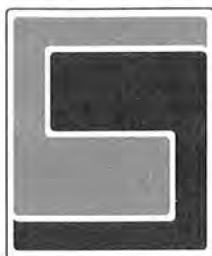


# FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

## ★★★★ Association, Inc.



VOLUME 62, NO. 1

[www.69th-infantry-division.com](http://www.69th-infantry-division.com)

SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER — NOVEMBER — DECEMBER  
2008

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

P.O. BOX 4069  
NEW KENSINGTON, PA 15068-4069  
724/335-9980

## bulletin

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Robert Crow, <i>Vice President</i> 149 East Side Drive, #164 Concord, NH 03301 .....	273
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John Barrette, <i>Treasurer</i> P.O. Box 215 Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-0215 .....	271
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Jeanne Theobald, <i>Vice President</i>	
Carmen Sanborn, <i>Recording Secretary</i>	
Jennie Ambrose, <i>Chaplain</i>	
Edith Zaffern, <i>Sunshine Lady</i>	

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### PAST PRESIDENTS

*Maj. Gen. E. F. Reinhardt, TX .....	Div. Hq.
*Lester J. Milich, NJ .....	569 Sig.
*Hyman E. Goldstein, NY .....	272 Inf.
*Clifford E. Ewing, GA .....	769 Ord.
*Sherman Lawrence, NY .....	272 Inf.
*Murry Galuten, FL .....	272 Inf.
*Henry Madison, NY .....	272 Inf.
*Sol Rosenblatt, FL .....	271 Inf.
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*Stanley Olszewski, CT .....	273 Inf.
*John Moriarty, MA .....	69 MP
*Robert Myers, AZ .....	Div. Hq.
*Walter Doernbach, NJ .....	Div. Hq.
*George Gallagher, FL .....	MP & QM
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*Earl E. Witzleb, Jr. PA .....	273 Inf.
*Welkos O. Hawn, CO .....	Div. Hq.
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*Deceased*

## National World War II Memorial

*Photos by Jeff Sprang*



My wife, Linda and I accompanied my parents, **Harold and Peggy Sprang, Company E, 273rd Infantry**, to the 69th reunion in Washington, D.C. I took these images during the trip. Please feel free to use them in the 69th Bulletin.

**Jeff Sprang Photography**  
141 State Route 603  
Shiloh, Ohio 44878  
[jsprang@jeffsprangphoto.com](mailto:jsprang@jeffsprangphoto.com)

# THE MAIL BOX

By Dottie (Witzleb) Shadle  
Editor



*Company E, 273rd Infantry Regiment*

*P.O. Box 4069*

*New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068-4069*

*Telephone: 724/335-9980*

*E-Mail: danne345@comcast.net*

**Grace Cope-Riles**, wife of the late **Kenneth Vincent Cope**, 3164 Heritage Road, Varnville, South Carolina 29944-8818 — Co. F, 271st: My husband John Riles and I do appreciate all that you and the many others did to secure our freedom - we will be forever grateful.

**Joseph A. Sharpe**, 3150 Arville Street, Lot 55, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102-7641 — Anti Tank, 272nd: Thanks to all who are involved in taking care of the Association. A job well done. I was sent overseas in May 1944 as a replacement. I was assigned to the 4th Armored Division, Patton's 3rd Army.

**Bob Siglow**, 4026 Hill Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43607-2301 — Co. L, 271st: Thanks a million to you and the whole staff for you all your hard work. It is very much appreciated! Good luck to all. Best regards.

**Lloyd Roth**, 108 Muskingum Drive, Marietta, Ohio 45750 — Sgt., S-2 Sec., Bn. Hq.: I didn't make this year's reunion. I'm sure it was a good one. I am very anxious to get the next Bulletin for the Reunion Recap. I celebrated my 92nd birthday on August 11th, 2008. I'm going for 105.

**Herbert Weatherwax**, 272 Iliha Street, Kailua, Hawaii 96734 — H2-272nd: I am also a Pearl Harbor Association member, Alaska Chapter #1, 298th Infantry Regiment, Honolulu, Hawaii. I was witness to the December 7th, 1941 attack by Japan on Pearl Harbor. I also attended the 50th anniversary trip to Torgau, Germany. Keep the Bulletin going. I am 90 years old.

**NOTE: If you are NOT interested in receiving the bulletin in the future, please let us know. If you are still interested in receiving the Bulletin, please make sure your dues are paid in full and are up to date.**

## A Message from Paul and Dottie Shadle Membership Chairman and Editor

**Paul Shadle**, *Company E, 271st Infantry*  
P.O. Box 4069 • New Kensington, PA 15068-4069

Telephone: 724/335-9980

E-Mail - Dottie: danne345@comcast.net

Paul: pns5@aol.com



*Membership Chairman Paul Shadle  
and Editor, Dottie Shadle*

Now that the 2008 reunion is over and we are looking forward to the next one in 2009, we hope you enjoyed the visit to Washington, D.C. We have not received many comments for or against the reunion in August 2008. According to the hotel staff, the members of the Fighting 69th Division Reunion were very well behaved and enjoyable to be with.

In order to keep up the reunions and the bulletins, we need to have everyone's support. Please keep the next reunion on your "To Do List."

The reunion for 2009 is scheduled for October 18th through 25th, 2009 at Nashville, Tennessee. The room rates will be \$99.00 plus tax and this includes 2 Full Breakfasts per room each day. Some of the tours include a City Tour, General Jackson Lunch Cruise, and the Grand Ole Opry. A complimentary shuttle is provided from the hotel to the Opry Mills Shopping Complex. More details will be published in the next bulletin.

Paul and Dottie wish all of you, your family and friends a Very Merry Christmas and A Healthful and Happy New Year.

## A Message from Your Vice President

**Robert Crow, Vice President**  
Company E, 273rd Infantry  
149 East Side Drive, #164  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5401  
Telephone: 603/228-9485

### A Special Notice

Over the past few years, there has been talk and discussions about disbanding our Association.

At the Washington, D.C. Reunion, the Board of Directors and the General Membership made a unanimous decision to continue operating. There will be no disbanding.

As General Douglas McArthur said at his farewell address, "*Old Soldiers Never Die - They just fade away,*" and that is what we will do.

See you in Nashville October 18th-25th, 2009.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Raul and Raul in D.C.

Submitted By: **Raul L. Nava**  
Company M, 273rd Infantry  
5517 Florinda Avenue  
Arcadia, California 91006-5615

Our own **Raul Nava** met another Raul, who was a guide at our Washington, D.C. reunion. He found it to be most unusual, never meeting another man with his namesake.

*Raul and  
Raul Nava  
striking up a  
conversation.*



*Raul Nava  
during his  
stint with  
the 69th.*

## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES! DUES YEAR FOR 2008-2009

**August 1, 2008 to July 31, 2009**

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

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

**Send Your Dues To:**

**TREASURER**

**John Barrette**

P.O. Box 215

Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54495-0215

Telephone: 715/423-4921

**Do not send dues to Paul Shadle.**

## **69th Infantry Division Association 62nd Annual Reunion**

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**October 18th thru 25th, 2009**

**More information and registration forms  
to follow in the next bulletin.**

## **MOVING**

**Please print your new address below:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**PAUL SHADLE**

P.O. Box 4069

New Kensington, PA 15068-4069

**Please allow six weeks advance notice.**



# A Message from our President David J. Theobald

Company F, 272nd Infantry Regiment  
8401 Moravian Court  
Sacramento, California 95826  
Telephone: 916/383-6592 • E-Mail: davidjtheo@aol.com



Hi 69ers!

Aren't we a lucky bunch of fellows! I'm assuming most of the readers of this spin are over 80 years of age. That makes you lucky. Life expectancy today is 76 years. You are beating the odds. That's for ordinary folks, not factoring in your combat survival. For recipients of the Combat Infantry Badge, I'm sure 76 years is like hitting the lottery. As we approach the Christmas holidays, maybe it is a good time to count up all the luck we have secured as they say "By the grace of God and a long handled spoon . . ."

For yours truly, my wife and I will be flying to Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington for our turkey and roast beef dinners, respectfully. Besides having two wonderful female cooks, there will be plenty of suggestions from non-resident substitutes, including seven grandchildren and one new granddaughter-in-law. Both occasions are great times to savor the cooking and locate a comfortable chair for football watching. I bring a first-class grandfather's worth of staying out of the way of the cooks and the grandchildren while they break in their new toys. My surveying experience usually is called upon to apportion areas of the family room for war games or construction zones.

For myself, my WWII experience was mostly positive. I survived the shooting experiences with none of the bad effects that bother some of the veterans today. Then I spent three wonderful years at a first class university, Northwestern, getting an engineering degree on the G.I. Bill. After eight years in the business world as an office machine salesman, I went to work for the California Division of Highways. Simultaneously, I

found my wonderful wife, Jeanne and we purchased two G.I. Bill homes at exceptionally desirable interest rates. The old \$10,000 G.I. life insurance policy I signed up for back at Camp Shelby is now worth \$62,000 and my \$57.00 quarterly payments were fulfilled 30 years ago. Doesn't that sound like a HUGE dose of good fortune. I consider my 39 months in the military very beneficial to me and Jeanne and our four daughters who all graduated from college. I would recommend a service experience for my grandsons and I for one, am thankful to Uncle Sam.

Give all the above good luck, this wise old man is almost never asked for an opinion by my children or grandchildren.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**(Term expiring in year 2009)**

### **Carl Miller**

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### **Eugene Mischke**

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### **Mel Schulz**

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\* \* \* \* \*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**(Term expiring in year 2010)**

### **Ed Hill**

819 Main Street  
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Unit: Battery B, 881st Field Artillery

*(Continued on Page 5)*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*(Continued from Page 4)*

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**(Term expiring in year 2010)**

*(continued)*

#### **Edgar A. Parsons**

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\* \* \* \* \*

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**(Term expiring in year 2011)**

#### **George A. West**

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#### **Walter Haag**

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Millbridge, California 94030  
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#### **William R. Nettles**

2800 North Main Street, Cottage 303A  
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Telephone: 662/680-9632  
Unit: Company A, 273rd Infantry

#### **Raymond J. Sansoucy, Past President**

23 Paradox Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts 01602  
Telephone 508/754-5573  
Unit: Anti-Tank Company, 272nd Infantry

#### **Gus Viehman**

3904 Sagamore Hill Court  
Plano, Texas 75025-2104  
Unit: Service, 777th Tank Battalion

## **Color Map of the 69th's Route Across Europe Available Now**

At the close of WWII, the 272nd Infantry Regiment printed a history of its movement from the time it left Camp Shelby, Mississippi until the war in Europe ended on VE-Day. Among the outstanding features of the history was a four page, fold-out color map drawn by Werner C. Abken and Roland L. Smith of Company C and Service Company of the regiment. The size of the map extended was about 27 inches by 10 inches.

The map shows the route movement of the 272nd Infantry Regiment from the time it left New York until it reached Torgau, April 26, 1945, where it performed its mission of guarding the road area between Eilenburg and Torgau, Germany. But it is generally the route taken by the entire 69th Infantry Division and its Attached Units in WWII.

The 69th Infantry Website has arranged to have this beautiful map printed and available to one and all.

You may now order copies of this beautiful map from the Website. The map, which is in color and about the size of the original, will be mailed to you rolled in a tube to avoid fold lines. The map is printed on high quality paper and is suitable for framing – or an excellent replacement for the map in the history that may have become brittle or frayed with age.

To order your color map of The 69th's Route Across Europe, please send a minimum donation of \$10 to the 69th Infantry Website to cover the costs of printing, mailing, and Website maintenance. Each additional map in the same order will cost only \$5. (For example, one map would cost \$10, two maps would cost \$15, three would cost \$20, and so on.)

When ordering, please include the following information: your full name and address, 69th or attached unit, email, and telephone number. Please specify the number of maps you are ordering and allow two weeks for delivery.

Send your order information and payment check or money order to:

**Joe Lipsius**

69th Infantry Website

6314 Deerings Hollow • Norcross, GA 30092-1800  
(770) 416-7725

E-Mail: [annejoelip@bellsouth.net](mailto:annejoelip@bellsouth.net)



**Visit us on  
the Web at**



**[www.69th-infantry-division.com](http://www.69th-infantry-division.com)**

**or contact**

**[annejoelip@bellsouth.net](mailto:annejoelip@bellsouth.net)**

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

# Annual Meeting of Officers and Board of Directors 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. Thursday, August 14th, 2008 SHERATON NATIONAL HOTEL ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

**Call to order:** The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fighting 69th Infantry Association, Inc. was called to order and the invocation was presented and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**President David J. Theobald** welcomed the Board Members and guests and presented the officers.

**Vice President Robert Crowe** reported that he will stand for election as president at the 2009 reunion.

## REPORTS

**Treasurer John Barrette** presented a two-page report covering calendar year 2007 and for the period January 1-July 31, 2008. As of July 31, 2008 the Association had equity of \$43,244.42.

**Secretary Joe Huber** reported that memorial wreaths had been placed at two European Cemeteries and individual floral tributes at one single grave in a cemetery in Europe and in England. Photos of the four places are in the hospitality room along with copies of the Memorial Day programs were there.

Moved seconded and carried that minutes of the 2007 Board of Directors meeting were approved as reported in the Bulletin.

The question was raised that originally these tributes were suppose to be placed on the April 5th "Link up Date."

So far as the secretary knew, Memorial Day has been the date over the past 10 years. No reason for the change was noted.

He also reported on sending thank you letters for the memorial donations to the Association and suggested that the members let families know that these memorial donations would be acceptable.

**Robert Pierce** presented a five-part report on the future of the association. As it was divided in the sections it was decided that each section would be voted on by the board.

## PROPOSED MOTIONS PRESENTED

### **1. Bulletin**

- a. The financial report shall be published in the Bulletin every year to include the "Statement of Cash Receipts and Distributions" for the past year period from January 1st through December 31st.

- b. Bulletin distribution shall be correlated with the membership list to insure Bulletin are only sent to dues paying active and associate members, honorary members, widows of members, and reciprocal Associations.
- c. Book/diary lengthy articles; and, the two page unit picture shall no longer be accepted or published.
- d. Personal articles will be constrained to a nominal one-half page plus pictures.
- e. The Bulletin distribution shall be changed from now on to two (2) annual editions; or, any year the active membership reaches 1,000.

*Section one was voted on upon a motion to accept, seconded and carried on a voice vote.*

### **2. Reunions**

- a. Restrict Reunion site locations for the next four (4) years (2009 - 2012) to an eastern quadrant of the United States. The area generally from hwy. 90 in the north; the Mississippi River on the west; and, the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico for the south and east.
- b. Over time, the area will roughly represent the New York Chapter of the eastern states between Massachusetts and Virginia. (This is not a proposed motion, but an option of the 2009-2012 constraint fails).
- c. Reunion duration will remain six (6) days, Monday through Sunday.
- d. Coffee and Danish on Saturday morning shall be terminated.
- e. Hospitality Rooms shall only serve keg beer, wine, soft drinks; and, simple snacks such as chips, pretzels, and/or popcorn.
- f. Following items shall be eliminated: Table gifts, awards, plaques, honorariums, table decorations, and flowers. The exception shall be red roses for our memorial service.

During the discussion of the section it was noted that the members present favored the continuation of a full memorial program at the dinner.

*Section 2 "Reunions" was voted on a motion to accept, seconded on a voice vote and parts a,c,d, and f were accepted.*

### **3. Souvenirs**

- a. Souvenirs sales shall be discontinued not later than the 2010 Reunion.
- b. Souvenirs shall no longer be purchased after the 2008 Reunion; remaining items will be discounted for sale in 2009 and 2010.
- c. Residual items unsold in 2010 will be given to the Ladies Auxiliary, prior to their membership meeting, for donation to the veteran's administration hospital.

*(Continued on Page 7)*



## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*(Continued from Page 6)*

- d. A standard hotel room for the souvenir sales personnel will continue to be paid by the Association through 2010.

*Section 3, moved for adoption, seconded and carried on a voice vote.*

### 4. Paid Hotel Rooms

- a. Order of precedence shall be: President, Treasurer, Reunion Chairman (if an active member), Bulletin Editor, Membership Chairman, Secretary, and Vice-President.
- b. Standard hotel rooms shall be the only accommodations paid for with Association funds. Authorized room nights shall be limited to the length of the Reunion only. Secretary's and Vice-President room shall remain at 1/2 cost per night.
- c. The President and Reunion Chairman have sole responsibility for assigning the complimentary suites/rooms, room credit rooms, and upgrades. Complimentary suites/rooms and rooms paid by active members at the discretion of the president.
- d. In the event complimentary rooms and room credits are insufficient to cover the authorized standard rooms, the Association shall pay the difference.

*Moved, seconded and carried on a voice vote that section 4 be adopted as presented.*

### 5. Ladies Auxiliary

- a. The Ladies Auxiliary shall have the responsibility to control their membership dues to assure their expenditures do not exceed their income.
- b. The Association Treasurer shall prepare a separate annual Ladies Auxiliary expense sheet to accumulate all expenditures by the authorized officers/members; or, expenditures on their behalf for their Reunion activities.
- c. Auxiliary dues total for each year will be used as their line-of-credit for the next year. The Association Treasurer will periodically keep the Ladies Auxiliary President apprised of their expense and credit balance.
- d. In the event the auxiliary over-run their credit balance more than \$100 in any year, their credit balance shall be reduced proportionately the next year.
- e. The Division Association will no longer pay for the Sunshine Ladies hotel room at future Reunions. The decision to continue paying for a room, and the responsibility for payment shall be solely the auxiliary. If the paid room is continued the cost will be reduced from the auxiliary line-of-credit balance.

*This section was tabled on motion to table, seconded and carried on a voice vote.*

**Membership Chairman Paul Shadle** reported that the roster stood at 2067 members including 239 widows, 40 honorary and 120 associates. There was a total of 76 deaths of members reported.

Moved seconded and carried on a voice vote to accept all the reports. Carried on a voice vote.

### NEW BUSINESS

Nominating committee report by **Harold Patchen**. Nominated to the Board of Directors for the Class of 2011.

#### Board of Directors, Class of 2011

**George West** ..... AT Co., 271st Infantry  
**Raymond Sansoucy** ..... AT Co., 272nd Infantry  
**William Nettles** ..... Co. A, 273rd Infantry  
**Walter Haag** ..... B Btry, 881st Field Artillery  
**Gus Viehman** ..... SC, 777th Tank Battalion

Members of the Board of Directors of the Class of 2009 were appointed to the Nominating Committee for the 2009 reunion. They will nominate a vice-president, secretary, treasurer and members of the class of 2012 Board of Directors. The secretary will advise them.

**Convention Chairman Paul Shadle** announced that the 2009 Reunion will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, on October 18th-25th.

**William H. Sheavly**, representing the 69th Division Second Generation, addressed the board. He stressed that this group does not want to supersede the Association, but wants to continue on after we disband. They want to keep the story of the Division's activities in WWII alive for future generations.

As there was no further business, there was a motion to adjourn, seconded and carried on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Joseph F. Huber**  
Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*

## Annual Meeting of the General Membership 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. Saturday, August 16th, 2008 SHERATON NATIONAL HOTEL ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

Meeting was called to order by **President David Theobald**.

Invocation by **Chaplain William Snidow**.

Pledge of Allegiance lead by **President Dave**.

Special appearance by author **Michael Hirsch**. He is researching a book on the connection with American soldiers and the slave labor and/or concentration camps. He asked any members present if they had any contact with liberation and of them to contact him after the meeting.

*(Continued on Page 8)*

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

(Continued from Page 7)

**President Dave** welcomed the members. He congratulated them on making it for another year.

**Vice President Robert Crowe** also welcomed the members present and urged them to become active in the Association's business. He said that volunteers for office and directorships are welcome.

**Secretary Joe Huber** said that floral tributes had been put in place for Memorial Day. Photos and copies of the Memorial Day Programs at the various military cemeteries are in the hospitality room. He also acknowledged several memorial gifts to the association. He asked the members to tell their families that memorial gifts to the association are a great idea. These gifts have been put into the publication account to help meet the ever-increasing postage and publication costs.

**Treasurer John Barrette** presented a two page financial report detailing 2007 fiscal movement and January 1-July 31, 2008 report. As of July 31, 2008 the Association had \$43,244.42 on hand.

Membership chairman **Paul Shadle** reported that there were 2062 members on the roster. This included 239 widows, 120 associate members and 40 honorary members. Paul talked about the first class mailing made to non-paying members the past year. We found out that in many cases members had died several years ago but they did not notify the association. In addition he noted that there were 79 deaths reported.

Moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the 2007 meeting as published in the Bulletin.

Moved, seconded and carried on a voice vote to accept and approve the above reports.

No other old business.

### NEW BUSINESS

Nominating committee report by **Chairman Harold Patchen**. The following were nominated as members of the Board of Directors for the Class of 2011.

#### Board of Directors, Class of 2011

**George West** ..... AT Co., 271st Infantry  
**Raymond Sansoucy** ..... AT Co., 272nd Infantry  
**William Nettles** ..... Co. A, 273rd Infantry  
**Walter Haag** ..... B Btry, 881st Field Artillery  
**Gus Viehman** ..... SC, 777th Tank Battalion

Call for nominations from the floor. As there were none there was a call for a motion to elect the members of the board. Motion made, seconded and carried on a voice vote.

**Louis Lineburgh** brought up the "apparent blindness" of Washington to the link-up and urged the members to contact their Senators and representatives about this.

**Joe Lipsius** read a letter from the White House welcoming us to the Washington D.C. area.

**William H. Sheavly** addressed the meeting about the development of the 69th Division Second Generation group. He told the members that they do not want to supplant the Association but want to carry on after we disband.

He noted that they presently have 64 members, money in the bank, approval of use of the 69th Division patch, and non-profit status.

Bill also noted that a reconstructed WWII Jeep is on display in front of the hotel, and that retired **Colonel David Bolte**, son of our founding general would be a guest at the dinner meeting.

**Joe Lipsius** moved that the Association grant the group \$1,000.00 to help with the setting up of the group. Seconded by a number of members and carried by a show of hands.

**Reunion Chairman Paul Shadle** reported that the next reunion will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, October 18-25, 2009.

**Discussion on the hospitality room.** The members noted that they wanted spirits available. They also noted that they wanted table gifts and coffee and sweet rolls before the General Meeting.

The members of the Board of Directors of the Class 2009 were appointed to the nominating committee for the 2009 reunion. They will nominate a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and members of the Board of Directors for the Class of 2012. The secretary will advise them.

**Vice-President Bob Crowe** announced that there were no plans for the closing down of the Association. This was met with a round of applause.

There being no further business there was a call for a motion to adjourn. Moved, seconded and carried on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Joseph F. Huber**  
Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*

## Anyone Know Ted Guzy?

Submitted By: **Joann E. Herstek**  
Environmental/Occupational Health Specialist  
2123 Emergency Drive, Bldg 719  
MacDill AFB, Florida 33621  
Telephone: 813-827-9589 (DSN 651)  
E-Mail: Joann.Herstek@macdill.af.mil

Hello Members of the 69th,

I am **Ted's** daughter (**Theodore Guzy**) and I am trying to find anyone that can tell me a little about my dad, since he died when I was two. I know he was in the Fighting 69th, because I have his discharge papers and a few other items.

Any information at all would be much appreciated. Thank you for your help.



# 69th Infantry Division Reunion Attendees

## August 12th-17th, 2008 - Washington, D.C.

### SHERATON NATIONAL HOTEL • ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA



*Karen Rheuban, A-273rd and Ed Lucci, A-273rd*



*Chet Yastrzemski, E-273rd*



*Erwin and Carmine Sanborn, I-273rd*



*Pat Avery and Janet Atkinson, Hdqs.*



*June and Marsh Mussay, H-272nd*



*Vivian Bailey and father, Archie Brooke, Hdqs.*



*John Mason D-272nd, and Archie Brooke, Hdqs.*



*Urno and Evelyn Gustafson, AT-272nd*



*Ed Lucci, A-273rd, Paul Shadle, E-271st,  
Colonel Bolte and Crandon Clark, D-272nd*



*Joao Freitas, American Express  
Ed Lucci, A-273rd and Crandon Clark, D-272nd*



*Warren Goodman, M-273rd, Raul Nava, M-273rd,  
Mrs. Warren Goodman, Dan Nava  
Front: Mr. and Mrs. Gary Goodman*



*Joe Kurt E-271st, daughter Julie Shilling and son, Jeff*



*Reb and Bill Sheavly, M-271st  
and Colonel and Mrs. Bolte*



*Barbara and Larry Sharp, F-271st*



*Edward and Dolly Sarcione, AT-272nd*

*Photos By: Chet Yastrzemski*



*271st, Front: Erma Bronske, Barbara Shell, Julie Schilling  
Back: Kevin Shell, Elmer Bronske, Bing Poon,  
Carl Kaiser and Joe Kurt*



*Walter Haag and wife, B-881st F.A.*



*Kit and Denise Sullivan  
E-272nd*



*Lillian and James Fallin  
H-272nd*



*Front: Alex Miljevic D-272nd, John Mason D-272nd  
Back: Crandon Clark B-272nd, Bud Parsons D-272nd*



*Mr. and Mrs. George Johnson, Ken Sawyer, D-273rd*





# President George W. Bush sends Greetings To the 69th's 61st Annual Reunion

Submitted By: **James L. Mynes**, *Company K 273rd Infantry*, 1411 Regency Blvd. S.E., Decatur, Alabama 35601  
and **Joe Lipsius**, *Headquarters, 272nd Infantry*, 6314 Deerings Hollow, Norcross, Georgia 30092-1899



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 24, 2008

I send greetings to those gathered for the 2008 reunion of the 69th Infantry Division.

Our men and women in uniform have triumphed over brutal enemies, liberated continents, and answered the prayers of millions around the globe. They have shown us that freedom is the most powerful force on Earth and set a standard of courage and excellence that is unmatched. With selfless devotion to duty, courage in the face of danger, and unwavering valor and decency, the veterans of our Armed Forces have helped to advance freedom and make our Nation more secure. All of us who live in liberty live in their debt, and we will never forget their service and sacrifice.

This event is an opportunity to renew the strong bonds of friendships forged in adversity and celebrate the proud history and achievements of the 69th Infantry Division. Your continued commitment to each other and our country is an inspiration.

Laura and I send our best wishes on this special occasion. May God bless you, may God bless our troops and veterans, and may God bless America.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George W. Bush".

## Wreath Laying Ceremony ARLINGTON CEMETERY

Submitted By: **Charles Chapman**  
Hq. and Hq. Battery, 69th Division Artillery  
12223 Seaford Court  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22192-2356  
Telephone: 703/492-1984 • E-Mail: cceagwu@aol.com

The two photos below were taken on April 25, 2008 at the wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. This event commemorated the 63rd anniversary of the meeting of the 69th Division with the Soviet Army on the Elbe River in Germany.

My wife, **Edith** and I attended the event as did **Henry Johnson** of Takoma Park, Maryland. Both of us served in. Hq. and Hq. Battery, 69th Division Artillery. **Crandon Clark** of the 272nd and his wife, **Jane** of Ridgewood, New Jersey, were there with their daughter, Margaret, of Washington, D.C. A son of a 69er, whose name I do not know, laid a rose on the plaque.



*Rear Admiral Alexander N. Agapov, Defense Attache, Embassy of Russia, flanked by Henry Johnson and Charlie Chapman.*



*Arlington National Cemetery, April 25, 2008. 63rd Anniversary of historic meeting of 69th Division with Soviet Troops on Elbe River, Germany, 4/25/1945. About 13 wreaths, including one from the U.S., were placed to commemorate it.*

## Company I, 273rd at the Arlington Reunion

Submitted By: **Paul H. Eagon**  
1435 North Avenue  
Waukegan, Illinois 60085



*Erwin Sanborn, Carl Macknair, Paul Eagon, Bob Pierce*



*Beverly Armstrong, widow of William Armstrong, Carmen Sanborn, Elaine Eagon, Janet Houseal, widow of George Houseal, and daughter of Carl Macknair*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Co. B, 271st Infantry



*Sylvester Peterson, Earl Hansen and Martin Buol in a bar in New York City in 1944 before going overseas.*

## Wreath Laying Ceremony

### ARLINGTON CEMETERY

Submitted By: **Charles Chapman**

Hq. and Hq. Battery, 69th Division Artillery

12223 Seaford Court

Woodbridge, Virginia 22192-2356

Telephone: 703/492-1984 • E-Mail: cceagwu@aol.com

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Arlington National Cemetery, April 25, 2008. 63rd Anniversary of historic meeting of 69th Division with Soviet Troops on Elbe River, Germany, 4/25/1945. About 13 wreaths, including one from the U.S., were placed to commemorate it.

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1435 North Avenue

Waukegan, Illinois 60085



Erwin Sanborn, Carl Macknair, Paul Eagon, Bob Pierce



Beverly Armstrong, widow of William Armstrong, Carmen Sanborn, Elaine Eagon, Janet Houseal, widow of George Houseal, and daughter of Carl Macknair

\*\*\*\*\*

## Co. B, 271st Infantry



Sylvester Peterson, Earl Hansen and Martin Buol in a bar in New York City in 1944 before going overseas.



# THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE



**Dottie (Witzleb) Shadle**

**By Dottie (Witzleb) Shadle**

*Ladies Auxiliary Editor*

P.O. Box 4069

New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068-4069

Home Telephone: 724/335-9980

E-Mail: dannc345@comcast.net

**Dorothea Duncan, President**

23 Invincible Court

Alameda, California 94501

Telephone: 510/521-3766

E-Mail: Duncan@Alamedanet.net

**Jeanne Theobald, Vice President**

8401 Moravian Street

Sacramento, California 95826

Telephone: 916/383-6592



**Edith Zaffern, Sunshine Lady**

22555 Hallcroft Trail

Southfield, Michigan 48034-2011

Telephone: 248/357-4611

**Carmen Sanborn, Recording Secretary**

333 Mechanic Street

Laconia, New Hampshire 03246

**Jennie Ambrose, Chaplain**

803 10th Street

McKees Rocks, PA 15136-2123

\*\*\*\*\*

## Minutes of the 57th Meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the 69th

**By: Dorothea Duncan, Auxiliary President**

The 57th meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary of the 69th Infantry Division was called to order at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 16, 2008 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was opened with prayer by our **Chaplain Jennie Ambrose**.

Old business consisted of the Minutes of the August 25th, 2007 meeting being read and approved. **Jennie Ambrose** conducted our Memorial Service, and the officers were introduced by **President Dorothea Duncan** as follows:

Vice President ..... **Jeanne Theobald**  
Secretary ..... **Carmen Sanborn**  
Chaplain ..... **Jennie Ambrose**  
Sunshine Lady ..... **Edith Zaffern**

**Sunshine Chairman, Edith Zaffern** was absent. **Carmen Sanborn**, Secretary, read the Sunshine Report as follows: November 1, 2007 - October 31, 2008; 1,474 cards were written with postage costs of \$532.07. Since the officers are elected for two years, no election took place.

In attendance were 43 members; two new members were in attendance. There was discussion and a vote on whether to continue the Sunshine cards. The vote was to continue the sunshine cards as long as **Edith** is willing to continue. However, the gift exchange will be eliminated next year.

There are not enough kind words and thanks for the 54 lap robes, booties, tote bags, bibs, and personal items for the veterans at the Walter Reed Hospital. The items were picked up on Monday and delivered with a \$500 check.

**Connie Brough** made an announcement regarding the next generation group giving us details regarding how they plan to function.

Our Chaplain, **Jennie Ambrose** closed our meeting with prayer. The meeting was adjourned and the gift exchange took place by row!

Ladies, keep crocheting or knitting and bring your items to Nashville next year ... October 18-25!!!

Respectfully submitted,

**Dorothea Duncan**

*President, Ladies Auxiliary*

\*\*\*\*\*

## A Thank You Letter from Walter Reed Army Medical Center

Walter Reed Society, Inc.

Post Office Box 59611

Walter Reed Station

Washington, D.C. 20012-9611

To the 69th Infantry Division Association,

We would like to thank you for your most generous donation of \$500.00 to the Walter Reed Society to help in our continuing program of assistance to the Walter

*(Continued on Page 16)*

## THE AUXILIARY PAGE

(Continued from Page 15)

Reed Army Medical Center. Special emphasis is directed toward helping the injured and wounded from Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom and their families.

Due to your support and the support of so many others, we are able to help many wounded warriors and their families as they receive the care they need while recovering from their injuries/illnesses. For example, family members make great personal sacrifices to be with their loved one and may experience financial crises with unexpected expenses for travel, meals, lodging and so on. Service members may also need direct support during their treatments requiring a financial grant or the purchase of specially identified equipment of provision of services such as transportation to attend events downtown sponsored by other contributors.

Please be assured that the Society will be responsible stewards of the donation contributed to assist service members and further the aims of WRAMC, the Army's largest and best known medical treatment facility.

We appreciate your generosity and support.

Sincerely,

**Daniel J. Bullis**

*Vice President - Patient Services*



*Jeff and Rinah Thau of Ohio, Retired Air Force Colonel, son of Russian Lt. Charles Thau, member of the 58th Guards Division, with Anne and Joe Lipsius. Jeff's father was in the famous Allan Jackson handshake photo. Article elsewhere on page 17.*



*Left: The Veto DiPentos  
Co. H, 272nd*

*Right: Earl and  
Jim Brittain  
Co. G, 271st*

## Military Lingo & Jargon

Submitted By: **Paul J. Constantino**

433 Airport Boulevard, Suite 323

Burlingame, California 94010

Telephone: 650/579-7535 • Fax: 650/579-7445

E-Mail: [kanc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kanc@sbcglobal.net)

I am a veteran of the Vietnam War. Six years ago on the 30th anniversary from service in the field artillery at fire bases near/along the DMZ, I wrote an article on some of our military lingo and slang. I did so after then asking some Army NCO's whether they knew what a donut dollie was, what REMF meant, or going through Hamilton referred to. I unfortunately received blank stares. I felt some nostalgia in that some very colorful military language and expressions were unknown to today's soldiers.

The article I penned is on the web and you can find it at <http://www.8th-4th-arty.com/vietnamjargon> and it is entitled Vietnam's Military Jargon Headed for History. Because I have received some fine thank you's and appreciation for the article from fellow Nam veterans, I am now collecting military lingo, jargon from WWII, the Korean War and the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). I intend to also write articles on the jargon of these conflicts.

If you would like to share with others the military jargon/acronyms that you know from these wars, I would appreciate hearing from you. Mail, fax, or e-mail military jargon/lingo to the above. Thank you.

## Washington, D.C. 2008 69th Infantry Reunion

Submitted By: **Joe Lipsius, Headquarters, 272nd Infantry**



*George & Lina West  
AT Co., 271st*



*Roger and Faye Sahr  
Co. K, 271st*



# Memories of a Handshake across the Elbe River Remain 63 Years Later



*American and Russian troops meet at the Elbe in 1945.  
Allan Jackson / Hulton Archives / Getty Images*

*By Jeffrey Thau*

Sixty-three years ago the fielded forces of World War II in Europe met as a coalition force for the first time near Torgau, Germany. In the famous picture that flashed across the AP at the time, soldiers from the 69th Infantry Division were shown meeting the Russian Army, 58th Guards Division, on the destroyed bridge over the Elbe River in Germany. One of the Russian soldiers in the photo, **Charles Thau**, a Jew from Poland, (center, facing camera) immigrated to the U.S. and raised a family, including a son, Jeff, who now resides in Dayton Ohio (and is the vice commander of Dayton JWV Post 587). Since his father passed away, the City of Torgau, Germany, in honor of his father's contribution in helping to liberate Germany from the Nazi regime, invited Jeff to Torgau and sponsored his attendance at ceremonies celebrating the 63rd anniversary of "East Meets West."

This story is a legacy of survival, unknown heroes, a journey down life's path in what is a small world, and heartfelt gratitude that stretches across countries, decades and generations today.

Charles Thau's epic survival story originated in an area today known as Ukraine-Polish Region as defined by the 1941 Hitler-Stalin pact. As the Nazi war machine came through the region and murdered an untold number of Jews, including Charles Thau's immediate family in the village of Zaplotov, the teenage Thau managed to escape by living in the wooded region near the Carpathian Mountains. Conducting underground sabotage and survival actions against the Nazis and their collaborators, Thau was eventually detained by the Russian Army, 58th Guards Division, and conscripted into their ranks, given his ability to speak multiple languages, including Russian,

Polish, and German. This allowed him to assist as a translator for the advanced leading Russian forces as they made their way into Germany.

On April 25th, 1945, as they approached Torgau, resistance was encountered from the retreating German Army (Wehrmacht) just east of the Elbe River. From the West the American 69th Infantry Division also approached Torgau. The situation culminated in the two fielded forces coming face-to-face in an atmosphere that, albeit initially uncertain, became celebratory once they recognized each other as friendly forces. The Americans and Russians exchanged vodka and chocolate, danced, and shook hands in a reenacted photo (left) by Allan Jackson which recorded the historic encounter the following day, and the re-enactment was recognized as an award winning photograph from the Second World War.

Over time names of the photographed individuals emerged as the City of Torgau and the commemorative military organizations (be they Russian or American) would annually celebrate this event on site. On the left are Americans **Pfc Metzger** and **Philpott** and **Pvt Summers** who later participated in annual celebrations at the Elbe River. At the time, the Russians could not be identified despite attempts by central Russian newspapers for a call for them to come



*Jeff Thau, son of one of the participants in the 1945 photo, returns to Torgau, Germany, to commemorate the 63rd anniversary of the Handshake.*

forward. At the 10-year anniversary of the historic East-meets-West link-up in 1955, the AP photo appeared in a Milwaukee Wisconsin, newspaper, and one of the Russian soldiers (center facing camera) was identified as Charles Thau who immigrated to the U.S. after the war to eventually own two successful automobile repair garages. Furthermore, in a strange twist characterizing life's journey and how small the world really is, after the war, Pvt Philpott lived for a few years in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, just blocks away from Charles Thau, the previously unidentified Russian soldier with whom he shared vodka, chocolate, and a handshake on the Elbe bridge.

*(Continued on Page 18)*



## MEMORIES OF A HANDSHAKE

(Continued from Page 17)

All the above was unknown to the principals of either the City of Torgau or each of the commemorative military organizations until the age of the Internet when the son of **Charles Thau, Jeffrey Thau**, helped connect the legacy dots for the commemorative organizations. Unfortunately, **Lt. Charles Thau**, the previously unknown Russian soldier, passed away before the connections were made and the celebrants were made aware of his identity. However, this did not stop the Mayor of Torgau, Ms Andrea Staude, from inviting Jeffrey Thau to attend the 63rd anniversary of the event in April to represent his father.

For what today is known as Elbe Day, Torgau sponsored Jeff's attendance and honored him as a representative of his father at this year's commemoration of the 1945 WWII link-up event between the Americans and the Russian forces. Activities included a formal dedication at the Elbe River site, a solemn wreath laying by various ambassadors and dignitaries from Russia, the United States, and Germany, as well as the release of dozens of doves symbolizing continued enduring peace and honoring all the civilians and victims who lost their lives. The city of Torgau also sponsored a pleasure boat cruise down the Elbe River past the exact site where 63 years earlier the historic link-up of military forces occurred.

As the mayor of Torgau said in her remarks, "Time marches on, the memory of this time remains and it will continue to be with us through the daughters and sons of the Veterans from East and West.

[Jeffrey Thau, a retired US Air Force Colonel is Vice Commander of Dayton Post 587 of the JWV.]

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This story was sent in by Joe Lipsius, but we do not know what paper/magazine it originated from.)

### The Boys Who Won't Come Home

The flags were waving gaily all  
along the village streets.  
The air was filled with laughter  
and the sounds of marching feet.  
The boys had come back home again,  
their fighting days were done.  
As a nation paid its tribute,  
for the glory they had won.  
Her boy was one of those who went away,  
He was her pride and joy.  
She loved him just any other, mothers her boy.  
He gave his life for Uncle Same,  
he sleeps across the foam.  
So while you're cheering,  
don't forget the boys who won't come home.

Author Unknown



## JWV Post 64 Receives Outstanding Achievement Award

Submitted By: **Edward Kline**

Company D, 273rd Infantry

9932 Arbuckle Drive • Las Vegas, Nevada 89134

An Award was presented to Jewish War Veterans, Post 64 of Las Vegas, Nevada on October 18, 2007 in San Diego, California by the Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Gordon H. Mansfield, for Service to Homeless Veterans. This Award was the only award given to any service organization.

The Award was accepted on behalf of The Murray L. Rosen Post #64 by **Edward Kline**, formerly of Co. D, 273rd Infantry Division, and Abe Efros, formerly a crewman of the USS Levy.

The occasion was the celebration of 20 years of VA and community partnership in service to homeless veterans. It was attended by 500 professionals from about 70 VA agencies throughout the United States.

JWV Post 64 was the first and only Veterans Service Organization to receive this award. JWV Post 21 recently joined the coordinated partnership with Post 64 and the VA Community Based Outreach Clinic (CBOC) to help homeless veterans get off the street. In the past 5 years, since this "Independence Day" program was initiated, 650 veterans have been given this opportunity. In the past 2 months, of the 48 veterans who entered this program, 46 redirected their lives.

**Edward Kline** and **Abe Efros** accepted the Award for Post 64.



# My Buddy Bull

## "Bull Cashman"

Submitted By: **William R. Drugg**

*Company K, 272nd Infantry*

211 N. 14th Avenue

Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601

Telephone: 814-943-8429

As our memories dim we often find the things we remember the best are the funny things that happened to us. The bad things fade in the past, and so it is with an old buddy of mine. And a comrade of mine, BULL Cashman. When I think about him I smile and really choke up with memories.

Without a doubt Bull (not his God given name) but its the only name everybody called him, and the only name he answered to. He had to be over 6'4" and built like a - well a Bull. We met when we both came from the Repple Depple to K Company, 272nd Infantry and shared a foxhole in the Ardennes Forest and as I remember it was night time, cold and we were both scared to death. When we had a spare moment we were assigned to the same squad, light machine gun. The luck of the draw I guess. Yes the 272nd was the lucky outfit to get the Bull. His real name was **Paul R. Cashman**.

Where to begin this saga — of Bull. Well, he was a tough guy, that never ever shirked his duty. He always went the extra mile. He insisted on doing extra work. In fact, his job was to carry the extra cans of belted 30 caliber ammo. Regulation, one can in each hand. Bull and his helpers rigged a carrier to haul two at first, then three cans. He tried 4 cans, but it was too much. When we had a break on the march, Bull would drop in his tracks and take a nap. Never complained. When we, the advancing soldiers, went around the mud puddles, Bull went in a straight line trudging through - up to his boot tops. Head down. The sucking sound of his boots sounded like no sound ever made by a human being. Maybe a Martian on a bad day with fishing boots on.

Now the second tale about my friend, is a sad tale, but true and funny. This tale takes place in the Ardennes Forest. On an uneventful day, some guys were washing their socks, some were cooking breakfast - "C" rations as I recall. The fires were still burning from the night before. The three man dugout was empty, as all were busy doing all sorts of things. Then a round from an 88 got our attention. Right then we all started for the dugout, as the the tree burst got our attention. Bull and I were late getting to the dugout. All the area in the dugout was taken, except on the outer edge. Bull had thrown a can of baked beans in the fire for breakfast. A round from the "88" arrived at

the same time the bean can exploded. Most of the beans hit my buddy on the head causing him to think he had been mortally wounded. Bull could speak and laugh after about a week, I believe.

Now the final story about Bull, for now. We as a unit were shut off from the rest of our outfit. We were in a small farming town. Quiet and serene, everyone had a chicken coop in their yard, as I recall. Bull got hungry for chicken, and being a good law abiding man, insisted on getting permission, to try and acquire said chicken to eat. So we asked those in charge for permission. After being told we could get the chicken (no number was given), as long as there was enough to satisfy the men in our house. Off we went, hunting our chickens.

Now the farmer had his stock in the pen, away from prying eyes. However, our ears were tuned to hear the sound of chickens. Purring as most content chicks do, when put away for a safe sleep in the cage.

Well Bull and I found a broken heavy hoe handle, a burlap sack, and we had the equipment for a chicken coop assault. We looked in the shed, and sure enough, chicks were lined up on their perches half asleep. Bull stepped up to bat and with a mighty swing, from one side of the perch to the other, he dropped about 12 healthy chicks. He continued swinging, and I lost count. I was too busy scooping chicks up and placing them in a big sack. We filled the sack with chickens, and when we had our order filled, we decided, after throwing some turnips in the sack, to leave.

When we got back to our temporary quarters to divide the booty we dumped the sack of chickens on the floor. We saw that not all the chicks were dead. We had them running all over the room. With everybody's help, we were able to divide them up. Everybody was cooking and eating chicken.

The chicken was good, but give me Kentucky Fried Chicken anytime. The next morning when we moved out everybody had a piece of chicken in their hand as we proceeded down the road to meet the Russians.

*Writer's Note:* Many thanks for all of your help in the past. Hope this finds you all well.

My story of Bull Cashman may need just a note of explanation. The story was on my mind for many years. It was almost like a dream. An old man's dream and now it has been told.

We met strangers, we lived together, many things happened. My story is a small part of the many stories on the minds of GIs. Then after the war, I received orders for a transfer. And so ended our lives together. It was in the town of Torgau, I believe. The town had a lake in the middle of it. It was there I packed my bag, never to see Bull again. I visited the town, but Bull was gone. One more memory. Gone, but not forgotten.

## Information Wanted

Submitted By: **Terry R. Peterson**  
6 Hickory Lane  
N. Billerica, Massachusetts 01862  
Telephone: 978-262-9754 (Call Collect)



**Marvin R. Peterson**

Private First Class, U.S. Army  
Service #42132525  
Company A?, 273rd Infantry  
Entered the Service from: New York  
Died: April 15th, 1945  
Buried at Plot I, Row 2, Grave 3  
Netherlands American Cemetery  
Margraten, Netherlands  
Awards: Purple Heart

I recently uncovered in my deceased fathers papers information on my uncle **Marvin R. Peterson**. At 19 years of age, he was killed on April 15, 1945. He is buried at Margraten, Netherlands. I have just a few pictures of him, one by himself and one with my father. I know he was with the 273rd Regiment, 69th Infantry Division. I do not know what unit he was in and cannot recognize him positively from photos or the 69th website.

I was hoping you could put his picture in your bulletin. Maybe one of his buddies would recognize him. I would be forever grateful to talk to someone who knew him and maybe provide some details of his last days.

Please write to me or call me collect at the above address and phone number.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Terry R. Peterson, nephew of Marvin R. Peterson, included a group shot of Company A that he thinks may show his uncle, but he is not sure. He may have been with another company. If anyone can help, please write to him.)*

## You May be entitled to A Bronze Star Medal

Submitted By: **Joseph Amaral**  
Company E, 272nd Regiment  
163 Bradley Park  
Anderson, South Carolina 29621

After many years of trying to communicate with the National Personnel Records Center, I finally got a response. The reason for not responding to me was that my records and many others were lost in a fire on July 12, 1973. The fire destroyed the major portion of records of Army military personnel for the period 1912 thru 1959. I had to send in a copy of my discharge which gave them enough info to realize that I, as well as many in the 69th that earned the combat infantryman's badge, were also suppose to receive the Bronze Star Medal (BSM). The following is a quote from the letter I received from the National Personnel Records Center.

"The Bronze Star Medal was established in February 1944. Announcement of the criteria for the award was made several months later. At the conclusion of World War II, General George C. Marshall, upon reviewing the number of awards received by infantrymen, was disturbed to learn that comparatively few had received recognition and that infantrymen accounted for more casualties than any other branch or element of the U.S. Armed Forces. It was determined that many Commanders were unaware of the criteria for awarding the BSM. The reason, combined with the late announcement of award criteria, caused an inequity. In order to rectify this disparity and oversight, the criteria was established for Combat Infantryman Badge and Combat Medical Badge recipients during the period December 7, 1941 to September 2, 1945, to receive the BSM. No citation is available because none were issued for the Bronze Star Medals awarded under this authority."

Therefore for those 69th members who received a Combat Infantryman Badge should request their BSM from the NPRC which will authorize shipment of the award from the Dept. of the Army that maintains jurisdiction for issuing the actual awards. The NPRC will issue an Awards Case Number for those eligible to request a BSM which is required for the Army Dept. to issue the award. I trust this information is useful at this date for those deserved combat infantrymen still alive and well and are not aware of this overlooked award.

The address of the NPRC is:  
**National Personnel Records Center**  
9700 Page Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5100  
Attn: Armeltra Fraction (5A)  
Archives Technician



# First to Meet the Russian Army

Submitted By: **Mr. James Kane**

*Company G, 273rd Infantry*

Apt. 507, 840 Montgomery Avenue

Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania 19010-3329

The Article in Volume 60 #3 - May, June, July and August 2007 by **Second Lieutenant William (Bill) Nettles** was a great account of the 69th at the Mulde River. But his account about **Lieutenant Robinson** being the first to greet the Russians was incorrect.

We were the first patrol to meet the Russian Army at 11:30 a.m. on April 25, 1945 at Lockwitz, Germany on the Elbe River. I have included a list of the members of this patrol below:

## 1st Patrol

Lt. Albert L. Kotzebue .....	G Company
Sgt. Alfred Aronsen .....	G Company
Sgt. Frederick W. Johnson .....	G Company
Sgt. John Peters .....	H Company
Sgt. Jack B. Tysen .....	H Company
Sgt. William E. Wiesel .....	Headquarters, MD
Cpl. Steve Kowalski .....	Medical Detachment
Cpl. Mel Rosland .....	H Company
Cpl. Chris Twarczik .....	H Company
Ts. Bob Stuart .....	Headquarters, 2nd Battalion
Pfc. John Adams .....	H Company
Pfc. Charles Attara .....	H Company
Pfc. Joseph Best .....	H Company
Pfc. Harold Brummel .....	G Company
Pfc. Peter Calascina .....	G Company
Pfc. James Gilmore .....	H Company
Pfc. Larry Hamlin .....	G Company
Pfc. Bob Hoeg .....	H Company
Pfc. Rudolph Hogos .....	H Company
Pfc. Joe Johnson .....	G Company
Pfc. James W. Kane, Jr. ....	G Company
Pfc. Edwin Leary .....	H Company
Pfc. Robert Legol .....	H Company
Pfc. Joseph P. Palowsky .....	G Company
Pfc. Harold Pemberton .....	H Company
Pfc. Otha Phillips .....	H Company
Pfc. Carl Robinson .....	H Company
Pfc. Ed Ruff .....	H Company
Pfc. Van D. Ryl .....	G Company
Pfc. Charles Schultz .....	H Company
Pfc. Bryan Shiver .....	G Company
Pfc. Nick Supron .....	Headquarters, 2nd Battalion
Pfc. J. P. Thomas .....	G Company
Pfc. Emmett Thompson .....	G Company
Pfc. John Wheeler .....	H Company

There were 36 of us from G Company, 273rd and H Company soldiers were the Jeep Drivers. Our patrol was led by **Lt. Albert Kotzebue** and we received the Bronze Medal for Valor. **Lt. Kotzebue** and **Sgt. Johnson** also received the Silver Star. This information can be found at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

There were 2 other Patrols, one led by **2nd Lt. William D. Robinson** who met the Russians at Tougau at 16:00 on April 25. The other patrol included 51 men led by **Major Fred W. Craig**. They met the Russians at 16:45 at Clanzschwitz, Germany.

Finally, I have included a statement from the Russian commander who we had breakfast and drink with on April 26/27, 1945, which reads as follows:

*Our meeting today is a token of the powerful friendship of the Allies which in the near future will lead to disorder among the fascist barbarians and create freedom, friendship, and a divine paradise on earth.*  
*Burfalortney Muhllery Sarony*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Al Aronsen** and I were also lucky enough to appear on the "Cold War Series" which was shown on TV around the world.

**A letter from Isobel Hinshelwood who was the reporter for the Cold War program.**

Dear Jim,

We're very pleased that you can contribute an interview to the first program in our 'Cold War' series which covers the period from the end of the WWI to Potsdam. We would therefore want to ask you about your personal descriptions and thoughts about meeting the Soviets near the Elbe, on 25 April 1945.

We will be filming in Washington, D.C. at the Georgetown Dutch Inn and we will be happy to cover your motoring costs on the round trip.

In the meantime, I thought it might be helpful to send you a note of the areas which we would like to cover in the interview - very much what you and I talked about in Myrtle Beach:

1. Speed of advance across Europe in April 1945. Degree of resistance from the Germans
2. How your patrol became the first to meet the Russians at the Elbe.
3. Dinner with the Russians - the celebration, the atmosphere, toasts, the standard of the food, drink.
4. How you communicated with them.
5. How the Soviet army lived, what their equipment was like.
6. Feelings toward the Russians at the time.
7. Thoughts on whether the American/Soviet wartime alliance would last.

Best regards to Betty and yourself,  
Yours sincerely,  
**Isobel Hinshelwood**

# 69th Infantry Division Association

## Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements

For the period of January 1, 2008 to July 31, 2008

Submitted By: Treasurer John Barrette

### Cash Receipts - 1/1/2008 to 7/31/08

Regular Dues .....	\$9,760.00
Auxiliary Dues .....	\$1,660.00
Donations .....	\$6,464.00
<b>Sub-Total .....</b>	<b>\$17,884.00</b>
Sales - Souvenirs .....	—
2007 Reunion - Salt Lake City, Utah - Refund .....	819.00
Interest .....	83.55
Postage Deposit .....	1,545.00
Transfers In .....	—
Memorials .....	2,090.00
69th Division Website .....	11.34
<b>Total Receipts .....</b>	<b><u>\$22,432.89</u></b>

### Cash Disbursements - 1/1/2008 to 7/31/08

<b>Supplies, Postage, Fees, Phone Calls</b>	
Paul Shadle .....	381.28
John Barrette .....	894.81
Joseph Huber .....	48.58
Sunshine Lady .....	15.00
Accounting Fees .....	—
P.O. Box Rental .....	104.00
Service Charge .....	18.00
Check Return .....	45.00
<b>Sub-Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 1,506.67</b>
Bulletin - Printing and Distribution .....	5,828.44
U.S. Postal Service	
Postage Fee.....	\$ 175.00
Postage Deposit.....	1,545.00
Postage Used .....	<u>1,528.01</u>
2008 Reunion - Washington, D.C. ....	3,248.01
Souvenirs .....	—
Printing and Distribution .....	545.60
Transfers Out .....	545.63
	97.00
<b>Total Disbursements .....</b>	<b><u>\$11,771.35</u></b>

<b>Equity</b>	<b>1/1/2008</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Debit</b>	<b>7/31/2008</b>
Checking Account - U.S. Bank #182355870482	12,231.63	20,804.34	10,243.34	22,792.63
Savings Account - U.S. Bank #182356213641	18,960.16	83.55	—	19,043.71
USPS Postage	1,396.09	1,545.00	1,528.01	1,413.80
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>32,587.88</b>	<b>22,432.89</b>	<b>11,771.35</b>	<b><u>43,249.42</u></b>



## “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.

**Martin Buol**  
233 South 9th Street  
Burlington, Colorado  
80807-2071  
Co. B - 271st

**George D. Burrows**  
316 Woodlawn Avenue  
Roxboro, North Carolina  
27573-5341  
Co. B - 271st

**Fred Butenhoff**  
3217 South 55th Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53219  
Co. E - 272nd

**Leon J. Ebert**  
3165 Old Lakeview Road  
Hamburg, New York  
14075-6028  
Co. I - 272nd

**John A. Fitzgerald, Jr.**  
1626 Bill Street  
Norfolk, Virginia  
23518-5902  
Co. B - 269th Engineers

**Donald M. McGee**  
2519 Silverbrook Lane  
Apt. 108  
Arlington, Texas 76006-6101  
Co. H - 272nd

**F. William Metcalf**  
1026 Owassa Road  
Harbour Pointe  
Newton, New Jersey  
07860-4120  
Anti-Tank - 272nd

**Dan Newman**  
10 Link Drive  
Rockleigh, New Jersey 07647  
Unit Unknown

**Dimitry Onderchanin**  
23018 Saxony  
Eastpointe, Michigan  
48021  
Co. I - 273rd

**Joseph R. Vicidomina**  
5109 Alexander Drive  
Metairie, Louisiana 70003  
Btry. B - 724th F.A.

**Stephen F. Komes**  
2008 13th Street  
Bedford, Indiana 47421  
H3 - 273rd

**Col. Allen C. Williams**  
2922 Pasture Lane  
Sugar Land, Texas  
77479-1845  
Service Co. - 272nd

## “Ladies Taps”

**Barbara Bernhardt**  
Wife of Walter Bernhardt  
10500 Academy Road  
Apt. 238  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
87111  
Co. F - 271st

**Jane Kurt**  
Wife of Joseph Kurt  
302 Brown Court  
Farley, Iowa 52046-9401  
Co. E - 271st

**Emily Marie Wray**  
Widow of Winfield J. Wray  
Past President  
of Ladies Auxiliary  
Address Unknown

\*\*\*\*\*

## Veterans Can Salute The Flag Whether in Uniform or Out

*The following information is copied from the 100th Infantry Division Association newsletter and The Flash.*

U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma praised the passage by unanimous consent of his bill (S.1877) clarifying U.S. law to allow veterans and servicemen not in uniform to salute the flag. Current law (U.S. code title 4, chapter 1) states that veterans and servicemen not in uniform should place their hand over their heart without clarifying whether they can or should salute the flag.

The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service. He continues "Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform. My legislation will clarify this regulation, allowing veterans and servicemen alike to salute the flag whether they are in uniform or not. He continues, "I look forward to seeing those who have served saluting proudly at baseball games, parades and formal events. Those who are currently serving or have served in the military have earned this right, and their recognition will be an inspiration to others."

This bill passed July 25, 2007. Let all veterans know. SO NOW, YOU KNOW, WE'LL HAVE A TEST LATER.

## The Right to Fly the U.S. Flag

President George W. Bush signed into law last summer legislation ensuring the rights of homeowners to fly the U.S. Flag. The Freedom to display the American Flag Act of 2005 was signed into law July 24 after being introduced by U.S. Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, R-MD.

The bill prevents condominium, cooperative or residential real estate management associations from stopping any owners or residents from displaying the flag on their property within the association.

"It's very exciting to know that Americans will be free to fly the flag at their homes," Bartlett said. "I was alarmed when I learned that some homeowners associations and condos all over the country prevent Americans from flying the American flag. It's hard to see how flying an American flag could depreciate the value of a condo. That's why I introduced the bill."





*the 69th*

INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

p.o. box 4069, new kensington, pa. 15068-4069

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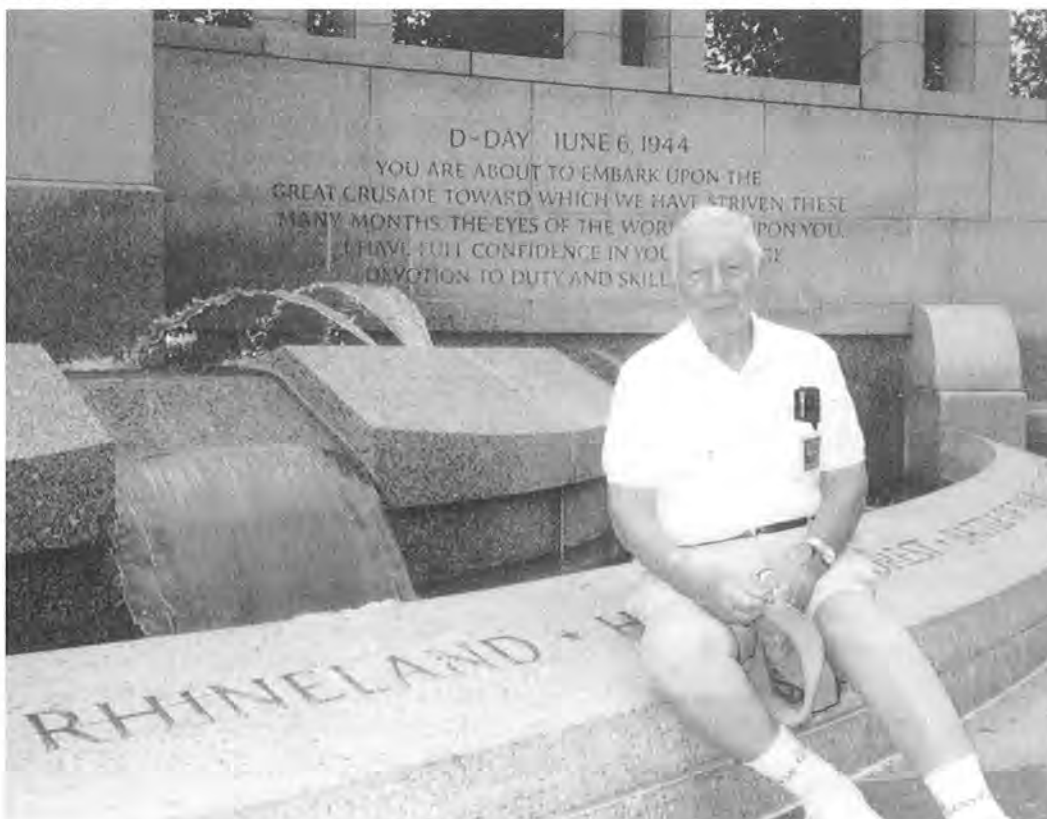


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## **Neil J. Shields, Company F, 273rd Infantry at the Arlington, Virginia Reunion National World War II Memorial in D.C.**

Neil Shields, #A412, 4940 Brightwood Road, Bethel Park, Pennsylvania 15102-2885



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**Send Address Changes,**

**New Members**

**and Deaths to Paul**

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