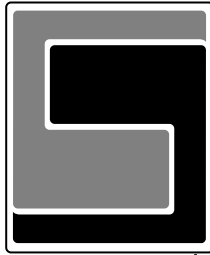


# FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

## ★★★★ *Association, Inc.*



VOLUME 62, NO. 3

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

MAY — JUNE — JULY — AUGUST  
2009

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

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

## bulletin

### The Battle for Leipzig

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\*Deceased



The 273rd Infantry drove into Leipzig along the axis of Highway 176. The road led directly past the Battle of Nations Monument, where unknown to the Americans, the German Combat Commander of Leipzig, Oberst Hans von Poncet, had entrenched himself with 300 of his best men. (*Excerpt and photo from the magazine, "After the Battle."*) See page 20 for information on ordering this booklet. You will not regret it. It is wonderfully done.

# General George C. Marshall's WWII Visit to Camp Shelby and The 69th Infantry Division

Submitted By: **Joe Lipsius**  
*Headquarters, 272nd Infantry Regiment*  
 6314 Deerings Hollow, Norcross, GA 30092-1800  
 Telephone 770/416-7725 • [annejoelip@bellsouth.net](mailto:annejoelip@bellsouth.net)



Winston Churchill called **General George C. Marshall** “the true architect of victory” in the West European arena of World War II. So you can imagine my surprise when I picked up Bulletin Volume 62, No. 2 and saw this brilliant General wearing a visor cap and the newly popular “Ike” waist fitting jacket instead of the coat that reached to the hips. *(Cover sample right)*

Since the description of the photos only read "In the Field at Camp Shelby," as the sender did not provide a description, I feel compelled to tell the readers of the Bulletin what I know of this visit by the General, the U.S. Army Chief of Staff from 1939 to 1945.

In late fall of 1943 or early spring 1944, the 69th Infantry Division was informed that General Marshall would visit Camp Shelby and inspect some of its Units performing various tactical exercises. He had specifically requested that a rifle company from **Colonel Charles T. "Buck" Lanham's** regiment give a demonstration of a rifle company in the attack. To attack successfully was the infantry's greatest responsibility and goal.

**Colonel Lanham** was the commanding officer of the 272nd Infantry Regiment, which had nine rifle companies, each with about 190 men. I was the staff officer S-3 of the regiment responsible for plans and training in the garrison and operations in the field. In later years when I attempted to remember which company was selected, my memory failed me, but I know it was the one **Colonel Lanham** felt was the best trained to perform this demonstration.

The top photo of the cover page where the General is standing over the machine gun was taken at the demonstration in attack. Unseen and nearby was the Camp Shelby post commander, 69th division commander **Major General Charles L. Bolte**, assistant division

commander **Brigadier General Floyd L. Parks**, other dignitaries, **Colonel Lanham**, and as the 272nd's S-3, I was with **Colonel Lanham**.

My memory of the demonstration activity is very dim. I do recall very clearly that after the demonstration, the rifle company was assembled and seated on the ground before the General, who spoke to them and all others for a few minutes about the war. I can still hear and see him speaking in his calm, deliberate manner, bringing the war and the part we would play in it to us. When he finished, the company rose, stood at attention, and saluted the General who returned the salute and departed.

After his inspiring talk, I am certain all of us there returned to our training resolved to become better soldiers and do our part to win the war.

In the bottom photo, the men appear to be covering or removing mines. I think this was a demonstration performed by another Unit stationed at Camp Shelby.

**George C. Marshall** was one of the great American statesmen of the century. He played a crucial role in international affairs from 1939 to 1951 - the years that shaped the second half of the century.

I would learn many years after the demonstration that Marshall had selected **“Buck” Lanham’s** regiment because of their friendship during a training period at Ft. Benning, during which Marshall began to see Lanham as one of the army’s brightest young officers.

# FIGHTING 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION

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VOLUME 62, NO. 2

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JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH – APRIL

2009

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## bulletin

### In the Field at Camp Shelby

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TX	Don Hg
*Lieut. E. Mitchell, NJ	169 Hg
*Herman E. Goldstein, NY	272 Inf
*Clifford E. Davis, GA	769 Inf
*Sherman Lawrence, NY	272 Inf
*Merry Johnson, CT	272 Inf
*Henry Madison, NY	272 Inf
*L. R. Randall, FL	272 Inf
*Cyril Brown, FL	Don Hg
*Earl E. Quisenberry, NJ	272 Inf
*Harold M. Shires, PA	272 Inf
*Wm. R. Marshall, NY	272 Inf
*Sam Wacht, NY	272 Inf
*Gus E. Phillips, NJ	272 Inf
*Albert Carlsom, CT	272 Inf
*Stanley Chwartz, CT	272 Inf
*John MacKenzie, MA	48 MP
*Robert Hayes, AZ	Don Hg
*Walter Overmeyer, NJ	Don Hg
*George Gallagher, FL	MP & QM
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*William Foster, PA	269
*Earl E. Walsh, Jr., PA	272 Inf
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*Bernard Zaffren, ME	272
Paul N. Shadle, PA	271

\*Deceased



# 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

**Raymond Halvorson**, 5013 135th Place S.E., Snohomish, Washington 98296-5218, Telephone: 425/337-3678, E-Mail: roh.one@verizon.net — Service Co, 273rd: I was pleasantly surprised to see reference to the 69th Division in the last issue of the Legion Magazine. I was with the 273rd, Service Company, ammo squad, truck driver with a 5 ton +/- of 30 and 50 cal, 105's, TNT Comp, prima chord, fuses and etc., but never on the line with a rifle. I sold cigarettes to the Russians at the bridge over the Mulde for 50 bucks a carton east of Leipzig. I am still telling tales and there are few left to correct my stories. I enjoy knowing more about any remaining 69ers. Snohomish is north of Seattle, easterly from Everett, where it rains a lot but not much water!

**James M. Shoemaker**, 200 Rue La Roche, Lynn Haven, Florida 32444, Telephone: 850/271-3479 — Co. M, 271st: I have recently made contact with a 69er after an interval of time since our graduation from the University of Florida in 1948. He was unaware of the 69th Association until this time, and now in retirement, he would like to become a part of the Association. I am enclosing his name and address and his first year's dues and feel sure that he will continue his interest in the 69th. He is:

**James Rubash**

*Company H, 271st Infantry Regiment*  
2201 Jefferson, Liberty, Texas 77575

Please send him the bulletins, as he may consider attending the Nashville Reunion this year.

**Harry L. Miller**, 1008 Durand Drive, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005-3263 — Service Co., 273rd: I enjoy the bulletin and read it from cover to cover each time it comes.

I was fortunate to be one of the World War II veterans on the fourth Heartland Honor Flight out of Omaha, Nebraska to Washington, D.C. Seeing the World War II Memorial is something I will always remember. The Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was also very impressive.

On December 8th of 2008, I celebrated my 87th birthday.

**Orlando De Pascale, Sr.**, 368 South Main Street, Wharton, New Jersey 07885 — Co. A, 269th Engineers: I hope all is well with the 69th. I enjoy the bulletin very much and want to thank everyone who makes it possible. I have sent in my dues for 2009-2010.

**George Kishbaugh**, 56 Ridge Road, Horseheads, New York 14845 — Service Co., 273rd: I was so glad to receive the last bulletin from the Fighting 69th. I have never seen anything in the bulletin of people in the 273rd Service Company, just a little about those who have passed on. Then in Volume 62, No. 2, Page 13, a good write-up of **S/Sgt. Vernon Mullins**. For those who don't remember the story, he was our Mess Sergeant. My what a good person and fellow member. I sure did a lot of KP duty while at Camp Shelby.

I was a mechanic working on trucks, jeeps and so on. We never lost anyone of our Company while in England, France, Belgium and Germany. A lot of near misses.

I sure wish some of the readers of the 69th would drop me a few lines. I would love to hear from members of Service Company, 273rd. I am still doing pretty good at the age of 84.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: If anyone has an address on S/Sgt. Vernon Mullins or knows his status, please write to George at the above address.)*

**Dana Haught**, widow of **Franklin Haught** of the 271st, Surprise, Arizona: Thank you, thank you, thank you for the Article "Vignettes of War" that appeared in Volume 62, No. 2. This article has brought back many memories for the time that my husband, **Franklin Haught**, spent in the 69th Division. I am hoping to be able to attend the reunion in Nashville, Tennessee in October 2009.

## MOVING

**Please print your new address below:**

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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 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*

If you are planning to COME ON DOWN to attend the reunion in Nashville, Tennessee, we suggest you make your reservations early. The registration forms are included in this bulletin.

We visited the hotel in April and feel it is a very good place for the 69th Reunion to be held. It is convenient to a lot of activities that are going on in this town. We, along with **Robert Crowe**, Vice-President of the 69th, attended a couple of meetings to make sure that everything is set and ready to go for the reunion. **Robert Crowe** was on his way to Memphis for another function.

As you will notice in the list of events planned, the membership meetings on Saturday are to start at 10:00 a.m. This is due to the fact that breakfast is included every day you are registered at the hotel. This will give you ample time to have your breakfast.

Hope to see you in October in Nashville.

**If you are NO LONGER 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 Your Vice President, Robert Crowe

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

## **62nd Reunion Update** **Holiday Inn Select, Nashville, Tennessee** **October 20th-25th, 2009**

On April 15th, **Paul and Dottie Shadle** visited the Holiday Inn Select and had a very productive meeting with the General Manager. Many items were discussed and agreements made.

The Inn is located two miles from the Nashville International Airport and provides complimentary shuttle service. It is four miles off East/West Interstate 40 and 10 miles off North/South I-65. It also provides on-site complimentary parking.

It is a well appointed hotel with 280 guest rooms. A five story atrium covers the "Jackson Veranda" which serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Just off the veranda is a climate controlled area with a heated pool, dry sauna and whirlpool. Also in this area is a well stocked fitness room and "Ivories," a night club with a large bar.

The ballroom, with three sections, can be configured to any of our needs. There are also six smaller meeting rooms.

**Special Items:** Breakfast each morning is free, compliments of the Inn. At check-in you will receive a ticket for each registered guest for breakfast each morning you are registered.

A full spread of all beverages is back - hard stuff, wine, beer and soft drinks. The association will purchase them from local sources and the Inn will pick them up and bring them to our hospitality room. There will be a charge for each drink. For a \$50 fee per event, the Inn will provide table snacks, drink mixes and ice.

Elsewhere in this bulletin is the Inn registration and tour event forms. Complete them, make a copy and send them in as early as possible.

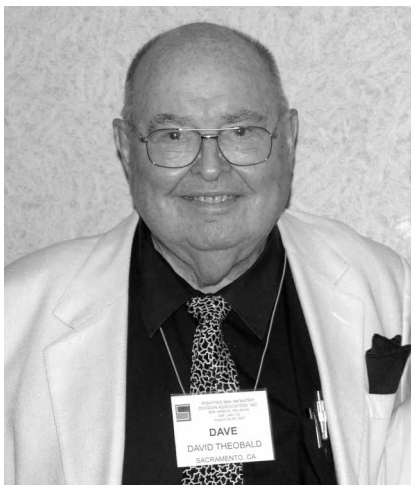
Hoping to see all of you at the gathering.

## **PLEASE NOTE**

**If you are planning to go to the reunion in Nashville, please make your reservations EARLY. The deadline is September 17, 2009.** There is a lot to see and do in Nashville on your own, also. Please come and plan to enjoy yourself with your fellow veterans.

# 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



Dear 69th Members,

On my last opportunity to speak to you as president, I would like to thank you for your fellowship and friendship. I hope you have enjoyed my attempt to insert a little humor into our meetings. We have a wonderful organization, the result of the effort of many. I hope that effort continues until the last man or woman is standing.

I salute you all and may God bless.

\*\*\*\*\*

## A Little Reunion

We had a chance to have lunch with **George** and **Nancy Chatfield** (Co. H, 272nd), of Venice, Florida when they were in town. We enjoyed our visit and hope to see many of you in Nashville.



*George & Nancy Chatfield and Paul & Dottie Shadle*

# Anti-Tank, 273rd Members Get Together After 63 Years

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



*Left: Wesley Taylor, Santa Clara, California 95051*

*Right: Hubert Porter, Atlantic, Iowa 50022*

We got together after 63 years, and it was really a reunion to remember. Both of us were replacements back in Belgium for the 273 Anti-Tank Company, 3rd Platoon, 3rd Squad.



*Full Squad somewhere in Germany: Front row: Snodgrass, Ugero, Actkinson, Wagner, Silyva, Porter  
Back row: Broderson, Turano, Taylor, Francis*

A few days after this picture was taken, **Broderson** was killed.

Also, does anyone know the whereabouts or status of **Kenneth Smitley**? Any information would be very much appreciated. Thank You.



**69th Infantry Division Association**  
**62nd Annual Reunion**  
**October 20th thru 25th, 2009**  
**Holiday Inn Select Opryland/ Airport**  
**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**Tuesday, October 20th**

	Hospitality and Souvenir Rooms open
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	<b>Reunion Registration open</b>
	Dinner and evening on your own
7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room open

**Wednesday, October 21st**

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<b>Reunion Registration open</b>
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	CITY TOUR (description follows)
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room open
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	<b>Reunion Registration open</b>

**Thursday, October 22nd**

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	<b>Reunion Registration open</b>
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	GENERAL JACKSON LUNCH CRUISE (description follows)
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	<b>Reunion Registration open</b> (additional hours will be posted at the reunion, if needed)
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room open
	Dinner on your own
8:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.	PX Beer Party

**Friday, October 23rd**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	HERMITAGE MANSION (description follows)
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room open
1:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Pre-Opry Dinner Buffet (Best option for dinner before the Opry)
5:45 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	GRAND OLE OPRY (description follows)

**Saturday, October 24th**

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Membership Meeting
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Ladies Auxiliary Meeting
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room open
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Cocktail Hour with Cash Bar
7:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.	Memorial Service
7:30 p.m.	Banquet served, followed by music and dancing

**Sunday, October 25th**

7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.	Breakfast - Farewells and Departures
---------------------	--------------------------------------

**Cancellation and Refund Policy for Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.**

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$7 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee. **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays.** Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.

***Register online & pay by credit card at [www.afr-reg.com/69inf](http://www.afr-reg.com/69inf)***

# 69th Infantry Division 62nd Reunion Tour Descriptions

## City Tour

**Wednesday, October 21st**

Begin a tour of Nashville with trained professional guides who will entertain your group with interesting facts, colorful legends, and amusing anecdotes of Nashville and her people. Drive by the Governor's Mansion, as well as homes of several well-known personalities such as Tammy Wynette, Ronnie Milsap, and Minnie Pearl. Drive through Centennial Park and view the Parthenon, a full-scale replica of the original in Greece. Visit the Ryman Auditorium, where the Grand Ole Opry got its start. Originally a church, the Ryman is now home to numerous musical productions. Stop on 2nd Avenue for lunch on your own at one of several different restaurants. Consider Market Street Brewery, Big River Grille, Hard Rock Cafe, or the Wild Horse Saloon.

**9:00 a.m. board bus, 2:00 p.m. back at hotel**  
**\$45/Person includes bus, guide, and admission.**  
**Lunch on your own.**

\* \* \* \* \*

## General Jackson Lunch Cruise

**Thursday, October 22nd**

Board bus for the General Jackson Riverboat, the world's largest showboat. Enjoy a full buffet lunch as you cruise up the Cumberland River to downtown Nashville, 14 miles round trip. You'll also be treated to true hand-clappin', toe-tappin' Nashville entertainment. Good idea to bring a light jacket.

**11:00 a.m. board bus, 3:00 p.m. back at hotel**  
**\$85/Person**  
**includes bus, escort, and lunch cruise.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Come on Guys, We Need Your Stories and Photos

Yes, yes, we know. You're old and tired. So are we. No excuses, please. We need bulletin material. We know that some of you are healthy enough to get up in that attic and dig out those photos and memoirs. Let's get moving. Tell your grandchildren a story and get them to write it down for you. Ladies too, please.

We especially need good quality cover photos. We will return them to you in the same condition you sent them to us.

Please send them to **Dottie Shadle**. We will be waiting to hear from you.

## Hermitage Mansion

**Friday, October 23rd**

Tour the Hermitage Mansion, home of Andrew Jackson, the seventh President of the United States. Only the Jackson family has lived here and 90% of the furnishings are original. Inside the mansion, view the elliptical grand staircase, with its complex half-flying suspension. Walk through Rachel's Garden, which contains a variety of shrubs and flowering plants typical of the time period. The tour also includes Tulip Grove, the Greek Revival mansion built by President Jackson as a residence for his personal secretary. There is a walk (approximately 3 blocks) from where the buses will unload to the Mansion. Please wear comfortable shoes!

**9:00 a.m. board bus, 12:00 p.m. back at hotel**  
**\$46/Person includes bus, escort, and admission.**

\* \* \* \* \*

## Grand Ole Opry

**Friday, October 23rd**

Board bus for the Grand Ole Opry. Country's grandest show begins: a live country music radio program that is aired from the Grand Ole Opry House. The Opry has not missed a Saturday broadcast since it began in 1925: it is the longest-running live radio show in the world. Sit back and enjoy an American Institution at its entertaining best.

**5:45 p.m. board bus, 10:00 p.m. back at hotel**  
**\$70/Person includes bus, escort, and show.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Driver and Guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices.

Please plan to be at the bus boarding area (in front of hotel) at least 5 minutes prior to the scheduled time.

All trips require a minimum of thirty people, unless otherwise stated.

## Anyone Remember Cpl. John C. Sneary?

*Headquarters Co., 3rd Btn., 273rd Infantry Regiment*

Submitted By: **Terry L. Sneary**

129 East Elm Street

Bluffton, Ohio 45817

E-Mail: [tsneary@embarqmail.com](mailto:tsneary@embarqmail.com)

I would like to know more about my dad's combat action and involvement while he was in Europe with the 69th. Dad passed away on March 30th, 2009 and was buried with full military honors.

Thank you to anyone who can provide me with any information. Please write to me or e-mail me at the above address. It will be most appreciated.

## 69th Division General and Special Staff Murigen, Belgium - First Battle Command Post



Back Row: Lt. Col. C.Y. Gunderson JA, Major H.H. Bach SSO, Lt. Col. P.J. Quinn, Lt. Col. S.N. Grummon CWS, Lt. Col. H.W. Holmlin Engr., Lt. Col. J.C. Dinsmore IG&PM, Lt. Col. M.A. Snead G-2, Major J.O. Tower G-5, Capt. H.R. Drew G-3, Major C.E. Post G-5

Middle Row: Lt. Col. R.S. Anderson SURG, Major R.A. McKillen G-4, Col. C.P. Lynch C/S, Brig. Gen. R.V. Maraist Arth CG, Maj. Gen. E.F. Reinhardt Div. CG, Col. L.H. Gibbons Asst. CG, Lt. Col. E.J. Leary G-1, Lt. Col. A.F. Casper Spec. Trs., Lt. Col. L. Andelman F-D, Lt. Col. D.W. Dawson QM, Lt. Col. R.J. Conrad G-3

Front Row: Lt. Col. H. Pengelly AG, 2nd Lt. E.C. Phillips G-3, Capt. L.N. Rodgers ADC, 1st Lt. K.L. Sinclair ADC, Lt. Col. F.H. Fenn Sig O, Lt. Col. W.V. Crossman Div. Ord. O.



# An Unforgettable Experience

Submitted By: **Edward L. Smaldone**  
*Company K, 3rd Battalion, 272nd Regiment*  
508 White Springs Road  
Geneva, New York 14456



We completed our 17 weeks of Basic Training at Camp Wheeler in Georgia and were slated for a one week furlough. But, because of a massive German counter offensive in the Belgium Ardennes Forest, our leave was cut to three days. Our orders read to report to Fort Dix in New Jersey by the 30th of December. We stayed in Dix a few days and shipped out by train to Boston and were housed at Camp Miles Standish.

Eventually we arrived at Boston Harbor and boarded the Ile De France, a former luxury passenger liner, converted to a Troop Ship which would hold approximately 14,000 (8,000 Infantry and 6,000 Air Force).

We set sail on the 8th day of January unescorted to Europe. Eight days later we landed at Glasgow, Scotland. The next night they herded us into troop trains headed for the English Channel. It was so crowded I slept under a luggage rack. Sixteen hours later we arrived at Portsmouth on the coast.

The next day we boarded LSTs which were cold and damp and stayed there overnight. I went up to the 2nd deck where the Navy crew was stationed. I walked down a narrow hall and found an open door. I looked in and there was a crewman folding some uniforms. I asked him if I could sleep on the floor, he laughed and gave me his extra pillow. That's what you call a buddy.

The next morning we were ready to set sail but were cancelled out because of stormy weather. The following day the weather was more favorable so we landed at Le Havre. We climbed aboard 2-1/2 ton trucks and were transported up the hill to Camp Lucky Strike (Tent City). Then they fed us good old Army stew laced with a laxative unbeknown to us. Of course we had the last squad tent in the row next to the large open latrine.

A steady stream of victims, including ourselves, visited the latrine until early morning.

The next day we were transported to a chateau. That same night we were buzzed by a light recon German plane to remind us that the krauts knew that new replacements were there. This pilot was known as "Bed Check Charlie."

Early the next morning we were taken to an open field called "the Mud Flats." The mud was calf deep. We were given bales of straw to spread in our squad tents to help absorb the mud. We had to walk about 200 yards to the mess line in the mud which was quite an experience in dexterity.

I failed to mention how we were fed on the Ile De France. We assembled daily in a line that wrapped around the ship known as the A line (breakfast). This lasted a good 3 hours and as soon as we left after eating, we had to join the B line (supper). We were finally served about 4-5 hours later (7:00 p.m.). I couldn't wait to get to the commissary to grab some Goldenberg Peanut Chews to hold me over till the next A line.

Looking back on Basic Training with 10 mile forced marches, 20 mile hikes, obstacle courses, agility tests and close-order drills, all these were a snap compared to what we went through the last month. Could combat be any worse? We were about to find out.

We climbed aboard 2-1/2 ton trucks and were transported for 3 hours to where the main thrust of the German counter offensive had taken place. We relieved the 99th (Checker Board Division) who held back the brunt of the attack. There were still frozen enemy bodies strewn about, bloated animals creating a stench, vehicles of both sides disabled along the roads, but the most unforgettable sight was to see the men of the 99th in a dazed state completely dog-tired and ready to be shipped back to R&R. We were going to see combat but nothing to compare to this.

We took up our positions in the woods, fighting weather conditions that challenged your very existence. Snow, wind, mud, zero temperatures would hinder both sides from holding their positions. We had small camp fires during the day to help stay warm and to warm our rations. We would have casualties from incoming artillery causing tree bursts and large ground craters. We had 6-man dugouts which would provide us with cover.

The weather finally let up in March so we pushed on into the heart of Germany and met the Russians in April at Torgau on the Elbe River. Our 69th Division gained fame for linking up with the Russians first. A few days later Germany surrendered and the war was over.

A lot more had happened but I'll leave that for later. I should mention that in May of 1946, I went to Nuremberg to witness the War Crimes Trial. That was quite an experience seeing all of the top Nazis.

# THE AUXILIARY'S PAGE



**Dottie (Witzleb) Shadle**

**By Dottie (Witzleb) Shadle**

*Ladies Auxiliary Editor*

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803 10th Street

McKees Rocks, PA 15136-2123

\*\*\*\*\*

## A Message from your President, Dorothea Duncan

Hello Ladies of the 69th:

We are enjoying a beautiful summer here in New Jersey. I hope you are enjoying your summer, good health and are looking forward to the reunion in October as much as we are!

It occurred to me that all of you may not knit or crochet, but might want to make a contribution of lap robes. I have made a few strip quilt lap robes and a few made of fleece. The veterans' groups are always grateful for our contributions, so if you are a sewer, go to it. Bring them with you to Nashville!

See you then!!,

**Dorothea Duncan**

*President, Ladies Auxiliary*

## - In Memoriam -

### "LADIES' TAPS"

**Marion D. Clark**

Wife of **Gilbert A. Clark**

70 Yates Street, Forty Fort, Pennsylvania 18704-4119

*Company F - 273rd Infantry Regiment*

**Mrs. Ruth James**

3927 Lydon Lane, Moosic, Pennsylvania 18507

*Widow - 272nd Infantry Regiment*

**Mrs. Russell Johnson**

420 North 77th Avenue West

Duluth, Minnesota 55807-1715

*Widow - 461st AAA*

**Lola Jones**

Wife of **Leland Jones**

651 Scott Avenue, Salina, Kansas 67401

*Company H - 273rd Infantry Regiment*

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

**DOTTIE SHADLE, Editor**, P.O. Box 4069, New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068-4069

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

**PAUL SHADLE**, P.O. Box 4069, New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068-4069

**DO NOT SEND DUES TO PAUL!!**

**DUES GO TO OUR TREASURER, JOHN BARRETTE. See Page 14.**

# Thoughts on the Vignettes of War Story

Submitted By: **Carl Q. Christol**

*Colonel, Division Headquarters*

5500 Calle Real #C-124

Santa Barbara, California 93111-3616

The "Vignettes of War" section of the April, 2009 Bulletin carried a detailed story by then **Staff Sergeant Allan Gwynne** of the 271st Regiment. He referred to his having observed the bombardment by the Artillery of the marble-based, 299 foot high, Battle of the Nations Monument in Leipzig. It was erected in 1898-1913 following the defeat of Napoleon in 1813 by allied forces. I had viewed the Monument in the summer of 1938 on my return to the United States following a year of graduate studies in Geneva, Switzerland. My recollection was that it was a massive structure and that a 155mm howitzer could do little damage. As Sergeant Gwynne reported the "shells explode(d) and bounce(d) harmlessly off the monument."

I think these were the exact words which I used in the presence of **General Marais**, the Divarty Commander, at Division Headquarters, where I was in the G-3 Section, at the time of the bombardment. I had not intended to disparage the role of the Artillery, when my loose-lipped observation added that the bombs were bouncing off the top of the monument "like hail on a tin roof." Unfortunately, my observations were heard by **General Marais**, and I received a pretty stern "you know what" from him. I'm glad, after all these years, to know that my statements, if possibly overly dramatic, were in fact accurate.

**Sergeant Gwynne** also referred to the town of Eilenberg. After 1st Battalion had moved eastward the Division Headquarters took over the town. Soon after we had occupied the town I looked out and saw and heard a blaring phonograph where one of the 69th personnel had installed "Deutschland Uber Alles," which was in effect the German National Anthem and a purveyor of Hitler's Nazi Regime. I wasted no time in silencing the equipment. It was not the time or place to create the impression that the Germans were not on the run or to imply any approval of Hitler's act of genocide, violations of the laws and customs of war, and his engagement in crimes against humanity.

Later that year I was detached from my then current assignment to spend about a week in Bavaria giving some lectures. On that trip I was able to stop over in Nuremberg briefly where I was able to view a session of the International Military Tribunal that was prosecuting the very high ranking members of the Hitler Cabinet for the above crimes. It was one of the most meaningful events of my World War II experience and, indeed, of my life.

# Incident Near Nuremberg

Submitted By: **Bert Jaffe**

*I&R Platoon, Headquarters, 272 Regiment*

3410 Highland Drive

Carlsbad, California 92008

Telephone: 760/729-4800

I've been a silent member of the Association for many years, and I dug up this minor episode of my life in the 69th. I hope you can use it.

\* \* \* \* \*

It was on April 12, 1945 and . . . . "hardly a man is now alive who remembers that famous day and year."

Springtime was in the air and victory in Europe was a reality. My scouting platoon (I&R) was cruising along a quiet country road in our jeeps when all hell broke loose as machine gun fire ambushed us at a road block around a curve. Fortunately there were irrigation ditches along both sides of the road and we all dove into those ditches. Each was broken at intervals by a culvert which gave each of us a private sanctuary. They were just deep enough to protect us as we hugged the ground. Any motion brought a new spray of bullets. We fired randomly in return, enough to make the enemy stay back. I wondered if this was the end for me and all of us.

A buddy of mine named **Bill Lord**, spoke to me from the other side of the ditch. I commented to him during a lull that our jeep was still running and maybe it could be turned around for help. He replied, "Don't do anything foolish, Jaffe." He himself then did what was foolish - he himself jumped into the jeep and scooted off to the rear. A hail of bullets came from the surprised enemy and in frustration they mowed down another empty jeep which caught fire.

Shortly after, a lone Sherman tank came into view, and a few bursts chased those guys away. Just like a John Wayne movie. Miraculously nobody was even injured.

In early evening we came back to camp jubilantly. The guys sat around gloomily. When we asked one who had tears in his eyes, what was wrong, he replied, "Franklin Roosevelt is dead." Our little escapade shrunk to nothing. After 64 years I ask myself, "Where are they now?"

From a relic of WWII, Bert Jaffe

**69th Infantry  
Division Association  
62nd Annual Reunion  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE  
October 20th thru 25th, 2009  
Registration forms in this Bulletin.  
See Pages 16 and 17**



# The 69th's 17th Annual Reunion Shoreham Hotel Washington, DC August 14th-16th, 1964

The Fighting 69th presents a plaque to the Trophy Room at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

**Loar L. Quickle** of the 271st Infantry Regiment, President of the Fighting 69th Infantry Division Association at the time, is shown here, together with the Board of Directors, presenting a bronze plaque from the Fighting 69th which was placed in the Trophy Room at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington, Virginia.

He is bowing slightly in front of a soldier standing in front of the Tomb. To **Loar's** rear, standing on a ledge, are the Directors in two rows. In the row to the left, the unknown tall man is holding the plaque. To his rear is **Joe Lipsius** of the 272nd. In the row to the left, the third man is **Bill Lillien**, 272nd and in rear of him is **Cecil J. Kennedy** of the same regiment. **Anne Lipsius** is on the step in front of the column at the left rear. Possibly readers can identify others in the photo.

*Photo submitted by  
Joe Lipsius*





# Are the Army Days Really Over?

Written By: **Warren E. Siegmond**  
Company D, 461st AAA  
2266 Cherry Hill Road  
Palmerton, Pennsylvania 18071

They say the army days are over,  
When you've parted with your gun.  
Well, we no longer have that 40 millimeter,  
To which we used to run.  
When you're home in bed...on occasion,  
Blankets up nice and tight,  
Have you ever thought about the invasion,  
And where you slept that night?

They say the army days are over,  
When you're back in the old hometown,  
When most of the old neighbors  
are nowhere to be found,  
When you're sittin' on the old porch swing,  
And the moonlight shines so bright,  
Have you ever stopped to wonder,  
About 63 years, or so, ago. Tonight?

They say the army days are over,  
When you sigh with deep regret,  
When you're thinking of the old gun section,  
That you know you'll never forget.

When you pass a deserted campground,  
And there's not a soul in sight,  
Do you remember all the times,  
You pulled guard duty,  
On a cold and rainy night?

They say the army days are over,  
But those times are with us to stay.  
In our minds and in our hearts,  
Even to this very day.

We were proud to serve our country,  
By dawn's early light.  
But for as long as we live,  
What wouldn't we give,  
To see some of those faces,  
And to be in some of those places,  
Just one more time...tonight.

## Looking for Info on Cloyd Emswiler

Submitted By: **Sam Heatwole**  
230 Hurley Avenue, Newport News, Virginia 23601  
E-Mail: [heatwoles@verizon.net](mailto:heatwoles@verizon.net)

Sorry, I do not have a unit on him but I know that he served with the 69th. Cloyd was my uncle. I know this is a tall order, but any information would be appreciated.

# That German Transmitter

Written By: **Tec/4 Julius G. Tivald**  
569th Signal Company, Radio Section  
207 Kresson-Gibbsboro Road  
Voorhees, New Jersey 08043-9524  
Telephone: 856/783-5115

When we were in the 272nd Regimental Headquarters in the Ardennes, five P-47's strafed our area. I believe they were making a mistake. However, after I looked up at the planes I could see the iron cross painted on the side of the fuselage. All five of the planes strafed with the guns operating. I think they were after our transmitter which had a range of seventy-five miles. There were about ten stations in our network, all of the same frequency.

About halfway into the West German country, we were asked to relay several messages by a Signal Corps transmitter. They were apparently in a convoy and in trouble. I sent a message to them to send their messages. I received all the messages and gave them a Roger.

I started to relay the messages to the Division Headquarters. All of a sudden, I could hear a powerful transmitter approaching our frequency. When they arrived on top of our frequency, I had to stop relaying the messages to Division Headquarters as the German transmitter was too loud to transmit any more messages. The German transmitter stayed on our frequency for several minutes before it moved on to another station. I heard later the convoy was in trouble with one MP killed and the lieutenant colonel in charge of the MPs was wounded.

At the end of the war, we were assigned to work with the MP Headquarters. We were on a relay station with **General Reinhardt** and went to the Elbe River to visit the Russian general. The Russians sent a row boat to take **General Reinhardt** over the river to meet with the Russian General. There as quite a party on the Russian side.

## 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

**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.**

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## 69<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at [www.afr-reg.com/69inf](http://www.afr-reg.com/69inf). All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before September 17, 2008. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

**Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.**  
**322 Madison Mews**  
**Norfolk, VA 23510**  
**ATTN: 69<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION**

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Check # _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	Nametag Completed _____

<b>CUT-OFF DATE IS 9/17/09</b>		<b>Price Per</b>	<b># of People</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b><u>TOURS</u></b>				
WEDNESDAY: CITY TOUR		\$ 45		\$
THURSDAY: GENERAL JACKSON LUNCH CRUISE		\$ 85		\$
FRIDAY: HERMITAGE MANSION		\$ 46		\$
FRIDAY: GRAND OLE OPRY		\$ 70		\$
<b><u>MEALS</u></b>				
THURSDAY: BEER PARTY		\$ 10		\$
FRIDAY: PRE-OPRY BUFFET		\$ 23		\$
SATURDAY: BANQUET <i>(Please select your entrée)</i>				
PRIME RIB		\$ 39		\$
GRILLED CHICKEN		\$ 35		\$
BAKED SALMON		\$ 37		\$
<b><u>MANDATORY PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE</u></b>				
Includes Hospitality Room, entertainment, and administrative expenses.		\$ 15		\$
DUES – NEW DUES YEAR IS AUGUST 1, 2009 – JULY 31, 2010				
REGULAR MEMBERSHIP		\$ 10		\$
LADIES' AUXILIARY		\$ 5		\$
POSTAGE AND BULLETIN DONATION (UP TO YOU)				\$
Total Amount Payable to <b>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</b>				\$

PLEASE PRINT NAME

FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ LAST \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ NEXT GENERATION? \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST TIMER? (YES\_\_\_) OR (NO\_\_\_)

SPOUSE NAME (IF ATTENDING) \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, ST, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

*(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)*

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? ☐ YES ☐ NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-5:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.

You may also register online and pay by credit card at [www.afr-reg.com/69inf](http://www.afr-reg.com/69inf)

**HOLIDAY INN SELECT-OPRYLAND/AIRPORT – NASHVILLE, TN**  
**615-883-9770**

The Holiday Inn Select-Opryland/Airport is located at 2200 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, TN 37214; approximately 3 miles away from the Nashville International Airport (BNA). If you are driving, please call the hotel for driving directions. The Holiday Inn Select offers 382 spacious guest rooms each with coffee maker, Wireless High-Speed Internet Access (for a fee), hairdryer, iron, and ironing board. Guest can also enjoy the hotel's dry sauna, whirlpool, indoor pool, and on-site exercise facility. Handicapped and non-smoking rooms are subject to availability. Please request these special accommodations when making your hotel reservation. Parking for registered guests is complimentary. Check-in is at 3:00pm and check-out is at 12noon. **Jackson's Veranda** serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner offering a variety of menu selections and weekday lunch buffets featuring a cook-to-order pasta station and traditional southern entrees. **Little Johnny's Pizza** is the hotel's on-site pizzeria and service is available for lunch and dinner. **Terrace/Atrium Bar** serves colorful drinks and offers a mouth-watering lunch menu. Room service is also available from 6:00am to 11:00pm.

The hotel provides a complimentary shuttle to and from the Nashville International Airport (BNA) that runs every 20 minutes from 5:00am-11:00pm. You may want to consider other transportation, as space is limited on courtesy services. More information is available at the ground transportation level in the Airport Terminal.

The hotel has limited parking space available for guests with RV's. Should you require full hook-ups, please call Nashville KOA at (615) 889-0286, Nashville's Jellystone Park at (615) 889-4225, or Two Rivers Campground at (615) 883-8559. Ask for information, reservations, and directions to determine which is best for you. Parks recommend reservations be made immediately due to limited space and availability.

Should you need to rent a wheelchair for the reunion, ScootAround rents both manual and power wheel chairs by the day and week. Please call their toll free number at (888) 441-7575 for details.

**Vendors, Schedules, and Prices are subject to change.**

CUT HERE AND MAIL TO THE HOTEL

**69<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION - HOTEL RESERVATION FORM**  
**REUNION DATES: OCTOBER 16-25, 2009**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SHARING ROOM W/ \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TEL. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ HOLIDAY INN PRIORITY # \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_ APPROX. TIME \_\_\_\_\_ DEP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ # OF ROOMS NEEDED \_\_\_\_ # OF PEOPLE IN ROOM \_\_\_\_ HANDICAP ACCESS  
\_\_\_\_ SMOKING \_\_\_\_ NON-SMOKING \_\_\_\_ KING BED \_\_\_\_ 2 DOUBLE BEDS

In the event room type requested is not available, nearest room type will be assigned.

**RATE:** \$99 + tax (currently 15.25%) + \$2 per night per room occupied room tax. Rate will be honored 3 days before and after reunion dates, based on availability.

**CUT OFF DATE:** 9/17/09. Late reservations will be processed based on space availability at a higher rate.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Deposit is refundable if reservation is canceled 24 hours before arrival. Call (615) 883-9770.

All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit including tax, enclosed.

\_\_\_\_ AMEX \_\_\_\_ DINERS \_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_ MASTER CARD \_\_\_\_ DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: HOLIDAY INN SELECT-OPRYLAND/AIRPORT, 2200 ELM HILL PIKE, NASHVILLE, TN 37214**  
**\*ATTN: RESERVATIONS\***

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# Colditz Glider Designer was at it Again

Submitted By: **Charles R. Hoffman, Jr.**  
*Headquarters 3, 273rd Infantry Regiment*  
 12195 Fritz Court  
 Lillian, Alabama 36549

A few years ago I struck up a correspondence with **Bill Goldfinch**, one of the prisoners we freed at Colditz. He had designed the glider they built in the castle and now he was building a plane he had also designed, pictures of which are enclosed. That is **Bill** in the inset and his friend, **Anthony Butler**, who worked on the plane with him for several years, in the cockpit. Bill was most appreciative when I sent him a 69th decal which he promptly put on the rudder. If you look closely you can see it there. Mr. Butler said that Bill passed away in 2007 and that the project has been taken over by the Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum, Flixton. They plan to paint the 69th emblem on the finished plane. Larger, I hope.

I was pleasantly surprised to see the pictures that **Steve Komes'** sister sent you, as I took all but the one in the lower right corner. (*Editor's Note: These photos appeared on page 20 of the last bulletin.*)

Steve was a buddy of mine when we were clerks in the Ordnance Battalion in Kassel, having been 'drafted' for those jobs when they found out we could type. That is **Sid Groom** standing in front of one of the scuttled planes at an airfield near Altenheim where we were stationed at the time. Finally, that is I, 'deep in thought.' Thinking of the lovely English girl I had met on my leave in England the previous November, no doubt. At the moment she (Pat) is doing a painting of Stonehenge in her part of our studio/TV/computer room here in Lillian, Alabama.



*Bill Goldfinch inset and Anthony Butler in the cockpit.*



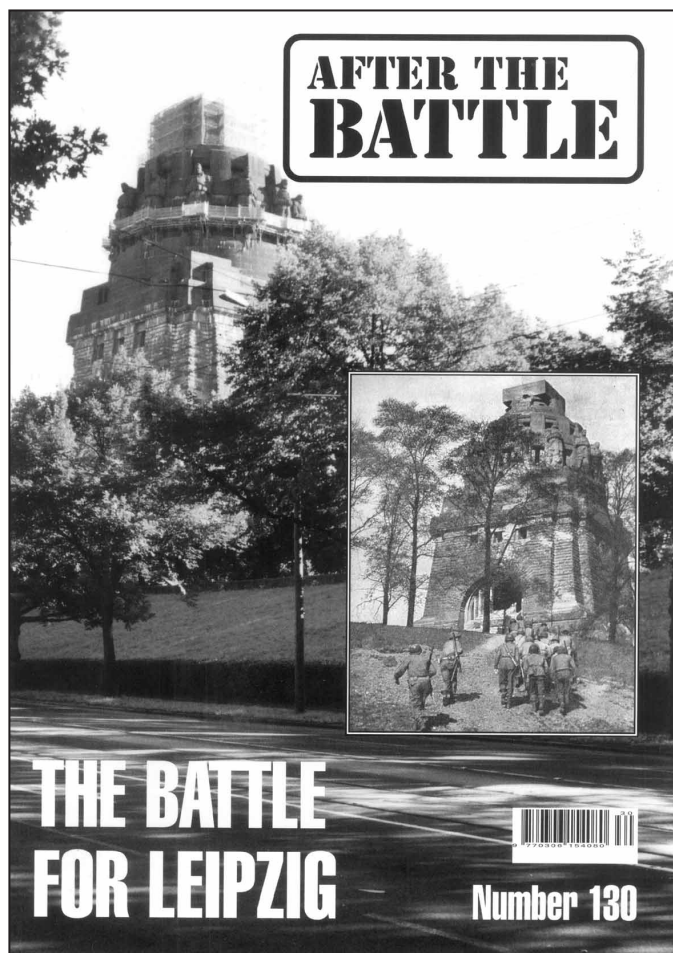


# Here is Leipzig, Then and Now

Paul talked to the gentleman in charge and he was given the new address. They had run out of books and they now have a new shipment ready to be mailed if you are still interested. We have received our copy of this magazine and it is beautifully done.

To order, send a check or money order for \$11.95 (including first-class shipping) to:

[www.rzm.com/magazines/atb/afterbattle130.cfm](http://www.rzm.com/magazines/atb/afterbattle130.cfm)

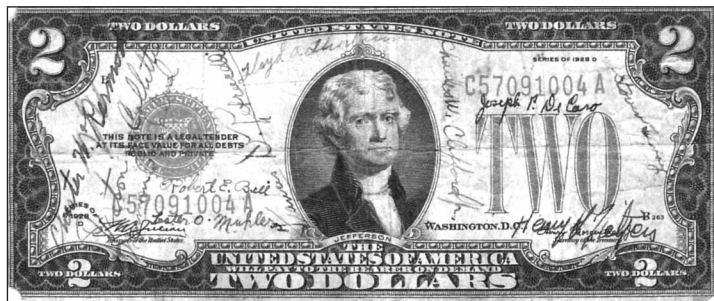


*Headquarters Company, 273rd Infantry*  
1012 Jay Court, Loveland, Colorado 80537

I carried the same billfold all through my 3-year army career. I still have the billfold and several foreign marcs, francs, etc., plus the two-dollar bill I started out with from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas back in 1943.

The signatures on the two-dollar bill are the Wire Section of Hdq. Co., 273rd Infantry Regiment, which I joined in March of 1944 and stayed with them until we were disbanded in July or August of 1945.

The American-German marc has 4 signatures: The top one I cannot read, next is Billy Conn, a well known prize fighter, next Jerry Cologna, a comedian and bottom, Bob Hope. I don't recall when I got the signatures, but it was at a USO show some place in Germany.



# Return to Torgau

Submitted By: **Chet Yastrzemski**

*Company E, 272nd Infantry*

251A North Main Street

Southampton, New York 11968-3313

My Vikings Cruise Tour would begin on Tuesday, April 27th, 2009. I departed from JFK Airport in New York aboard British Airways and my first leg of the tour would conclude with my landing at Heathrow Airport in London after an 8 hour flight. I no longer recognize the airport from previous years as today it's one huge airport. My second leg would land me in Prague the Czech Republic. The company representative met me and had me driven by a private chauffeur in a Mercedes vehicle to the Corinthia Towers Hotel in Prague for my five day stay. The Corinthia is a beautiful hotel and right next door to the Metro System in Prague. I didn't even unpack and went next door with my camera and camcorder and started taking photos of the immediate area.

The following morning I sought out information about the Metro, studied my map and headed for the Vltava River. I speak fluent Polish and the Czech language is Slavic and very similar to Polish and so I would seek out advice from the local Czechs who were very friendly to me once they recognized that I was of European heritage. My first view of the river was looking toward the St. Charles Bridge and the Hradec Kralove Palace located on a high hill. I had taken many photos and camcorder of the river and bridge and my next objective was the many churches and buildings in the area. I reached the Capitol Building and watched the soldiers preform the changing of the guard. For lunch I had a good Pilsner beer and was very content with my good kielbasa sandwich. I then retraced my steps back to my hotel and ended the evening at the hotel with a good Siamese dinner.

I was on my own time for three days in Prague before I joined the Viking group. I decided to take a side tour as offered by the hotel. I was one of three tourists on the bus including a driver and guide. We headed out to the countryside about 30 miles away and visited the Pillnitz Castle. Traffic in the Czech Republic can be brutal and on the return trip we ran into an accident and came to a stand-still for some time. Finally the bus returned to City Square and I took a taxi to my hotel and once again was caught in a traffic jam. I then made a quick decision and decided that the only mode of travel would be the Metro System.

The following day my travel by Metro would take me to the Czech Army Museum where I would take many photos and camcorder of the artifacts in the museum. The next day I had free time, and through the courtesy of the personnel at the hotel, offered me the use of a driver and Mercedes vehicle that took me

to the Czech Air Force Museum located in the countryside. I had spent about four hours at the museum and my driver returned and took me back to the hotel.

The following day I joined the Viking Cruise group and we made a city tour of the Prague area. That evening we had a welcome dinner with all 108 members to meet our guides Martin and Mercedes. Martin is from Slovakia and speaks several languages, including Polish, so I could communicate with him in those languages including German. We took a bus from the hotel to our ship, Clara Schumann, located in Melnik. We were greeted by the ship's captain, assistant captain, engineer, cooks, cleaning women, musicians, bartenders, and the rest of the crew. The captain is from Austria, the cook from Poland and most of the crew was from Slovakia. They were a really jovial and happy crew and really attended to our needs and went out of their way to help in any situation.

The living quarters were about 10x12 feet, very comfortable for a single person, with a nice window view. Aboard the ship our itinerary would be as follows: 4:30 to 5:30 light snack/ 5:00 to 6:30 live music and drinks, dinner by Chef Ichal Falkowski/ 9:00 p.m. talk by Guide Martin Caco about life on board, ship safety and excursions. Itinerary for next day: 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. breakfast/ 8:00 a.m. ship leaves Melnik/ 11:00 a.m. bloody mary party/12:30 p.m. lunch/ 2:30 p.m. walking tour in Litomerice (our first stop) with wine tasting in Velke Bernoseky/ 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. cocktail hour/ 7:00 p.m. Czech dinner/ 9:00 p.m. lecture and schedule for next day. We would follow this schedule for the next 8 day tour aboard the ship.

On May 5th our ship arrived in Bad Schandau. We had a land tour of the Bastei Rock Formation in Saxonian, Switzerland. The area had beautiful rock formations plus a view of the river below the rocks. At 5:00 p.m. we left Bad Schandau and arrived in Dresden. I left the ship and took night photos of Dresden. We took a shore excursion of Dresden in the morning and in the afternoon we took a tour of Pillnitz Castle. At 6:30 a.m. the ship left Dresden and arrived in Torgau at about 6:00 p.m. (our schedule had us arriving in mid-afternoon).

Prior to our tour I had sent an e-mail to Mayor Andrea Stade that I would be arriving in Torgau and I would visit her at the city hall. I had met Mayor Staude during the 69th tour of Europe in 2005. She is also a recipient of a plaque that was presented to her in Torgau by Mark Sheland, U.S. Counsel General, Leipzig, Germany. Six other persons of Torgau also had received this reward. This was in recognition of their involvement in having the monuments erected in Torgau and Strehla. Our group had gone on a tour of Torgau with our guide, but I went alone to tour the

*(Continued on Page 22)*



## RETURN TO TORGAU

(Continued from Page 21)

area. This was my tenth tour of Torgau and I knew the area and even went back to the Central Hotel where I stayed during those visits. I really enjoyed being back in Torgau, taking many photos and videos of the area.

I was having dinner aboard ship when our guide approached me and stated that there was a person on deck who would like to see me. I went topside and to my great surprise, there stood **Heinz Richter**. My first words were, "Heinz." I gave him a big hug and kiss on the cheek, and naturally, Heinz returned the gesture. Heinz stated he had to leave the ship for about 30 minutes and would return. I advised him I had to finish my dinner and would meet him in the lounge area. When I returned to my dinner setting, my dinner companion noticed there were tears in my eyes. She stated to me that apparently the person that I had met was important to me because she could see that I was emotional at this time. I have known Heinz for many years, he is a friend of mine and to others in our association. Heinz, along with others, was our contact man, instrumental in having those memorials erected in Torgau and Strehla. Various members of our 69th Association donated money for the projects, the East German Government supplied the land and the Russian Government was also included supplying the manpower to erect these memorials.

At 7:30 a.m. The Clara Schumann left Torgau and at 11:30 a.m. we arrived in Wittenberg. We had lunch in the Viking restaurant and took a shore leave excursion of the Luther House and a walking tour of Wittenberg, including a tour of the Martin Luther Church. At 5:00 a.m. our ship left Wittenberg and was headed to Dessau.

When we arrived at Dessau we visited Worlitz Gardens and toured Dessau. We departed Dessau at 12:45 p.m. and made our way to Madgeburg. We had a farewell dinner aboard the Clara Schumann. We took an all day bus excursion to Potsdam and San Soucci Palace. At about 4:30 p.m. we checked in at the Hotel Hilton in Berlin. That evening I would take photos of Berlin, including the Brandenburg Gate.

The next morning we took a four hour tour of Berlin including the Berlin Wall, Check-point Charlie, Brandenburg Gate, Reichstag and Templehof Airport. That afternoon I walked the streets of Berlin taking photos. The next day I visited Check-point Charlie and other sections of Berlin.

Tuesday, May 12th, marked the final leg of my journey. I would leave in the morning on British Airways for my flight from Prague to Heathrow Airport in London. In the afternoon I left Heathrow for my flight to JFK in New York.

## 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 Eilenberg 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.)

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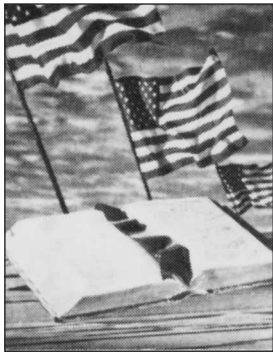


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**Visit often to keep up with what's going on!**



# “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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