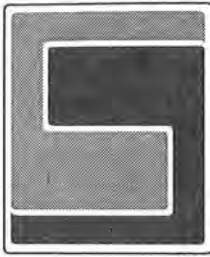


FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★★ Association, Inc.



VOLUME 53, NO. 2

JANUARY — FEBRUARY — MARCH — APRIL
2000

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

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

bulletin

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*Deceased



The Good Times with Company C, 271st

Top Left Photo: Joseph Melka, Lassiter,
Harry C. Grubb. Man on horse unknown.
No identification given on other photos.

Submitted by: **Joseph Melka**
3096 Kings Lake Boulevard, Naples, FL 34112

"The Stories of Our War"

New 69th Book in the Making

Made Up of Your Memories

Submitted by: **William H. Sheavly**
 5301 Weblin Farm Road
 Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455

At the 69th Association Board Meeting held this past November in Orlando at the 52nd Annual Reunion, a proposal was made to publish a new 69th Infantry Division book. **William H. Sheavly**, the son of **William C. "Bill" Sheavly**, and an active Association member and past board member, presented this proposal. The Board gave its approval of this project, since it provided a new slant on the 69th.

The working title of this new book is called: *"The Stories of Our War: Memories of the 69th Infantry Division."* The purpose of this new book is to give every member of the 69th the opportunity to share their stories of the war through their own first person accounts. The previous two books - *"69th Infantry Division Pictorial History"* printed in 1945 and the *"Fighting 69th Infantry Division"* Anniversary book printed in 1991, all present outstanding unit histories and superb photographs. In addition, the book *"Hands Across the Elbe,"* edited by **Delbert** and **Donna Philpott**, provides wonderful insights into the events leading up to the link-up at Torgau. All of these are excellent publications and well written.

"The Stories of Our War" will take a different approach. What we want is to hear your stories of the 69th. We want to know the sad, the funny, and the heart wrenching stories that you have carried with you for over 50 years. The unit histories and the link-up at the Elbe have all been well documented. Now, it is your turn to tell the world your stories.

Here are some guidelines for submitting material:

1. First, any story previously printed in a past Bulletin will automatically be considered for publication. If your story has been published in the Bulletin, you need not submit that story again.
2. We will consider up to five stories per writer, so pick your best five.
3. Articles must be written in the first person (i.e.- "I did this or our platoon did that".) We cannot use articles that are written, "as told to."
4. Articles need to be tight, well written and above all, accurate. Tell us how you remember something, how did it feel, what was the weather like, how did it smell, how did it sound, etc.
5. Do not send photographs when submitting articles. When we make the final cuts of what will be included in the book, we will ask for any photographs that pertain to that article.

6. Deadline for submitting articles will be at the Atlanta Reunion in August. (But the sooner the better!)
7. Anonymous articles will be considered for publication only if the writer requests it, otherwise each article will be tagged with the author's name and unit number only (no current address, e-mail or phone number, etc.)
8. Our projected publication date will be 2001. As was requested by the Board, the 69th membership will be kept updated in each Bulletin as to the number of stories received
9. If possible, typewritten letters are preferred. However, neatly handwritten letters are acceptable.
10. Please send articles in hard copy format. E-mail, although convenient, is less reliable. When articles are received, a confirming postcard will be sent out informing you that your submission has arrived safely.
11. Only include stories that pertain to the 69th. They can range from Division inception at Camp Shelby to Division dissolution in August 1945.
12. Finally, always remember the keys to good story telling are who, what, where, when and why. Try to incorporate all of them into your stories.

Submit all articles to:
William H. Sheavly
 5301 Weblin Farm Road
 Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23455
 Home: 757-519-9709
 Work: 757-340-7006
 Fax: 757-340-8767

Please remember to include the following information along with your story.

Name • Unit • Rank
Address • Phone Number

It is our hope that this book of first person accounts will become an instant classic. This may very well be the best opportunity ever to share your stories and experiences of the war with the future generations. Please give the world your very best stories and show them how truly great "The Fighting 69th" really is!

* * * * *

About the Editor

William H. Sheavly is the oldest son of 69th Infantry Division member, **William C. Sheavly**, and is an Associate Member. "Bill" has been a published writer for many years, with a wide variety of pieces in national magazines. His work has been seen in publications as varied as the *Price Club Journal* to *Southern Banker* to *Military Lifestyle*. He is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond Virginia and is an avid collector of World War II memorabilia. He and his wife Seba, a marine biologist, travel extensively working on a variety of marine conservation issues.

THE MAIL BOX

By Dottie Witzleb, Editor



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

Donald F. Spry, 66 Flicksville Road, Bangor, Pennsylvania 18013-2706 — 272nd: *RE: Murder at 251 Eupener Strasse, Aachen, Germany (Bulletin Volume 53, No. 1, page 43).* For the first time that I am aware of, the above article detailed the action at Aachen, Germany regarding the Mayor's murder.

I was serving in the 272nd Infantry Division, 3rd Battalion, Headquarters as a staff officer (S-4). About this time, our division was heading for Leipzig. Our battalion was being held in reserve. In a short time I received orders to go to Aachen with other officers and men from our battalion. We were put on detached service. We were told that our duty was to guard the city, and that undercover Germans were attempting to kill city officials. I do not remember how many were in our group, and I am sure other units, not only the 39th, had sent men.

The city streets we were assigned to guard were not near the city offices and we did not experience any difficult situations. After only a few days, we were abruptly pulled out of the city and returned to our outfits. After leaving the city we were told that the Mayor was killed by German agents. No details were given.

I am anxious to hear of others in the 69th Division who may have been in the group sent to Aachen.

Robert N. Grimm, 541 East Sixth Avenue, Lancaster, Ohio 43130-2624 — Co. L, 271st: *WHERE ARE THEY TODAY??* I am one of 75 reinforcements, mostly all 18-year-old rookie privates, that joined the 69th at Liesse-Grizy in order to bring the company up to full strength at tent city, with MUD, MUD, MUD!!

Since I have been receiving the bulletin, most of the articles are about the vets who knew each other from Camp Shelby or through the remainder of the war. That is understandable as a lot of the 69th was based out of Camp Shelby.

I would like to hear from other replacements that were in Company L with me. I think it might have been **Joe Hickman** that was at the Front Line with me.

My wife, Wanda and I, along with our fourth daughter, Barbara Grimm-Tidd and her husband Steven Tidd, attended the reunion in Orlando. We had a very

enjoyable evening at the banquet. The food was great, the program was put together very well, A GREAT BAND, and the Honor Guard was very impressive.

Vice President **Harold Ruck** handled the program well. Thanks go out to **Ken Sawyer** and all of the people on his committee. I also want to thank **Dottie Witzleb** for her endless contribution of putting the bulletin together each time.

Clarence F. Douglass, 37 Coppola Terrace, Derby, Connecticut 06418-1103 — Hq. Co., 273rd: I served in the 69th Headquarters Company, 273rd, and was present for the "Bolte's BB March To The Sea." All of this after serving ten months on Ascention Island in the South Atlantic, and six months in the hospital after a Jeep accident. I was one of the troops who were Privates and Pfc's that were taken from the division and shipped to England. After landing on Utah Beach about fifteen hours after the initial invasion as a replacement, I spent the next four weeks or so doing patrols, stevedore work, and helping the Red Cross Rep. sort GI material from personal effects of the Dead and Wounded. This, I believe, was one of the most heart wrenching details I had ever been assigned to. My biggest worry was that if I were killed in one of the night raids the Krauts were pulling in the area, I was unassigned. No division or unit to be identified with.

But finally I was assigned to the Headquarters Company, 320th-35th Division, with whom I spent the duration of the war. First the hedgerows then St. Lo and through France, Luxemburg, Belgium, Holland, Germany, and of course in between, we were with General Patton in the Battle of the Bulge. Having served in combat with the 35th has given me a closer relationship with this group than all the others that I felt very proud of serving with. Those were the 69th Division, the 91st Infantry of Composite Force 8012 and the 43rd Division.

I really enjoy receiving the Association Bulletin and on occasion, I have run across the name of someone I served with, and that is priceless. One day I hope to find the time to get to one of the 69th Division reunions if only for a day or two. In the meantime, keep up the good work. All of you folks have been doing a remarkable job keeping the Association 'glued' together.

Walter Jaworski, 658 Humboldt Street, Brooklyn, New York 11222-4103 — Co. A, 271st: I enjoy reading the Bulletin. It brings back many memories for me. I especially like the articles written by "**Howitzer**" **Al Kormas**. My grandson always said to me that I made up some of the things Al wrote about. I sent him Al's articles to show him I was telling the truth. He is eighteen years old now. I hope that all turned out well for the Orlando Reunion.

(Continued on Page 4)

THE MAIL BOX

(Continued from Page 3)

Katherine Ruppert, 50 Keppel Avenue, West Lawn, Pennsylvania 19609-1514: I enjoy the bulletin very much. Thanks for the good work and I hope you all keep the good work going. My late husband, **Donald**, Company K, 272nd, enjoyed them also but I believe I did more reading of all the stories than he did. Thank you again.

Leslie H. Lee, 8011 Waldorf Court, Orlando, Florida 32817 — Hq., 1st Bn., 273rd: I was assigned to the 69th Division in May 1943 and went to England, France, Belgium and Germany with them. I was a Motor Sergeant with the 1st Battalion. My last 12 years in the Army were at the White House under the Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon administration. Thanks 69th Division.

Mary E. Lantz, widow of **Joseph L. Lantz**, 11227 Hollywood Road, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740-7508 — Co. B, 271st: I enjoy the Bulletin and look forward to receiving each issue. Here's wishing all who attended the reunion in Orlando enjoyed the fellowship and had a real good time. I will keep you in my prayers and think of the good times when I could come also.

Karol E. Kreutzman, 320 North 29th Avenue, Yakima, Washington 98902 — Div. Hq.: I was unable to attend the reunion but hope all who did had the usual great time. I continue to enjoy the bulletin and re-read each issue. I was saddened to get the news from **Colleen Curtis** that her husband and my good friend, **Keith** who was a member of Division Headquarters, had passed away. We had some great times at previous reunions. I drove the recon car for **Captain William Rhinehardt**, the adjutant of Special Troops. Please express my appreciation to all who continue the fine work for the Association.

Earl W. Walters, P.O. Box 304, Landisville, Pennsylvania 17538-0304 — Hq. Co., 3rd Bn., 273rd: The photo is of some dignitaries having lunch during our tour of Camp Shelby 1991. I believe the 3rd man from the left is **David Bolte**, son of **General Bolte**, the general who trained the 69th division. I'm guessing, but I believe the lady on David's left to be his



wife. My wife, Anna, believes the man on the left of David's wife was the commander of Camp Shelby at that time and the lady to his left, his wife.

Earl sent us a second letter which reads: I would like to commend those responsible for a fine, well organized reunion. **Anna**, the better half, and I enjoyed the Early Bird Dinner, the PX Party and the Saturday Night Memorial Service along with the Banquet and Dinner Dance Orchestra. That orchestra must be listed as one of the best in the nation! They were great.

I guess the real reason for this letter to the Bulletin is in recognition to a member of Hdq. Co., 3rd Bn., 273 Inf., who attended his first reunion. **Fred Koeller** had wanted to attend some past reunions but things don't always work out. Many of his close friends like **Alan Murphy**, have passed on. **John Sneary** had planned to attend the Orlando Reunion but couldn't attend because of medical problems. Another friend, **Dean Mike Ossewaarde** flew in from Bellevue, Washington, but he had to leave Friday afternoon for another engagement Saturday. So they didn't meet because **Fred Koeller** wasn't scheduled to arrive until Friday afternoon. So **Fred** didn't get to meet anyone in his unit that he really knew.

Fred was with the 69th Division in Camp Shelby and through Germany. After WWII he joined the Air Corps and spent some time in Korea. He is now a guest at "Beneva Park Club" home for assisted living, 743 South Beneva Road, Sarasota, Florida 34232. **Fred** has been declared legally blind. I would like to thank his niece, Mary Ruppell for taking the time to correspond with me and explain **Fred's** problems and for making **Fred's** dream of attending a 69th Division reunion a reality.

The other persons responsible for making **Fred's** dream come true are - Mary's brother, Robby Koeller and Mary's cousin Lynn Koehn.

Although several hundred miles separate them, Mary and Lynn try to visit Fred monthly and attend to Fred's needs. We hope Fred had a great time and hope he can attend our next reunion!

Lloyd W. Redman, 9707 McKnight Avenue, N.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112-4048 — Co. A, 271st: I am a former member of Company A, 271st, from March to December of 1944. I was a Sergeant and 60mm Mortar Squad Leader. I went to England with the 69th and was transferred to the continent (83rd Division) just after Christmas '44.

I have purchased a U.S. Geological Survey topographical map of the McLaurin, Mississippi quadrangle that shows most of the garrison area of Camp Shelby. The map was compiled from aerial photos made in 1976 and ground-checked in 1980. This map shows buildings in what I recall as the 65th Division area but shows only improved streets in what I believe was the 69th garrison areas.

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THE MAIL BOX

(Continued from Page 4)

I am writing to inquire if anyone might remember the street/avenue numbers of the 1st Battalion, 271st area of Camp Shelby. The curator of the museum at Camp Shelby sent me a copy of a sketch map made in February 1941 that identifies all the street and avenue numbers. I am able to correlate the location of the numbers on the sketch map with the streets shown on the topographical map.

I took basic training at Camp Roberts, California and recently purchased a USGS topographical map that was compiled from aerial photos made in 1947 when all the buildings existing in 1943 were still there. I was able to pinpoint the barracks that I lived in from June to November 1943. I will appreciate any information that anyone can furnish.

LeVerne Loveland, 517 Rosewood Terrace, Linden, New Jersey 07036-5832 — Co. G, 271st: I was a "First Timer" at the 52nd annual reunion in Orlando and feel it only appropriate that I should write and express my views.

I was part of the original trainees who were sent to Camp Shelby when the 69th Division was reactivated in the Spring of 1943 and then was transferred out and shipped to the ETO the following year and assigned to the 90th Division in Normandy as a replacement. I remained with them until I was wounded in Germany in March 1945.

After the war I attended one local chapter meeting in New York City of the 69th Division but felt little kinship with the groups since I didn't serve overseas with them, but for years I regularly received the 69th Bulletin and read it thoroughly and always looked forward to the next issue. I would see names and pictures of men that I'd trained with and finally some years ago I decided I should become a dues paying member and also contribute some extra money for the Bulletin which I had been receiving for these many years.

In the past few years I have been able to contact some of the original men I trained with and they have encouraged me to attend the Division Reunions. When I learned that the 52nd reunion would be in Orlando, Florida, I made up my mind to attend it because my sister lived in Ocala, Florida and I could visit friends and cousins on the way down and also spend Thanksgiving with my sister and family.

When I arrived at Orlando, I found the accommodations at the Wyndham were excellent. When I checked in at Reunion Headquarters everyone there, the committees and volunteers, were extremely helpful and made me feel completely welcome. I know it took up a lot of their personal time and they certainly did a great job and I thank them for doing it! I proudly wore my "First Timer" badge the entire week and no matter where I went, I'd meet so many 69'ers who would walk up to me, shake my hand, and say "welcome, glad to meet you." They are truly a fine group of people and I was happy to see that there was such a large number of family members there also.

The committee for the activities deserves a big thank you. I attended everything and enjoyed every minute.

I was able to spend a lot of time with many friends from my Shelby training period and met quite a few who trained there after my departure and it was like a home-coming for me.

The memorial service was deeply impressive and brought tears to my eyes, as it did for many others. The banquet was superb - the food was delicious and I was so pleased to see so many attending. I had no idea that there would be such a large turnout.

I really enjoyed myself and took many pictures of our group as well as the various places we visited and now I'll be looking forward to the 53rd reunion in Atlanta.

Now I'd like to encourage any of the "original" recruits as well as anyone who served with the 69th Division to make every effort to make plans now to be in Atlanta this year Aug. 27 - Sept 3rd. I'm sure it will be worth your time and you'll never forget the experience. I know I won't, and hope to be with the 69ers later this year.

Dottie, you are doing a wonderful job with the Bulletin and I'm sure all 69'ers appreciate your hard work!

The Littlest First Timer



James "Rebel" Andrews of Headquarters, 879th, meets his new granddaughter, Sarah Marie Hemmen, for the first time at the Orlando Reunion just prior to our Beer Party. She was 2-1/2 weeks old at the time.

52nd Annual Reunion Enjoyed by the Troops Orlando, Florida November 14th-21st, 1999

Ken A. Sawyer, *Reunion Chairman*

Company D, 273rd Infantry

2311 Skywind Circle, Melbourne, Florida 32935-1460

Telephone: 407/254-7175

Photos by Chet Yastrzemski and The Richardsons

The Orlando reunion lived up to its advanced billing. The weather was certainly cooperative with comfortable temperatures and lots of sunshine. A little rain on Friday chased our picnic indoors, but there wasn't a drop on our Cypress Gardens Group. With a wealth of available entertainment, within and outside the reunion, everyone had a great time.

The turnout was the only disappointment in the whole affair. The committee had hoped for around 600 attendees. It turned out to be very close to 500. The banquet seated only about 450. The closeness to Thanksgiving didn't help. Perhaps distance has become more of a problem as we get older. I hope the weather factor didn't keep anyone home.

The committee tried to be innovative. The hospitality room was open mornings for coffee, orange juice and pastry. The idea was well received. It took the cooperation of the hotel; many establishments would frown upon the competition. It made for a long day for Bill McLaughlin, our hospitality room chairman. During the afternoons and evenings, the use of hotel bartenders eased the manpower situation. We sacrificed the opportunity to launch some members into a second career and obtained professional bar service at a reasonable expense.



Part of the Reunion Committee: Standing - Wally Richardson, Chuck and Glenna Pierson, Ken Sawyer. Sitting, Jimmy Richardson.



Another innovation didn't come off 100%. Our outdoor picnic was held indoors due to threatening weather. The hospitality room served as our picnic grounds, and about 315 guests enjoyed the sandwiches, snacks and beverages. Entertainment was provided by a four member Hawaiian group, two musicians and two hula dancers. Nobody seemed to mind the location, and there were no ants. Still, what a nice memory it would have made to party under the stars while listening to that island music. It was a plus, nevertheless.

There was something going on every evening from Tuesday to Saturday. Dinner theaters entertained guests on Tuesday and Wednesday. King Henry's Feast on Tuesday drew over 100 of us. Failure of the theater to notify us of a change in showtime left us standing around an extra half hour. The performers saluted us 69ers royally. The raves, however, were left for The Arabian Nights on Wednesday. Over 160 members were thrilled by the spectacular display of equestrian acts. The meal was great too.

The Early Bird Dinner on Thursday drew around 200 patrons. We were entertained by an accomplished piano player while we enjoyed a delicious meal. Seating by unit allowed old buddies to reminisce and rewrite history.

The picnic on Friday was scheduled from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The room had to be cleaned and reset for the beer party which followed at 8:30. Through the cooperation of the hotel personnel, our celebrants were able to remain in the room until 8:00. Over 350 attended the PX Party. The five piece band was a big hit with the crowd. There was room for all to sit, but the dancing had to spill out into the hall. The sound level attested to an enjoyable evening.

Our three tours were well received. Over 130 people took the Orlando excursion on Wednesday. The museums, sights and shopping mall elicited much favorable

(Continued on Page 7)

52nd ANNUAL 69th DIVISION REUNION

(Continued from Page 7)

comment. The Space Center was visited by about 170 of our group on Thursday. There is so much to see that some of it has to be merely sampled. The bus tour of the center is always a highlight. The visit to Cypress Gardens on Friday drew plenty of ahhs. The gardens were at their prettiest that week. The water show was superb as usual and the skating show was wonderful. Our tours had to compete with all that Orlando has to offer. We did well.

The General Meeting on Saturday morning needs no coverage here. The Ladies Auxiliary enjoyed a performance straight off Church Street Station. My committee put in a full afternoon attending to our guests and packing up for Atlanta. The banquet brought everything to a climax. The ceremony was inspiring as usual. We had a color guard from the ROTC at FCU. A band member played taps. Fourteen members of the band that played for us Friday again delighted everyone with their renditions. On both nights the band started early, played up to the last minute, and took minimum breaks. Revelers stayed until the last note was struck at midnight. And the meal was delicious.

The Sunday morning farewell breakfast saw about 120 departing attendees. It was a bountiful buffet. Those stopping in had a last chance to say goodbye until next year.

A reunion doesn't just happen. A dedicated crew is required to pull it off. It wasn't possible to gather a sizeable number of Floridians. We made up for it by working as a team and ignoring the clock at times. **Dave Dunlap** organized the tours and dinner theaters. He also served as a tour commander. **Jim** and **Wally Richardson** headed up the registration room. **Clare Darby** and **Glenna Pierson** worked alongside them. **Jack** and **Marjorie Fain** handled the seating arrangements for Early Bird and the Banquet. **Roland** and **Jan Hendrickson** from Oregon had the souvenir desk, assisted by **Bob** and **Jean Ross** from Massachusetts. **Bill McLaughlin** headed up the hospitality room. **Chuck Pierson** divided his time between registration and hospitality. **Marjorie Fain** regularly helped on registration. In addition, all the members pitched in on the tours. They have my deepest appreciation for their exceptional dedication.

Spread as thin as we were, we welcomed assistance. My company D buddies lent a hand. The **Hendricksons** handled souvenirs, **George Johnson** ran the golf tournament, **Dan McHugh** collected dinner tickets, and the **Ammons**, **Cases**, **Johnsons** and **Hendricksons** assisted on the tours. I pressed a few other "volunteers" into service on our tour and dinner buses, including our incoming president, **Hal Ruck**. My thanks to all of you.

August is not far off. **Joe Lipsius** and his Atlanta crew are readying a warm welcome for us. The Orlando committee plans to be there in force. Come along with us.



Jack and Marjorie Fain



Committee Members at the Picnic: Front - Jim Richardson. Back - The Czyzyks, Glenna Pierson, Ken Sawyer and Bill McLaughlin, plus the dancers!



Committee Members: Standing - Jim Richardson, Left - Bill Sheavly, Right - Jim Shoemaker

(Continued on Page 8)

A Note from Dottie



Our editor, Dottie Witzleb, displaying the plaque that was given to her in honor of her late husband and our former Editor, Earl Witzleb, Jr.

As some of you know, I did attend the reunion in Orlando, Florida last November. My niece Kimberly accompanied me. I want to thank everyone at the reunion for the kind words that they said to both of us. They treated Kimberly as if she were one of the members and this meant a great deal to me, as she is known in the family as Uncle Buster's Buddy. That is the nickname they gave Earl several years ago when he won a spaghetti eating contest. Kimberly told me that Uncle Buster told her that the people from the 69th Division Association were a special group of people and now she knows why. Kimberly and I are looking forward to coming to Atlanta in August.

I would like to thank the Association for the beautiful plaque that was presented to me in honor of **Earl**. It was an emotional evening for me. That is why I could not say a word that Saturday, as I am sure you all understand. I will treasure that plaque and it is placed on the family room wall with the other ones we had received. This one, however, has the place of honor.

The plans for the reunion in Atlanta are found elsewhere in the bulletin. I plan to do the bulletin for at least 2 more years. As long as I enjoy doing it, I will continue. Please continue to send your stories and pictures so we have a nice source of material. All of your pictures will be returned to you. There are pictures of the reunion included in this bulletin. I hope you understand we could not use all of them as some of them were duplicates. Have a good year and I hope to see you in Atlanta in August 2000.

The Reunion Sentinels



John Tounger-Machine Gunner, Bernard Devack-Machine Gunner, Gene Kluck - Squad Leader, all from Company D, 271st Infantry

John Tounger sent in this photo with a little note stating that he enjoyed meeting his Squad Leader **Kluck** and **Bernard Devack** who was in his platoon, for the first time since the end of the war.

In an effort to try and get a story out of my Squad Leader, **Kluck**, **Kluck** said, "Yes, I remember you falling asleep on guard duty in Kassel, Germany with an empty bottle of apricot brandy." I said, "Well, why didn't you have me court-martialed." And he said, "I needed you as my first gunner to continue the war." - Thanks! Anyway, I really enjoy the Bulletin. Keep up the good work.

Past Presidents at the Orlando Reunion



Bill Matlach, Bob Pierce, Sammy Woolf and Bill Beswick



Bob and Vivian Kurtzman



Tom Yelcich, Jr.



Ellen and Bill Snidow



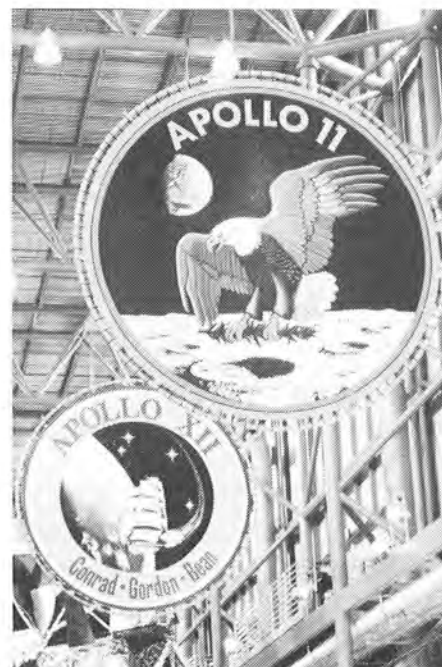
*Fred Butenhoff, Chet Yastrzemski, Raul Nava
Company E, 272nd*



Ladies of Company I, 272nd



Oops! Now how'd that picture get in here?



Apollo Space Center

Company B, 271st Infantry at the Orlando Reunion



The Gentlemen

Back Row:

*Ver Merris, Upton,
Buol, Curran,
Bocek, Hansen,
Walsh.*

Front Row:

*Nicely, Burrows,
Moore, Heilman,
Walsh, Miller,
Sheehan, Delphey*



The Ladies

Back Row:

*White, Delphey,
Sheehan, Hansen,
Miller, Bocek,
Moore*

Front Row:

*Walsh, Nicely,
Ver Merris,
Upton, Curran*

**DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR
BULLETIN VOL. 53, NO. 3 - MAY, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST
MAY 31st, 2000 - *Get Your Material In On Time!***

Golf News from Orlando

George M. Johnson, Temporary Golf Chairman, Company D, 273rd Infantry
1107 Fort Hayes Drive, Petersburg, Virginia 23805-9122

The 52nd Reunion brought us back to Orlando, Florida for a repeat of good times and great fellowship. Unfortunately, **James Boris**, our Golf Chairman for many years, was unable to join us due to the fact that his wife, Tillie, was in the hospital. We pray that she is on the mend.

We had 20 golfers and played a new format called Captain's Choice. The following were awarded prizes.

LADIES

Pat Nagy won two events. Closest to the hole on her drive on #11 and closest to the line on #9.

MEN

Earl Hansen won closest to the hole for men on #8.

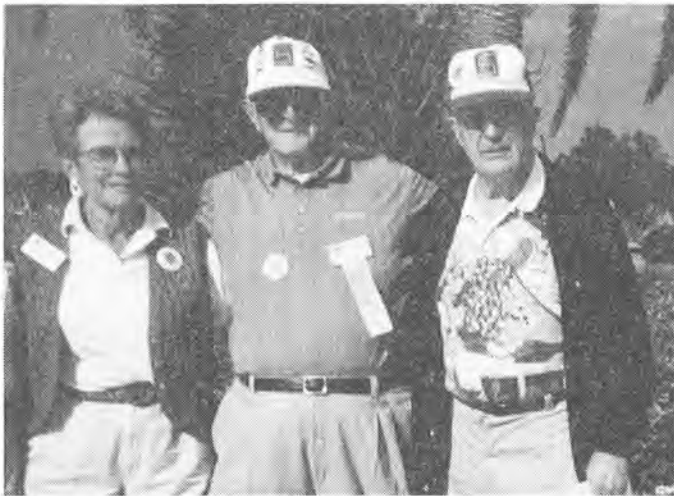
Winning Team — Captain's Choice

Earl Hansen, Captain

Walt Haag, Art Holgate, Jim Shoemaker



*Team #3: Gene Mischke, Jim Walsh,
Nicole Wilson, Walt Wilson*



*Team #1: Neil Shields (missing), Pat Nagy,
Bob Adsit and George Johnson*



*Team #4: Emory Nagy, Reba Sheavly,
Clare Darby, Martin Buol*



*Team #2: Earl Hansen, Walt Haag,
Art Holgate and Jim Shoemaker*



*Team #5: Vince Mazza (missing), Tom Smith,
Rosemarie Mazza, Bill Sheavly*

Company F, 272nd Infantry at the Orlando Reunion

Submitted By: Neil J. Shields, 6211 Pleasant Street • Library, Pennsylvania 15219



2nd Battalion, 272nd Infantry sailed overseas on the "Santa Maria" November 1944



*Neil Shields
Jim Nunes
Joe Nunes
Anne Nunes
Louise Wardin
Mel Wardin*



Living it up

*Joe Aiello
Bennie Srubar
Marcella Srubar
Doris Bumbara
Tony Bumbara
enjoying the
Kennedy Space
Center in Orlando.*

*Joe and Tony are
from Co. E, 273rd
and Bennie is
from Co. A, 272nd.*

Message from the President



Harold E. Ruck
622 Melville Avenue
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37412-2645
Telephone: 423/698-3918

As you know I, as Vice president of our Association, had to substitute for our President, **Jim Boris**, in running our meeting and presiding at our Saturday night Banquet at our recent reunion in Orlando. I've talked to **Jim** and he advises me that **Tillie**, his wife, is recovering from the major illness that prevented them from attending our meeting in Orlando. **Jim** says they plan to join us in Atlanta at our 53rd Annual Reunion. In fact he tells me he will be running our golf tournament at the reunion. This is something special because the golfing is scheduled at the Bobby Jones' Golf Course in Atlanta and all you golfers know who Bobby Jones was.

Even though **Jim** and **Tillie** were not present, the reunion ran very, very smoothly under the leadership of reunion chairman, **Ken Sawyer**. I know that you all join me in thanking **Ken** and his excellent committee for a job well done. The tours selected, the choice of entrees at our dinners, the entertainment, and the bands for our dancing were all excellent.

To me, one of the major highlights of our reunion occurred at our Saturday night banquet. Recognition was given to a number of members for service to our organization above and beyond the normal. Very beautiful plaques embossed with our 69th symbol were given to them. **Tom Yelcich** was recognized as our Division Photographer; **Edith Zaffern** for being the Division's Sunshine Lady; **Bob** and **Vivian Kurtzman** for the many contributions they have made; and **Bill Snidow**, our Chaplain, who so reverently runs our Memorial Services. **Dottie Witzleb** was given a plaque in honor of her late husband, **Earl**, who edited our Bulletin for so many years. This was especially gratifying to our membership because **Dottie** has

graciously agreed to edit our Bulletin for the next two years, and maybe even longer. Another former member, **Bill Robertson**, without a doubt, the most publicized individual in our Association, was recognized for his contribution to the link-up with the Russians at Torgau, Germany.

Someone had to put all this together, and that someone was **Jim Boris**. **Jim** was not present to receive his plaque but it was mailed to him. He was recognized for the excellent service he provided us during his term of Presidency of our Association.

But so much for the Orlando Reunion. Our next reunion will be in Atlanta, Georgia. Everything has been put in place by our Reunion Chairman, **Joe Lipsius**, and his committee. In another section of this Bulletin, **Joe** describes in detail what you will experience when you attend the Atlanta Reunion. I assure you, you won't be disappointed. So, come one and all. We'll see you in Atlanta.

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(Continued
on Page 14)

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Looking for My Old Buddies

Submitted by: **William R. Drugg**

*Company K and Headquarters Company,
272nd Infantry Regiment
211 North 14th Avenue, Juniata
Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601
E-Mail: Bucadaca@aol.com*

I really appreciate the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Bulletin and enjoy all the articles and all the stories about the old gang and reliving my time with the 69th Infantry. What memories it brings back - good and bad, but very few bad ones.

I did not join you regular fellows until Belgium in December of 1944. After my Basic Training at Camp Wheeler, Georgia, I had a short furlough at home, cut short by the news from Europe. I sailed from New Jersey on the IL De France, the 5th largest vessel in the world at the time, a luxury liner that had been gutted to haul troops and their equipment. Seven days later we landed in Dover then took an L.S.T. craft to France. Then we took a truck ride to a Replacement Depot and after a few days, another truck ride to join Company K, 272nd Infantry of the 69th. After a month or two, I was transferred to Headquarters Company. I was in Torgau when we met the Russians. What an experience to see these many troops, men and women, with their oxen and horse drawn carts moving through our lines. Who could ever forget that experience.

Because of all the moving around and being so busy, most of us replacements, and there were many of us, did not get to strike up as close relationships as the group from Camp Shelby. However, the ones I did meet were a bunch of great guys, the finest people in the world. Many of the "Old Timers" helped me in every way they could, like showing me how to drink wine out of a big vat without drowning, where to look for souvenirs, what to say to the girls, etc.



Back Row: Unknown, Fred Jason of Worchester, MA. Middle: Bill Drugg of Altoona, PA, Jim Hindman of Johnstown, PA, Unknown. Front: Frank Hall of Tennessee and Ray Smoltz of Ohio.

I have lost contact with all of the men and time has dimmed my memory, but the bulletins help bring them back and it is read from cover to cover.

When the war ended, I was traded to another outfit. I did not have enough points to come home with the 69th. I ended up in the 3532 Ordnance of the M.A.M. Company at Hedelfinger, then went on detached service to the Autobahn at a service station outside of Heidelberg. Then to Camp Lucky Strike in La Harve, France and home to New York on a Victory ship, which is another story for another day. Many thanks guys, you were great.

Recently I found one of my buddies from the 69th. He is: **James Hindman**, 462 Tiffany Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15905. He would love to receive the Bulletin. If anyone can help me find any of my old buddies in the picture, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Members of Company M, 272nd - Listen Up

I am writing to you as the son of **Dale W. Echtenkamp**, who served as a machine gunner and member of Company M, 272nd Infantry Regiment of the 69th Infantry Division during 1944-1945. My dad passed away in December 1996. I regret that I was unable to learn more about his service experience prior to his death.

As your records show, Dale served in the European Theatre. I believe he started his service in Europe in February 1944. At the time, his platoon leader was **Raymond Wolthoff**, who may be living in the Tampa, Florida, area. Among other acquaintances were **Dewey Crofoot**, who may be living in Phoenix, and **Richard Parsons**, originally from Mount Joy, Pennsylvania.

I would appreciate a list of names of those individuals from M Company who I may be able to contact to learn more of my father's experiences in Europe, or any information that any members of the 69th could provide.

Thanks for your help in uncovering this part of my father's past.

Jay S. Echtenkamp • 3450 Zircon Lane North • Plymouth, Minnesota 55447 • (612) 476-6694

69th Counter-Intelligence Members Sought

Submitted by: **Ellis M. Benson**

69th CIC Detachment

426 Fulvia Street

Encinitas, California 92024-2145

I had been attempting to locate members of the 69th Counter-Intelligence team for some time. About six years ago I was able to locate **Lieutenant Bill Doyle**, but unfortunately, before we could get together, Bill died. However, a positive outcome was a continuing correspondence with his son, Bill, Jr. Bill followed his father's footsteps to Germany in Military Intelligence, retiring as a colonel after twenty years of service. His German is fluent and I am prompted to renew my capability in that language which I haven't used much in some forty years.

This past summer Bill, Jr., his wife, Sheila, his mother, (Bill Sr.'s widow) and his young son and daughter travelled west from Maryland and Virginia to visit Bill's adult daughter in Los Angeles. During their stay in Southern California they found occasion to visit us in Encinitas. We all had a delightful time. Bill, having travelled widely in his various postings, has been collecting vials of water from the world's oceans. While here he was able to fill a vial with water from the Pacific.

I strongly recommend to members Tom Brokaw's book, "The Greatest Generation" and its sequel, "The Greatest Generation Speaks." They bring strong feelings of nostalgia.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: A few issues back we had published a good bit of the copy of the Sentinel which you enclosed. Vol. 51, No. 2, Jan., Feb., March, April 1998)

Grandson Shows Appreciation for Veteran "Pop"

Submitted by: **David Malchick**

Headquarters, 3rd Battalion, 273rd Infantry

1717 W. 18th Street, #2F

Brooklyn, New York 11229-2124

The statement below was sent to me just after Veterans Day by my grandson, Jason who is 16 years old. I was very touched and proud. It shows that our youngsters, some of them anyhow, have feelings and respect for veterans. I am proud to have my name attached to it.

Hey Pop, it's Veterans Day. There's something that I never really said before, and that's "thank you." It's something that deserves to be said all of the time, but especially today. I apologize because I don't say it enough to someone who participated in something which did nothing short of saving the world. So, thank you Pop, I love you.

Love, Jason



*Shay, Ellis Benson, Kurt Burnheim
69th CIC Detachment*



*Admiring an oil refinery near Mersenburg after the
air corps had finished*



Jason Gold with his Pop, David Malchick

Treasurer's Message



William R. and Jane Matlach

William R. Matlach, Treasurer

Post Office Box 474

West Islip, New York 11795-0474

Telephone: **631/669-8077** (Note new area code)

Before I forget, I wish to call to your attention that in the heading shown above, my telephone Area Code is now 631, changed from 516 which it was previously. I suppose that the local telephone company decided that since it was happening everywhere else, we may as well change the Long Island number to give everyone here problems with their callers too.

The Orlando Reunion was held in November in order to avoid the hot summer weather down there, but it caused me no end of problems. Processing reservations for the reunion and being involved in some of the arrangements with the Reunion Committee meant that I had little time for incoming dues checks during September and October and they just piled up. I had my Dues Notice address labels printed in November before the reunion but I could not use them until I had first completed the bookkeeping required for all the reunion transactions, and then processed the accumulated Dues Checks so I would know who had paid and who had not. Consequently, the Dues Notices were sent out about a month and a half later than usual, which is not too bad considering that the reunion was about three months later than usual.

At the Membership Meeting of the Orlando Reunion motions were presented for the Association to donate funds to support the construction of the World War II Memorial and also to support the Camp Shelby Museum. In each case the amount to be donated was \$5000.00, and both motions were passed. It was also recommended that the donation for the WWII Memorial be made through the VFW which has a program for adding 50% to all donations made through their organization. The Association Treasury has sufficient funds

to be able to make these donations. However, because the total amount of \$10,000.00 is considerable and not a normal annual expense, the checking and savings accounts will not be sufficient to cover that large an amount and the expense will have to come from one of the CD's in which we have invested surplus funds to get the best earnings. The first available CD will mature in March and its funds will be transferred into the Checking Account at that time so the donations can be made. To cash in a CD before then would inflict considerable penalty on its earnings. Meanwhile, Secretary **Ralph Goebel** has been looking into the manner in which the WWII donation is made "through the VFW." For instance, to whom is our check to be addressed and who gets the credit for the donation, the 69th Division or VFW?

If you have not yet sent in your dues, the amount is still the same: Regular Dues \$10.00, Auxiliary \$5.00, and any donations to our Postage/Bulletin Fund will be appreciated. Please make checks payable to the 69th Infantry Division Association, Inc.

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:

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Do not send dues to Dottie Witzleb.

Be sure to send your material to headquarters!

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

**69th Infantry Division
53rd Annual Reunion
August 27 - September 3,
2000**

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Committee:

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

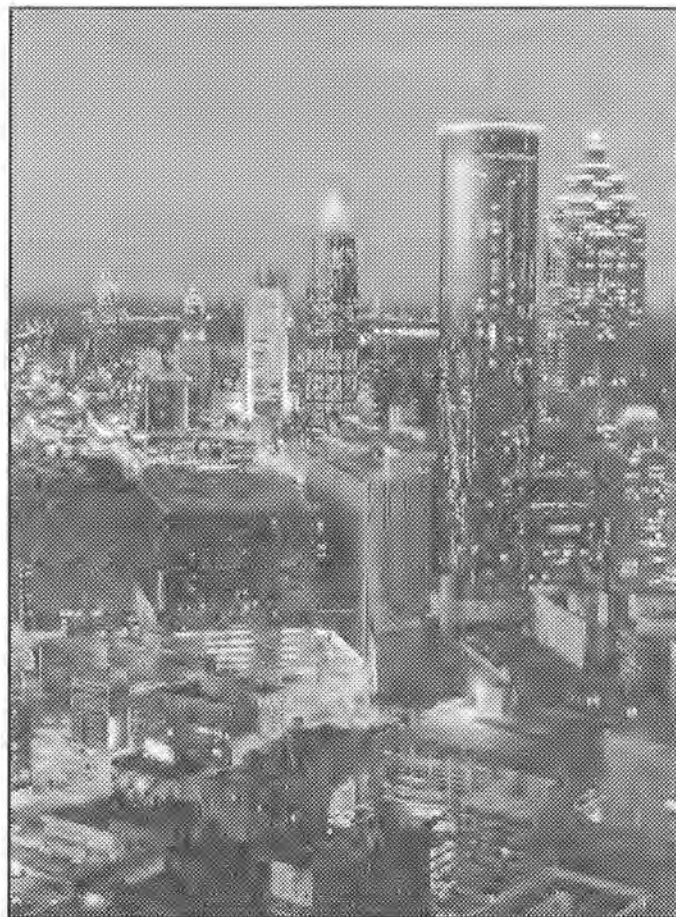
Harold and Cynthia Moore

WELCOME SOUTH BROTHERS AND SISTERS!

Welcome to the land of milk and honey, fried chicken, catfish, soul food, beautiful women and so much to see! The Reunion Committee has a program planned that will excite, entertain, and educate you on The Gate City of The South - Atlanta, Georgia!

First of all, you will be staying at The Sheraton Colony Square Hotel, nestled in the quaint, tree-lined neighborhood of Midtown Atlanta, which forms an elegant background for both the leisure and business guest. The Sheraton is situated in the cultural, arts, and entertainment district of the city, only steps from the Woodruff Arts Center, home to Atlanta's symphony, ballet and theater; the High Museum of Art; the Atlanta Botanical Gardens and the historical Margaret Mitchell house.

Nearby you will find headquarters of such leading companies as IBM, AT&T, National Service Industries and a host of others.



Back to the Sheraton for a couple of comments. If you drive, indoor underground parking, on an in-and-out basis is available at a special rate of \$8.50 per day weekday versus regular rate of \$12.00 per day. Weekend rate is \$4.00 per day. Check at the front desk on registration for special rate permit.

Our cut-off date for room reservations is July 28th, 2000. The earlier your reservation is made the better it will be in the block of rooms we have. **ALL ROOMS ARE INSIDE ROOMS AS FAR AS PARKING IS CONCERNED.** The Colony Square is a multi-floor hotel, rooms being reached via elevator, from the indoor garage or lobby.

Planned Tours

TASTE OF THE PEACH

On Tuesday, August 29th, you will not want to miss **TASTE OF THE PEACH**, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Depart with our guide on a driving tour to include an overall look at ATLANTA from its flaming past to its exciting future. Learn about Atlanta's history and how and why it grew, as you see some of the interesting landmarks.

The downtown business district is dynamic with its blend of past and present. The Capitol Complex is the center of local and state government. Visit the grave of the Nobel Peace Prize recipient Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peachtree Street takes you past Portman's

(Continued on Page 19)

53rd ANNUAL 69th DIVISION REUNION

(Continued from Page 18)

Peachtree Center, Ted Turner's CNN Center, the World of Coca-Cola Pavilion and Underground Atlanta, Woodruff Park, the fabulous Fox Theater, Colony Square, the High Museum, the Woodruff Arts Center, the Carter Presidential Center and much more.

You will see and be told of the above from the bus, but the highlight of this tour will be a visit to the Atlanta Cyclorama where you will step inside the stories of the armies that fought on July 22nd, 1864 in The Battle of Atlanta.

In the quiet twilight of the Cyclorama amphitheater, distant strains of stirring music signal the beginning of a fascinating journey through time to the events of July 22nd, 1864. When the lights come up, you are at the center of a sweeping panorama of fierce battle accompanied by music and narration. Viewed from the unique vantage of a revolving platform, the Cyclorama of the Battle of Atlanta is so realistic you will feel you are part of the conflict. **DON'T MISS TASTE OF THE PEACH.**

MIDTOWN MEMORIES

Wednesday, August 30th, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Midtown Atlanta is booming with construction and redevelopment as the city moves a few miles north but there are several treasures we don't want you to miss.

We will begin with a tour of the fabulous FOX THEATER, Atlanta's magical 1929 movie palace. Originally built as a Shrine Temple in 1929, this Moorish masterpiece rivals the interior of King Tut's tomb with more than \$1 million worth of gilt overlay, in addition to other priceless works of art and breathtaking architecture. This treasured landmark is a must see. The Fox has 4,678 seats, making it one of the largest. The Egyptian Ballroom and the Grand Salon are two lavishly decorated ballrooms holding up to 1,500 guests. Its orchestra stage was one of the first to elevate, bringing up its musicians in all their splendor.

From the Fox, we will go to the city's newest attraction, Margaret Mitchell's "Dump." This is the home of the world famous author of GONE WITH THE WIND, where she lived with her husband when she was writing the book. It was an old apartment house located in the midtown area and in need of many repairs. Lovingly, she referred to the residence as the "Dump," and now seventy years later, this building has been newly restored and opened for the world to see. Hear all about this interesting Atlanta native who made the name Peachtree Street a word known around the world. See where the book, which became the next best selling book to the Bible, was written, and continues to sell one quarter million copies each year.

Lunch on Your Own In The Colony Square Hotel Food Court.

STONE MOUNTAIN PARK TOUR

Wednesday, August 30th, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. No visit to the Atlanta area is complete without seeing STONE MOUNTAIN. Stone Mountain Park is 3200 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds containing the largest mass of exposed granite in the world. This mass holds the world's largest bas-relief sculpture, bigger than the carvings on Mount Rushmore, of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, and Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson on horseback.

You will visit an Antebellum Plantation Estate of 19 buildings and ride on a Swiss Cablecar Skylift. Stone Mountain Park will be a memorable experience. Souvenirs galore available to take the grandchildren!

ATLANTA HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with Lunch on your own in the food court at Underground Atlanta.

First, we will go to the new stadium, TURNER FIELD, home of THE ATLANTA BRAVES. Originally built as the OLYMPIC STADIUM, site of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies and track and field events in 1996, it has been restructured to house the champion Atlanta Braves, sometimes called America's favorite team because they are so widely seen on Ted Turner's cable Television Channel. The name "Turner Field" honors the Braves team owner and the baseball glory he brought to the city.

You will see The Locker Room, the Brave's Museum, Coca-Cola Plaza, corporate suites, the press box, broadcast booth and experience the excitement of the finest new ballfield in America.

Then, on a drive of the downtown area, you will be acquainted with the many sites of the city. Then on to the World of Coca-Cola Pavilion, a museum dedicated to the famous soft drink founded in Atlanta in 1886 and an industry that has played an important part in Atlanta's history.

Afterwards, walk across the plaza and visit UNDERGROUND ATLANTA, an entertainment complex filled with unique shops and restaurants. Enjoy "lunch on your own" in the food court and browse afterwards where souvenirs are available.

ATLANTA'S LEGACY OF LEADERS/LUNCHEON TOUR

Friday, September 1st, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., the crowning achievement of our tour arrangement for you takes place. Atlanta has spawned two leaders who have changed the nation and world through their vision and determination. We will take an informative driving tour of the MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HISTORIC DISTRICT on "Sweet Auburn Avenue," visit the Church, grave and museum and learn of the inspirations and belief in non-violence of Dr. King in this historic area.

(Continued on Page 20)

53rd ANNUAL 69th DIVISION REUNION (Continued from Page 19)

Then, on to the CARTER PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY, a museum dedicated to the American Presidency and Georgia born President Jimmy Carter. See first hand the motivations of this monumental man who continues to make his presence viable in our country and the world.

Lunch will be served at Mary Mac's, a popular downtown restaurant serving home-cooked food for over sixty years.

You will also visit CENTENNIAL PARK in downtown Atlanta and see "THE BRICKS" first hand, where thousands of Atlantans have their names inscribed.

ENTERTAINMENT

At our **PX Beer Party**, Friday, September 1st, which runs from 7:30 p.m. to Midnite in the Grand Ballroom, we have engaged "THE CELEBRATIONS," a Seven Piece Band, to furnish us lively music from 9:00 p.m. to Midnite. The late beginning is to give everyone a chance to drink a beer or two and change the "outcome of the war." This proposes to be a time-remembering affair for one and all! **BE SURE AND ATTEND.**

The piece de resistance in our entertainment will be "THE ATLANTA BLUE-NOTES," a 19-piece swing band, comprised of 17 musicians plus male and female vocalist for our **Saturday night dance**, September 2nd. This band was featured at The Fox Theater for "The Glenn Miller Story!" It plays at all of the leading country clubs and Hotels in Atlanta and surrounding area. We are, indeed, fortunate to have this group for our dancers.

Good Ole Days Buffet: On Tuesday, August 29th at 6:00 p.m., join us at The Good Ole Days Buffet for cash bar, talk and good dishes prepared by the Chefs from the Colony Square Hotel. Then listen to some great singing from the Good Times Singers Quartet.

From Scarlet to Rosalynn: Saturday, September 2nd, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. During the Ladies Auxiliary Meeting, the ladies will have a special treat. Connie Calhoun looks at 150 years of Southern customs and attitudes to help you recognize a "Southern Belle" when you see one! Connie was raised on Coca-Cola and cornbread and is a native Atlantan. Born in what was then a small city, she is still trying to catch up with her grown-up hometown.

Ladies! You will love Connie. Be sure and attend the Ladies Auxiliary Meeting.

Reunion Art Lovers: Exactly one block from The Sheraton, you will find two of Atlanta's most visited tourist attractions. Visual art lovers will be delighted with their visit to **The High Museum of Art** which houses European and American Paintings, African, decorative and 20th Century art, photography and graphics. Admission is \$4.00, Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Adjoining is **The Robert W. Woodruff Arts Center**, home of four art companies offering Atlanta and the Southeast the finest in visual and performing arts. Including The Alliance Theatre Company, The Atlanta College of Art, The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and of course, The High Museum which is part of the complex.

Just viewing these buildings is a treat. Just walk out of the hotel, cross and walk down Peachtree Street and you are there.

Be sure and visit here either on Tuesday morning, August 29th, Thursday afternoon, August 31st, Friday afternoon, September 1st or Saturday afternoon, September 2nd.

REUNION 2000 BASEBALL FANS

Members of The Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association who are baseball fans, and will attend The 53rd Annual Reunion in Atlanta, are in for a real treat.

First of all, The Atlanta Highlights Tour on Thursday, August 31, includes a visit to TURNER FIELD, home of THE ATLANTA BRAVES.

Then, for those diehards who would like to see the BRAVES play, the team will be in Atlanta during the Reunion for the following games that do not conflict with the Reunion schedule:

Sunday August 27th vs. St Louis	1:10 p.m.
Monday August 28 vs. Cincinnati	7:40 p.m.
Wednesday August 30 vs. Cincinnati	7:40 p.m.

Transportation may be taken by Marta which puts you within walking distance of the hotel and stadium.

Ticket prices are: Club Level	\$29.00
Outfield Pavilion	\$17.00
Upper Level	\$12.00
Upper Pavilion	\$ 5.00

Tickets available by phone: 1-800-326-4000 or write: Atlanta Braves, P.O. Box 4064, Atlanta, GA 30302-4064. Add \$6.00 handling charge to total order.

TRANSPORTATION

The Sheraton Colony Square Hotel is situated at Peachtree and 14th Street N.E., about 2 miles from the heart of Atlanta known as "Five Points," where the 5 arterial streets met until Whitehall was changed to be a continuation of Peachtree. These streets are Peachtree, Edgewood Avenue, Decatur Street and Marietta Street.

From the Sheraton, the City bus runs downtown and is accessible to other areas. A half block away is access to Marta, the rail line which goes to all areas of the city and to the airport.

From the airport, The Sheraton may be reached within a half block on Marta, or the Airport Shuttle \$10 one way or \$17 round trip.

(Continued on Page 21)



Harold Ruck, our current President of the Fighting 69th Division, turns over the Reunion Chairman book to Joe Lipsius.



Karen Gandy, Convention and Catering Manager of The Sheraton Colony Square Hotel, discusses hotel plans for the upcoming 53rd Annual Reunion.



Planning for the 53rd Annual Reunion seated at left is Joe Lipsius, Reunion Chairman, at his right, Hal Ruck, Fighting 69th President. Standing at left is Jim Brooks, Chairman of the Honor Guard, Souvenirs and Flower Committee, followed by Ethel Ruck, the President's wife, then Sally and Wendell Freeman, Chairpersons of the Registration Committee.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

For the 69th Infantry Division Association 53rd Annual Reunion in Atlanta, Georgia
 Assist with Tours, Sale of Souvenirs, Registration, Seating, Golf Tournament and Hospitality Room.

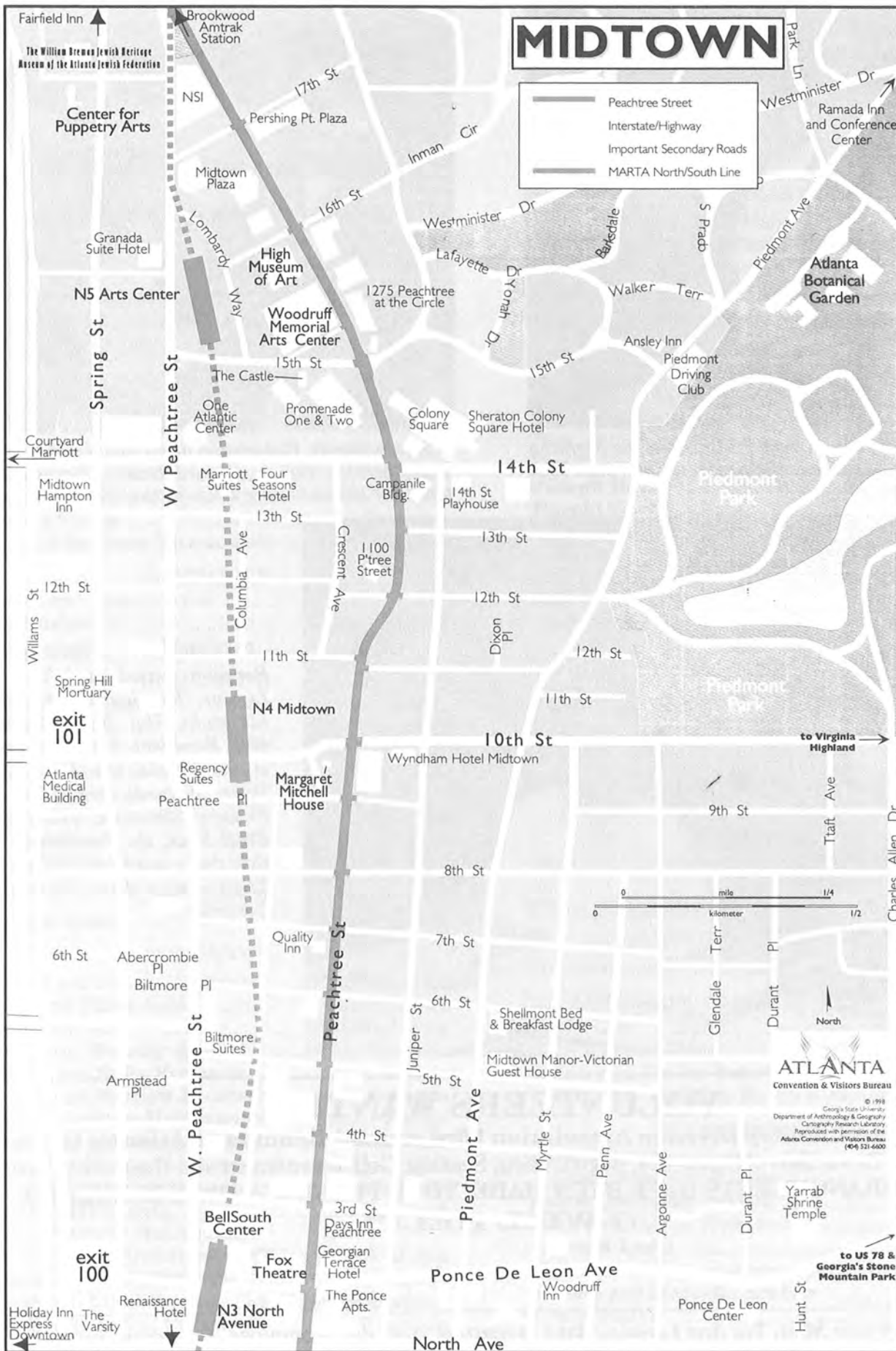
ALL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. YOUR PRESENCE ONLY IS NEEDED.

I WILL HELP!

Name _____

Unit _____ Arrival Date _____

COPY AND MAIL TO: JOE LIPSIOUS, 6314 DEERINGS HOLLOW, NORCROSS, GA 30092-1800



Atlanta Midtown Map

Memories of a 273rd Anti-Tanker

Submitted by: **Hubert Porter**
Anti-Tank Company, 273rd Infantry
900 Cedar Street, Atlantic, Iowa 50022-2010

I enjoy the bulletin and read it over and over. I have been in contact with several members of our company which I got addresses from your articles. I have been in contact with **Wesley Taylor**, San Jose, California, **Joseph Kutlina**, Niagara Falls, New York, and also **Chris Van Kerhoven**, Westerlo, Belgium, and a photo journalist there. Chris has sent lots of information, which he has gotten from the Belgium Archives, and lots of pictures of the countryside as it is today. He also has sent copies of the maps that were used during battle. Our Company Commander was **Capt. Desmul**, and Platoon Leader was **Lt. Harrell**. I am sure we all wished we had kept better records of men and addresses, but at the time, we were only interested in making it through another day.

I can remember the night we switched places on the line. We had to remove all identification and moved after dark into the town of Ramsheid just inside the Siegfried Line. It was a foggy and wet night and very disheartening. When the weather cleared so we could see, we realized we were just a stone's throw from the Germans on the hill east of us. At the time we didn't realize we were on the eastern side of the town guarding the crossroads from the east and that the rifle companies were on the west edge of Ramsheid and little did we know all there was between us and the Germans was a valley in-between. We used to watch them with glasses and suppose they watched us also. We took pot shots at them with the 57 and the 50 but they were well dug in and just disappeared into their foxholes.

The house we used was shelled and the east side of the upstairs was blown mostly away, but it made a good observation post for watching the road. We used to watch our squads going out at night for reconnaissance and also there were Germans coming in at night. We were advised not to stop any of them but to let them go and they would be taken care of by men further west as we didn't have any provisions to keep them. We did get two Germans waving the white flag one night and they told us we were lucky and would be getting relief soon and going back, but their information was not quite right as we had already made the switch.

We got mostly rocket and mortar shells there. At first they would bring up food in those insulated cans by jeep and sure enough, that is when the rockets would start to come in, so we sent word to forget the food cans and send us up K and C rations, and we could eat in peace. I think there was an order not to use the jeeps for food delivery any more and we never starved either.

We had the 57 camouflaged in the north end of a barn which had been blown apart on that end and most of the ammo in there also and it got set on fire one afternoon by rockets so after dark, two of us went as close as we could with the lieutenant's jeep and chained it up to the gun and dragged it out through the wall. We never did salvage the ammo. Those were the housebarns with the house on one end and the barn on the other.

If my memory is right, our Squad Leader was **Sgt. Atchkinson** and gunner was **Corporal Wagner**.

Chris Van Kerhoven in Belgium has verified the times and date of the rocket attacks, but one thing he has not come up with was a German plane coming up the road very low one morning and being shot at by us and someone got a lucky shot in the engine and it started smoking. The pilot pulled up as it went on to the west and got high enough to bail out and all we saw was a chute strung out. It did not open but we never did know if it was defective or if he wasn't high enough.

At night we used to look to the north as the bombers were making a run and watch the German anti-aircraft shells exploding, looking like fireworks as they were trying to bracket in on the planes and thinking, golly, it is better here.

We have been trying to find men of our company and not had much luck, but I know, as time goes by some of us aren't here any more either. We have been trying to find **Kenneth Smittley**. His last known address was La Ferria, Texas. Any help will be appreciated.

The Littlest Soldier - Putting a face to the story

In Volume 52, No. 3 Bulletin, May - June - July - August, 1999, there was an article that appeared by **Joe Morrison** called *In Memory of the Little Soldier*. In this article, Joe described **Pfc. Melvin Curtaccio** of Cannon Company, 271st, and how he laid down his life for his country. Recently, **Joe** sent us a picture of **Melvin** that he did not have when the article was written. It was sent to him by a fellow member of Cannon Company, **Henry Frye**.

We take off our hats to those men of the 69th who proudly gave their lives.



69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
53rd ANNUAL REUNION
461st AAA BN. - 661st T.D. BN. - 777th TANK BN.
Sheraton Colony Square Hotel
MIDTOWN ATLANTA, GEORGIA
AUGUST 27th thru SEPTEMBER 3rd, 2000

SEND THIS RESERVATION FORM TO:

ATTENTION: RESERVATIONS

SHERATON COLONY SQUARE HOTEL

188 14th STREET N.E. AT PEACHTREE, ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30361

Telephone: 404/892-6000 • Outside Georgia: 1-800-422-7895, Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. EST • Fax: 404/876-3276

HOUSING: Please reserve one of the following:

\$69.00 + Single _____ \$69.00 + Double - 2 persons _____ \$79.00 + Triple - 3 persons _____

\$89.00 + Quadruple - 4 persons _____ ALL ROOMS ADD 14% TAX

Print full names of ALL persons sharing room: _____

NOTE: Special accommodations required: (if available)

HANDICAPPED _____ KING SIZE BED _____ 2 DOUBLE BEDS _____ NON-SMOKING _____

I / We plan to arrive (day) _____, Aug.-Sept. _____, 2000. (Check in after 3:00 p.m.)

I / We plan to depart (day) _____, September _____, 2000. (Check out before 12:00 p.m.)

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

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

Send Confirmation to: (Please Type or Print)

Name: _____

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

City / State / Zip: _____

Telephone / Area Code: _____

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

Check or Money Order (One Night's Lodging) payable to the SHERATON COLONY SQUARE HOTEL, or
Major Credit Card and Date of Expiration. The following Credit Cards are accepted:

American Express, Master Card, Visa Card, Diner's Club, Carte Blanche and Discover.

Credit Card Name _____ Number _____ Expires _____

I, (your signature) _____ authorize the SHERATON COLONY SQUARE HOTEL
to make charges on my credit card. Date: _____

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

Reservations must be received not later than **July 28th, 2000**. After this date the group's blocked rooms will be released for
immediate resale. Reservations requested after this date will be on a space available basis at the group rate. Group rates can only
be offered for the dates of the reunion. If a particular type of room is unavailable, the next most suitable room will be assigned.
No particular room, room type, or location can be guaranteed. Deposit returnable on 48 hour cancellation notice prior to your
arrival date.

69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

53rd ANNUAL REUNION

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

SHERATON COLONY SQUARE HOTEL, ATLANTA, GEORGIA

AUGUST 27th thru SEPTEMBER 3rd, 2000

Registration form to be mailed to: **William R. Matlach, Treasurer**

P.O. Box 474, West Islip, New York 11795-0474 • Telephone: 631/669-8077

I/we will attend the 69th Infantry Division Association Reunion in Atlanta, Georgia during the week of August 27th thru September 3rd, 2000 and will attend the following activities.

Name: _____

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

City / State / Zip: _____

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

Unit: _____ Wife's Name: _____

Guests: _____

Daily Events

	Per Person	Number Persons	Amount
Registration: Monday thru Friday , 9:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., GEORGIA ROOM (Check the Bulletin Board for Changes)			
Sunday, August 27th — Early Arrivals on your own.			
Monday, August 28th — Check Bulletin Board and Habersham/Hospitality Room			
Tuesday, August 29th — On Your Own Walking Tour to HIGH MUSEUM and/or WOODRUFF'S ART CENTER - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. \$4.00 per person			
TASTE OF THE PEACH Orientation Tour - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.	\$ 26.00		\$
GOOD OLD DAYS BUFFET - Crown Room			
Cash Bar 6:00 p.m., Buffet 7:00 p.m., Barbershop Quartet 7:30 p.m.	\$ 29.00		\$
Wednesday, August 30th — MIDTOWN MEMORIES - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon ...	\$ 33.00		\$
Lunch On Your Own Hotel Food Court			
STONE MOUNTAIN PARK TOUR - 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	\$ 32.00		\$
Thursday, AUGUST 31st — GOLF TOURNAMENT at Bobby Jones G.C.	\$ 35.00		\$
ATLANTA HIGHLIGHTS TOUR - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch on your own.....	\$ 35.00		\$
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING — in Roswell Room, 4:00 p.m.			
EARLY BIRD BUFFET , Ballroom North, Cash Bar 6:00 p.m., Buffet 7:00 p.m.	\$ 37.00		\$
Friday, September 1st — ATLANTA'S LEGACY OF LEADERS	\$ 41.00		\$
Luncheon/Tour - 9:30 to 2:30 p.m. (Lunch Included)			
PX BEER PARTY, Grand Ballroom — 7:30 p.m. to 12:00 Midnight	\$ 6.00		\$
Saturday, September 2nd — COFFEE AND DANISH - 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.			
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP and LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING 9:00 a.m. to Noon			
BANQUET, Grand Ballroom — Cash Bar 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.	\$ 36.00		\$
Selections: Prime Rib served Medium Rare____, Potato Crusted Breast of Chicken____			
MEMORIAL SERVICE — 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.			
DINNER DANCE - 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 Midnight			
Sunday, September 3rd - Farewell Breakfast - 7:30-9:30 a.m.	\$ 15.00		\$
Replacement Cost for Lost or Broken Permanent Badges	\$ 4.00		\$
SUPPORT YOUR HOSPITALITY ROOM: DONATIONS PLEASE!!!			\$
DUES — New Dues Year - August 1, 2000 to July 1, 2001		Reunion Sub-Total	\$
Regular Membership	\$ 10.00		\$
Ladies Auxiliary	\$ 5.00		\$
Postage and Bulletin Donation (up to you)			\$
		Total Amount Paid	\$

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

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENT IN FULL — IF NOT — YOUR RESERVATION WILL BE LAID ASIDE UNTIL PAYMENT IS MADE AND THIS COULD RESULT IN YOUR REQUEST FOR SEATING AND FUNCTIONS BEING DENIED. NO CHARGE CARDS ACCEPTED FOR EVENTS.

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

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



Dottie Witzleb

THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE

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

or
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 Telephone: 516/627-6580

Jane Matlach, Secretary
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 22555 Hallcroft Trail
 Southfield, MI 48034-2011
 Telephone: 810/357-4611

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



Wally Richardson, Vice President
 2717 Glendora Avenue
 Orlando, FL 32812

A Message from your Auxiliary President, Gloria Czyzyk

Dear Ladies of the Auxiliary:

Our reunion in Orlando was enjoyed by all. The committee did an excellent job. **Rosemarie Mazza**, President of the Ladies Auxiliary could not attend the meeting due to family obligations. **Jane Matlach**, secretary, was ill and could not attend either. We wish her a speedy recovery. My thanks to **Ursula Goebel** for assisting me by being an acting-secretary and also fulfilling her position as Chaplain. Also thanks to **Wally Richardson** for volunteering to accept the office of Vice President for the term 2000 and 2001.

One of our active members, **Tillie Boris** is critically ill. Let us remember her in our prayers and wish her a speedy recovery.

A reminder ladies! Our next reunion is in August-2000, a very short time away. It is time to start working on lap robes, slippers, socks or any items suitable for hospital patients. The size of the lap robe is 36" x 45." They can be knitted, crocheted or quilted. These items will be distributed at the nearest Veterans

Administration Hospital in the Atlanta, Georgia area. They will be greatly appreciated by all the veterans who receive them.

May the New Year and New Century bring good health, happiness and peace to all.

Minutes of the Ladies Auxiliary Meeting Orlando, Florida November 20th, 1999

Before the meeting began, Vice President **Gloria Czyzyk** introduced **John Harvey** who spoke to us about the 2000 reunion. It will be held in Atlanta August 27 - September 3 and will be headquartered at the Colony Square Hotel. He gave us a sketch of the many interesting tours planned.

After his talk, at approximately 9:15 a.m., **Vice President Czyzyk** called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the 48th meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Chaplain Ursula Goebel gave an opening prayer and led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE

(Continued from Page 26)

Gloria announced that **Jane Matlach** was absent because of illness and asked for a volunteer to take notes for just this one meeting. Since there was no response, **Chaplain Goebel** served as secretary. **Gloria** also announced that **Rosemarie Mazza**, President, was not in attendance because of a family obligation.

VP Czyzyk gave the attendance count as 107 past members and 7 first timers. New members are **Dorothy Adsit, Betty Ammon, Janice Curry, Nancy Eisenreich, Betty Everson, Joan Schulz** and **Suzanne Tinka**.

Gloria called on Acting Secretary **Ursula Goebel** to read the minutes of the 1998 meeting in Houston. They were accepted as read.

Sunshine Lady **Edith Zaffern** said that since the last reunion she had written 2400 to 2500 greeting cards. She reported expenses of \$634. This year she switched from inserting the cards in envelopes to just sending them as postcards. This has saved over \$200 in postage, plus costs associated with printing and buying the envelopes.

Edith said that she received many grateful letters from recipients, including **Colonel David Bolte** and **Brigadier General Philip Bolte**. She read the **Bolte** letters and offered to pass them around.

Gloria asked for nominations from the floor for President, Vice President and Secretary. No one responded. Then she asked for volunteers for Vice President. **Wally Richardson** volunteered. Slate of Officers for 1999-2000: President, **Gloria Czyzyk**; Vice President, **Wally Richardson**; Secretary, **Jane Matlach**; Chaplain, **Ursula Goebel**.

Gloria thanked **Glenna Pierson, Marjorie Fain, Wally Richardson** and all the members of the various committees for their fine work.

Millie Hansen presented two golf awards. One was for the most accurate drive and the other for closest to the pin. Both were won by **Pat Nagy**.

Vivian Kurtzman presented **Gloria** with a count of 27 lap robes, 5 bed jackets and 3 pairs of booties. **Gloria** thanked the members for their kindness and introduced **Christine Feeser**, Chief of Voluntary Service, Veterans Hospital, Tampa, Florida. She expressed gratitude on behalf of the veterans and stressed the importance of volunteering at any veteran's hospital. A \$500 check was also presented to Ms. Feeser from the 69th.

Chaplain Goebel led the meeting in prayer in remembrance of the 15 ladies of the Auxiliary who died during the past year. A moment of silence was observed in their honor.

Gloria closed the meeting at approximately 9:40 a.m. Gifts were distributed to all members at the meeting.

Marjorie Fain of the Reunion Committee introduced **Bill, Luralee** and **Mark** from the Church Street Station entertainment group. From 10:00 to 10:45 they entertained us with Dixieland jazz and songs from the 40s. It was an excellent show. Church Street Station is historic downtown Orlando's night time dining, shopping and entertainment complex.

Respectfully submitted,
Ursula Goebel
Acting Secretary



Christine Feeser, Chief of Volunteer Services at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital, at the table displaying the lap robes etc., made by the ladies of the 69th.



Gloria Czyzyk handing the \$500 donation to Ms. Feeser

- In Memoriam -

"LADIES' TAPS"

HELEN GARSTECKI

wife of **Peter Garstecki**, (deceased) Cannon, 272nd

MARGARET McMUNN

wife of **Albert W. McMunn**, Hq. 3, 273rd

GRACE PACKARD

wife of **Frank Packard**, Co. A, 269th Engineers

ALBERTA THOMAS

wife of **Michael Thomas, Sr.**, Co. E, 271st

Court Martial or Promotion?

Army does an "about face"

Submitted by: **Paul Staub**

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

In Vol. 53, No.1, Sept.-Oct.-Nov.-Dec. 1999, which was the last issue of the Bulletin, we published an article which appeared on Page 11 written by Paul Staub entitled, "The Four of Us After the Link-Up." In that article, Paul mentioned the fact that there was talk of court martialing them because they were not supposed to meet the Russians. Other patrols were sent out for that purpose. He received the following letter from Lt. Tremble in response to his article.

* * * * *

Lt. Col. R. C. Tremble, U. S. Army Retired

96 Heatherwood Drive
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402
Phone: 601/268-7086

Your article on page 11 of Volume 53, No. 1 of the Association Bulletin, relating to the historic meeting on the Elbe was excellent. I vicariously enjoyed your article. Your depiction was so vivid that I could imagine being there with the four of you. We are getting to be an endangered species. Yes, I too am beginning to feel the pinch. There are few of us left around. We read that 1,000 of us vintage veterans are answering our last call each month.

I came to the 69th as cadre from Camp Adair in April 1943 and was assigned to Division Headquarters, AG Section. I was appointed as a Warrant Officer from enlisted status on activation day along with 17 other Warrants throughout the Division, and remained in the AG Section throughout my entire assignment with the Division. I was the last remaining AG Officer to leave the Division when it was deactivated in Camp Kilmer after returning to CONUS in September 1945. During the next five years I was a civilian but in the active reserve. I got appointed as 2nd Lt. AGC and headed an affiliated Postal Unit of the US Army Reserve in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The Korean Conflict surfaced and I shed my mufti and donned my military garb again. This time I stayed till January 1969 and retired here. I served in Korea, Vietnam and other less exciting places such as Hawaii and Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

Now I will come to the main point of my letter which is closely interlaced with your adventure on the Elbe River on the 25th of April, 1945.

As we all found out later, your meeting with the Russian forces was not what the great plans of the Pentagon and others in high levels of military strategy had designed to happen. Sooooo, we were in a pickle for a short time. Just as you explained so candidly, you did not know if you were going to be disciplined, reprimanded, court martialled or what.

My part in the play started around the midnight hours when **Colonel Harold Pengelly**, the Division Adjutant General, woke me up and said, "Junior, get your court-martial manual and come with me - the General (**Reinhardt**) wants to see us." **Colonel Pengelly** had two Warrant Officers in the AG Section, **CWO McNeil** and **WOJG Trimble**, he called Mac Mr. McNeil and me, Junior.

We walked into General Reinhardt's quarters and he was sitting on his bunk in his BVD's. We could tell he was concerned about something his troops had done and wanted to get his you know what covered. After a brief discussion with some of his staff officers present, I began to hear that we (Ha! You) had met the Russians etc, etc. We were all excited but at the same time apprehensive, because our Division had instructions not to proceed beyond a certain point. Alas!, this meeting had taken place beyond that restricting line. There was no doubt that all of us were experiencing a feeling of joyfulness and at the same time clouded with an ominous sense of fear of the consequences to follow.

Finally after getting a few words from the General, **Colonel Pengelly** turned around to me and said, "Junior get a draft of court-martial papers for the general to review." He ventured to add something like, "We have to impose at least Article 15 to these men." I returned to my work area and woke up my Sergeant whose duty up to now was preparing citations for decorations and awards for our fighting men. This was a switch for him. He had to do a 180 degree turn around in his thinking. He was good at preparing fitting phrases for citations in accolades awarded for meritorious service and for acts of valor, but this was negativism. He had to conjure up words and phrases which condemned men rather than praised them for their war effort. Well, he said he would give it a try and try he did. He came up with some remarkably fabricated phrases which I am sure the Judge Advocate would have been astounded by. We continued our research into facts all during the midnight and morning hours. As for the facts concerning the occurrences, they could be generalized, but for the bullet to hit the mark we had to have names, ranks and service numbers of the culprits. We took care of that for the time being by just inserting pseudo (John Doe) names in the citations. That would hold till the parent units could have time to provide the correct information.

During this interim period the word was sent up the chain of command. We understand that as the word went up the command ladder, it was somewhat clothed with an apologetic flavor. Now here is the kicker, after the acknowledgments came down the chain of command from SHAPE HQ, the words kept getting increasingly congratulatory at each echelon. By the time it reached **General Reinhardt** the results were similar to the Y2K phenomenon, "Everything is O.K."

(Continued on Page 29)

COURT MARTIAL OR PROMOTION?

(Continued from Page 28)

Colonel Pengelly advised me that the General had changed his mind about the reprimand or whatever action we had been preparing to take, but he did want us to prepare a commendation instead. What a revolving door. I was intrigued to note in your recollection that to some extent, the four of you were not sure of the outcome. As in the case of the quick promotions, the four of you received upon visiting General Eisenhower, the Division AG Section staff went into overdrive to conjure the necessary citations for the awards. I do not recall at this time what decorations were meted out. I am guessing that they were Bronze Stars. Maybe you can enlighten me on that. My how time has passed, I wish I would have kept better records. But after you met the Russians all that was on my mind was to come home to Mississippi and see my daughter who was born at Camp Shelby on 11 January, 1945. VE day soon followed and my next concern, along with all other members of the Fighting 69th, was to count up

our points and hope we met the required number to make the first troop deployment back to the good Ole USA. I was short a couple of points but to my surprise, **Colonel Pengelly** came up with some Bronze Stars for several members of his staff. And you guessed it..... I got one.

As I reflect deeply on those days I come up with the notion that your famous encounter may have had some influence in my award. If so, I have the four of you to thank. The Bronze Star award gave me enough points to meet my limit and I made the first convoy to the English Channel. I will never forget that the most appropriate and popular top hit song of the day was, "Sentimental Journey." You no doubt remember it also.

Paul I think I will stop here. Let us say a prayer often for Bill, James, Frank and all our other 69th Division Comrades in Heaven and on Earth as well. It has given me a pleasant relief to expound and share these old memories with a Compatriot. Drop me a line if its convenient. May God Bless you for many more years.

Company K, 273rd Infantry, 2nd Platoon

Submitted By: **Lawrence Wegener**

4013 Louisiana Avenue, Lake Charles, Louisiana 70607

The photo on page 16 of the last bulletin was taken at the arsenal near Altenheim, Germany, as is the photo below. Though I am sure our paths crossed many times, I do not recognize any of the guys, nor do I know which platoon it was. I have included names of the ones I recognize in my photo of the 2nd Platoon. I really enjoy receiving the bulletin.

Top Row: 1st man-Willard Eichart, 4th man-Jim Telenko, 5th man-Phillip Weaver, 6th man-Don Haase, 9th man-Dean France. 2nd Row: 1st man-Lt. Roth, 4th man-Bill Strickland, 6th man-Larry Wegener, 8th man-Vic Walton, 10th man-Carl Colpean. 3rd Row: 4th man-Dick Parrot. Front Row: 8th and last man-Moyers.



Company E, 273rd Regiment

Submitted by: **Dorothy Kajcienski**, wife of **Chester Kajcienski**
4421 West Beckley Road, Battle Creek, Michigan 49015

My husband was with Company E, 273rd Regiment. He was not with the original group but was late in joining the company. He was in the link-up with the Russians at the Elbe. I am hoping that some of you fellows would remember him and share some of your memories with me as I am trying to put together a book of memories of him in the war for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. We live in Michigan in the house he built when he returned from the war and are in reasonably good health.



Edwar Spitz and Chester Kajcienski



*Knocked out German Tank
Kajcienski and Lucien Daniel*



*John Gannette, Chester Kajcienski,
and R. Joynes*



*G.I., Russian Major,
Captain Dunlap our CO and Russian G.I.*



*Earl Moe, Jack Snyder, Lucien Daniels,
Richard Stewart, Vern Hunt, on a German Tank*

269th Combat Engineers, Headquarters Company

Submitted By: Clyde W. Dickert
24 Weber Drive • Tipton, Pennsylvania 19562-1610



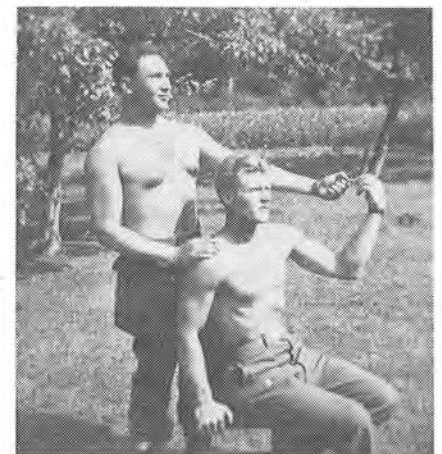
Velasco, Billups, Foster. Billups was the Mess Sergeant of the Cadre front Camp Adair, Oregon. Bill Foster was a Past President of the 69th.



Dickert, Velasco and Harold. Valesco was the first cook on our shift. We are peeling apples for apple pie. Last place we stayed over night.



Left: Guthrie
and Wrecker



Right:
Swedlow,
Mail Clerk and
Pedor,
Supply Sergeant



Top:
Edward Childs,
Howard Mills
Second Row:
Clyde Dickert,
Joe Molnar,
Jerry Marchetelli

Below Dickert:
Dan Martin

Bottom Row:
Billups,
Louis Rivera,
Fred Valesco,
William Foster

Photo taken
Saturday,
March 8th, 1944



Towers with a belt of .30
machine gun bullets

269th Combat Engineers

Submitted by: **Frank Nemeth**

Company B, 269th Engineers

66 Gaping Rock Road

Levittown, Pennsylvania 19057-3410

I supposed you still have your southern accents yet, even though you live in the north or western part of the country. Well, I guess you saw in "Taps" that we lost five Engineers, so the rosters are getting lighter. It's later than we think!! But all the guys that I heard from are doing well and holding their own, a good sign.

Below is an article by **Gardner "Hitch" Hitchcock** that he sent me for the Bulletin. "**Hitch**" was our "Private Ryan," as he left the company so many times to go to the hospital for a throat condition, that we always wondered where he was and often asked each other, "Have you seen **Hitch** lately?" But it's good to know that we located him once again and he is doing O.K. Now if only we can get him to attend the next reunion in Atlanta, that would be great!

I've also sent in a photo of the 3rd Platoon of Company B that was taken in Winchester, England. I will also send in the 1st and 2nd Platoons in the coming bulletins. Hope you all are doing well and the best to you always.

Your "ole" pal,

Frank C. Nemeth

Arkansan recalls wild WWII scene with swarthy Cossacks

From the Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Thursday, April 27, 1995

WEST MEMPHIS - There's probably a little bit of Forrest Gump in **Gardner "Hitch" Hitchcock**.

He's an ordinary Southern guy who has wandered his way through life, setting his own pace, living life on his own terms, occasionally finding himself in extraordinary circumstances. And when it's all balanced out, he probably doesn't have any real regrets to speak of.

The only notable difference is that **Hitchcock**, 72, of West Memphis, isn't "slow" like Gump, and Gump could never play drums like **Hitchcock**.

After World War II, **Hitchcock** made his career playing drums and singing with bands - bands big and not so big - until he eventually settled down to the piano-service business he now operates. His career in music provided him with many vivid memories of playing with such big names as Ray McKinley, Jan Garber, Boots Randolph, Ish Kabibble, Al Hirt and on the Ed Sullivan Show.

But among his more remarkable memories are his recollections of what occurred 50 years ago this week on the bank of the Elbe River in Germany.

Pfc. Hitchcock of the 69th Infantry Division, Co. B, 269th Combat Engineers was assigned with his company to build a pontoon bridge across the Elbe at Torgau, Germany.

It was the farthest point the American forces reached in their final thrust into the dying Nazi empire, just days before the Americans were ordered to stand down and to let the Russians take Berlin, just a few hours north.

It was a historic moment when East met West to strike a final blow to Hitler's "1000-year Reich."

Hitchcock was helping a fellow engineer drive a stake to hold a cable when he looked up and saw "a scene right out of a Cecil B. DeMille movie."

"There were 25 or 30 Cossacks (Russian soldiers) mounted on shaggy ponies," he recalled. "They were short, squat, swarthy men complete with daggers, swords and every other kind of weapon."

"They spied us about the same time we saw them. With a great roar, they galloped down and surrounded us. Leaping off their ponies, they grabbed us. They began pulling at our insignia. I kept yelling 'Americans! Americans!' " **Hitchcock** said. "Finally one of the smarter Russians asked, 'Amerikanski?' and I said 'Yes.'"

"They all started yelling 'Amerikanski.' They shouted and danced around us. Then we were subjected to much cheek-kissing and bear-hugging," he said. "Never let a Mongol soldier who hasn't bathed in a year and is covered with lice and other vermin kiss you. It's disgusting."

Hitchcock said what followed was a cross-cultural celebration of unique proportions.

"All this time our **Lieutenant Peterson** across the river is screaming at us to come back. Come back — we were prisoners of our own allies. (The Cossacks) came back from their ponies loaded down with 20 bottles of vodka and red wine," Hitchcock said. "They sat cross-legged and poured glasses of vodka and wine. One by one they would chug-a-lug a glass of vodka and chase it with a glass of wine."

"Then, with a full glass in each hand, they thrust it at you. If you didn't drink they were insulted. My first time was all right. There was dead silence as I downed the first round," he said. "When I got the last of the wine down, more hugs and kisses. This must have gone on for about an hour."

"I made it through three rounds. I was only 22. I can remember thinking after the second round how proud Ike (Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower) would be for holding my own with the Russians," he said.



269th Combat Engineers - Company B, 3rd Platoon Winchester, England

Front Row: Sal Vallano, Joe Edinton, Andy Steckel, Olden Webb, Matt Weddington, Joe Innacone, Robert Lee, Fred Bauer, Carl Bahu, Charles Ellis, Milton Cook, Williams, Earl Christner.

Second Row: Albert Winchester, John Thorpe, Dummler, Derov, Pete Seslaizack, Striners, Dusty Whitback, Monaz, Herman Nickle, Eddie Anton, Charles Weislner, Berman Schalbaugh, Perry.

Third Row: Lt. Ward Peterson, Joe Pinkston, Calvin Foster, Schmidt, Leo Pobleleski, Hassnay, Bryel, William Campbell, Jake Hursey, James Hammack, George Allen, James Mowl

Annual Meeting of Officers and Board of Directors 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. NOVEMBER 18TH, 1999 WYNDHAM ORLANDO RESORT ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Vice President Harold Ruck called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. He explained that **President Jim Boris** was not able to attend the Reunion because his wife is seriously ill. The invocation was given by **Chaplain Snidow** and Pledge of Allegiance was made by the entire group.

Treasurer's Report: **Treasurer Bill Matlach** submitted two reports. The first report covered the period of January 1, 1998 to December 31, 1998. It showed receipts of \$105,194.00 and disbursements of \$113,814.47 for a net change of -\$8,620.47. However, a truer picture of 1998 would be obtained by subtracting \$20,000 from both receipts and disbursements due to the way the purchase of the \$20,000 CD was handled for accounting purposes. **Treasurer Matlach** said that a couple of years ago the decision was made to deliberately run deficits by subsidizing the reunions, thus benefiting the members, rather than ending up with a large quantity of money at the time of dissolution of the Association that would be given to some charity. **Vice President Ruck** said that the Association should be able to manage its income and expenses to a considerable extent in order to achieve the financial result desired. The second report covered the period January 1, 1999 to October 31, 1999. Receipts were \$87,707.23 and disbursements were \$34,151.02. All these financial reports become part of the minutes of this meeting. Motion was made and seconded to accept the reports as submitted. Motion carried.

Auditor's Report: **Auditor Lucci** reported that he had examined the financial records and all funds were properly recorded.

Secretary's Report: **Secretary Goebel** said the minutes of the annual meeting of August 27th, 1998 had been published in the Bulletin for September-October-November-December 1998. Motion was made and seconded that the minutes be accepted. Motion carried. **Secretary Goebel** also mentioned that it is the practice to put roses and flags on the overseas graves of 69ers every year. There are 159 graves in total. Roses and flags were last placed on April 25, 1999. Because there will be a trip overseas for 69ers in the year 2000, roses and flags will be placed on April 20, 1999, the day on which the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and the Netherlands American Cemetery (Margraten) are visited.

Membership: **Chairman Kurtzman** reported that the membership roster was 4,722 in August 1998. Since then 268 have been listed in Taps while there has been an addition of 55 first-timers and 23 widows (who wish to continue receiving the Bulletin) for a total of 4,532 as of October 1999. He commented on the continuing problems with the post office and the obtaining of correct mailing addresses.

Bulletin Report: **Vice President Ruck** said that **Dottie Witzleb** had agreed to serve as Editor for at least a couple more years.

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee consists of Directors of the Class of 1999. Its Chairman, **Bill Snidow**, said that he had solicited the Committee members by mail. Nominations for the officers are as follows:

President **Harold E. Ruck**
Vice President **William R. Taylor**
Treasurer **William R. Matlach**
Secretary **Ralph H. Goebel**

Nominations for the Class of 2002 of the Board of Directors are as follows:

Division Artillery **Alex Kormas**
Special Troops **Eugene Pierron**
271st Infantry **Robert Dimmick**
(added after meeting)
272nd Infantry **Vincent Mazza**
273rd Infantry **Ken Sawyer**

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

Orlando Reunion: Reunion Committee Chairman **Ken Sawyer** gave a brief report. He mentioned problems in obtaining volunteers to help. He said that the Reunion would have a deficit of about \$6,000. He also mentioned that there had been a number of cancellations due to ill health.

Atlanta Reunion: **Bob Pierce** said the Year 2000 Reunion would be held at the Sheraton Colony Square Hotel from August 27th through September 3rd. It is on 14th and Peachtree Street in uptown Atlanta and is close to a large park area. It is an older hotel with extra large rooms. Room rates are \$69 per night. The hotel is part of an office, condo, restaurant complex with a large mall in between. Inside are restaurants, beauty shops, etc. It is all enclosed and air conditioned. The subway or metro at the airport takes a person to a block and a half from the hotel. The cost of the bar beverages in the hospitality room is the hotel's cost plus a 30% markup. We can bring our own snacks except for potato chips which the hotel sells. **Vice President Harold Ruck** said that he would be functioning as Reunion Coordinator in Atlanta and that he had obtained contracts for all of the tours and the bands. He mentioned the tours that have been selected. They include: Cyclorama, Fox Theater where *Gone With The Wind*

(Continued on Page 35)

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Continued from Page 34)

previewed, Margaret Mitchell's home, Stone Mountain, Braves Locker Room Tour if team is not in town - otherwise CNN Studio Tour, Jimmy Carter's Presidential Library, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, The World of Coca Cola Atlanta, Centennial Olympic Park (largest single facility of the 1996 Summer Olympics), Underground Atlanta.

Future reunion sites: **Vice President Harold Ruck** said that he was exploring sites in Cincinnati, Baltimore and Virginia Beach.

William Sheavly, Jr. (son of 69er **William Sheavly, Sr.**): **Vice President Harold Ruck** has received a letter and phone calls from him. He wants to prepare a history of the 69th Infantry Division from Camp Shelby to Torgau using letters and other material prepared by members of the Division. In the ensuing discussion it was concluded that there would be no liability on the part of the Division if materials from the Bulletins are used. A motion was made and seconded to permit the use of Bulletin material provided there was no cost to the Association. Motion carried. On the other hand, there might be some liability on the part of **William Sheavly, Jr.**

Re: Jim Boris: **Vice President Harold Ruck** said he had a plaque to be presented to **Jim Boris** honoring him for his service as President. He also said that **Jim Boris** recommended the use of \$100 of 69th Infantry Division funds for golf tournament prizes. This recommendation was turned down.

Mention was made that **Bob Swan** is trying to sell prints and books relative to the link-up. No action was taken one way or another on this matter.

Year 2000 European trip: **Bill Beswick** said that in the next issue of the Bulletin there would be a more extensive description of this trip. He needs to know by December 15th if a person is planning to go on the trip.

Meeting adjourned at around 6:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Ralph H. Goebel
Secretary



Epcot Center Insignia

Annual Meeting of the General Membership 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. NOVEMBER 18TH, 1999 WYNDHAM ORLANDO RESORT ORLANDO, FLORIDA

At 9:00 a.m., prior to calling the meeting to order, **Vice President Harold Ruck** made a few announcements as follows: He stated that he would preside over the meeting in the absence of **President James Boris**. **Jim's** wife has been in the hospital, seriously ill with cancer, and is taking chemotherapy. She is now home and recovering. **Vice President Ruck** then asked **Secretary Ralph Goebel** to write a letter to **Jim** and **Tillie** expressing the regrets of the membership and hoping to see them in Atlanta in the year 2000.

Shortly thereafter, **Vice President Ruck** called the meeting to order. He asked **Bernard Zaffern** to act as Legal Advisor and Parliamentarian.

The Invocation was then rendered by **Chaplain Bill Snidow**. Pledge of Allegiance was handled by the membership.

Secretary's Report: **Secretary Goebel** said the minutes of the annual meeting of August 29th, 1998 had been published in the Bulletin for September-October-November-December 1998. Motion was made and seconded that the minutes be accepted. Motion carried. **Secretary Goebel** also mentioned that it is the practice of the Association to put roses and flags on the overseas graves of 69ers every year. There are 159 graves in total. Roses and flags were last placed on April 25th, 1999. Because there will be a trip overseas for 69ers in the year 2000, roses and flags will be placed on April 20th, 2000, the day on which the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and the Netherlands American Cemetery (Margraten) are visited. **Secretary Goebel** also mentioned that in October of 1998 he had contacted **Eugene D. Butterfield**, Legal Advisor, relative to redoing the Constitution and By-Laws with all amendments incorporated. **Mr. Butterfield** is currently swamped with work but will get at the redo as soon as possible.

Vice President Ruck then asked for new members, that is, first-timers, to stand up. They were given a hand.

Treasurer's Report: **Treasurer Bill Matlach** submitted two reports. The first report covered the period of January 1st, 1998 to December 31st, 1998. It showed receipts of \$105,194.00 and disbursements of \$113,814.47 for a net change of -\$8,620.47. However, a truer picture of 1998 would be obtained by subtracting

(Continued on Page 36)

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

(Continued from Page 35)

\$20,000 from both receipts and disbursements due to the way the purchase of the \$20,000 CD was handled for accounting purposes. **Treasurer Matlach** then commented that a couple of years ago the decision was made to deliberately run deficits by subsidizing the reunions, thus benefiting the members, rather than ending up with a large quantity of money at the time of dissolution of the Association that would be given to some charity. The loss for 1998 was projected to be about \$6,500 but turned out to be over \$2,000 more, possibly due to the incidence of dues collections. The second report covered the period January 1st, 1999 to October 31st, 1999. Receipts were \$87,707.23 and disbursements were \$34,151.02. All these financial reports become part of the minutes of this meeting. Motion was made and seconded to accept the reports as submitted. Motion carried.

Auditor's Report: Auditor **Lucci** reported that he had examined the financial records and all funds were properly recorded.

Membership: Chairman **Kurtzman** reported that the membership roster was 4,722 in August 1998. Since then 268 have been listed in Taps while there has been an addition of 55 first-timers and 23 widows (who wish to continue receiving the Bulletin) for a total of 4,532 as of October 1999. He commented on the continuing problems with the post office and the obtaining of correct mailing addresses.

Bulletin Report: Earl **Witzleb** has passed away since the Houston Reunion. His widow, **Dottie Witzleb** has taken over as editor of the Bulletin. **Vice President Ruck** has talked with her and has been reassured that she will continue as editor for at least two more years. She may consider staying on longer because she likes being editor and has enjoyed her association with the members of the 69th Infantry Division Association. She has done an outstanding job. It was moved and seconded that we thank **Dottie** for all the work she has done. Motion carried. The Secretary was instructed to write **Dottie** a letter of thanks.

Nominating Committee: Chairman **Bill Snidow** said that he had solicited the nominating committee members by mail. Nominations for the officers are as follows:

President	Harold E. Ruck
Vice President	William R. Taylor
Treasurer	William R. Matlach
Secretary	Ralph H. Goebel

Nominations for the Class of 2002 of the Board of Directors are as follows:

Division Artillery	Alex Kormas
Special Troops	Eugene Pierron
271st Infantry	Robert Dimmick
272nd Infantry	Vincent Mazza
273rd Infantry	Ken Sawyer

It was moved and seconded that nominations be closed. Motion carried. It was then moved and seconded that these nominees be accepted as the new officers and board members. Motion carried.

Orlando Reunion: Reunion Committee Chairman **Ken Sawyer** said there would be 460 at the banquet. Attendance has been somewhat below expectations due to a variety of reasons. He hoped that everyone was enjoying the Reunion. **Vice President Harold Ruck** then thanked **Ken** for the great job he has done and he asked that members of the Reunion Committee stand and be recognized.

Past Presidents: **Vice President Harold Ruck** asked that all past presidents stand and be recognized for their accomplishments in making this a successful organization. He also mentioned that a photograph was taken at the last Orlando Reunion of past presidents at that time. All current past presidents attending were asked to stay after this meeting to have a group photograph taken.

Atlanta Reunion: **Bob Pierce** said the Year 2000 Reunion would be held at the Sheraton Colony Square Hotel August 27th through September 3rd. It is on 14th and Peachtree Street in uptown Atlanta and is close to a large park area. Room rates are \$69 per night. It is an older hotel with extra large rooms. It is part of an office, condo, restaurant complex with a large mall in between. Inside are restaurants, beauty shops, etc. The second floor of the hotel is completely open to the mall. It is all enclosed and air conditioned. The subway at the airport takes a person to a block and a half from the hotel. The cost of the bar in the hospitality room is the hotel's cost plus a 30% markup. We can bring our own snacks, except potato chips, which the hotel sells. He said the hotel would let us have either the 1999 menu or 10% off the 2000 menu. He said that the particular menu would not make any difference from the standpoint of those who attend the Reunion because the Reunion subsidy will be set to provide prices similar to those of past years. The comment was made that **Bob** does a great job for us. The following tours have been selected: Cyclorama, Fox Theater where *Gone With The Wind* previewed, Margaret Mitchell's home, Stone Mountain, Braves Locker Room if the team is not in town - otherwise CNN studio tour, Jimmy Carter's Presidential Library, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, World of Coca Cola Atlanta, Centennial Olympic Park (largest single facility of the 1996 Summer Olympics) and Underground Atlanta. **Vice President Ruck** then named the members of the Atlanta Reunion Committee and asked them to stand up and be given a hand.

Reunions after Atlanta: **Vice President Ruck** said that he and **Bob Pierce** have chatted about possible sites including the Baltimore area, Virginia Beach,

(Continued on Page 37)

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

(Continued from Page 36)

Cincinnati and northern Kentucky. **Bill Sheavly** brought up the matter of contracting with a company to run the reunions. **Ruck** said that this had been discussed by the officers and will be investigated. If anything definitive develops the membership will be consulted.

Proposal by William Sheavly, Jr., son of **William Sheavly**: **Vice President Ruck** said he had received a telephone call from the son. He wants to prepare a history of the 69th Infantry Division from Camp Shelby to Torgau using letters and other material prepared by members of the Division. He would like to use some of the letters that have appeared in the Bulletin over the years. He would also like to contact some of the members to see if they would be willing to write some of their experiences for the book. The book would be available at a price of \$20 to \$22. He wants to get as many individual stories as possible. It is estimated that it will take him 2 to 3 years to compile the information. A flyer will be prepared that will be mailed with a forthcoming issue of the Bulletin. While **William Sheavly, Jr.** is talking about a paperback, a number of 69ers recommended that it also be published as a hardback.

Mention was made that **Bob Swan** is trying to sell prints and books relative to the link-up. No action was taken one way or another on this matter.

New Business: **Bob Pierce** mentioned that the position of Souvenir Chairman is open. This job involves maintaining the inventory and ordering new stuff. A half-priced room for a week is included.

Memorial in Washington: There was a lot of conversation on various aspects of this. Among other things, **Bud Parsons** gave some details on the various plaques and monuments that have been installed. He said that right now in the Camp Shelby Museum there is a copy of the quite large bronze plaque that has been placed at Strehla, Germany where the first link-up occurred. Another copy of that plaque is in the Moscow cemetery, the equivalent of our Arlington cemetery. And there is an almost identical plaque near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C. The plaque in Shelby and also in Strehla were prepared by the President's 50th Anniversary World War II Committee. That plaque has material on it in English, German and Russian. There is also a second plaque which describes the backdrop of the President's plaque and gives appropriate recognition of the role of the 69th Infantry Division. It was moved and seconded to send \$5,000 to the World War II Memorial Fund. The money will be sent in memory of those members of the 69th Infantry Division who were killed in action. Motion carried.

Camp Shelby Museum: It was moved and seconded that \$5,000 be sent to the Museum in memory of those members of the 69th Infantry Division that were killed in action. Motion carried.

Bulletin Masthead: It was moved and seconded to change the masthead removing the "THE THREE B'S" and emphasizing the meeting on the Elbe. Motion defeated.

Bill Beswick spoke as follows: The flag by the rostrum was donated by the people of the 69th who sent donations to the memorials in Europe and in this country - namely the money that was left over plus donations by **Bill Snidow** and **Bud Parsons**. We want to dedicate that flag to the members of the Association who have made these donations. We were given permission to erect memorials in Strehla and Torgau. Those monuments have been erected. We dedicated the one in Strehla on April 25th, 1995. Due to time constraints we dedicated the memorial in Torgau on June 18th, 1998. Also a memorial has been placed in Arlington Cemetery and one in a Moscow cemetery. Two memorials have been placed in Camp Shelby. This flag is the final outcome of our expenditures. This flag was flown over the Capitol in Washington on May 15th, 1999 on the 54th Anniversary of the founding of the 69th Infantry Division in Camp Shelby. He then produced a certificate relative to this matter which was presented to the Secretary.

Colditz Liberation: **Bill Matlach** said he had received several telephone calls and a fax from a Melissa Parker who is in London, England. She is involved, as co-producer, in the making of a definitive TV documentary on the Colditz prisoner of war camp. This camp was liberated on April 16th, 1945 by a task force comprising elements of the 69th Infantry Division and the 9th Armored Division. She would like any information that members of the 69th who were involved with the liberation could give her. **Bill** asked members who had taken part in this liberation to see him at the end of this meeting of the General Membership.

Year 2000 European Trip: **Bill Beswick** said that the cut-off date for the trip is December 12th, 1999. The main tour, running from April 17th through May 2nd is approximately \$2,800. There are two optional extensions, one of three days costing approximately \$850 additional and another of eight days costing approximately \$1,800 additional. He suggested making one's reservations by December 15th. He said that he would not organize another tour after this one.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectively submitted,
Ralph H. Goebel
Secretary

Attendees by State at the 1999 Orlando, Florida Reunion

STATE	ATTENDANCE
Florida	101
Pennsylvania	51
California	35
Ohio	35
New York	34
New Jersey	22
Illinois	22
Tennessee	18
Michigan	17
Virginia	16
North Carolina	15
Maryland	13
Georgia	12
Massachusetts	12
Wisconsin	10
Alabama	8
Indiana	8
Colorado	6
Iowa	6
Oregon	6
Texas	6
Arkansas	5
Missouri	5
Arizona	4
Connecticut	4
Louisiana	4
Minnesota	4
Mississippi	4
Montana	4
Nebraska	4
Oklahoma	4
South Carolina	4
Washington	3
Alaska	2
Kansas	2
Maine	2
Rhode Island	2
Delaware	1
Wyoming	1
Washington, DC	1

513

SUMMARY	MEMBERS	TOTAL
Total Attendees	253	513
First Time Attendees	18	26

TOURS & ACTIVITIES:

King Henry Feast	102
Orlando Tour	125
Arabian Nights	163
Kennedy Space Center	168
Golf Tournament	22
Early Bird Dinner	208
Cypress Gardens	229
Picnic in Pavilion	300
PX Beer Party	326
Banquet - Dinner Dance	446
Farewell Breakfast	131

1999 52nd Annual Reunion Attendees Orlando, Florida

The following is a list of the attendees at the 1999 Reunion in Orlando, Florida including members, wives, widows and guests. If your name does not appear, it is because you failed to fill out a Registration Form during your visit.

An asterisk (*) indicates a First Timer.

69th DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Fred Avery Virginia

Guest: Patricia Avery

Archie Brooke Virginia

Guest: Vivian Bailey

*Clare Darby Florida

Gordon Kjos Minnesota

Guest: Suzanne Hanson

69th MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

Carl and Ruth Miller Ohio

Frank and Helen Williams Pennsylvania

269th ENGINEERS

Ernest and Mary Krause Illinois

Steve Sholtis Ohio

Guest: Steve, Jr. and Darlene Sholtis

Phil and Kelly Sholtis

Bob Sholtis and Rich Sholtis

*Dale Thorpe Florida

69th RECON

*Lawrence Schuler Florida

569th SIGNAL COMPANY

George Hepp New York

Ed Hoskins Texas

William and Eileen Jones Florida

John and Jean Kastanakis Alabama

Joseph Kotsko Ohio

Vic Lautz California

Curt and Evelyn Peterson Wisconsin

769th ORDNANCE COMPANY

Irving and Shirley Sarafan Florida

271st INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

John Barrette Wisconsin

John and Barbara Davis Pennsylvania

William Duncan California

Ray and Bertha Jones Pennsylvania

Lee Wah New Jersey

(Continued on Page 39)

1999 REUNION ATTENDEES ORLANDO, FLORIDA
(Continued from Page 38)

COMPANY A

Allan and Bobbi Gwynne California
Guests: Jack and Terksey Gwynne
Robert Lydy Florida
Delbert and Donna Philpott California
Robert and Jean Ross Massachusetts
George and Rita Wolff South Carolina

COMPANY B

Lumir and Patsy Bocek Nebraska
Martin Buol Florida
George Burrows North Carolina
Kenneth and Dorothy Curran Florida
P. J. and Ruth Delphey Pennsylvania
Earl and Millie Hansen Tennessee
Ted Heilman Florida
Elmer and Dottie Miller Georgia
Harold and Cynthia Moore Tennessee
Charles and Roseann Nicely Alabama
William and Jo Sheehan New Jersey
Kenneth and Lillian Upton Louisiana
Niel and Betty Ver Merris Michigan
Charles and Pat Walsh Wisconsin
James Walsh Connecticut
Jim and Dorothy White Tennessee

COMPANY D

John and Jean Butkovich Washington
Bernard and Muriel Devack New York
*Eugene and Teresa Kluck Michigan
John and Dena Tounge California
*Edmund Zaloga Florida

COMPANY E

Elmer and Erma Broneske Colorado
Robert and Betty Dimmick Georgia
Irving and Etta Gotkin Florida
Graham Lippard Virginia
Guest: Billie Sicard
William and Catherine McCall, Sr. New Jersey
Bing Poon District of Columbia
William Taylor Florida

COMPANY G

Edward and Jacquelyn Chando New Jersey
Frank DiFrancisco New York
Cecil Fernandez, Jr. Florida
Guests: Debbie Raub, Chic Lewis,
Nancy and Quentin Schroeder
Garland and Martha Gable Arkansas
Clarence and Lena Goon Ohio
Guest: Janice Curry
N. C. and Elizabeth Harrison Tennessee
Guests: Alan and Emily Cochran
Glenn and Nadine Hunnicutt Nebraska
Clarence and Shirley Jensen New York
*LeVerne Loveland New Jersey

Emery and Pat Nagy Tennessee
Ralph and Josephine Plugge Illinois
*Joseph and Susie Sedlacek Florida

COMPANY H

*Robert and Dorothy Adsit Michigan

COMPANY I

Douglas and Nathalie Buckstad .. North Carolina
Joe and Virginia McMurry, Jr. Tennessee
*Richard and Patricia Plum Tennessee

COMPANY K

Robert and Irene Bishop Massachusetts
Connie Brough Michigan
Guest: Suzanne Tinka

COMPANY L

Robert and Wanda Grimm Ohio
Guests: Barbara and Steven Tidd

COMPANY M

Jimmy and Wally Richardson Florida
Guests: Elsi Meyer, Hannelore Jung,
Gerlinde Gritz
William and Reba Sheavly Maryland
James and Mary Nelle Shoemaker Florida
Guest: (2)

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

Edgar Biles Arkansas
Guests: Bobby and Paula Withers
Donald and Emily Durst Maryland
Joseph and Iris Ferrell Florida
Arthur and Nancy Holgate New Jersey
Archie and Pauline Millsaps Arizona
Francis Tomczuk New Jersey
George and Lina West Pennsylvania

CANNON COMPANY

Harold and Nancy Faulkner California
Alfred Blain Massachusetts
Guest: Estelle George

SERVICE COMPANY

*Felix Mellin Florida

272nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Joe and Anne Lipsius Georgia
Raymond and Polly Naylor Florida
1st BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY
Herbert and Jeanne Mason, Jr. Florida

COMPANY A

Edgar and Frances Parsons North Carolina

COMPANY B

Nicholas and Kathryn Giannone New York
Vincent and Rosemarie Mazza Florida
Eugene and Marilyn Mischke Illinois
Leo and Marilyn Moore Ohio
Guests: Dale and Marilyn Moore

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1999 REUNION ATTENDEES ORLANDO, FLORIDA
(Continued from Page 39)

COMPANY C

Charles Weaver Ohio

COMPANY D

John and Joan Mason California

Guests: Mildred and Sherry Hutzler

John McKeil Florida

Guest: Virginia Speaker

*Alex Miljevic Maryland

Guests: Cassandra and Buck Blankner

2nd BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Bretsell and Betty Everson Pennsylvania

David and June Wittman Montana

COMPANY E

Fred Butenhoff Wisconsin

Guest: Nancy Eisenreich

Arthur Caola New Jersey

Charles and Glenna Pierson Florida

Ken and Marilyn Shayne Florida

Thomas Smith Delaware

Chet and Barbara Yastrzemski New York

COMPANY F

Joseph and Anne Nunes Rhode Island

Neil Shields Pennsylvania

Melvin and Louise Wardin Michigan

COMPANY G

Barbara Barakat Pennsylvania

Fredda Carter Texas

Will and Barbara Frazee Ohio

Clement Hadacek Missouri

Guest: Rosella Kochner

Edward and Bette Kiley Florida

Ray Lehman Iowa

Guest: Eva Benson

COMPANY H

Leonard Stahl Pennsylvania

COMPANY I

Edward and Jennie Ambrose Pennsylvania

Frank and Clare Aplau Pennsylvania

John Duespohl Pennsylvania

*Joseph and Beverly Elinoff Colorado

Wendell and Sally Freeman Georgia

Forrest and Marilyn Frentress Colorado

Dennie and Elsie Haltiwanger Florida

Robert and Elizabeth Kline Montana

Robert and Vivian Kurtzman, Sr. Ohio

L.A. and Janice Lushbaugh Maryland

Edward McDonnell New York

Guest: Patricia McLaughlin

Lawrence and Katherine McKelvey ... Oklahoma

Emanuel and Edythe Rind Virginia

Harold and Ethel Ruck Tennessee

Ernest and Marion Slovak Wisconsin

Thomas Yelcich, Jr. Michigan

COMPANY K

Stanley and Laurene Knedlik Alaska

Harold and LaVerne Zeiger Michigan

COMPANY L

Walter and Arlene Elsner Florida

John Nelson New Jersey

Bernard and Edith Zaffern Michigan

COMPANY M

Joseph and Kathryn Makosky Pennsylvania

Floyd and Melva McCalip Mississippi

Richard and Claire Sodorff Indiana

Raymond and Alice Wolthoff Florida

ANTI-TANK COMPANY

Harry and Roseann Austin, Jr. Pennsylvania

Guest: Doug Austin

John and Lois Brockwell Illinois

Roy Bush Missouri

Don and Libby Calhoun Florida

Urno and Evelyn Gustafson Pennsylvania

Joseph Huber Wisconsin

Harold Kaska California

Russell and Betty Koch Missouri

Robert and Margaret Perry South Carolina

Raymond and Janet Sansoucy Massachusetts

Edward and Dolly Sarcione New York

Mel and John Schulz Ohio

Dallas and Laura Nelle Shelton Illinois

Guests: Frank and Kay Baker

CANNON COMPANY

Ralph and Ursula Goebel Minnesota

Charles and Mary Wentz North Carolina

Guests: Billy and Frances Ferguson,

Lindsay Wentz

MEDICS

Saul and Charlotte Strauss Florida

273rd INFANTRY REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Norman and Juanita Pickford Illinois

1st BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

*Leslie Lee Florida

Guest: Janet Kline

Ralph and Cecilia Scholtz Florida

Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Edward Jwankow

COMPANY A

James Brooks Georgia

Guest: Barbara Pitman

James and Mary Carroll Texas

Jack and Jackie Hubbard Florida

Edward Lucci New York

William Nettles Mississippi

Bennie and Marcella Srubar Texas

*Craig Waller Mississippi

(Continued on Page 41)

1999 REUNION ATTENDEES ORLANDO, FLORIDA
(Continued from Page 40)

COMPANY B

Arthur and Billie Hall Oregon
Robert and Lynn Peason New Jersey

COMPANY C

Stanley and Gloria Czyzyk New York
Elijah Dalrymple Florida
*Gerald and Bernice Gilgenbach Ohio
Kent O'Kelly North Carolina

COMPANY D

Robert and *Betty Ammon Michigan
Arthur Ayres, Sr. Pennsylvania
Guests: Kenneth and Kenny Ayres
Edgar and Mary Case Pennsylvania
Roland and Janice Hendrickson Oregon
Guests: Dwayne and Dana Nelson
George and Barbara Johnson Virginia
Dan and Cathy McHugh Virginia
Kenneth Sawyer Florida
Guests: Fran Collard, George Jones

COMPANY E

Joseph Aiello New York
Anthony and Doris Bummara New Jersey
Carl and Charlyne Bugg North Carolina
Robert Crowe Massachusetts
Davisson and Barbara Dunlap Florida
William Matlach New York
Harold and Peggy Sprang Ohio
Dorothy Witzleb Pennsylvania
Guest: Kimberly Chemsak

COMPANY F

Jack and Marjorie Fain Florida
Thomas and Jean Graves Florida
Guest: Laura Gorolon
Walter and Shirley Harpain California
Lou Souder New Jersey
Samuel and Anne Woolf New York

COMPANY G

Alfred and Elizabeth Aronson New Jersey
Doris Beecher Florida
W.E. and Marilyn MacLauchlin Florida
Joe and Diane Panganiban California
Edson and Tory Stagg New Jersey

COMPANY H

Joe and Elner Bell Florida
Bert and Rhoda Eckert New York
Robert and Maxine Haag Indiana
Guests: Tamara and Nicole Mazelin
Thomas Hoffman Florida
Leland and Lola Jones Kansas
Howard and Jane Keyser Pennsylvania
Murry and Helene Schulman New York

3rd BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY
Marvin and Miriam Freeman Florida
Joseph and Caroline Gawek North Carolina
Charles and Patricia Hoffman, Jr. Alabama
*Fred Koeller Florida

Guest: Lynn Kaehn
David and Miriam Malchick New York
John Mihm Pennsylvania
Guest: Nancy Decker
Michael Ossewaarde Washington
Earl and Anna Walters Pennsylvania

COMPANY I

William and Beverly Armstrong Iowa
Justin and Robbie Bloom Maryland
Paul and Elaine Eagon Illinois
George and Janet Houseal Pennsylvania
Guest: Heather Sherk
Carl and Bernice Macknair Pennsylvania
Guest: Jean Knepp
Paul and Aldona Mickiewicz Florida
Robert and Theresa Pierce California
Guests: Frank and Doris Pierce,
Neill and Joan Schmeichel
Earnest and Elizabeth Rowe Alabama
Nicholas Villacci New York

COMPANY K

Walter and Stella Hajdamacha New York

COMPANY L

John and Joyce Harvey Georgia

COMPANY M

Leon Boyajan Florida
Raul Nava California

CANNON COMPANY

Arlie and Parley Boswell Illinois
Lee Wilson California
Guest: Jan Krementz

724th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

BATTERY A

Paul Kitner Pennsylvania
William Ruebsamen California

BATTERY B

Richard and Josephine Cagno Florida
Thomas Heath New York
Guest: William Nesbitt

BATTERY C

Howard and Lois Hawk California
Charles Martens Wyoming
Walter and Nicole Wilson New York

879th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

James Andrews Florida
Guests: Cathy Milano, Mike Reese, Brian Reese,
Pam and Geoff Hemmen and Baby

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1999 REUNION ATTENDEES ORLANDO, FLORIDA
(Continued from Page 41)

661st TANK DESTROYERS

Bill and Jo Beswick Virginia
William and Ellen Snidow Virginia

777th TANK BATTALION

Neil and Mary Ellen Corcoran Illinois
Norman King and Guest Maine
Alex and Florence Lasseigne, Sr. Louisiana
John and Ellen McCann Massachusetts
Guest: Robert Bulens
Henry and Jean Putala Connecticut
Robert Weise New York
Charles and Edna White Oklahoma

880th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Stanley and Georgia Bratt Illinois
Arthur and Mary D'Antonio Florida
Robert and Marilyn McKee Maryland
Mike and Lucille Pendrick Arkansas
William and Loretta Stump Indiana

881st FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Lou and Jean Lineburgh Ohio
Leslie Hart Ohio
Walter Haag California
Guest: Dorothy Vasiloudis
Daniel and Margie Sparks Pennsylvania
*Thomas and "Barney" Smith Iowa
Gilbert Rocco Pennsylvania
Guest: Nick Rocco

Orlando Reunion Mug Shots



Charles and Glenna Pierson



Jack and Jackie Hubbard



Ed and Pat McLaughlin



Bob Pierce and Brother

Co. A, 271st Regiment

A Partial History - Author Unknown

Submitted by: **G. Ray Kehn**

Company A, 271st Regiment

16030 Township Road 64

Conesville, Ohio 43811

We were routed out of bed Christmas morning, divided into two groups, and told that one group would be shipped into combat immediately to fill in as replacements in the Battle of the Bulge, which was then at its height. No one was allowed out until late that night. We spent the entire day outfitting those who were going, and then, when the remainder were finally permitted to go out at 9:00 p.m., we naturally couldn't say anything about why we were late, but had to invent other excuses.

On the 20th of January, at 7:00 a.m., we left Winchester by truck, boarded trains, and rode up to Southampton Station. From there we marched 1-1/2 miles to Dock No. 36. We boarded a small British boat of the Union Castle Line, named the Llangiby Castle. The sea was smooth, but the boat crowded and filthy. We slept on the floor, on tables, in hammocks, or wherever we could. We ate insufficient British food, and drank a vile concoction supposed to be tea. We reached Le Harve early in the morning, but had to ride at anchor for two more days until we could get clearance at the one remaining dock. Slowly about dark, we rode in past sunken ships and bombed out quays and jetties. We still could not go up to the dock, but had to land via an LST, which came along side. We boarded it with full equipment, having to time our jump from the larger boat to the smaller with the rising and dropping of the smaller one. Finally we were all crowded on it, and the LST chugged toward the beach until it grated on the bottom. A small bulldozer came down and cleared a pathway to the edge of the boat. Grabbing a duffel bag apiece, we struggled up the Normandy beach in the beginning of a drizzle. We had landed on the continent.

Then came the march through Le Harve itself, or rather the skeleton of Le Harve, for the largest part of the town itself was completely blasted. Such total destruction, and over a wide area had never been seen before by any of us. We had been told that we had approximately 3/4 miles to go to reach the railroad station. In reality it was almost three miles. After a rough hike, we finally reached the station, which was pretty much intact. Then we boarded the famous 40&8's. These are small, European boxcars designed to hold 40 men or 8 horses. Forty men with baggage can't sit down in a 40&8, much less stretch out and sleep during a ten to fourteen hour journey. There are no windows, just a big sliding door, and of course no sanitary equipment. That night after the train finally started, we rolled in fits and starts, approximately

eighty miles, through the bleak, snow-covered country of Northern France. As usual, no one knew where we were going, in what direction, how long or far we were supposed to go.

Finally about the middle of the day we halted at Buchy, France. Then we waited a couple of hours for the trucks and after they came, we rode four miles further to the small town of St. Croix where we shared a romantic looking old French chateau with Company C. We ate our cold C-rations that night and slept in crowded small rooms.

The biggest bit of excitement was the night the chateau caught on fire. All evening the rooms were filled with smoke, but we believed it to be the fault of the old faulty fireplaces. The floor around a small hall closet was torn up and the joists burst into flames. The building was evacuated while a small firefighting gang remained. It eventually was put out.

Soon we moved again. On February 1, 1945 at 0930, we marched to the train four miles away, laden with our baggage, and combating the rain and slippery ice and snow under foot. Once more we boarded 40&8's and headed for the marshalling area. We traveled approximately 140 miles going through Cambrai, St. Quentin, and Amiens. Early the next morning, at 0620 we arrived at Liesse Cizy, and were met, to our great surprise, by **Captain Edward**, our former CO back at Shelby, who had gone overseas in the middle of the summer and now RTO at Leisse Cizy.

After getting loaded up, we marched three miles, arriving at a point one mile north Pierrepont, France. We lived in large tents in the middle of a plowed field. The mud was terrific. We received cots and stoves just in time. The second night there, we received a large bunch of replacements for those who had left at Christmas time. These were very welcome, as we had begun to think we would have to go into combat with less than half strength. Soon we marched back to Liesse Cizy. In the early morning blackness, we once more boarded the 40&8's. The train departed at 0845.

This time we traveled 140 miles, rolling well into Belgium, going through Liege, recently captured, and following the Meuse. The Belgian people, perhaps because of their more recent liberation, were much more friendly than the French had been. At noon the eighth of February, we detrained at Pepivater, Belgium, and boarded trucks which carried us into the mountain regions of Belguim, through Spa and wrecked Malmedy, where the infamous massacre had occurred just a few days previously and up to the border town of Gueuzaine, where we lived in houses and bars for two nights. Evidences of very recent combat were all about us. There was an exceptionally large amount of abandoned American material, particularly ammo of all types. Here we also found the first German war relics. Two days later, on February 11th, we boarded

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trucks at 1015 and then waited until 1200 before the trucks moved out. In a few minutes we had crossed the border into Germany. It was bitter cold and soon it began to snow. The snow continued in intensity, until it reached its peak at night when it reached almost blizzard proportions. All the way to our destination we rolled past dead animals, burned out German tanks and trucks, and through a couple of demolished cities, in which not one house had been left untouched. Main points of interest along the way were the Dragon's Teeth of the Siegfried Line, through which we rode. Also interesting and impressive was the Hurtzgen Forest. We traveled 18 miles arriving 1-1/2 miles outside of Hollerath in the Eifel Mountains. We detrucked at the last row of Dragon's Teeth, and began to march through mud and snow to the blasted town. We waited in the woods for some time until the quartering party could bring us into the town.

The town itself was on one of a series of hills with the Germans within visibility on the other surrounding hills. This necessitated extreme caution in moving into town, although in reality the snow was so heavy that we could not have possibly been seen, but we were green troops then and took no risks. Finally we were all quartered, mostly in basements, for Hollerath also had been almost completely demolished. We relieved the 99th Division. They did not all completely move out until early in the morning, so most of the night was spent sitting up huddled around the small stoves. Thus at 1700 on February 11th, we went into combat with 174 men in the Company.

For 16 days we stayed at Hollerath, leading fairly regular lives, with an occasional patrol going out. At night we watched Buzz bombs being launched. Two days after our arrival there, we had our first casualty when **Stanley Waskiewicz** was brought in wounded in the face while on outpost duty. From then on we had more and more actual contact with the Germans. They started shelling us with nebelwerfers or screaming meemies. We had no actual casualties from these, but many of them came uncomfortably close. The morale effect of hearing them coming was greater than the actual damage done.

Cleanliness was our biggest problem. The electricity was not in order, so our only means of illumination was by bottles of gasoline with a rag stuck in the bottle for a wick. The food situation was also bad. At first we only had two meals a day, breakfast brought up to the front before daylight, and supper after dark. The quantity of food was insufficient and much griping resulted.

The biggest item of interest was the return of our first daylight recon patrol of four men led by **Lieutenant Moore** to the town of Dickersheid, with six prisoners. These were the first Germans we had

seen up close. One bit of irony was that they were found in a graveyard containing crosses indicating the graves of both German soldiers and some Russians who had been killed in the attack on Hollerath.

On the 20th of February we sent out another patrol led by **Lieutenant Kramer**. This patrol went into Obereifersheid and remained hidden in the grass while the Germans set up mortar stakes around them until 1600. Then they were detected and surrounded but engaged in a running fire fight with the Germans, killing one and wounding another. We had no casualties on our side.

One day we got a chance to ride back almost to the Belgian border to take showers. It was a long and weary ride but on the way we saw a tremendous amount of abandoned and wrecked equipment, both German and American. There were several tanks from both sides at one point indicating a large tank battle. The first dead Germans that most of us saw were seen in fields and woods just off the road. Some of them were pretty gruesome, as they had been lying there for quite some time. One had been cut in half by a bulldozer.

About the 24th we began to know that shortly we were to attack. This kept us at a high pitch. And to make matters worse, the Germans began to get more active with their mortar and artillery fire. On the 25th our kitchen, somewhat to the rear, took a heavy artillery bombardment, damaging all the kitchen equipment and both jeeps, but no one from A Company was injured.

Then came the morning of February 27th. The long planned attack finally was to take place. All of our equipment had been rolled up and stored in a barn. We got up at 4:00 a.m., ate a hasty breakfast of C-rations, bundled on as many sweaters and undershirts as we could, and formed out on the road, moving off at 5:00 a.m. in single file in the darkness toward the enemy position. Slowly and silently we wound our way down our hill to the valley and stream separating us from the enemy. Emotions must have varied, but the enforced silence and the darkness prevented observation of any of them. When we got across the stream at the bottom through no man's land, we started up the the enemy's hill with the Company split into two parts, swinging up either flank of the hill. Just as we started up the hill, our artillery support opened up with a huge sustained 15 minute concentration on the top of the hill, where the enemy was supposed to be located. The eerie moaning sound of the shells whistling over our heads made us duck instinctively, although actually it should have been a comforting sound. Slowly we made our way up the terrifically steep slope. Vision was limited due to a heavy fog. This was hill 630.

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Then came the tally of wounded and killed. **Lt. Moore** and **Anastassion** had been killed. **Marshall, Bullock, Reynolds, McNamara, Schreffler, Lt. Beccary, Bakalis the Greek, Monroe, Wolfred, Gillasp, Lt. Kramer, Ray, Haught, Andrews, Bodins, Taylor, Cheever, Sgt. O'Brien, Fitzgerald, Thompson and Dortenzo**, were mostly wounded by mines completed the initial tally.

Patrols were sent out and security posted. Two prisoners were brought in and taken back. As the days went on, trench foot took its toll. **Seals, Sgt. Swanson, Sgt. Fito, the trench foot non-com, Sloan, Pritchard, Robbins, Dibeneditto, Dale, Brown, Pastmas, Fleming, Parsons, Kloppengorg, Lt. Estes, Williams, Neutrop, Goldstein, Shumate, Holler, Breedon, Zellars, Cheek, Gillis, Walsh, Bean, Tudker, Hafuer, Norville, Asbuty, Jaeger, De Rosa, Jeworski, Hovis and Grimm** were evacuated due to trenchfoot. Many others had lighter cases and didn't report for medical aid. Exposure due to cold also caused a number of cases of nasopharyngitis, including **Gramiak (Grumpy)** and **Bates. Barbeau** left with an attack of appendicitis. Four cases of exhaustion were evacuated: **Philpott, Hank Mitchell, Fidge and Putman**. More men were wounded later in the week by mines while on patrol - **Farghmar, Palider, and Sgt. Hudson** were wounded and **Chummey** was killed. Our strength was almost halved.

Finally on March 5th, a portion of the company occupied the town of Hescheld to the front and attempted to evacuate the civilian population. While doing so, the German Army, from comparatively close range, fired mortar rounds into their own people wounding several and killing one. On our side only one man, **Richard Lee**, was wounded. By 0300 the next morning, the remainder of the Company including 50 new replacements, had moved into Hescheld under cover of nightfall. What we did not know was that the Germans had withdrawn. This was soon discovered when we moved out at 1330 in the rain to push forward three miles through mountainous country to take Unterschaumbach without opposition. Here we stayed overnight, getting a chance to get a little food from the countryside.

Again the next morning we moved out in a light rain as the Divisional spearhead, marching 3-1/2 miles to Schmidtheim, making the initial occupation at 1230. No opposition was encountered, as the Germans had pulled out the day before, and as we found out later, had withdrawn all the way to the Rhine.

After getting quartered, we received, to our great disgust, orders to move out through the woods (which were reported mined) at night for another three miles. Consequently other units took over our billets. We had

scarcely been moving, maybe 1-1/2 miles when we were met by **Col. Dunlap** with a countermanding order. This pleased us greatly, but it still left us the problem of finding billets. All of the good places had been occupied by the troops who had followed us into town. At length we found billets and turned in. We had expected to move out again but as it turned out we had been pinched off by the juncture of two units ahead of us, so we remained in Schmidtheim for 13 days, resting and recuperating. While we were there we received two new officers: **Lt. Jones** and **Lt. Humphrey**, to replace part of our combat losses. Here also, **Sgt. Parks** was finally evacuated due to gastritis, which he had been fighting off for several days.

On the morning of March 19th, we left Schmidtheim at 1115 and marched 3-1/2 miles to Blankenheimdorf, the next village. We stayed there only two days, departing 21st March at 0700 by truck for the Rhine. We rode 40 miles through the Eifel Mountains and the Ahr. Valley until we reached the Rhine at Bad Niederbreisig. We continued upstream until we reached a point 3/4 miles south of Sinzig, where we were quartered in hotels and large houses. Here we lived in luxury - beds for everyone, wine, cognac, soda water and venison. We remained here three days and then marched four miles to Niederbreisig where we lived in regular houses. The town had been split in half - half for us and half for the civilians. We lived in the river half. While there we had the duty of guarding the pontoon bridge with smoke pots in case of a German air attack on it. We were just a few miles south of Remagen, and could see the barrage balloons over Remagen in the distance. There were hot sulfur baths and mineral spas here. These were very popular. While in Niederbreisig, **T/Sgt. Richardson** got his battlefield commission, but was transferred to Baker Co. and we received **Lt. Ilkins**, also a battlefield commission from them. We also received **Lt. Wrigley**, a former NCO of D Company as weapons platoon leader, once more giving us a full set of officers. **Sgt. Bischof** was permanently assigned as 1st Sergeant to replace **Parks**.

On the night of the 27th we boarded trucks at 2130 and crossed the Rhine, traveling 23 miles that night, going through Ehrenbreitstein, Bad Ems, and Nassau. At 1:00 a.m. in the morning we reached the little town of Weinahr, where we routed the dazed and sleepy civilians out of their homes so that we could get a few hours sleep before we started to clean this area in the morning. We had no definite idea of how much opposition we would run into. It looked like combat once more for us. However, we marched 5-1/2 miles to Gackebach without incident, rounding up a few stray prisoners. We cleared this small town, established ourselves in the houses, and settled down for a couple of days of patrolling and maintaining a defensive position. Petty

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COMPANY A - 271st INFANTRY

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difficulties with the civilians were numerous. As there was no AMG in town, we had to operate as a combined army, City Hall and Mr. Anthony with the village priest acting as go-between.

On the 31st at 1700, we boarded trucks once more and rode 30 miles to Odersbach, getting our first sight enroute of the famous Autobahn. We padded through the town of Limburg, of cheese fame. We arrived at 2000, bedded down for the night and the following day, being Easter Sunday, was a busy one.

At 0300 in the morning of April 3rd we boarded trucks for the most uncomfortable ride of the whole campaign. We had to load 40 men with equipment in closed trucks. The equipment took up 1/4 of the space, and with the cover down, most of the men could not stand up. The ride lasted all night. We traveled 60 miles reaching the old town of Fritzlar at 0830. On the way, **Ray Dinsmore** was shot through the arm when his carbine was accidentally discharged due to the crowded conditions. In Fritzlar was an interesting 12th century cathedral, with a cloister still functioning with genuine monks. As in Gir Ben, there was a huge Nazi QM depot, and uniforms, insignia, etc. were plentiful, but we still could not send any packages, so a good bit of the souvenirs were left behind, especially since we thought that we were going directly into combat when we left Fritzlar on April 5th on tanks. However, we rode 15 miles through the completely and utterly destroyed city of Kassel to a suburb called Bettenhausen, arriving there at 0400. Here we lived in apartment buildings.

Late in the afternoon of the 7th we left Bettenhausen by truck and moved to the vicinity of Hamun Munden which was still occupied by the Germans. At sunset we crossed the Weser River in assault boats. When we crossed we formed a long column along the road leading to town. There were several square places dug out of the road which we believed to be road mines. After what seemed hours we got within sight of the houses. The head of the column was already past the first house. A loud and bright explosion occurred at the head of the column. Everyone immediately hit the ground. Most of us thought that it was one of the ground mines going off. Others thought that the Germans had dropped a mortar round on us. However, it proved to be a German panzerfaust which were shooting down the street at us from houses in which they had set up a defense.

After a while with nothing further occurring, we got up and started to move again. Then the panzerfaust let loose again and also there was small crossfire. We moved forward again, part of the company occupied in the dangerous mission of clearing the houses and we just had three when the Germans, being hard pressed, began to throw the panzerfaust shells more often and

also began to use illuminating flares to determine where we were. We were in the street and the only thing we could do was lie in the gutter while the shells came whistling down the street beside us. Finally we reached a point where there was some open ground beside a house. We lay in the shelter of the house for a couple of hours until the remaining houses were cleared. Finally about 2:00 a.m. we had enough houses cleared for us to sleep in. We had a large bag of prisoners already, but there were still a lot Germans loose in the town. This made guard a nerve-wracking job that night. One daring German came zooming down the street on a motorcycle right through our area. The next morning we proceeded further into town to secure the bridge which was still standing although a large amount of dynamite and TNT was removed from it. We combed the city and outskirts, and in the mid-morning on Sunday we started to march out of the town with our bag of 180 prisoners, including one officer.

We marched two miles to an assembly point where we boarded trucks and rode approximately 25 miles to Gertenbach, arriving at 1700. We dumped our baggage and took off at 1745 on foot to occupy Mollendorf, four miles further on. Thoroughly tired from the strenuous and speedy hike to Mollendorf, we stayed overnight and departed the next morning riding tanks for two miles to Friedlan, arriving at 0800. Here we jumped off the tanks and marched three miles to Reckershausen, which was taken without opposition, although for a time we engaged in a firefight with the 272nd. We took 75 prisoners here and departed again at 1000 by truck, traveling 50 miles to Bodenrode, near Heiligenstadt, stopping to pick up prisoners en route. At Bodenrode we were subjected to several rounds of our own artillery fire before the recon plane recognized us. No casualties were suffered.

We remained here overnight and in the morning boarded trucks and were to follow the 9th Armored when it passed us. We were starting on what proved to be the famous drive across central Germany to meet the Russians. We were the spearhead. It took the 9th Armored all day to roll past us, so we did not leave until 2130. We rode only 23 miles that night, arriving at Birkengun at 2300, once more arousing the alarmed citizens and putting them out of their houses in the middle of the night. This was the first city that we encountered that had electricity still going. The next morning we left Birkengun at 0630 and started the drive in high gear. We rode by truck for 90 miles that day, rolling through town after town. At 2100, when it became dark, we stopped at Bernsdorf for the night. Shortly before reaching Bernsdorf we had been halted for a long period while the advance element of the column cleared a small garrison of SS Troopers, capturing a General. Later in the day a lone German plane came over, but was driven off by fire from the 50's on the tanks.

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On the 12th of April we departed from Bernsdorf at 1030 on tanks, this time as the leading element of the column. We traveled over the Thuringian plain all morning and well into the afternoon before any excitement occurred. We had just passed a burning airport when the head of the column halted and started firing down the road. When the dust cleared away we discovered that it had been only a few civilians on bicycles who were now crouching in terror in the ditches.

A large town was ahead of us and had not been cleared, so we passed it riding cross country. When we gained the highway once more, we proceeded slowly across the top of a hill from which we could see a town about 1000 yards away at the bottom of the hill. Suddenly, from some bomb craters in the fields to our flanks, we received a few inaccurate rifle shots. The tanks immediately deployed with a covering force of infantrymen and routed out an enemy observation post of five or six men. While the tanks were reassembling on top of the hill, a German anti-aircraft battery in the town opened up on us with flak. This astonished us at first as it was a novel experience. It was also deadly. The anti-aircraft guns had been wheeled as low as they could go, and were being shot just over the top of the hill with the deadly airbursts of little black smoke bursting just over our heads. You could get no protection from these. Then their artillery started in. At first it was a little short, and then it started coming in with deadly accuracy. Seeing that the situation was impossible to hold, the B CO. gave the order to withdraw which everyone had been waiting for. We withdrew with remarkable speed while the tanks remained to cover us. Several casualties were received. **Jorday** and **Arendts** were killed. The captain was injured slightly in the hand. **Bakalis** who had just returned from the hospital a few days before from wounds received in the buttock while on hill 630, was wounded in the other cheek. We reorganized in a draw, mounted the tanks once more and moved around the city, riding through Almsdorf to Pettstadt. On the outskirts of Pettstadt we rolled into concealed enemy MG sniper positions.

The men of the two lead tanks opened fire with their arms and also with the 50's on the tanks. Meanwhile the German MG's returned the fire, spraying the first three tanks with well aimed bursts, knocking several men off the tanks. The lead tanks then deployed after the men had jumped off into the ditch, and soon the German garrison of about 100 men surrendered. The 9th Armored Division, which was coming up an adjoining road, helped them make up their minds. We came within a hair's breadth of being the 9th Armored's targets. We were recognized just in time.

Before our convoy could occupy Pettstadt, it was subjected to artillery and 88 fire. Casualties for the day, including those already mentioned in the battle of

Flak Hill, were: **Brely, Croney, Wilson, Slowik, Jesse Jones, Goff and Amato**. There were several other minor casualties sustained by **Lt. Ilkins, Dilling, and Ward** who were not hospitalized. After spending the night at Pettstadt, the convoy left at 1300 with Company A still riding the tanks proceeding 40 miles to Stontzsch without opposition and arriving at 2300. The tanks parked in a circle in an open field on the edge of town. For two days we seemed surrounded by artillery fire. The battle for Leipzig was taking shape.

The 9th Armored moved by us again and we followed them at 1700 on the 15th on tanks, traveling 10 miles until reaching the outskirts of Lippensdorf. From there on we never met 9th Armored again. At Lippensdorf our two lead tanks rounded a bend and German anti-aircraft gun opened up. We got a play by play description of the action over the radio at the rear of the column. A direct hit by a 75 knocked out the 40 and killed its crew. After clearing out 70 prisoners, mostly under 18, the tanks were boarded once more at 2030 and the column started out of town, but upon reaching the crossroads about 500 yards outside, a heavy barrage of anti-aircraft fire was received, forcing us back into town where we spent the night. Among the casualties suffered then and on the following morning when the column again encountered the anti-aircraft fire, but proceeded through it were: **Sgt. Robertson, Ground, Thomas Brown, Owcgarski**, and several not hospitalized including **Boyd, Lemke, Frost, Paul Jones, Hege** and others.

After proceeding through the artillery fire and anti-aircraft fire at the crossroads, the tanks were boarded again and another mile was gained with enemy mortar and small arms fire forcing the Company off the tanks into defensive positions near Espenhain. Espenhain was mainly a railroad station with the road going under an overpass. As the tanks emerged from the underpass, they were met with 88 fire from camouflaged 88's on the plain to the front. The tanks pulled back and deployed behind the cover of the railroad embankment. In the meantime, the men had jumped off the tanks and had worked their way into the series of railroad buildings which were used as barracks during the 3 day stay. Defensive lines were formed on top of the tracks and were manned by part of the Company on regular shifts. In the meantime, 88's and sniper fire harassed the troops. Many casualties were encountered here: **Deal, Lovelace, Sgt. Wisniewski, Wolfe, Linder** and **Sgt. Salazar** were wounded while **Lt. Fleagle** was killed.

After our artillery had silenced the 88's, the Company boarded tanks on the 18th and departed from Espenhain at 1400 and traveled approximately 8 miles to Liebertvolkwitz. At this time we were following the 273rd on their route to Leipzig. Here we were given the mission to clean out four small towns that had given us fire at Espenhain.

(Continued on Page 48)

COMPANY A - 271st INFANTRY

(Continued from Page 47)

Learning that there were Germans in Magdegorn - the second town to be cleared - we got off the tanks and advanced on foot. A fire fight developed and we went in to take the town. Several skirmishes were held inside the town. Two Hitler Youth snipers were captured there. The Germans were driven out of town to their anti-aircraft positions and we stopped for the night after killing 20 with the mortars. **Sgt. Perschbacher** was hit here. The next morning we found the Germans had gone and we went on to clear the other two towns and in so doing, took one prisoner. We again loaded on tanks at 0800 and returned to Liebertsvolkwitz and then entered Leipzig proper.

During the previous night B and C Company's had begun an attack on the famous Monument to the defeat of Napoleon in 1813. However they were unable to get anywhere. They withdrew and a terrific barrage of 105's and 155's hit the monument and the surrounding grounds. Again B and C Company's attacked while we were held in reserve about 1/2 mile to the rear. Again failing to gain and suffering many casualties, B and C withdrew and a truce was called. An American officer and a German general attempted to persuade the SS garrison in the monument to surrender, but to no avail. About 1200 that night they decided to surrender. The walls of the monument were 8 feet of solid stone and it was no wonder the 155's bounced off.

After the monument had been completely cleaned out, the Company moved out to the other end of town. Leaving Leipzig at 1400 on TD's, the Company traveled to Taucha three miles further, arriving at 1545. The next day at 1700, 21st of April the Company boarded tanks and traveled 8 miles to Wedelwitz, arriving at 1830. There was a German force on the other side of the railroad tracks at Wedelwitz, partly in an orchard and partly in a large house. Our attempts to route them out were repulsed by artillery and mortar, and small arms fire. The artillery shells came very close and landed in swampy ground to our right. The attack that night was driven back. The order to attack came the next morning again and just as we were ready to leave, screaming meemies fell upon us. After that we slowly withdrew to Wolpern. Among those wounded at Wedelwitz and towns before Leipzig were: **Jordan, Reid, Everett, Hefferman, Krahak, Pinson, Gallup, Numm, Davis, Pusina, Mize and Kropp. Lt. Wrigley** was accidentally shot in the foot by his carbine while searching houses in Leipzig.

Pushing off from Wolpern behind Baker Company, the Company moved on foot two miles to help in the attack on Eilenburg. B Company had been forced to withdraw from part of the town and the Battalion found themselves holding on to about one row of houses at the outskirts of the city. Small arms fire was

used against us as was some artillery. On the 23rd after an all night artillery preparation, we pushed off at 0600 to find that the Germans had cleared out to the other side of the Mulde tributary. After a terrific 2 hour bombardment by shells, we ran across the bridge and cleaned out part of town between the two rivers. Casualties were not heavy, there being only a few cases the were not hospitalized including: **Kirkpatrick, Birnbaum, Percia, Floyd, Karkan, Dilling, Fusco, Lt. Hones** and others.

On the afternoon of the 8th of May, a 2 hour hike was scheduled after lunch. However, the CO had us fall out early, so the hike started sooner than scheduled. This was fortunate because we got lost and came in just in time to hear Churchill proclaim this VE day at 1500.

Witness to Horror

Submitted by: **Leon Adler**

Company A, 369th Medical Battalion

2770 West 5th Street, Apt. 1B

Brooklyn, New York 11224-4202

The following story was published in the Daily News - Voice of the People - New York's largest newspaper.

We entered Buchenwald concentration camp in April 1945. A few Czech survivors pointed to the spot under the muddy entrance road where they said the Germans had buried two large green-gray ledger books. Me and my fellow medic, **Abe Kovler**, dug in the muddy rut at Buchenwald's entrance for four hours with our little green foxhole shovels and struck pay dirt! There were two huge greenish-gray cloth-bound ledgers containing what we estimated to be 6,000 names of Nazi victims meticulously handwritten, along with tatoo numbers and date of murder. We borrowed a jeep and turned the books over to an officer 20 miles back at G-2.

I next actually saw the books on TV in 1992, but there was no mention of where they were. They were even kept from being exposed at the Nuremberg Trials where they were prima facie evidence proving German's guilt of murder of innocent men, women and children.

Now, through Representative Jerrold Nadler's office, we found out that these ledgers are in the hands of the Red Cross in Germany. The Red Cross has microfilmed these names. We found out through Rep. Nadler's office that the ledgers contained some 400,000 names!

If anyone has a relative who was killed at Buchenwald, they should contact the Red Cross. I was also informed that the Nazis kept similar books at Auschwitz. The Swiss banks can be shown the name to claim funds that the Swiss tried to keep.

P.S.: Kudos to you for that great spread on the Holocaust.

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).

461st AAA Battery 1999 Salem/Roanoke, Virginia Reunion Report

October 8th, 9th and 10th, 1999

Mac and Madge Morris, *News Reporters*
630 North Oakland Street
Arlington, Virginia 22203
Telephone: 703/527-2796

The 461st began arriving Thursday, October 7th, at the Quality Inn, Roanoke/Salem. Attending were: **John and Elsie Chambliss, John and Connie Lane, Roy and Ethel Currier, Eleanore Breyette, Mac and Madge Morris, Tom, Todd and Pat Musselwhite, Joseph Bryson, Linda and Ben Truitt, Cecil and Irma Twigg, John Chambliss, Jr., Cyndy and Steve Lucas, Allen and Dorothy Whitley and Carrie Scott, Louis and Ruth Jones, Rich, Sarah and Benjamin Rollison, Howard and Maxine Sandefur, Ed and Belle Moore, Wally and Betty Ullery and Paul and Bertha Kowalchek.** (13 men of the outfit were present.)

Mac Morris led the prayer for those who had died since our last reunion: **Guy Testerman, Cecil Moore, John Bonner and Susie Marshall.** **Ed Moore** led in grace for the blessing of the food and we enjoyed a delicious buffet. Thank you, Patrick, for your choices. (Each member paid \$20.00 each to cover food, tax and gratuity). **Wally Ullery** had a Hershey bar at each place, bringing up memories of the past.

Lou Jones was our Master of Ceremonies ... glad he was able to attend. Where do you get those jokes? He does a good job! We appreciated **Pat Musselwhite** lining up this reunion; he had some interesting remarks regarding banking and the year 2000.

Pat agreed to set up dates for the year 2000 here at the Quality Inn, for October 13th and 14th. Plan to attend and bring family members, too.

Linda had gifts for the ladies, following **Margaret Bryson's** custom. We loved Margaret and this was a good chance to remember her thoughtfulness.

Thanks to **Steve and Cyndy Lucas** for the beautiful cups (they get prettier each year); to **Allen Whitley**

for the delicious apples and to the **Morris'** for the year 2000 planners and secretaries. Also to the **Twiggs**, for the pictures. We appreciate them.

We adjourned to take pictures. Hope to see you next year!

Company D, 273rd Infantry

Kenneth A. Sawyer, News Reporter
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Melbourne, Florida 32935
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Is our group starting to show the ravages of time? We had far fewer members in attendance at the Orlando reunion than we have seen in recent years. Perhaps we will experience a comeback as reunion sites move closer to our members. Those of you who didn't make it this time missed out on a good one.

In attendance this past November we had **Bob and Betty Ammon, Art Ayres, Edgar and Mary Case, Roland and Jan Hendrickson, George and Barbara Johnson, Dan and Cathy McHugh, Seth Mohr, Ken Sawyer and Fran Collard.** Joining us during the week and attending the banquet were **Roland and Jan's** daughter and son-in-law, **Dana and Dwayne Nelson, Fran's** son and daughter-in-law, **Richard and Carol Collard** and **Art's** grandson, **Kenny Ayres, Jr.**

Our group was involved in running the reunion. The **Hendricksons** ran the souvenir desk. **George Johnson** was in charge of the Golf. **Dan McHugh** collected dinner tickets and assisted in crowd control. The **Cases, the Ammons** and the **Johnsons** were pressed into service as tour bus commanders. A difficult situation caused by a shortage of committee members was alleviated by this deeply appreciated assistance.

Many of our members say that they will be in Atlanta in late August for our 53rd reunion. Atlanta is a bit closer for most of us. You can return home the day before Labor Day. Put this down on your calendar. One of our members who could not make it to Orlando expressed an interest in another Myrtle Beach company reunion. Let's have your thoughts on that one.

New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

James L. Fallon — Company H, 272nd Infantry
1601 Cooktown Road, Ruston, Louisiana 71270-2107

Fred Hauser
1255 Gulf Stream Avenue, Salem, Iowa 52649

Joseph H. De-Losrios
1420 Brickell Bay Drive, #507
Miami, Florida 33131-3624

Carlos W. Parrish — Company B, 273rd Infantry
Lot 6, Aqualane Drive, Winter Haven, Florida 33880

Leslie H. Lee — Headquarters 1, 273rd Infantry
8011 Waldorf Court, Orlando, Florida 32817

Edmond P. Zaloga
1111 El Rancho Drive, Sun City Center, Florida 33523

Edward M. Tackacs — Medic, 271st Infantry
788 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08618

Gerald Gilgenbach — Company C, 273rd Infantry
4015 N. Lockwood Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43612-1742

Norman King — 777th Tank Battalion
15 Oak Street, Livermore, Maine 04253

Fred H. Budden — Anti-Tank Co., 271st Infantry
221 Se Arapaho Road, Tecumseh, Kansas 66542-9600

Wilmer Vollnogle — Battery B, 880th Field Artillery
210 Carmel Street, Greenville, South Carolina 29607

Anthony Vink — Company F, 271st Infantry
1831 North Lafayette Street
Dearborn, Michigan 48128-1166

George M. Fiore — Company L, 273rd Infantry
4412 31st Ave., Long Island City, New York 11103-2251

Junior L. Ashe — Company C, 273rd Infantry
501 Beatty Road, Belmont, North Carolina 28012

Robert Moore — Company D, 461st AAA
4429 Wellington Circle, Carmel, Indiana 46032

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.

Colditz Castle Information Sought

Melissa Parker is looking for information on Colditz Castle, including the American involvement. She had been contacting members of the 69th in search of information and or photographs. A member of the 69th, **Len Sturm**, had in a photo album that he sent in for use in the bulletin, one photograph of Colditz Castle. It made it into the program and is the only contemporaneous evidence of the battle and liberation of Colditz that is shown. The rest is testimony from the ex-Prisoners of War of Colditz camp, interviewed either at the castle or at home.

Hopefully, the photo will appear in the American edition. NOVA/ WGBH Boston will look at all three programs in the British series before deciding what they want for their edition. Adam English and I have put our names forward to make it and if they say yes, we can then find out if there is any money to do any extra filming, focusing on the American aspect of Colditz.

I will explain briefly about my contacts with the veterans of the 69th.

Five months ago, Windfall Films in London started work on "Escape from Colditz" for broadcast on Channel Four Television (UK) and NOVA/WGBH Boston (U.S.) This documentary covers the years 1940 -1945 at the Second World War POW camp called by the Germans a 'sonderlager' or 'special camp.' Here they gathered all the officer prisoners of the Allied nations whom they wanted to keep under tight security: persistent escapers, spies, anti-Germans, special operatives and relatives of prominent people.

In 1945 there were six American POWs. One was the son of the American Ambassador to Britain, probably being held as a potential hostage. The others were captured on an OSS mission. Another was facing a death sentence.

The Battle of Colditz started on 15 April, 1945. A task force comprising elements of the 69th Infantry Division and 9th Armored Division liberated the castle where the prisoners were being held on 16 April. By the 18th, the mainly British and Canadian officers were being evacuated - although a couple of British prisoners joined up with a Mexican corporal to fight on. The British 2nd Lieutenant went on to become a Major General!

In searching for the veterans of that action, I faxed **Bill Matlach** at the reunion in Florida. The response has been great and we are continuing our search for the American edition of "Escape from Colditz." To that end, I would be very grateful to hear from any others who were there and are only now hearing about us.

Please contact:

Melissa Parker and Adam English
43 Aberavon Road, London E3 5AR, England
Telephone/Fax: (44) 208-980-7352

Helmet, Helmet . . . Whose Got the Helmet?

Submitted by: **Arthur S. Moore**

Battery C, 881st Field Artillery

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Newington, Connecticut 06111-5251

Every once in a while one is asked to bend elbows with those he works with. Whether he be a private or general, it happens. The nice part about it is it doesn't cost anything or at least not much. Most any German Officer's Club has a good supply of just what your heart desires. Captured hotels, rich and poor looking homes also have their sufficient supply. So, when the word gets around that "happy hour" will be served, come as you are, you can expect a fair sized crowd. But the morning after is when the fun begins.

Our battery commander, a gentleman from Texas was a short man with a big ego. What else. Ever see a Texan that had a small ego? He thought he was the only person who could do anything right. He promised everyone that he would drink everyone under the table. **INSTEAD**, it was the other way around.

The next morning we received orders we were to proceed to another firing position. Everybody involved hurried and scurried to do their chores and to get themselves in **CSMO**. Able Battery had radioed in to Headquarters that they were ready. Baker Battery had radioed in to Headquarters that they were ready. Charlie Battery was ready but the captain's staff car was still by his quarters. There were several GIs scurrying around looking for something that they could not find - the captain's helmet. After the deadline for all batteries to be in march order had passed, the captain's radio was cracking out messages, "What's the holdup." Finally the captain gave up and mounted the staff car and with his right arm, gave the signal to proceed forward. Then he sat down.

The column was progressing slowly down the road. On the side of the road appeared a command car. The battalion commander was reviewing the column, stopping each staff car and instructing each battery commander where they were going. There was time for the captain to secure a helmet. He told **Don Taylor**, his driver, to pull out of the column and to halt the first 5th Section ammo truck that approached them, Don did so. The captain quickly dismounted his staff car and approached the ammo truck. **Jimmy Taylor**, no relation to **Don**, wondered why his truck had stopped, got up and looked about. The captain spotted him and called to him. **Jimmy** got out of the truck and approached the captain. When they were six feet apart, **Jimmy** saluted the captain. He was seen taking off his helmet and handing it to the captain. A few more words and they saluted again and the captain rushed back to his staff car. Don quickly got the staff

car in position while the captain made a few adjustments on the head bans so that the helmet fit his head.

As is the custom in the American Army when you approach a command car with the senior officer either sitting in it or standing beside it, the junior officer stands up in his vehicle and throws the senior officer a salute. The colonel's driver gave Don the signal to stop and the captain got out and approached the colonel. More saluting. The captain returned to his staff car and the column moved on. The colonel remained standing beside his command car receiving salutes from the section chiefs sitting beside the driver. And along comes the 5th Section truck with **Jimmy** standing in the rear hanging on the ribs that hold the canvas covering in bad weather, tussled hair blowing in the breeze and making no attempt to put on his helmet upon seeing the battalion commander. The colonel watched the truck pass till curiosity got the better of him, got in his vehicle and told his driver to stop the truck with the soldier standing in the rear.

Moments later the colonel gave the truck driver the signal to halt. Upon dismounting his vehicle the colonel gave **Jimmy** a wave to dismount. **Jimmy** jumps down and salutes the colonel and the colonel salutes him back then he asks **Jimmy**, "Where's your helmet soldier, don't you know you're in a combat zone? Don't you know you run the possibility of getting yourself killed by a sniper. What's your name?" The conversation between **Jimmy** and the colonel was told later by **Jimmy**. I didn't know which question to answer first. I told him my name and told him the battery captain has my helmet. "And why does the captain have your helmet?" "I don't know sir. He said he wanted to borrow it." "Borrow your helmet." Slight pause. "What's your name again soldier?" "**PFC James Taylor, Sir.**" The colonel gestures to **Jimmy** to get back into the truck and instructs the truck driver to catch up with the rest of the column. He gets in his command car and instructs his driver to pass the column and to halt Battery C staff car. "I'll tell you when," said the colonel. The driver does as he is told and in a few minutes they are abreast of the staff car and **Don Taylor** gets the signal to halt. The captain rises from his seat and halts his column. The colonel dismounts and gestures to the captain to approach him. Where the two officers are standing **Don Taylor** can hear the entire conversation. According to **Don Taylor** it went something like this:

Colonel: Captain, I meant to ask you earlier, why do you have a PFC rank on your helmet?

Captain: I seem to have misplaced mine, Sir, and I borrowed this one from one of my men, Sir.

Colonel: Misplaced your helmet? How can one misplace his helmet?

(Continued on Page 52)

HELMET, HELMET - WHOSE GOT THE HELMET? (Continued from Page 51)

Captain: Well Sir, I couldn't find it this morning when the Mess Sergeant awakened me, Sir.

Colonel: The Mess Sergeant awakened you? Captain, that man has enough to do without awakening you in the morning. Train yourself to awaken yourself. And may I inform you that we are in a battle zone - there could be and may be snipers in the area just waiting and looking for some idiot to be walking around without his helmet on. Do you realize you are putting that PFC in jeopardy? That helmet could save his life. That's the only protection he has. Get your column going and stop that ammo truck and give the man back his helmet. You have the age and rank to be responsible for yourself. I'm responsible for that man and I want him to be able to return to his parents without a hole in his head. That's all.

Don said they saluted and the colonel got back in his command car and sped away. The captain's face was still red when the ammo truck came into view. I stopped the truck and the captain got out and handed Jimmy his helmet and thanked him.

This is a true incident but I did not want to name the captain by embarrassing him further. The battalion will also remain anonymous but it was "C" Battery.

Oran Jones Remembered



Here is a picture of our dad, **Oran R. Jones**, during the dedication ceremony for the unveiling of the 69th Division Memorial. Although he was ill at the time, dad insisted on being present for the ceremony. The friends, experiences, and memories of his division and the 729th Ordnance Company, meant more to him than anything. Dad passed away this summer, but his stories live on in the minds of our mom, Annie R. Jones, and all of his children. Thank you, 69th.

Ed Jones

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Listen Up . . . if you sailed on the USS Santa Maria

Submitted by: **Bret Everson**

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My wife and I, along with our good buddies, **David** and **June Wittman**, also of 2nd Battalion, 272nd, enjoyed the week in Orlando for our 52nd Annual Reunion. It was very tiresome as we tried to see too much, too fast, too quick for our ages and our health condition.

At the banquet on Saturday night, the USS Santa Maria came up in conversation between myself, **David Wittman, Joseph Nunes, Melvin Worden** and **Neil Shields**. I was very interested and probably started the talk as I had got permission from the Steamship Historical Society Of America, Inc. to have a picture of the USS Santa Maria placed in the bulletin about ten years ago and to start an association, of sorts, of all men from the Fighting 69th that sailed on the ship November 15, 1944. I requested that all men that had sailed on the ship to come up front for a picture and to my surprise, there were too many to get in one picture. They all seemed interested in getting an association started and asked me to get the ball rolling. Here goes.

Perhaps we could get organized enough to have all that sailed on her get together for a dinner and meeting at the 2000 reunion in Atlanta, Georgia this coming August 27th through September 3rd, 2000. If each one of you would mail me a letter giving your unit and address, telephone number and e-mail, if you have one, and also give an account of your trip on the ship way back in November 15-28, that landed in Southampton, England. I know you have some vivid memories of that ill fated journey: food situation, K-rations, sicker than dogs, depth charges, Thanksgiving dinner, rough seas, work aboard ship, crap games and poker, and any other incident that you would like to relate to all of us. You do not have to be a skilled writer, an English major or a news reporter, just write down, in your own words, your sea-sick trip that happened to all of us.

I would like to get them all compiled in a form, such as a booklet, that we could enjoy for ourselves and also pass down to our children and grandchildren. Would it be interesting? I would bet my last dollar on it, so get those stories to me as soon as you can and I will work on it right away and keep you posted. As for pictures you might have, we can talk about them in Atlanta.

Here is hoping to hear from you soon and to see you in Atlanta.

Memories from Shelby to Meeting the Russians

Submitted by: **John Steinmetz**
Company B, 369th Medical Battalion
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I know that we all remember the mud and wild hogs of Mississippi and Louisiana. We bivouaced for 5 days and came back to Shelby Saturday and Sunday to clean up and get ready for Monday. All the vehicles, equipment and ourselves had to be ready to go again.

Our first overnight pass came on Saturday morning. At 4:30 a.m. I took a shower and hung my dog-tags on a nail in the wall. Being in a hurry to get started, I forgot to retrieve them. After roll call, the 1st sergeant said, "All those that had fouled up wouldn't get one." I was on the list. That weekend we cleaned our infantry's rifles both days. Boy, were they muddy. We took them apart. The barrels had to shine with our nails before they would pass inspection., and then we would get another one. Some weekend.

Another time, we went on a 40 mile hike with full field pack. Our 1st sergeant gave orders to the ambulance driver who followed us not to pick any of us up unless we had a broken leg. If we fell on the road from heat exhaustion to leave us there. When we came to, we had to continue walking the rest of the way back. Any how, no wild hogs on the road to chase us. We had great training.

Finally we got word to get rid of our extra things as we were going to move out. We then took a train ride, back and forth, for about 3 days, to get up north. They had enough food for about 500 men. We had 1,500, plus all our baggage and equipment. We then boarded a former German freighter, now named LeJune. The hammocks were hanging 5 high on each deck. The air didn't smell like roses, but it sure stunk. On the way across the ocean, we received two meals a day. Breakfast and early dinner. My buddy **Nick Sikoryak** was always hungry. A lot of young guys couldn't eat. We solved the problem for them. When we saw one that didn't look so good, we asked him how he felt. If it was negative we asked to borrow his meal ticket. That way, we each had four meals a day, but we were still hungry. My buddy had some candy bars and that helped get us through.

After landing in England, we were lodged at a British camp. Every day, a small horse drawn cart would come and scoop out our out-houses to use as fertilizer for their vegetables. It didn't smell too appetizing, especially when you slipped out at night to walk through the fields just to have a warm beer at the nearby pub.

One day, I was told that a group of us were going to a port in Scotland to pick up some trucks. We had a big convoy of trucks and stopped overnight at a

Scottish barracks and had something to eat. The next morning we went to the dock and each man drove a truck back to England. There were hundreds of trucks waiting for us there.

It was quite cold in England and while working on our vehicles we had to lay on the ground underneath them to service them. I got another bright idea. We had a big metal barrel that had been used before to keep warm. I threw a couple more pieces of wood on the bottom and then took a 5 gallon can of gasoline and poured a little gasoline over them. On the third and last little shot, a small spark ignited. My hand and arm and can were on fire as a loud boom hit the can. I was afraid it would explode, but I couldn't drop it there as I was surrounded by our trucks. I ran about 50 yards away from them and threw the can as far as I could. My hand and arm were still on fire, but I slapped it out and covered both with snow. It didn't hurt too much, so I just kept my stupid mouth shut.

We left England soon after on a small British warship. It was pretty rough crossing the English Channel and many of the men got seasick. Needless to say, my buddy and I had double meals.

While going up the International Highway (one side was Belgium, the other side, Germany), we were traveling at night with only the small slit lights of the vehicle in front to guide us. It had been raining cats and dogs. I never saw it rain so hard. All of a sudden, my steering wheel spun like crazy. I had hit a rut running down to the ditch. I managed to stop the truck from going all the way down in the ditch and probably turning over, but I couldn't get it back up. The M.P.'s came and directed traffic around us. We had to wait until the convoy passed and about 5 a.m. a big wrecker came and pulled us back out. I then continued up the road to find my outfit. I broke a small bone in my right thumb and had it bandaged when I got there. However, I felt more sorry for the guys in that pouring rain, so I forgot about my pain, as I could still drive.

Another time, we stayed in a big former German hideout. It had a large dirt cellar underground. The roof was made of logs from some big trees with 3 feet of snow on top. It seemed pretty good at first, but it sure was cold down there. I got another bright idea. Build a small fire in one corner. I told a couple of guys to see what they could find to burn, no gasoline. We got it started and the air felt a little warmer. All of a sudden it began to rain. I forgot about the snow on the roof. Now we were both wet and cold for the rest of the night.

One day, we stopped at what was left of a town and nothing was left but rubble and cellars. The captain told me to pick a spot for the night. It was still pretty cold, so I thought a little firewater might help. I told some of my guys to look for broken signs of a bar or club. A few minutes later, one of my guys came running

(Continued on Page 54)

MEMORIES FROM SHELBY TO MEETING THE RUSSIANS

(Continued from Page 53)

back and said that he had found some. I quickly went there and moved a couple of large stones and went down the cellar. Oh boy! It was some sight. I told my guy to tell the others that this is where we stay tonight. The whole basement was covered with racks with about 1,000 bottles of wine and booze. After a little chow, we sat around the cellar and nibbled anything we wanted. After awhile, one of the guys asked me if he could get his buddy. I said O.K. They came back, and after his buddy left, he asked if he could take a couple of bottles with him. Of course I said, "yes." We couldn't drink up all that stuff in several years. This went on for some time. Eventually, we fell asleep. The next morning, the Captain stopped by. He said, "Everybody was drunk last night, and to put all bottles back." He said no more, but gave me a dirty look when he left. I took all of my tools out of the truck and buried 3 or 4 bottles in the back. I knew no officer would want to dirty his hands to look for any. Good thing it was pretty quiet that day.

Another time, we were parked under a few sparse trees off the road. All of a sudden, two small German planes with a single wing on top, flew over us and started to drop their anti-personnel bombs. They each dropped about a dozen. I was amazed at how evenly spaced they were. I was disgusted at myself for not being able to shoot at them. I only had an arm-band to fire. They took off without being hit at that point, but then I had to get real busy as a number of guys were hit and we had our job to do. We helped patch up some of the wounded and sent them to a field hospital in the rear.

We were pretty hungry most of the time and as we were close to the front lines, they didn't find us or didn't want to. One evening we stopped and a couple of our southern boys said that they heard a rooster crowing and said that when it got dark they would get it. They went and came back with a 5 or 6 pound old hen. They plucked and I cleaned the insides and then we boiled it for over 5 hours. It was still too tough to eat. When we tried chewing on it, not even juice would come out. That was some tough old bird. I guess crime does not pay, and were we disappointed.

After we went through the Siegfried Line, our group was second in line going through the Battle of the Bulge. Those dragons teeth and blockhouses sure were intimidating, but after that, the resistance melted. After taking Leipzig, the infantry could have taken the rest of Germany with no trouble. A little further on, we were told to stop and wait for the Russians at the Elbe River. We waited a day or two and they came. What an assortment of junk. Horses and wagons, old wood burning German trucks, a few of our lend lease vehicles. They looked like wild Indians. We got along fine with them. My buddy was of Russian descent and spoke

Russian. They said that we were the first American troops they met. We gave them some cigarettes and they gave us a pint bottle of smokey Vodka. I took a couple of sips and passed it on. It tasted O.K. though. One of the Russian officers came with two of his men and a dozen or two horses. He gave orders that if a farmer didn't finish shoeing the horses by sun-down, to shoot him. I never saw a man work so fast. I couldn't move my hands that fast. We left soon after. It was three or four o'clock then.

A day or so later, we were told to go back a couple of days drive and turn our territory over to them, which the infantry had taken. We left that location and drove for a day, stopped overnight and the next day drove back another day. Our captain was told to put us up in houses. He then told me to pick a house and move in with my men. I picked a real nice swanky one and moved in. I took a real nice bedroom on the second floor. It had a nice soft bed and view, the first bed that I slept in in a long, long time. The next day, I heard a commotion in back. One of my men came in and said that a German woman would not let them use her things. She was yelling and screaming at the top of her lungs. I asked her what the problem was. She said that they could not use her things and continued screaming. I looked around the room and picked up something nice. I asked her if it were hers. She screamed "Yes." With that, and with the window open, I threw it into the cement alley below. I heard a loud noise and more screams. She wouldn't stop, so I again picked up something nice. I again asked her if it were hers. She replied again, "Yes." I threw that out after the other one. She was still screaming. I then took a step towards her and said, "Next, out the window you go." With that, she went screaming down the stairs, and yelled, and said that she was going to see the captain. That solved the problem. I heard no more about using anything.

While I was resting in the room, one of my men came in with a young girl about 14 years old. He said that she would like to ask me something. She said that this had been her room and could she play a few records on her victrola. I wasn't interested in the stuff around the room and didn't even know it was there. I said, "O.K." and she took a few records out and played them. They sounded very nice as that was the first music that I heard in a very long time. They were English songs with a German accent. She got ready to leave. I asked her if she would like to take the record player with her. She said, "Yes," so I told her to take it. It probably was the daughter of the screaming eagle, but what a difference in attitudes. The war had just stopped, and to the victor belonged the spoils. If the Russians were there, she would have been shot and dumped out the window. They both spoke English, but the kid spoke much nicer.

Many thanks for hearing a few of my problems. I know you all had some too. I enjoy hearing about them in the Bulletin. Best wishes for a healthy, happy New Year 2000.

What is the Meaning of the Folds of the Flag that Drape a Casket

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

The premise is simple - the folds represent the same religious principals on which our nation was originally founded. When completely folded, the flag will be in a "cocked hat" shape, with a blue canton denoting honor, and the blue containing the stars which represent the States the veteran fought for when wearing a uniform of the country's military services. The meaning of the folds are:

First Fold: Symbol of Life.

Second Fold: Belief in Eternal Life.

Third Fold: Honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of his/her life for the defense of our country.

Fourth Fold: Represents our weaker nature, for American citizens trusting in God, it is to God we turn in times of peace, as in times of war, for divine guidance.

Fifth Fold: Represents our country; "still our country, right or wrong."

Sixth Fold: Where our hearts lie, on account it is with our hearts we pledge our allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands. One Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Seventh Fold: Tribute to the Armed Forces of our country who protect our country and the flag against enemies within, and without the Republic.

Eighth Fold: To honor the mother of the veteran.

Ninth Fold: Honoring American womanhood through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion to the character of the men and women they have molded.

Tenth Fold: Tribute to fathers, for they too, have given their sons and daughters for the defense of the country.

Eleventh Fold: Glorifying the God of the Hebrews of the Old Testament of the Holy Bible.

Twelfth Fold: Glorifying the God of the New Testament, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

When the flag is completely folded, the blue canton and stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust." When properly folded and tucked, it looks like a cocked hat, reminding us of soldiers who served under General George Washington and sailors and marines who served under John Paul Jones. They, followed by comrades, shipmates and airmen today, have preserve for us the rights, privileges and freedom we enjoy today.

Taken from an article in the USAA magazine

Co. H, 273rd Infantry 81mm Mortar Platoon

Submitted By: Sylvan L. Katz
111 Marguerita Avenue, #B
Santa Monica, California 90402



Francis, Bifulco, Buttapietro, Miklea, Rosenfeld, Roden, Bogdowicz, Thomas and Katz on march to Biloxi.



5th Motor Squad: Sgt. Rosenfeld, Weisband, Cpl. Katz, T/5 Roseland and Pfc. Graiff.

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

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 31st, 2000

Deadline for news material and pictures for:

Bulletin Volume 53, Number 3

May, June, July, August 2000

Bulletin expected mailing date is early to mid-July due to early reunion.

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

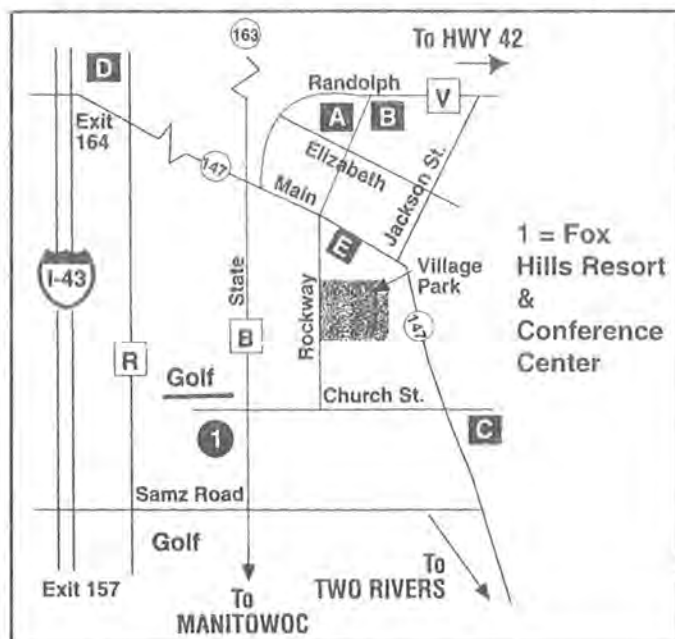
7304 West Georgia Avenue

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53220-1114

Eugene J. Pierron

2310 Highway D, Belgium, Wisconsin 53004-9754

Telephone: 262/285-3702 (Continued on Page 57)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Continued from Page 56)

JULY 27th thru 30th, 2000

661st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

HOLIDAY INN - AIRPORT

6626 Thirland Road

Roanoke, Virginia 24019

Telephone: 540/336-8861 • Fax: 540/366-1637

Room Rates: \$59.00 + Tax

Specify that you are with the 661st Tank Destroyers
to get the discount rate (regular rate is \$85.00).

Banquet: Saturday night, Approximately \$20.00

Hotel is at Exit 2 on I-581 in sight of the airport.
Courtesy shuttle from airport. Come days prior to
the reunion or stay later at the same rate.

Make your own reservation with the hotel.
Cancellation 24 hours before registration.

Hosted By:

Bill and Ellen Snidow

492 Kow Camp Road

Pembroke, Virginia 24136

Telephone: 540/626-3557

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

SHERATON COLONY SQUARE

Peachtree and 14th Streets, Atlanta, Georgia

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Jimmy Carter Library • Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District
• The Underground • Experience the Civil War
and Much, Much, More!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joe and Anne Lipsius, *Regimental Headquarters and Cannon Co., 272nd*

6314 Deerings Hollow, Norcross, Georgia 30092-1800

Telephone: 770/416-7725

E-Mail: annejoelip@earthlink.net

Committee Members: Harold and Ethel Ruck, 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

Registration Forms, Details of Tours, etc. elsewhere in this issue.
Please register as soon as possible.

(Continued on Page 58)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Continued from Page 57)

SEPTEMBER 13th thru 16th, 2000

BATTERY C, 880th FIELD ARTILLERY

THE COMFORT INN

Grove City, Pennsylvania

A variety of events have been planned and time for great camaraderie. Further information will become available in an upcoming newsletter.

Hosted By:

Frank and Marie Habay

8008 Marmion Drive

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15237

* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 13th to 17th, 2000

69th CAVALRY RECON 48th ANNUAL REUNION

QUALITY INN GETTYSBURG MOTOR LODGE

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Reservations: 717/334-1103

Room Rates: \$81.00 plus tax

Please be sure and inform the hotel that you are with the 69th Recon Troop

Hotel is right near the Battlefield. Many historic sites.

Tours of the Battlefield and Eisenhower Farm.

Committee:

Charles and Barbara Fox

P.O. Box 7370

Silver Spring, Maryland 20907-7370

Telephone: 301/585-638?

Harold Gardner

2929 Mason Avenue

Independence, Missouri 64052-2962

Telephone: 816/254-4816

E-Mail: RCNTROOP@aol.com

* * * * *

OCTOBER 13th and 14th, 2000

461st AAA AW BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS & MEDICAL DETACHMENT

SALEM, VIRGINIA

Quality Inn

Hosted By:

Mac and Madge Morris

630 North Oakland Street

Arlington, Virginia 22203

Telephone: 703/527-2796

**SEND YOUR STORIES,
NEWS MATERIAL
AND PICTURES TO:
DOTTIE WITZLEB, Editor**

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

K.P. Photo Identified from Back Cover

Submitted by: **Robert E. Lydy**

200 Indian Key Lane, Naples, Florida 34114

The picture on the back cover of Volume 52, No. 3 - May, June, July, August 1999, of a bunch of guys doing K.P., was of Company A, 272nd Regiment at Camp Shelby.

The young man in the foreground is me, **Robert E. Lydy**, to the far left is **Private Lewis** from New York and the one smiling was an acting sergeant whose named I have forgotten.

Headquarters, 880th Photo Identified



Submitted by: **Al Brier**

310 South Broadway, Scottsdale, Pennsylvania 15683

This photo appeared in the May, June, July, August 1999 issue of the bulletin with only one man identified. I was surprised to see myself in the bulletin.

The photo was taken December 25, 1945 in Reims, France, in front of the Cardinal Club (Red Cross). They are the men of Tent No. 17, Camp Pittsburgh.

From row, left to right: **Henry Stevens** of Georgia, **Otto Schween** of New York and **Joseph Damato** of New Jersey.

Standing: **Robert Schwartz** of New York, **Charles Martens** of Illinois and, myself, **Al Brier** of Pennsylvania.



"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.

Ruddell C. Kydd
301 Neponset Street
Norwood, Massachusetts
L - 271st

William L. Campbell
1200 University Drive
Atlanta, Georgia
B - 269th Engineers

N. C. Harrison
10463 Old Highway 52
West Moreland, Tennessee
G - 271st

James E. Stacy
28255 Faircrest Way
Escondido, California
M - 271st

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

John Blimline
305 Pueblo Place
Lady Lake, Florida
Hq. - 271st

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Monroe, Georgia
Cannon - 271st

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514 South Wilson
Enid, Oklahoma
H3 - 273rd

Stanley Lucki
72 Shisler Circle
Runnemele, New Jersey
H2 - 271st

Edward A. Dufton
729 Kenwood Drive
Dickson City, Pennsylvania
C - 880th F.A.

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249-36 Cambria Avenue
Little Neck, New York
E - 272nd

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I - 271st

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B - 661st T.D.

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Haleyville, Alabama
A - 269th

John Roth
2004 South Kiesel
Bay City, Michigan
RE - 661st

John A. Marra
925 Sunset Drive
St. Albans, West Virginia
G - 273rd

Thomas R. Lipsett
201 Heritage Heights
Pottsville, Pennsylvania
H1 - 271st

Charles C. Mallo
12070 Sheavehead Lake
Jones, Michigan
Cannon - 273rd

Henry J. Kwasniewski
P. O. Box 3392
New Milton, Connecticut
69th M.P.

B. J. Rimler
264 Courtyard Circle
Winber, Georgia
Serv. - 272nd

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P. O. Box 190
Craddockville, Virginia
F - 272nd

Angelo Signorile
1833 Pilgrim Avenue
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L - 271st

Raymond R. Strick
401 Florian Street
Hurley, Wisconsin
G - 273rd

Baptist Lanza
2348 83rd Street
Brooklyn, New York
Medic - 272nd

Edwin S. Curtis
5100 Randol Mill Road
Fort Worth, Texas
G - 272nd

Frank R. Lammattinà
30 Tompkins Avenue
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C - 273rd

John B. Landon
227 West Pheasant Hill
Duncan, South Carolina
C - 879th F. A.

James R. Blackwood
2555 County Road
Holly Pond, Alabama
B - 271st

Robert Hocker
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Florissant, Maryland
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Al J. Haag
2565 North Lexington
Janesville, Wisconsin
D - 271st

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1405 Siege Street
Chester, Pennsylvania
A - 880th F. A.

Frank J. Andert
10982 Lake Shore
Osceola, Indiana
D - 273rd

Wayne E. Martin
R.R. #1
Vallonia, Indiana
C - 273rd

R. H. McMurry
RR #1, Box 11
Promise City, Iowa
B - 881st F.A.

Huey Jetter
4479 Yates Road
College Park, Georgia
B - 724th F. A.

Martin P. Jackson
P.O. Box 91
Ford, Washington
C - 273rd

Jack E. Burrus
1669 Love Kamp School
Arenzville, Illinois
Medic - 272nd

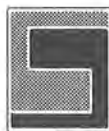
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709 College Parkway
Rockville, Maryland
HQ - 879th F. A.

Lester Rumbaugh
2230 South 49th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska
Service - 273rd

Lee S. Daub
1772 Church Street
Washington, DC
Serv. - 879 F. A.

Frank J. Rabe
529 Independence
Independence, Kentucky
A - 880th F.A.

(Continued on Back Cover)



the 69th

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"Taps"

(Continued from Page 59)

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4201 Webster Drive
York, Pennsylvania
B - 881st F. A.

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6103 S.W. 12th Street
Des Moines, Iowa
777th T.B.

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12 Seneca Way
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Three Churches, West Virginia
E- 272nd

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**Send Ladies Auxiliary
Material to Dottie**

NOTE: We received an OVERWHELMING amount of material for this bulletin. If you submitted material for this bulletin, and did not see it published in this issue, it will be published in the next issue. We cannot always find room for everything that we receive. We really had a lot of reunion pictures sent in also. Some of them were duplicates of the same group so we chose the best ones. More reunion pictures will appear in the next issue. Please be patient and your number will come up soon. Thank You