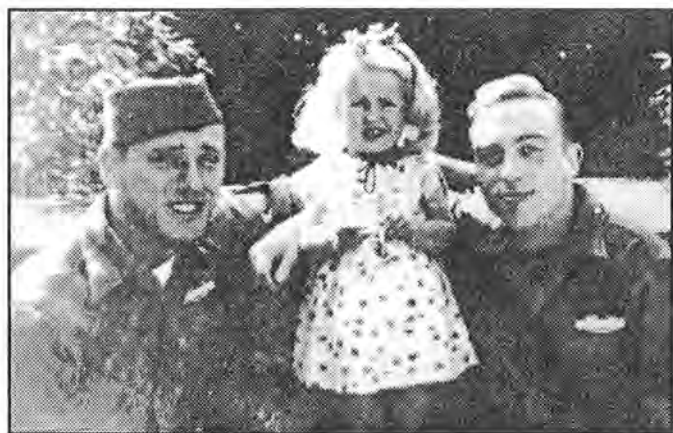
I have attempted to identify myself so that anyone who recognizes me and wishes to correspond can contact me by E-mail at "BAmmun7433@aol.com" or at the above address.

Company K, 273rd

Joseph L. Devlin
Company K, 1st Platoon, 273rd Infantry
4027 Caston Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19124

I am sending in some photos of men from the 69th who were in Germany. I am the one without the hat. Maybe someone might see one of the others and recognize them. I guess I am getting old as I cannot remember their names. We were all from the same platoon of K Company. If my memory is correct, everyone was at Camp Shelby.

I read the 69th Bulletin as soon as it arrives. It makes me feel very proud but also sad, as time is slipping away from all of us. Good luck to all.



Son on Quest for Father's Military History

William H. Sheavly

5301 Weblin Farm Road • Virginia Beach, VA 23455

My name is **William H. Sheavly**, the oldest son of **Bill and Reba Sheavly**, active members of the 69th.

My reason for writing is to request your help. After a lot of soul searching, I have decided that I want to write a book about my father's experiences in the 69th and WWII. I have been a writer for over a decade and have had numerous articles published in a variety of magazines, so writing is something I truly love. (I own my own business as a Certified Financial Planner-Sheavly Investment Management-so it is more out of love than for income that I write).

I have been working on my outline for months now and this past Fathers Day, surprised my Dad with what I was doing. Needless to say, he was very pleased. He is now supplementing all of the research I have been doing by providing me both the Pictorial History of the 69th and the beautiful anniversary book. In addition he has provided me well over 20 years of the back issues of the Bulletin for my use. During Fathers Day weekend, he and I sat down several times and I have now recorded over four hours of taped conversations of his recollections. Finally, he told me that he would be loaning to me his letters home, hundreds of them, within the next few months after he has re-read them all. So, as you can see, I am up to my eyeballs in this project and having the time of my life. I have learned more in the past few months about WWII and my Dad than I have in my previous 46 years combined!

My Dad was in the **271st Regiment, M Company**. If anyone knew my dad and had any stories or remembrances of him that would help my book, I would love to talk or correspond with them? Although he has told me a great deal, it would be great to hear from some of his fellow GIs of M Company.

Finally, in reading through the Bulletins, I couldn't help but feel the power of all of the stories and remembrances. These are wonderful, sad, hopeful and terrifying stories and I couldn't help but think that they deserve a wider audience than just the Bulletin. Has anyone ever thought about compiling the stories into a book? These experiences would be a valuable primer for those of us "baby boomers" who were taught virtually nothing about World War II in our high school history class. What my generation knows about World War II is from Hogan's Heroes-hardly the true stories! As in my Dad's case, getting these stories from the veterans becomes less and less of a probability each day as we keep losing them.

It is my quest to find out the real truth about my dad and the men he served with. I can't help but think that there are other sons and daughters out there who would like to know more as well. I would love to correspond with anyone who has any information on my father and his company, or who would be interested in compiling stories into a book. Thanks for your help.

A Day in the Life of a Forward Observer

Submitted By: **Arthur S. Moore**
Battery C, 881st Field Artillery Battalion
55 High Gate Road, Apt. C-4
Newington, Connecticut 06111-5251

How many of you guys out there knew what your Forward Observer officers were firing at when they called in a Fire Mission? This short story involves a 2nd Lt. from "C" Battery of the 881st. His name was **BYRD**. Perhaps the most favorite officer in "C" Battery. He looked and acted and dressed like Will Rogers. He looked out of place in a dress uniform. Like Will Rogers, he never met a man he didn't like and he never met a man he had to scold. If he could have put a howitzer on his shoulder and fired it like a rifle, he would have scored bulls eyes with a minimum of wasted ammunition. And he had a sense of humor like that of the immortal Will Rogers. I could go on praising this man but then you'd never hear the story I'm about to tell you.

Our howitzers, no matter how big or small are only as good as the F.O. requesting the fire. If **Lt. Byrd** was in a hurry all he needed was one round, possibly two to put him on target. Impossible you say. You didn't know **Lt. Byrd**. The closer he could get to his target the better he liked it. Many times he knew what the enemy was having for chow. This spring day the lieutenant was in a good mood. The war was in its closing weeks and there was expendable ammo to be used up. It was not to be taken back to the U.S.

Lt. Byrd spotted his target - a German staff car with two occupants. He told his radioman to call the Fire Detection Center and told him to get **Danny Jones**. He did so and talked with **Danny**. While they were talking the staff car stopped and the two occupants got out and went into the ditch to relieve themselves - the hard way. **Byrd** surveyed the situation then told his radioman, "We're going to have some fun but first we will eliminate one staff car." He gave his RM the coordinates, then from the RM to **Danny** then from **Danny** to me, then from me to my lieutenant and from my lieutenant to the gunner on the howitzer. Now that you know the chain of command orders went through, I will eliminate them because we could be here until the next bulletin comes out. Actually, though, it only takes a few seconds for this 'chain of command' to take place. **Byrd** decides to take out the staff car and put the occupants back in the infantry. The coordinates finally get to my gunner and he calls out, "Ready." There's a pause. All is quiet, even the other three gunners on the other howitzers. **Byrd** calls for a correction. Correction completed, the gunner calls out "Ready." **Byrd** orders "Fire." I tell **Danny**, "Charlie has fired." Pause. Of course, we don't hear the "Whump" but **Lt. Byrd** calls out, "No more staff car."



Lt. Shipkey, Lt. Byrd and Lt. Rieneke - Germany 1945

Byrd continues to look through his binoculars. He sees two heads peering over the edge of the ditch. He quickly calls for "smoke" along with new coordinates. When the gunner, **Bill Pendell**, had adjusted the howitzer he calls out, "Ready." **Byrd** orders, "Fire." Through the chain of command the gunner fires. I call out to **Danny**, "Charlie has fired." Pause. **Byrd** is watching for the explosion. The shell explodes seventy-five feet from the former occupants of the staff car. They scrambled out of the ditch trying frantically to get their trousers in position but the suspenders they were wearing were tangled. They were actually running around in circles and pointing in all directions. **Byrd** was chuckling. He orders more coordinates which are relayed down the chain of command. **Bill Pendell** adjusts his howitzer and calls out "Ready." Pause. **Byrd** orders corrections. No. 1 gun along with No. 3 and No. 4 are adjusting on the same coordinates in case they are called into the mission. **Byrd** orders, "Fire." I call out "Charlie has fired." Pause, as **Byrd** waits for the explosion. The explosion happens sending smoke in all directions. **Byrd** is no longer chuckling but laughing till his body shakes. **Danny** asks the radioman what the score is, what's happening. In a low voice he informs **Danny** what the scoop is. **Byrd** has the two jerries running for their life with their pants down around their ankles, stumbling more than running. They've both lost their helmets and were heading for the woods. **Byrd** calls out, "Let's give them one more shot," and gives coordinates for in front of them in the woods and calls out, "Fire when ready." **Pendell** adjusts the elevation and calls out, "Ready to fire" and pulls the lanyard and the shell is off. At the explosion, the two jerries change their direction. **Byrd** is watching through his binoculars and laughing and giving his men a rundown as to what is going on. He finally calls out, "Cease fire, mission accomplished. One destroyed German staff car and two very scared German soldiers."

Of course, all of his "Fire Missions" were not laughable. He was a serious minded officer and did his share in bringing the war to a victorious conclusion.

Col. Bill Brooks of the 881st, if you are reading this, could you give us an update on **Lt. Byrd**, i.e., length of service, rank achieved, etc. A postcard will do.

E-Mail Addresses of 69th Members

In the last issue of the bulletin, we requested members send in their e-mail addresses. Hey fellows, you can now correspond on-line, whether you were in the same part of the division or not. After all, you all have a common link.

Robert F. Ammon
Company D and Hq. 1, 273rd Infantry
BAmmon7433@aol.com

William R. Beswick
Battery B, 661st Tank Destroyers
BandJBes@aol.com

Fred Crane
Battery C, 879th Field Artillery
patcrane@kca.net

Harold Gardner
69th Calvary Recon Troop
RCNTROOP@aol.com

Al Gwynne
Company A, 271st Infantry
ALGIE2@juno.com

George M. Haddad
Company E, 272nd Infantry
ghaddad@voyager.net

Lloyd M. Lippman
Company K, 273rd Infantry
llippman@imine.net

Joseph Lipsius,
Regimental Hq. and Cannon Co., 272nd Infantry
annejoelip@earthlink.net

Matthew Masem
Company E, 273rd Infantry
NMMUR1@aol.com

James L. Mynes
Company K, 273rd Infantry
JMynes1411@aol.com

Art Pfeifer
Company A, 273rd Infantry
ahpfeifer@mediaone.net

Paul Staub
Hq. Co., 1st Battalion, 273rd Infantry
PStaub3727@aol.com

Tony Szaro
Battery C, 724th Field Artillery
ASzaro@aol.com

Bruce Young
Service Battery, 879th F.A. Battalion
brucefeb@webtv.net

New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

George R. Sharkey — Company K, 273rd Infantry
16 Haynes Road, Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776

Wilmer Cox — Company B, 272nd Infantry
1675 Salem Road (city, state unknown)

Robert Weinstock — Headquarters 1, 273rd Infantry
3600 North 5th Avenue, #202
Phoenix, Arizona 85013

Albert F. Podolan — Battery C, 661st Tank Destroyer
Route #2, Mason, Wisconsin 54856

Joseph M. De Los Rios — Unsure of Unit
1420 Brickell Bay Drive, #507 (city, state unknown)

John M. Steinmetz — Co. B, 369th Medical Battalion
107 Lakeside Circle, Jupiter, Florida 33458-5505

Mansel Gibson — Battery C, 661st Tank Destroyer
2517 Cottage Avenue, Waverly, Iowa 50677-9277

Arthur J. Hammel — Battery B, 724th Field Artillery
2606 Chalona Dr., Chalmette, Louisiana 70043-3741

A Way You Can Help Veterans in Hospitals

Submitted by: **Bill Sheavly, Co. M, 271st Infantry**
218 Sacred Heart Lane
Reisterstown, Maryland 21136-1414

We all receive Christmas Cards, All Occasion Cards etc., from Environmental Organizations soliciting donations. Lots of these boxes are marked "Refused" and then returned to the post offices. At this point you think they are being returned to the mailer. Not true. When the post office receives them, they are junked. What a waste.

While talking with a postmaster, I asked him if the Legion could get them to turn over to the local veterans hospital and the answer was yes. However, it would be necessary to get a letter from the Main Post Office. There are certain postal laws involving identification by which you must abide, but they are very simple.

My post office now saves all of these cards, then they call me and I pick them up and turn them over to the chairman of the Legion in my area. They are then given to the veterans for use for various holidays or simply as note cards.

At the present time, I have delivered to the Legion Post about 100 pounds of cards which go to the Fort Howard Veterans Hospital. This takes a little effort but it certainly, in my mind, is a very worthwhile project and helps our fellow veterans who might be unable to afford to buy cards.

Since we are all retired now with time on our hands, those of us that are healthy could surely help our fellow veterans out in this small but worthwhile venture.

The Four of Us After the Link-Up

Paul Staub

Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 273rd Infantry
20 Snowbird Lane • Levittown, New York 11756

As I read the article in the last Bulletin about the passing away of **Bill Robertson**, I could not help thinking and remembering about that wonderful and memorable day that we made contact with the Russians.

Being the last survivor of the four man patrol, I can't help thinking of the other men in the patrol. Besides Bill, there was **James McDonnell**, **Frank Huff** and myself. (James and Frank died a few years ago.) I know most of you know a little about the contact but very few know what happened to the four of us that evening and in the days following.

After the recognition, the back slapping and the exchange of photos, we took several Russians back to Battalion Headquarters. After having to explain where we were and who these strangers were, a call was made to Regimental Headquarters and we were instructed to bring our guests there, and so we did. Our jeep now became a small convoy as we were joined by several more jeeps. At Regiment after explaining how, what and where, another call was made this time to Division and once again we were told to bring our guests to them. As we moved out I noticed that the convoy was getting longer. When we arrived, the four of us were put into a room and told not to talk to anyone. It seems that we four were not supposed to meet the Russians and that other patrols were sent out for that purpose.

Time passed and we had not eaten. We all wondered whether we would be court martialed, because that had been mentioned. Needless to say, we were worried. Finally, someone came in with a big smile and said everything was alright. It seems someone had called General Bradley and he said "Great." All that had to be done now was to go back to the Elbe and arrange for a meeting between General Reinhardt and the Russian general.

So once again, the convoy was on the move with additional brass and members of the press who, by that time, had gathered at Division. When we got back to the Elbe, the arrangements were made for the generals to meet the following day. The four of us decided we had had enough and we went off and found a place to sleep.

The next morning was like a circus. Special Service troops were rolling in, signs were put up, the general arrived with his aides and they boated across the Elbe. The party had begun. But what happened to the four of us?

We received orders to fly to Paris for press conferences and interviews. Can you imagine four dirty, tired, hyped up GIs going to Paris? So that day with all the celebrating going on, off we went to Paris.

When we got there, we were given clean uniforms, some back pay, put up at the Scribe Hotel in the heart of Paris, and turned loose on the town.

The following day we all did interviews for the press and for our hometown papers. I did a radio broadcast for a New York station. It was an exhilarating time and we still had Paris.

After several days of this, we decided that we would like to give the flag that we had made to identify ourselves to the Russians, to General Eisenhower. We mentioned this to the press and before we knew it, it was arranged. (See article and picture on the following page that appeared in a recent issue of the American Legion Magazine.)

One morning, a command car picked us up and drove us to Shaef Headquarters at Rheims. We were escorted to the general's office, introduced to him and proceeded to be mesmerized by him. The general was very gracious; he spoke to each of us personally and wanted to know what each of us did, etc. After talking to us, he turned to his aide and said, "I want these men promoted one grade in rank as of right now and if there is no room in the company, have their Company Commander get in touch with me." When we floated out of his office, the orders were already cut. I went from a Pfc. to a Corporal, **McDonnell** became a Sergeant, **Huff** a Corporal and **Bill** from 2nd to 1st. The papers reported it as one of the fastest promotions on record. A few days later, we were back with the 69th Infantry in Germany.

I spoke to Bill many times over the past years and we agreed we were not imagining some of the things we remembered, but that they really happened. My favorite memory of him was when he climbed across the blown up bridge over the Elbe. I took a photograph of that and it later was used as a U.S. Postage Stamp.

I will miss Bill and the other men of the patrol, for now there is no one to check with when I reminisce.

Attention Members of 880th and 881st F.A.

I have a friend whose father was killed in France or Germany in early March during the war. He was a Forward Observer with either the 880th or 881st F.A. His name was **Harry Stewart** and he was a Captain Forward Observer. His son, Harry, Jr., was barely a month old at the time.

They are excited about hearing about **Captain Stewart**. Mrs. Stewart has her husband's insignia and uniform, but Harry has no other record. Also, they would like to know how to get a copy of the 69th Book that is about 50 years old.

If anyone has any information either write to me or Harry Stewart, Jr. Thank you for your time.

Philip Ikins
2636 E. Genesee St.
Syracuse, NY 13224

Harry Stewart, Jr.
The Trezsome Hut
E. Genesee Street
Dewitt, NY 13214

A Flag for General Eisenhower

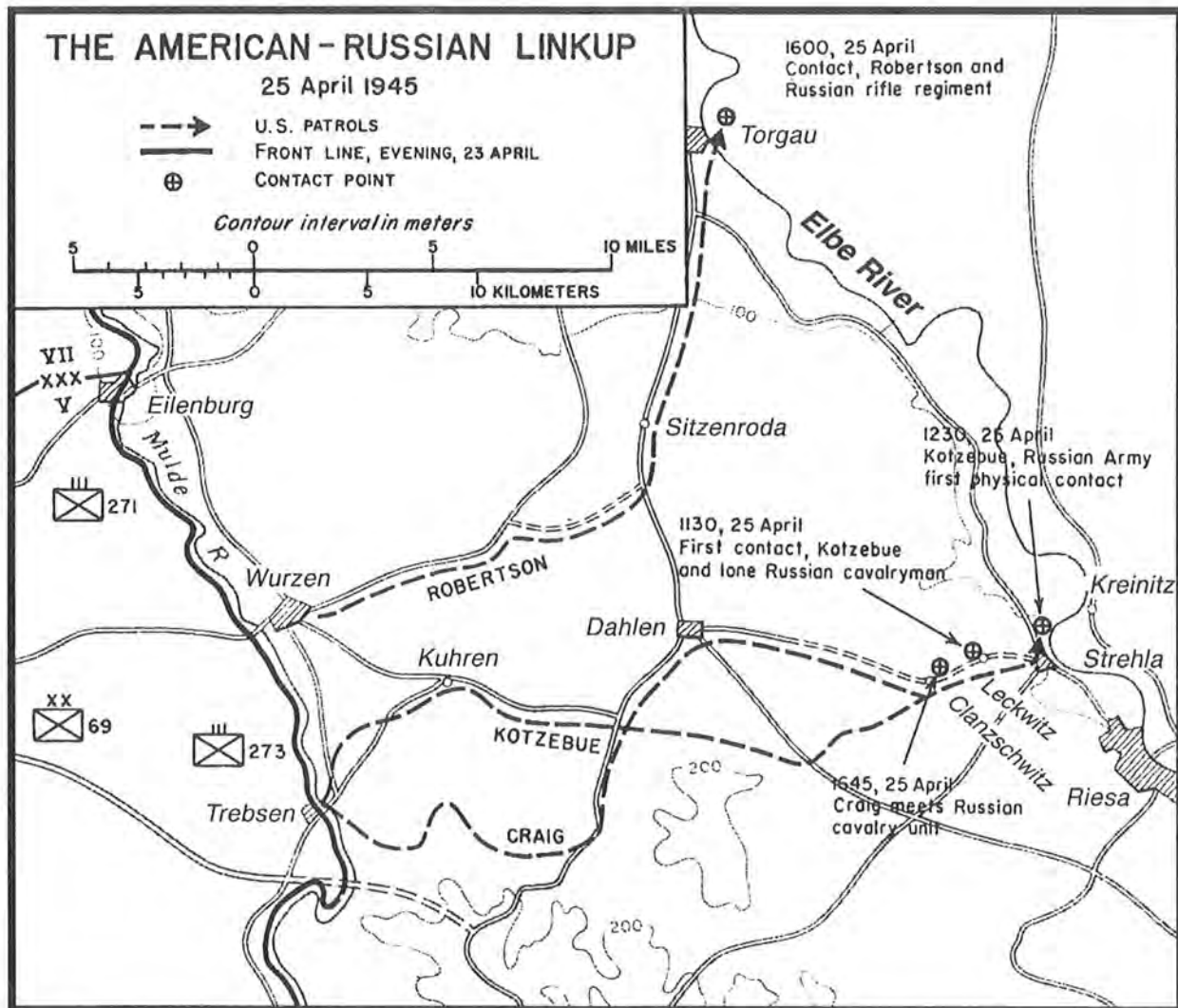
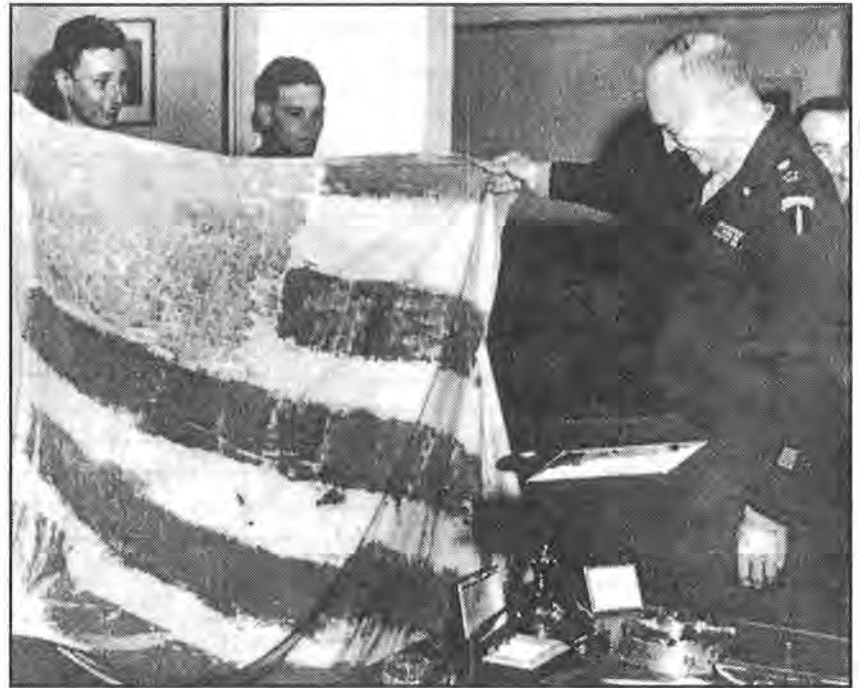
Sheet-turned-flag presented as gift

*From the American Legion Magazine
September 1999*

Submitted By: **Art Moore and Tom Smith**

Photo shows Paul Staub and Frank Huff presenting their hand-made flag to General Dwight D. Eisenhower prior to being promoted.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Please read Paul Staub's article on the previous page for the story. The American Legion story was the same story presented to us by Paul Staub).



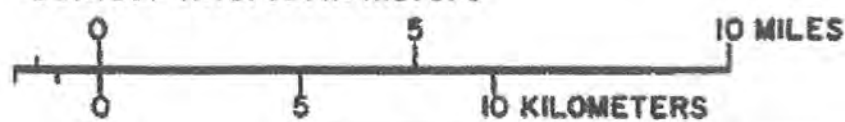
This map was submitted by: **Carl J. Millner, Co. C, 272nd Infantry, 1523 Vance Ave., Coraopolis, PA 15108-2129**
He states that he got it from what he calls the Army Green Book Series. Map by M. Finnemann

AMERICAN - RUSSIAN LINKUP

25 April 1945

- ▶ U.S. PATROLS
- FRONT LINE, EVENING, 23 APRIL
- CONTACT POINT

Contour interval in meters



1600, 25 April
Contact, Robertson and
Russian rifle regiment

Torgau

Elbe River

Sitzenroda

1230, 25 April
Kotzebue
first ph

1130, 25 April
First contact, Kotzebue
and lone Russian cavalryman

Wurzen

ROBERTSON

Dahlen

Kuhren

KOTZEBUE

CRAIG

1645, 25 April
Craig meets Russian
cavalry unit

Clara

273

Trebsen

200

200

THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE

by - **Dottie Witzleb**
Ladies Auxiliary Editor
 P.O. Box 69
 Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069

or
 183 Pineslope Road
 Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606
 Home Telephone: **724/455-2901**



Dottie Witzleb



Gloria Czyzyk, Vice President
 30 Duke Drive
 New Hyde Park, NY 11040
 Telephone: 516/627-6580



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



Rosemarie Mazza, President
 6664 Glen Arbor Way
 Naples, FL 34119
 Telephone: 941/348-2332

Jane Matlach, Secretary
 P.O. Box 474
 West Islip, NY 11795-0474
 Telephone: 516/669-8077

Ursula Goebel, Chaplain
 5417 Halifax Lane
 Minneapolis, MN 55424
 Telephone: 612/927-5319

Wartime Memories

Submitted by: **Mrs. Paul W. (Shirley) Koeninger**
Battery B, 724th Field Artillery
 6334 Graceland Avenue
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45237

During my sophomore year in high school, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. The students supported various collection drives for the war effort. My class collected phonograph records which the government paid 2¢ per record and so much per pound for broken records.

The sewing classes made children's coats and women's skirts for refugees.

Many of us dated "older men" (who were 18 years) and enlisted in one of the services. This resulted in much letter writing and girls only parties. Many of the school's outside activities were curtailed.

Up the Ohio River from Cincinnati was an amusement park called Coney Island. There was a paddle wheeler called the "Island Queen" which traveled up the Ohio River to Coney Island and back to the landing in Cincinnati. On warm summer nights, a group of us would take the last boat ride up to Coney Island where we could dance to the band aboard the boat.

Some servicemen were housed in the dorms of the University of Cincinnati and Xavier University. Many of these fellows took the last boat ride of the day to meet girls.

We girls were happy to meet and dance with the fellows. Many of the couples would leave the dance floor and go to the top deck and watch the lights along the river and do a little snuggling on the benches of the dimly lit upper deck.

When the boat docked, everyone scurried to catch his or her buses. We all had a curfew, the fellows in the dorms and the girls in their homes.

When we graduated, I did not know of anyone who had not been touched in some way by the terrible war. There were brothers, other relatives and boyfriends who would never be with us again.

Attention Ladies WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER FROM THE WAR??

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!

The Machine Gunners

Written by: **Robert L. Muckel**

Company I, 273rd Regiment, 3rd Platoon, 1st Squad

655 S. Chiques Road

Manheim, Pennsylvania 17545-9156

We were walking through the woods on a sunken dirt road. Off to our right front we could hear the sound of rifle and machine gun fire. About twenty minutes later we came to a large open field on the right hand side of the road. Soldiers were lying on the bank bordering the road and shooting at the Germans in the woods on the other side of the field. I stood there watching, a big G.I. Right out in the open field, alongside the road, he was firing a big fifty caliber machine gun mounted on a tripod. He sat there on the ground, firing away with the gun bucking and jumping around like a wild horse. Suddenly the German machine gunner began zeroing in on him. Their bullets were kicking up the dirt all around him. The G.I. stops firing, picks up that big gun, tripod and all, and takes off in a staggering run. Reaching a higher section of ground about fifty feet away, he stops, sets down the gun, kneels behind it, and again began blasting away, returning the German's fire.

I never did find out the name of that fellow, but a person can't help but admire his nerve and guts. We continued walking. Further down the lane there was a G.I. firing a light air-cooled machine gun. Instead of firing short bursts to keep the gun's barrel from overheating and jamming the gun, he kept the trigger pulled back, shooting until the gun's belt was empty. Another soldier ran up to the gunner, hit him and had to pry his hands from the gun handle. The poor fellow was frozen to it, with fear. (I did not know it, but my moment of frozen fear was about to come too.) After walking down the lane a little further, we were ordered to find a position for ourselves along the bank and fire back at the Germans.

I walked down the lane a little further, found a nice secluded spot on the bank and began firing away. I had fired my whole eight-shot clip, and was looking down at my cartridge belt to open a flap for another clip, when I noticed a G.I. about twenty feet away. He had a big movie camera pointed at me, taking pictures. I stared at the camera for a few seconds, then reloaded my rifle and started firing again. (Later on I learned the G.I. was a combat cameraman.) The pictures he took here were later shown on public television in a documentary of The Sixty-Ninth Infantry Division called, "The Road To Berlin." The film was narrated by the late film actor, Lloyd Bridges.

Suddenly, all guns stopped firing. Our nerves were just beginning to relax when BaaRoomm, BaRoomm - artillery shells started exploding over our heads. These shells do not explode when hitting the ground like regular shells. These have a time fuse set to make

them explode at a certain distance above the ground. And they send a shower of red hot steel fragments down towards the ground. Beyond us was a large ravine, filled with big fir trees. We all make a run for it. The big heavy tree branches would give us some protection from the flying shrapnel. Reaching it, we huddled down, waiting for the barrage to end.

After the shelling stopped, we left the woods and headed in the direction of the village occupied by the Germans who were shooting at us. We were walking along a hard road, with shallow drainage ditches on either side of it. At the bottom of them were large puddles of muddy water. BRRrrrrAt BRRrrrrrrrrAt. The German machine guns opened up on us. Quickly, we all made a dive into the wet, muddy ditch. We laid there in the water, stretched out flat on our stomachs.

The ditch was just deep enough to protect most of our body from the searching machine gun bullets. I tried to get my whole body lower to the ground, but my gas mask was in the way. I unhooked the belt and pulled it out from beneath my stomach. This felt a little better. We were ordered to keep moving up the ditch. We were like snakes, squirming our way along that muddy ditch, trying to keep from exposing any part of our body and having it ripped to pieces by bullets. We kept moving but suddenly had to stop. Ahead of us was a steel mud-filled drain pipe. We were at an intersection of two roads. Each man had to stand up, climb out of the ditch, run across the road, and jump back into the ditch on the other side.

Now about those German machine guns. When firing, they made a sound like ripping cloth. They can fire at a speed of up to thirteen hundred rounds a minute. Normally, when covering a big wide open area like this one, they would have two or more guns side by side spaced a considerable distance apart. As the gunners fired, they would traverse their guns from left to right and back again, the bullets from each one constantly overlapping those of the other gun. Thus forming a line of bullets across the whole width of the field.

To make it up and across the road safely, one had to try and time the machine gun fire. As the gunner slowly traversed the gun back and forth, the next man would jump up out of the ditch following the last of the bullets trailing along in front of him. Hopefully, making it safely before the trail of bullets came back again. If the man ahead of you made it across safely, he would crawl out of the way making room for you to jump in. He was to call back O.K. The timing had to be just right. There was no room for error. There was one man left in front of me. Right after the trail of bullets passed over our heads, he jumped up and started across. I called out, "Did you make it O.K.?" No answer; I got real nervous thinking he might be dead or wounded and lying in the ditch, leaving me no room

(Continued on Page 15)

THE MACHINE GUNNERS

(Continued from Page 14)

to jump in and making me a better target. The German gunners seemed to be concentrating on this one spot, like we were clay ducks in a shooting gallery. With all of these guys jumping up, one right after the other, it was my turn to go. For a few seconds, I laid there staring at the grass. About three inches above my head, the bullets were cutting off each and every blade of grass right at their bottom, dropping the grass down in my face. I tried to get up again. Just then, someone hollers out, "Help! Medic, Medic, I am hit!" A G.I. just a few feet behind me has been shot in the buttocks.

I cursed the Germans for not being able to see where they were so I could shoot back at them. I was ashamed of myself for acting so, in front of my comrades. I prayed to God for help to deliver me from this mess. I cried because I felt so damned helpless. I thought, "What a way to die - ending up as a bullet-ridden corpse in a muddy ditch in a foreign country, three thousand miles from home." My mind seemed to go blank. I laid there frozen with fear. It seemed like a dream, like none of this was really happening. I became aware of a face in front of me. The eyes were big and white looking. It was our assistant squad leader, **Corporal Earl Riley**. He pointed the muzzle of his rifle between my eyes and said, "Get moving or I will shoot." At this point in time, I really did not care too much. I could see the grooves in the gun barrel. I closed my eyes waiting for the explosion thinking, "How long will the pain last?" It seemed like an eternity - nothing happened. I opened my eyes. I was alone. I saw an officer in the ditch walking towards me. Under his one arm he was holding a tommy gun. The other hand was holding a pair of field glasses, through which he was observing the enemy lines. When he came close to me, I got up off the ground. I saluted him, and said, "Sir I got held up here for a while. I froze and couldn't move." He looked at me, and said, "How do you feel now?" I said, "Alright sir." He said, "O.K. soldier, go rejoin your squad." I answered, "Yes sir," and I took off really happy for not being shot after showing cowardice in the face of the enemy.

Hausdorf

Leaving the ditch, I rejoined my squad. Our Company I, 273rd Infantry Regiment was getting ready to make an attack on the village in front of us. It was called Hausdorf. We formed long lines facing the town, each man ten feet apart with about thirty feet between each line. The men in the first line (or wave) came back to us in the second, and gave us all of their valuables such as rings, wallets, watches and so on. If death came to them, they were trusting us to see to it that all of their possessions were sent back to their relatives in the States. Otherwise some Harpy may have robbed their dead bodies. I looked around me - to my left, to my right. As far I could see there were

soldiers in back of me. Extending the whole way to the horizon, were lines of soldiers. It looked like the whole Sixty-Ninth Division was there.

The command was given, "Forward," at the walk. We started moving towards the town. I was still a little dazed from my experience in the ditch. There were hundreds of us out there in the open. What were the Germans waiting for? Were they waiting until we got closer? Any second now I expected to hear the ripping sound of their machine guns sending a hail of bullets in our direction. It was quiet, too darned quiet. The silence was broken by an order from the rear. "Speed up that right flank, hurry it up." My nerves were on edge, my body tense. I tightened my grip on the rifle. Then another order, "Forward at the trot." As we began a slow run, my body became completely relaxed. My eyes were focused on the buildings in our front. I looked at the shadow-filled doors and windows, looking for any sign of the enemy. If only they would come out in the open where we could see them. My mind seemed to be speeding along a mile a minute with clock work precision - evaluating this, casting out that. And so on.

Another order, "Forward on the run, charge." This was it, here we go. It was too late now to worry about anything. I was surprised, that we came the whole way across that big open field and no one was shooting at us. Running up to the houses and searching them, we found them to be empty. When the Germans saw all of the Americans in the fields ready to attack, they all cleared out. This sure didn't make us feel bad.

The guy who was shot in the buttocks while in the ditch returned from the hospital and one of his buddies asked him, "How did it feel when the bullet hit you?" He answered, "Like someone had hit me with a big sledge hammer." He also said while in the hospital, they held a big mirror up behind him and made him look at his wound.

As our company entered the small village of Hausdorf we were ordered to search all of the buildings. The first one I came to was a small, one story home. I peeked into the windows. Except for the furniture, it seemed empty. I went to the front of the house, stood against the wall beside the front door and tried the door knob. It was unlocked. I then pushed the door completely open. Nothing happened. Slowly entering the place, I found it to contain two rooms - a fairly large combination dining room and kitchen and a bedroom. It was quite obvious that its occupants kept the place nice and tidy. Everything was neat, clean, and in order. In the bedroom was a large double bed. I checked this out. The mattress, pillows and the big thick comforter were all filled with feathers. As I sat down on the bed, it felt as though I were on a big pile of soft cotton.

(Continued on Page 16)

THE MACHINE GUNNERS

(Continued from Page 15)

In the infantry, it seems one is always tired and sleepy, which I was now, and after crawling along a muddy, water-filled ditch just a short time ago, I was now muddy, from head to foot. I laid down on the bed with my rifle between my legs, the barrel resting on my belly. That feather mattress was so soft and thick, it felt as though I was sinking down out of sight. "Ahhhhh, this feels so good," I thought. "I'll just rest here a minute or so and then be on my way."

Shutting my eyes, I soon fell into a deep sleep. I had no idea how long I had slept but I was suddenly jolted awake by the high pitched sound of a woman's voice. Still half asleep, I looked around, wondering what all the commotion was about. Standing beside the bed and looking down at me was a little old lady. She stood there yelling at me. In her one hand, she held an old worn comforter. With her other hand, she was pointing

at her back door. I could not understand what she was saying because she was speaking too fast. But I understood her sign language very well. She was telling me to remove my filthy body from her nice clean bed and to take the old comforter outside in her backyard and lay. Still not fully awake, I meekly grabbed the comforter from her hand and went out the back door. I spread the comforter on the grass and laid down. About twenty minutes later, our officers gave an order to the mayor of the village. He and every civilian in the village were given ten minutes to leave town taking with them what pots, pans, food and blankets they could carry, as we were expecting a German counter-attack and did not want to have to worry about them too.

I stood there watching the villagers walk down the street, carrying their belongings. As that little old Frau walked by, I just couldn't help but think of the irony of it all. Just a short time ago, she had ordered me out of her home. And now we were ordering her and everyone else out of town.

Company K, 273rd Infantry

Submitted by: **Howard B. Gardner**

127 West 8th Street, Jack's Isle, Ashdown, Arkansas 71822-8477

I don't remember where this picture was taken, but it was taken following the battle for Colditz. Maybe some of you out there can identify someone. Let me know if you can. The quality of the picture is poor.



The Colonel Might Have Been a Hero

Submitted By: **Frank Nemeth**

Company B, 269th Engineers

66 Gaping Rock Road

Levittown, Pennsylvania 19057-3410

Written by: **Jim Eibling**

Toward Easing the Disappointment of Lieutenant Kotzebue's Patrol

In late April 1945, in East Germany, excitement permeated every activity in the 69th Infantry Division. We had taken Leipzig and Eilenberg and were deployed along the Mulde River. Contact with the Soviets could come at any time. Men in the front line units were well aware of the hazards of two great armies advancing toward one another ... two armies whose battle tactics, lifestyles, and languages were strikingly different.

As a precaution, the Allied and Soviet high commands issued strict orders to control the limits that the troops could advance. The orders for the 69th Division were that the main troops were not to venture east of the Mulde River, except that limited control activity could be practiced to a distance not to exceed 5 miles east of the Mulde River. Similarly, the Soviet troops were not to cross the Elbe River, except that their patrols could go beyond the Elbe River for a specified short distance, not known exactly to us in the engineer battalion. This procedure provided a buffer zone, since the distance between the two rivers in our sector ranged from 25 to 30 miles.

From engineering reconnaissance, we knew that all bridges over the Mulde and the Elbe Rivers had been blown. We had repaired one bridge on the Mulde at Tresban to the extent that foot troops and jeeps of patrols could use the bridge. It was somewhat incumbent upon us combat engineers to gain additional information on roads and bridges and on engineering materials located between the two rivers for possible use later. I say somewhat incumbent upon us because we assumed that the Soviets probably would occupy the part of Germany east of Leipzig and, therefore, be responsible for engineering work.

Within this general situation, **Lieutenant Colonel Walter Holmlin** called me at 1400 hours, 24 April, suggesting that we make a little trip, and that he would stop by in a few moments to pick me up. That is all he told me about the proposed trip, although I assumed it would be for reconnaissance. It was a warm and pleasant day. I took the usual things with me, e.g. a canteen, pistol, raincoat, K-rations, and, of course, the best map I could find. I knew from past experience that to go anywhere with **Colonel Holmlin** on the spur of the moment one had to be prepared for

any contingency. Then to my great surprise, we also picked up **Major Robert Davis**, the Battalion Executive Officer and proceeded toward the bridge across the Mulde River at Tresban. We had the three field grade officers in the 269th Engineer Combat Battalion riding in one jeep, along with the experienced **Corporal John Hawley**. **Hawley** was driving, **Holmlin** sat in the right front seat, and **Davis** and I shared the catbird seat. That jeep was loaded. **Hawley** and **Holmlin** were tall men, over 6 feet 3 inches, and **Davis** and I were 6 footers. Our combined weight including our gear, must have exceeded 850 pounds. A jeep is only rated as a 1/4 ton vehicle. We must have looked a little bizarre in the open jeep, like something out of the Beetle Bailey comic strip. We paid our respects to the MPs guarding the west approach to the bridge and inspected the repairs that Company C had made to a span that had been blown. Concurrently, we estimated the magnitude of the job to upgrade the bridge to Class 15 so it could carry trucks and light tanks in subsequent operations. Then we crossed the bridge.



Major James Eibling

At the eastern approach to the bridge, we were greeted with an unbelievable sight. As far as the eye could see, there was a continuous column of vehicles of all types waiting, bumper-to-bumper, to cross the bridge. The column of vehicles was stalled because the guards had orders not to let civilians cross the river. The orders to prevent movement of persons across the Mulde River and the Elbe River were part of the agreement with the Soviets to control civilians traveling in either direction. Eastern Europeans were fleeing from the Soviets. Other people (notably Polish slave laborers) were trying to get back to Poland having been liberated by the advancing Allied troops. Few people had proper papers for crossing state lines. They were a small part of the unfortunate 60 million people who reportedly had been displaced as a result of the war. Amazingly, the entire column of vehicles, heading west was on the right side of the road; the other side of the road, heading east, was completely free for us to travel at any speed we desired. And yet, this column was at least 5 miles long. Such was the discipline or

(Continued on Page 18)

THE COLONEL MIGHT HAVE BEEN A HERO

(Continued from Page 17)

docility of these people. It would be a natural human tendency, in a near panic situation, to form two or three columns abreast while waiting to cross. Apparently, no one believed that they would not eventually get across the bridge.

A typical train of this column of vehicles appeared as follows. At the head, a standard farm tractor was pulling 6 vehicles of various descriptions. The first was a farm wagon and it was attached to about a one-ton truck that had no engine. This was followed by some sort of a farm implement resembling a seed planter. Then there were two hay wagons. And, finally, another tractor that had a "kaput" engine. These vehicles were connected by various means, such as a tongue, or a cable, or a chain. The only operable vehicle was the lead tractor which had to pull the whole train. All of the vehicles were loaded with every kind of household goods one could imagine: beds, mattresses, chairs, bundles of clothing, storage tanks, kitchen pots and pans, chickens in cages, etc. In some cases children and older adults were riding on top of the baggage. All those who could, were walking. As near as we could determine, these makeshift trains were made up many miles to the east as various families congregated along the route. They were able to accommodate one another in forming the trains by bartering, paying or begging for a place in line. A motley group it was. Some people were in rags, some were in business suits, and a number were wearing German soldiers uniforms. Most of them were fleeing from the Russians. One German officer of captain rank came up to our jeep, laid his pistol on the engine hood, and demanded that, under international rules of war, we take him prisoner. We took the pistol, a P-38. Other German soldiers were less demanding, but did beg us to take them prisoner; this being their best means for early freedom and good treatment. We tried to find out how far back the Russian troops were. No definite answer could be obtained, other than that they were too close.

As further insight into our situation, you need to know a little more about the Colonel. **Colonel Holmlin's** command style was to be out with the troops or to be at Division Headquarters serving the staff function of division engineer. The battalion was run by the executive officer and the operations officer (S-3) under the overall directions of the Colonel.

Corporal Hawley drove **Colonel Holmlin** all over the 69th Division zone, as the Division moved forward from the French-Belgium border to the Mulde River in East Germany. As a result, **Hawley** knew many men in the other units of the division and he had acquired a good feel of combat operations. He, as well as **Holmlin**, of course, was a good source of engineering intelligence and both men had lengthy memories; still do, fifty years later. Frequently, **Holmlin** and **Hawley** took their jeep

down roads and trails that had not been checked for mines. It is a miracle that they survived the war. Our assistant division commander, **General Gibbons** and his driver and his aide were killed by a mine on a road that **Holmlin** and **Hawley** had traveled previously, that same day.

We proceeded many miles east, well beyond the 5-mile limit, and I began to question the purpose of this excursion. On two occasions, I suggested that we drive off the main road to examine what appeared to be a pile of lumber, or gravel, or other engineering material that we ought to note as being available for future use. All **Colonel Holmlin** would say was, "We will check that on our way back," or some other put-off phrase, quite uncharacteristic of him. Normally he wanted to know in detail anything and everything having to do with engineering work, or anything else for that matter.

It became obvious, as the trip proceeded, that the Colonel was on a lark and that I'd do well to keep my mouth shut. The tone of his reply suggested that because he was kind enough to invite **Major Davis** and me along for an experience, try to enjoy it. Obviously he had hoped to link-up with the Soviets, and he wasn't listening to any reasoning to the contrary. I recall saying at one point, "Walter." I had always addressed him as **Colonel Holmlin** but on this occasion, I said, "Walter, you know, you have the top three ranking officers in your engineer battalion in this one jeep out in no-man's land, where orders say we are not to go! If we have anything more than a flat tire out here, your ass will be in a sling." No comment from the Colonel just a little laugh. Later, I said, "Colonel, they could court martial you for this."

At first my concern was entirely for the Colonel but later, I also became fearful for our own safety. There were still pockets of armed resistance from remnants of the German 12th Army as well as occasional fire from rabid, teenage Nazi snipers. Even though it should have been obvious that the war was coming to a close, some Germans were not appraised of that. Hitler had them thinking they were still going to win the war. If we had been attacked by anyone armed with a rifle, we'd have been sitting ducks. **Hawley** had a "grease gun" (45-caliber submachine gun) and **Holmlin**, **Davis** and I had Colt 45 pistols. The maximum effective range of any of our weapons was 45 yards.

Throughout this trip, **Hawley** said very little, but I could tell he had doubts about this sojourn. But then **Hawley** had been on so many of these excursions that he had gotten blase and knew it would do little good to try to change **Holmlin's** mind. **Hawley** once said that **Holmlin** was like a starving cat chasing a mouse. **Major Davis** was quiet too although, at one point, he said, "Colonel, maybe you had better think about that." Finally, as we were perhaps 15 to 20 miles beyond the

(Continued on Page 19)

THE COLONEL MIGHT HAVE BEEN A HERO

(Continued from Page 18)

Mulde River, I said "Colonel, it is going to be dark pretty soon, and we have at least an hour's drive through this mess and by the time we get back we may find the roads jammed. Do you really want to be out in this no-man's land after dark?" This latter admonition got **Holmlin** thinking, and he said, "Okay, Jim, you are probably right. We should turn back." "Turn around, **Hawley**."

Before we got back to the bridge it was dark. By then I began to have second thoughts about what I might have done to or for **Colonel Holmlin**. I always knew that he had a real nose for public relations and an insatiable curiosity. And he also knew that whereas orders are orders, there is a time to obey them strictly, and there is a time to alter them. He probably figured this was one of the times to adjust to the situation; that we might just be the first men to link-up with the Soviets; that he, **Hawley, Davis** and I, would be part of an operation that would get a lot of PR for our division. Had I talked him out of his chance to be a hero, or maybe, did I save him from being a bum? Subsequent events on the link-up proved that he would have been a bum if anything had happened to us. And even if we had been first, the division may have chosen to ignore our exploit considering the rank that was in the jeep and the unofficial trip that we were taking.

The very next morning, 25th April, a patrol of the 273rd Infantry Regiment led by **Lieutenant Kotzebue** make contact with the Soviets near Strehla. Their report back through their company and regiment was in error as to map location and was not passed on to division headquarters immediately, in part, because of the concern over the violation of the orders previously mentioned. However, three hours later and about 16 miles north, a patrol led by **Lieutenant Robertson** of the same regiment made contact with the Soviets 59th Grand Division at Torgau on the Elbe River. There was a series of sustained shooting incidences from the Soviets' side that required astute thinking by **Robertson**. This particular link-up was made official at division headquarters and **Lieutenant Robertson** and his patrol became heroes; whereas **Lieutenant Kotzebue** and his patrol were slighted and **Colonel Holmlin's** trip - well, no one ever knew about it but us.

Notice: Bulletin Material MUST BE SENT TO HEADQUARTERS!

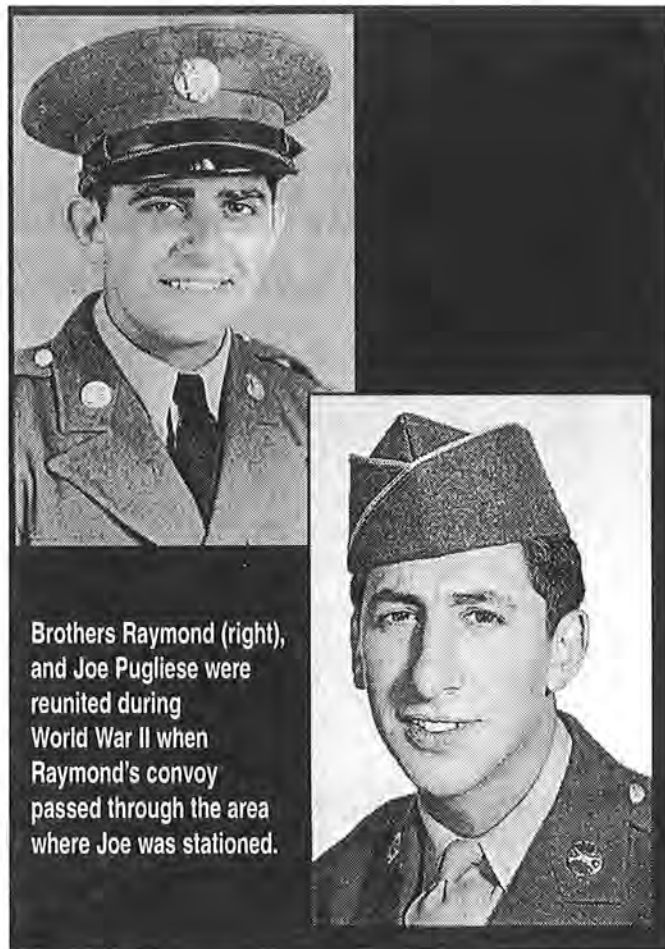
Do not send material to the printer or other officers of the Bulletin. It may delay your material being printed in the bulletin. All material must be submitted to Headquarters before being considered for print. Thank You.

Close Encounter in Belgium Brothers enjoy brief exchange

Several of our members submitted this article

From the American Legion Magazine

Written By: **Raymond Pugliese**



Brothers Raymond (right), and Joe Pugliese were reunited during World War II when Raymond's convoy passed through the area where Joe was stationed.

In 1945, I was with the 69th Division with Co. A, 273rd Infantry and my brother was with the 190th Field Artillery Battalion. We were in entirely separate commands, but I was aware that my brother was somewhere in Belgium from his prior letter.

While in a convoy delivering fresh troops to our regiment on February 28th, I saw a soldier on the isolated road, watching us pass by. As our jeep approached this GI, I noticed it was my brother, whom I hadn't seen since 1942. (He was drafted in 1940 and went overseas in 1942). Hence, he didn't recognize me right away.

I yelled his name and he yelled, "Who is it?" I yelled it was his brother, Ray. He ran alongside our jeep (we couldn't stop the convoy and I wasn't driving). We quickly greeted each other. I asked him what he was doing on this way-out dirt road and he said his unit was stationed nearby and he heard the rumble of trucks. His curiosity prompted him to see what the trucks were all about.

I didn't see him again until the war was over. We saw each other at home in November 1945.

'Saving Private Ryan' Opens Eyes and Hearts To World War II GIs

Mr. Irvin Schaffer

*Company E, 272nd Infantry Division
PFC-BAR Man, 3rd Platoon, 1st Squad
7518 Shelowood Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21208*

It has taken me 54 years to write to the 69th Infantry Division Bulletin. In past Bulletins I have read very little about the 272nd Infantry Division. I am writing to you because I received a letter from my 28 year old grandson on June 8th. My grandson watched the movie 'Saving Private Ryan' and afterward sent me the following letter expressing his feelings towards myself and those involved in World War II.

Dear Pop,

Just wanted to send you a note because last night I sat down and watched the movie 'Saving Private Ryan.' Needless to say, I was quite shook up by the movie and the reality of that terrible time and how horrific the war must have been for you and all the young men like you who had to endure what happened in Europe. Of course, I really cannot fully comprehend what you went through and the things you saw and had to go through as a soldier, but from the bottom of my heart, I truly thank you for your bravery, courage and smarts that got you home again. I really cannot even imagine how anybody even made it through alive in such a terrible, miserable mess.

I know you do not like to talk about it or even think about it, but you should know that I personally thank God that He watched over you and got you home to Grandma again. That movie really gave me a whole new perspective about how lucky and fortunate I am as a human being not to have to endure the atrocity of war and devastation.

So, I know you might think that kids my age don't know anything about what we have because of your generation and the things you saw and went through. But, there is a small minority of guys like myself who at least respect what soldiers like you did to preserve decency, liberty and civility in the United States and the world.

Hopefully, a war of that magnitude will never happen again. Thank you for being not only a great grandfather and advisor, but also for your bravery and courage during such a frightful time.

Love always, Craig [Nusinov]

I was so touched by this letter and the fact that he was not just thanking me but thanking all of the people in the Service during the War.

Irvin's Homemade Flag

Another story I'd like to share details a U.S. flag I personally sewed together for our Company. When we arrived in the German town of Nessa in May 1945, I decided to sew a U.S. flag for our Company to salute in the morning and during the evening. Prior to my entering the Army, I was in the clothing industry so I knew the materials needed to make the Company flag.

To make the flag, I confiscated a sewing machine from one of the German houses. The white cloth was made from a common bed sheet. The red cloth was made from a feather lined comforter. The blue cloth was taken from pillow ticking. The stars were cut from a common cookie cutter. The hooks used to fly the flag were taken from a nearby horse stable. The total length of the flag was limited to the length of the red cloth from the comforter, which was about 6 feet long. The size of the entire flag measures about 6 feet long and a little bit over 4 feet.

Each time I tell this story, the listeners are completely amazed at the fact that I was able to sew a flag from scratch after our Company occupied a German

(Continued on Page 21)



Irvin's flag raised over the German town of Nessa, May 1945.



Picture taken on July 4th 1999 with my grandson and I holding the flag that I have kept in my basement for the last 54 years.

IRVIN'S HOMEMADE FLAG

(Continued from Page 20)

town. I have yet to hear of or encounter any other member of the Armed Services who fashioned a United States flag during World War II.

I have recently considered donating the flag to the new World War II Memorial now under consideration in Washington, D.C. so that others may learn from the importance of my action during the war.

For the past 54 years, **Fred Butenhoff** and **Chet Yastrzemski** and myself have exchanged Christmas greetings. I would like to say hello to these fellows and also **Lt. Troy Bowen**, who always stood up for me. Also, a hello to **Raymond Jolley**, **Ted Shelly**, **Harry Giduck**, **J.A. Westlake III**, **Delmar Giebelstein**, **Hobert Shores** and my assistant and ammo bearer, **Marcel Joslin** and **Morton Vitriol**. Very lastly, a special hello and thanks to **Linden Turner II** and **James Turner**, one of whom should have received a Silver Star for running across an open field two times to get tank support when we were pinned down under German machine gun fire.

Ralph Fitzgerald writes concerning L Co., 271st History

1-102 Bethway Drive • Sykesville, Maryland 21784-7203

In Volume 52, No. 2 issue of the Bulletin, a story was published which I submitted entitled *History of Company L, 271st Infantry*. I felt I should let members of the 69th know who was involved in compiling that information. That material came to me quite some time ago. **Lt. Geer**, 2nd Platoon, had accumulated it with **Paul Gude**, as a tribute to his command. I presumptuously thought it would be interesting to anyone having served under him. He was not only a courageous leader. He set the example for what us kids should strive to be. I list those responsible for the material:

Richard and Carol Geer

516 Young Street
Longview, TX 75602

Sgt. John Dudeck

RR3, Box 576
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Paul and Rose Goddu

45 Laurel Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

Sgt. Edward C. Miller

1503 Hauser
Helena, MT 59601

I am receiving mail from all over the country with maps and details on various units and engagements, all exciting and detailed with all sorts of exploitations and questions. These are guys like myself, carrying the bundle with the hopes of dropping it somewhere.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Ralph, the article stated that it was SUBMITTED by you, not written by you. If you had not submitted it, maybe it would never have been published. Don't take the credit completely away from yourself. It was a nice article and enjoyed a great deal.)

Buddies Reunited After 54 Years

Submitted by: **John S. Tounger**

Company D, 271st Infantry

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

Walter Prestage was in my squad all through the campaign. We took basic training together at Camp Croft, South Carolina and joined the 69th at Camp Shelby. After we met the Russians, we lost track of each other.

He found my address, thanks to the 69th Bulletin, 5 years ago. We met again after 54 years in his hometown of Sioux City, Iowa on June 24th, 1999.

Thanks for the wonderful job you are still doing. We miss Earl.



Mulde River, Eilenberg, Germany on April 27th, 1945. Walter Prestage - left, John Tounger - right.



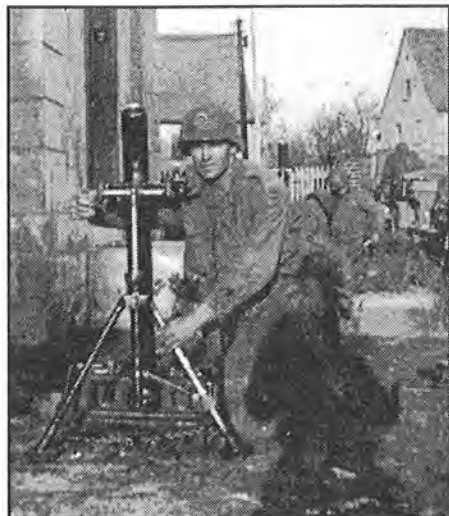
*Sioux City, Iowa - June 24th, 1999
Walter Prestage - left, John Tounger - right*

Company H, 81st Mortar Platoon, 271st Regiment

William (Bill) Hamm

885 Edgewood Drive, Lexington, Kentucky 40515

William states that he would like anyone to write to him in regards to these photos or if, perhaps, anyone can identify some of the men.



Me, Bill Hamm, with 81mm somewhere in Germany.



Lloyd Conklin on the left and another Squad Leader.



Elmer "Red" Nelson from Seattle, Washington. Taken in Germany.



Unidentified - Germany



Norbert Geer - Camp Shelby



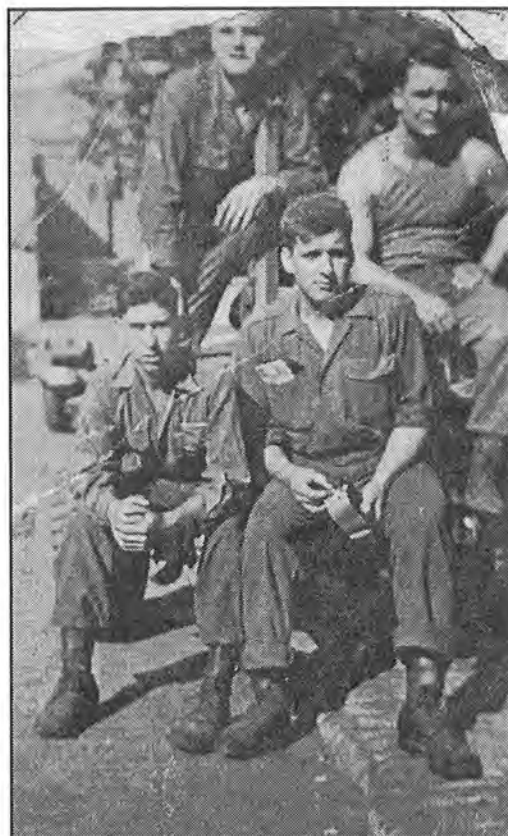
Bob Ausie - Germany



Unidentified - Camp Shelby



Butzbach, Germany - Rations Depot Crew with 3 Polish Refugees



This picture was taken in Leipzig. You can tell all of the guys look pretty tired from the continuous drive, and besides, we were all feeling pretty high from German wine.

Top: Bob King and Lloyd Conklin - Taken in Germany - Other two men are not known. Maybe someone can help.



271st Baseball Team: Top Row - 2nd Man - John Morris, 4th Man - Don Kolloway, 5th Man - Don Sutherland, 7th Man - Bill Hamm. Front Row - Man next to umpire - Jim Meacham. Others unknown

69th Member Presents Speech on WWII Memorial

Submitted By: **Allan F. Blackmar**

Company D, 273rd Infantry

P.O. Box 118

Pine Plains, New York 12567-0118

Recently, I was a delegate to the Department of New York American Legion (July 14th thru 17th). One of our 69th members, **Herman Harrington**, gave the following speech on the World War II Memorial to the Delegates and Alternates. I spoke to **Herman** and said I would like to forward his speech for publication in our bulletin. He forwarded it to me.

World War II Memorial

There has been a great deal said about the World War II Memorial - I am privileged to share some thoughts - some feelings if you will, about the National WWII Memorial to be built in Washington, DC and the role that we can play in bringing it to fruition.

I am privileged to serve as a member of the National Campaign Leadership and we have seen the corporate community respond amazingly well to our appeals - so it looks as if the rest is up to you and I.

We know the design concept is powerful in its setting of historic surroundings - on the east end of the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument on our revered National Mall, a choice location.

So why is there such an interest in the memorial at this time?

There are several possible reasons. Possibly that the successful prosecution of WWII truly saved civilization - that it had the greatest impact toward preserving democracy - that it had the highest number of casualties of any war except the Civil War.

Perhaps, equally important is that it was won by 18 and 19 year young Americans with amazing courage and stamina despite unbelievable hardships - that it created the unaccountable cooperation of the entire nation with civilians giving astounding support to the Troops. Never before or since has our nation so thoroughly committed itself and its resources to fighting and winning an armed conflict.

While the men were fighting overseas in places like Normandy and Hiroshima, women filled the jobs they left behind - in stores - offices - and defense plants. The kids tended Victory Gardens and collected newspapers for the war effort - everyone bought War Bonds and tightened their belts - no one complained.

So then - does it not seem strange that in 50 years there has never been a memorial to those who fought in WWII - particularly when tens of thousands of men, women and children stood together and fought to make the world free from tyranny.

That is why, after such a long wait, the proposed WWII Memorial is so important.

Well, we know that Americans are a truly generous people - generous with their help, their time and, yes, with their very being. Generous to the extent that sixteen million young men and women served their nation when they were required - when justice required it - when the very forces of tyranny could not be stopped without them - 500 thousand spilled their blood and died in this service.

What wonders they might have performed, what greatness they could have brought to their nation had there been no war - had they not died.

Young Americans said goodbye to their mothers - their fathers, many of whom served in WWI - said goodbye to their sisters and brothers - and went to war. They hugged their children tight - kissed their spouses or sweetheart one last time - not yet aware of that sense of great longing and loneliness that was yet to come.

They left the towns - the cities - the farms. They left schools and jobs - they left hopes and dreams - and they went off to war.

They said they would return - and everyone on the homefront worked and prayed for that day.

But many - too many - never came home again. The remains of many were returned to a thousand cemeteries in a thousand cities and towns across our land. Thousands more fill the sprawling military cemeteries overseas - others have been swallowed by the great oceans on which they fought - Americans - young Americans.

I was a demolitions man with the 69th Infantry Division in France, Belgium and Germany. In 1944 I entered fortress Europe by going down a landing net into a landing craft in the port of La Havre - there was a port - true - but no port facilities - but at least no one was shooting at us - not yet, anyway.

It wasn't until the middle of May this year that I paid my first visit to the beaches of Normandy, Utah and Omaha. Now I've been shot at in combat, but it takes my breath away to think of American troops, loaded with equipment and ammunition, storming across those wide beaches with no cover, no protection from the withering German fire.

And then if they made it - scrambling up those thirty foot high sand dunes that faced them - the rocky cliffs at Point Du Hoc - all the time under intense fire - and when you are hanging from the side of a cliff, there's a real shortage of places to duck.

While at Normandy, we visited the American Military Cemetery at Colleville which added impetus to my concern for a WWII Memorial. In this cemetery, which is the final resting place of 9,100 young Americans, there are 30 interments of brothers - 38

(Continued on Page 25)

69th PRESENTS SPEECH ON WWII MEMORIAL (Continued from Page 24)

sets of brothers - and even one father and son. Most killed in June - 17, 18, and 19 year olds.

And a big hunk of the young men of a small town - Bedford, Virginia - because there was no work in 1940 and 1941 - joined the National Guard - were activated - served with the 116th Regiment of the 29th Division and stormed those beaches and escarpments on D-Day. Sixteen of their youth died that day.

Those who answered the call of their nation did so - not of a love for war - for who could love an event that would bring with it such utter degradation - such wrenching loneliness - and, yes, the stench of death.

With all this - in spite of all this - sixteen million served.

Imagine with me if we can - the thoughts of those young men - boys - who traveled so far - 5,000 miles to bleed - to die - in a place they never heard of - alone.

And every day since the end of that terrible event, we were able to see the fruits of our efforts - won at such a terrible price - we won them for ourselves - and guaranteed them for future generations.

I guess all that we are asking is to be remembered - that those who come after us can somehow learn to appreciate - and admire - and yes - remember what brave men and women - sacrificed on their behalf - and pray that they and their children will never have to choose between life or death for their state and nation.

I think we all agree that this memorial is appropriate - is certainly overdue - and will be a just tribute to an entire generation of men and women who wore the uniform of our nation - and those other Americans who worked to manufacture those uniforms - those tanks - and, yes even those "C" Rations - and for me especially - that guy or gal that made my "M-1" rifle that worked so well.

Sadly, each year we are losing more WWII veterans than were killed in action during the entire four years of the war.

Don't we as a nation and as a state owe a debt to those heroes that can never be adequately repaid?

I think yes and I am confident that you think yes. Thank you for listening.

Herman Harrington

*Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 272nd Infantry
22 Clinton Street, Clinton Heights
Rensselaer, New York 12144*

Herman Harrington is Chairman of Internal Affairs Commission-National American Legion. He has been Membership Advisor for many years. He was the Department Commander of the American Legion for the state of New York 1972-1973. He leads many a veteran's fight before Congress as well as being a spokesman for Legion affairs.

Incidentally, the American Legion State of New York has collected and is forwarding to the World War II Memorial \$250,000.

Then and Now

Submitted by: **Ralph Utermoehlen**

*Company I, 3rd Platoon, 271st Infantry
2221 Stonepost, Manhattan, Kansas 66502*

Fifty-five years makes a difference in the appearance of 2 former Scouts from the 3rd Platoon of Company I, 271st. **Dr. Michael Musich**, left in both pictures, and **Ralph Utermoehlen**, right, were together this summer for the second time since combat. The first meeting was in 1995 on the Link-Up Tour to Germany.

The old picture was taken near the Mulde River and the other was taken outside the **Musich** home in Ely, Minnesota this past June, when the **Utermoehls** from Manhattan visited them.



Effect of Hedgerow Terrain on Infantry Tactics

In reporting on the conduct of operations during the first phase of Operation "Overlord," the U.S. 1st Army passed on lessons it had learned the hard way on how to fight in the hedgerow country typically found in Normandy. Concluding that "blitz action by tanks" was unsuitable in the close quarters of the bocage, and not seeing any particular advantage to be gained in "Indian fighting" by individual infantrymen, the 1st Army recommended a "combined action" of infantry, artillery, and specially equipped tanks.

In effect, hedgerows subdivided the terrain into small rectangular compartments which favored the defense. With careful organization each compartment could be developed into a formidable obstacle to the advance of attacking infantry. By tying in adjacent compartments to provide mutual support a more or less continuous band of strongpoints was developed across the front. Handicapped by lack of observation, difficulty in maintaining direction, and inability to use all supporting weapons to their maximum advantage, the attacker was forced to adopt a form of jungle or Indian fighting in which the individual soldier played a dominant part.

The most effective method of attack proved to be by the combined action of infantry, artillery and tanks with some of the tanks equipped with dozer blades or large steel teeth in front to punch holes through the hedgerows. It was found necessary to assign frontages according to specific fields and hedgerows instead of by yardage and to reduce the distances and intervals between tactical formations. Normal rifle company formation was a box formation with two assault platoons in the lead followed by the support platoon and the weapons platoon.

All commanders agreed that there was no substitute for tanks in this type of fighting since tanks could flush the hedgerows with machine gun fire and also deliver point blank artillery fire against the hedgerow corners. The infantry was deployed in depth with the leading elements moving just abreast of or in rear of the tanks to provide them with protection from anti-tank grenade and bazooka fire. During the advance, fire from mortars, grenades, automatic weapons and tank guns was directed against the hedges and especially the hedge corners whether or not the enemy was definitely located. Some of the supporting tanks moved along the hedgerows parallel to the direction of attack while other tanks covered the hedgerows perpendicular to the direction of advance. As the tanks crossed each cross row, the infantry mopped up and occupied the hedge and protected the further advance of the tanks from attack by hostile bazookas and AT grenades.

Blitz action by tanks in this compartmentized type of terrain proved to be generally unsuccessful against well prepared, organized positions. In the operation west of St. Lo the successes realized are attributed to the disorganization imposed on the enemy by the heavy preparatory air and artillery bombardment and the subsequent penetration of his positions on a scale which prevented any closing of the gap after the tanks had passed through.

Debris, Sunshine and Utter Silence

When you're wandering around our very far-flung front lines - the lines that in our present rapid war are known as "fluid" - you can always tell how recently the battle has swept on ahead of you. You can sense it from the little things even more than the big things -

From the scattered green leaves and the fresh branches of trees still lying in the middle of the road.

From the wisps and coils of telephone wire, hanging brokenly from high poles and entwining across the roads.

From the gray, burned-powder rims of the shell craters in the gravel roads, their edges not yet smoothed by the pounding of military traffic.

From the little pools of blood on the roadside, blood that has only begun to congeal and turn black, and the punctured steel helmets lying nearby.

From the square blocks of building stone still scattered in the village street, and from the sharp-edged rocks in the roads, still uncrushed by traffic.

From the burned-out tanks and broken carts still unremoved from the road. From the cows in the fields, lying grotesquely with their feet to the sky, so newly dead they have not begun to bloat or smell.

From the scattered heaps of personal debris around a gun. (I don't know why it is, but the Germans always seem to take off their coats before they flee or die.)

From all these things you can tell that the battle has been recent - from these and from the men dead so recently that they seem to be merely asleep.

And also from the inhuman quiet. Usually battles are noisy for miles around. But in this recent fast warfare a battle sometimes leaves a complete vacuum behind it.

The Germans will stand and fight it out until they see there is no hope. Then some give up, and the rest pull and run for miles. Shooting stops. Our fighters move on after the enemy, and those who do not fight, but move in the wake of the battles, will not catch up for hours. There is nothing left behind but the remains - the lifeless debris, the sunshine and the flowers, and utter silence.

An amateur who wanders in this vacuum at the rear of a battle has a terrible sense of loneliness. Everything is dead - the men, the machines, the animals - and you alone are left alive.

— Ernie Pyle

The Surrender of Leipzig

Both photos submitted by: **Joseph Lipsius**, *Regimental Headquarters and Cannon Co., 272nd Infantry*
6314 Deerings Hollow, Norcross, Georgia 30092-1800



Shown above are those involved in the surrender of Leipzig, fifth largest city in Germany. At the left is **Colonel Walter D. Buie**, Regimental Commander, 272nd Infantry Regiment. Next to him is Wermacht Kommandant Major General Von Ziegezar, commandant of the city of Leipzig. At his right is Lieutenant Gerhardt Czener, member of IPW Team No 242. The IPW Team assigned to the Regiment to interrogate and interpret. At his right is Captain (at that time) **Joe Lipsius**, Regimental S-2. He was later promoted to Major. While Colonel Buie strictly forbade smoking in his presence and command post, if you look closely you will see a cigar in Joe's left hand. Henry Pete Green, the Regimental S-3, who died recently, was allowed to smoke cigarettes. The surrender took place, April 19, 1945, and by a written document.

69th 17th Annual Reunion, 1964 - Washington, DC



Man front left is **Murray Galuten**, Medical Detachment 272nd Infantry, then to his left, wife Iris, to her left, **Harry Austin**, 272nd Infantry, AT Co, then his wife, the next two to her left are unknown, followed by **Joe Lipsius**, Reg. Hq. and Cn. Co. 272nd, then his wife to be, Anne Davis, man to her left unknown, then **Cecil J. Kennedy**, 3rd Bn and Regtl Hq 272nd and his wife to his left and Galuten's right.

Battery C, 879th F.A. Member Visits Buddies

Submitted by: **Fred Crane**
General Delivery, Stout, Iowa 50673-9999

We had planned to go to Texas last year but found out that none of my Battery C, 879th buddies were going to be there. So instead, we took two trips that some of the guys might be interested in hearing about.

Early in the summer we went to Fort Sill, Oklahoma to see my old training camp. The fort still looked vaguely familiar although the town of Lawton had really changed. I even got to look through a panoramic sight on a 105 Howitzer.

Then we headed for Cleveland, Ohio, where an old buddy of mine set up a mini-reunion. We saw **Bob Stern, Eldon Nussbaum, Don Masterana** and **Jim Root (Jones)**. On the way there we stopped in South Bend, Indiana and visited with **Frank Sniadecki** and his wife. Some of these fellows I hadn't seen for fifty years. My wife got to meet other wives. We had a wonderful time and didn't even get lost.

I would really appreciate it if someone could tell me where I could get a garrison cap, khaki with a red braid. I looked for one in the different shops in and around Fort Sill but had no luck.

We hope to see everyone soon at a 69th reunion.



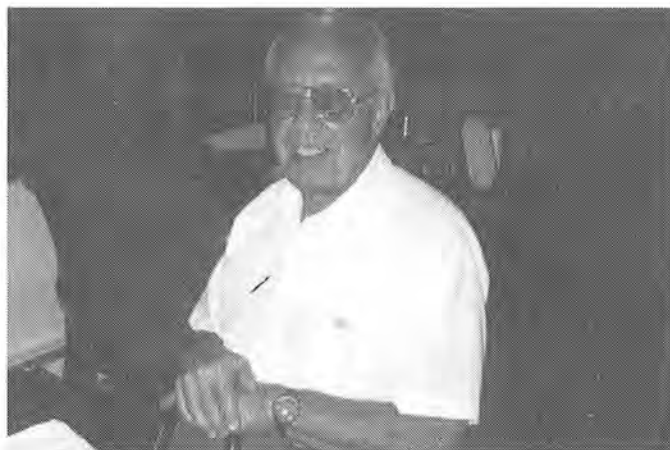
Taken at Fort Sill where I took my basic training.



Does this look familiar?



Bob Stern, Eldon Nussbaum, Don Masterana and Fred Crane together again.



Jim Root (Jones)



Bob Stern and Don Masterana

269th Combat Engineers - Where Are They Now?

Submitted By: **Frank Nemeth**, *Company B, 269th Engineers*
66 Gaping Rock Road • Levittown, Pennsylvania 19057-3410



Left:
Lt. Tom Clark
Headquarters
Company



Right:
Captain
Edward Wolski



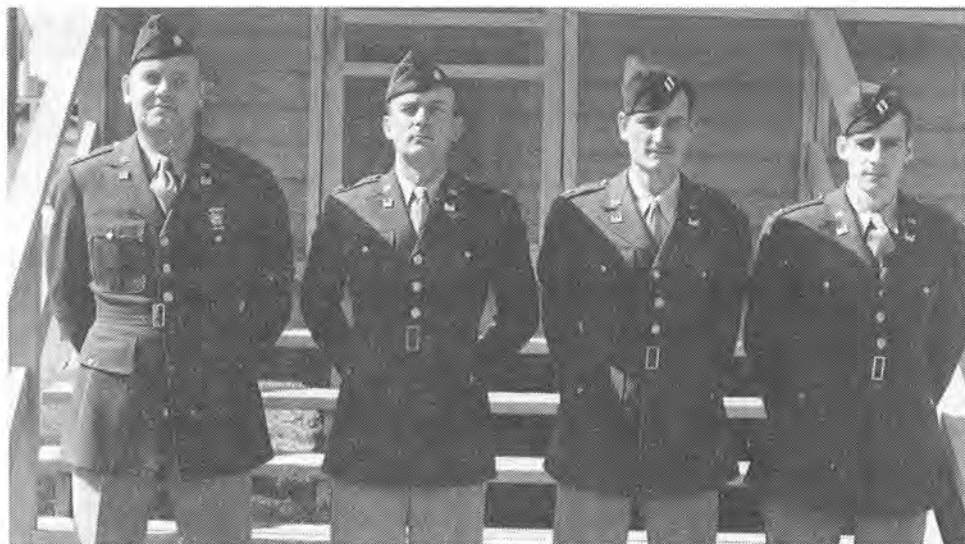
Lieutenant Andrew Plutz



Joe Dermicki - Motor Pool



Captain Duncan - Company B



Colonel Holmlin, Major Davis, Captain Thornton and Captain Eibling



Lt. Beverly Brockdortt



**Company M, 272nd Infantry Regiment
Camp Shelby, Mississippi - October 1943**

Submitted by: George L. Golias • 205 Baltimore Avenue, Hillside, New Jersey 07205



*Happy Holidays to All 69ers and Their Families
May the new Millennium bring you health
and prosperity in your Golden Years of Life.*



Veterans Pull Together to Open New Memorial Park

John W. Phillips, Company D, 273rd Infantry
317 Winston Avenue N.E.
North Canton, Ohio 44720-2659

In this era of non-appreciation of war veterans, I thought you might like to know that our community does honor them. A group of Stark County, Ohio veterans and donors raised the funds to build a Veterans Memorial by offering engraved paver bricks which cover the walkways of the entire facility. Flags of each of the major services are flown and two statues represent the men and women who have had military service. Each service branch is honored with a large stone monolith.

Located in Canton, Ohio, adjacent to Interstate 77, it is easily reached via exit 106. Our family attended the dedication ceremonies last Memorial Day and

were surprised at the large turnout. It was very cold that day, so I waited until now to take the photograph I am enclosing.

Each day one can see people in the memorial looking for their veteran's 'Brick.' The memorial is situated by a small pond in a parklike setting.

In addition, several artifacts and monuments were relocated to the site; an American Civil War cannon, a Spanish-American War cannon, and a part of the U.S. Battleship Maine that was sunk in Havana harbor. These displays are appropriate and supplement the McKinley Memorial which is nearby. It incorporates a museum where items of the assassinated 25th President are on display. This Memorial is located in West Lawn Cemetery in Monument Park and is quite impressive.



NEWS MATERIAL AND PICTURES FOR THE BULLETIN SHOULD BE MAILED TO: FIGHTING 69th BULLETIN

P.O. Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069

**ADDRESS CHANGES, NEW MEN AND TAPS SHOULD BE
MAILED TO OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:**

ROBERT KURTZMAN, P.O. Box 105, Wilmot, Ohio 44689

SEND YOUR DUES TO: WILLIAM R. MATLACH, *Treasurer*
Post Office Box 474, West Islip, New York 11795-0474

DO NOT SEND DUES TO THE BULLETIN OR BOB!!

The French Chateau

Submitted By: **Louis C. Sarube**
Headquarters Company, 271st Infantry
15 Roosevelt Avenue
Bergenfield, New Jersey 07621-2027



I enjoy reading our bulletin immensely. I am proud to belong to the Fighting 69th Infantry Division. I have been a member since the beginning of the Association. I was a member of the wire section.

In our last bulletin on page 33, I read where Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 271st Infantry, was billeted in a French chateau which was also used by the Heinies while they occupied France. I think it was near Longuerie and Burley. Well anyway, when the war ended, Regimental Headquarters Company was settled in Colditz until May 10th, 1945, then was sent back to Muehein, Germany which also became a Russian zone. I was part of the Wire Section. After we set up our wire communications, of course we started to look everywhere for souvenirs. In a dresser drawer I found 75 snapshots which were taken by a German officer while he occupied France and sent to his home in Muehein, Germany. Among the pictures, I saw this French chateau where our Regimental Headquarters set up its command post. It seems to be the same one we occupied.

Does anyone from Headquarters, 2nd Battalion remember it? And were they also there when our company was?



Remembering Colonel Lanham

Submitted By: **Michael Kertis**
Company G, 272nd Infantry
123 Camile Lane, Orchard Manor
Millsboro, Delaware 19966-8806

I have just finished re-reading "*Citizen Soldier*" by Stephen E. Ambrose. On Page 478, there is mentioned a **Colonel Buck Lanham**, C.O. of the 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division. This may be of interest to some of the original members of the 272nd Infantry.

Colonel Buck Lanham was our original C.O. He always had a riding crop in hand. He, along with **General Bolte** and **General Floyd Parks**, would ride horseback when we had field exercises.

Colonel Lanham was promoted to general and was with the 106th Infantry Division in the Battle of the Bulge. I remember when we were on the road in Germany moving up, **General Lanham** came by in a jeep. Many of the original members of the 272nd saluted and cheered as he rode by and he acknowledged us with a salute with his riding crop.

We Need Cover Photos!

Hey fellows, we need cover photos! Please send us any good quality photos that you have for consideration for the cover. Don't worry, we will return them to you unharmed. It doesn't matter if they are small. If they are of good quality, we can enlarge them.

We do like to use general photos from World War II, meaning we don't like to single out one individual for the cover, so try and keep that in mind.

Make sure you send us originals. As we have stressed in the past, we absolutely cannot use photocopies.

Thank You

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 **Fighting 69th Division Bulletin, P.O. Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069 or 183 Pineslope Road, Acme, Pennsylvania 15610-9606**, as early as possible. Then follow through with a write-up immediately after the event(s).

69th Cavalry Recon Troop

Harold Gardner, News Reporter
2929 Mason Avenue
Independence, Missouri 64052-2962
Telephone: 816-254-4816
E-Mail: RCNTROOP@aol.com

Report on 48th annual reunion held at Imperial Palace Hotel, Biloxi, Mississippi

Hosted by: **Barbara & Charles Fox**

Barbara and Charles Fox did their usual sterling job of hosting our reunion at the Imperial Palace Hotel and Casino located in Biloxi, Mississippi. They arrived at our chateau on Tuesday 9/21 to make sure that all was in order for the arrival of most of us the following

day. Wednesday was a day on our own and we went to various locations for dinner that day. One could find just about any kind of food right in the hotel and it was all very good and reasonably priced for that location.

Some of our "family" visited the casino and I believe in most cases contributed to the operating expenses of the establishment. That's usually the case in most casinos.

On Thursday the gang took off by deluxe coach for our Biloxi tour. Points of interest visited were; Beauvoir, the home and museum of Jefferson Davis, which was a private guided tour. Then we boarded a sightseeing boat for a shrimp trip and to see marine life gathered from sheltered waters. After being served a box lunch our group had a historical tour of Biloxi with a step-on guide.

(Continued on Page 35)



Back Row: Fred Wohlers, Camille (guest of Baldi), Bob Schueler, Charles Rice, Bob Dalton, Floyd Opdyke, Jerry Leib, Mike Moscaritolo, Harold Gardner, Herb Norman, Al Gold, Solon Hathorn, Gorden Ewing, Tony Baldi, Charles Rice, Jim Baldi (grandson of Tony Baldi), Harold Stambaugh, 1st Sgt. Hank Weiman

Front Row: Marge Dalton, Pat Rice, Evelyn Opdyke, Mary Moscaritolo, Barbara Fox, Esther Gold, Fern Ewing, Maxine Stambaugh, Lillian Weiman

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

(Continued from Page 34)

Friday was a day long to be remembered. We boarded our deluxe coach at the hotel for a ride to Camp Shelby. The driver took us on some of the back roads that we used to travel back in our training days. We were met at Shelby by our escort and with lights blazing on the escort vehicle, were escorted to the Camp Shelby museum. The museum was very interesting and we spent quite some time there. They also had various vehicles on exhibit outside. **Bones Schueler** almost cried when he saw an M-8 Armored Car and how it had been allowed to become rusted and needing paint as most of the vehicles were. The M-8 carried the identification of being assigned to the 65th Recon Troop who were located in Camp Shelby when we were.

After our visit to the museum we were bussed to the Officer's Club and served a delicious lunch. After lunch we rode to various other locations that our escorts and some of our troopers determined to have been our troop area in our training days. The area where our barracks stood was located on a large map and then our escorts took us to that area. Of course there were no barracks there now. We visited an area where we used to go to the movies. The sloped concrete floor of the theater and the foundation for the stage were still in existence. Our escorts had previously cleared a portion of that area of underbrush. We visited areas also thought to be the location of our most used PX and medical facilities.

Another area of much interest was what had been determined to be the Brooklyn bridge across the Black Creek. The bridge was unused and very rusty. That was the area where we used to go swimming at the end of some RCT problems and it was also felt that it was the approximate location where a Jeep we were transporting across the creek by cable dropped into the water. Somehow Black Creek looked much deeper and wider back in 1944.

The personnel at Camp Shelby were very pleased and excited to have us visit Shelby. It was very evident that our escorts had done much research prior to our visit to provide us with information about the camp back when we were there. The new museum which is hoped to be finished by the end of the year will have one wall dedicated to the 69th Division. Museum personnel indicated that they are anxious to receive any pictures or momentos that former 69th members would like to donate to the Museum.

Our escorts told us that Camp Shelby is now the largest training camp for national guard and reserve units in the world.

It was a great day for the "ole" troopers as we gathered around the 69th Division monument where we reminisced about the old days. **Barbara** and **Charles**

had arranged for formal group pictures of the troopers and also with the wives. Also many individual pictures were taken by a lot of us.

Saturday was a free day to do and go as we wished until about 6:00 p.m. when we gathered in the hotel bar for drinks and visiting prior to our banquet dinner.

At 7:00 p.m. we gathered in our private dining room for a very delicious meal of Baked Rock Cornish Hen or Broiled Fish including salad, hot bread, dessert, tea and coffee.

After dinner **Charles Rice** did a good job as acting Emcee and each of the troopers rose and gave a short report on his family happenings during the prior year.

It was good to get our "family" together again and good to see all our "ole" friends. Big Bad **Bob Dalton** came in from California. His last reunion was 1990 in New Orleans. (This writer had not seen Bob since 1945. It was good to see you, Bob.) Also it was good to see **Tony Baldi**. Last year at West Point was his first reunion.

We're sorry that a number of our regulars were unable to be with us this year. We missed our CO **Boyd Ellsworth** and **Stella**. Due to illness they could not make it. **First Sgt. Hank Weiman** did a good job of keeping the troopers in line.

For any one wanting to contact the museum personnel about contributing items to the 69th portion of the museum, or to obtain general information about the museum, you can do so by writing to the following:

Camp Shelby Training Site

ATTN: Armed Forces Museum Foundation, Inc.

Building #350

Camp Shelby, Mississippi 39407-5500

The following persons were in attendance at Biloxi:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Tony Baldi | New Jersey |
| Guests: Grandson, Jim Baldi and Camille | |
| Robert (Big Bad Bob) and Mickey Dalton .. | California |
| Gordie and Fern Ewing | Florida |
| Charles and Barbara Fox | Maryland |
| Wayne and Dot Frazier | Mississippi |
| Harold and Jeanne Gardner | Missouri |
| Al and Esther Gold | Massachusetts |
| Solon Hathorn | Mississippi |
| Jerry Leib | California |
| Mike and Mary Moscaritolo | Florida |
| Herb and Eileene Norman | Colorado |
| Floyd (Big Juice) and Evelyn Opdyke | New Jersey |
| Charles and Pat Rice | Oklahoma |
| Robert (Bones) and Mable Schueler | Ohio |
| Harold (Hap) and Maxine Stambaugh | Virginia |
| Henry (Hank) and Lillian Weiman | New Jersey |
| Fred and Fran Wohlers | Florida |
| Harry and Grace Kagan | |

(Friends of Charles and Barbara Fox)

(Continued on Page 36)

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

(Continued from Page 35)

Biloxi was another great reunion and **Barbara** and **Charles Fox** did a swell job of hosting the affair. Thanks much folks.

It was decided to meet next year at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and we will be getting information from **Barbara** and **Charles** at a later date.

We hope that all you folks have a good winter and we wish everyone a good holiday season depending on your faith.

Battery C 880th Field Artillery

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

1999 20th Annual Reunion

Our C Battery gathering was held at St. Marys, Pennsylvania at the Bavarian Inn on September 8th through the 11th. This was our 20th annual reunion. It was again great to be greeted by those already in attendance, as well as by our hosts, **Lee** and **Betty Meyer** and **Marvin** and **Mary Reber**. We were so pleased to have **Art** and **Bettie Bartholomew** from California join us this year for their first time. Much chatting and renewing old memories filled our vacant hours. We dined together, laughed together, played together, and enjoyed each other.

Lee had arranged for us to tour the Straub Brewery which is a four generation family business. Although the eternal tap was visited by many, everyone was able to drive away safely. We also toured the large Sylvania plant and were fascinated and amazed at all the work involved in making the many varieties of light bulbs that we all take so much for granted. It was a treat for all of us. Another great treat was a catered picnic at a private park, The Pines. There we also enjoyed the music of a very talented couple who played various music on their accordion and keyboard. Their music was mostly from the World War II era. Several of the men also joined in a rousing game of horseshoe pitching.

Our annual banquet and farewell breakfast climaxed our events and we were all too soon on our homeward way.

Joe and **Dottie** announced to the group that their twin nephews were both astronauts in the space program. Both are pilots and **Scott Kelly** has been chosen to make his first space flight this fall. **Scott** and **Mark** are the world's first astronaut twins, and these identical twins are the only astronaut siblings. **Joe** and **Dottie** were invited to the launching, but will not be able to attend. They are very proud of these boys and

encouraged all of us to watch the launching - maybe in October. **Mark** is planning the launching party for **Scott**. We all wish them well.

Those in attendance were:

Art and **Bettie Bartholomew** California
LeRoy Goetz and **Bernice Vanderheiden** Wisconsin
Marvin and **Mary Reber** Pennsylvania
Lee and **Betty Meyer** Pennsylvania
Lucille Abbe North Carolina
Bob and **Irene Williams** Ohio
Al and **Marge Kormas** Ohio
Bill and **Inez Sells** Florida
Frank and **Marie Habay** Pennsylvania
Lowell and **Marjorie McFarlin** Ohio
Joe and **Dottie Damato** New Jersey
Lew and **Fern Pugh** Ohio
Enrico and **Anne D'Angelo** Pennsylvania
Guests Bill and **Reba Sheavly** Maryland

661st Tank Destroyers

Chuck Yannul, Company C, News Reporter
7674 Rawley Pike
Hinton, Virginia 22831-9703

Reunion Held at York, Pennsylvania October 20th thru 24th, 1999

The reunion had a great attendance, probably recordbreaking, and the weather was kind to us. What made the whole affair so special, it was hosted by **Ruth**, the widow of one of our comrades **Millard Mellinger**. With the able help of her daughters, it was very successful.

There was a tour of the Harley-Davidson motorcycle plant. Many attendees visited the points of interest at Gettysburg, Lancaster, and Hershey, Pa. Saturday night there was a banquet of over 80 people.

The photo shows a part of the ingenuity our hosts used to make the reunion such a success. The cake was baked and decorated by one of the daughters.

(Continued on Page 37)



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

(Continued from Page 36)

Those attending were:

Stanley and Gertrude Green Battle Creek, Mi.
William and Mary Wahl Chagrin Falls, Oh.
Jerene Foltz and friend Pine Grove Mills, Pa.
Eugene Pierron and friend Belgium, Wi.
Elwin Patterson and Chris Sebastian, Fl.
Stanley and Olga Flak and grandson Lewisville, Tx.
Carlo and Carol Scampini and guests .. Chicago Hts., Il.
Warren and Dorothy Mitchell Redwood City, Ca.
John and Eva Golden Geenbrook, NJ.
Dick and Thelma McKinnon East Jordan, Mi.
John and Leora Sherlock Pawtucket, R.I.
Marcel and Carol Pugsley Nokomis, Fl.
Fred and Nancy Baumgartner Brookville, Fl.
Mike and Dorothy Kotnik Elyria, Oh.
Chuck and Frances Yannul Hinton, Va.
Anne Forgas and family Seven Hills, Oh.
Bill and Ellen Snidow Pembroke, Va.
Harry and Edna Murray Bedford, Va.
Jules and Pat Slopek Munroe Falls, Oh.
Raymond and Rosemarie Anderson Great Valley, N.Y.
Louis and Flo Molinko Cannonsburg, Pa.
Bill and Jo Beswick West Point, Va.
Earl Repman York, Pa.
Bill and Margaret Dawson Nathalie, Va.
Ralph Bragg Chase City, Va.
Sam and Gertrude Goldberg Pembroke Pines, Fl.
Vito and Theresa Capobianco and family .. Brooklyn, N.Y.
James Binder and Betsy Bethlehem, Pa.
Ralph and Vera Chase Hatboro, Pa.
Walter Jamerson Lynchburg, Va.

Camp Shelby Armed Forces Museum Foundation

Anyone wishing to join the Armed Forces
Museum Foundation can write to:

Armed Forces Museum Foundation

Attn.: MS-DSR-PA

Post Office box 5027

Jackson, Mississippi 39296-5027

They do need donations for the new museum
but also, you can write to them in order to receive
information if you would like to visit the museum
or if you would like to send in memorabilia They
also have memberships starting at \$10.00 per
year. They have many artifacts from World War II,
including vehicles, photos, etc. If you are looking
for a vacation spot, this is the place!

Stanley Eskin Takes a Long Trip!

Stanley Eskin, Company A, 269th Engineers
855 Ronda Mendoza, Unit "N"
Laguna Woods, California 92653

I went out on an extensive driving trip covering 24
states and 4 Canadian provinces, traveling a total of
13,000 miles - by myself.

The trip was just great and I took about 800 pic-
tures, stopping to visit about twenty relatives and
friends. I arrived home this past week and although it
was a trip I'll always remember, it was nice to get
back home to my own bed and to see my friends.

As others have said, you all are doing a great job
getting our 69th Bulletin out and making each issue
so very interesting.

What amazes me is that there are still guys out
there who are sending in stories and photographs
pertaining to all of us. I don't know how long this will
continue to go on but while it lasts, let's enjoy them.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Stanley, I can't help but com-
ment on your last statement. You just traveled 13,000
miles and you can't believe that people are still sending
in stories, etc. We can't believe you traveled 13,000
miles - by yourself!)



Stanley pictured in front of the 69th Monument located
at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

Company C, 271st Infantry Regiment

Submitted by: **Joseph Melka**
3096 Kings Lake Boulevard • Naples, Florida 34112-3619



Joe Melka



A bunch of 69ers



*Alfred Hicks, Joe Melka, Armand Boucher
Rear - Unknown*



*Stanley Neilson, Ivan Owen,
Bill Richman, ? McKensie, Ken Michael*



Arriving at Rosalehen - Clyde Kirkman, Joe Melka



Sergeant James G. Tyson - Center



Right Rear - Joe Melka



*Enando Buffalini and Joe Melka
Nice France*



*Joe Melka, Mazza, Buffalini,
Secchiaroli - Nice, France*



Joe Melka, Secchiaroli, Mazza, Buffalini - Nice, France



"All Aboard" - Lt. Cannon in center



Harold Lauder



Kassel 1945



Another "Kaput"

Retracing Our Historic Steps through Germany

Submitted by: **Charley Martens**
Battery C, 724th Field Artillery Battalion
"155 Howitzers"

1250 Norma Drive • Buffalo, Wyoming 82834

In 1997 I went on a two week tour of Germany where we visited many of the big cities; Frankfurt, Cologne, Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden, Munich, Nuremberg, Heidelberg, etc. We saw lots of big stone buildings, museums, castles, cathedrals, libraries, etc., but not much of the countryside or small towns and villages and people.

In October of 1998 I went back again for 3 weeks on my own; I didn't have a planned itinerary but wanted to sort of follow the route we took during the war from the Rhine to the Mulde and Elbe Rivers to Torgau. Someday I'd like to go all the way back to Krinkelt, Belgium where we went into combat.

I landed at Frankfurt and started my 3 week trip by train to Remagen via Koblenz. I would have liked to take a boat down the Rhine to Koblenz but it was so overcast and misty and rainy I decided to take the train. On the tour the year before we went by boat from the beautiful little town of Rudesheim to Boppard.

We passed Wiesbaden where I had a tooth pulled in 1945. It was abscessed before we even got to Krinkelt but each time I got to a dentist somebody would yell, "We are moving out, everybody back to your own outfit." Finally, I got to a dental clinic at Wiesbaden but all the dentist had was some old German novocaine and after about 3 shots of it nothing happened; it didn't work. I told him to go ahead and pull it anyway. I had all the trouble with that tooth I wanted. The medic pinned my arms to the chair and the dentist pulled it out, it was like fire for a few seconds but once it was out it was such a relief it really didn't hurt all that much anymore.

The train ride down the Rhine to Remagen was interesting, not as nice as the boat ride would have been on a nice day, but I did see some things from the train I would have missed on the boat, so I guess it was a toss-up.

I spent several days at Remagen where the 9th Armored Division captured the Ludendorff railway bridge on March 7, 1945. The 69th Division was in the vicinity and a week later the 724th F.A. BN. was detached from division artillery and sent to Remagen to help defend the bridge and bridgehead from counter attack. They had the heaviest concentration of artillery and anti-aircraft artillery there I ever saw. It was there that I saw my first jet plane, a ME-262. The A.A. fire was so heavy all I ever saw them do was make one fast bomb run, drop their bomb and keep right on going.

They've made a little museum in one of the stone towers of the old bridge which has never been rebuilt. They only have a ferry that crosses the river there now to Erpel.

When I went into the museum tower an older German gentleman was sitting there collecting a small fee. I told him I had been an American artilleryman there in 1945. He asked me "Did you have to pay then?" I said "No." He said "You do not have to pay now either." He and I and a young German couple behind me all had a good laugh at that.

I remember we crossed the river on the pontoon bridge just down river from the Ludendorff bridge; we could see the wreckage of the old bridge in the river. It had fallen in the river by then. As soon as we got across a single German "88" started firing at us, always just behind us. Our driver, **Harold Wepler**, had that tractor going wide open; I remember the tractor rocking back and forth and that big 155 Howitzer bouncing up and down like crazy. The guys were hollering "faster, faster," and Harold said, "This tractor is going as fast as it will go." As I remember that was about 30 miles an hour. I remember my father telling me, "Nine times out of ten when you miss a bird it's because you've shot behind them, be sure to lead them." Each time the shell hit behind us I thought, "I hope that German gunner's father didn't tell him that!" We finally got behind a hill where that gun, tank or whatever it was couldn't see us anymore and we slowed down unscathed.

From Remagen I took the train on to Marburg, Eisenach, Wittenberg to Torgau, spending several days at each town sightseeing and enjoying the good beer and food.

I had Herbert Schedina's address when I got to Torgau and looked him up. Before I go on, for you who don't know who Herbert Schedina and Heinz Richter are, I had better tell you. Herbert is a retired school teacher who lives in Torgau with his wife Edith. He taught English in the high school there and speaks very good English, of course. Heinz Richter is also retired and was the overseer of a 12,000 acre collective farm and lives in a small village near Torgau. Besides his German, he also speaks Russian and English. Both of these men are very knowledgeable about the meetings of the Americans and Russians at the Elbe river at Strehla and Torgau. They were both very active and helpful in setting up the memorials on the river, both places dedicated to the memory of those historical meetings. They are still very interested in maintaining and preserving both those memorials and memories with both the Americans and Russians and I am very thankful to them both for that and also the friendship and hospitality they both showed me in the five days I spent in Torgau last October.

(Continued on Page 41)

RETRACING OUR HISTORIC STEPS

(Continued from Page 40)

The first day Herbert drove me to Strehla and Heinz met us there at the memorial. After a while, Herbert had to leave because of previous family obligations. Heinz then took me across the Elbe river in his car on the ferry right there at the memorial. On the other side he showed me the field where hundreds of refugees and German soldiers who were fleeing from the Russians were killed by bombs or artillery fire of unknown origin. Then we went to, I believe it was KREINITZ, where I think he said ninety some of those who were killed are buried. Then we went down to the ferry landing on the river where the Russians and Americans first met and shook hands. It is a very moving experience to stand on the very spots where those events took place fifty some years ago. I am really looking forward to going back there with the group that **Bill Beswick** is getting together for April, 2000.

Heinz told me and showed me so much in such a short time about the history and places of these events, and events after these meetings, I couldn't absorb it all. We stopped at another place where an old man and lady were out front raking leaves. He talked to them and then the man took us in the back to a garden area. From a picture Heinz had of Russians and Americans eating and drinking and dancing we could see by the old tree there and the roof lines of the buildings in the background, it was the same place. This time there was no food, wine or vodka though. We got some of that a little later when we went to Heinz's house for dinner with his wife, Vera. Later in the day I met his son, who drives a truck all over Europe, and had supper with them before he took me back to my hotel in Torgau.

The next day I had dinner and supper with Herbert and his wife. Herbert took me on a tour of Torgau; the market square, high school and showed me the three different types of architecture of the many old buildings and houses. He showed me the old armory used by the German military for many years and then by the Russian occupation troops. Interestingly, he told me the Russian occupation troops did not bother the people contrary to what we might think. Herbert also took me to the store that **Lt. Robertson** and his men broke into to get colored powder to make his homemade American flag.

Then we went down to the monument on the west side of the river next to Hartenfels Castle where the old bridge used to be. We could look across the river at the 3 flags of the monument on the east side of the river and the old fort buildings where the Russians were 53 years before.

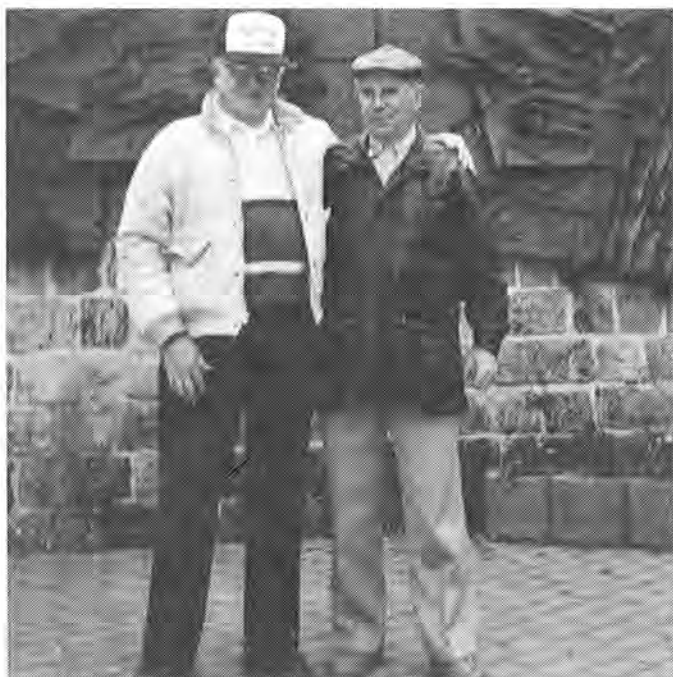
Then we crossed the draw bridge over the bear pit into Hartenfels Castle. There are still bears in the pit but I don't know that I would want to walk through there. I think that today they are pretty well fed and probably not as vicious as they might have been years

ago. We could look across the river just like **Lt. Robertson** must have done when he was trying to signal the Russians.

The next day Herbert came by my hotel and we walked down to the castle again and went to church in the Castle Church which was the first Protestant Church ever built and consecrated by Martin Luther in 1544 and where Luther's wife, Katarina Von Bora, is buried.

After church we went back to Herbert's where his wife, Edith, had a delicious Sunday dinner waiting for us. Then Herbert drove us down to Eilenburg, a town that we had shelled so badly. We walked around and Herbert could tell me which were new buildings and which ones were rebuilt that had only been damaged in the shelling. I can remember seeing the flames in Eilenburg that night.

(Continued on Page 42)



Charley Martens and Heinz Richter at the memorial on the Elbe at Strehla, October 1998.



The ferry across the Elbe at Strehla, 1998

RETRACING OUR HISTORIC STEPS

(Continued from Page 41)

The next day Heinz drove me down to Seiffen, an old silver mining town in the Ore mountains next to Czechoslovakia, that is now known for its woodwork- ing industry and toy making. On the way home we stopped in Chemnitz and had supper with the daughter, son-in-law and two teenage granddaughters who are two "live-wires."

I am looking forward to Heinz Richter and Vera and their two granddaughters coming out here to Wyoming this summer after first visiting Bill Beswick in West Point, Virginia.

I am also looking forward to Herbert and Edith Schedina coming here to Wyoming for 4 days the first of September on their way to Yellowstone Park and a tour of Idaho and Montana.

Hopefully, I can pay them back for the hospitality they showed me in Germany last October.

Then I will really be looking forward to visiting them again in Torgau next April with many other people from the 69th.



This is a restaurant in Rampitz near Leipzig that we used for a messhall when we were in occupation there after the war ended in 1945. I found the same building. It had been refaced and the first floor made into a gro- cery store.



Charley in front of our Memorial Plaque in Strehla

Chateau Le Heron

Remember the night our convoy, blackouts a-glim- mer, swept majestically up the drive and came to a halt at the portals of beautiful Chateau Le Heron? Remember alighting, 500 strong, invading the place, and settling down for a week's stay? In spite of the darkness and confusion, we were glad to find shelter after a long cold drive from Le Havre.

Built during the 19th century and manned by a staff of forty servants, Le Heron was one of the showplaces of Normandy and can be found on detail maps of France. The Chateau had been occupied at different times by units from the French, British, German, and American armies. The great edifice of stone and mar- ble was once the scene of many fishing and hunting parties and stands in the center of a spacious estate. There are lovely gardens and woods overrun by deer and small game. A small trout stream fights its noisy way over rocks and waterfalls along one side of the grounds. The owner, a French Marquis, then being held as a collaborator, was known as a gracious and liberal host.

Sometimes we'd listen to the GI boots tramping the halls as we visualized a deer turning slowly on a spit, or a smiling host pouring champagne with a lavish hand. We have fond memories if our strolls (columns of twos, rout order) through the woods on those brisk winter mornings.

Kidding aside, in spite of the GI atmosphere and hard floors, we spent a fairly restful week at scenic Le Heron. It was with regret at leaving, and apprehen- sion for hard going ahead that we waved the Chateau Au Revoir.



By the way, we spotted some kraut gun positions, too.

Murder at 251 Eupener Strasse, Aachen Germany

Submitted by: **Charles Chapman**
12223 Seaford Court
Lake Ridge, Virginia 22192-2356

The following is an expanded version of an article which originally appeared in Linn's Stamp News and was prepared by J. V. Bush, Inc., a stamp dealer at P.O. Box 626, Bonita, CA 91908, telephone 619-479-0874. Joe Bush has agreed to its inclusion in the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association Bulletin.

D-Day: Battle of Aachen, 13 Sept '44

Hitler decides to make Aachen the German "Stalingrad"...the Americans took six weeks to capture the city, giving Hitler the time needed to amass a special army of 18 infantry and 14 armored divisions for "Battle of the Bulge."

German soldiers were ordered to fight to the LAST man, the LAST bullet...and (to the LAST champagne bottle). Headquartered in the elegant Hotel Quellenhof, once the Germans ran out of ammunition and had availed themselves of all the spirits in the well-stocked wine cellar, they exited the hotel hurling champagne bottles (empty, of course) at astonished and confused American GIs.

Ernest "Papa" Hemingway has a "brief moment" on German soil. Attached foreign correspondent to the American 4th Infantry, he is purported to have shot the heads off several chickens and ordered a frightened housewife to cook a dinner for him and his pals.

Battle of Aachen Ends Oct. 24, 1944; American A.M.G. Officers Take Over

The once beautiful city of Aachen was in shambles after five weeks of intense "Stalingrad-Type" warfare...house to house, and even room to room combat fiercely fought by both sides.

Immediately, American A.M.G. Officer Major SWOBODA, began planning how to restore order and rebuild Aachen into a functioning city. It was clear that German personnel would have to be recruited to accomplish this task.

Major SWOBODA took the recommendation of the Bishop of Aachen and contacted lawyer FRANZ OPPENHOFF to put together a team of 30 men that had a variety of skills in the building trades, merchants and former government employees. OPPENHOFF, a Catholic, was born in Aachen and his family had lived there for almost two centuries. He was aware that what he regarded as "helping to rebuild the city", would be construed by Hitler as "collaborating with the enemy"...a death sentence.

Nevertheless, OPPENHOFF and his recruits, with the encouragement of Major SWOBODA, were able to establish a Pilot-occupation program that would be

used in other cities on the way to Berlin. The A.M.G. program thrived with FRANZ OPPENHOFF as elected mayor of Aachen.

Reviewing the Conditions in Aachen in March 1945

American soldiers had been occupying the ancient city since October 24, 1944. On March 19th the first U.S. printed A.M.G. stamps were put in circulation.

Burgermeister FRANZ OPPENHOFF, with the cooperation of MAJOR SWOBODA, had completed his fourth month as Mayor. However, Hitler and Himmler were the most unhappy people in Germany. Highly incensed that a German citizen would collaborate with the American enemy, Himmler organized a WEREWOLF TEAM of six members. Their task... TAKE CARE OF THAT AACHEN MATTER...namely, murder the Burgermeister however necessary.

The werewolf team consisted of one adult female, a boy of 14-16, and four older men. (We shall refer to this group as the X-Team.) On March 20, all six were dropped by parachute in Belgium, near Aachen. The plane used...an American flying fortress built from many salvaged parts.

Female member, Lise, posing as a German housewife carrying a food basket, makes inquiries and soon finds out the name of the Mayor is FRANZ OPPENHOFF, and he lives at 251 Eupener Strasse in the outskirts of the city.

With this vital information, the four male werewolves plan the impending execution. On March 25, 1945... just before midnight, one of the X-men snipped the telephone wire to the house. Two of them entered the dwelling through the cellar windows. Only small children and the maid were at home, but no mayor. It was Palm Sunday, and he was visiting a nearby neighbor. The startled maid was ordered to go to the neighbor and ask OPPENHOFF to return home. She mistakenly gave the impression that the men were American soldiers who needed travel passes. When OPPENHOFF met the X-Men, they said they were German airmen who had been downed in nearby Belgium. They needed passes, which he could not supply.

OPPENHOFF nervously orders his maid, Elisabeth, to make a few sandwiches for the "downed flyers," and accompanies her through the pitch black cellar, there being no electricity in the house.

One of the werewolves took this time to attach a "silencer" on the barrel of his German Walther pistol, and awaited the Mayor's return. As OPPENHOFF emerged from the cellar and began mounting the steps, one muffled shot was fired exactly on target. FRANZ OPPENHOFF was dead. Hitler's "that Aachen matter" was closed.

Just a few minutes later, American soldiers appear to investigate the cut telephone line. Seeing the strange men, they began firing their weapons. Unfortunately, all this was too late to save the life of the mayor. The werewolves all escaped through the woods under darkened skies.

Matthew Masem writes on Chaplain Calkins and Other Bulletin Articles

Company E, 273rd Infantry

2520 30th Street • Rock Island, Illinois 61201

It is always a sad day for me when I hear of the passing of a veteran with whom I served. However, it is even more so when I can tie a face with a name. Such is the case as it relates to **Father Frank M. Calkins**, former 69th Chaplain. **Father Calkins** married Nancy and I at Chapel #20, Camp Shelby, on April 28th, 1943 with **James Kelly** and **Les Walters** in attendance.

Nancy and I were originally married by a Justice of the Peace at Oxford, Alabama on December 4th, 1941, while I was stationed at Fort McClellan (then Camp McClellan) with the 165th Infantry Regiment, the Fighting 69th of World War I fame. Shortly thereafter, the regiment was ordered overseas. I returned to the states to attend Infantry O.C.S. at Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon graduation on April 9th, 1943, I joined the 273rd Infantry Regiment, Company E, commanded by **Captain Stallings**, as my first duty station as a 2nd Lieutenant.

As a Roman Catholic, either Nancy and/or **Father Calkins** decided we should be married in our faith and so it was done.

In this vein, I can very well relate to **Lt. Rieneke's** efforts to insure that as many Catholics as possible attended mass. In my first outfit, the 165th, the entire Regiment marched to an area for mass. At first, men not of the Catholic faith were free to leave. However, after a few weeks, very few chose to leave. There wasn't always a chaplain of your faith available during peace time or combat, but there always was a chaplain of some denomination available for whatever purpose and I believe God hears our prayers regardless of what faith we profess.

Not having served with the 69th Division in combat, I was considering not renewing my membership. However, for the first time, I read the bulletin from cover to cover and realized how much information I've missed regarding the Division's overseas combat experiences. In addition, the personal experiences are true gems. While I served in combat with another Fighting 69th (the 1965th Infantry Regiment) on Saipan and Okinawa and the 1st Corp in Korea, I am proud to have served, even for a short time, with the 69th at Shelby. On October 8th, 1943, I was transferred as an overseas replacement. However, I hope that during my short time I left something with the troops I served with that helped keep them safe during their combat in Europe.

On page 3 (Volume 52, No. 3) is an item regarding the use of a computer by Jim Amor to locate another 69th veteran. I'd like to know the procedure used by Jim so that I may be able to find some "lost" veterans. My E-Mail address is NMMUR1@aol.com.

On page 5, **Irvin M. Hunsberger** makes mention of the excesses of McCarthyism. I experienced such while stationed at Springfield Armory in Springfield, Massachusetts as Chief of Intelligence, Security and Safety Office. Every personnel file had to be personally reviewed and recertified. It was a time consuming effort with little or no justification. The one item that affected me the most is when Mr. Garand's (the inventor of the Garand rifle) loyalty was put into question. I knew Mr. Garand as one of the finest men I've ever met and one of the most dedicated. In the presence of the Commanding Officer, I had to subject Mr. Garand to various prepared questions regarding his background. As I recall, Mr. Garand, a Russian, came to the U.S. with a Russian trading company, and was originally welcomed by the government but later questioned again without justification by McCarthy.

On page 56, there is a piece entitled "Just a Common Soldier" sent in by **Howitzer Al Kormas**. One of my friends publishes a monthly bulletin for Company F, 165th Infantry in which I served and I'd like permission to publish it in that bulletin.

Nancy and I will celebrate our 58th wedding anniversary on December 7th, 1999 and aside from the usual ills of the "golden years," all is well and we wish the same for all 69ers.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We are sure it would be fine if you sent off the article for publication in the 165th Infantry bulletin. Check with Al Kormas, if you want. We are glad that you are enjoying the bulletin.)

U.S. Army Military History Institute Project

Submitted by: **George M. Haddad**

Company E, 272nd Infantry

30180 Cheviot Hills Drive

Franklin, Michigan 48025-1552

E-Mail: ghaddad@voyager.net

While touring the Chapel at the Air Force Academy recently I met a two star General who is with the 89th Infantry Division presently active. After the amenities, he told me of a project being undertaken by the U.S. Army Military History Institute. It is presently in the process of sending questionnaires to all service people, male and female who request to be involved. It is an attempt to prepare the most comprehensive files regarding servicemen and women ever attempted. It means wishing to know all about you, where you served and includes your suggestions as to any phase of the military including battles if you were involved.

If interested you may inquire:

U.S. Army Military History Institute

ATTN: Angela S. Lehr, Coordinator

Carlisle Barracks, Pa. 17013-5008

Telephone: 717-245-3225

69th Infantry Division Year 2000 55th Anniversary Tour

William R. Beswick
Company B, 661st Tank Destroyers
P.O. Box 576
West Point, Virginia 23181-0576
E-Mail: BandJBes@aol.com

Due to some unforeseen circumstances, I am sorry that I was unable to get this final itinerary in the last Bulletin. I also apologize for the incorrect prices in the last bulletin. I should have never quoted a price until the final figures were given.

We had made all of the arrangements, then we were required to make some changes. The first thing that went wrong was that the airlines were booked full on the day that we were scheduled to fly into Brussels, Belgium. So now we will fly into Paris. This may be best, because we had a number of people that wanted to visit Paris. There is so much to see and do. On top of that, some of the places and things that we wanted to do could not be arranged.

I am now giving you the cost of the tour, not including the airfare. The tour cost is only a little more than the cost five years ago and that is because we had to add on a day because of not being able to fly into Brussels on our original date. But, I believe we will be happy with it, along with the daily activities.

There will be an added four or five days for those people that may want to stay over. There will also be an added portion of seven days for those people that want to see and do it all.

Let's do it all this time. You'll be glad you did. A complete printed brochure will be sent on inquiry.

We are going to try to make this tour exciting and interesting for everyone. For those people that have never been there before and for those who have.

The trip will cover most of the interesting areas that you thought you would never return from and were continually threatened with losing your life. Then we will follow up with some beautiful areas that I am sure will be exciting for everyone.

Come on!!!! and accompany each other for a journey of REMEMBRANCE, more especially for the LEIPZIG and TORGAU areas. We will also visit your MEMORIALS in TORGAU and STREHLA, Germany.

We will attend church in EISENACH, Germany on EASTER SUNDAY. I understand it is a beautiful church.

| <u>MINIMUM PAYING PASSENGERS</u> | <u>1999 PRICES PER PERSON</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 150-159 | \$2709.00 |
| 140-149 | \$2747.00 |
| 130-139 | \$2762.00 |
| 120-129 | \$2780.00 |
| 110-119 | \$2825.00 |
| 100-109 | \$2884.00 |

Single room supplement \$517.00 per person
Triple room reduction w/double occupancy

Do not STOP here. There will be optional days in Italy for a few dollars more. We should do it while we can. It will be slightly more than in 1995 for the additional days, but the more people, the less the cost. Rates are subject to change, and are never guaranteed until actually paid in full.

We have arranged this initial part of the tour for the people who do not want to be away from home too long. A second portion is for those people who want to see and do it all, including several more days in Italy. You will never regret spending an additional \$1100, maybe a few more dollars, but not much. I believe the entire tour, including the time in Italy will be about twenty-one or twenty-two days. I must add here that the tour was divided into two portions, in case some people may feel that \$3400 or \$3500 may be too much money. Air fare is additional to these prices.

CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS ENCOURAGED. In fact, I encourage it.

The added portion will be well worth it. We will make the arrangements. So!!! COME ON!!! LET'S GO and enjoy ourselves.

We have had people ask if we were going to various locations that we and they had been to before. Therefore we will visit some of those sights plus places that none of us have been to before.

I hope this is enough information to get you interested. All services covered by this proposed itinerary are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the suppliers. For further information and a brochure, please write:

American Express
1150 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036
or call them at 1-800-288-8796
or write
William R. Beswick
P.O. Box 576, West Point, Virginia 23181-0576
or call 1-804-843-2696
E-Mail: BandJBes@aol.com.

A deposit of \$250.00 per person is required for reservations. Please send this to **William Beswick** at the address above. This will be deducted from your tour cost.

2000 TOUR SCHEDULE

Monday, April 17th: Depart U.S.A.

Tuesday, April 18th: Arrive Paris, transfer to hotel. Remainder of day at your leisure to rest up after the overnight flight. Visit on your own as you like.

Wednesday, April 19th: Visit places of interest still to be decided upon.

Thursday April 20th: To Aachen. Areas and sights to be visited today are Margraten and Henri-Chappelle Cemeteries with Memorial Services to HONOR our friends and comrades in arms. Also visit Reischeld, Meischeld, Geischeld, Bulligen, Krinkel Church, Hollerath and especially the Dragon Teeth at Reischeld.

(Continued on Page 46)

69th YEAR 2000 55th ANNIVERSARY TOUR

(Continued from Page 45)

Friday April 21st: To Koblenz. Area sights to be visited today are Bad Ems, Fort Ehrenbretstein and sightseeing.

Saturday April 22nd: To Kassel. Remagen Bridge Museum, Rhine River walk, refreshments, Hercules Monument and area.

Sunday April 23rd: To Leipzig. Area sights to be visited are Eisenach, where East Germany started. We will attend Easter Services in one of the oldest and I understand one of the most beautiful churches. Travel through some of the 69th battlefields of Gotha, Erfurt, Weimar, maybe visit Buchenwald, Weissenfels and Lutzen. Lutzen was the Battalion CP for the 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion, immediately after the war ended.

Monday April 24th: Leipzig. Area sights to be visited today. We will motor to Colditz, the site of the famous Colditz Castle Prison. Some of our troops were stationed here, (maybe you were one of them). Return to Leipzig and visit the old Railway Station that we had to take, Monument of Nations, St. Thomas' Church. A short tour of the city, may bring memories back to you.

Tuesday April 25th: Depart for Torgau. No later than 8:00 a.m., visit Eilenburg for about an hour.

Depart Eilenburg no later than 9:30 a.m. We must arrive in TORGAU by 10:30 a.m. to be received by Bergermeister (Mayor) Gerstenberg. Depart for the 69th MEMORIAL on the East bank of the ELBE RIVER for MEMORIAL SERVICES at 12:00 Noon. Return to town for lunch. Depart Torgau for STREHLA MEMORIAL PARK at 2:00 p.m. for JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICES at 3:15 p.m. Visit around Strehla for gifts, return to lodging.

This evening is the 55th Anniversary Dinner (Tickets required)

Wednesday April 26th: Torgau. Today we will have a walking tour of Torgau with three or four English speaking guides. (We know them, they are very knowledgeable and friendly). Visit Hartenfels Castle, Castle Church, Castle Museum, with many artifacts of bygone days. See our 69th Banner and the American Flag displayed in the Museum. They were presented to the present Mayor (Gerstenberg) during East Germany's communist period in April 1985. Visit St. Mary's Church across the street. It was constructed in the year 725.

Break for lunch, there's lots of places.

1:30 or 2:00 p.m., we will board the busses for a visit to a stud (horse) farm to visit the site of the banquet room where General Reinhardt and the Soviet officers had their first official meeting and banquet. Visit the horses in their stalls on a short walk, a beautiful place. Board the busses for the short trip back to town, shopping and your lodging.

Thursday, April 27th: To Munich. Area sights to be visited are Dachau Concentration Camp and city tour.

Friday April 28th: To St. Moritz. Visit Garmische and sightseeing. Afternoon free for walking tour, shopping and visit the local museum.

Saturday April 29th: To Zermatt. Via Glacier Express, a fabulous trip. Visit Zermatt and get some rest.

Sunday April 30th: Zermatt. Buffet breakfast at hotel. Rail excursion to the Gornergrat, it's fabulous. It's also a full day. Overnight in Zermatt.

Monday May 1st: Zermatt to Bovenza, Italy. Buffet breakfast at hotel before departure. Rail travel from Zermatt to Tasch to rejoin your motor coach. Depart Tasch and drive to Bovenza on Lake Maggiore. Further south in Milan, on April 28th of 1945, Benito Mussolini was shot and killed after he was caught by Italian Partisans as he was attempting to flee Italy.

Overnight stay in Bovenza.

Tuesday May 2nd: Depart Bovenza to Milan and depart for home. Full breakfast before departing hotel.

A Final Note:

I am sorry for the incorrect figures for the tour in the last issue of the Bulletin.

Museum Foundation Board Approves Project

The Board of Directors of the Armed Forces Museum Foundation has approved a project to sell personalized bricks to be placed in the courtyard of the museum complex, or around the various unit monuments along Memorial Walk to the north of the main building. Revenues from the sale of bricks will be used for site development around the building and the monuments, and in the courtyard.

Bricks will be available in sizes of 4"x4" or 8"x8." Also available will be signature stones of light gray granite in sizes 12"x12" and 24"x24."

Units, members who served with the units or their family members represented by the monuments along with the Memorial walk are encouraged to purchase the bricks or stones to be arranged around their monument.

4 x 4 personalized brick - \$50.00

8 x 8 personalized brick - \$100.00

12 x 12 signature stone - \$250.00

24 x 24 signature stone - \$1,000.00

Orders can be taken now. Mail information and check to:

Armed Forces Museum

Bldg. 350, Camp Shelby, Mississippi 39407-5500

Some of the friends of Nat Green might be interested in putting a Memorial Stone at Camp Shelby for him as he lost his life leaving Camp Shelby after the Houston Reunion. It would be an honor to him.

Liberating the City of Light

By Ernie Pyle

PARIS, August 28, 1944 — I had thought that for me there could never again be any elation in war. But I had reckoned without the liberation of Paris - I had reckoned without remembering that I might be a part of this richly historic day.

We are in Paris - on the first day - one of the great days of all time. This is being written, as other correspondents are writing their pieces, under an emotional tension, a pent-up semi-delirium.

Our approach to Paris was hectic. We had waited for three days in a nearby town while hourly our reports on what was going on in Paris changed and contradicted themselves. Of a morning it would look as though we were about to break through the German ring around Paris and come to the aid of the brave French Forces of the Interior who were holding parts of the city. By afternoon it would seem the enemy had reinforced until another Stalingrad was developing. We could not bear to think of the destruction of Paris, and yet at times it seemed desperately inevitable.

That was the situation this morning when we left Rambouillet and decided to feel our way timidly toward the very outskirts of Paris. And then, when we were within about eight miles, rumors began to circulate that the French 2nd Armored Division was in the city. We argued for half an hour at a crossroads with a French captain who was holding us up, and finally he freed us and waved us on.

For fifteen minutes we drove through a flat garden-like country under a magnificent bright sun and amidst greenery, with distant banks of smoke pillar-ing the horizon ahead and to our left. And then we came gradually into the suburbs, and soon into Paris itself and a pandemonium of surely the greatest mass joy that has ever happened.

The streets were lined as by Fourth of July parade crowds at home, only this crowd was almost hysterical. The streets of Paris are very wide, and they were packed on each side. The women were all brightly dressed in white or red blouses and colorful peasant skirts, with flowers in their hair and big flashy earrings. Everybody was throwing flowers, and even serpentine.

As our jeep eased through the crowds, thousands of people crowded up, leaving only a narrow corridor, and frantic men, women and children grabbed us and kissed us and shook our hands and beat on our shoulders and slapped our backs and shouted their joy as we passed.

I was in a jeep with Henry Gorrell of the United Press, Capt. Carl Pergler of Washington, D.C., and Corp. Alexander Belon of Amherst, Massachusetts. We all got kissed until we were literally red in face, and I must say we enjoyed it.

Once when the jeep was simply swamped in human traffic and had to stop, we were swarmed over and hugged and kissed and torn at. Everybody, even beautiful girls, insisted on kissing you on both cheeks. Somehow I got started kissing babies that were held up by their parents, and for a while I looked like a baby-kissing politician going down the street. The fact that I hadn't shaved for days, and was gray-bearded as well as bald-headed, made no difference. Once when we came to a stop, some Frenchman told us there were still snipers shooting, so we put our steel helmets back on.

The people certainly looked well fed and well dressed. The streets were lined with green trees and modern buildings. All the stores were closed in holiday. Bicycles were so thick I have an idea there have been plenty of accidents today, with tanks and jeeps overrunning the populace.

We entered Paris via Rue Aristide Briand and Rue d'Orléans. We were slightly apprehensive, but decided it was all right to keep going as long as there were crowds. But finally we were stymied by the people in the streets, and then above the din we heard some not-too-distant explosions--the Germans trying to destroy bridges across the Seine. And then the rattling of machine guns up the street, and that old battlefield whine of high-velocity shells just overhead. Some of us veterans ducked, but the Parisians just laughed and continued to carry on.

There came running over to our jeep a tall, thin, happy woman in a light brown dress, who spoke perfect American.

She was Mrs. Helen Cardon, who lived in Paris for twenty-one years and has not been home to America since 1935. Her husband is an officer in French Army headquarters and home now after two and a half years as a German prisoner. He was with her, in civilian clothes.

Mrs. Cardon has a sister, Mrs. George Swikart, of New York, and I can say here to her relatives in America that she is well and happy. Incidentally, her two children, Edgar and Peter, are the only two American children, she says, who have been in Paris throughout the entire war.

We entered Paris from due south and the Germans were still battling in the heart of the city along the Seine when we arrived, but they were doomed. There was a full French armored division in the city, plus American troops entering constantly.

The farthest we got in our first hour in Paris was near the Senate building, where some Germans were holed up and firing desperately. So we took a hotel room nearby and decided to write while the others fought. By the time you read this I'm sure Paris will once again be free for Frenchmen, and I'll be out all over town getting my bald head kissed. Of all the days of national joy I've ever witnessed this is the biggest.

"We conversed in the language of so many innocent victims of the Nazi death camps."

Submitted by: **Murry Schulman**

Company H, 273rd Infantry Regiment

21922 Cypress Drive, Boca Raton, Florida 33433

BEING ALL OF nineteen years old, I did not at the time grasp the significance of our eventful link-up with Soviet troops in the spring of 1945. I was then a Private First Class with the Sixty-ninth Infantry Division. My hometown was Brooklyn, New York.

In the early morning hours of April 25, 1945, four of us went out on patrol in a jeep with a mounted machine gun. My immediate superior was a **Lt. Jackson**. I think, but am not totally sure, that in the jeep with me was **Claude Moore** of Tennessee. **Claude** is now deceased. There was also **Edwin Jeary** of Michigan. I haven't seen or heard from him since we went to the Soviet Union together in 1955. I can't even guess who the fourth person was.

Well, we knew about the order not to go beyond the five-mile patrol limit. But you've got to remember that we were just kids looking for adventure.

I don't remember which officer actually sent us out that morning—we were just on patrol. And I don't remember what town we started from. As we drove along, we met many German refugees who were heading in our direction. None of us spoke German. Being of the Jewish faith, though, I spoke Yiddish - the Germans called it platt deutsch. So I could get the general idea of what the refugees were telling us. A few of them said that the Russians were near Torgau on the other side of the Elbe.

Well, we finally landed in Torgau. From what I recollect, the town was void of people - especially women - when we got there. On the east bank of the Elbe, the Russians were shooting their guns up in the air and making a great deal of noise.

Sometime between eight and nine o'clock in the morning, the four of us met Soviet soldiers in Torgau. None of the Russians spoke English, so I found a Soviet lieutenant who was of the Jewish faith. We spoke to one another in Yiddish. It's very possible that other American soldiers met Russians earlier than we did. There were many patrols out that day. But if our link-up was actually the first contact between the Western and Eastern Fronts, then it's especially significant that we conversed in the language of so many innocent victims of the Nazi death camps.

When we met the Russians that morning, there were no reporters, no pictures taken. The celebrations took place in the town later that day. By that time, the four of us had already left. After spending what I think was about an hour with the Russians, we returned to our base.

"We 'struck it rich'"

Submitted by: **Murry Schulman**

THE NAMES OF the American Elbe veterans who went to Russia in 1955? Well, in addition to myself, there was **Elijah Sams** from North Carolina and **Charles Forrester** from South Carolina. Then there was **Fred Johnston** from Pennsylvania, **Bob Haag** from Indiana, **Byron Shiver** from Florida, **Claude Moore** from Tennessee, **Edwin Jeary** from Michigan, and **Joe Polowsky** from Chicago. All in all, there were nine in our group.

In the early part of 1955, **Joe Polowsky** sent an invite to the Russians to come to Washington to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Elbe link-up with American vets. The Russians accepted Joe's invite. Upon making application to come to the United States, however, they found out that they had to be fingerprinted. Now, to my understanding, in Russia only criminals are fingerprinted. They refused to be fingerprinted. So they, in turn, extended an invite to **Joe** to come with American Elbe vets to take part in the Victory Day celebrations in Moscow.

In late April of 1955, a group of about twelve of us met in Washington to celebrate the tenth anniversary together. While we were there, we were invited to the Soviet Embassy for cocktails. Ambassador Zarubin, as well as the press, were in attendance at this affair. The Russians offered to pay for the whole trip - ten days in the Soviet Union. But this didn't sit right with the group of Americans. We wanted some American sponsor to foot at least half the expense. At that time, though, nobody came forward.

Most of us didn't have much money at the time. Some of the boys had even had to hitchhike to Washington for the small tenth anniversary celebration we had there on April 25th. **Joe Polowsky** came up with about a third of the money the group needed to get to Paris - the Soviets would pick us up there.

Well, the group of nine of us got as far as Idlewild Airport in New York. This was on May 3rd. We had our passports and visas-but not enough money. We appeared at a televised news conference right there at the airport. Joe said, "God willing, we will raise the \$5,580 and go to our mission and accomplish it and present the American point of view to the Soviet people and make a contribution to peace."

As there was no one to pay for the American part of the trip, though, we returned to my home. There we decided we could not accept the Soviet offer - for obvious reasons. We sat around talking that evening. Everybody was going to go home the next day because there was no money in sight.

Then at about twelve midnight, I received a telephone call from Mr. Bernard Barb, a reporter with the Long Island Press. After I explained our situation to

(Continued on Page 49)

'WE STRUCK IT RICH'

(Continued from Page 48)

him, he called Mr. Walt Framer, the producer of the TV game show "Strike It Rich." Mr. Bart then called me back, and said we had an invite to appear on "Strike It Rich" the next morning.

Warren Hull was the host of the show. To "strike it rich," you had to answer four questions correctly. Mr. Hull called on four of us, including myself.

Well, we "struck it rich." We answered the questions correctly, won five hundred dollars, and told the TV audience of our plight. I wanted to get the American public to foot at least half the bill. When I said this over television, the good American people came through. Phone calls came in so very fast from all over the forty-eight states. Mr. Framer told the audience that the Colgate Palmolive Peet Company the sponsor of the show - would underwrite the amount of money needed for the purchase of nine tickets round trip to Paris and back. When he said that, I did all in my power to hold back the tears in my eyes, knowing all we had gone through to make this trip. We could now accept the Soviet invite.

I personally accepted, I guess, for fully selfish reasons. As you recall, at that time we all were in the midst of a so-called "Cold War" with the Soviet Union. Nobody went there. None of them came here. My wife Helene was against my going on the trip. My parents were against it. My in-laws were against it. But I went anyway. I felt this was a golden opportunity - I went. While I was away, Helene received many derogatory phone calls.

We arrived in Moscow at midnight on May 9th. While we were in Russia, the main subject we discussed at meetings with our hosts was peace between both countries - no more wars. We took a tour of Moscow, saw Lenin's and Stalin's tomb, and were hosted at a special reception in our honor at the American Embassy. Some of the fellows went on a tour of a collective farm while Fred Johnston, Claude Moore, and I visited a synagogue. The nine of us also did some shopping in the GUM department store on Red Square, and attended a special banquet in our honor at the Central House of the Red Army. There, we met the Soviet soldier who had been the first to raise the red flag over the Reichstag.

During our stay in Russia, the Soviet vets graciously accepted us, and showed us a great time. All of us reaffirmed our pledge made back on the Elbe in 1945 for peaceful co-existence and dignity between our two great nations.

Three years later, in 1958, a group of Soviet vets came to the US for the thirteenth anniversary of the link-up. They visited my home in New York for a heavy lunch. The following year, I joined **Joe Polowsky**, **Charles Forrester**, and some other American vets on a return trip to the Soviet Union to celebrate the fourteenth anniversary. This time, we paid our own way.

Being of the Jewish faith, having liberated a concentration camp and seeing what the Nazis had done not only to my people but also to people of many faiths, I had sworn when I came home from the war that I would never return to Germany.

Yet I did in 1985.

Early that year, there was talk of a fortieth anniversary reunion at Torgau on the Elbe. I discussed this with Helene. We felt I should attend. And so both of us went for five days, then returned home.

As I sit and write this, I can only say that I thank God that I went and participated in this great event. I saw not only Americans I hadn't seen for thirty-five years, but also some of the Soviet vets I met back in 1955. I don't believe I can fully express and put into words my feelings on returning to that place where I had once been, where the memorable meeting in 1945 had split Nazi Germany in half and hastened the end of a very costly war for everyone.

Even now, I can't express my feelings on returning forty years later to Germany and being welcomed as a hero by literally thousands of cheering German school-children. Yes, thank God I went.

Pfc. Murry Schulman was a member of Major Fred Craig's patrol, which linked up with Soviet troops at Clanzschwitz on the afternoon of April 25, 1945.

Joe Polowsky

Joseph Polowsky was a private when the American and Soviet soldiers promised each other to do anything they could to prevent mankind from another war. He was a member of the **Kotzebue** patrol.

After the war, he became a cab driver and lived in Chicago. He took this promise so seriously that he dedicated the rest of his life - and even his death - to the understanding of the American and Soviet people and to the friendship between the Elbe veterans of the two countries. Every April 25th, he stood at the Michigan Avenue bridge over the Chicago River and passed out leaflets urging nuclear disarmament.

In 1983, Polowsky died of cancer and was buried, at his request, near the muddy river where he and his buddies paddled into history. Nearer the river, there is a large stone monument with inscriptions commemorating the union at the Elbe.

Major Gen. Alexei Gorlinsky came from Moscow for the funeral service at the monument in which he praised Joe Polowsky, the Chicago cab driver, as "a simple man who devoted his life to the spirit of the Elbe, by working for peace between our two countries." Then three Americans and three Soviet servicemen marched to the monument to lay wreaths in Polowsky's memory, a simple ceremony that had narrowly skirted an incident.

There, on their side of the Iron Curtain, the Russians seemed for a time to be insisting that they lay the first wreath. Then a U.S. diplomat suggested that both wreaths could be laid at the same time, and this was done. A minor chill in a long, long cold war.



Eleven of the 12 American Veterans headed for the Elbe on April 25, 1995 in Washington, DC: Left to right are Joseph Polowsky, Colonel George Caple who pointed out the sights in Washington to them, Byron Shivers, Claude Moore, Murry Schulman, Robert Haag, Frederick Johnston, Charles Forrester, John Adams, Robert Legal, Edwin Jeary and Elijah Sams.

Signing Up . . . Paratrooper Style

**Howard Melvin, U.S. 101st Airborne Division
505th Parachute Infantry Regiment**

I was called up on the draft, and I went through the draft, and they lined us up in groups of twelve. The guy in front of me was a little, puny old guy and we went through. When we got to the end, they said to me, "You didn't make it. You're not in the army." And the guy in front of me, the puny little guy, made it and, right away, I knew what happened - they had gotten our papers confused. You know how they stack the papers. . . .

Well, I was so embarrassed because here I am in perfect physical health, and the puny little guy is in. So the next day I went down to 49 Whitehall Street, New York City, and said, "I want to join." I said, "I really want the paratroopers." And they said, "Well, sit down in that hall there and the doctor will take care of you because you've got to get a special examination."

So I waited there for about two hours and finally I got up enough nerve to ask the sergeant, "Hey, when is the doctor gonna come out?" He said, "Oh, go knock on the door." So I knocked on the door and here's a guy with a cigar in his mouth, his feet on the desk, and he says, "What do you want?" And I said, "Well, I'm supposed to get a special examination to join the paratroopers." He says, "Oh, that's fine. Jump up on the desk. I jumped on the desk. He says, "Jump off the desk." I jumped off the desk. He says, "Okay. You're ready!"

Miss America 2000 Campaigns to Help Homeless Veterans

Veterans of the 69th Infantry Division should be pleased to learn that Heather French, who won the Miss America title for the year 2000, is campaigning to help homeless veterans.

On October 21st, 1999 she held a news conference on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., to kick off her campaign. She said it was "the one place that I thought I could make the biggest impact."

The Capitol Hill news conference was attended by members of the Kentucky congressional delegation (her home state) including Senator Mitch McConnell, Sen. Jim Bunning and several members of the House, plus Sen. Trent Lott, Senate majority leader.

Miss French told how her father, a disabled Vietnam War Veteran, was the reason she cares about veteran's issues. She will carry the aid-to-homeless-veterans message throughout the country during 2000.

Miss French said she remembers visiting her father at a veterans administration hospital, where he was being treated for wounds received in Vietnam.

"It was through his eyes and being a daughter of a veteran that I was opened to a wider reality," she said. "Every time I see a homeless veteran, I see my dad's face. I know how devastating the Vietnam war was on my father. I can only imagine how much more devastating it is for veterans who have no one to turn to."

Questions & Answers About the Holocaust

When speaking about the "Holocaust," what time period are we referring to?

The "Holocaust" refers to the period from January 30, 1933, when Hitler became Chancellor of Germany, to May 8, 1945 (V-E Day), the end of the war in Europe.

How many Jews were murdered during the Holocaust?

While it is impossible to ascertain the exact number of Jewish victims, statistics indicate that the total was over 5,860,000. Six million is the round figure accepted by most authorities.

How many non-Jewish civilians were murdered during World War II?

While it is impossible to ascertain the exact number, the recognized figure is approximately 5,000,000. Among the groups which the Nazis and their collaborators murdered and persecuted were: Gypsies, Serbs, Polish intelligentsia, resistance fighters from all the nations, German opponents of Nazism, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, habitual criminals, and the "anti-social," e.g. beggars, vagrants, and hawkers.

Which Jewish communities suffered losses during the Holocaust?

Every Jewish community in occupied Europe suffered losses during the Holocaust. The Jewish communities in North Africa were persecuted, but were not subjected to the same large-scale deportations or mass murder. Some individuals, however, were deported to German death camps, where they perished.

What is a death camp? How many were there? Where were they located?

A death (or mass murder) camp is a concentration camp with special apparatus specifically designed for systematic murder. Six such camps existed: Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec, Chelmno, Majdanek, Sobibor, Treblinka. All were located in Poland.

What does the term "Final Solution" mean and what is its origin?

The term "Final Solution" (Endlösung) refers to Germany's plan to murder all the Jews of Europe. The term was used at the Wannsee Conference (Berlin; January 20, 1942) where German officials discussed its implementation.

When did the "Final Solution" actually begin?

While thousands of Jews were murdered by the Nazis or died as a direct result of discriminatory measures instituted against Jews during the initial years of the Third Reich, the systematic murder of Jews did not begin until the German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941.

How did the Germans define who was Jewish?

On November 14, 1935, the Nazis issued the following definition of a Jew: Anyone with three Jewish grandparents; someone with two Jewish grandparents who belonged to the Jewish community on September

15, 1935, or joined thereafter; was married to a Jew or Jewess on September 15, 1935, or married one thereafter; was the offspring of a marriage or extramarital liaison with a Jew on or after September 15, 1935.

How did the Germans treat those who had some Jewish blood but were not classified as Jews?

Those who were not classified as Jews but who had some Jewish blood were categorized as Mischlinge (hybrids) and were divided into two groups:

Mischlinge of the first degree - those with two Jewish grandparents;

Mischlinge of the second degree - those with one Jewish grandparent.

The Mischlinge were officially excluded from membership in the Nazi Party and all Party organizations (e.g. SA, SS, etc.). Although they were drafted into the German Army, they could not attain the rank of officers. They were also barred from the civil service and from certain professions. (Individual Mischlinge were, however, granted exemptions under certain circumstances.) Nazi officials considered plans to sterilize Mischlinge, but this was never done. During World War II, first-degree Mischlinge, incarcerated in concentration camps, were deported to death camps.

What were the first measures taken by the Nazis against the Jews?

The first measures against the Jews included:

April 1, 1933: A boycott of Jewish shops and businesses by the Nazis.

April 7, 1933: The law for the Re-establishment of the Civil Service expelled all non-Aryans (defined on April 11, 1933 as anyone with a Jewish parent or grandparent) from the civil service. Initially, exceptions were made for those working since August 1914; German veterans of World War I; and, those who had lost a father or son fighting for Germany or her allies in World War I.

April 7, 1933: The law regarding admission to the legal profession prohibited the admission of lawyers of non-Aryan descent to the Bar. It also denied non-Aryan members of the Bar the right to practice law. (Exceptions were made in the cases noted above in the law regarding the civil service.) Similar laws were passed regarding Jewish law assessors, jurors, and commercial judges.

April 22, 1933: The decree regarding physicians' services with the national health plan denied reimbursement of expenses to those patients who consulted non-Aryan doctors. Jewish doctors who were war veterans or had suffered from the war were excluded.

April 25, 1933: The law against the overcrowding of German schools restricted Jewish enrollment in German high schools to 1.5% of the student body. In communities where they constituted more than 5% of the population, Jews were allowed to constitute up to 5% of the student body. Initially, exceptions were made in the case of children of Jewish war veterans, who were not considered part of the quota. In the

(Continued on Page 52)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

(Continued from Page 51)

framework of this law, a Jewish student was a child with two non-Aryan parents.

Did the Nazis plan to murder the Jews from the beginning of their regime?

While Hitler made several references to killing Jews, both in his early writings (*Mein Kampf*) and in various speeches during the 1930s, it is fairly certain that the Nazis had no operative plan for the systematic annihilation of the Jews before 1941. The decision on the systematic murder of the Jews was apparently made in the late winter or the early spring of 1941 in conjunction with the decision to invade the Soviet Union.

When was the first concentration camp established and who were the first inmates?

The first concentration camp, Dachau, opened on March 22, 1933. The camp's first inmates were primarily political prisoners (e.g. Communists or Social Democrats); habitual criminals; homosexuals; Jehovah's Witnesses; and "anti-socials" (beggars, vagrants, hawkers). Others considered problematic by the Nazis (e.g. Jewish writers and journalists, lawyers, unpopular industrialists, and political officials) were also included.

Which groups of people in Germany were considered enemies of the state by the Nazis and were, therefore, persecuted?

The following groups of individuals were considered enemies of the Third Reich and were, therefore, persecuted by the Nazi authorities: Jews, Gypsies, Social Democrats, other opposing politicians, opponents of Nazism, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, habitual criminals, and "anti-socials" (e.g. beggars, vagrants, hawkers), and the mentally ill. Any individual who was considered a threat to the Nazis was in danger of being persecuted.

What was the difference between the persecution of the Jews and the persecution of other groups classified by the Nazis as enemies of the Third Reich?

The Jews were the only group singled out for total systematic annihilation by the Nazis. To escape the death sentence imposed by the Nazis, the Jews could only leave Nazi-controlled Europe. Every single Jew was to be killed according to the Nazis' plan. In the case of other criminals or enemies of the Third Reich, their families were usually not held accountable. Thus, if a person were executed or sent to a concentration camp, it did not mean that each member of his family would meet the same fate. Moreover, in most situations the Nazis' enemies were classified as such because of their actions or political affiliation (actions and/or opinions which could be revised). In the case of the Jews, it was because of their racial origin, which could never be changed.

Why were the Jews singled out for extermination?

The explanation of the Nazis' implacable hatred of the Jew rests on their distorted world view which saw history as a racial struggle. They considered the Jews

a race whose goal was world domination and who, therefore, were an obstruction to Aryan dominance. They believed that all of history was a fight between races which should culminate in the triumph of the superior Aryan race. Therefore, they considered it their duty to eliminate the Jews, whom they regarded as a threat. Moreover, in their eyes, the Jews' racial origin made them habitual criminals who could never be rehabilitated and were, therefore, hopelessly corrupt and inferior.

There is no doubt that other factors contributed toward Nazi hatred of the Jews and their distorted image of the Jewish people. These included the centuries-old tradition of Christian antisemitism which propagated a negative stereotype of the Jew as a Christ-killer, agent of the devil, and practitioner of witchcraft. Also significant was the political antisemitism of the latter half of the nineteenth and early part of the twentieth centuries, which singled out the Jew as a threat to the established order of society. These combined to point to the Jew as a target for persecution and ultimate destruction by the Nazis.

What did people in Germany know about the persecution of Jews and other enemies of Nazism?

Certain initial aspects of Nazi persecution of Jews and other opponents were common knowledge in Germany. Thus, for example, everyone knew about the Boycott of April 1, 1933, the Laws of April, and the Nuremberg Laws, because they were fully publicized. Moreover, offenders were often publicly punished and shamed. The same holds true for subsequent anti-Jewish measures. Kristallnacht (The Night of the Broken Glass) was a public pogrom, carried out in full view of the entire population. While information on the concentration camps was not publicized, a great deal of information was available to the German public, and the treatment of the inmates was generally known, although exact details were not easily obtained.

As for the implementation of the "Final Solution" and the murder of other undesirable elements, the situation was different. The Nazis attempted to keep the murders a secret and, therefore, took precautionary measures to ensure that they would not be publicized. Their efforts, however, were only partially successful. Thus, for example, public protests by various clergymen led to the halt of their euthanasia program in August of 1941. These protests were obviously the result of the fact that many persons were aware that the Nazis were killing the mentally ill in special institutions.

As far as the Jews were concerned, it was common knowledge in Germany that they had disappeared after having been sent to the East. It was not exactly clear to large segments of the German population what had happened to them. On the other hand, there were thousands upon thousands of Germans who participated in and/or witnessed the implementation of the "Final Solution" either as members of the SS, the

(Continued on Page 53)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

(Continued from Page 52)

Einsatzgruppen, death camp or concentration camp guards, police in occupied Europe, or with the Wehrmacht.

Did all Germans support Hitler's plan for the persecution of the Jews?

Although the entire German population was not in agreement with Hitler's persecution of the Jews, there is no evidence of any large scale protest regarding their treatment. There were Germans who defied the April 1, 1933 boycott and purposely bought in Jewish stores, and there were those who aided Jews to escape and to hide, but their number was very small. Even some of those who opposed Hitler were in agreement with his anti-Jewish policies. Among the clergy, Dompropst Bernhard Lichtenberg of Berlin publicly prayed for the Jews daily and was, therefore, sent to a concentration camp by the Nazis. Other priests were deported for their failure to cooperate with Nazi antisemitic policies, but the majority of the clergy complied with the directives against German Jewry and did not openly protest.

Did the people of occupied Europe know about Nazi plans for the Jews? What was their attitude? Did they cooperate with the Nazis against the Jews?

The attitude of the local population vis-a-vis the persecution and destruction of the Jews varied from zealous collaboration with the Nazis to active assistance to Jews. Thus, it is difficult to make generalizations. The situation also varied from country to country. In Eastern Europe and especially in Poland, Russia, and the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania), there was much more knowledge of the "Final Solution" because it was implemented in those areas. Elsewhere, the local population had less information on the details of the "Final Solution."

In every country they occupied, with the exception of Denmark and Bulgaria, the Nazis found many locals who were willing to cooperate fully in the murder of the Jews. This was particularly true in Eastern Europe, where there was a long standing tradition of virulent antisemitism, and where various national groups, which had been under Soviet domination (Latvians, Lithuanians, and Ukrainians), fostered hopes that the Germans would restore their independence. In several countries in Europe, there were local fascist movements which allied themselves with the Nazis and participated in anti-Jewish actions; for example, the Iron Guard in Romania and the Arrow Guard in Slovakia. On the other hand, in every country in Europe, there were courageous individuals who risked their lives to save Jews. In several countries, there were groups which aided Jews, e.g. Joop Westerweel's group in the Netherlands, Zegota in Poland, and the Assisi underground in Italy.

Did the Allies and the people in the Free World know about the events going on in Europe?

The various steps taken by the Nazis prior to the "Final Solution" were all taken publicly and were, therefore, reported in the press. Foreign correspondents commented on all the major anti-Jewish actions taken by the Nazis in Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia prior to World War II. Once the war began, obtaining information became more difficult, but reports, nonetheless, were published regarding the fate of the Jews. Thus, although the Nazis did not publicize the "Final Solution," less than one year after the systematic murder of the Jews was initiated, details began to filter out to the West. The first report which spoke of a plan for the mass murder of Jews was smuggled out of Poland by the Bund (a Jewish socialist political organization) and reached England in the spring of 1942. The details of this report reached the Allies from Vatican sources as well as from informants in Switzerland and the Polish underground. (Jan Karski, an emissary of the Polish underground, personally met with Franklin Roosevelt and British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden). Eventually, the American Government confirmed the reports to Jewish leaders in late November 1942. They were publicized immediately thereafter. While the details were neither complete nor wholly accurate, the Allies were aware of most of what the Germans had done to the Jews at a relatively early date.

What was the response of the Allies to the persecution of the Jews? Could they have done anything to help?

The response of the Allies to the persecution and destruction of European Jewry was inadequate. Only in January 1944 was an agency, the War Refugee Board, established for the express purpose of saving the victims of Nazi persecution. Prior to that date, little action was taken. On December 17, 1942, the Allies issued a condemnation of Nazi atrocities against the Jews, but this was the only such declaration made prior to 1944.

Moreover, no attempt was made to call upon the local population in Europe to refrain from assisting the Nazis in their systematic murder of the Jews. Even following the establishment of the War Refugee Board and the initiation of various rescue efforts, the Allies refused to bomb the death camp of Auschwitz and/or the railway lines leading to that camp, despite the fact that Allied bombers were at that time engaged in bombing factories very close to the camp and were well aware of its existence and function.

Other practical measures which were not taken concerned the refugee problem. Tens of thousands of Jews sought to enter the United States, but they were barred from doing so by the stringent American immigration policy. Even the relatively small quotas of visas which existed were often not filled, although the number of applicants was usually many times the number of available places. Conferences held in Evian, France (1938) and Bermuda (1943) to solve the refugee

(Continued on Page 54)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

(Continued from Page 53)

problem did not contribute to a solution. At the former, the countries invited by the United States and Great Britain were told that no country would be asked to change its immigration laws. Moreover, the British agreed to participate only if Palestine were not considered. At Bermuda, the delegates did not deal with the fate of those still in Nazi hands, but rather with those who had already escaped to neutral lands. Practical measures which could have aided in the rescue of Jews included the following:

- Permission for temporary admission of refugees
- Relaxation of stringent entry requirements
- Frequent and unequivocal warnings to Germany and local populations all over Europe that those participating in the annihilation of Jews would be held strictly accountable
- Bombing the death camp at Auschwitz

Were Jews in the Free World aware of the persecution and destruction of European Jewry and, if so, what was their response?

The news of the persecution and destruction of European Jewry must be divided into two periods. The measures taken by the Nazis prior to the "Final Solution" were all taken publicly and were, therefore, in all the newspapers. Foreign correspondents reported on all major anti-Jewish actions taken by the Nazis in Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia prior to World War II. Once the war began, obtaining information became more difficult, but, nonetheless, reports were published regarding the fate of the Jews.

The "Final Solution" was not openly publicized by the Nazis, and thus it took longer for information to reach the "Free World." Nevertheless, by December 1942, news of the mass murders and the plan to annihilate European Jewry was publicized in the Jewish press.

The response of the Jews in the "Free World" must also be divided into two periods, before and after the publication of information on the "Final Solution." Efforts during the early years of the Nazi regime concentrated on facilitating emigration from Germany (although there were those who initially opposed emigration as a solution) and combatting German antisemitism. Unfortunately, the views on how to best achieve these goals differed and effective action was often hampered by the lack of internal unity. Moreover, very few Jewish leaders actually realized the scope of the danger. Following the publication of the news of the "Final Solution," attempts were made to launch rescue attempts via neutral states and to send aid to Jews under Nazi rule. These attempts, which were far from adequate, were further hampered by the lack of assistance and obstruction from government channels. Additional attempts to achieve internal unity during this period failed.

Did the Jews in Europe realize what was going to happen to them?

Regarding the knowledge of the "Final Solution" by its potential victims, several key points must be kept in mind. First of all, the Nazis did not publicize the "Final Solution," nor did they ever openly speak about it. Every attempt was made to fool the victims and, thereby, prevent or minimize resistance. Thus, deportees were always told that they were going to be "resettled." They were led to believe that conditions "in the East" (where they were being sent) would be better than those in ghettos. Following arrival in certain concentration camps, the inmates were forced to write home about the wonderful conditions in their new place of residence. The Germans made every effort to ensure secrecy. In addition, the notion that human beings - let alone the civilized Germans - could build camps with special apparatus for mass murder seemed unbelievable in those days. Since German troops liberated the Jews from the Czar in World War I, Germans were regarded by many Jews as a liberal, civilized people. Escapees who did return to the ghetto frequently encountered disbelief when they related their experiences. Even Jews who had heard of the camps had difficulty believing reports of what the Germans were doing there. Inasmuch as each of the Jewish communities in Europe was almost completely isolated, there was a limited number of places with available information. Thus, there is no doubt that many European Jews were not aware of the "Final Solution," a fact that has been corroborated by German documents and the testimonies of survivors.

How many Jews were able to escape from Europe prior to the Holocaust?

It is difficult to arrive at an exact figure for the number of Jews who were able to escape from Europe prior to World War II, since the available statistics are incomplete. From 1933-1939, 355,278 German and Austrian Jews left their homes. (Some immigrated to countries later overrun by the Nazis.) In the same period, 80,860 Polish Jews immigrated to Palestine and 51,747 European Jews arrived in Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. During the years 1938-1939, approximately 35,000 emigrated from Bohemia and Moravia (Czechoslovakia). Shanghai, the only place in the world for which one did not need an entry visa, received approximately 20,000 European Jews (mostly of German origin) who fled their homelands. Immigration figures for countries of refuge during this period are not available. In addition, many countries did not provide a breakdown of immigration statistics according to ethnic groups. It is impossible, therefore, to ascertain.

Did the Jews try to fight against the Nazis? To what extent were such efforts successful?

Despite the difficult conditions to which Jews were subjected in Nazi-occupied Europe, many engaged in armed resistance against the Nazis. This resistance

(Continued on Page 55)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

(Continued from Page 54)

can be divided into three basic types of armed activities: ghetto revolts, resistance in concentration and death camps, and partisan warfare.

The Warsaw Ghetto revolt, which lasted for about five weeks beginning on April 19, 1943, is probably the best-known example of armed Jewish resistance, but there were many ghetto revolts in which Jews fought against the Nazis.

Despite the terrible conditions in the death, concentration, and labor camps, Jewish inmates fought against the Nazis at the following sites: Treblinka (August 2, 1943); Babi Yar (September 29, 1943); Sobibor (October 14, 1943); Janowska (November 19, 1943); and Auschwitz (October 7, 1944).

Jewish partisan units were active in many areas, including Baranovichi, Minsk, Naliboki forest, and Vilna. While the sum total of armed resistance efforts by Jews was not militarily overwhelming and did not play a significant role in the defeat of Nazi Germany, these acts of resistance did lead to the rescue of an undetermined number of Jews, Nazi casualties, and untold damage to German property and self-esteem.

Did international organizations, such as the Red Cross, aid victims of Nazi persecution?

During the course of World War II, the International Red Cross (IRC) did very little to aid the Jewish victims of Nazi persecution. Its activities can basically be divided into three periods:

1. September, 1939 - June 22, 1941: The IRC confined its activities to sending food packages to those in distress in Nazi-occupied Europe. Packages were distributed in accordance with the directives of the German Red Cross. Throughout this time, the IRC complied with the German contention that those in ghettos and camps constituted a threat to the security of the Reich and, therefore, were not allowed to receive aid from the IRC.

2. June 22, 1941 - Summer 1944: Despite numerous requests by Jewish organizations, the IRC refused to publicly protest the mass annihilation of Jews and non-Jews in the camps, or to intervene on their behalf. It maintained that any public action on behalf of those under Nazi rule would ultimately prove detrimental to their welfare. At the same time, the IRC attempted to send food parcels to those individuals whose addresses it possessed.

3. Summer 1944 - May 1945: Following intervention by such prominent figures as President Franklin Roosevelt and the King of Sweden, the IRC appealed to Miklós Horthy, Regent of Hungary, to stop the deportation of Hungarian Jews.

The IRC did insist that it be allowed to visit concentration camps, and a delegation did visit the "model ghetto" of Terezin (Theresienstadt). The IRC request

came following the receipt of information about the harsh living conditions in the camp. The IRC requested permission to investigate the situation, but the Germans only agreed to allow the visit nine months after submission of the request. This delay provided time for the Nazis to complete a "beautification" program, designed to fool the delegation into thinking that conditions at Terezin were quite good and that inmates were allowed to live out their lives in relative tranquility.

The visit, which took place on July 23, 1944, was followed by a favorable report on Terezin to the members of the IRC which Jewish organizations protested vigorously, demanding that another delegation visit the camp. Such a visit was not permitted until shortly before the end of the war. In reality, the majority were subsequently deported to Auschwitz where they were murdered.

Was there any opposition to the Nazis within Germany?

Throughout the course of the Third Reich, there were different groups who opposed the Nazi regime and certain Nazi policies. They engaged in resistance at different times and with various methods, aims, and scope.

From the beginning, leftist political groups and a number of disappointed conservatives were in opposition; at a later date, church groups, government officials, students and businessmen also joined. After the tide of the war was reversed, elements within the military played an active role in opposing Hitler. At no point, however, was there a unified resistance movement within Germany.

How many Nazi criminals were there?

We do not know the exact number of Nazi criminals since the available documentation is incomplete. The Nazis themselves destroyed many incriminating documents and there are still many criminals who are unidentified and/or unindicted.

Those who committed war crimes include those individuals who initiated, planned and directed the killing operations, as well as those with whose knowledge, agreement, and passive participation the murder of European Jewry was carried out.

Those who actually implemented the "Final Solution" include the leaders of Nazi Germany, the heads of the Nazi Party, and the Reich Security Main Office. Also included are hundreds of thousands of members of the Gestapo, the SS, the Einsatzgruppen, the police and the armed forces, as well as those bureaucrats who were involved in the persecution and destruction of European Jewry. In addition, there were thousands of individuals throughout occupied Europe who cooperated with the Nazis in killing Jews and other innocent civilians.

Submitted by Nathan Green of Company G, 271st Infantry before his death; Source Unknown

***** 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 **Bulletin Headquarters, Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069 or 183 Pineslope Road, 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.

2000

JANUARY 31st, 2000

Deadline for news material and pictures for:
Bulletin Volume 53, Number 2
January, February, March, April 2000
Bulletin expected mailing date is late April or early May.

* * * * *

MAY 14th thru May 18th, 2000

CALIFORNIA WESTERN CHAPTER
2000 SPRING ROUNDUP
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA
El Prado Inn

1601 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Telephone: 805/966-0807

Room Rates: \$70 Queen, \$75 King, \$80 Two Queens
Please call 30 days prior for reservations and mention the 69th Infantry Division Association.

Program:

Sunday, May 14th: Registration

Monday, May 15th: On your own. See Santa Barbara by car, trolley, or on foot. The motel is located close to the center of downtown Santa Barbara.

Tuesday, May 16th: A bus trip will be available to tour Solvang, an authentic Danish Community, with time to take in the local flavor and to visit the many shops in the area. We will stop at a couple of other local attractions on the way home.

Wednesday, May 17th: A short morning business meeting will leave the afternoon for additional exploration of Santa Barbara. The Memorial Service will be held in the evening followed by a Mexican buffet banquet at Beto's with a terrific night-time view of the Santa Barbara area.

Thursday, May 18th: Continental breakfast and depart at your leisure.

For Further Information Contact:

Al Gwynne
550 Marin Oaks Drive
Novato, California 94949
Telephone: 415/883-4214
E-Mail: ALGIE2@juno.com

* * * * *

MAY 24th thru May 27th, 2000

MIDWEST GROUP SPRING MEETING

MISHICOT, WISCONSIN

Fox Hills Golf Resort and Conference Center
250 West Church Street
Mishicot, Wisconsin 54228

Reservations: Write to the resort or call 920-755-2376 or 800-950-7615. A block of rooms will be held for us until April 24, 2000, so don't delay. Mention the 69th Infantry Division when making reservations.

Rate: \$79.00 plus tax.

Location: North of I-43, East of State Highway 310
North on County Trunk B to Mishicot.

Program:

Wednesday, May 24th: Check-In Time is 4:00 p.m.
Hospitality Room, Dinner at the Resort

Thursday and Friday, May 25th and 26th: Golf,
Sightseeing for Non-Golfers, Dinner to be Arranged.

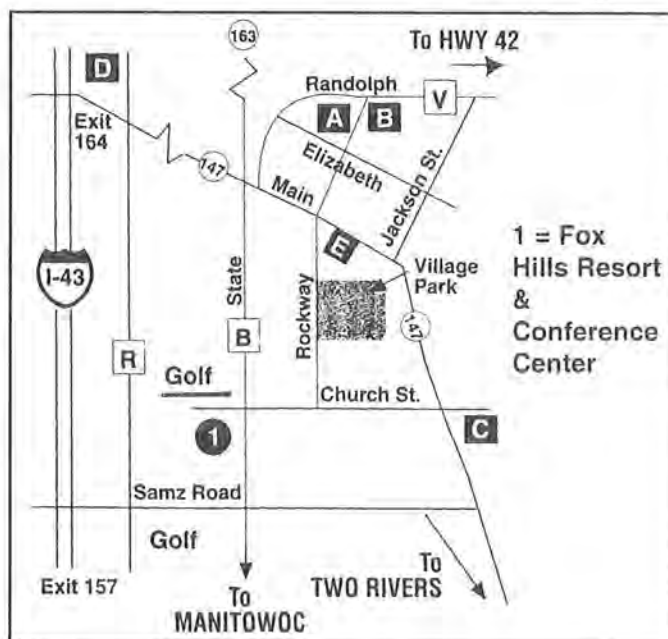
Saturday, May 27th: Check out 11:00 a.m.

For Further Information Contact:

Fran and Zita Enright
7304 West Georgia Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53220-1114

Eugene J. Pierron
2310 Highway D, Belgium, Wisconsin 53004-9754
Telephone: 414/285-3702

(Continued on Page 57)



**August 27th thru September 3rd, 2000
69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
53rd ANNUAL REUNION
Atlanta, Georgia**

SHERATON COLONY SQUARE

Peachtree and 14th Streets, Atlanta, Georgia

(404) 892-6000 • (800) 325-3535

HOSPITALITY ROOM - 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

OUR TOURS WILL INCLUDE:

Antebellum Mansions • Stone Mountain • Centennial Park
Jimmy Carter Library • Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District
• The Underground • Experience the Civil War
and Much, Much, More!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Harold and Ethel Ruck, *Company I, 272nd Infantry Regiment*
622 Melville Avenue, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37412
Telephone: 423/698-3918

Committee Members: Joe and Anne Lipsius, John and Joyce Harvey,
Wendell and Sally Freeman, Jim Brooks, Jim and Dottie White,
Hugh and Dorothy Milstead, Ruth Combs,
Joe and Sybil Conner, William Jackson, Harold and Cynthia Moore

***More Information to Follow in Our Next Bulletin
along with Registration Forms***

**DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR
BULLETIN VOL. 53, NO. 2 - JAN., FEB., MARCH, APRIL
JANUARY 31st, 2000 - *Get Your Material In On Time!***

Fellows, write up those remembrances from World War II and send them in. Someone else will recall the same thing and write to you and write to us, etc., etc. It's a great way to set off a chain reaction of correspondence. And ladies, we haven't heard much from you lately. Get your stories and news in also. The war affected you as well.

We are putting out a request for good cover photos. General photos of war scenes are always very good. We don't like to put too much emphasis on one person, so look in your attics and see what you can find. Who knows, maybe it will end up on the front of the bulletin. Thanks.



"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.

Daniel J. Jones
26 Pheasant Court
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
C - 881st F.A.

John W. MacClaren
1630 California Avenue
White Oak, Pennsylvania
Hq. - 881st F.A.

George M. Winn
P.O. Box 6506
Nalcrest, Florida
A - 272nd

Walter A. Mueller, Sr.
2812 Cumberland Dr.
Valparaiso, Indiana
Hq. - 271st

Evelyn M. Croke
521 Forestway Drive
Buffalo Grove, Illinois
B - 272nd

Anthony Palicki
519 E. 2nd Street
Winona, Minnesota
A - 461st AAA

Henry S. Bashkin
2358 King Place
Washington, DC
C - 880th F.A.

Theodore D. Bailey
P.O. Box 185
Ravena, New York
Divarty

Nathan Heiligman
906 W. 21st Street
Wilmington, Delaware
A - 269th Engineers

Major John G. Polatty
2121 Wedgewood Road
Huntsville, Alabama
C - 272nd

Hugh G. Weller
115 Rosewood Drive
Bardstown, Kentucky
A - 881st F.A.

Frederick J. Seeba
11560 Mountain Laurel Dr.
Roswell, Georgia
Hq. 2 - 272nd

Herman J. Eberle
25602 Kansas Avenue
Sun Lakes, Arizona
Service - 273rd

Clarence Matarozzi
33 W. Chester Avenue
Vineland, New Jersey
Hq. Divarty

Michael Durick
1103 Pilgrim Drive
Sharon, Pennsylvania
M - 272nd

Henry Kaminski
811 East Clay Street
Shamokin, Pennsylvania
D - 273rd

Glen Knepp
RR #1, Box 23
McClure, Pennsylvania
B - 273rd

Frank J. Milnar
207 University Street
Verona, Pennsylvania
Hq. - 881st F.A.

Leroy Fenner
283 Prospect Street
Phillipsburg, New Jersey
F - 272nd

Colonel William P. Brooks
870 Morningside Drive
Fullerton, California
Hq. - 881st F.A.

Paul E. Keesecker
815 Locust Street
Martinsburg, West Virginia
K - 273rd

Alphonse Robichaud
289 Papermill Road
Hampden, Maine
B - 777th T.B.

Arthur Christopher
10 Poplar Lane
Uniontown, Pennsylvania
G - 271st

Sidney Brundage
33 Knolls Road
Wallkill, New York
G - 271st

John House
610 Great Falls Road
Rockville, Maryland
A - 269th Engineers

Emil Szmelowicz
228 Klagg Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey
Unit Unknown

Robert E. O'Brien
P.O. Box 193
Northville, New York
B - 271st

Amos Lassiter
HC 88, Box 335
Pocono Lake, Pennsylvania
F - 273rd

Leslie R. Gordon
95 Nottingham Drive
Watchung, New Jersey
C - 272nd

Lawrence A. Rohm
1541 Stolza Road
Bethel Park, Pennsylvania
HS - 269th Engineers

James Headland
220 Glenda Drive
Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania
D - 272nd

Oren R. Jones
971 Westbury Drive
Mobile, Alabama
Unit Unknown

Edward Dykman
3 Curzon Court
Easton, Maryland
H1 - 273rd

James H. Walker
P.O. Box 547
La Center, Kentucky
A - 272nd

Archie C. Hughes
1395 Cypress Lane
LeMore, California
F - 272nd

William Corpman
1103 4th Street S.W.
Canton, Ohio
B - 269th Engineers

Edward J. Ornett
P.O. Box 151
Trappe, Maryland
A - 461st AAA

William Weigl
2425 W. River Road
Elyria, Ohio
Hq. - 879 F.A.

Joseph B. Fedje
2326 South 200 West
Bountiful, Utah
A - 271st

Dewey Crouse
2852 Union Church Road
Lincolnton, North Carolina
H - 273rd

“Taps” *(continued)*

C. Wayne Libby
P.O. Box 7146
Gilford, New Hampshire
69th Band

Alex Zubrowski
211 Sackett Street
Syracuse, New York
B - 777th T.D.

Lido Dalporto
P.O. Box 163
Smithers, West Virginia
M - 272nd

Henry R. Coble
Route 1, Box 93
Hiwassee, Virginia
Cannon - 273rd

Andrew J. Lucas
28 Prospect Avenue
N. Arlington, New Jersey
Unit Unknown

Harold L. Capps
400 Thompson Street
Hendersonville, North Carolina
B - 272nd

Keith Curtis
5820 N.W. 112th Street
Grimes, Iowa
Div. Hq.

Howard R. Frans
3922 East 63rd Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma
H1 - 273rd

William R. Nystron
P.O. Box 327
Marlborough, Connecticut
H3 - 273rd

Robert E. Gregory
602 Norris Street
St. Marys, Georgia
569th Signal Co.

Sam L. Warren
8341 Highway 715
Wickes, Arkansas
F - 273rd

Thomas M. Carolan
502 Narborough Court
Severna Park, Maryland
K - 271st

Elmer S. Ruelle
1013 24th Street
Two Rivers, Wisconsin
Medic - 272nd

Albert J. Estay
P.O. Box 112
Luling, Louisiana
E - 273rd

Marvin Slichter
144 Main Street
Mohnton, Pennsylvania
B - 369th Medical Bn.

Lucius Thornton
910 Timber Lake Drive
Cumming, Georgia
H3 - 272nd

Frank Kusher
218 Park Hill Drive
Johnstown, Pennsylvania
C - 880th F.A.

Angelo Signorile
1833 Pilgrim Ave.
Bronx, New York
Unit unknown

Robert N. Barry
2025 Bellmore Avenue
Bellmore, New York
Div. Hq.

Earl Kendle
44 Delft Circle
Olmstead Falls, Ohio
Hq. - 272nd

Robert Shaffer
711 38th Street N.W.
Canton, Ohio
C - 272nd

Charles G. Mallia
1937 Shore Parkway
Brooklyn, New York
C - 272nd

Charles W. Swanberg
11058 Park View Avenue
Seattle, Washington
I - 271st

Ralph Samples
654 S. Saddle Street
Gilbert, Arizona
A - 269 Engineers

Ray Wallpe
302 W. George Street
Batesville, Indiana
H2 - 272nd

Edward G. Lapine
20 Academy Street
Farmingdale, New Jersey
H2 - 271st

L. J. Hannibel, Jr.
310 Roselawn Blvd
Lafayette, Louisiana
H3 - 273rd

Gerald N. Ekholm
1108 8th Avenue W.
Mobridge, South Dakota
B - 273rd

Edward S. Kohl
7700 Osceola Poke Road
Davenport, Florida
H2 - 273rd

Johnnie Jones
1310 Cortland Drive
Madison, Tennessee
B - 269th Engineers

William J. Kimmel
908 Long Run Road
Pine Grove, Pennsylvania
Div. Hq.

James Oxley
201 Randolph Avenue
Princeton, West Virginia
D - 461st AAA

Sherman F. Bridges
126 Beverly Drive
Clovis, California
69th Quartermaster

Daniel D. Smothers
6447 Pinehurst Street
Houston, Texas
Div. Hq.

Fred Hazlett
1031 King Arthur Drive
Apollo, Pennsylvania
L - 272nd

Andrew J. Wrigley
8085 Windword Key
Chesapeake, Maryland
A - 271st

Frank W. Dodd
511 West Street
Dardanelle, Arkansas
569 Signal Co.

Norman Barratt
666 Barneson Avenue
San Mateo, California
Hq. - 273rd

Francis George
293 Lowell Street
Manchester, New Hampshire
D - 461st AAA

Casimir W. Owczarski
P.O. Box 646
Belchertown, Massachusetts
A - 271st

Maurice Cavanaugh
910 S. 60th Street
Omaha, Nebraska
D - 461st AAA

Edwin Keifer
1865 Bayard Street
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
B - 461 AAA

Michael L. Montemurro
19 Nepperham Avenue
Hasting on Hudson, New York
Medic - 271st

Eldon M. Atwood
2909 First Avenue, #4-B
San Diego, California
L - 273rd

Sidney A. Klepper
P.O. Box 326
Monroe, New York
C - 271st





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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
Permit No. 456

*****5-DIGIT 300
Joseph Lipsius
6314 Deerings Hollow
Norcross, GA 30092-1800

00000

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



Back of Photo Reads: Sgt. Loftus, Our Reporter - Private Al Kopsley, Ration Truck Driver
Me - T/5 Ronnie C., Ration Truck Driver - Pfc. Russ Waley
Taken March 1945 - East Germany

Photo from the archives of our Past Editor, Clarence Marshall

Anyone who can identify anyone in this photo, please write and let us know.

BULLETIN STAFF

Dottie Witzleb

Editor

P.O. Box 69

Champion, PA 15622-0069

Telephone: 724/455-2901

**Send Articles, Pictures,
and Material**

William R. Matlach

Treasurer

P.O. Box 474

West Islip, NY 11795-0474

Telephone: 516/669-8077

Send Dues to Bill

Bob Kurtzman

Membership Chairman

P.O. Box 105

Wilmot, OH 44689-0105

Telephone: 330/359-5487

**Send Address Changes,
New Members
and Deaths to Bob**

Dottie Witzleb

Ladies' Auxiliary Editor

P.O. Box 69

Champion, PA 15622-0069

Telephone: 724/455-2901

**Send Ladies Auxiliary
Material to Dottie**