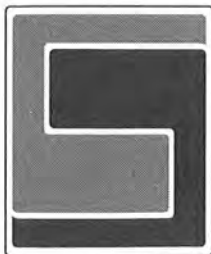


FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

★★★★ Association, Inc.



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2003

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

P.O. BOX 69
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724/455-2901

bulletin

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Ed Szczapnik, Unknown, Gardin

Submitted By: **Terry N. Jonethis, Sr.**, *Company C, 273rd Infantry*
1937 Southwestern Drive • Lakewood, New York 14750

THE MAIL BOX

By Dottie Witzleb, Editor



Company E, 273rd Infantry Regiment
P.O. Box 69
Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069
Telephone: 724/455-2901
E-Mail: danne@lhtc.net

David L. Allen, P.O. Box 414, Hartsville, South Carolina 29551-0414, E-Mail: tunkie4of6@aol.com — Co. G, 271st: Many thanks for all the good work that you do as editor of the Bulletin. I have been a member of the Association for many years and always read it with great anticipation. I always look for names of former associates that I might remember.

I was a member of Company G, 271st Infantry for about a year. I joined the Company in early 1944 just prior to their going on a three week bivouac in DeSoto National Forest. I was a member until Christmas 1944 at which time I was one of those sergeants chosen to be sent to Belgium as a replacement in the 83rd Division. I was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge, sent back to England and from there back to the United States as a hospital patient. I maintained contact with several members of Company G over the years and continue to correspond with a couple of them at least at Christmas. I stay in contact with **Bill McCague** via e-mail. I have visited him once since we were in Europe. **Dave Scatena** visited me once at my home here in South Carolina.

I have been especially pleased with the 69th web site and those folks are doing a great service for those who use computers. I have been able to correspond with my former Platoon Leader that I have not seen since Christmas 1944. I have been able to fill in some "missing links" for several family members of former 69ers. All of those persons were extremely grateful for the information that I was able to furnish. There was an inquiry about a person - not a family member - who lived in what is now my home town. I sent that person a copy of a newspaper clipping telling of the person's posthumous Silver Star award as well as a copy of a letter of condolence from his chaplain to his mother. This person had served with the inquirer's father. I sent another family a Company photo taken prior to our going overseas that clearly showed a picture of an uncle who was later killed in action. I was able to respond to another inquiry and confirm that his uncle had indeed served in the 69th. I think all of this is very good. I answered an inquiry made in the most recent Bulletin about a hard back copy of a book about the 69th. It is the pictorial history of the Division that was probably printed about the time WWII ended.

I am a retired farmer and I continue to stay busy. I have been married for 53 years and we have two children who are happily married. God has been very good to me and mine and I am grateful for each day. Thanks and keep up the good work!

Robert B. Colburn, Jr., 2158 Rollins Street, Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439-4336 — Btry. A, 724th FA: Thanks for printing my pictures that were taken back in Shelby. If any of those men are living, I hope to hear from them. I have already found one of those men. He was a Brooklyn boy, now living in Louisiana.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Robert's state was listed as Missouri instead of Michigan in the last bulletin. Sorry about that, Robert.)

Martha Colpean, 1619 Chestnut Street, Saginaw, Michigan 48602-1825: When you placed my letter in the bulletin about locating a "little brown book" (later I learned through letters it was called "69th Infantry Division - Pictorial History"), I didn't think I would hear from anyone, but I received letters from several members of the 69th, and also from the wife of a deceased member. The letters were all very interesting. Some told me of war experiences and since a couple were from men in the same outfit, I passed on their addresses hoping they could possibly have known each other. Can you believe it. One did and was going to contact his former army buddy after almost 58 years.

Mr. Gabriel Ringwald sent his copy of the book and both my son and myself are very grateful to him.

I have thanked all who wrote to me but I wanted the membership to know how great these people are.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES! NEW DUES YEAR 2003-2004

August 1, 2003 to July 31, 2004
Get your dues in today.

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

**Keep the Bulletin Coming.
Send Your Dues in Today!
We need your support.**

Send Your Dues To:
WILLIAM RUEBSAMEN, TREASURER
Post Office Box 146
Sun City, California 92586-0146
Telephone: 909/301-9360
Do not send dues to Dottie Witzleb.

A Note from Dottie, Your Bulletin Editor

Spring has finally arrived here in the mountains of Western Pennsylvania. Today is the first day that we have had 80 degree weather this year. Speaking of nice weather, I hope you have your reservations made for the 69th Division Reunion to take place August 17th thru August 24th at the St. Louis Marriott Airport Hotel - St. Louis Missouri. I plan to visit Branson before the reunion and I will be meeting my girlfriend from San Diego there.

I hope some first timers are interested in coming to meet some guys that they have not seen for many years. Remember, you guys were like brothers during the war and you should really enjoy catching up on what has been going on in your lives since seeing them last. You will also be able to meet new people and form new friendships. Why not give it a try.

We need bulletin material. Original pictures and articles. We will mail them back to you as soon as possible. Write those stories and get them in to us or dictate them to your children. We will edit them, if you don't feel confident enough with your writing skills.

The bulletin is small this time due to the fact that we had to get the forms out to the members in time for the early reunion. Hope to see you there.

Company I, 272nd Infantry

Submitted By: **Ethel Ruck**, Wife of **Harold Ruck**
622 Melville Avenue, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37412



Harold Ruck in center holding flag. Other 2 unknown.

New Men Relocated Since Our Last Bulletin

Lee Cheever - Cannon Company, 272nd Infantry
P.O. Box 289, Brooklyn, Michigan 49320

Fred Goode - Honorary Member
117 Perraud Drive, Folsom, California 95630

Henry W. Goodman - Company M, 273rd Infantry
10395 Utopia Circle East
Boynton Beach, Florida 33437

Mark T. Green - Associate Member
200 Buschlen Road, Bad Axe, Michigan 48413-9163

Jerry Krupnick - Company B, 272nd Infantry
55 Ocean Avenue, Apt. 6-H
Monmouth Beach, New Jersey 07750

Dean Mentonis - Associate Member
11 Pueblo Court, Morganville, New Jersey 07751

Oscar Midrid
5535 S. Hoover Avenue, Whittier, California 90601

Robert C. Murchie - Cannon Company, 273rd
81 State Road West, Westminister, Massachusetts 01473

Major Richard W. Wrons - Company I, 271st
17 Wildhorse Mesa Drive, Sedona, Arizona 86351

Miss Pat Avery - Associate Member, Div. Hq.
514 Baldwin Road, Richmond Virginia 23229

WIDOWS

Mrs. Louis Ford - Company F, 272nd Widow
109 Curtis Avenue, #1310
Quincy, Massachusetts 02169

Catherine McCall - Company E, 271st Widow
743 Purdue Avenue, Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

Dorothy Milstead - Battery C, 881st F.A. Widow
1042 Lake Street, Bolivar, Tennessee 38008-2439

Lillie M. Spangler - 69th MP Widow
5449 Highway 13
Lumberton, Mississippi 39455-9129

Visit Us
On
The
Web
at



www.69th-infantry-division.com
or contact

annejoelip@earthlink.net

Visit often to keep up with what's going on!

A Note from your Membership Chairman, Paul Shadle

Paul Shadle, *Company E, 271st Infantry*
1504 Greensburg Road • New Kensington, PA 15068
Telephone: 724/335-9980



If you change your address please do not forget to let me know as soon as possible. I am trying my best to keep the membership list up to date to keep the return of mailings to a minimum. It cost the division .70 cents for each piece of mail returned with an address correction. An additional \$1.29 is assessed to re-mail out the bulletin first class. An additional .37 cents is assessed to re-mail out a dues notice first class. Please remember that 3rd class mail is not forwarded. I would appreciate your help in keeping me informed of any address changes that you may have.

I am now looking for the correct address of: **William Sosnowy**. The address we have on him is 906 Atlantic Avenue, Wildwood, New Jersey 08260-5726.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in St. Louis. Please try to get your reservations in soon as some of the activities are on a first come first serve basis.

Pierce Rice Company A, 273rd passes away

Pierce Rice, of the Washington D.C. area, passed away recently. Pierce was an artist and did some art work for the division bulletin over the years.

He was the artist that drew the picture of the horse with the saddle and boots on backwards for the front cover of the bulletin that had the death of **General Charles Bolte**.

Do You Remember? Signs of 1940

When you drive
if caution ceases
you are apt to
rest in pieces
Burma-Shave

The chick he wed
let out a whoop
felt his chin
and flew the coop
Burma-Shave

All little rhyming
jokes aside
don't be content
until you've tried
Burma-Shave

You can't reach 80
hale and hearty
by driving 80
home from the party
Burma-Shave

He married Grace
with scratchy face
he only got
one day of Grace
Burma-Shave

He's the boy
that gals forgot
his line was smooth
his chin was not
Burma-Shave

It's best for those
who hit the bottle
to let another
hit the throttle
Burma-Shave

Don't pass cars
on curve or hill
if the cops don't get you
the mortions will
Burma-Shave

Road was slippery
curve was sharp
white rope halo
wings and harp
Burma-Shave

Within this vale
of toil and sin
your head grows bald
but not your chin
Burma-Shave

MOVING

Please print your new address below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

**Please send this form
and your old address label to:**

PAUL SHADLE
1504 Greensburg Road
New Kensington, PA 15068

Please allow six weeks advance notice.

Message from the President



Raymond Sansoucy
Anti-Tank Company, 272nd Regiment
23 Paradox Drive
Worcester, Massachusetts 01602
Telephone: 508/754-8786

What a difference a war makes. When the Iraqi war started, I had a problem watching TV fearing our servicemen and women would be slaughtered by the Republican Guard. Thanks to our fast, mobile army and marines, awesome, accurate air support and the help of the British, the Republican Guard and others ran, discarded their uniforms, but kept their weapons.

While acting like civilians, they became snipers and demonstrators, and continued to ambush our GIs. The big difference in the wars is when Germany and Japan were beaten, they acknowledged defeat and stopped fighting. Not the Iraqis. As former soldiers, we can relate to the problems over there.

A reminder to read the proposed Amendment change concerning our Active and Associate members. Please use the Proxy form **IF** you cannot attend the St. Louis meeting.

Start preparing for St. Louis now! Hope to see you there.

Since our meeting in Hampton, Virginia, I have received many letters agreeing that we need to adjust our Constitution to include others (especially wives) as Active members. Below, are the two changes that will serve as legal notice.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the 69th Division

Article III

(a) Active Members

1. All individuals who at any time served with the 69th Infantry Division in World War II or in units which were attached to the Division in World War II and who subscribe to the Constitution and By-Laws

(except those in subparagraph (d) of this article) shall be eligible to active membership in the Association upon notification of the death or incapacitation of an Active Member of the Association his membership shall be made available to his heirs, spouse, or other individual upon approval by the Board of Directors.

(c) Associate Members

The Board of Directors shall be authorized to approve as Associate Member the heirs, spouse, or other individual.

An Associate Member shall not be entitled to vote or hold elective office but shall be required to pay dues as assessed in order to remain in good standing and receive the official Bulletin of the Association.

PROXY FORM **AND INSTRUCTIONS**

This issue contains proposed amendments to our Constitution. If you will not be attending the reunion, you are eligible to vote by proxy. To insure that your vote is counted, the form below must be filled out completely and legibly and mailed to our secretary:

Ralph Goebel, Secretary

5417 Halifax Lane

Edina, Minnesota 55424-1438

Your ballot must be received by the secretary before **July 16, 2003** or it will not be counted.

Your proxy will be voided if you attend the reunion and vote.

----- DETACH HERE -----

PROXY

On the proposal to amend Article III (a) and (b) as published in this issue of the Bulletin, I vote:

☐ **FOR** the amendments

☐ **AGAINST** the amendments

Name _____

Address _____

Unit _____

PRINT LEGIBLY. PROXIES WILL BE CHECKED AGAINST MEMBERSHIP ROLLS AND WILL BE DISCARDED IF THE MEMBER CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED.

Signed _____

SIGNATURE REQUIRED)

69th Infantry Division Association 56th Annual Reunion ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

August 17th thru 24th, 2003

ST. LOUIS AIRPORT MARRIOTT HOTEL

I-70 at Lambert International Airport

St. Louis, Missouri 63134

Reunion Committee Chairpersons:

Bob and Theresa Pierce

Company I, 273rd Infantry

144 Nashua Court

San Jose, California 95139-1236

Telephone: 408/226-8040

Committee Chairmen:

Ed and Louise Hill Registration

Erwin and Carmen Sanborn Hospitality

Bob and Jean Ross Souvenir Sales

Bob Crowe Seating Assignment

Bob Pierce Tours/Entertainment

Committee Members:

In response to my call for help, the following members have already volunteered:

Al and Edith Carbonari

"Dutch" and Jeanne Hawn

Dick and Gerry Hadley

Elmer and Erma Bronske

George and Ruth Ehli

Charlie White

LeVerne Loveland

Joe Huber

Will Frazee

The problem is we still need local members to work during the day at registration and in the hospitality room. This will allow your out-of-state buddies to enjoy the daily tours and the many attractions of St. Louis. The regular committee chairmen are still responsible for the scheduling and getting the job done. The volunteer tasks are relatively simple assignments for a couple of hours each day between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

St. Louis Airport Marriott

The Marriott Hotel is located on the grounds of the St. Louis Airport at the intersection of I-70 and I-270, just 20 minutes to downtown via the MetroLink Rail System located at the airport. The hotel is a large property with 600 guest rooms, indoor and outdoor pool; a JW's Steakhouse, Marriott Café, and Firehouse Tavern; free parking, free shuttle service; and, nearby is both a golf course and jogging trail.

Room rates are \$75 plus tax single or double. These rates will apply 3 days prior and 3 days after the Reunion dates. There will be a 10% discount on food service in the restaurants and lounge.

Transportation is very convenient. The hotel has free shuttle service to the MetroLink Station and other local destinations based upon availability. The Metro rambles through most all the places of interest in the St. Louis Metropolitan area. There are also the bus and/or shuttle connections at most Metro Stations. Unlimited rides for Seniors on the MetroBus and MetroLink are: One day pass \$4.00; weekly pass \$6.50.

St. Louis "Gateway to the West"

Historically, St. Louis is the heart of the United States expansion from East to West and South to Northwest. The famous Arch represents the Gateway to the West. The first white men were Father Jaques Marquette and Louis Joliet in 1673. In 1764, Pierre Laclede Linquet founded a trading post and named it St. Louis after the French Crusader King Louis IX, who had been made a Saint. The United States eventually bought the Louisiana Region from France in 1803; Missouri became the 24th state in 1821.

St. Louis is rich in both history and culture; the fur trade drew trappers from many countries that gave the city a rich mix of English, French, Spanish, Italian, German and Scottish cultures. The districts and restaurants of St. Louis reflects these unique heritages. African-American heritage began around the Civil War. Kansas was the abolition free state that brought many run-away and free slaves to Kansas. After the Civil War, strong backs were needed in the mines of Missouri and as stevedores for the riverboats and barges. This need brought many African-Americans to St. Louis where their rich culture in music, food and art flourish today.

There is so much to say about St. Louis and so many places to see and things to do, the selection boggles the mind. For those who enjoy gambling there is Harrah's Casino, Ameristar Casino, Presidents Casino and the Casino Queen.

Come to St. Louis, "There's more than meets the Arch." It's the city of a thousand one-of-a-kind restaurants and the multi-ethnic cultures where you can beat your feet on the Mississippi Mud while listening to St. Louis Blues.

Hotel and Reunion Registration Cut-Off Date

Hotel registration and Reunion Tour/Events registration forms both have an important deadline due date of July 18th, 2003.

If you want the reduced hotel reunion rate of \$85.93 (\$75 plus tax) you must register before the deadline date. After July 18, the Association block of rooms will be released for open occupancy at the regular room price.

Accept my sincere congratulations and gratitude for the 99% pre-registration success rate for the 2002 reunion. Most cancellations were in time to save you and your association money. Further, there was only one pre-registration no-show.

(Continued on Page 7)

UPCOMING 56th ANNUAL REUNION

(Continued from Page 6)

Please make every effort to honor the reunion registration deadline date of July 18th and the following deadline dates for tours and food service functions.

- **Tours and Tour Buses** - August 1st, 2003
Quantities Guaranteed. Non-Refundable
- **Hotel Food Service Events** - August 7th, 2003
Minimum pre-registered quantities for room and table scheduling.
- **Hotel Food Service Events** - August 18th, 2003
Guaranteed numbers for meals with an allowable 5% maximum overflow

The critical issues are **first, pre-registration deadline of July 18, 2003.** Registrations made after the deadline date will be processed as tour "space available" basis and hotel events will be assigned to "open seating."

Second, cancellations. Reunion cancellation requests should be made to the treasurer by July 18th, 2003. Tour cancellations must be made before August 1st, 2003. Hotel and food service cancellations must be made not later than business hours August 18th, 2003. Cancellations after the cut-off dates will be refunded for emergencies on a case by case basis; cancellation of a tour or hotel event will only be refunded if a stand-by is available to occupy the vacant seat.

Scheduled Tour of Events

Discover St. Louis Tour

This six hour tour will provide a narrated picture of the most interesting attractions and locations in Old St. Louis. Tour will visit Laclede's Landing, a historic area named after the founder of the city. The area is the century old warehouse district on the Mississippi Levee that is now the entertainment district filled with nightspots, restaurants and the location of the President Casino.

A stop will be made at the 630-foot Gateway Arch with a visit to the Museum of Westward Expansion. Time will not allow a large tour to travel up in the Arch; this can be a side trip on your own. Cruising downtown we will pass the old courthouse and Busch Stadium. Next stop will be Union Station built in 1894 with 32 tracks beneath 11 acres, once the largest and busiest train station in the world. The massive building was built to resemble a French fortress; it now houses a hotel and a marketplace of shops, restaurants and clubs. You can explore Union Station as you have lunch on your own. Don't miss the Grand Hall, a barrel-vaulted wonder of gilt work, stained glass and statuary.

Next visit will be at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, the oldest cathedral west of the Mississippi River. Built in 1914, it has the largest collection of mosaics in the world with 83,000 square feet covered with 41.5 million pieces of Tessirea in 7,000 colors.

As we return to the hotel, we will drive through the central west end, "Millionaires Row" for a view of the elegant turn-of-the-century neighborhoods.

Historic St. Charles and Ameristar Casino

Step back in time with a visit to St. Charles. Founded in 1769 by French Canadian, Louis Blanche, St. Charles is the oldest city on the Missouri River. During May 1804 this area served as the Lewis & Clark's Corp of Discovery's first campsite along the Missouri River. It is the largest designated Historic District in the state of Missouri with buildings dating from 1790 to the late 1800's and lined with gaslights and charming restored buildings filled with antique, craft and specialty shops. You can stroll the 10 block historic district, visit the Lewis & Clark Museum or tour Missouri's first state capitol. After lunch on your own, a short ride will bring us to the Ameristar Casino on the Missouri River where you can challenge Lady Luck or just browse, sample the wares and people watch.

Mississippi Riverboat Dinner Cruise

Enjoy a night out with your friends on the "Becky Thatcher," a three-story riverboat river cruise that includes a complete sit-down dinner with a choice of Prime Rib, Chicken Champagne or Alaskan Pollack. There will be a Dixieland Band for your listening and dancing pleasure. We have reserved the ship because the sit-down dinner seating capacity is only 250. Make your reservations early, as the cut-off will be the first 250 reservations. The dinner/dancing cruise price includes round trip deluxe coaches.

Grants Farm Tour

Grants farm is a unique experience. A century ago August A. Busch purchased a piece of Missouri farmland that contained President Ulysses S. Grant's 1855 hand-built, split log home. Grant's home is preserved on a 281 acre park complex that is a living symbol of the Busch family's love of animals and Anheuser-Busch's commitment to wildlife.

There is a tram that carries visitors around the complex so all can enjoy the attractions. Deer Park has over 1,000 wildlife animals from six continents that roam free in the park. The Tier Garden has an amazing variety of animals. You can pet the animals and attend the educational and entertaining shows. The Clydesdale stables are home to about 35 Clydesdales, their breeding and training facility. Attend the Clydesdales/Dalmatian show that offers a close-up look and you can play with the Dalmatians.

The Bauernhof is the centerpiece of the park; it's a 19th century farmstead complete with stables and a carriage house containing the Busch Family's renowned Carriage Collection with vehicles dating back to the 1700's. Enjoy lunch on your own in the open air seating area, sample free Busch beer and browse through the souvenir shop on your way out.

(Continued on Page 8)

UPCOMING 56th ANNUAL REUNION

(Continued from Page 7)

Anheuser-Busch Brewery and Forest Park

A drive through Souland, the oldest surviving residential neighborhood in the city, brings us to the seventy-city block area encompassing the Anheuser-Busch Brewery. The guided tour lasts about 2 hours where you will witness the brewing of the world's finest "King of Beers." You will see the century-old home of the Budweiser Clydesdales and visit the elegant brew house where a multi-media presentation tells the story of Budweiser brewing process. You will also observe the canning lines in the packaging plant and enjoy complimentary tasting at tour's end. Relax, enjoy the entertaining atmosphere and browse through "Bud World" shop for the perfect souvenir.

No trip to St. Louis is complete without a visit to Forest Park, the site of the 1904 World's Fair. With 1293 acres, it is one of the largest public parks in the United States, filled with some of St. Louis' major attractions. We will drive around to see the beauty of the park and make a couple of stops. The world-class zoo has over 6,600 animals and is a good stop for lunch on your own. There is also a Science Center, Art Museum, and River's Edge Exhibit with its lakes, waterfalls, elephants and hippos with underwater viewing. Don't miss the History Museum to explore the Heritage of St. Louis and view a replica of Lindberg's Spirit of St. Louis. Forest Park is also home of the MUNY, a famous outdoor theater with live stage classical musical productions.

City of Eilenburg Museum Trying to Assemble Details of Last Day's Fighting

Submitted By: **Joe Lipsius**

Regtl. Hq. and Cannon Co., 272nd Infantry Regiment

6314 Deerings Hollow

Norcross, Georgia 30092-1800

Telephone: 770/416-7725

E-Mail: annejoelip@earthlink.net

The City of Eilenburg, perched on the Mulde River, was the scene of some of the bitterest fighting and artillery bombardment the 69th Infantry Division was engaged in WWII.

Andrew Flegel, Director of the Eilenburg City Museum, heads a small group trying to gather details of what took place during those days in April 1945, in Eilenburg, before the 69th contacted the Russians at the Elbe River, just a few miles away.

He is seeking response describing events from anyone who recalls those days so its history may be recorded for the City today and for generations to come.

Please direct your reply to Thomas Troemel who will translate whatever you write:

Thomas Troemel

P.P. Box 1251

04832 Eilenburg, Germany

E-mail: Thomas.Troemel@t-online.de

Telephone: +49-3423-658646

Fax: +49-3423-7003864

NEWS MATERIAL AND PICTURES FOR THE BULLETIN SHOULD BE MAILED TO: DOTTIE WITZLEB

FIGHTING 69th BULLETIN, P.O. Box 69, Champion, Pennsylvania 15622-0069

ADDRESS CHANGES, NEW MEN AND TAPS SHOULD BE MAILED TO OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN PAUL SHADLE

1504 Greensburg Road, New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068

DUES SHOULD BE SENT TO OUR TREASURER: WILLIAM RUEBSAMEN

P.O. Box 146, Sun City, California 92586-0146

**DO NOT SEND DUES TO DOTTIE OR PAUL!!
DUES GO TO OUR TREASURER ONLY.**

An Historical Visit

Submitted By: **Ed Smaldone, Sr.**

Company K, 3rd Battalion, 272nd Infantry

508 White Springs Road, Geneva, New York 14456-3026

Telephone: 315/789-1340 • E-Mail: N112@fltg.net



*Ed Smaldone - Fall of 1944
Camp Wheeler, Georgia*

A few months before we were scheduled to be sent home and discharged, **Tech. Sgt. Ben Bielawski** from Milwaukee, asked if I would accompany him to Bamberg to look for a similar civilian job as he had in the service. He was inventory head for the entire 52d Ordnance Group. He checked out a jeep from the motor pool, secured out trip ticket and we set out for a long day's journey.

Bamberg wasn't bombed as extensively as other larger cities that we had fought in, so it was somewhat easy to find the building the sarge had to fill out his application. In the meantime I went to the local U.S.O. to look it over. I went into the game room and I wasn't in the room more than two minutes when I felt a tap on my shoulder. I turned around and there stood Donald DeJohn from our hometown, Geneva, New York. He had just arrived from the States and was assigned to Military Government. We had a lengthy conversation about our hometown and some of our army experiences. After a few hours we parted and I went back to locate the Sergeant. He told me that there was more "Red Tape" involved than he expected. He would have to come back another time.

We were trying to decide what to do next when we found out that we were not far from Nuremberg where the war crime trials were being held. We both agreed to go there and see if we could get in.

When we arrived, we found that the city had been pretty well demolished. We motored around and saw a massive building with a guard station and M.P.s stations every 15 feet. We parked in front of the building and were immediately challenged by two officers

and four non-coms. We showed them identification and our trip ticket. We passed the inspection and were allowed entrance. Once inside we were interrogated and then allowed to enter a large amphitheater with tiered seating. As we took our seats, we looked down on a gigantic well shaped chamber.

There they were, all the main figures that helped shape Nazi Germany's position to conquer Europe and the world. Goering and Himmler had committed suicide earlier but all the others- Hess, Von Ribentropia, Borman, etc. were sitting in pews with M.P.s guarding them at each end. On the witness stand was Field Marshall Jodl being grilled by our U.S. Chief Attorney, Robert Jackson.

In each seat was a headphone that you could dial in English, German, French or Russian. We were watching history in the making but too young to realize its' importance. As you grow older and look back on this historic episode, we realized that we were a part of a small minority that witnessed it. Many times on TV they show films of these war crime trials and it brings back memories of this momentous day in our lives.

As in my past articles in your fine publication, I would like to thank the staff for their dedication in publishing this outstanding periodical.

Entertainers of 1943

(Stolen from the 69th Recon Newsletter)

This is a reminder of what the entertainers of 1943 were doing 60 years ago. Unlike the celebrities of today, these individuals were "Stars" who showed their patriotism by leading by example. There were many others who manned canteens and of course there was Bob Hope and his show tours overseas wherever there were American servicemen.

Alec Guinness - operated a British landing craft on D-Day.

David Niven - was a graduate of Sandhurst and a Lt. Col. with the British Commandos in Normandy.

James Stewart - flew 20 missions as a B-24 pilot in Europe.

Clark Gable - Waist Gunner on a B-17 on European missions.

Charleton Heston - an Army Air Corps Sergeant in Alaska.

Ernest Borgnine - Navy Gunners Mate 1935-1945.

George C. Scott - U.S. Marine.

Charles Bronson - Tail Gunner Army Air Corps.

Lee Marvin - Marine on Saipan when he was wounded.

John Russell - Marine on Guadalcanal.

Robert Ryan - Marine who served with the O.S.S. in Yugoslavia.

Tyrone Power - Marine pilot flying supplies into and wounded Marines out of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Audie Murphy - just the most decorated soldier of WWII.

Andy Rooney - reporter for Stars & Stripes in the ETO. Flew missions with 8th Air Force and was present at ceremonies at Torgau when the 69th met the Russians.

69th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 2003
56th ANNUAL REUNION
461st AAA BN. - 661st T.D. BN. - 777th TANK BN.
St. Louis Marriott Airport Hotel • St. Louis, Missouri
AUGUST 17th thru AUGUST 24th, 2003

SEND THIS RESERVATION FORM TO:

ATTENTION: JIM CREELY - RESERVATIONS

ST. LOUIS AIRPORT MARRIOTT HOTEL

I-70 at Lambert Int'l Airport, St. Louis, Missouri 63134

Telephone: 314/423-9700 or 1/877-264-8771 • Fax: 314/423-2221

Please reserve one of the following:

Single _____ Double _____ Price Single or Double - \$85.93 per night (\$75.00 plus 14.575% tax)

Print full names of ALL persons sharing room: _____

NOTE: Special accommodations required: (if available)

HANDICAPPED EQUIPPED _____ NON-SMOKING _____ SMOKING _____

ONE KING SIZE BED _____ or TWO QUEEN SIZE BEDS _____

I / We plan to arrive (day) _____, August _____, 2003. (Check in after 3:00 p.m.)

I / We plan to depart (day) _____, August _____, 2003. (Check out before 1:00 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: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

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

Check or Money Order (one night's lodging) payable to the MARRIOTT, or

Major Credit Card and Date of Expiration. The following Credit Cards are accepted:

American Express Master Card VISA Diner's Club Discover

Credit Card Name _____ Number _____ Expires _____

I, (your signature) _____ authorize the MARRIOTT 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 18, 2003**. 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 will be honored for three (3) days prior to and after the reunion, based upon availability at the time of the original reservation. 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

56th ANNUAL REUNION

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

St. Louis Marriott Airport Hotel • St. Louis, Missouri

AUGUST 17th thru AUGUST 24th, 2003

Registration form to be mailed to: **William Ruebsamen, Treasurer**

P.O. Box 146, Sun City, CA 92586-0146 • Telephone: 909/301-9360

I/we will attend the 69th Infantry Division Association Reunion in St. Louis, Missouri during the week of August 17th thru August 24th, 2003 and will attend the following activities:

Name: _____ First Timer ☐ Second Timer ☐ Old Timer ☐

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

City / State / Zip: _____

Telephone / Area Code: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Unit: _____ Wife's Name: _____

Guest(s) Full Name: _____

Daily Events	ALL PRICED EVENTS REQUIRE A TICKET	Per Person	Number Persons	Amount
Registration: Monday thru Friday , 9:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.				
Saturday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.				
Sunday, August 17th — Early Arrivals on your own.				
Monday, August 18th — Registration and Hospitality Room Open				
Tuesday, August 19th — DISCOVER ST. LOUIS TOUR , 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. ..		\$ 25.00	_____	\$ _____
Wednesday, August 20th — HISTORIC ST. CHARLES AND		\$ 22.00	_____	\$ _____
AMERISTAR CASINO , 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.				
RIVERBOAT DINNER DANCE CRUISE , 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.		\$ 36.00	_____	\$ _____
Entrée Choices: Prime Rib _____ Chicken Champagne _____ Alaskan Pollack _____				
Thursday, August 21st				
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING — 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.				
GRANTS FARM TOUR , 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.		\$ 22.00	_____	\$ _____
EARLY BIRD BUFFET , Cash Bar 6:00 p.m.; Dinner 7:00-9:00 p.m.		\$ 30.00	_____	\$ _____
Friday, August 22nd — ANHEUSER-BUSCH BREWERY TOUR				
AND FOREST PARK , 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.		\$ 25.00	_____	\$ _____
PX BEER PARTY — 8:30 p.m. to 12:00 Midnight		\$ 5.00	_____	\$ _____
Saturday, August 23rd — COFFEE AND DANISH - 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.				
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP and LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING 9:00 a.m. to Noon				
BANQUET : Cash Bar 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.				
MEMORIAL SERVICE — 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.				
DINNER DANCE - 7:30 p.m. to 12:00 Midnight		\$ 32.00	_____	\$ _____
Entrée Choices: New York Strip _____ Chicken w/Jumbo Shrimp _____				
Sunday, August 24th - Farewell Breakfast - 7:30-9:00 a.m.		\$ 12.00	_____	\$ _____
Replacement Cost for Lost or Broken Permanent Badges		\$ 4.00	_____	\$ _____
SUPPORT YOUR HOSPITALITY ROOM: DONATIONS PLEASE!!!				\$ _____
Reunion Sub-Total				\$ _____
DUES — New Dues Year - August 1, 2003 to July 31, 2004				
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. **MAIL IN CUT-OFF IS JULY 18th, 2003.**

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.

Donald McGee writes . .

Company H, 272nd Infantry
400 Eddy Avenue, Joshua, Texas 76058-3361

The photo which appeared in the last bulletin on page 19 labeled **Donald McGee** was really **Carl Donovan**. Donald is hoping to hear from **Carl**.



Carl Donovan



*Donald McGee
Namur Belgium
August 22, 1945*



*Robert Ellis, German woman and Donald McGee
somewhere in Germany*



Postcard taken from the train station in Leipzig 1944

1945 News Articles

These articles sent were obtained from my uncle's wife. My uncle's name was **Jacob Wilson Gregory** and he served in the 271st Infantry Regiment/ Company B, 69th Infantry Division. He entered Germany on February 18, 1945 via Belgium from Scotland. He fought through Germany until the war ended and departed Germany on July 13, 1946 and was discharged July 28, 1946. His name is to appear in the "Taps" section of this coming Bulletin.

Units Trade GIs by Points

Spec number for spec number and rating for rating, the 29th and 69th Inf. Divs. today began swapping thousands of men to get them in units being redeployed or units which will form part of the occupation force.

The exchange involves 3,495 EM and 292 officers from each division. Those from the 29th are being sent to the 69th for shipment to the U.S., while the 69th is returning an equal number of troops with fewer than 85 points to help the Blue and Gray Division police the Bremen enclave.

Some 240 trucks of the 29th Div. are being used to complete the exchange. The 69th's area is around Leipzig. Only clerk-typists, stenographers and other essentials men with over 85 points are being retained by the 29th. Prior to today's shipment, it had shipped 1,579 troops home since V-E Day.

6,671 of 69th Here, 3 Ranking Nazis on Board

More of the "Fighting 69th" Division - 6,671 jubilant high-point officers and men pulled into Staten Island early yesterday on the brightly-painted Army Troop Ship E.B. Alexander which also carried in a prison cabin two sour-faced Nazi generals and a navy captain, here for questioning: In addition to the howling, singing home-happy troops headed by Brig. Gen. Robert V. Mairest, the ship brought in 55 civilians including the USO troupe, "Ten Little Indians," and 16 members of Shep Fields' orchestra which had been on a USO tour of France and Germany for the past three months. Fields who flew back several days ago, met the boat at the pier.

The 21,129-ton vessel, once the Hamburg-American line's "Amerika," sported a 30-foot square banner bearing the division's name and insignia and Gen. Mairest carried a letter from the 69th Regiment Assn. expressing pride that the old World War I number had been carried so well this time. But the "69th" is better known as the "link up" division for it was this outfit that met the Russians at Torgau on the Elbe, sealing the noose around the neck of Germany.

Gen. Mairest, 55, a native of New Orleans, and a veteran of the last war, said the two conflicts could not be compared, calling action in this war, "more violent." He had highest praise for his men, he said took advantage of every break. Some call it luck, he went on, but he calls it smartness.

By orders of the Washington Provost Marshal, the three ranking Nazis were whisked off the ship by MPs, isolated from the press and driven to an undisclosed destination in a heavily-guarded Army auto.

On the trip over, the trio was kept in a special cabin where their meals were served. They were permitted one exercise period a day under guard. They received no special privileges.

Frede Mortensen, One of our DSC winners

Submitted By: **James K. Richardson**
26140 Woodward Lane
Denham Springs, Louisiana 70726
Email: kb5nb@cox.net



Frede Mortensen
Company B, 272nd Infantry Regiment

Thanks to the marvels of cyberspace, we have located the whereabouts of **Frede Mortensen**, one of the 69th Inf Div Distinguished Service Cross winners, and learned of his years before and after the war.

Frede was awarded the DSC for extraordinary heroism in action on 6 April 1945, near Benterode, Germany. When his platoon was halted by heavy fire from dug-in machine gun positions, Private First Class Mortensen crawled forward under heavy fire and threw grenades into three machine gun positions, annihilating the occupants. With his grenade supply exhausted, he leaped to his feet and charged a fourth position, and though his rifle failed to fire, his aggressiveness caused the enemy to surrender without resistance. Throughout the entire action, Private First Class Mortensen displayed extraordinary heroism and superior qualities of courage and leadership.

Frede Mortensen was born July 27, 1926, on Staten Island, NY, the oldest son of Danish immigrants. After over three years at New Dorp High School, Frede entered the Army on August 15, 1944, a few days after his 18th birthday. He was enrolled in the "Army Specialized Training Program," (better known as "ASTP") at Virginia Military Institute, but soon found

himself completing Basic Infantry Training at Camp Wheeler in Macon, GA. Next he was assigned to the 69th Infantry Division. He was discharged from the service on June 2, 1946.

Frede continued to lead an eventful life after his military service. He graduated from Wagner College on Staten Island with a BS. On June 11th, 1949, he married his high school sweetheart, Diana Wind. Frede and Diana had four daughters and two sons, in that order, from 1951 to 1967.

In September 1949, Frede entered New York Medical College and graduated in 1953 with an M.D. After a year's internship at Saginaw General Hospital in Michigan, he completed a two-year residency in Internal Medicine through Washington University at St. Louis City Hospital. After a final year of study in Cardiology at the University of Alabama's School of Medicine, Frede and Diana returned to St. Louis, where he joined a group practice in Internal Medicine and Cardiology.

In 1991, with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Frede founded the medical wing of the Concordia Mission Society – an outreach program that continues to deliver medical supplies and staff to the former Soviet Union countries of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

On March 4, 1993, Frede died at his home in St. Louis. His legacy continues in the lives of his wife, children, many grandchildren, co-workers, patients, friends – and his acts of heroism in the 69th Inf. Div. in WWII.



World War II Historic Shots

Submitted By: **Michael Kutzmonich**, *Company H, 272nd Infantry*
362 St. Johns Road, Wapwallopen, Pennsylvania 18660



*Mike Kutzmonich, Russian Soldier, McGarity
Colditz, Germany - April 30th, 1945*



*Russian Soldiers on the Mulde River
Colditz, Germany - April 1945*



*Left: Germans at Review
Above: Captured
German Officer*



Captured German Soldiers



Germans with Bazooka, Zwenkau, Germany 1945



Germans at Review

Elbe Days 2003

Submitted By: **Charles E. Martens**
Battery C, 724th Field Artillery
1250 Norma Drive
Buffalo, Wyoming 82834-2402

With the Iraq war and Bush's threats of more wars, I cancelled plans to go to Germany this year - maybe next year. I was there last April-May for 3 weeks. I was the only American veteran there for Elbe Days and Alexander Sylvashco was the only Russian Veteran there. Herbert Schedina and Heinz Richter, our German 69th friends from Torgau, have told me there were no American or Russian veterans at the Memorial ceremonies this year.

I am enclosing the snapshots that Herbert took of the April 2003 Memorial services in Torgau and a copy of the short letter he sent along. I talked to **Ralph Goebel** about having a copy of the Bulletin sent to Herbert Schedina and Ralph thought we should, but I guess he forgot to have it arranged. Mr. Schedina, like Heinz Richter, have done so much for us 69ers and the 3 Flags Memorial. On page 38 of the last Bulletin, Herbert Schedina is listed at the bottom of the page as an Associate Member so I think he should be mailed a copy of the Bulletin.

* * * * *

Herbert Schedina

Friedrichplatz 3
D-04860 Torgau, Germany

My letter will be a short one, but I want to send you an impression of Elbe Day 2003. Heinz lent me his copy of the Bulletin. I am still not receiving one. Hopefully, this will soon be remedied.

The day proceeded as always with the ceremony at the Flag Memorial and Link-Up monument, the laying of wreaths at the cemetery and the Polowsky grave and the wreath laying at the Russian Cemetery.

Then at 5:00 p.m. there was a documentary film (very good!). The next day we attended the excellent concert in Castle Church (more than 200 visitors), and on Sunday we took part in the church service and a concert in the afternoon (with only about 50 or 60 people in church and not more than 20 visitors in the Town Hall). The weather was fine - maybe the Torgau citizens were enjoying their gardens?!

We are very glad that the renovation of the castle has now been almost finished, and there will be an exhibition about hunting in former times there, which hopefully attracts tourists. You know how important this is in times of short money! And we are looking forward to the great Saxon Exhibition on "Faith and Power: Saxony in the Europe of the Reformation Era" next year.



The Three Flags - April 2003



The Link-Up Monument, where you can see clearly the Soviet flag alternating with the Stars and Stripes.

(More pictures on the following page)



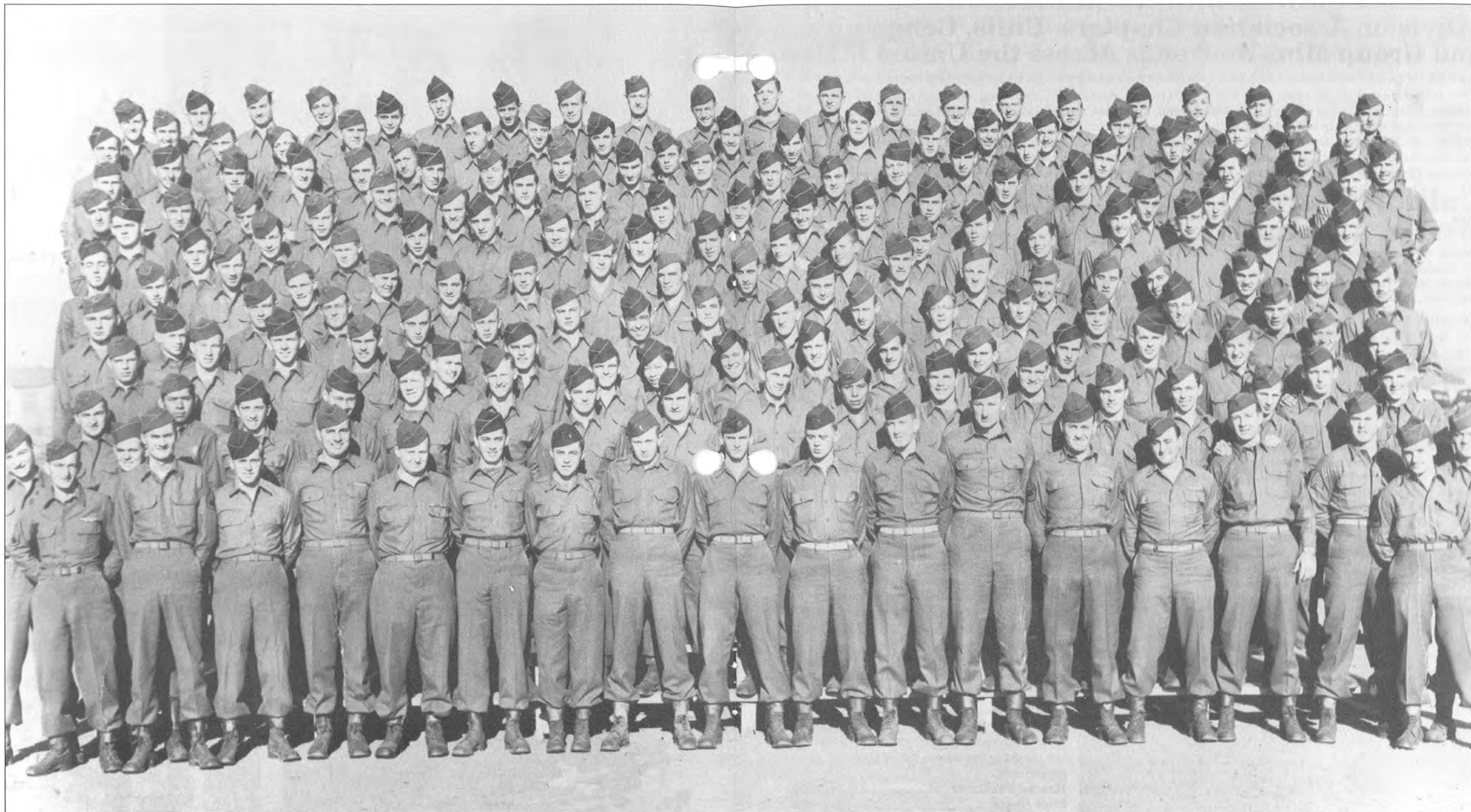
*The U.S. Consul General
and the
Russian Consul General
at the cemetery*



*Wreath-Laying
at the
Russian Cemetery*



TORGAU
24-27 April
ELBE
DAY **2003**



Company E, 271st Infantry Regiment, 69th Infantry Division
Camp Kilmer, New Jersey • October 1944

Pictured Submitted By: **Paul Shadle**, 1504 Greensburg Road, New Kensington, PA 15068

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).

California Western Chapter

Harold C. Faulkner, President
 280 Montecillo Drive
 Walnut Creek, California 94595-2612
 Telephone: 925/945-6604

Report on the Spring Round-Up 2003 By Harold Faulkner and Walt Harpain

Members families and guests of the California Western Chapter of the 69th Infantry Division had another great Round-Up April 27th through May 1st, 2003 at the Ramada Inn-University in Fresno, California.

Highlights of our tour in Fresno included a visit to the National Legion of Valor Museum. Exhibits featured all of the highest service awards given. Included are the Congressional Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Medal, Navy Medal, etc. for all branches of the service and all wars to date. Small arms, military uniforms, gear, supplies and artifacts are expertly displayed. Patriotism is aroused in you and you will not soon forget the Legion of Valor Museum. We also visited the Shin Zen Gardens and Koi Pond where we enjoyed the unique scenery.



Officers of the CA Western Chapter, left to right are: Stan Hawks, Homer Lind, Walt Harpain, Harold Faulkner and Lee Wilson.

This was the 10th Anniversary of the California Western Chapter. First Timers included **Jim and Mary Jolly, Vern and Mary Hunt** and their two sons, **Gregg and Tim**, and also **Dan Dawson** whose father was killed serving in the 69th. Family members are encouraged to attend our Round-Ups.

A drive-by of major sports stadiums, hospitals, the new contemporary City Hall and other points of interest left the impression Fresno is a fast growing city in the center of a great agricultural region.

Acknowledging our tenth anniversary, the Past Presidents were recognized, each a two-year term. The first president was **Bob Pierce** followed by **John Tounger, Dilbert Philpott, Al Gwyn and Walt Harpain.**

In addition, the annual highlight of our meeting, the Memorial Service and dinner, was held on Wednesday, April 30th. **Walt Harpain**, our outgoing President, introduced our incoming officers.

Harold Faulkner	<i>President</i>
Stan Hawk	<i>Vice President</i>
Homer Lind	<i>Secretary</i>
Lee Wilson	<i>Treasurer</i>
Robert Shaw	<i>Chaplain</i>

Orville Schultz was elected to the Board of Directors.



Members of the California Western Chapter in the lobby of the entrance into the Legion of Valor Museum, Fresno, California.

(Continued on Page 21)

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

(Continued from Page 20)

Certificates of thanks and appreciation were presented to **Delbert** and **Donna Philpott** for their ten years of service as Chairmen of the Membership Committee, to **Lee Wilson** for his ten years of service as Treasurer, and to **Bob** and **Theresa Pierce** for their ten years of service as Site Selection Committee Chairmen.

Special thanks go to **Harold** and **Nancy Faulkner** and to their assistants **Homer** and **Pat Lind** for managing the four days of the Hospitality Room. Thanks to **John** and **Dena Tounger** for the large 69th Infantry Division banner which put us all into the 69th spirit. Thanks to all the members their families and guests for their hard work and their attendance that made our 2003 Round-Up so successful and enjoyable.

Bob and **Peggy Shaw** are making arrangements for our 2004 Round-Up to be in Arroyo Grande, California. Watch the Bulletin for the dates.

California Western Chapter 2003 Fresno Round-Up Attendees

James Battin Monterey Park, CA
and **Paulette Enrod**
Dan Dawson Pleasanton, CA
Harold and **Nancy Faulkner** Walnut Creek, CA
Tom and **Lou Gallagher** Long Beach, CA
Eddie Gildner, 2 Guests Desert Hot Springs, CA
Al and **Bobbie Gwynne** Roseville, CA
Walt and **Shirley Harpain** Fresno, CA
Stan and **Lois Hawk** Lemoore, CA
Vern and **Mary Hunt**, 2 Sons Lucerne, CA
James and **Mary Jolly** Clovis, CA
Homer and **Pat Lind** Grass Valley, CA
John and **Mary Pereira** Roseville, CA
Del and **Donna Philpott** Sunnyvale, CA
Bob and **Theresa Pierce** San Jose, CA
Bill Ruebsamen Sun City, CA
Orville and **Beulah Schultz** Arroyo Grande, CA
Bob and **Peggy Shaw** Arroyo Grande, CA
John and **Dena Tounger** Oakland, CA
Lee Wilson and **Jan Kremetz** Stockton, CA

Total of 39

If you have paid your dues and have not received a Pink Membership Card, please notify William Ruebsamen, the 69th Division Treasurer.

P.O. Box 146, Sun City, CA 92586-0146

661st Tank Destroyers

Ruth Mellinger, News Reporter

173 Calvary Church Road

Wrightsville, Pennsylvania 17368

"Welcome Back to Pennsylvania"

Dear TD Family,

It is with great joy and excitement that the **Mellinger** family will be hosting the TD Reunion in Pennsylvania October 9 thru 12, 2003. The Hampton Inn will again host the event. There is an elevator in the hotel and the hospitality room is on the first floor.

York is located in south central Pennsylvania and centrally located to Gettysburg, Lancaster County, heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country and Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland. The hotel is located directly across from the Galleria Mall. Next to the hotel is the "Texas Roadhouse" steakhouse. You will find restaurants, outlets, golf courses and almost everything you could be looking for in Pennsylvania. York is also home to Harley Davidson Motorcycles and tours are still available and well worth your time.

There is no restaurant in the hotel, but a free continental breakfast is included with your room. The banquet will be catered at the hotel and cost approximately \$15 per person.

If you are flying to the reunion, you can use BWI or Harrisburg International. BWI is larger and airfares are generally cheaper. Let us know your flight schedules and we'll arrange for someone to greet you at the airport if you need a ride to the hotel.

Don't forget those pictures, scrapbooks, videos and memories to share with everyone. Donations for postage, hospitality room and incidental costs will be accepted to help defray costs.

If you can't come, drop us a note and we'll share it with those who do come. We want to extend an extra special invitation to the widows, friends and extended family members of any TD'ers. As you know, I have been a widow for several years and have continued to attend this reunion with my family. The entire family loves this event and wants everyone to join us in October for a great time to fellowship together. October 13th is Columbus Day and if anyone is interested in staying the extra day, the rate will be the same as the weekend rate.

Check your calendars! Circle these dates! Get out the maps and come back to Pennsylvania. If you have any questions, call Ruth at 717-252-2573 or call Dawn at 717-252-3448 or e-mail to dkilhefner65@msn.com. Call or write for a reservation form or call the hotel at 717/840-1500 and make sure to tell them you are with the TD Reunion. The code to use it "661." Reserve your room by September 18, 2003 to guarantee your stay with us. See you in October.

(Continued on Page 22)

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

(Continued from Page 21)

Company I, 271st Infantry

H. Lynn Jones, *News Reporter*

1081 Meadowbrook Drive

Milan, Tennessee 38358

2003 Reunion New Orleans, Louisiana

The Inter-Continental Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana was our meeting place for 2003. The regular group began to arrive Wednesday, May 7th for the 4 day meeting. Present this year were **Doug** and **Nathalie Buckstad**, North Carolina, **Richard** and **Jane Haines**, Ohio, **Lynn** and **Lou Jones**, Tennessee, **Bob** and **Phyllis Jorgenson**, Wisconsin, **Bob** and **Carol McMillan**, Ohio, **Joe** and **Virginia McMurry**, Tennessee, **Marty** and **Edye Miller**, Colorado, **John Noone**, New York, **Leigh Tenney**, Arizona, **Dale** and **Peg Thompson**, Louisiana, and **Harris** and **Hazel Timmer**, Michigan. **Hy** and **Mae Rita Kurfirst** of Washington, and **Mae Tenney** of Arizona were unable to attend. We missed you all.

We gathered in the Hospitality Suite as everyone arrived. After visiting and greetings were exchanged, we proceeded to the Veranda for dinner.

Dale Thompson took responsibilities for setting up our arrangements in New Orleans, which by the way, were great. The May dates were selected so we could

participate in the VE-Day remembrance celebration at THE NATIONAL D-DAY MUSEUM on May 8th.

Our group gathered at the museum prior to opening and were ushered in for a great orientation and welcome. They have done a great job of presenting D-Day memorabilia. Dr. Stephen E. Ambrose established the museum in 2000 and did most of the research. The LA. room starts with the Higgins Landing Crafts made in LA., and other WWII crafts - a tank, jeep, weapons carrier, Piper Cub, and a Spitfire. There is a 45 minute film on D-Day in Europe and one on the Pacific. The tours of the various room have voices and photos of people who were in battles. This is a must for all veterans to visit if you are in New Orleans. It is located at 945 Magazine Street, about 5 blocks East of Canal Street off of St. Charles. Leaving the museum everyone sought our various eating places to taste some local fare and wander the streets and shops. We recalled the story of the 69ers who ran out on a bill at the Court of Two Sisters in 1944, so to aide the cause of all the 69ers who visit New Orleans, we dined at the Court of Two Sisters (they were delighted to have us). We learned why they call New Orleans THE BIG EASY - such a nice easy pace and time for conversation in a relaxed atmosphere.

Friday sees us off in a convoy to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, where the 69th Infantry Division trained during WWII. Many of Company I, 271st were among that group. It was about a 2 hour drive to the South Gate off Hwy. 49. The camp was under heavy security. We assembled at Monument Row in front of the

(Continued on Page 23)



Company I, 271st Members in front of the 69th Monument at Camp Shelby: Kneeling, front - Bob Jorgenson, Peg Thompson, Phyllis Jorgenson. Standing, Joe McMurry, Dale Thompson, John Noone, Bob and Carol McMillan, Hazel and Harris Timmer, Jane and Richard Haines, Lou Jones, Leigh Tenney, Lynn Jones, Nathalie and Doug Buckstad, Not pictured: Virginia McMurry, Marty and Edye Miller.

DIVISION ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS, UNITS, COMPANIES AND GROUP MINI-WEEKENDS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES *(Continued from Page 22)*

ARMED FORCES MUSEUM, which fronts the old parade grounds. There are monuments of all units that trained at Camp Shelby. The plan is to place personal stone markers, purchased by individuals who trained here, around the Division Monument. Photos were taken and stories about the area were exchanged before heading to the Open Mess for lunch. Believe me when I say, "You ain't seen nothing like this Chow Hall or food during your army service." **Dale Thompson** and the Mess Sergeant made the arrangements for us to have lunch there.

We returned to the museum for a tour and to explore the huge facility. There are exhibits from the Civil War to the War on Terror-ism. The exhibits include sound bytes of battles and conversations. It's not just an exhibit - It's an experience. For example, they have a World War I full-sized trench diorama complete with life-size "doughboy" soldiers and special effects simulating the sights, sounds and even smells of trench life in the Great War. Take a day and visit Camp Shelby. You won't regret it.

Saturday morning some of the Company I group decided to experience a real New Orleans treat with "Breakfast at Brennan's." What a treat - turtle soup, fruit and cream, 6 egg omelets, eggs Hussard, eggs Benedict, and Key Lime Pie or flaming deserts. Some just had to visit the French Market for the special treat at Cafe du Monde. We enjoyed Jackson Square and on to the River Walk for various shopping.

Some of our gang had late departures on Saturday and others had early departures on Sunday in order to be home for Mother's Day. We said our goodbyes and made plans for our 2004 reunion to be held in Dayton, Ohio with **Richard Haines** and **Robert McMillan** making the plans. Dates and the particulars will be announced early next year. Hope to see you all again in 2004.



Inside the Inter-Continental Hotel with our 69th Display: John Noone, Richard and Jane Haines, Harris Timmer, Dale Thompson, Hazel Timmer, Peg Thompson, Bob and Carol McMillan, Nathalie and Doug Buckstad, Marty and Edye Miller, Leigh Tenney, Lynn Jones, Phyllis Jorgenson, Lou Jones and Bob Jorgenson. Not pictured: Joe and Virginia McMurry



Group of Company I people assembled at the National D-Day Museum. The bricks under our feet have names with units of donors to the building of the museum.



Dottie Witzleb



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THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE

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A Message from your Auxiliary President, Ethel Ruck

Dear Ladies of the 69th Auxiliary,

Hope you all have made your plans to attend our next reunion in St. Louis. Our reunion chairmen and committees have planned and lined up some good times and very interesting tours for your enjoyment.

Always of special interest are the city tours in which our reunions take place. Each one has been different and unique as to location. St. Louis is special because Lewis & Clark began their exploration of the Northwest Territory here, and we can learn much about their times and trials as they searched for a way to the Pacific Ocean.

We don't want to forget our veterans either. If you have tote bags that fasten to patient's walkers, lap robes (36x45), booties, bibs, cards or any other items they can use, please bring them to our meeting on Saturday morning, August 23rd, 2003. We also plan to present the St. Louis VA Hospital volunteer representative with a check to be used for the purchase of personal care items such as toothpaste, shaving cream, etc.

As in the past, we also plan for a gift exchange for our own members and guests costing approximately \$5.00 each. We request that the officers and past officers bring an extra gift for our ladies attending for the first time - "First Timers."

Also on the agenda will be the election of officers of the auxiliary for the next two years. So-o-o you see, it is important that you be there. Our entertainment is also special, and you won't want to miss that.

See you there???

- In Memoriam -

"LADIES' TAPS"

AUDREY M. DURANT
wife of **Hollis A. Durant**
Company H, 272nd Infantry

EMILY FISCHER
wife of **Raymond A. Fischer**
Company B, 661st Tank Destroyers

OLA MAE WILLIAMS
wife of **Lamar W. Williams**
69th M.P.

Reflecting on a friend

Submitted By: **John S. Tounger**

Company D, 271st Infantry

1 Pine Hills Court, Oakland, California 94611



Frank Clark in front of the Monument of Nations-Leipzig, Germany- April 1945.

Frank Clark passed away May 4, 2003. Frank was a machine gunner in Company D, 271st Infantry. I was in his squad from Camp Shelby to the Elbe River in Torgau Germany.

Frank and I shared many experiences together. We talked about how we would rub our toes to each other to keep frost bite while we were on the Siegfried Line in Belgium.

He was a champion of champion both in service and in private life.

Frank Clark

Company D, 271st Infantry

43 Stallion Hill, Lisbon, New Hampshire 03585

Info Sought on Obtaining Bronze Star

Submitted By: **Hubert K. Porter**

Anti-Tank Company, 273rd Infantry

900 Cedar Street, Atlantic, Iowa 50022-2010

E-Mail: whp@metc.net

I have been corresponding with a buddy from our squad, 273rd Anti-Tank Company. He is:

Wesley M. Taylor

14650 Story Road

San Jose, California 95127

I do know he is entitled to the Bronze Star award but he hasn't been able to get it as of yet. I went to my representative of the state of Iowa and he got mine for me. He transferred Wesley's information to a representative of California but they have not come up with an answer.

We are wondering if anyone has any information about how to go about getting the Bronze Star award for him? Especially any members that live in California and may have succeeded in getting their Bronze Star. If anyone knows of another route you can go to obtain it, please write and let us know.

As always, we are interested in members of the Anti-Tank Company and would like to hear from old buddies.

Still Living It Up



*Our own President
Ray Sansoucy, right,
with his 69th buddy
Ed Sarcione,
at the
Sansoucy
Fly-In Ranch in
Vero Beach, Florida.*

*Both are members of
the Anti-Tank Co.,
272nd Infantry.*

Ray Sansoucy

23 Paradox Drive

Worcester, MA 01602

Don Fry - 90 Years Young!

Submitted By: **Malcom** and **Carol E. Craig**
4305 E. Rose Lane
Paradise Valley, Arizona 85253-3935



*Don Fry with his wife Mollie,
at his 90th Birthday party - March 30th, 2003*

Don Fry's 90th Birthday Party was held on Sunday, March 30th at 6:30 p.m. at Paradise Valley Country Club. His wife **Mollie**, of 57 years, planned a beautiful sit-down dinner for 60 guests. Since Don had been a very successful groceryman throughout the state of Arizona for many years (before selling his stores to Kroger), Mollie placed at each guest's place setting, a miniature grocery cart filled with miniature groceries sporting the "FRY" logo.

Don was a member of Company D, 777th Tank Battalion.

Don and Mollie are known throughout the community for their generosity of philanthropy and their love for family, friends and country. They are proud parents of three adopted children who have given them, seven grandsons, a great-grandson, and at last, a great-grand-daughter is on the way.

Don has been living with Parkinsons Disease for over 35 years. This fact amazes his doctors. His mind is still sharp and he attends business meetings with the family in their investment business.

He and Mollie enjoy seeing friends and invite any of you to write to them. They thank all of you of the 69th for your comments on the occasion of Don's birthday.

Don and Molly Fry

Company D, 777th Tank Battalion
5414 East Lincoln Drive, #75
Scottsdale, Arizona 85253-4118

To Our Great Good Friend Don on the Occasion of Your 90th Birthday

Written by Carol Craig

We thought and thought what we could do since a 90th Birthday is reached by so few so we learned that you served in World War II and the Fighting 69th Infantry was home to you.

Your tanks were rolling through Germany the fighting was fierce for your Company D though some were lost on land and sea many came home showing bravery.

There were 25 left on the roll call sheet when you landed back home for all to greet though some are gone now, they someday may meet since heaven is filled with the brave at God's feet.

For your buddies still living across the land I wish to read the greetings I hold in my hand these are the ones who were able to speak some were not well, and feeling a bit weak

Their voices lit up when I said "A friend of Don Fry" They were eager to talk and memories surged high so here, dear friend, are greetings from the guys who were with you when you said your goodbyes.

Best Wishes and our love to you on this great day!

Carol and Mal

* * * * *

*Following are the letters Don received from
some of his 69th buddies.*

From: **Ivan Williams**

1298 Stratford Court
Circleville, Ohio 43113-1394

Dear Don,

I don't think I knew you well, but I was the youngest guy in the outfit. I was a gunner and my tank commander was **Lt. McFarland**. My tank driver was **Martin Slovak**. There were three red heads in the outfit which were named "Light Red," "Medium Red," and "Dark Red." I was "Medium Red." I wish you a great Birthday. I am 77, so have a few years to go to catch you. Best wishes on turning 90.

* * * * *

From: **Gustav Cohan**

1207 E. Main Street
Bradford, Pennsylvania 16701-3223
Telephone: 814/362-2887

Dear Don,

We had a real battle on our hands keeping those tanks rolling. I was head of maintenance for seventeen tanks so I had to keep them ready for battle each day. It was nice to hear from your friend Carol and learn you are having your 90th. Best Wishes.

(Continued on Page 27)

DON FRY - 90 YEARS YOUNG!

(Continued from Page 26)

From: **Michael Marsyada**

719 North Street, West Hazleton, Pennsylvania 18201

Telephone: 570/455-0624

Dear Don,

You may not remember me, but I was the Tech Sergeant who drove the Company Commander, **Captain Bob Goodman**. I will be 87 in April. We were supposed to be in the military for a year. I was planning to be married at the end of the year. However, the military had different plans, so my marriage was delayed 6 years while we served together in Germany in 1945. Have a great 90th Birthday Party!

* * * * *

From: **Marion Calloway**

808 Parkhurst Drive, Salisbury, Maryland 21804-9028

Telephone: 410/543-0411

Dear Don,

I remember you as not having a lot of hair on top but very good looking. I was your motor sergeant and remember you as always cooperative and wanting to do the right thing. I turned 86 in October. My best to you on your 90th Birthday.

* * * * *

From: **Andrew Lapatka**

211 West Fairmont Avenue

New Castle, Pennsylvania 16105

Telephone: 724/654-2138

Dear Don,

I was your tank driver and remember you real well. I've lost both legs to diabetes and am in a wheel chair. Glad to hear you are doing so well as old guys like us can do. Do you remember our old pal, "Frenchie?" Best wishes on your 90th Birthday, Don.

* * * * *

From: **Victor Tedesco**

2178 Larry Ho Drive, St. Paul, Minnesota 55119

Telephone: 651/735-6282

Dear Don,

I was the corporal left behind. We didn't know each other in battle, because I was left behind in the states due to being allergic to rubber, which meant that I couldn't wear a gas mask. In retirement I have been a singer with a dance band. I certainly wish I could be there to sing "Happy Birthday" to you in person. God Bless you, and many more.

Company L, 271st Infantry

Submitted By: **Edwin Ray Humiston**

1024 Addison Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19147-1213



This photo was taken of me and some of my buddies at Camp Shelby in the summer of 1944. In the rear from left to right are **Boubelick** (I've forgotten his first name), **Edward C. Miller** and, myself, **Edwin Humiston**. In front are three fellows whose faces I remember fairly well, but have forgotten their names.

We spent most of the summer in the woods of Mississippi being eaten by chiggers so this is a rare scene in front of our barracks in camp. I hope that someone can identify the 3 men in front.

I hope to see everyone at the reunion in St. Louis.

**DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR NEXT BULLETIN IS
SEPTEMBER 30th, 2003 • Volume 57, No. 1
September, October, November, December 2003
Get Your Material In On Time! Write those stories!**

National D-Day Museum in search of Oral Histories

Dear Veteran,

On behalf of The National D-Day Museum, I send you our warmest greetings. Please let me take this opportunity to provide you with some background about the museum and our oral history archives.

Dr. Stephen E. Ambrose founded The National D-Day Museum in June 2000. The museum is a non-profit institution interpreting the history of the various opposed amphibious invasions that took place during World War II. At first, The Eisenhower Center for American Studies served as the museum's research arm. However, The National D-Day Museum has now established an in-house research department that will actively collect the personal accounts of the men and women who sacrificed to make the final victory over totalitarianism possible.

I would like to invite you to prepare an oral history for the personal accounts archive at The National D-Day Museum. We feel that your story would contribute immensely to the collection. Below you will find guidelines on preparing an oral history. Write to us for a release form that makes your entry available to other scholars and historians.

As you collect your oral history, remember that cassette tapes are inexpensive. Turn on your tape recorder, relax and start talking. Be sure to elaborate as much as you wish. It is especially helpful if you have someone to talk to like a friend, spouse, son, daughter or grandchild. A through oral history interview will probably take more than an hour to complete, so you will need to set aside a sufficient amount of time to get the job done. It may be necessary to complete the interview over the course of more than one interview session to capture all the information on tape. It may be helpful to have old photos, maps or service records close by during the interview. After completing the oral history interview, please send your tape to:

The National D-Day Museum
945 Magazine Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
Attn.: Oral History Collection

By leaving this record, you will have done your country a service as important as your military service. You will have provided a record that will contribute to the body of knowledge relating to the largest conflict in human history. This record will serve future generations in their understanding of the Second World War. Because of your record, future generations of historians will be able to understand what you did long after you are gone. You are a precious resource because of your unique perspective. Please help future generations understand your experiences during World War II. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions at (504) 527-6012, ext. 321. Thank you for considering this request.

Martin K. A. Morgan
Research Historian

Oral History Guidelines

Veterans often think that they do not need to provide an oral history because they did not serve in combat, or they do not feel what they did was of great importance. This is not the case, because the history of World War II continues to be written today. In the coming decades, historians will be asking new and different questions about the Second World War. Many of those questions will probably relate to the contribution of those who did not directly participate in combat. So now more than ever, it is crucial importance to preserve the history of all who served during World War II.

The following guideline questions will assist you in preparing your own oral history. You can also use the following guideline questions to conduct an interview.

- What is your full name?
- When and where were you born?
- What were you doing before the war?
- Were you married or single?
- Where were you when you found out about Pearl Harbor?
- Did you enlist or were you drafted?
- What was your branch of service? (USA? USN? USMC? USCG? USMM?)
- When did you enter service? (month-day-year)
- Where did you enter service?
- Where did you receive your basic training?
- Describe basic training.
- What weapon(s) did you qualify on during basic training? (M1903 rifle M1 rifle?)
- What qualification level did you achieve? Marksman? Sharpshooter? Expert?)
- What was your military specialty? (Infantry? Artillery? Airborne? Armor? etc.)
- Describe the people you trained with in basic training.
- When did you deploy overseas?
- What theater of operations were you in? (ETO? PTO? MTO? CBI?)
- What was your port of embarkation for deployment? (New York? San Diego?)
- How long did it take for you to reach your theater of operations?
- Did you receive any training after you were deployed overseas?
- What type of equipment were you issued before you were deployed overseas?
- Were you involved in any invasions? (If 'yes' please describe)
- Were you ever taken under enemy fire? (If 'yes' please describe)
- Did you return fire? (If 'yes' please describe)
- What was the food like?
- Did you admire your commanding officer?
- Did you admire the people you served with?
- Were you wounded? (If 'yes' please describe)
- Did you get enough sleep?
- Where were you on VE-Day?
- Where were you on VJ-Day?
- When did you return to the US?
- How long did you serve overseas?

The 69th - 10 Years Later

Part III

Written By: **Robert Weinstock**

3600 N. 5th Avenue #202

Phoenix, Arizona 85013

I drew a couple of other assignments that made life a little more interesting, but which were ultimately futile. I think they were due to the fact that I acquired special clearance - 'Secret' from my service schools and prior jobs - plus maybe my supposed math wizardry and my ability to master and survive being a rodman. My very, very, very part time assignment was to master the tools, moves and procedures involved in arming an actual atomic round if and when the 'balloon went up,' such as in a mass Soviet attack on West Germany.

The great problem was that I was never sent to even a day of school or even had actual practice on arming the atomic warhead, doing only the read and memorize part, but not the hands on work and practice, to get a feel of what I needed to know. All I had was some 'secret' pamphlet type instructional material that I read and attempted to commit to memory; reading the material, which I think was kept in a battalion safe, and which I took to the Officer's Room in my battery for a few hours at a time, about once a month, while I was relieved of whatever I would otherwise be doing that day. Without hands on practice, and working with another technician which was required to complete the arming, I never got the hang of it.

In retrospect it almost sounds like a case of 'no big deal,' because the need to arm the round never arose, but if it had - too bad. Both I and another 'atomic armorer' in a different battery were actually sadly lacking in know-how. That was proven so when somebody came, unannounced, from Seventh Army, with the proper equipment on hand, to test us and run through an assembly. So we found that myself and my counterpart (I'm not certain, but I think there were only three batteries - two firing and headquarters - its certain that I only recall seeing two 280mm weapons) couldn't master the assembly. If I recall correctly the NCO or officer said the same result was obtained in another 280mm outfit.

Fortunately the Soviets never got wind of the state of training of the Seventh Army's Atomic Armorers, or the Iron Curtain might have wound up on Omaha Beach.

My exposure to weapons in Germany and NATO wasn't all on the atomic level. I also went one day to a firing range, where I fired a grease gun for maybe two half second bursts and then fired on the carbine range. I have no idea what score I made there, but I do recall that after firing I had to pull targets. This turned into a much longer assignment than firing and just about all the pit troops began applying the sticky target markers to our helmets, after cutting, layering and

finessing them into six sided stars, thereby promoting ourselves into brigadier, major, lieutenant and full generals. There were no officers or intrusive NCO's in the pits, but finally seeing that we were sprouting a lot of brass I decided to take matters in hand and just lined up and shaved my markers at my station at the last target, and during a firing lull I pulled an 'inspection' of the new generals and got sirred and 'yes sir Mister President all up and down the line. The time was the Eisenhower Administration and my helmet simply read "IKE."

I did go to school on base, at our 'kassern' - the German word for base or barracks - to learn short wave transmission, or 'CW' or 'Charlie Whiskey.' What that amounted to for me was gaining proficiency in semaphore by spending several weeks learning an alphabet, by cramming - programming - learning in effect a new language of dots and dashes. I enjoyed it because it was like learning a new language.

When we finished and went into a secure trailer, working with an experienced operator, attempting to learn and add speed and proficiency. I would like to have been able to stick with it, but I had the impression all along that the half dozen or so of us in the training classes far exceeded the number of operators required. My class ranking was about right in the middle and I actually sat in with an old hand operator once or twice, but it didn't surprise me when I was dropped, dash-dot-dash and returned to regular duty. What is a mystery is a sort of grainy memory of being brought very groggily out of my sleep one very early morning by the CQ to report to the CW truck, and coming to hours later still in the sack, thinking I was probably going to be court martialled for not reporting for duty. Instead I just went about my duty and was informed soon after that I was no longer needed at the CW truck.

I once again ran into the problem of having a piece of equipment stolen from me just before an inspection, and got gigged as a result. I didn't have to pay any further price however, because the item (I have no recollection of what it was) was returned surreptitiously as it was removed. This occurred at my first inspection in Bad Kreuznach and was only a part of trouble in that inspection.

I was new to the battery and the squad room, and drew really worn out equipment, in the line of equipment belt, first aid kit, cartridge holder, canteens and cover, entrenching tool, etc. They were so soiled, pitted, dirty and worn out, no self-respecting army surplus store would have put them on display. Evidently the quartermaster was at the bottom of the barrel when he issued the stuff, which looked as though it had come through both world wars, and maybe accompanied Teddy Roosevelt up San Juan Hill. I cleaned and scoured my equipment, but got gigged right and left by

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THE 69th - TEN YEARS LATER

(Continued from Page 29)

the CO who seemed not to comprehend, and applied the word 'scroungy' to the equipment and apparently my display and took me to task for whatever was missing. I never apologized, and stood many additional inspections without comment or problem, but it didn't help to be new and have that miserable designation paid to me or my gear. On the other hand none of my bunk mates took up the word or made life miserable for me. I lived with the result, and the equipment.

We stood tours of guard duty, in the kasserne and, out of town, both at an ammo and a petrol dump. Out of town there was one man on duty at each location; about half a mile apart in the dumps. To show that the United States was serious about guarding their munitions and fuel, we were issued two rounds apiece for our carbines, the first of which was to be used to fire in the air in an emergency and the second to hold off any attackers. There may have been one of those phones with a butterfly switch available, I'm not certain. I suppose if the Russian Army came calling, we would have been issued a full clip. Fortunately, guard duty on base seemed a little safer, since it meant either walking around the guns at the front gate or climbing up one of two or three guard towers.

Once when I drew a tower far above a dark B.K. street (strasse - it sounds more menacing in German) there was a commotion by a group of youngsters coming out the back door of some building and down the strasse - kind of a boisterous group that probably wasn't bent on trouble - although, no matter that relations with the Germans were essentially good, some of the youngsters were always willing to put up a challenge. You could see it in their attitudes down town, which sometimes resulted in hot words or fights, but more often just in attitudes - although saying that shouldn't overlook the fact that the Germans and the GIs really got along quite well, or at least without incident almost all the time.

Meanwhile, back on the tower, I switched on my spotlight, which had a powerful beam, and swung it up and down the street on these kids, perhaps half a dozen, but they were agitated at my attention. I switched off the light and they continued to scream angrily.

For a moment I considered shouting out 'corporal of the guard, post such and such, but just about then someone below shouted out something about beer (actually 'bier') and the whole pack took off doubled timed down the strasse, probably in a good humor. I have a recollection of having been wearing my overcoat at that point, meaning it occurred during the cold weather, which is significant only because it means it probably didn't occur during the week or so in October when Germans traditionally hold 'fasching,' which is a kind of Mardi Gras, nationwide, with lots of beer

drinking, dressing up in costumes and creating paper mache and other figures, a few of them, in a few places, the ugly type of Uncle Sam. I never saw fasching in person, only pictures, because we were either restricted to base or told to make ourselves scarce during a time when Germans were celebrating themselves.

It was also on guard duty at the kasserne in B.K. that I reprised my near thing role of almost being killed, as in training when I was with the 69th Division.

I was on duty that night at the front gate (actually a little shack between in-out lanes) where personnel and vehicles entered and exited. Among the vehicles that attempted entry was a heavy flatbed truck carrying a caterpillar tractor. I never saw the guns being fired although I heard them fire from a distance, but the tractor was used in clearing ground and similar tasks required to lay the cannons for firing (or as we were reminded in training "your first job in the artillery is always to lay the piece.")

I was at my post, thumbing vehicles and personnel in and out like a New York traffic cop, when the cat driver made his appearance. The entrance was clear and I gave him the green light and turned to the other side to check that all was clear outside the kasserne, and high fived some exiting traffic and turned back automatically, intending to lean out into the incoming lane when my post shook and - although it happened so fast that I barely saw it - the far edge of the cat blade chipped at and tore away sections of the little concrete and wooden door and window framed structure.

It maybe bears saying that these flatbed-cat vehicles came through that gate regularly, without incident, and that I was later told that on this occasion this driver was intoxicated. Had I realized the driver's condition and that he might be bearing down on the little Photomat type building, I might have waved 'halt,' and even stepped out into the incoming lane to make my point, but in retrospect I think I would have been run down, because he would have just kept on coming - likewise if I had moved the outgoing vehicle along a couple of seconds earlier I might have wound up in the incoming door, where the blade could have made mincemeat of me.

I don't really know what the upshot was - except that there were some NCO type personnel around who hurried up to the truck, and someone ask me for my account, which was about as above. The matter was settled without any further involvement on my part. So far as I recall the guard shack remained as is, visibly but not overwhelmingly damaged, and standing.

If the out of control driver wasn't court martialed or penalized, he was lucky. There was battery (company) punishment and there were frequent court martials; results posted weekly on a battery bulletin board. The

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THE 69th - TEN YEARS LATER

(Continued from Page 30)

punishment sometimes grew out of drinking, fights, lots of whoring; misunderstandings or trouble stirred up in bars, mostly involving Germans as complainants. Girlfriend or marital troubles (married soldiers, some married to Germans, lived off base) and AWOL or worse was common. No doubt some infractions were forgiven or handled lightly and those that went to the max often involved repeat offenders of some sort of oft called 'bad apples,' who their commanding officers often wanted to be rid of.

When someone was awaiting trial or actually undergoing trial (during which he was followed around by another soldier carrying a rifle - an assignment I once drew and which made me feel more conspicuous than the man I was guarding - I hated it) he was said to be 'going to Crailsheim,' which was the location of the U.S. Army or armed forces penal barracks in Germany.

I could have been in trouble once myself, because it didn't take much of an infraction to get charges leveled against you. In my case my battalion was in Vilseck in southern Germany, where the American forces went on a rotating basis. We temporarily occupied barracks during a frozen winter (with in-room Coleman type stoves - we all played fireman) and spent long days, in a period of two or so weeks, practicing our skills. By this time I had shifted, happily, to the communications section and became a wireman. I enjoyed stringing wire, sometimes driving a quarter ton truck and working with and maintaining varied commo equipment. Even the long outdoors stints were good, if tiring duty.

Our commo section of about seven was returning to barracks late one afternoon, driving through the woods in a quarter ton truck, driven by the section NCO, Sergeant Pratt, with a specialist (equivalent to corporal) seated beside him, doing probably 25 mph, the low speed limit in Vilseck (you had to slow down even more when there were troops marching on the road side.) The road was apparently free of traffic at this point.

The rear view behind the cab was closed off by a flap, so the rest of the section, including myself, riding at the rear, driver's side, couldn't see up front. I became aware that we had slowed up somewhat, and then kind of felt and heard movement outside on the lip of the truck side on the canvas top, probably not lasting much over five seconds, when, to less than my complete amazement, but nevertheless in shocked disbelief, Sgt. Pratt's bent down face came into view, peering at me from the rear, saying something like "You doin' okay Weinstock?" My, probably slack jawed response started out like, "Pratt you crazy S..." but before I could finish he was gone, clambering back into the cab. A guy up front had lifted the flap and I could see Sgt. Pratt's seatmate toward the driver's seat, left hand steering the truck, left foot no doubt on the brake - and then Sgt. Pratt, chuckling at his joke, back in charge.

All of which proves not much, and there was no upshot, but thinking about it seems to me like NCOs gone daft, since you have to ask: what could have happened if an officer without much sense of humor had been nearby in the woods or had seen down the road - front or rear of us - and reported the incident. Even less funny, what if the specialist had lost control of the truck and ditched it, with who knows what result. On the other hand who hasn't done something crazy, gotten away with it and told the tale long after?

This kasserne-barracks apparently had no showers, or operating showers, and so after several smelly days we were driven in trucks to a tent showering station and told to leave our weapons on the truck, which were under guard, but parked immediately by a wooded area. It was rainy, dark poncho type day, I was seated right by the tailgate, which presumably is where I left my weapon and went to take a very welcome shower. When I returned my weapon (an M-1) was missing.

What almost certainly happened is that one of the 'rads' as we sometimes called the locals, had snuck up and grabbed my weapon unobserved, while the man on guard may have been in the cab of one of the trucks, or hunkered down avoiding the weather, or simply out of line of sight of the truck I was riding in.

The consequences for me could have been pretty grim, if I was clearly to blame. At the very least I could have been forced to pay for the M-1; worse it was vaguely suggested that I might be brought up on charges. Without any doubt many of us were court martialled for less serious offenses than losing a rifle, a loss which caused ripples, paperwork and unfriendly remarks in my direction, beginning with the battery armorer, unable to account now for all his weapons. In the end the loss simply wasn't my fault, just a theft, probably described in official terms something like 'Rifle, M-1, Standard, One Each, Stolen.'

During my almost two years in Europe, fall of 1956-58, the Cold War was the reason for the existence of NATO and our standoff with the USSR. It made Germany the front line in that non-combat war. No direct challenges, or violations of the post war settlement in Germany, such as the 1948-49 Berlin Crisis, the riots in East Germany when Stalin died, or the later early 1960's Berlin Crisis and the building of the Berlin (and entire East German) Wall, occurred.

There were two crisis however in 1956; the Soviet counter-strike and brutal repression of the Anti-Communist uprising in Hungary, while at about the same time, in connection with the Egyptian nationalization of the Suez Canal, British, French and Israeli forces staged an attack on Egypt, which had the backing of the Soviets. Eisenhower put an end to that crisis by insisting that the three countries withdraw their forces, while in regard to Hungary we simply watched the Soviets do their dirty work. At some point that fall however we had a formation informing us that we were on some sort of an alert status, that maybe this time the 'balloon was up,' but it came to nothing.

(Continued on Page 32)

THE 69th - TEN YEARS LATER

(Continued from Page 31)

There was another military encounter during my time in Germany, brief, but a chilling precursor of the present war. For some long forgotten reason political conditions in Lebanon became dangerous, in 1958 and President Eisenhower sent a small force of Marines there to stabilize the situation. Once again there was tension and a sense that we might be on the verge of something, but about as quickly, as in the fall of 1956, the crisis passed. We were probably put on alert status during that crisis also, but I don't recall.

One other difference between serving back in the states and in NATO was what you got on payday. For a considerable part of my time in Germany we were not paid in good old American dollars, but in 'scrip.' In memory scrip was about the same size as a dollar, but more colorful, about like French Francs. It was supposed to be used only at places such as the base exchanges or snack bars and there were places where you could exchange it legally for German or other currency, for example if you were going on leave. What you were not supposed to do was just spend it on the German economy, since it apparently was not legal tender downtown. In fact, according to what I heard - and for all I know I may have spent scrip in the Fatherland - the local bar and brothel owners accepted it, especially from good customers whom they trusted to repatriate the scrip with Deutsche Marks on a return visit, and there was even a suggestion that there existed some illegal operations that traded the scrip back and forth.

However there came a day, probably not a pay day either, when officers and personnel from the finance corps showed up, pretty much simultaneously all over Europe, and we suddenly traded in our scrip for regular old American currency. Aside from the reassurance of having the real stuff in your wallet this didn't make much difference to us, but it supposedly stung the German business community pretty badly, because the scrip suddenly became worthless. But what struck a lot of fancies after the sudden Finance Corps raid was dreams of sudden wealth had we only known about the conversion smart operators could have bought up a lot of that scrip at say 10 to 1, scrip for marks, and made out like bandits, buying out the PX and still turning in lots more scrip than we were entitled to - just how far you could go and what explanation we would use for the hoard of scrip being turned in for cash was something that we would have to come up with - "believe it or not sir I hardly ever spend anything, so here's about my last five paydays" was one explanation we thought might be worth a try.

Another inspection during my time in the service occurred in Germany, at about 3:00 a.m. while we were sound asleep in our racks - courtesy of the Medical Corps. This was the famous 'pecker check,' to discover what signs of bad or careless conduct we displayed. It was a case of blinding 'out of bed' after an unexpected lights on. It only lasted a few unpleasant minutes, this 'equipment check,' which could result in bad news and

a medical discharge. I was extremely happy to pass that inspection.

Sometime, probably in my last year in Germany, supposedly to reassure allies, and warn the enemy that we would actually use the atomic weapons readily if a Soviet attack occurred, the unit was moved eastward and across the Rhine River to the town Geissen.

While at my last two posts before stateside separation I took leave at least three times; once by myself to visit Garmisch and Bavaria, where der Fuhrer had enjoyed the scenery while mapping out the Thousand Year Reich that the Fighting 69th and a few other outfits took exception to, and disrespected severely (that's my version of the Vietnam Era mantras about dispatching your enemy with 'extreme prejudice' or 'bombing them back to the stone age').

Since my parents were long divorced I also had separate leaves with them - with my Dad, who flew to Germany on his vacation in 1957; we traveled principally through Italy as far as Rome. The next year with my mother in Paris and on to the 1958 World's Fair in Brussels. She was actually serving as a nurse advisor with the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service in Libya, a while before Khadafi took over there. In March 1958 she was nearly killed in an auto accident when her Libyan driver fell asleep while she was being driven in the desert. She was subsequently flown to Germany and hospitalized, probably in Weisbaden, where I stayed with her for about a week while she recovered, for a fairly long run of the following 41 years and 9 months.

Somewhere in all my military heroics I know I managed to trade my PFC stripe in for no stripe - PFC to PVT. I think it was related to that first inspection in the 264th, but I don't recall. I do know that I managed to reclaim my stripe after several months, and thought I had a chance of being promoted to specialist when I was in the communications section. However, after my last outing in Vilseck, where the training exercises were held - Vilseck being the permanent home of the Seventh Cavalry, so every morning - or afternoon, I forget which - we were serenaded on the loud speaker with 'Gary Owens,' a great tune, which however presumably was played by Custer's bugler not long before they were massacred. I had grown 'short,' with about three or four months to my discharge date and so my last duty assignment involved repair and maintenance around the battalion - from simple flush toilet repair (there was an epidemic of constantly failing toilets in these former Third Reich barrack - kassernes, something like a Thousand Year revenge on the American GI) to replacing bulbs and general maintenance, to cutting grass or sprucing up the battalion area.

In the Fall of 1958 I left Germany, Cold War intact, and took another ship home first to Fort Hamilton, and finally back to Good Old Fort Dix - and the 69th Division. It took about three days of non-duty to get my release papers and head back out into the cruel civilian world. Once again, I couldn't have done it without the Fighting Sixty-Ninth.

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.

August 17th thru 24th, 2003

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WE STILL NEED LOCAL MEMBERS TO HELP OUT.

PLEASE CONTACT BOB PIERCE.

(Continued on Page 34)

AUGUST 21st, 22nd and 23rd, 2003
69th CAVALRY RECON TROOP
50th ANNUAL REUNION
 In conjunction with the Division Assn. Reunion
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St. Louis Airport Marriott
 I-70 at Lambert Airport

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* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th, 2003
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ANNUAL REUNION
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Dutch Host Inn

For Further Information Contact:

Lowell McFarlin
 P.O. Box 236
 Jeromesville, Ohio 44840

* * * * *

SEPTEMBER 30th, 2003

Deadline for news material and pictures for:
Bulletin Volume 57, Number 1
September, October, November, December 2003
Bulletin expected mailing date is late November
or early December.

* * * * *

OCTOBER 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th, 2003
661st TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
ANNUAL REUNION
YORK, PENNSYLVANIA
Hampton Inn
 1550 Mount Zion Road, York, Pennsylvania 17402
 Telephone: 717/840-1500

York is located in south central PA and centrally located to Gettysburg. There is an elevator and the hospitality room is on the 1st floor.

Room Rate: \$89.00 Doubles/Kings
Reservations must be in by September 18th.

For Further Information Contact:

Ruth Mellinger
 173 Calvary Church Road
 Wrightsville, Pennsylvania 17368
 Telephone: Ruth - 717/252-2573
 Dawn - 717/252-3448
 E-Mail: dkilhefner@msn.com

See more information on the 661st Reunion on page 21.

JANUARY 31st, 2004

Deadline for news material and pictures for:
Bulletin Volume 57, Number 2
January, February, March, April 2004
Bulletin expected mailing date is late April or
early May.

* * * * *

MAY 31st, 2004

Deadline for news material and pictures for:
Bulletin Volume 57, Number 3
May, June, July, August 2004
Bulletin expected mailing date is late June or
early July.

* * * * *

MAY 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th, 2004
MIDWEST GROUP SPRING MEETING
DODGEVILLE, WISCONSIN
Dodgeville Best Western Quiet Inn
 1130 N. John Street
 Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53533
 Telephone: 608/935-7739

Room Rate: \$79.00 plus tax less AARP discount.
 Microwave, refrigerator, coffee pot, etc. in each room.
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 Mention the 69th when you reserve your room. A block of rooms will be held until 30 days before the meeting date.

Tuesday: Check in time, 3:00 p.m.
Hospitality Room

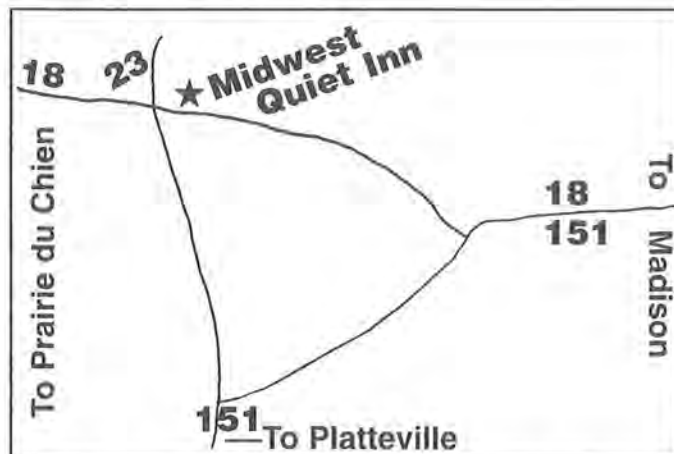
Wednesday: Golf at nearby course.
Tours for the non-golfers.

Thursday: Tours - Historical area. Many tours to
choose from.

Friday: Check out.

For Further Information Contact:

Gaylord Thomas
 432 Doty Street
 Waupun, Wisconsin
 Telephone: 920/324-4065



★Hotel on Hwy. 18 and Johns Street



"Taps"

The melody of TAPS was composed by a non-musical (musician with no formal knowledge) nor the technical names of any of the notes. Union General Daniel Butterfield whistled it for Brigadier General Oliver Norton who wrote the notes on the back of an envelope July 2, 1862. The plaintive bugle notes that bring an involuntary lump to the throat typifies our loss and feelings of these two great buglers.

THE WORDS TO "TAPS" SAY IT ALL

**Day is done, gone the sun
From the lakes, from the hills,
from the skies.
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.
Thanks and praise for our days
'neath the sun, 'neath the stars,
'neath the sky.
As we go, this we know. God is nigh.**

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(Continued from Page 35)

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